

PRESIDENT'S CRUISE ON MEKONG RIVER

January 2025



Small ship cruising on Emerald Harmony

Come and join Wells Gray Tours and the Neave Family for the 8th President's Cruise. We will also be celebrating 53 years since the very first tour to Wells Gray Park in 1972!

The President's Cruise is on board the *Emerald Harmony* while cruising the storied Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. This intimate ship carries only 84 passengers and was built in 2019. Discover a treasure trove of natural wonders, awesome structures, and ritualistic cultures while travelling on board a luxury ship. The tour begins with two nights on a traditional, but luxurious, junk cruising among the limestone towers of Halong Bay. In Siem Reap, explore the architectural wonder of Angkor Wat. The 7-day cruise on *Emerald Harmony* down the mighty Mekong River has many wonderful stops at palaces, monasteries, and temples, plus great cities such as Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh.



INTERNATIONAL



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► **Fares per person**

from **\$11,780** double/twin, **\$16,615** single*

**pricing details for all departures provided on Page 2*

► **Book by Tuesday, January 9, 2024 and receive a \$300 Early Booking Bonus**

► **Earn 195 Experience Points**

► **Departure from:**

BC Interior, Victoria & Lower Mainland



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

- I BC Interior:** January 9, 2025 - 19 Days
- V Vancouver Island:** January 9, 2025 - 19 Days
- L Lower Mainland:** January 10, 2025 - 18 Days



Your specific departure point will be confirmed at time of booking.
Passengers travelling from the BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland regions will begin the tour as follows:

- I BC Interior:** We depart from the Okanagan, Kamloops, and Salmon Arm on Thursday, January 9 and travel by coach to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay and fly from Vancouver to Vietnam the following day. Monday, January 27 we fly from Ho Chi Minh City, regaining the day lost as we cross the International Date Line and arrive in Vancouver. Our coach is waiting and we drive home. **Note:** While it may seem unnecessary to travel to the Lower Mainland the day before your flight, the Coquihalla can have long closures or flights can be cancelled by weather which would cause a missed international flight.
- V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Thursday, January 9 and travel to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay and fly from Vancouver to Vietnam the following day. Monday, January 27 we fly from Ho Chi Minh City, regaining the day lost as we cross the International Date Line and arrive in Vancouver. Transfers are provided to pickup points for passengers in the Greater Victoria area. **Note:** While it may seem unnecessary to travel to New Westminster the day before your flight, transportation from Victoria can shut down unexpectedly which would cause a missed international flight. Home pickups may be offered in the Victoria area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.
- L Lower Mainland:** We fly from Vancouver to Vietnam on Friday, January 10. Monday, January 27 we fly from Ho Chi Minh City, regaining the day lost as we cross the International Date Line and arrive in Vancouver. **Note:** Home pick up may be arranged at time of booking.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Emerald D (window)	Panorama B (balcony)	Panorama A (balcony)
I	BC Interior	\$11,780 double/twin \$16,615 single	\$12,385 double/twin \$17,650 single	\$12,920 double/twin \$18,570 single
V	Vancouver Island	\$11,930 double/twin \$16,765 single	\$12,535 double/twin \$17,800 single	\$13,070 double/twin \$18,720 single
L	Lower Mainland	\$11,595 double/twin \$16,350 single	\$12,200 double/twin \$17,385 single	\$12,735 double/twin \$18,305 single

Please add 0.2% GST.
Other cruise categories are also available.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

🕒 **45 total:** 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 14 dinners

🕒 **43 total:** 16 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 14 dinners

🕒 **41 total:** 15 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 13 dinners

► Transportation

- Transportation to/from Vancouver airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Hanoi, Vietnam
- Current air transport taxes & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Hanoi airport to hotel
- 8 days of coach transport in Asia
- Flight from Hanoi to Siem Reap
- Transfer from Ho Chi Minh hotel to airport
- Flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Vancouver

► Accommodation

- 8 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels & ship
- 7 nights on ***Emerald Harmony*** cruising the Mekong River
- Cruise gratuities for the ship's crew
- Port charges and cruise taxes

► Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for guides & drivers in Asia

