



## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL IN VANCOUVER

November 18, 2023 – 3 Days

*Featuring the Cirque show Koozå*

Every few years, Cirque du Soleil presents one of its astounding shows in Vancouver. In 2022, the show was *Alegría*. Others were *Luzia* in 2019, *Kurios* in 2017, and *Totem* in 2014. The venue is always the Grand Chapiteau, a gigantic circus tent usually erected near Pacific Blvd. Wells Gray has offered tours to see all these shows.

*Koozå* premiered in Montréal in 2007 and has since played in over 56 cities in 18 countries on 4 continents. The show's 3,000<sup>th</sup> performance was in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2016. Over 7.5 million people have seen *Koozå*. It has been to Vancouver only once before, in 2015. One of the most daring acts is the Wheel of Death, a 1,600-pound double-barrel axle that rotates at high speed while two artists perform incredible acrobatics.

This tour stays 2 nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street in downtown Vancouver. Another show is *Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner* at the Massey Theatre, and there is an option to see *Elf the Musical* at the Stanley Theatre.



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### Fares per person:

\$885 double/twin; \$1,075 single; \$845 triple  
Please add 5% GST.

**BC Seniors** (65 & over): \$16 discount with BC Services Card

### Early Booking Bonus:

\$40 discount on first 15 seats; \$20 on next 10

### Experience Points:

Earn 21 points from this tour.

**Departure from:** Victoria & up-Island to Qualicum

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 3 days
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- 2 nights at Blue Horizon Hotel & room taxes
- Cirque du Soleil's *Koozå* at Grand Chapiteau
- *Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner* at Massey Theatre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel

**ISLAND CUSTOMERS** – If you live up the Island as far as Qualicum Beach, we will provide a complimentary transfer to meet the Victoria coach on November 17, and same service returning on November 20.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Saturday, November 18

We ride the 11 am ferry from Victoria to Tsawwassen. We visit the **Richmond Olympic Experience**, located at the Oval which hosted long-track speed skating during the 2010 Winter Olympics. The museum touches on the entire history of the Games, featuring stories from every nation that has participated, and celebrating the excellence of the greatest athletes. We stay two nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel which has a great location on Robson Street with lots of shopping and restaurants nearby. There is an option tonight to see *Elf the Musical* at the Stanley Theatre (details on next page).

**Accommodation:** Blue Horizon Hotel

### Day 2: Sunday, November 19

The morning is free time and there are many attractions in downtown Vancouver that may be of interest, or you may wish to visit with relatives or friends. Starting at 1 pm, we thrill to **Cirque du Soleil's *Koozå*** at the Grand Chapiteau. Afterwards, we drive to New Westminster where there is free time for dinner, then we go to the Massey Theatre to attend the 7 pm show *Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner*.

**Accommodation:** Blue Horizon Hotel

### Day 3: Monday, November 20

During the morning, we visit the Granville Island Market, then take the 1 pm ferry to Swartz Bay.

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## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S *KOOZÅ* – FINALLY RETURNING TO VANCOUVER

Cirque du Soleil was founded in 1984 in Gaspé as part of the celebrations around the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in Quebec. Cirque was based on a totally new concept: a striking, dramatic mix of the circus arts and street entertainment, featuring wild, outrageous costumes, staged under magical lighting, and set to original music. With not a single animal in the ring, Cirque's difference was clear from the start. After performing in Montreal, Sherbrooke, and Quebec City, the show then performed in Ottawa, Toronto, and Niagara Falls during 1985. With its fame growing across Canada (including a performance at Expo '86), Cirque offered its first show in California in 1987 and became an overnight success. The Mirage Resort in Las Vegas signed Cirque to a year-long contract in 1992. Meanwhile touring groups performed in Europe and Japan, also to unprecedented acclaim. In 1998, new permanent shows were inaugurated at Walt Disney World in Florida and Bellagio Resort in Las Vegas. Today, Cirque du Soleil has about 4,000 employees with headquarters still in Montreal, and 19 shows with different themes were performing around the world just prior to Covid. Over 90 million people have seen a Cirque show since 1984.

*Koozå* had its world premiere in Montréal in 2007 and has since played in over 56 cities in 18 countries on 4 continents. The show's 3,000<sup>th</sup> performance was in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2016. Over 7.5 million people have seen *Koozå*. It came to Vancouver in 2015. It was written and directed by David Shiner, who had previously worked as a clown in Cirque du Soleil's production of *Nouvelle Expérience*. His experience as a clown and his time with Switzerland's Circus Knie and Germany's Circus Roncalli informed his work on *Koozå*. One of the most daring acts is the Wheel of Death, a 1,600-pound double-barrel axle that rotates at high speed while two artists perform incredible acrobatics. *Koozå*'s music, composed by Jean-François Côté, was inspired by the music of India, pop music, 1970s funk, orchestral music, and film scores from the 1940s and 1950s.

Cirque du Soleil sometimes sends a touring show to Victoria. These are much smaller productions than *Koozå* and cannot be compared to those staged in the Grand Chapiteau.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It rarely happens, but performers occasionally get sick, or some mishap causes the cancellation of the show. This can occur even an hour before the performance begins. We know that this would be extremely disappointing for our customers, but the only refund we would be able to obtain for you would be the actual ticket price for the show. The hotel, motorcoach, and other tour services are all prepaid and are non-refundable at short notice.

## OPTION FOR ANOTHER SHOW

*Elf the Musical.* Performance is on Saturday evening, November 18, at the Stanley Theatre. 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. Cost is \$110 per person plus GST including transfer from hotel to theatre and back. Please select this option no later than final payment.



Light activity including a short walk and possibly some stairs to your show seats. 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 frequent assistance.

## TOUR NOTES

**Nanaimo, Parksville & area clients:** You can easily join this tour. We will pick you up on November 17 in your home city and drive you to Victoria. You can book your own hotel room or we can arrange a room at Chateau Victoria at your expense. A transfer home will be provided on November 20. Fares are the same as shown on the first page.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 3, 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.

**Early Booking Bonus:** Receive \$40 discount on first 15 seats and \$20 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 3, 2023.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 5, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 6 to October 3, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From October 4 to October 15, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After October 15, 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, 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.

**Photo Credits:** Cirque du Soleil (Koozå), Wikimedia (Grand Chapiteau)

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 21 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 points on tours longer than 3 days. You can accumulate enough points to earn a free tour (this tour eligible until October 3, 2023).

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

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