



Paddlewheeler



Bloedel Conservatory

CHRISTMAS IN VANCOUVER

December 22, 2022 – 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, Bloedel Conservatory, the Christmas Market, the Space Museum, and Maritime Museum. Two shows are offered: *The Sound of Music* at the Stanley Theatre and *Mom's the Word: Talking Turkey* at Granville Island Theatre.

Come and enjoy a festive Christmas 2022 in Vancouver!

Activity Level: 1



7 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

Fairmont room – \$2,185 double/twin; \$2,565 single

Junior Suite – \$2,410 double/twin; \$3,035 single

1-Bedroom Suite – \$2,565 double/twin; \$3,325 single

Please add 5% GST.

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

Early Bookers:

\$50 discount on first 15 seats; \$25 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 51 points on this tour.

Redeem 51 points if you book by October 25, 2022.

Departure from: Victoria, Nanaimo & Parksville



Hotel Vancouver

ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, December 22

We take a morning ferry to Tsawwassen, then drive to New Westminster. We board the *MV Native Paddlewheeler* 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. 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: Friday, 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 is the **Vancouver Christmas Market**, held at the Jack Poole Plaza. About 80 vendors offer German-themed products and food in a festive atmosphere with colourful décor and live music. At 8 pm, we are at the Stanley Theatre to see the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, ***The Sound of Music***. Enjoy all your favourite songs from this wonderful musical such as *My Favorite Things*, *Edelweiss*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, and *Do-Re-Mi*.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 3: Saturday, December 24

We go to the **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. There is free time at Granville Island for shopping and lunch. At 2 pm, the curtain rises at the Granville Island Theatre for ***Mom's the Word: Talking Turkey***. In the 1990s, six theatre artists got together to talk and write about their experiences as new mothers. Part comedy, part variety show, these women share all the wonders of motherhood they could fit into two hours. Our Christmas Eve dinner is at the Hotel Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 4: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

Expect a gift from Santa during breakfast at the hotel. A hospitality room is available from 10 am to 10 pm where you can meet or visit with other Wells Gray travellers. The day is leisure time, then we savour a superb **Christmas Dinner** at Seasons in the Park, atop Queen Elizabeth Park.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver


Day 5: Monday, December 26

We explore the **Maritime Museum** which presents the seafaring history of the BC Coast, and see the RCMP vessel *St. Roch*, the first to sail eastbound through the Northwest Passage in 1940-42. We ride an afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay with good memories of our Vancouver Christmas.

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
- Vancouver Christmas Market
- *The Sound of Music* at Stanley Theatre
- MacMillan Space Museum
- *Mom's the Word: Talking Turkey* at Granville Island Theatre
- Maritime Museum
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for paddlewheeler crew
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **7 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

 **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. You can do a short or long walk at VanDusen Gardens. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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.

TOUR INFO

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 25, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$50 discount on first 15 seats and \$25 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 25, 2022. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$15 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 23, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 24 to October 25, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 26 to November 8, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 9 to November 21, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 21, 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.

Nanaimo, Parksville & area clients: You can easily join this tour. We will pick you up on December 21 in your home city and drive you to Victoria. You can book your own hotel room or we can arrange a room at Chateau Victoria at your expense. A transfer home will be provided on December 26. Fares are the same as shown on the first page.

Photo Credits: Marion Weinholt (Bloedel Conservatory), Vancouver Paddlewheeler, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver,

Experience Points: This tour earns 51 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 25, 2022.

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

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