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

► Key Highlights

- Visit to Cua Van fishing village by row boat
- Sung Sot Cave
- Traditional water puppet show in Hanoi
- Driving and walking tour of Hanoi
- Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh Temple of Literature
- Apsara dance performance
- Temples of Angkor
- Temple of Ta Prohm
- Sunrise experience at Angkor Wat
- Phare, The Cambodian Circus
- Angkor Bridge at Kampong Kdei
- Oudong Monastery with Buddhist blessing
- Phnom Penh by night on remork (Tuk-Tuk)
- Killing Fields
- Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum
- Royal Palace of Cambodia
- Cultural performance by Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation
- Sampan to/from Evergreen Island
- Cao Dai temple
- Ride in a Xe Loi
- Mekong fish farm tour
- Traditional Lion Dance performance
- Family meeting on Gieng Island
- My An Hung Island cultural visit
- Congregational House in Kien An Cung
- Home of Huynh Thuy Le
- Coconut candy workshop
- Transit of Cho Gao Canal
- Cu Chi Tunnels
- Guided tour of Ho Chi Minh City





EARLY BOOKING INCENTIVES! "We can't wait, neither should you."

Emerald Cruises has confirmed a block of staterooms for our 8th President's Cruise and they will be held until January 9, 2024. River cruises are extremely popular and most are sold out long before departure, so you should not wait to book this tour. After all, the ship carries only 84 people and it doesn't take long to sell out a small ship like *Emerald Harmony*. Some customers tell us that they don't like to book a tour over a year before departure because there could be health issues or family commitments that arise. If something changes up to 6 months before sailing, your cost to cancel is only \$100 per person. **After January 9, 2024, Emerald will recall our unsold staterooms and it is unlikely that we can secure more.**

Here are some compelling reasons why you should book early for the 8th President's Cruise:

Book by Thursday, December 21, 2023

Everybody receives an early booking discount of \$300 per person AND everybody who is booked with deposit is entered in a draw to be held at 4 pm. The winner can choose:

- 1) an upgrade to the Grand Balcony Suite on the Emerald Harmony OR
- 2) an upgrade on the flight to and from Vietnam into Business Class

Book by Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Everybody receives an early booking discount of \$300 per person AND everybody who is booked with deposit is entered in a draw to be held at 4 pm. The winner will receive the prize that is not selected by the December 21 winner.

There are several benefits to booking by December 21!

- If you win, you can choose the Grand Balcony Suite or Business Class Flight!
- You will get 2 chances to win – on December 21 and January 9.
- There may be fewer people booked and your winning chances are better.

Upgrade to the Grand Balcony Suite on the Emerald Harmony

Enjoy one of the finest suites on the ship. At 398 square feet of space, these beautifully appointed suites offer a private balcony with drop-down window, as well as a separate bedroom and lounge area. A continental breakfast in your suite, canapés before dinner, and bedtime sweet treats are served each day. Your queen-size or twin bed is draped in high quality linens, plus you can select your preferred pillow from an extensive menu. A walk-in wardrobe makes unpacking a dream. You can even have two items laundered each day. In the morning, enjoy the perfect wake-up call with a fresh coffee from your Nespresso machine. Your luxurious bathroom features a shower complete with decadent toiletries, comfortable bathrobes, and slippers. Note that this prize is for an upgrade, so you still pay for the stateroom you originally booked.

Upgrade to Business Class on the flight!

Have you ever boarded a plane and been a little envious as you walked through the Business Class section? Now you (and your room partner if you have booked double or twin) can enjoy that wide comfortable reclining seat, a fine selection of movies, excellent meals with drinks, attentive service, and a lay-flat bed. At the airports, you have access to the comfortable business lounge until your flight is called.



MEKONG RIVER

The Mekong River is the world's twelfth-longest river and the third-longest in Asia with an estimated length of 4,909 km. From its headwaters in the Tibetan Plateau, the river runs through Southwest China (where it is called the Lancang River), Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam. The extreme seasonal variations in flow and the presence of rapids and waterfalls in the Mekong make navigation difficult. Even so, the river is a major trade route between western China and Southeast Asia. China built 11 dams on the Mekong between 1995 and 2019, leaving downstream countries with less water than before and causing serious problems for the river's ecosystem.

PRESIDENT'S CRUISE #8

Roland and Anne Neave invite you to join them for this exciting cruise on the ***Emerald Harmony*** along the mighty Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. Other highlights are the ancient temples of Angkor and a cruise among the limestone towers of Halong Bay. The Neaves choose a cruise route somewhere in the world and host their President's Cruise. Roland founded Wells Gray Tours in 1972 and is the company's President. Previous President's cruises have featured the Eastern Mediterranean, Panama Canal, Norway Fjords, Dubai to Singapore, Sydney to Auckland, and four rivers of Europe (Moselle, Rhine, Main, and Danube). The first five cruises were all on ocean ships, the 2019 cruise was the first on a river vessel, and the upcoming 2024 President's Cruise is again on the ocean travelling to Spitzbergen. During this President's Cruise, Roland and Anne will host several receptions and social gatherings. Appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks are provided, along with lots of conversation. Roland and Anne look forward to renewing old acquaintances or meeting you for the first time.



