



Princess Louisa Fjord



Gibsons

## SUNSHINE COAST

September 9, 2023 – 7 Days

*With Princess Louisa Fjord, Agamemnon Channel & Desolation Sound cruises*

The Sunshine Coast is a distinct region of BC, located on the southern coast between Desolation Sound on the north and Howe Sound on the south. The rugged mountains bordering these inlets cut it off from direct road connection to the rest of the province, so although part of the BC mainland, it can only be reached by ferries or planes. Here are the traditional territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), Sechelt (Shíshálh), Sliammon (Tla’Amin), and Klahoose First Nations. There are many highlights during our 5 days on the Sunshine Coast – 3 cruises through Agamemnon Channel, Princess Louisa Fjord, and Desolation Sound; a local guide in Gibsons, *The Beachcombers* filming locations, a First Nations cultural program “Talking Trees”, and Botanical Gardens.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR  
25

14 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,485 double/twin; \$4,090 single; \$3,360 triple  
Waterfront rooms at Driftwood Inn are available at extra cost.  
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$180 discount on first 8 seats; \$90 on next 4

Experience Points:

Earn 77 points on this tour.

Redeem up to 77 points if you book by July 20, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria



Jervis Inlet

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Saturday, September 9

We take the ferry to Tsawwassen, meet the BC Interior travellers, then ride a late afternoon ferry from Horseshoe Bay across Howe Sound to Langdale. Welcome to the Sunshine Coast! We continue to **Sechelt** and stay three nights at Driftwood Inn. The motel is located on the waterfront beside the beach walkway. Five rooms have an ocean view and these can be requested for a higher tour fare. Meet your fellow travellers at a get-acquainted dinner.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Driftwood Inn

### Day 2: Sunday, September 10

A local guide shows us the highlights along the southern part of the **Sunshine Coast**. In Gibsons, we stop for photos at Molly's Reach, the famous restaurant seen by millions of viewers on CBC's **The Beachcombers** which ran for 19 seasons from 1972 to 1990. The tugboat *Persephone* has been restored and is displayed nearby. This afternoon, we drive to Egmont where Sechelt Inlet joins Jervis Inlet. We board two small vessels for a scenic cruise through **Agamemnon Channel** south to Pender Harbour. Steep rock walls rise 150 metres from the water, and some 2000-metre high peaks are visible. We stop at several pictographs, probably drawn centuries ago by Shíshálh people, and you can speculate on their meaning. Dinner is at Pender Harbour.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Driftwood Inn

### Day 3: Monday, September 11

A First Nations guide presents a cultural program "**Talking Trees**" which shares the stories of the Coast Salish people, the land, and the harmonious ways of living. This afternoon, we stroll through the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden in Sechelt. Next is the **Tems Swiya Museum** which exhibits an extensive collection of artifacts and cultural materials belonging to the Shíshálh Nation. The name means 'our world' and the museum is central to the presentation, conservation, and protection of Shíshálh cultural heritage.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Driftwood Inn

### Day 4: Tuesday, September 12

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. Princess Louisa was Queen Victoria's mother, but the indigenous name "Sway-oo-lat" means "facing the rising sun's rays". The vessels dock at the upper end and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. After returning to Egmont, we ride the ferry across Jervis Inlet to Saltery Bay, then drive into **Powell River** for a three-night stay at Beach Gardens Resort. The hotel has a splendid setting overlooking Malaspina Strait and every room has an ocean view with a balcony. Tonight, take a stroll beside the ocean and enjoy this wonderful setting.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Beach Gardens Resort

### Day 5: Wednesday, September 13

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 excursion from Lund in two small vessels visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay, and Copeland Islands, and lunch is provided on board. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to enter narrow passages.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Beach Gardens Resort

## Day 6: Thursday, September 14

A local guide explains the historic townsite of Powell River during a **walking tour**. Lunch is at the Shingle Mill Bistro, overlooking Powell Lake. We explore the Powell River Museum this afternoon.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Beach Gardens Resort

## Day 7: Friday, September 15

We ride three ferries from Saltery Bay to Earls Cove, Langdale to Horseshoe Bay, and Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay to get home from the Sunshine Coast.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

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## THE SUNSHINE COAST

The “Sunshine Coast” name originated with a pioneer family. In 1914, Harry Roberts painted “The Sunshine Belt” on the first wharf built in Roberts Creek, and promoted the area as a summer resort. When Black Ball Ferries started service in 1951, they promoted the area as “Sunshine Coast” and the name quickly caught on.

In 1912, a pulp and paper mill was built in Powell River. By 1930, the mill employed more than 2,000 workers, and had become the largest newsprint mill in the world. The highway reached Pender Harbour in the 1930s and the end of the Sechelt Peninsula in the 1950s, then the new ferry provided convenient access to all the settlements and the population boomed. Powell River townsite was designated as a National Historic District in 1995, one of only seven in Canada, and boasts over 400 original buildings.

Today, the Sunshine Coast is home to about 50,000 people. Forestry continues to be one of the region’s economic mainstays with tourism a close second. The Sunshine Coast has the highest per capita population of artists and crafters in Canada, and dozens of studios dot Highway 101 with purple banner flags indicating that the artist is open. Here, too, are the traditional territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), Sechelt (Shíshálh), Sliammon (Tla’Amin), and Klahoose First Nations.



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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry to/from Tsawwassen
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale & return
- Locally-guided tour of Gibsons and Sechelt
- Agamemnon Channel cruise to Pender Harbour
- First Nations cultural program “Talking Trees”
- Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden
- Tems Swiya Museum
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferry across Jervis Inlet and return
- Desolation Sound cruise
- Locally-guided walking tour of Powell River
- Powell River Museum
- Gratuities for crew on boat tours & guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at Beach Gardens
- **14 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners



**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 steps getting in and out of the vessels. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. There is no luggage handling service at Driftwood Inn. **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 days of the tour.

## TOUR NOTES

**Cruise Vessels** — Agamemnon Channel cruise and Princess Louisa Fjord cruise are operated with two vessels, each carrying about 12 passengers with indoor seating and no restroom on board. Time on board is about 2 hours. Desolation Sound cruise utilizes two small vessels with indoor seating and a restroom.

**Accommodation** — Despite the Sunshine Coast being so close to the metropolitan area of Vancouver, it does not attract crowds of overnight tourists and accommodation choices are very limited. Driftwood Inn in Sechelt is a 2-storey motel with no elevator. Although it is on the beach, most rooms do not have a view, but 5 waterfront rooms are available for extra cost. At Beach Gardens Resort in Powell River, all rooms have an ocean view with a balcony.

TOUR

25

This tour is limited to 23 passengers to ensure comfort for everyone on the vessels.

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 20, 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 \$180 discount on first 8 seats and \$90 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 20, 2023.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 20, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 21 to July 20, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From July 21 to August 8, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 8, 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 component of this tour 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. This tour goes to some remote places where 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.

**Home pickups** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credits:** Roland Neave (Princess Louisa), Molly's Reach, Pat Manthey (Jervis Inlet), BC Parks (Smuggler Cove)

**Experience points:** This tour earns 77 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 July 20, 2023.

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

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