

Princess Louisa Fjord



Naiaid Explorer

B.C. FJORDS

June 7, 2023 – 6 Days

Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, Knight Inlet, 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. 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 13 knots. Knight Inlet is the longest fjord on our coastline, extending 113 km deep into the Coast Mountains. 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.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
25

14 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,960 double/twin; \$3,485 single; \$2,795 triple
Please add 5% GST.

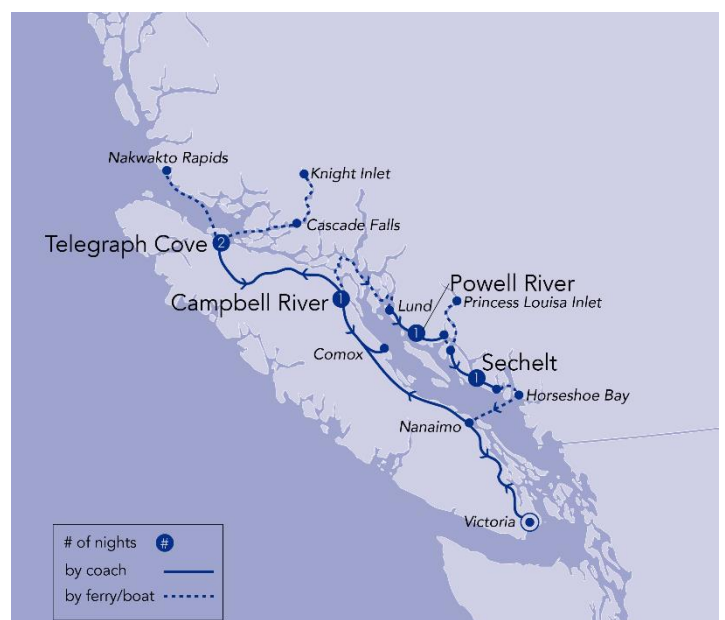
BC Seniors (65 & over): \$16 discount with BC Services Card

Experience Points:

Earn 70 points on this tour.

Redeem 70 points if you book by April 5, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria, Nanaimo & Comox area



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, June 7

After pickups around Greater Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway with a stop for lunch in Parksville. Our destination is **Telegraph Cove**, a charming village surrounding a narrow harbour. This was the northern terminus of the telegraph line built on Vancouver Island in 1912. A sawmill and commercial fishery supported the village for many years, but 30 years ago it transitioned into tourism. Telegraph Cove Resort owns most of the village and has renovated the old buildings into lodging, restaurant, shops, and a museum. Whale-watching cruises are the big draw with Robson Bight located nearby. A welcome dinner is at the Whale Café on the waterfront.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Telegraph Cove Resort

Day 2: Thursday, June 8

We board the *Naiad Explorer* for the first of four exciting ocean experiences. Today, we cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. The 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 8 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 13.0 knots at 10:24 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 Nation.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Telegraph Cove Resort

Day 3: Friday, June 9

Back on *Naiad Explorer*, we head 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. 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. After returning to Port McNeill, we drive south to Campbell River and stay overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Comfort Inn & Suites

Day 4: Saturday, June 10

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 eyes 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: Sunday, June 11

We ride a ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. This is a day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best-known fjords. Leaving Egmont, 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 at Egmont, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt. **Note:** Luggage handling is not available here.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn, Sechelt

Day 6: Monday, June 12

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horseshoe Bay. Then we ride the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, and drive home over the Malahat.

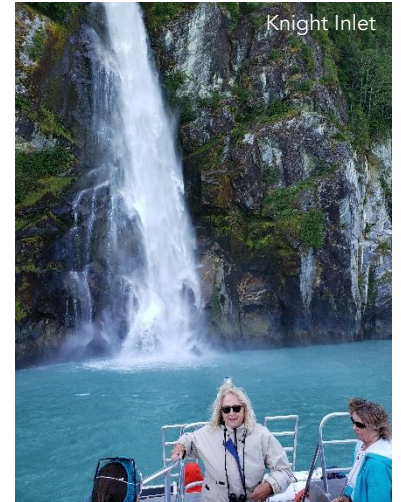
Meals included: Breakfast

OUR CRUISE VESSELS

Knight Inlet & Nakwakto Rapids — *MV Naiad Explorer* operates exclusive charters and whale watching excursions throughout British Columbia's coastal waters. The ship is 17 metres long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. There is a washroom. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating in case of inclement weather 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, capable of travelling great distances in a day including the 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 Jervis 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 17th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 15th trip along the full length of Knight Inlet, and our 13th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the six days on this tour, four days are devoted to cruising sheltered waters near Vancouver Island.

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


WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Cruise from Campbell River to Lund in the Northern Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferries across Jervis Inlet and Howe Sound
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels except Sechelt
- **14 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Nanaimo, Comox, Courtenay & area clients: You can easily join this tour. We will pick you up on June 7 in your home city and a transfer home will be provided from Nanaimo on June 12. Fares are the same as shown on the first page. If you live north of Parksville, there is no lunch included on June 7.

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.

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity, such as walking 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 steps, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. You

may be staying in the Telegraph Cove hillside rooms, so there is a short walk down to the café and uphill returning. The coach and boats cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you 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 able to keep 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 \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 5, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

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, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 4 to April 5, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 6 to April 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 20 to May 4, the cancellation charge is 80% of the fare. After May 4, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur anytime 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credits: West Coast Wilderness Lodge (Princess Louisa), Mackay Whale Watching (*Naiad*), Roland Neave (page 3)

Experience points: This tour earns 70 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 5, 2023.

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

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