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches/shorelines, or at higher elevations; climb in and out of zodiacs or small boats without any assistance; walk on docks which may have steep ramps at low tide; and stand for prolonged periods. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted, can handle altitudes up to 9,000 ft (2800 metres) with no health issue, and can handle your own luggage in airports, cruise terminals, or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available.

You can expect light activity on the ship but there are some shore excursions and pre- and post-cruise tours that could be rated as Activity Level 3. Some riverside villages do not have docks, and the ship pulls up to the riverbank for you to get off. Choose shore excursions based on your ability. There is an elevator on the ship that connects Riviera, Vista, Horizon, and Pool decks, but not Sun Deck. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. 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. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Please note: Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Halong Bay

ITINERARY

Thursday, January 9

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel to the Inn at the Quay, overlooking the Fraser River. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

Meals included: ① Lunch, Dinner ⑤ Dinner

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Friday, January 10

Transportation is provided to Vancouver Airport and our flight leaves mid-day. We cross the International Date Line, regaining this day on our return.

Meals included: ① ⑤ Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight flight

Saturday, January 11

Welcome to Vietnam! We land in **Hanoi**, Vietnam's bustling colonial capital. Hanoi is described as an old-fashioned city in style, but is punctuated by the endless flow of mopeds and commerce. It is a city of peaceful lakes, tree-lined boulevards, and oriental pagodas. An area called the Old French Quarter has crumbling houses crammed into narrow alleyways that are still named after the goods that were traded there - Silk Street, Gold Street, even Fried Fish Street! We stay at the Anatole Hotel, situated in downtown Hanoi. This afternoon, relax at the hotel, explore the city, or wander Hanoi's romantic West Lake. This evening, your local guide presents a welcome briefing.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Anatole Hotel Hanoi

Sunday, January 12

Leaving Hanoi, we journey east to Vietnam's greatest natural wonder, **Halong Bay**. We board a beautiful traditional wooden junk and spend two days and two nights cruising among the bay's 3,000 magnificent limestone islets. In the evening, the boat is anchored in the middle of the stunning lagoon surrounded by karst towers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Halong Bay Cruise

Monday, January 13

Our junk continues sailing further into the region's more untouched areas towards **Lan Ha Bay**. From a smaller boat, enjoy swimming from quiet beaches and kayaking in Ho Ba Ham Lake. Then visit Cua Van fishing village by row boat. Tonight, try squid fishing after dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Halong Bay Cruise

ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, January 14

Admire the sunrise, then we cruise back through the magnificent rock formations with a visit to **Sung Sot Cave**. Back in Hanoi, lunch is served at KOTO (Know One Teach One), a unique restaurant set up to train and educate disadvantaged children. This afternoon, we visit Hanoi's Old Quarter, also known as the '36 streets'. This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to thousands of small businesses. It is a great place to explore with plenty of photo opportunities. Visit Hang Be Market, then take a walk around Hoàn Kim Lake and across the red bridge to Ngoc Son Temple located on the Jade Islet within the lake. Later, enjoy a **traditional water puppet show**, a unique Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of historical significance.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Anatole Hotel Hanoi

Wednesday, January 15

During a morning tour of Hanoi, we learn about 'Uncle Ho', considered the father of modern Vietnam, by seeing his mausoleum from outside. Continue to Ho Chi Minh Quarter to see his humble stilt house and the small but iconic One Pillar Pagoda. Next is the **Temple of Literature** which was Vietnam's first university, established to educate royalty, mandarins, and members of the elite. The university functioned for an incredible 700 years and its gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a fascinating glimpse into the country's past. We bid farewell to Hanoi and fly to Siem Reap. **Sous Sdei – Welcome to Cambodia**. We stay three nights in **Siem Reap**. In the evening, meet your Cambodian tour guide to learn more about the days ahead, then enjoy dinner accompanied by an **Apsara dance performance**.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Shinta Mani Hotel

Thursday, January 16

Siem Reap is home to the **Temples of Angkor**, built from 879 to 1191 AD when the Khmer civilization was at its height. They represent an astonishing and enduring architectural achievement. From the great citadel of Angkor, the kings of the Khmer empire ruled over a vast domain that reached from what is now southern Vietnam to Yunan, China, and westward to the Bay of Bengal. The structures we see at Angkor today, more than 100 temples in all, are the surviving remains of a grand social and administrative metropolis whose other buildings - palaces, public buildings, and houses - were all built of wood and are long since decayed and gone. Afterwards, visit the sacred **Temple of Ta Prohm**. In an incredible standoff between human creation and nature, the jungle's root systems have reclaimed this spiritual location now enshrouded in wild vegetation. The backdrop to many Hollywood scenes, the incredible Ta Prohm is both a cinematic and contemplative location.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Shinta Mani Hotel

