

Princess Louisa Fjord



Naiaid Explorer

B.C. FJORDS

June 5, 2023 – 6 Days

Knight Inlet, Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, Desolation Sound & Princess Louisa Fjord

Some of the most thrilling sights along the B.C. coast cannot be reached by road, and the only access is by boat. This tour includes four boat excursions into these remote places. Knight Inlet is the longest fjord on our coastline, extending 113 km deep into the Coast Mountains. Nakwakto Rapids are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness, and during our visit the waters pouring out of Seymour Inlet and Belize Inlet will attain the incredible speed of 14 knots. A third boat trip departs Campbell River, weaves among the Northern Gulf Islands, and cruises through the magical beauty of Desolation Sound to Lund on the Sunshine Coast. A fourth cruise explores amazing Princess Louisa Fjord where sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water and thundering Chatterbox Falls dominates its upper end.

Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
25

12 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,035 double/twin; \$3,430 single; \$2,925 triple
Please add 5% GST.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$16 off with BC Services Card

Experience Points:

Earn 75 points on this tour.

Redeem 75 points if you book by April 4, 2023.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, June 5

After riding the ferry to Nanaimo, we drive through Campbell River and stay two nights in **Port McNeill**.

Accommodation: Haida Way Motor Inn

Day 2: Tuesday, June 6

We board the *Naiad Explorer* for the first of four exciting ocean experiences, heading to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain George Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village), then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The *Naiad's* powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet to **Cascade Falls** which plunges directly into the ocean. During the return ride to Port McNeill, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago looking for Steller sea lions.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Haida Way Motor Inn

Day 3: Wednesday, June 7

Back on the *Naiad*, we cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the *Naiad's* big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of factors makes June 7 one of the best days in 2023 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 14.0 knots at 9:33 am. These are the fastest tidal rapids in the

world, according to Guinness. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local First Nations band. After returning to Port McNeill, we drive south to Campbell River.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Comfort Inn & Suites

Day 4: Thursday, June 8

Our next boat excursion leaves from Campbell River and weaves among the Northern Gulf Islands such as Quadra, Cortes, Read, and Redonda. These waterways are great for **whale watching** and we keep an eye open for humpbacks, orcas, and dolphins. **Desolation Sound** is British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973. It attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, unusually warm waters, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain Vancouver saw it differently two centuries ago when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our six-hour cruise visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay, and Copeland Islands. Our coach meets the boats in Lund and we drive into **Powell River**. Stroll the hotel's waterfront this evening and enjoy the appealing views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 5: Friday, June 9

We ride a ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. This is another day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best-known fjords. We cruise for two hours up **Jervis Inlet** past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade directly into the ocean. Malibu Narrows is the location of historic **Malibu Lodge**, an impressive log structure that was an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities in the 1940s and is now a popular church camp. The narrows mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering

cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. A picnic lunch is served at the falls. Back on our coach, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn, Sechelt

Day 6: Saturday, June 10

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horse-shoe Bay, then we travel home.

Meals included: Breakfast

OUR CRUISE VESSELS

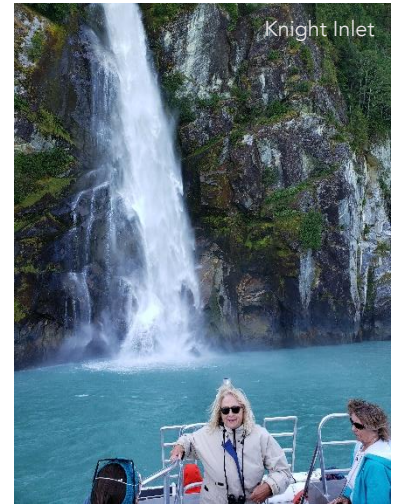
Knight Inlet & Nakwakto Rapids — *MV Naiad Explorer* is 17 metres long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating with washroom and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. *Naiad Explorer* was built in 1999 and quiet engines were installed to minimize underwater noise for whales. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, *Naiad Explorer* is a very fast vessel and is able to travel great distances in a day, including the full length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing coastal phenomenon.


Northern Gulf Islands & Desolation Sound — Two covered boats carrying 12 people each are used for this one-way cruise from Campbell River to Lund. Both are equipped with a washroom. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to get close to the shoreline and view the marine life.

Princess Louisa Fjord — Two vessels with indoor seating are used for the voyage up Jarvis Inlet, through the narrows of Malibu Rapids, and into Princess Louisa Fjord. There is no washroom on either boat. Travelling time is two hours each way.

All vessels are operated by long-time captains with lots of experience on the B.C. coast.

Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 18th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 16th trip along the full length of Knight Inlet, and our 14th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, four days are devoted to cruising sheltered waters near Vancouver Island.



 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk, such as on docks to and from the vessels and the short trail to Chatterbox Falls. Ramps onto docks can be steep at low tide. There are some stairs, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. There is no luggage handling service at hotels in Campbell River and Sechelt, and your room could be up one flight of stairs in Sechelt. The coach and boats cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If Activity Level 2 could be challenging, you must bring a companion who is able 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 director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Duke Point
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Day cruise from Campbell River to Lund in the Northern Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferry from Saltery Bay to Earls Cove
- Ferry from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at 2 of 4 hotels
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 4, 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: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$16 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 3, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 4 to April 4, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 5 to April 18, cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From April 19 to May 3, cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After May 3, 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 tour component 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.

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. 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.

Photo Credits: West Coast Wilderness Lodge (Princess Louisa), Mackay Whale Watching (*Naiad Explorer*), Roland Neave (Knight Inlet, Port McNeill)

Experience points: This tour earns 75 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 April 4, 2023.

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

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