



Private guest pool at Fairmont Hot Springs



Ainsworth Hot Springs

KOOTENAYS HOT SPRINGS

February 27, 2023 – 5 Days

Relax in the soothing waters of Fairmont, Radium and Ainsworth Hot Springs

The Kootenays region is known for many incredible wonders, one of which is the great variety of hot springs. Late February and early March is a beautiful time to admire the winter wonderland of this area. Soaking up the snowy mountain scenery from the warmth of a steaming outdoor pool is nothing short of magical. This tour visits three hot springs: Fairmont, Radium, and Ainsworth. Accommodation is right next to the hot pools at Fairmont for two nights and Ainsworth for two nights. Just bring your bathing suit and be prepared to relax.

Activity Level: 1



11 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,580 double/twin; \$1,990 single; \$1,455 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

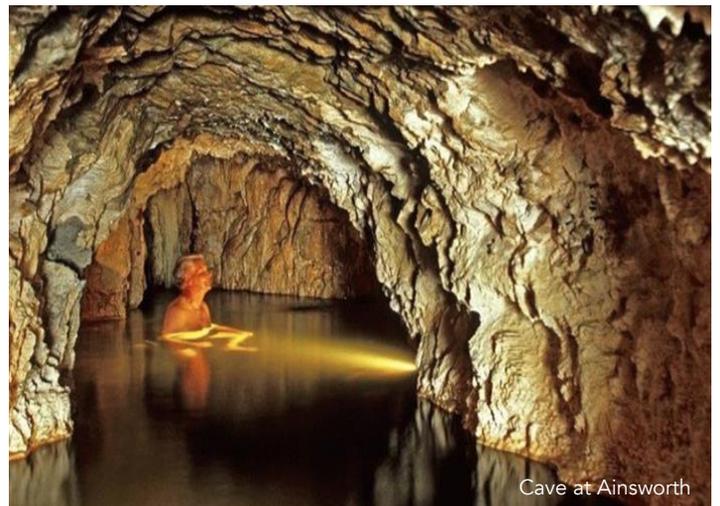
\$80 discount on first 15 seats; \$40 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 37 points on this tour.

Redeem 37 points if you book by January 10, 2023.

Departure from: BC Interior



Cave at Ainsworth

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, February 27

We travel east across **Rogers Pass** through Glacier National Park, admiring a winter wonderland of snowy peaks and frozen rivers. From Golden, we drive along the broad Rocky Mountain Trench to **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort**. As a hotel guest, you can enjoy a private hot pool close to your room, or use the larger public pool. The water temperature ranges from 40 to 43° C (104-110° F) and about 1.4 million gallons of odourless, mineral-rich water flows through the pools daily.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Day 2: Tuesday, February 28

The morning is free time at Fairmont Hot Springs, an excellent opportunity to enjoy an optional spa treatment. In the afternoon, we drive a half-hour north to **Radium Hot Springs** in Kootenay National Park. Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company made the first recorded visit in 1841, bathing in a one-person sized pool dug out of the gravel. The present Aquacourt was built in 1951 and is now Canada's largest hot springs facility with a temperature of 39.5° C or 103° F.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Day 3: Wednesday, March 1

We travel south along Columbia Lake and the Kootenay River to Cranbrook. From Creston, we follow the east shore of **Kootenay Lake** and ride the 'longest free ferry in the world' over to Balfour. Our destination is **Ainsworth Hot Springs** where we stay for two nights at the resort beside the hot pools overlooking Kootenay Lake. During your stay, there is unlimited access to the pools.

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.

Note: Some rooms at this hotel have lake views and some face the mountainside with no view; the earliest bookers are assigned lake view rooms.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort

Day 4: Thursday, March 2

We drive into nearby **Nelson**. A long-time resident guides a historical driving tour; buildings that are less than a century old are considered "modern". Nelson's famous **Hume Hotel** is a heritage landmark which opened in 1898. We have lunch there, then there is time to browse some interesting stores along Baker Street.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort



Day 5: Friday, March 3

We drive through Castlegar and across Bonanza Pass over the Monashee Mountains. After lunch in **Grand Forks**, we follow Highway #33 to the Okanagan Valley.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Fairmont Hot Springs
- Radium Hot Springs admission & towel rental
- Kootenay Lake ferry
- Ainsworth Hot Springs (unlimited use)
- Locally-guided tour of Nelson
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Tip: Luggage handling may take an hour after the coach arrives at Fairmont and Ainsworth. If you want to get into the hot pools quickly, we suggest you pack your bathing suit in your carry-on bag.



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. 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 POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due January 10, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking, cheque, Visa or Mastercard.

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 January 10, 2023. Early bookers are also assigned lake view rooms at Ainsworth, subject to availability.

Cancellation Policy: Up to December 9, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From December 10, 2022 to January 10, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person (your deposit). From January 11 to January 26, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After January 26, 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. Restaurants in remote areas may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. As restaurants recover from two years of pandemic restrictions, many facing severe labour shortages, we have been informed that food allergies should be honoured, but it is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. (An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.) 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: Rhonda Diaper (Fairmont), Ainsworth Hot Springs, Hume Hotel, Parks Canada.

Experience Points: This tour earns 37 Experience 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 January 10, 2023.

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

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