Friday, January 17

We wake before dawn for a unique **sunrise experience at Angkor Wat**. Dawn is one of the most beautiful and haunting times to visit the temples, whose ancient sandstone blocks are gilded gold by the early morning rays. The magnificent Angkor Wat is the largest Khmer temple and finest example of Angkorian art and architecture. The afternoon is free time to visit the town and markets or choose one of several optional tours. Tonight, we attend **Phare, The Cambodian Circus**, where a combination of acrobatics, music, and dance tell a uniquely Cambodian story.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Shinta Mani Hotel



ITINERARY continued

Saturday, January 18

During the drive from Siem Reap to Koh Khsach Krao, we stop in Kampong Kdei to see the impressive **Angkor Bridge**. It used to be the world's longest corbeled stone-arch bridge with more than twenty narrow arches spanning 87 metres. It was built in the 12th century during the reign of King Jayavarman VII and is one of the few Khmer era bridges to have survived to today. We board the **Emerald Harmony** with a welcome by your captain and crew. Settle into your beautifully appointed stateroom and explore the ship. We set sail to Phnom Penh while savouring our first sumptuous dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Sunday, January 19

Wake up in **Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh**. The city, known as the "Pearl of Asia", was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. We visit the **Oudong Monastery and Temples**, the former royal capital of Cambodia until it moved to Phnom Penh in 1866. Important remnants on the temple site include the burial sites of Khmer kings as well as religious artifacts dating back more than a hundred years. In the main temple of Oudong Monastery, receive a **traditional Buddhist blessing** from the temple's resident monks. Several optional excursions are offered this afternoon such as a silk farm tour. After dinner, enjoy Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Monday, January 20

This morning, we learn more about the Khmer Rouge and the darkest days of Cambodia's history with a visit to the **Killing Fields**. Walk through the fields, visit the memorial, and learn about this tragic, historic chapter. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (also known as S-21) is the former school that was converted to the main prison and torture headquarters of the Khmer Rouge. A Cambodian Street Fair lunch is served on the **Emerald Harmony**. In the afternoon, we walk through the majestic **Royal Palace** with its French-inspired gardens, followed by a shopping trip at the Central Market. Tonight, we are entertained at a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation. Later, the ship sets sail to the border.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Tuesday, January 21

After crossing into Vietnam, we cruise to Tan Chau. We ride on a sampan to Evergreen Island for a walk through a village to get a glimpse into the lives of the local farming community. We continue on the sampan to see a **Cao Dai temple** which is a syncretic, monotheistic religion established in southern Vietnam in 1926. Learn more about the mix of ideas that form the basis of this fascinating religion. Afterwards, we ride in a Xe Loi (local form of cyclo) from the temple back to your sampan, then tour a Mekong fish farm before returning to **Emerald Harmony**. Relax on board this afternoon or join an optional tour of Tràm Chim National Park and Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary. Tonight's entertainment is the **traditional Lion Dance performance**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Wednesday, January 22

On Gieng Island, we meet families who work in various local industries such as boat building and creating incense sticks for temples. Vietnam's oldest church is here. We return to **Emerald Harmony** by sampan and cruise to My An Hung Island. Recognized as a cultural and historical destination, this rural village specializes in red-hot chilli and peppers. Listen to local folk singing, wander through coconut farms, meet the locals and learn about life in the village.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

ITINERARY continued

Thursday, January 23

After a short ride on a sampan to Sa Dec, our guide conducts a walking tour around town. Stops include the Chinese Congregational House in Kien An Cung, the home of Huynh Thuy Le who inspired Marguerite Duras' novel *L'Amant*, and the Central Market to peruse its varied produce. The afternoon cruise goes to Cai Be. Travelling via sampan, we visit a coconut candy workshop to learn how these and other sweets are made, and a French colonial heritage villa.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Friday, January 24

