



WELLS GRAY PARK

June 9, 2023 - 4 Days

Explore Canada's Waterfalls Park with the expert and author, Roland Neave.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! Nicknamed 'Canada's Waterfalls Park' and 'Volcanoes Park,' Wells Gray is a wonderland of natural sights including Canada's 4th highest waterfall, Helmcken Falls. June is an excellent time to visit as the waterfalls are in full spring runoff. The tour is directed by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guest-house, and author of the popular guide-book, *Exploring Wells Gray Park*. Highlights are Helmcken Falls, Dawson Falls, Bailey's Chute, Ray Farm & Mineral Springs, Trophies Lodge, Spahats Falls, and an all-day boat tour on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
25

9 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,425 double/twin; \$1,615 single; \$1,360 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 35 points on this tour.

Redeem 35 points if you book by April 26, 2023.

Departures from: BC Interior



ITINERARY:

Day 1: Friday, June 9

We travel north along the Yellowhead Highway to Clearwater. After lunch, while driving through the **Clearwater River Valley**, we see extinct Pyramid Volcano, the Mushroom Canyon, and 90-metre wide **Dawson Falls** on the Murtle River. The highlight is awesome **Helmcken Falls** where the Murtle River plunges 141 metres (465 feet) over a lava cliff to form Canada's 4th highest waterfall. After dinner, Roland presents a slide show about Wells Gray Park, gleaned from over 50 years of exploring its roads and trails.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn



Day 2: Saturday, June 10

At road's end, we board two fast jet-boats for the journey up lovely **Clearwater Lake** with splendid views of the Cariboo Mountains and **Garnet Peak**, Wells Gray Park's third-highest mountain. The boats' powerful engines make easy work of the fast-flowing Clearwater River and soon we enter pristine **Azure Lake** which is 28 km long and surrounded by soaring peaks. A stroll through an old-growth cedar forest leads to **Rainbow Falls** on Angus Horne Creek, then a picnic lunch is provided at the beach. This six-hour boat excursion explores a spectacular area of Wells Gray Park that few tourists get to see, since it can only be reached by boat.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn

Day 3: Sunday, June 11

We start with a historical tour of **Trophies Lodge** which once catered to celebrities fishing the teeming waters of the Clearwater River. We return to Helmcken Falls for a picnic lunch and a walk along the canyon rim trail to view the clash of white water at the meeting of the Clearwater and Murtle Rivers. A loop walk leads to the abandoned pioneer Ray Family homestead, the bubbling **Ray Mineral Springs**, and Alice Lake. A third walk visits two thundering waterfalls on the Clearwater River – **Bailey's Chute** and Marcus Falls. Dinner is at the Painted Turtle Restaurant on the shore of Dutch Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn



Day 4: Monday, June 12

At **Spahats Falls**, we stand on the edge of a colourful 200-metre deep gorge. There are also stops at Clearwater Valley Overlook and the waterfalls of Third Canyon. The Wells Gray Park Visitor Centre is our last stop, then we have a picnic lunch at North Thompson Park, and travel home in the afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

THE "WATERFALLS PARK" OF CANADA

Wells Gray Park is a vast wilderness area of 1.3 million acres, nicknamed Canada's "Waterfalls Park" for its 42 named falls and "Volcanoes Park" for its six old volcanoes and vast lava flows. June is an excellent time to visit Wells Gray Park since the waterfalls are at peak runoff volumes. The tour is directed by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guesthouse. Roland is also the author of the guidebook *Exploring Wells Gray Park* (7th Edition published in 2023) and a complimentary autographed copy of this 416-page all-colour book is your souvenir from this tour.

With a small group like this, the boats can take us up Clearwater Lake, through the Clearwater River into Azure Lake, then to the beach at the east end of Azure Lake to view Rainbow Falls.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! There is a connection to the Park's name, dating back 51 years. An environmental organization offered tours of Wells Gray Park in 1972 as a means of protesting BC Hydro's plans to build seven dams on the Clearwater River. Roland and some university friends were volunteer guides. From this modest beginning with a single tour route, Wells Gray Tours has evolved to offer worldwide travel.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Coach transportation for 4 days
- 3 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Copy of *Exploring Wells Gray Park*, 7th edition
- 6-hour boat excursion on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls
- Gratuities for boat crew
- Trophies Lodge historic tour
- Knowledgeable tour director
- **9 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners



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- Activity Level 2:** Moderate to rigorous activity including walking on gravel trails and uneven surfaces, stepping in and out of the boat, and spending lots of time outdoors. The longer walks are:
- Murtle & Clearwater Rivers overlook – 1 hour return
 - Ray Farm, Mineral Springs & Alice Lake – 1½ hours return
 - Bailey’s Chute & Marcus Falls – 1¼ hours return

These times are at a leisurely pace including viewpoint stops. A day pack, water bottle, and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes are essential; walking poles are recommended. There are no bathrooms on the boats and the trip to Rainbow Falls is about 2 hours each way. Luggage handling is not available at the hotel. Seeing all the natural sights mentioned requires active participation. Please do not book this tour if you depend on a walker. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. 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. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

TOUR 25 This tour is currently limited to 21 travellers which is the capacity of the two boats. Please book early! A small group like this provides a more intimate travel experience.

TOUR POLICIES:

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 26, 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.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 27, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 28 to April 26, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 27 to May 8, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After May 8, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: 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 up until the time of 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credits: Roland Neave (all photos)

Experience Points: This tour earns 35 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 26, 2023.

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

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