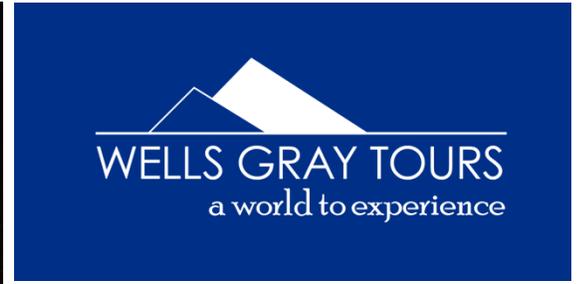




Butchart Gardens lighting



Abkhazi teahouse

CHRISTMAS IN VICTORIA

December 22, 2021 – 6 Days

Coach #2 – Kelowna, Penticton, Osoyoos

Staying 4 nights at Chateau Victoria

Christmas in Victoria is an annual tradition for Wells Gray Tours. We have stayed at Chateau Victoria for many years and our guests love the Christmas décor and spirit. All rooms are one-bedroom suites. The hotel has a great location near the corner of Burdett and Douglas, close to the Inner Harbour and Legislative Buildings. Some highlights are a locally-guided tour of Victoria, a choice of visiting Craigdarroch Castle or Helmcken House, the Royal BC Museum, a reception with entertainment by the Victoria Operatic Society, the Festival of Lights at Butchart Gardens, and *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* at the Stanley Theatre in Vancouver. Some wonderful meals are planned including a festive Christmas lunch at Abkhazi Garden Teahouse, Christmas Brunch at Vista 18 atop the Chateau, and an extravagant Christmas Dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Come and enjoy Christmas 2021 in Victoria!

Activity Level: 1



12 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,250 double/twin; \$2,680 single; \$2,135 triple

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 October 26, 2021.

Departure from: BC Interior



Chateau Victoria

ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, December 22

We travel on the Coquihalla and take the ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. Enjoy the elaborate Pacific Buffet during the crossing. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if there is a ship change.) We stay four nights at **Chateau Victoria**. Rooms are oversized and amenities include an indoor pool and whirlpool. A hospitality room is provided by the hotel for the duration of our stay where you can meet other Christmas travellers and socialize or play games.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 2: Thursday, December 23

Breakfast is included each day in Vista 18. We stroll through the **Royal BC Museum** with its wonderful galleries about BC plants and animals, early explorers, the gold rush, and First Nations culture. A show on the giant Imax screen is included. This afternoon, choose one of two historic homes to explore. Please select by final payment date.

- 1) **Craigdarroch Castle** is a Victorian-era mansion of 39 rooms built in the 1890s by wealthy coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir. The Castle features four floors of exquisite stained-glass windows, intricate woodwork, and lavish furnishings representing late 19th century lifestyles of the rich and famous. Note: Access to the castle is by a 10-minute uphill walk, as coaches are not allowed on the street in front.
- 2) **Helmcken House** was built in 1852 by Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, the first doctor in Victoria who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. It is one of the oldest houses in British Columbia. It is adjacent to the Museum.

We visit **Butchart Gardens** tonight to admire a fantasyland of Christmas lights, listen to traditional carollers, and enjoy a carousel ride.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 3: Friday, December 24

A local guide meets us and conducts a fascinating **tour of Victoria** with many stories about its colourful characters and historical oddities. A

festive Christmas lunch is served at quaint **Abkhazi Garden Teahouse**. This was the home of Prince Nicholas Abkhazi and his wife Peggy who came to Canada from Georgia (Russia) in 1946 and created these gardens with majestic trees and a dramatic location. Next, Chateau Victoria hosts a reception with music and singing by the wonderful **Victoria Operatic Society**. Christmas Eve dinner is at Vista 18 followed by a concert from a local singing group.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 4: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

For early risers, a continental breakfast is offered in Clive's Lounge. Expect a gift from Santa during a delectable brunch in Vista 18. The afternoon is leisure time, then we savour a wonderful Christmas Dinner at the **Grand Pacific Hotel**.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 5: Sunday, December 26

We take the 11 am ferry to Tsawwassen and dine in the Pacific Buffet for lunch (see note on Day 1). Our overnight stay is at the **Granville Island Hotel** which has a superb waterfront location with lots of shops and services nearby. The afternoon is leisure time to browse Granville Island. At 6 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, Lunch

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 6: Monday, December 27

We travel home along the Coquihalla.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferries
- Locally-guided tour of Victoria
- Abkhazi Garden with Christmas Festive Lunch
- Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights
- Butchart Gardens Carousel ride
- Royal BC Museum
- Imax Theatre
- Choice of visiting Craigdarroch Castle OR Helmcken House
- Reception with Victoria Operatic Society
- Harmony Group concert on Christmas Eve
- *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs such as to/from theatre seats and at Butchart Gardens. There are short walks during the Victoria tour. If you have mobility challenges, choose the Helmcken House tour, as the access to Craigdarroch Castle has a 10-minute uphill walk. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 26, 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 October 26, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 27 to November 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 17 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: Butchart Gardens, Roland Neave (Abkhazi tea), Chateau Victoria

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 October 26, 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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