

CHRISTMAS IN SEATTLE & VANCOUVER

Includes 4 stage shows to celebrate!

December 21, 2023 – 6 Days



The Nutcracker

Get away to Seattle and Vancouver during the Christmas season. Two historic hotels are featured, complete with delightful Christmas decorations – the Mayflower Park Hotel in Seattle for 2 nights and the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for 3 nights. Theatre is an important part of this tour and 4 stage shows are included: *The Nutcracker* at McCaw Hall, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* at 5th Avenue Theatre, *Cinderella* at Gateway Theatre, and *Elf the Musical* at Stanley Theatre. Other highlights are the exquisite Chihuly Garden & Glass, Steveston Festival of Trees, Vancouver Christmas Market, and the extravagant Christmas lights at VanDusen Gardens. Come and enjoy a festive Christmas 2023 in Vancouver!



INTERNATIONAL
TOUR



ACTIVITY LEVEL

- ▶ **9 Meals Included:**
4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- ▶ **Fares per person:**
\$2,885 double/twin; \$3,455 single - GST 2%
- ▶ **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$16 discount with BC Services Card.
- ▶ **Early Booking Bonus:**
\$150 discount on first 15 seats; \$75 on next 10
- ▶ **Experience Points:** Earn 66 Experience Points
- ▶ **Departure from:** Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, December 21

There are convenient pickup points around Greater Victoria. We travel on the Coho ferry to Port Angeles and the ferry across Puget Sound to Seattle. We stay two nights at the historic **Mayflower Park Hotel**. It was opened in 1927 as one of the grand hotels of Seattle and has been beautifully restored. The Christmas decorations are wonderful.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Mayflower Park Hotel

Day 2: Friday, December 22

This morning, we visit **Chihuly Garden & Glass**. Founded on the international success of glass artist Dale Chihuly, this facility features many of his most popular works and architectural installations. At 2 pm, we are at McCaw Hall to enjoy the familiar music of **Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*** with the incredible dancing of Pacific Northwest Ballet and the choreography of George Balanchine. At 7:30 pm, the curtain rises at the 5th Avenue Theatre for the stage show, **Irving Berlin's *White Christmas***. After World War II, two veterans, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, begin a successful song and dance act, following two singing sisters to their Christmas gig at



Chihuly Garden & Glass

a Vermont resort lodge. With classic standards such as *Blue Skies*, *How Deep is the Ocean*, and the titular hit, *White Christmas* is a stirring and delightful musical that stands the test of time.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Mayflower Park Hotel

Day 3: Saturday, December 23

During the drive to Vancouver, there are shopping stops at Bellis Fair Mall and the Duty-Free Store. In Steveston, we admire the elaborate decorations at the Festival of Trees at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. The trees are designed by local merchants and people vote for their favourite ones. Afterwards, we head downtown to the **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** for a three-night stay. Opened in 1939 at a cost of \$12 million, it became a downtown landmark with its copper green roof and a height of 17 storeys. A \$75 million renovation was completed in 2019 and brought this magnificent hotel back to ranking among the finest in Vancouver. Tonight, we go to the Gateway Theatre in Richmond to see ***Cinderella***. From the creators of *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma!* and *The King and I* comes this Tony Award-winning Broadway musical that's been delighting audiences with its contemporary take on the classic tale. This lavish production features amazing transformations and all the moments you love — the pumpkin, the glass slipper, and the masked ball. Get transported back to your childhood as you rediscover some of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most beloved songs including *In My Own Little Corner*, *Impossible It's Possible* and *Ten Minutes Ago* in this hilarious and romantic musical. *Cinderella* was composed in 1957 and this 2013 revival has earned rave reviews.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 4: Sunday, December 24

During the morning, there is time to browse the Vancouver Christmas Market, modelled after the popular markets in Europe. At 2 pm, we are at

the Stanley Theatre to see *Elf the Musical*. Buddy, a human raised at the North Pole by elves, sets off to the big city in search of his father, but he finds an alarming lack of Christmas Spirit. Even his little brother doesn't believe in Santa! So Buddy sets out to help everyone remember the true meaning of Christmas and, just like in the blockbuster film, eat as many things covered in syrup as possible. Our Christmas Eve dinner is at the Hotel Vancouver. Afterwards, we go to **VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights** and admire the awesome spectacle of thousands of Christmas lights, the dancing lights on the lake, a giant decorated tree, and Candy Cane Lane. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 5: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

Expect a gift from Santa during an elaborate brunch at the hotel. A hospitality room is available from 10 am to 10 pm where you can meet or visit with other Wells Gray travellers. The day is leisure time, then we savour a superb **Christmas Dinner** at the Hotel Vancouver.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Day 6: Tuesday, December 26

There is time in the morning to browse the many shops of Granville Island Market. We ride an afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay with good memories of our Seattle and Vancouver Christmas.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights accommodation and taxes
- Ferry from Victoria to Port Angeles
- Ferry from Bainbridge Island to Seattle
- Chihuly Garden & Glass
- *The Nutcracker* at McCaw Hall
- *White Christmas* at 5th Avenue Theatre
- Steveston Festival of Trees
- *Cinderella* at Gateway Theatre
- Vancouver Christmas Market
- *Elf the Musical* at Stanley Theatre
- VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights
- Private lounge at hotel for Christmas Day socializing with coffee or tea
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 3 dinners



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs, mainly to/from your theatre seats. There is a walk from the coach to Chihuly of 300 metres and some walking at VanDusen Gardens. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 24, 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 \$150 discount on first 15 seats and \$75 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 24, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 25, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 26 to October 24, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 25 to November 8, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 9 to November 21, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 22, 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 an extensive 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 currency exchange rates, 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. Restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. (An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.)

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 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: McCaw Hall (The Nutcracker), VanDusen Gardens (VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights), Chihuly Gardens & Glass (Chihuly Gardens)

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 66 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 October 24, 2023.

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

VICTORIA

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

KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552