



CHRISTMAS IN VICTORIA

December 21, 2022 – 6 Days

Coach #1 – Vernon, Salmon Arm, Kamloops

Staying 4 nights at Hotel Grand Pacific

Christmas in Victoria is an annual tradition for Wells Gray Tours. This year, we are staying at Hotel Grand Pacific which has a great location on Belleville Street overlooking the Inner Harbour.

Some highlights are a locally-guided tour of Victoria, a choice of visiting Craigdarroch Castle or Helmcken House, entertainment by the Victoria Operatic Society, an Imax film, and the Festival of Lights at Butchart Gardens. Three shows are included – *The Sound of Music* at Stanley Theatre, *A Tiny Christmas Carol* at Chemainus Theatre, and a Christmas Eve concert by the Harmony Group. An extravagant Christmas Dinner is at the Grand Pacific Hotel which has hosted this event for many years.

Come and enjoy Christmas 2022 in Victoria!

Activity Level: 1



9 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

Grand Pacific Signature Room: \$2,455 double/twin;
\$3,095 single; \$2,295 triple

Grand Pacific Harbourview Room: \$2,685 double/twin;
\$3,550 single; \$2,460 triple

Please add 5% GST.

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

Experience Points:

Earn 57 points on this tour.

Redeem 57 points if you book by October 25, 2022.

Departure from: BC Interior



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, December 21

We drive to Vancouver and stay overnight at the renowned **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**. At 7:30 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: Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 2: Thursday, December 22

We take a morning ferry to Nanaimo, then drive to Chemainus. Savour a generous buffet lunch at the theatre, then the show *A Tiny Christmas Carol* starts at 2 pm. Taking on Dickens' host of characters, a small ensemble of actors embraces simple theatrical magic and storytelling imagination in this holiday classic. This adaptation centres on the joy of connecting and Scrooge moving from self-imposed isolation to community – along with holiday songs and good cheer. We continue across the Malahat to Victoria and settle into the wonderful **Hotel Grand Pacific** for four nights. It has a great location on the Inner Harbour, next to the Legislative Buildings, and convenient to the shopping of Government and Douglas Streets. Hotel amenities include the Courtyard Café and Pacific Restaurant for dining, an indoor pool, fitness centre, and free wi-fi. Choose from two room types when you book this tour:

Signature Room is a city-view room, usually facing south across the James Bay neighbourhood.

Harbourview Room offers a great view of the Inner Harbour with all its activity, so you can watch boats and the ferry.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 3: Friday, December 23

A local guide meets us and conducts a fascinating **tour of Victoria** with many stories about its colourful characters and historical oddities. 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. **Note:** If the house is closed due to the redevelopment of the adjacent Royal BC Museum, it will be replaced by Emily Carr House.

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

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 4: Saturday, December 24

The morning is free time. We visit the Imax Theatre to enjoy a show on the giant screen. Back at the hotel, we are entertained by the wonderful **Victoria Operatic Society** with music and singing. Christmas Eve dinner is at the Marriott Hotel followed by a concert presented by the Harmony Group Trio.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 5: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

Expect a gift from Santa during a delectable brunch. The afternoon is leisure time, then we savour a wonderful Christmas Dinner at the Grand Pacific.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Day 6: Monday, December 26

We take the 11 am ferry to Tsawwassen and travel home along the Coquihalla.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- *The Sound of Music* at Stanley Theatre
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferries
- *A Tiny Christmas Carol* at Chemainus Theatre
- Locally-guided tour of Victoria
- Choice of visiting Craigdarroch Castle OR Helmcken House
- Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights
- Butchart Gardens Carousel ride
- Imax Theatre
- Reception with Victoria Operatic Society
- Harmony Group concert on Christmas Eve
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guide and concerts
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners



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 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.

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: 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.

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. As this tour has been planned 8 months before departure, an included attraction could change or be replaced by a similar one.

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: Hotel Grand Pacific (2 top photos page 1), Butchart Gardens

Experience Points: This tour earns 57 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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WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

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