



Tsa-Kwa-Luten lobby



Tsa-Kwa-Luten dining room

FAREWELL TO TSA-KWA-LUTEN LODGE

October 9, 2023 – 5 Days

One more chance to stay!

Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge is closing permanently in October. The Cape Mudge Band has decided to convert the lodge into a treatment centre for members of their First Nation. Wells Gray Tours has stayed there many times over the last 20 years and we are sad to lose this beautiful oceanfront hotel. It was built by the Kwagiutl people and its vast lobby resembles a traditional “Big House” with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling, and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. We have 2 tours already scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend, but the Lodge has agreed to stay open for an extra week, so we can operate this “farewell” tour.

This tour also features a marine life cruise around Quadra and Cortez Islands, and a show at Chemainus Theatre, *The Fiancée*.

Activity Level: 1



11 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,895 double/twin; \$2,195 single; \$1,825 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 44 points from this tour.

Departure from: BC Interior



Rebecca Spit

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, October 9

We drive to Vancouver and take the ferry to Nanaimo.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Bastion Hotel Nanaimo

Day 2: Tuesday, October 10

In Campbell River, there is a 10-minute ferry ride across Discovery Passage to **Quadra Island**. We stay for two nights near the south end of the island at **Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge**. Admire the view of Discovery Passage from your balcony, the dining room, the lobby, or the deck. This afternoon, a local expert presents a cultural talk about Quadra Island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge

Day 3: Wednesday, October 11

We take a pleasant walk along the beach at **Rebecca Spit** with the ocean on both sides. Later, savour traditional barbecued salmon served as a snack. There is leisure time to wander the beach, walk to the lighthouse, hike to the Cape Mudge cliffs, or soak in the hot tub.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge

Day 4: Thursday, October 12

We board several vessels at Quathiaski Cove for a five-hour excursion weaving among the northern Gulf Islands of **Quadra, Cortes, Maurelle, and Read**. These waterways are great for whale watching and we keep an eye open for humpbacks, orcas, and dolphins. Our coach is waiting in Campbell River. Near Parksville, we stop at **Coombs Market**, full of interesting shops, and known for the goats grazing on its roof. In Chemainus, we admire dozens of colourful murals. Dinner is at **Chemainus Theatre** followed by a performance of *The Fiancée*. Lucy can't bear the thought of soldiers being sent off to war without the hope of someone to come home to. She is in a predicament when they all arrive home, ready for nuptial bliss, in this madcap, door-slaming, hilarious farce.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Chemainus Inn

Day 5: Friday, October 13

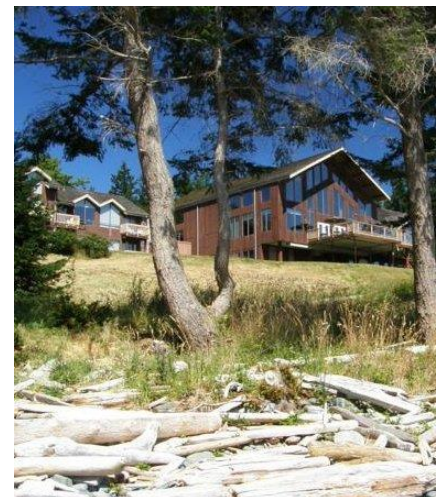
We take the ferry to Tsawwassen, then travel home along the Coquihalla Highway.

Meals included: Breakfast

TSA-KWA-LUTEN LODGE

This magnificent lodge was built by the Kwagiutl people in 1991 and its vast lobby resembles a traditional "Big House" with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling, and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. All rooms have an ocean view. Relax on your private balcony and enjoy the panorama of the ocean, the mountains of Vancouver Island beyond, the rapidly-moving tides, and tugboats with barges navigating this narrow waterway. A two-bedroom beachfront cottage is available if you are sharing with two or three other passengers. All meals are included due to the isolation here. The lodge has complimentary wi-fi. Rooms do not have televisions in keeping with the get-away atmosphere, so you may want to bring a book.

When the Cape Mudge Band Council was considering converting Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge to a treatment centre, there was strong opposition from employees (some have been there since opening), other band members, and residents of Quadra Island. The Lodge hosts thousands of tourists per year who bring in millions in revenue, and there are few other tourist facilities on the island. Wells Gray has offered several tours each year to the Lodge since 2004 and we are sad to see it close. Fortunately, the Lodge has agreed to stay open for an extra week, so you can enjoy one final visit.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Ferry to Quadra Island
- Cultural talk about Quadra Island
- Rebecca Spit Provincial Park
- Traditional barbecued salmon sampling
- 5-hour cruise around northern Gulf Islands
- *The Fiancée* at Chemainus Theatre
- Ferry from Nanaimo to Tsawwassen
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk, some walking on sandy or pebbly beaches, and some stairs. If you stay in a beachfront cottage at Tsa-Kwa-Luten, there is a 5-minute walk uphill to the lodge for meals and the coach. Request a ground floor room at Tsa-Kwa-Luten if you have difficulty with stairs, as there is no elevator. You can take a short or longer walk at Rebecca Spit. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 23, 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 July 24, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From July 25 to August 23, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person (your deposit). From August 24 to September 8, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After September 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 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to a remote destination 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.

Photo Credits: Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge (lobby, beach view), Lisa Migneault (dining room), Roland Neave (Rebecca Spit)

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 44 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 23, 2023.

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

KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)

250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON

3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON

159 Wade Ave E
Penticton, BC V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

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www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552