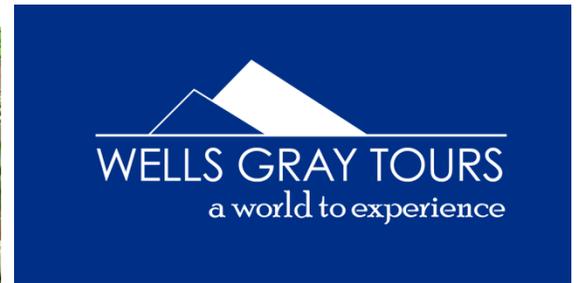




Bloedel Conservatory



Paddlewheeler

## CHRISTMAS IN VANCOUVER

December 22, 2021 – 5 Days

*With 4 nights at Fairmont Hotel Vancouver*

Get away to Vancouver during the Christmas season, and relax for four nights at the iconic Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Opened in 1939 at a cost of \$12 million, it was the third Hotel Vancouver and a downtown landmark with its copper green roof and a height of 17 storeys. The hotel has a wonderful location on West Georgia Street, close to many restaurants and the Pacific Centre Mall.

Some tour highlights are a lunch cruise on the paddlewheeler on the Fraser River, the extravagant Christmas lights at VanDusen Gardens and Burnaby Heritage Village, cruising the harbour in the parade of the Christmas Carol Ships, Museum of Anthropology, and *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* at the Stanley Theatre.

Come and enjoy Christmas 2021 in Vancouver!

### Activity Level: 1



### 9 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

### Fares per person:

\$2,120 double/twin; \$2,590 single (in Fairmont rooms)  
Deluxe Fairmont rooms and Junior Suites also available  
Please add 5% GST.

**BC Seniors** (65 & over): \$15 discount with BC Services Card

### Experience Points:

Earn 53 points on this tour.

Redeem 53 points if you book by November 2, 2021.

**Departure from:** Victoria



Hotel Vancouver

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Wednesday, December 22

We take a morning ferry to Tsawwassen, then drive to New Westminster. We board the MV Native **paddle-wheeler** for an excursion on the Fraser River with lunch served on board. We sail along the waterfront of New Westminster and Surrey, and underneath three bridges, including Port Mann and Pattullo. The captain has lots of stories to tell about sights and historical places along the "Mighty Fraser". Afterwards, we head downtown to the **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** for a four-night stay. Opened in 1939 at a cost of \$12 million, it became a downtown landmark with its copper green roof and a height of 17 storeys. A \$70 million restoration during the 1990s followed by a \$12 million update in 2014 have brought this magnificent hotel back to ranking among the finest in Vancouver. Tonight, we go to **VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights** and admire the awesome spectacle of thousands of Christmas lights, the dancing lights on the lake, a giant decorated tree, and Candy Cane Lane.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

### Day 2: Thursday, December 23

Breakfast is included each day at the Hotel Vancouver. This morning, we stroll through the **Bloedel Floral Conservatory** in Queen Elizabeth Park. The triodetic dome was erected in 1969 and named for one of its biggest donors, Prentice Bloedel of MacMillan Bloedel Lumber Company. The conservatory contains three habitats: tropical rainforest, subtropical rainforest, and desert. Over 200 birds of various species reside within the dome and fly freely. The conservatory houses about 500 species of plants ranging from jungle to desert climates. Next, we visit **Burnaby Heritage Village**, a re-creation of a pioneer community at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At 6 pm, we join the **Christmas Carol Ships Parade** through Burrard Inlet, under Lions Gate Bridge, past Stanley Park, and into False Creek. Our private chartered vessel, *Royal Vancouver I*, is beautifully decorated with hundreds of colourful lights and you are sure to also admire the decorations of other vessels in the procession. Sing along to recorded Christmas music or simply sit back

and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season unfolding around you. Dinner is served on board.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

### Day 3: Friday, December 24

We go to the **Museum of Anthropology**, housed in a stunning Arthur Erickson structure with exquisite First Nations artifacts and exhibits, including Bill Reid's famous sculpture "The Raven and the First Men". At 1:30 pm, the curtain rises at the Stanley Theatre for **Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol**. Set during the 1930s in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, this joyful musical imagines Ebenezer Scrooge as the owner of a mining company town where his callous greed blinds him to the joys of the season. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by his deceased business partner and three ghosts who compel him to see life anew. Dickens's classic characters and Parton's songwriting expertise are certain to make this a memorable holiday event.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

### Day 4: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

Expect a gift from Santa during breakfast at the hotel. The afternoon is leisure time, then we savour an extravagant Christmas Dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

### Day 5: Sunday, December 26

Two attractions are offered in the morning; please choose one by final payment.

- 1) **Maritime Museum** — Explore the maritime history of Vancouver and the BC Coast, and see the RCMP vessel *St. Roch* which was the first to sail eastbound through the Northwest Passage in 1940-42.
- 2) **MacMillan Space Centre** — Founded in 1968, this astronomy museum offers live demonstrations on science in the theatre, exhibits and games in the Cosmic Courtyard, and astronomy shows in the Planetarium.

We ride an afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay with good memories of our Christmas stay in Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Fraser River paddlewheeler cruise with lunch
- VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights
- Bloedel Floral Conservatory
- Burnaby Heritage Village
- Christmas Carol Ships Parade cruise with dinner
- Museum of Anthropology
- *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*
- Choice of Maritime Museum OR MacMillan Space Centre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **9 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

## TOUR NOTES



**Activity Level 1:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. There is a short walk from coach to dock for the paddlewheeler and Carol Ship. You can do a short or long walk at VanDusen Gardens and Burnaby Heritage Village. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

**Room upgrades:** A Fairmont Room is included on this tour and features one or two beds with city or inner courtyard views on floors 2-8. Upgraded categories are available. A Deluxe Room features one or two beds with city views on floors 10-13. A Junior Suite features a larger room with one King bed and a defined sitting area on floors 2-8. Please inquire about room upgrades at time of reservation.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 2, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$15 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 24, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 25 to November 2, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From November 3 to November 17, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 18 to November 30, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 30, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes until departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo Credits:** Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver Paddlewheeler

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 53 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until November 2, 2021.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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### WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

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