



Northern Expedition



Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

July 8, 2023 – 7 Days

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

Explore the amazing North Coast by land and sea! The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert aboard BC Ferries' *Northern Expedition* takes 15 hours, all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife. In Prince Rupert, we thrill to a 7-hour catamaran excursion to the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary and also tour the restored North Pacific Cannery. Then we board VIA Rail's *Skeena Train* for a spectacular all-day journey east to Burns Lake. We drive south through the Cariboo with a visit to the historic gold rush town of Barkerville. This is a wonderful British Columbia circle tour!

Activity Level: 2



9 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,185 double/twin; \$3,745 single; \$3,000 triple
Please add 5% GST.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$78 discount with BC Services Card; must book by May 3, 2023.

Experience Points:

Earn 73 points on this tour.

Redeem 73 points if you book by May 3, 2023.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, July 8

After riding the ferry to Nanaimo, we drive north on the Island Highway through Campbell River to **Port Hardy**.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Kwa'lilas Hotel

Day 2: Sunday, July 9

The *Northern Expedition* departs Port Hardy for a 15-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel, and the long canal-like Grenville Channel. Enjoy a comfortable reserved seat in the private, key-access Aurora Lounge for the whole voyage. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay three nights at the Crest Hotel, the finest in the city.

Cabin option: You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$135 or inside cabin for \$105 (per cabin), if available. Prices may increase in 2023. Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet, and shower. Please request when you book this tour.

Accommodation: Crest Hotel



Day 3: Monday, July 10

We drive to Port Edwards on the Skeena River and tour the restored **North Pacific Cannery** which was built in 1889. This afternoon, we admire the wonderful exhibits at the **Museum of Northern British Columbia**.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Crest Hotel

Day 4: Tuesday, July 11

The **Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary** was established in 1994 and preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in B.C. We board a 22-metre catamaran for a seven-hour excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has lots of outdoor deck space and floor to ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about native villages and watching for dolphins, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. July is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are playing and feeding along the shoreline.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Crest Hotel



Day 5: Wednesday, July 12

VIA Rail's Skeena Train offers an awesome eight-hour journey. There are splendid views as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the **Coast Mountains**. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks usually follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. Our coach driver meets us in Burns Lake because the train usually runs late for the last 200 km into Prince George due to many freight trains. Your luggage travels conveniently on the coach today. We stay overnight in **Prince George**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza Hotel

Day 6: Thursday, July 13

We are treated to the knowledge of an expert historian during the coach trip from Quesnel to **Barkerville**. Governor James Douglas, sometimes called "Father of British Columbia", was a key figure in Barkerville's early years and our guide's

name is also James Douglas! Barkerville is B.C.'s largest restored heritage town and offers plenty to do today – listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie at the Richfield Courthouse, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, attend church at St. Saviour's, or discuss an 1880s character with a costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at the **Theatre Royal** is an hour of lively music and songs, funny stories of the gold rush, and great entertainment. We stay overnight in Williams Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Day 7: Friday, July 14

We follow the Cariboo Highway to Cache Creek, hearing more stories about the gold rush and pioneer characters. Lunch is at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. We fly from Kelowna to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

NORTHERN EXPEDITION


B.C. Ferries' **Northern Expedition** was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers, and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop, and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert takes 15 hours, almost all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life, and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Nanaimo
- *Northern Expedition* ferry through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Reserved seat in the ferry's Aurora Lounge
- North Pacific Cannery Museum
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- VIA Rail train from Prince Rupert to Burns Lake
- Historian on coach from Quesnel to Barkerville
- Barkerville Historic Town
- Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Flight from Kelowna to Vancouver
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides and boat crew
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Please Book Early! Unsold ferry and train space must be released on May 3, 2023. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some stairs, mainly on the cruise boat, train, and walking around Barkerville. The ferry has an elevator. 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. 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 days of the tour.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 3, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$78 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Booking deadline is May 3, 2023. You must show your BC Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour. Your photo ID is required to board the ferry.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 3, 2023, your payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 4 to May 3, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From May 4 to June 2, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After June 2, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: As the world emerges from the pandemic, many of our suppliers such as hotels, restaurants, attractions, and transportation providers are struggling with shortage of staff, inflated costs, and supply line challenges. Sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a component of this tour due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

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

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.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$50 per person round trip. Transfer is to and from the coach route along Highways #1 and #17 to Tsawwassen and return home from YVR. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: BC Ferries (2 Inside Passage photos), AdobeStock (Khutzeymateen Grizzly), Lisa Migneault (Skeena Train)

Experience Points: This tour earns 73 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 May 3, 2023.

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

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