



Three Valley Gap Chateau



Ainsworth

KOOTENAYS GHOST TOWNS

September 20, 2022 – 5 Days

Includes Ainsworth Hot Springs & Nelson

This is another of Wells Gray's popular themed tours. During five days, we visit ghost towns such as Retallack and Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap, and historic towns like Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson, and Greenwood. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, expert historians in Nelson and Sandon, an overnight at Nelson's old Hume Hotel, and the historic powerhouse at Sandon. Guides are hired at each attraction or town to explain the historical details as only a local person can do. We stay 2 nights at Ainsworth Hot Springs, so you have unlimited use of the pools. Come and join us on this exciting tour with a ghostly twist!

Activity Level: 2



12 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,595 double/twin; \$1,975 single; \$1,465 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$80 discount on first 15 seats; \$40 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 38 points on this tour.

Redeem 38 points if you book by July 20, 2022.

Departure from: BC Interior



Retallack

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, September 20

We head through Eagle Pass to Revelstoke and learn about its interesting buildings from a local guide. Afterward, we visit the **Railway Museum** which has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the CPR. We stay overnight at **Three Valley Lake Chateau**. The adjoining ghost town is full of authentic buildings moved here from other sites. After visiting the antique auto museum and railway roundhouse, we enjoy a barbecue dinner served in one of the old buildings.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Three Valley Lake Chateau

Day 2: Wednesday, September 21

We take the ferry across the **Arrow Lakes** to Galena Bay, passing the flooded sites of lost towns such as Beaton and Arrowhead. In New Denver on Slokan Lake, we explore the fascinating **Nikkei Memorial Internment Centre**, the only interpretive centre in Canada dedicated to the history of the uprooting and internment of over 22,000 Canadians of Japanese heritage during World War II. The centre is situated at one of ten Canadian internment communities. Of special interest is the garden, designed by Roy Sumi at the age of 87. He had designed other Japanese gardens in Canada and, for many years, supervised the Nitobe Garden at UBC. We stay two nights at **Ainsworth Hot Springs** overlooking Kootenay Lake. You have unlimited access to the pools during the stay. The horseshoe-shaped cave is the hottest at 45.5° C or 114° F and the main lounging pool averages 35.5° C or 96° F. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort

Day 3: Thursday, September 22

In **Kaslo**, we tour the restored sternwheeler **SS Moyie** which once plied Kootenay Lake. A local guide joins us here for the drive to Sandon as we pass the ghost towns of Retallack and Three Forks, and follow the tortuous route of the once-busy Kaslo & Slokan Railway. In the 1890s, when silver was king, **Sandon** was a boomtown with a population of 5,000, two newspapers, 24 hotels, 23 saloons, and three railways. It was

incorporated as a city in 1898 and remained the soul of the silvery Slokan for half a century. Our guide shares stories of Sandon during a walking tour. The **powerhouse** is a fascinating look back at old technology, now preserved as a National Historic Site. Perhaps you can sense the presence of "Headless Eric", Sandon's longtime ghost, who sometimes occupies a rocking chair on his favourite porch.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodation: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort



Day 4: Friday, September 23

On the way into Nelson, we pass Blaylock Mansion which was completed in 1937 for Cominco's president and boasts 35 rooms. In **Nelson**, we ride the restored Streetcar #23 which was built in 1906, served Nelson residents from 1924 to 1949, then became a dog kennel for 33 years. A local historian leads a walking and driving tour through downtown Nelson where buildings less than a century old are considered "modern". We stay at Nelson's **Hume Hotel**, a historical landmark which opened in 1898.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hume Hotel

Day 5: Saturday, September 24

In Grand Forks, we pass the fabulous Averill Mansion, built in the Queen Anne style in 1895. **Greenwood** once boasted 7,000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20th century when copper, gold, and silver poured from its smelter. A local guide points out surviving landmarks such as the city hall, courthouse, and smelter chimney. We head home via the Kettle Valley.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Locally-guided tour of Revelstoke
- Revelstoke Railway Museum
- Three Valley Gap ghost town, roundhouse and auto museum
- Nikkei Memorial Internment Centre
- Unlimited access to Ainsworth Hot Springs
- *SS Moyie* sternwheeler
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon and area
- Sandon ghost town tour with powerhouse
- Ride on Nelson's Streetcar #23
- Locally-guided tour of Nelson heritage
- Greenwood Museum and guide
- Gratuities for local guides & streetcar
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity with walking tours of 3 Valley Gap, Sandon, Nelson, and Greenwood at an easy pace. Expect some stairs at Nikkei, *SS Moyie*, and the streetcar. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. If Activity Level 2 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 the balance is due July 20, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$80 discount on first 15 seats and \$40 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 20, 2022.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 20, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 21 to August 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 19, 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, we reserve the right to increase fares due to changes up until the time of 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 for medical and cancellation claims, 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. This tour goes to a remote destination 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.

Photo Credits: Three Valley Lake Chateau, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Roland Neave (Retallack), BC Archives (Sandon)

Experience Points: This tour earns 38 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 July 20, 2022.

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

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