

SKAGIT TULIP FESTIVAL

April 2024



Skagit Tulip Festival

Staying 3 nights at Tulalip Resort & Casino

The Skagit Valley explodes in an abundance of colour when the tulips blossom. Although Mother Nature ultimately decides the dates, the second to third week of the month tends to be good timing for this showy display. Whether early or late, there are usually dainty yellow daffodils first, followed by a rainbow of tulips, then the irises and lilies after that. We attend the Tulip Festival on a weekday to avoid the crowds that come here on weekends from Seattle. This tour visits La Conner, a delightful waterfront town of heritage buildings and interesting shopping. A cruise from La Conner through dramatic Deception Pass with a cracked crab dinner is a highlight on April 23. This tour stays at the luxurious Tulalip Resort and Casino, located about 30 minutes drive from the focal area of the Tulip Festival. Come and admire the blossoms and colours of the Skagit Valley.



INTERNATIONAL

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ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Fares per person

from **\$1,260** double/twin, **\$1,510** single*
**pricing details for all departures provided on Page 2*

► Early Booking Bonus

\$70 discount on first 15 seats; **\$35** on next 10.

► Earn 29 Experience Points

► Departure from:

Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland



Deception Pass Bridge

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

V Vancouver Island: April 21, 2024 - 4 Days

L Lower Mainland: April 21, 2024 - 4 Days



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

- V Vancouver Island:** We take the ferry to Tsawwassen on Sunday, April 21 and cross the border at Blaine. We return home on Wednesday, April 24. Transfers are provided to your pickup location in the Greater Victoria area. **Up-island passengers** (Nanaimo, Comox, Courtenay and area), you may easily join this tour. We are providing complimentary transportation to Victoria on April 20 to join the group on April 21 and a transfer home on April 24. You can book your own hotel for April 20, or we can arrange Chateau Victoria at your expense. **Note:** Home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area to the first 10 passengers for an additional cost.
- L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Sunday, April 21 and return home on Wednesday, April 24. Home pickups may be arranged at time of booking. A transfer is provided to your pickup location when we return. **Note:** Home pick up may be arranged at time of booking.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
V Vancouver Island	\$1,260 double/twin \$1,510 single \$1,175 triple	• This tour is exempt from GST.
L Lower Mainland	\$1,285 double/twin \$1,535 single \$1,200 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **5 total:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches

► Transportation

- Coach transportation for 4 days
- V** Ferry to Tsawwassen & return

► Accommodation

- 3 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

► Key Highlights

- \$20 casino voucher at Tulalip Resort
- Guided tour of the Skagit Valley tulip fields by a local guide
- Tulip Town
- Roozengaarde
- Lunch cruise through Deception Pass

► Gratuities

- Gratuities for tulips guide and cruise crew



ITINERARY

Sunday, April 21

We cross the border at Blaine and stay three nights at luxurious **Tulalip Resort and Casino** which features guest rooms with styling that pays homage to the rich history and culture of the Tulalip Tribes. It has eight restaurants and lounges, heated indoor swimming pool, hot tub, fitness centre, sauna, and spa treatments. A \$20 casino voucher is provided for your enjoyment in the casino.

Accommodation: Tulalip Resort

Monday, April 22

We participate in some events of the annual **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival** when millions of tulips bloom. A local guide takes us through this floral extravaganza, taking advantage of a midweek day when the roads and gardens are far less crowded. Stops include the show gardens at Tulip Town and Roozengaarde.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Tulalip Resort

Tuesday, April 23

We drive to the quaint village of **La Conner** where there is time to stroll the waterfront streets and browse the shops. Then we board a vessel for a 2½-hour cruise under La Conner's Rainbow Bridge, along narrow Swinomish Channel, and through Saratoga Passage to **Deception Pass**. A lofty bridge connects Fidalgo Island with Whidbey Island using two spans totalling 500 metres long, and we sail through the turbulent tidal waters underneath. The bridge rises 55 metres above the water and was completed in 1935. A tasty cracked crab feast is included on the boat. The rest of the afternoon is free time at the hotel and you may want to shop at the adjacent **Seattle Premium Outlets** where there are over 130 stores.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Tulalip Resort

Wednesday, April 24

Departing in mid-morning, we go to Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham for lunch and shopping time. We stop at the Duty Free store, cross the border at Blaine, then ride the 5 pm ferry to Swartz Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Activity Level 1

Light Activity: You're a relaxed and easy-going traveller that likes to discover new places and meet new people. You can climb a flight of stairs, board a coach, stand for short periods and walk at a leisurely pace with breaks during the day for up to 60 minutes without difficulty or assistance.

You may bring a cane if needed. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due March 5, 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.

Early Booking Bonus: Early bookers receive a \$70 discount on the first 15 seats and \$35 on the next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 5, 2024.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 5, 2024, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From February 6 to March 5, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From March 6 to March 20, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After March 20, 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 tour component 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, currency exchange rates, 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. Some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies (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: 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. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details.

Photo credits: Wikimedia (Tulips cover), San Juan Cruises, and Adobe Stock (Tulips page 3).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 29 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 March 5, 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	KELOWNA	VERNON	PENTICTON	VICTORIA
Head Office				
250 Lansdowne St.	2575 Richter St.	3206 35th St.	100 -159 Wade Ave East	102-736 Broughton St.
Kamloops, BC	Kelowna, BC	Vernon, BC	Penticton, BC	Victoria, BC
V2C 1X7	V1Y 2R1	V1T 6B7	V2A 8B6	V8W 1E1
250-374-0831	250-762-3435	250-545-9197	250-493-1255	250-590-7889

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.