



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL IN VANCOUVER

April 26, 2022 – 3 Days

Featuring the Cirque show *Alegría*

Every few years, Cirque du Soleil presents one of its astounding shows in Vancouver. In 2019, the show was *Luzia*. Others were *Kurios* in 2017, *Kooza* in 2015, and *Totem* in 2014. The venue is always the Grand Chapiteau, a gigantic circus tent usually erected near Pacific Blvd. Wells Gray has offered tours to see all of these shows.

Since it premiered in 1994, *Alegria* has been performed over 5,000 times and seen by over 14 million spectators in 250 cities around the world (but never in Vancouver). *Alegria* takes its name from the Spanish word for "joy." The music by René Dupéré is a blend of Mediterranean, African, Spanish, and French influences. High energy acrobatics and visions of youth collide with traditional aristocratic perspectives to slay old notions, rise with wisdom, and propel forward with no holding back.

This tour stays 2 nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street in downtown Vancouver. Enjoy a lunch cruise on the Fraser River on the paddlewheeler *Native*. There is an option to see *Da Kink in My Hair* at the Stanley Theatre.

Activity Level: 1



3 Meals Included:

3 lunches

Fares per person:

\$880 double/twin; \$1,060 single; \$835 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 21 points from this tour.

Departure from: BC Interior

Fraser River Paddlewheeler



ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, April 26

We drive the Coquihalla to **Vancouver** and stay two nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel which has an excellent location on Robson Street with lots of shopping and restaurants nearby. There is an option tonight to see *Da Kink in My Hair* at the Stanley Theatre (details on next page).

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Day 2: Wednesday, April 27

We board the *MV Native* **paddlewheeler** in New Westminster for an excursion on the Fraser River with lunch included. 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". The afternoon is free time and there are many attractions in downtown Vancouver that may be of interest, or you may wish to visit with relatives or friends. Starting at 8 pm, we thrill to *Cirque du Soleil's Alegria* at the Grand Chapiteau.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Day 3: Thursday, April 28

We travel home.

Meals included: Lunch

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S ALEGRIA – FINALLY COMING TO VANCOUVER

Cirque du Soleil was founded in 1984 in Gaspé as part of the celebrations around the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in Quebec. Cirque was based on a totally new concept: a striking, dramatic mix of the circus arts and street entertainment, featuring wild, outrageous costumes, staged under magical lighting, and set to original music. With not a single animal in the ring, Cirque's difference was clear from the start. After performing in Montreal, Sherbrooke, and Quebec City, the show then performed in Ottawa, Toronto, and Niagara Falls during 1985. With its fame growing across Canada (including a performance at Expo '86), Cirque offered its first show in California in 1987 and became an overnight success. The Mirage Resort in Las Vegas signed Cirque to a year-long contract in 1992. Meanwhile touring groups performed in Europe and Japan, also to unprecedented acclaim. In 1998, new permanent shows were inaugurated at Walt Disney World in Florida and Bellagio Resort in Las Vegas. Today, Cirque du Soleil has about 4,000 employees with headquarters still in Montreal, and 19 shows with different themes were performing around the world just prior to Covid. Over 90 million people have seen a Cirque show since 1984.

Since it premiered in 1994, *Alegria* has been performed over 5,000 times and seen by millions of spectators around the world. *Alegria* takes its name from the Spanish word for "joy." Cirque du Soleil describes the show as "an operatic introspection of the struggle for power and the invigorating energy of youth." The music by René Dupéré is a blend of Mediterranean, African, Spanish, and French influences. The stage and props feature a lot of gothic arches and angular designs. The performances also feature Dominique Lemieux's costumes depicting a baroque aesthetic of decadence and ornamentation. In April 2021 in Montreal, due to popular demands from fans, the legendary *Alegria* started shows again, but with a revamped storyline.

Cirque du Soleil sometimes sends a touring show to B.C. Interior cities. These are much smaller productions than *Alegria* and cannot be compared to those staged in the Grand Chapiteau.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 3 days
- 2 nights at Blue Horizon Hotel & room taxes
- Cirque du Soleil's *Alegria* at Grand Chapiteau
- "Discover the Fraser" paddlewheeler cruise
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **3 meals:** 3 lunches

TOUR NOTES

Option – *Da Kink in My Hair*

Performing at the Stanley Theatre. “If you want to know about a woman, touch her hair,” says Novelette. At her Toronto salon, captivating stories untangle as eight distinctive women narrate their lives with honesty, humour, and joy. Both heartbreaking and uplifting, *Da Kink in My Hair* is a musical testament to the challenges and triumphs in the lives of contemporary Black women. Cost is \$89 per person plus GST including transfer from hotel to theatre and back. Please select this option no later than final payment.

Important note: It rarely happens, but performers occasionally get sick, or some mishap causes the cancellation of the show. This can occur even an hour before the performance begins. We know that this would be extremely disappointing for our customers, but the only refund we would be able to obtain for you would be the actual ticket price for Cirque du Soleil. The hotel, motorcoach, and other tour services are all prepaid and are non-refundable at short notice.

 **Activity Level 1:** Light activity including some stairs to your seat in the Grand Chapiteau and a walk of ½ block between coach and paddlewheeler. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If Activity Level 1 could be challenging, you are urged to 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 frequent assistance.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due March 15, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 15, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From February 16 to March 15, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. After March 15, 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy.

Photo Credits: Cirque du Soleil (Alegría), Wikimedia (Grand Chapiteau), Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours

Experience Points: This tour earns 21 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 tours longer than 3 days. You can accumulate enough points to earn a free tour (this tour eligible until March 15, 2022).

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

KAMLOOPS
(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA
2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON
3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON
159 Wade Ave E
Penticton, BC V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA
102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

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1-800-667-9552