The ship leaves the Mekong River Delta and enters the **Cho Gao Canal**. This canal is one of Vietnam's major arterial canals that connects Tien Giang Province with Ho Chi Minh City. This can be a fascinating day watching ships navigate this important waterway which carries up to 1,800 vessels each day. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the ever-changing vistas from the pool, to enjoy a treatment in the Wellness Area (additional expense), or to read a book and chat with new friends. Cruise past mangroves, narrow canals, fish farms, busy cargo barges, and local fishing boats. We dock in the heart of **Ho Chi Minh City**, formerly Saigon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Emerald Harmony*

Saturday, January 25

We disembark from *Emerald Harmony* and drive out of Ho Chi Minh City. We explore the infamous Cu Chi Tunnels, an underground labyrinth of passageways used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War (or "American War" as it is called here) as protection against American air raids. If you are inclined, you can even crawl through sections of the tunnels to better understand what life was like for the Vietnamese soldiers during wartime. Back in the city, we check into the Sheraton Saigon Hotel for a two-night stay and the afternoon and evening are free time. An optional street food walking tour is offered tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sheraton Saigon Hotel

Sunday, January 26

A local guide conducts an interesting tour of Ho Chi Minh City, starting with its most iconic building, the **Reunification or Independence Palace**. Formerly the South Vietnamese Presidential Palace, images of the building were seen around the world on April 30, 1975, when tanks stormed the gates as Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. Stroll through Ho Chi Minh City's colonial quarter and admire the beautiful architecture of the Opera House, Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, and old Saigon Post Office. Listen to the stories about the glory days of French Indochina and how that era continues to influence aspects of modern Vietnamese culture. A farewell dinner is arranged.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Sheraton Saigon Hotel

Monday, January 27

We fly from Ho Chi Minh City, regaining the day lost as we cross the International Date Line and arrive in Vancouver. Transportation is arranged to your pickup location

Meals included: Breakfast ① Lunch.



Emerald Harmony

TOUR & CRUISE NOTES

MV EMERALD HARMONY Emerald Cruises launched the *MV Emerald Harmony* in 2019 and she was custom built for the Mekong River and Southeast Asia. With just 42 staterooms and carrying a maximum of 84 passengers, the experience is intimate and deluxe. The ship is 73 metres long with five decks. Public areas include Reflections Restaurant, Horizon Lounge with great views and comfortable furniture, the Lotus Lounge at the bow, a fitness centre, a hairdresser, a rear deck area with pool, and a huge partly shaded sun deck with sun beds and chaise lounges. Wi-fi is complimentary. The floor to ceiling windows and French balconies on the Vista, Horizon, and Pool decks make for bright staterooms with a contemporary design. Comfort is essential — dress code is relaxed and casual except the Welcome and Farewell dinners are a little more dressy. Dining has open seating with no reserved tables. You can choose a buffet or menu for breakfast in the dining room, or a light breakfast in the lounge. Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are offered with lunch and dinner. Your cruise director keeps you informed about the daily entertainment, the upcoming lectures on ports of call, and various on-board activities to enrich your Mekong experience. One or two tours are offered at each stop and you should choose based on your activity level. Some of these tours are on a motorcoach and some are walking tours. Sometimes a paid excursion with more elaborate inclusions is offered; you can reserve on the ship or on the Emerald website 3 months before sailing (details in Important Tour Info at final payment).

There are six categories of staterooms:

- Category D staterooms on the Riviera or lowest deck have portholes and measure 256 square feet. Only 4 are available.
- Categories B, A, and AP staterooms are on Vista, Horizon or Pool decks and measure 273 square feet; they have floor to ceiling windows and the French balcony changes from an indoor to out-door space with ease as the window lowers to a halfway point at the touch of a button.
- Category S (Grand Balcony Suites) are on Pool deck and measure 398 square feet. Beautifully appointed with a private balcony, these luxurious suites have a separate bedroom and sitting area, and en-suite bathroom. Breakfast, before-dinner canapés, and after-dinner treats are served daily. Only 3 suites are available.
- Category SA (Owner's Suite) is on Pool deck and measures 452 square feet. This spectacular suite boasts a separate bedroom and sitting area, a luxurious en-suite bathroom, plus a private terrace at the bow with an additional 323 square feet complete with a Jacuzzi. Breakfast, before-dinner canapés, and after-dinner treats are served daily, and one evening you will be invited to dine at the Captain's Table. Only 1 suite is available.

Currency & Expenses: The US dollar is widely accepted in Cambodia and Vietnam, and it is also the currency on the ship. You should have smaller US dollar bills on hand for smaller purchases and any gratuities that are not included. You can order US dollars from your bank up to a week prior to departure. Purchases on board can be charged to your ship account and paid at the end of the cruise by credit card.

