



Tugboat Races



Hotel Murano

HARBOR DAYS IN OLYMPIA

August 31, 2023 – 5 Days

The Olympia Harbor Days Festival showcases many of the vintage tugboats of Puget Sound with a walk aboard show at the docks and races in the bay. Visitors may also find tall ships, steamships, other historic vessels of 20th century commerce, tribal canoes, and recreational small watercraft. On land, enjoy great food, music, and artisans, plus nautical themed attractions. We are on board the heritage steamship *Virginia V* for a cruise from Tacoma to Olympia, passing under the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, then another day viewing the Tugboat Races in Olympia Harbor. We stay a night at Tacoma’s Hotel Murano which is decorated with glass art, and 3 nights at the Doubletree Hotel in Olympia, close to the Harbor Days events.

Activity Level: 2



8 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,870 double/twin; \$2,425 single; \$1,715 triple
Tour is exempt from GST.

Early Bookers:

\$100 discount on first 15 seats; \$50 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 45 points on this tour.

Redeem up to 45 points if you book by July 11, 2023.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



Steamship Virginia V

ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, August 31

We cross the border and travel south through Seattle to Tacoma. We stay overnight at Hotel Murano in downtown **Tacoma**. This stunning hotel has adopted Tacoma's theme of glass artistry and the amazing works of international artists are on display throughout the lobby, halls, and bedrooms, making every step in the hotel an artful journey. More than 40 creative and innovative glass artists were handpicked for the hotel, ranging from obscure to established, and including talent such as Bertil Vallien, Lucio Bubacco, Dale Chihuly, and Hiroshi Yamano.

Accommodation: Hotel Murano



Day 2: Friday, September 1

This morning, we enjoy a guided tour of the **Foss Waterway Seaport Museum** which celebrates the rich maritime history of Tacoma and the Puget Sound region in a waterfront building. Exhibits within the Seaport showcase the history of the region and the life residing in and around its waters. At 1 pm, we are on board the **heritage steamship Virginia V** which has been cruising Puget Sound for over 100 years. Leaving Tacoma, we round Cape Defiance, pass under the impressive Tacoma Narrows suspension bridge, then cruise through Nisqually Reach and Budd Inlet to arrive at Port Plaza in **Olympia** about 5 pm. Entertainment is provided by the husband and wife team Knot for Sail. Olympia is the capital of Washington and its towering State Capitol dominates the city. The **Olympia Harbor Days Festival** starts today and runs through the Labour Day weekend. On display are tall ships, steamships, other

historic vessels of 20th century commerce, and tribal canoes. We attend the opening events this evening with music on the stage at Port Plaza. We stay three nights at the Doubletree Hotel, close to the Plaza. It is a full-service hotel with restaurant, lounge, indoor pool, and fitness centre.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Doubletree Hotel Olympia

Day 3: Saturday, September 2

There is lots of free time today to participate in the many activities of Harbor Days. Lunch is at the Budd Bay Café. This afternoon, the Historical Society offers a walking tour of downtown Olympia. Later, we attend the **Squaxin Island Tribe's Salmon Bake** featuring open pit smoked salmon on cedar sticks. There is more entertainment tonight on the Plaza.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Doubletree Hotel Olympia

Day 4: Sunday, September 3

The morning is free time. The **tugboat races** are the feature of the afternoon at Harbor Days. In the 19th century, tall ships would move cargo and people from one port to another. When a ship was within sight of the port, the captain knew the tugs would soon arrive. On land, a spotter would catch sight of the tall ship and let the skippers of the steam-driven tugboats know that a ship needed to be brought into port. The tugboats tossed their lines and raced out to the tall ship, travelling as far as 10 km. The first tug to reach the tall ship usually got the job to bring her to port. This tradition of tugboat racing is commemorated at Harbor Days. Since viewing from land is limited, we board the *Virginia V* again for a front row view of the tugboat races in Budd Inlet.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Doubletree Hotel Olympia

Day 5: Monday, September 4

Stops are made at Bellis Fair Mall and Duty Free store, then we cross the border and travel home.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Foss Waterway Seaport Museum
- Cruise on *Virginia V* from Tacoma to Olympia
- Olympia Harbor Days Festival events
- Guided walking tour of historical Olympia
- Squaxin Island Tribe Salmon Bake
- Viewing of tugboat races from *Virginia V*
- Gratuities for boat crew and local guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **8 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including walking and stairs. There is lots of walking at the museum and on the historic tour of Olympia. There may be steep ramps to the boat docks at low tide. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. 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 tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

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

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 15 seats and \$50 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 11, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 9, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From June 10 to July 11, cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 12 to July 31, cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After July 31, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Due to continuing after effects of the pandemic, 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. Some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. 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.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$75 per person round trip. Transfer is to and from the coach route along Highways #1 and #17. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Olympia Harbor Days (tugboat), Visit Seattle (Hotel Murano), Wikimedia (*Virginia V*), Experience Olympia

Experience Points: This tour earns 45 e-points. Each time you travel with Wells Gray, 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 July 31, 2023.

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

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