



BARKERVILLE & QUAAOUT LODGE

July 18, 2022 – 6 Days

Cariboo Gold Rush & Shuswap Lake

Enjoy the warmth of the BC Interior summer with an ideal combination of exploring the historic Gold Rush Trail and relaxing at a waterfront First Nations lodge. Barkerville is 161 years old in 2022 and the restored town is still bringing joy to visitors, as they relive the days of the old west. Listen to Judge Begbie, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish water-wheel, ride in a stagecoach, do some goldpanning, eat at Wake-Up Jake's Café, and enjoy a lively show at Theatre Royal.

Quaaout Lodge has a beautiful setting on the shore of Little Shuswap Lake. Opened in 1992 by the Skwllax First Nation, it was named "Quaaout" which means "when the sun's rays first hit the water". Several cultural experiences are included during our stay such as a smudge ceremony and Kekuli storytelling.

Add to this the BC Wildlife Park, Hell's Gate Airtram, and Harrison Hot Springs, and you have a wonderful summer getaway close to home.

Activity Level: 1



12 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,225 double/twin; \$2,685 single; \$2,095 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$120 discount on first 15 seats; \$60 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 52 points on this tour.

Redeem 52 points if you book by June 1, 2022.

Departure from: Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, July 18

We ride the 9 am ferry to Tsawwassen, have lunch in Chilliwack, then head over the Coquihalla Highway to **Quaaout Lodge**. Situated on the shore of Little Shuswap Lake, this unique hotel is owned and operated by the Skwllax First Nation and indigenous culture is the theme throughout. On arrival, we are welcomed by a traditional smudge ceremony. All rooms have a view of the lake and the sandy beach is a stroll away.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Quaaout Lodge

Day 2: Tuesday, July 19

We drive along the South Thompson River to the **BC Wildlife Park**, founded in 1965. It is home to nearly 200 animals and 65 different species that are native to BC including cougars, bears, wolves, reptiles, birds of prey, and the world's only Kermode bear in human care. Many animals at the Park have been rescued or were orphaned and are unable to survive on their own in the wild. The Park has been working towards saving burrowing owls from extirpation since 1992 and has become the world's largest breeder. The Wildlife Health Centre rehabilitates injured wildlife and accepts about 400 animals annually from all over BC. Enjoy a special program "**Encountering Wildlife**" where you can meet three animals (such as a tortoise, bearded dragon, or owl) and learn about each from a Park interpreter. Back at Quaaout, imagine what it would feel like to live in a "Kekuli" or pithouse, the traditional winter home of the Secwepemc people. Listen to stories around a fire of how they lived before Europeans arrived.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Quaaout Lodge

Day 3: Wednesday, July 20

We tour **Kamloops Heritage Railway Backshop** to see the historic rolling stock, some decommissioned cars, and a close look at the steam locomotive. The city bought 2141 from the CNR in 1961, then it was a static display in Riverside Park for 33 years. It took eight years for a group of dedicated volunteers to restore the locomotive and it began operating again in 2002. Afterwards,

we follow the Yellowhead Highway, then #24 past dozens of picturesque lakes and through Lone Butte. After joining the Cariboo Highway, we pass through 100 Mile House and Williams Lake to reach Quesnel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Billy Barker Hotel, Quesnel

Day 4: Thursday, July 21

We are treated to the knowledge of an expert historian during the drive into **Barkerville**. After arrival, join the guided walking tour for an orientation. For the rest of the visit, there is lots to see and enjoy at your own pace — listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie at Richfield Courthouse; buy something tasty at Goldfield Bakery; view a historic slide show at the Museum; attend church at St. Saviour's; and walk through many historic buildings, staffed with costumed interpreters who bring the 1880s vividly to life. Included are a show at the **Theatre Royal**, a stagecoach ride around Barkerville, and gold panning where you keep what you find.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Billy Barker Hotel, Quesnel

Day 5: Friday, July 22

We have lunch at historic Ashcroft Manor which was built in 1862 for Cariboo Gold Rush travellers and ranks as one of the oldest surviving buildings in the province. We drive through the scenic Thompson Canyon and Fraser Canyon during the afternoon. At **Hell's Gate**, we thrill to the cablecar ride over the wild churning waters of the Fraser River. Our last night is at **Harrison Hot Springs**. Relax in the hot pools, then join the group for an elegant evening in the famous Copper Room with dancing and music by the Jones Boys.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Harrison Hot Springs Resort

Day 6: Saturday, July 23

The morning is leisure time. We leave Harrison at midday and take the 3 pm ferry to Swartz Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Traditional smudge at Quaaout Lodge
- BC Wildlife Park with Encountering Wildlife educational program
- Kekuli Storytelling at Quaaout Lodge
- Kamloops Heritage Railway Backshop tour
- Local guide from Quesnel to Barkerville
- Barkerville Historic Town
- Guided walking tour of Barkerville
- Gold panning with souvenir gold flakes
- Barkerville stagecoach ride
- Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Hell's Gate Airtram
- Copper Room dinner and entertainment
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for Barkerville guides
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk. There is walking around the Wildlife Park. The guided walking tour at Barkerville is optional. The Richfield Courthouse is a 1.5 km gently uphill walk from Barkerville centre. 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 ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 1, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 15 seats and \$60 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 1, 2022.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 2, 2022, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From May 3 to June 1, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 2 to June 17, cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. After June 17, 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

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: Roland Neave (stagecoach), BC Ferries (Theatre Royal), Quaaout Lodge

Experience Points: This tour earns 52 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 June 1, 2022.

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

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