Documentation: A passport is required, and must be valid 6 months after return date. A visa is required for Cambodia and can be obtained individually online in advance or at Siem Reap airport (\$30 fee). A visa is required in advance for Vietnam and is applied for online with a fee of US\$25.

Beverages: In many countries outside Canada and USA, it is not standard practice to include beverages with tour meals. During the land portion of this tour, tea, coffee, or bottled water is usually included with each meal and other beverages can be purchased. On the ship, wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights between Vancouver and Vietnam. Premium economy and business class may be available.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$2,400 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. This applies to the Vancouver to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh to Vancouver flights only.

Gratuities for cruise staff and guides and drivers in Aisa are included.

Rooms for singles are often a different style or smaller size than twin rooms in hotels (not on ship). Many hotels limit the number of single rooms for a group. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.

Triples are not available on this tour.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$900 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 1, 2024. 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 (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early Booking Bonus: Receive \$300 discount on all reservations until January 9, 2024. The discount is not offered after that.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 10, 2024, your tour payments are refunded less a cancellation charge of \$100 per person. From July 11 to October 1, the cancellation charge is \$600 per person. From October 2 to November 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 7, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Due to continuing aftereffects 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. As this tour has been planned 1½ years in advance, changes to foreign currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from airlines, the cruise ship, and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours. The flight cannot be booked until 11 months before the return

date (end of February 2024), so the included air fare has been estimated based on 2023 fares and could change.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Off the ship, this tour goes to some restaurants that 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credits: Emerald Cruises (*Emerald Harmony*), All other photos from Adobe Stock.

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 195 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 1, 2024.

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

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com
1-800-667-9552



Our offices are open for walk-in traffic or by appointment

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
100 -159 Wade Ave East
Penticton, BC
V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

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



PRESIDENT'S CRUISE ON MEKONG RIVER — January 9, 2025

This tour is rated "Activity Level 3" by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity which could include one or more of (but is not limited to) the following:

- You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour.
- You can climb into and out of a small boat or small airplane.
- You can walk on cobblestones, uneven sidewalks, beaches with sand or rock, and on boat docks that may have steep ramps.
- You can climb one or two flights of stairs to a hotel room if there is no elevator.
- You can carry your own luggage in airports.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with "Activity Level 3" to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the tour director, driver, or other travellers. Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of "Activity Level 3" on the new scale with 4 levels.

I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.

I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.

I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.

I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.

If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.

If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to not allow me to participate in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.

Signature_____ Name _____ Date_____

Your Tour Experience

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ACCOMMODATIONS: The hotels named in the tour descriptions are confirmed at the time the brochure is printed. It is very unusual for changes to occur, but clients will be notified whenever possible.

- **Hotel Lists:** Your ticket package contains a hotel list, which gives the hotel name, address, and phone number. You can leave this list with family/friends so you can be contacted while on your tour.

- **Special rooming requests:** If you wish to have a ground floor room where there is no elevator, a lower floor room in a high-rise hotel, or a room adjacent to another traveller, please make this request at the time you book your tour. Although we make every effort to confirm your request by passing the information onto the hotels, it cannot be guaranteed.

- **Class of Room:** Our choice of accommodation is in the deluxe to first class range. We try to strike a happy medium by maintaining a high standard of hotels while keeping a close eye on costs. Most hotels we use are members of the National Tour Association or approved by the Canadian or American Automobile Association. AAA rating is usually ♦♦♦ or better.

ROOM PARTNERS: Our reservation system tracks partner requests, and you can add your name to our partner request list, or we can provide you with the name and phone number of a possible partner. Together you can decide if you are compatible and would like to travel together.

SINGLES: Some hotels limit the number of single rooms assigned to each group, so people travelling alone should make reservations early. On a full tour, singles are requested to sit with other singles on the coach, so that travelling companions can sit together.

SEAT ROTATION: This is mandatory on all tours, and your tour director will describe the pattern and the frequency of the moves. For fairness to other clients, exceptions will not be made.

BOARDING PASS: Your ticket package contains a boarding pass which we request you fill out and give to the tour director upon departure. This contains essential information that the tour director would require in case of an emergency. Note that these are shredded after the tour returns to protect your privacy.

SMOKING POLICY: All motorcoaches are non-smoking, but rest stops are frequent. If smoking outdoors, please be considerate of those clients who may have allergies to smoke. Also note that many hotels are entirely non-smoking.

FOOD ALLERGIES: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Some tours go to 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.

