



KATHAUMIXW CHORAL FESTIVAL

July 3, 2023 – 7 Days

*Attend one of Canada's top choral events
on the Sunshine Coast!*

International Choral Kathaumixw has taken place every two years since its founding in Powell River in 1984. Choirs from around the world participate and compete for awards in front of a distinguished international jury. The event takes place over 5 days with 18 concerts in 3 venues and you can choose 8 performances to attend. The Gala Closing Concert usually has a massed choir with over 1,000 voices, a truly spectacular triumph of choral skills. In addition to these performances, the tour includes several other activities – a heritage walking tour in Powell River, a guided nature walk, and a 5-hour cruise in the pristine beauty of Desolation Sound.

Activity Level: 1



TOUR
25

13 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,495 double/twin; \$3,070 single; \$2,375 triple

Rooms for single occupancy are very limited.

Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 57 points on this tour.

Redeem 57 points if you book by May 11, 2023.

Departure from: BC Interior

Desolation Sound



ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, July 3

We drive the Coquihalla to the Lower Mainland and take a late afternoon ferry from Horseshoe Bay across Howe Sound to Langdale. Welcome to the Sunshine Coast! We continue to **Sechelt** for an overnight stay at the Driftwood Inn on the waterfront. Meet your fellow travellers at a get-acquainted dinner. Enjoy a stroll on the beach this evening.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn

Day 2: Tuesday, July 4

Continuing up the Sunshine Coast, we ride the ferry across Jervis Inlet to Saltery Bay, then drive into **Powell River** for a stay of five nights at the oceanfront Beach Gardens Resort. The hotel has a splendid setting overlooking Malaspina Strait and every room has an ocean view with a balcony. We explore the Powell River Museum this afternoon. The **Gala Opening Concert** of International Choral Kathaumixw starts at 8 pm in the Great Hall. During the weeks prior, the Powell River community arena is transformed into a concert hall with excellent acoustics and the ability to accommodate over 1,000 singers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 3: Wednesday, July 5

A continental breakfast is included each day in the Seasider Bistro in the hotel. A local guide explains the history and sights of Powell River during a **walking tour**. Lunch is at the Shingle Mill Bistro, overlooking Powell Lake. At 3 pm, there are three concerts simultaneously at the Evergreen Theatre, Max Cameron Theatre, and James Hall. Each concert typically features three choirs. The schedule listing participating choirs will be published in the spring of 2023. Transportation is provided to all three venues. Three more concerts, each with three different choirs, start at 8 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 4: Thursday, July 6

The morning is free time. Choose one of three concerts at 3 pm and one of three at 8 pm. The choirs are different than those on Wednesday.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 5: Friday, July 7

We drive to the end of Highway 101 at Lund which is the jumping-off point for boat excursions into **Desolation Sound**. British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain George Vancouver saw it differently in 1792 when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our five-hour cruise from Lund has a flexible route and the captain decides where to go based on wildlife spottings. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allows the boat to enter narrow passages. The vessel has indoor seating and a restroom, and carries 25 passengers comfortably. We are back in Powell River in time for you to attend one of the 3 pm concerts. Tonight is the **Awards Concert** in the Great Hall, featuring performances by First Place Choirs and Soloists.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 6: Saturday, July 8

The morning is free time and transfers are provided into downtown if you wish to browse the shops. The Farmer's Market operates this morning. During the afternoon, a **guided nature walk** is conducted at Willingdon Beach by the Museum. Tonight is the **Gala Closing Concert**, featuring the Choir of the World and the spectacular massed choir with over 1,000 voices.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 7: Sunday, July 9

We head home along the Sunshine Coast and the Coquihalla.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

INTERNATIONAL CHORAL KATHAUMIXW

The idea of Kathaumixw was born because Don James, music director of the Powell River Academy of Music, wanted to establish an international choral festival in North America that would be on par with festivals that the Academy Choirs had experienced in Europe. With his friend Dal Matterson and a group of close friends, they successfully organized the first International Choral Kathaumixw in 1984. What happened next was beyond anyone's expectations. Since the first festival, attended by about 400 singers, International Choral Kathaumixw has taken place every two years. The festival almost doubled in size in 1986 and developed a definite international flavour in 1988. Today, more than 1,200 singers from around the world gather to share their music, culture, and friendship. Kathaumixw is a Coast Salish word meaning "a gathering together of different peoples". It is pronounced ka-THOU-mew.

Kathaumixw has been a breeding ground for musical talent and innovation. Several works have been commissioned for festivals over the years, including staged choral works by Canadian and foreign composers. The festival features Artists in Residence, internationally renowned soloists, orchestras, and a distinguished international jury.

The success of Kathaumixw is due to its volunteers and committee members who work for months in advance, organizing the venues, registering choirs from all over the world, and planning meals, transportation, and homestays. Many local people open their homes and welcome foreign visitors during Kathaumixw week.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale & return
- Ferry across Jervis Inlet and return
- Powell River Museum
- Kathaumixw Gala Opening Concert
- Powell River heritage walking tour
- Five concerts over 3 days with 3 choirs in each
- Desolation Sound cruise
- Kathaumixw Awards Concert
- Nature and historical guided walk
- Kathaumixw Gala Closing Concert
- Gratuities for guides and crew on boat tour
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at Powell River hotel
- **13 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES

- With thousands of visitors in Powell River this week, accommodation is at a premium and Wells Gray Tours booked your rooms a year in advance.

To ensure that no beds in the town are empty this week, single rooms are extremely limited.

Please arrange to travel with a friend if possible, or we can help partner you with somebody.

- The Kathaumixw schedule of events will be posted on its website (www.kathaumixw.org) in spring 2023. Before final payment, you will be asked to choose which five concerts out of 15 offered over 3 days (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) you wish to attend. The package includes those five, plus the Gala Opening Concert, Awards Concert, and Gala Closing Concert. Coach transfers are provided between the hotel and concert venues for all afternoon and evening events.

TOUR
25

This tour is limited to 25 travellers, so early booking is recommended.

 **Activity Level 1:** Light activity including short distances to walk, such as to/from your theatre seat and the two guided walking tours. The ramp onto the dock for the cruise can be steep at low tide. There is no luggage handling service available in Sechelt. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 1. 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 \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due May 11, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 10, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From April 11 to May 11, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From May 12 to June 2, the cancellation charge is 50% of 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 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. Powell River is remote and restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. 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: International Choral Kathaumixw (page 1 top 2 photos), Roland Neave (Desolation Sound).

Experience Points: This tour earns 57 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 11, 2023.

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

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WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

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