ITINERARY NOTES: Some tours have choices for attractions or accommodation, and sometimes there are attractions that are at an additional cost and listed as optional. Please choose these options when you book your tour as some are limited in space. If you wish to leave the tour at any time to visit friends and family, you are certainly welcome to do so. Please ensure that the tour director is informed and note that Wells Gray Tours Ltd. will not make a refund for any missed or unused portions of the tour package.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you require ongoing assistance in any way, you must be accompanied by a travelling companion who will be fully responsible for your needs while on tour. Your tour director cannot provide ongoing assistance. Some tours may not be suitable due to the level of activity, so please discuss your needs with us when you book your tour. Please note that coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair.

DEPARTURE TIMES: We suggest that you arrive at your departure point no later than 15 minutes prior to the time shown on your ticket. The first day of a tour usually has many stops for client pick up. Please turn on your cell phone so the tour director can notify you if the coach is late.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Insurance is **not included** in tour fares, but it is available for purchase. We strongly recommend purchasing insurance to protect the non-refundable portion of your fare and to provide coverage for unexpected events. Our policies are underwritten by AIG Insurance Company of Canada. Policy must be purchased no later than the time of final payment. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause as relates to cancellation, upgrade, or trip interruption. A detailed brochure is available. Premiums are always subject to change until paid as insurance companies can change premiums without notice.

GRATUITIES: Gratuities are at your discretion; however, they are a significant portion of income for these professionals. Please use local currency. The following are guidelines:

- **Tour director and coach driver:** \$7 CAD per person per day to the tour director and \$5 per person per day to the driver. Please do not start a group collection. The most discreet method is to place the tip in an envelope and on the final day either hand it to the tour director or driver or leave it on her/his seat.

- **Meals:** In Canada and the USA, 15-20% of the pre-tax bill; note: For included meals, gratuities have been included.

- **Housekeeping staff:** \$2 per person per night local currency.

- **Luggage handling:** \$2 per bag. Note: Tip for one piece of luggage at hotel is usually included.

- **Transfer driver with luggage handling:** \$2 per person.

LOST ITEMS: Clients disembarking at the end of a tour are urged to check that they have all their personal belongings with them. Lost items are usually held in Kamloops or Victoria Wells Gray offices.

CURRENCY: Your credit card is a convenient way to pay for many meals and purchases. ATMs are easily accessible in Canada and the USA but may be difficult to find in other countries. You should also carry some cash with you in the currency of that country for gratuities and in case credit cards cannot be used.

LUGGAGE: The limit per person is one large suitcase, weighing no more than 50 lbs., and a small carry-on bag. A luggage tag is included in your ticket package. The Wells Gray tag is essential for the efficient handling of bags at hotels. Please attach the completed tag to your suitcase before arriving at your departure point. If you are on a cruise, please do not attach your cruise luggage tag until the morning of embarkation. Airlines charge a fee for checked luggage on Canada and USA flights. This is included in your tour fare if the airline allows Wells Gray to prepay this fee, but if payment is required at the airport, you must pay this directly to the airline at check-in.

COMMENT SHEETS: We always strive to improve, and comments from our customers are very important. Your tour director will hand out a comment sheet during the tour (with a confidential envelope if desired), so you can tell us what you think. To maintain a high standard of service, Wells Gray management reads every client's comments and discusses any problems and praises with the hotels, motorcoach company, other suppliers, and our staff.

TOUR PACKAGE: Your tour price includes all items listed in the "What's Included" section in the tour brochure. GST on applicable tours is extra.

Terms & Conditions

PAYMENTS: A deposit is required within three days of booking and is outlined in each tour brochure. If a deposit or balance becomes overdue and we cannot contact you, your reservation will be cancelled. By placing a deposit, you agree to the Terms and Conditions. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards). If your cheque payment returns as 'non-sufficient funds', Wells Gray Tours Ltd. must charge you a \$25 NSF fee.

CANCELLATIONS: The cancellation policy for each tour is described in detail in the tour brochure. If you cancel after the final payment date, without paying in full, you forfeit the full deposit paid.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: In British Columbia, Consumer Protection BC requires that any business or organization that collects advance deposits from people for future travel must be registered with the government and must hold those deposits in trust. This protects consumer deposits in the unlikely event of bankruptcy. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. is also a member in good standing of the National Tour Association, which requires its members to carry at least \$1 million in professional liability, errors, and omission insurance.

BORDER CROSSING: For any travel outside of Canada, a valid passport is required. Passport numbers and expiry dates are required in advance for many tours, and this information will be collected before final payment. Clients are responsible for ensuring that they have valid documentation for all border crossings. Clients without valid documents may be detained by Customs Officers and therefore miss their tour. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. cannot assume responsibility for portions of a tour missed due to improper documentation.

ROOM PARTNERS: Wells Gray Tours Ltd. cannot assume responsibility for added costs due to disagreements encountered while travelling or for cancellations by one party of a double or twin accommodation room prior to departure.

LUGGAGE & LOST ITEMS: Luggage insurance is not included in your fare. Please note that neither Wells Gray Tours Ltd. nor the motorcoach company can assume responsibility for lost or damaged luggage or its contents.

ITINERARY: Expect the unexpected. If you are unable to participate in all aspects of the itinerary, Wells Gray Tours Ltd. will not issue a refund or provide a fare reduction for any missed or unused portions of the tour package. If any unforeseen delays, cancellations, changes, or add-ons happen that are beyond Wells Gray Tours control, (or by customer choice) there may be extra costs involved that may be passed onto you, the client, after the trip returns. There is no guarantee of refunds or reimbursements.

EXPERIENCE POINTS: Each time you travel with Wells Gray Tours, you earn Experience Points (e-points). The number of e-points you earn is written on the front page of each tour brochure. Your e-points will be awarded to you after your tour returns and can then be redeemed on future tours. E-Points must be earned before they can be redeemed. 1 e-point is equivalent to \$1.00.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Wells Gray Tours Ltd. and its designated tour director reserve the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any tour or part thereof and to use the resulting photography or videos for promotion on Facebook, the Wells Gray Tours Ltd. website or for other commercial uses. By making a reservation with Wells Gray Tours Ltd., you agree to allow your likeness to be used by Wells Gray Tours Ltd. without compensation to you. If you prefer that your likeness not be used, please notify us in writing at final payment, or give a note to the tour director on the first day.

CHANGES TO FARES: Due to the uncertainties of inflation, fuel surcharges, taxes and foreign exchange, Wells Gray Tours Ltd. reserves the right to modify tour fares in the event of cost changes.

COVID-19: Some countries we are visiting may require all tour participants to be tested for Covid-19 prior to departure and/or be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least 14 days prior to departure. You are responsible for ensuring you meet the requirements for the countries they you are visiting. **Expect changes to the itinerary.** It may not be possible to communicate changes ahead of departure.

FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS: Although it is not mandatory, Wells Gray Tours strongly encourages everyone to wear a face mask at airports, in public places, and onboard motor coaches, ships and airplanes. If you unfortunately become ill with Covid-19, you can still ride on the coaches in the rear seat, but you must wear a KN-95 or N-95 mask.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: Wells Gray Tours Ltd. has no special knowledge regarding the financial condition of any supplier or the existence of unsafe conditions, health hazards, weather hazards, political conditions, or climate extremes at locations to which you may travel. For information about these concerns, we recommend contacting the Travel Advice Section of the Government of Canada website at travel.gc.ca. For public-health information, we recommend contacting the BC Centers for Disease Control at 604-707-2400 or bccdc.ca. The responsibility for checking and verifying all passport, visa, vaccination, or other entry requirements of your destination(s) and all conditions regarding health, safety, security, political stability, and labour or civil unrest at such destination(s) solely belongs to the traveller. Each tour has many suppliers, each with their own policies or rules which you are expected to abide by while on their premises. It is extremely rare, but suppliers can close unexpectedly overnight or declare bankruptcy. Funds that we have deposited with them on your behalf may not be recoverable and therefore not refundable to you.

PRIVACY: Information collected by Wells Gray Tours Ltd. for purposes of the tour or marketing or to assist attending personnel in the event of an emergency is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

FORCE MAJEURE: In the circumstances amounting to force majeure, Wells Gray Tours will not be required to refund any money to you, although if Wells Gray Tours can recover any monies from our suppliers, we will refund these to you. Suppliers may choose to provide travel vouchers or credits in lieu of refund. Wells Gray Tours is not responsible for a supplier's failure to pay a refund.

RESPONSIBILITY

Neither Wells Gray Tours Ltd., nor any of its agents or representatives shall be held liable or responsible directly or indirectly for any delay, injury, loss or damage to any person or property, occasioned by the neglect or default of any person or company providing transportation, accommodation or any other services in connection with these tours, or damages resulting directly or indirectly from act of God, sickness, strike, quarantine, weather, government restraints, machinery breakdown, or any other cause beyond our control. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. acts as an agent for its suppliers, including but not limited to companies providing transportation, accommodation, and other services rendered. The right is reserved to withdraw all, or part of any tour should conditions warrant and make such alterations in the itinerary as may be found necessary for the convenience and proper operation of any tour, without penalty.