

# ST. LAWRENCE RIVER CRUISE

August 2024

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



Canadian Empress

## 7 days cruising between Kingston and Montréal on Canadian Empress

The St. Lawrence River begins at the foot of Lake Ontario near Kingston, and flows generally in a north-easterly direction about 1,300 kilometres to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Beyond the Gulf lies the vast Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence waters originate in tributaries to Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake on the globe, and flows through 3 other Great Lakes. This mighty river which Sir J.M. LeMoine called, "the noblest, the purest, most enchanting river on all God's beautiful earth" acts as a natural boundary for many kilometres between Canada and the USA. The *Canadian Empress* cruises between Kingston and Montréal on the St. Lawrence River. The 7-day voyage passes through 10 locks of the Seaway round-trip. Experience the cities of Kingston and Montréal, smaller towns like Brockville and Cornwall, and lots of Canadian history during this fascinating cruise.



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ► Fares per person

from **\$7,180** double/twin, **\$10,765** single\*

\*pricing details for all departures provided on page 2

### ► Early Booking Bonus

**\$150** discount on first 15 seats; **\$75** on next 10.

### ► Earn 130 Experience Points

### ► Departure from:

BC Interior, Victoria & Lower Mainland



# DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

- I BC Interior:** August 22, 2024 - 11 Days
- V Vancouver Island:** August 22, 2024 - 11 Days
- L Lower Mainland:** August 22, 2024 - 11 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 and end the tour as follows:**

- I BC Interior:** We fly from Kelowna to Toronto on Thursday, August 22 and stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. Transfers are provided from Kamloops, Salmon Arm, and Okanagan cities to Kelowna Airport. We return to Kelowna from Toronto on Sunday, September 1. A transfer is provided to your pickup location.
- V Vancouver Island:** We fly from Victoria, Nanaimo or Comox to Toronto on Thursday, August 22 and overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. Transfers are provided to Victoria Airport for passengers in the Greater Victoria area. We return from Toronto to Vancouver Island on Sunday, September 1. Transportation is arranged to your pickup location in the Greater Victoria area. Transfers are not provided to and from Nanaimo or Comox Airports. **Note:** Home pickups may be offered in the Greater 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 Toronto on Thursday, August 22 and overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. We return from Toronto to Vancouver on Sunday, September 1. Transfers to and from Vancouver Airport are offered from your home for passengers in the Greater Vancouver area. Please arrange at time of booking. **Note:** Transfers to Vancouver Airport are not provided from Abbotsford or Chilliwack.

## FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	St. Lawrence Cabin (2 single beds)	Ottawa Cabin (2 single beds)	Sterling Cabin (2 single beds)	Premier Cabin (1 double bed)
<b>I</b>	<b>BC Interior</b>	\$7,180 double/twin \$10,765 single \$9,710 single special*	\$7,710 double/twin \$11,690 single	\$7,915 double/twin \$12,050 single	\$8,360 double/twin \$12,405 single
<b>V</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	\$7,280 double/twin \$10,865 single \$9,810 single special*	\$7,810 double/twin \$11,790 single	\$8,015 double/twin \$12,150 single	\$8,460 double/twin \$12,505 single
<b>L</b>	<b>Lower Mainland</b>	\$7,205 double/twin \$10,790 single \$9,735 single special*	\$7,735 double/twin \$11,715 single	\$7,940 double/twin \$12,075 single	\$8,385 double/twin \$12,430 single

**\*St. Lawrence cabin single special** - 4 rooms available  
Please add 5% GST

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ► Meals

- **26 total:** 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners

## ► Transportation

- Transfers to/from Kelowna, Victoria, or Vancouver Airports
- Flight from Kelowna, Victoria, Vancouver, Comox, or Nanaimo to Toronto & return
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 3 days of coach transportation
- Transfers from ship to attractions & return

## ► Accommodation

- 3 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 7 days/7 nights on board *Canadian Empress*
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- St. Lawrence Seaway ship transit fees
- Luggage handling at hotels & ship

## ► Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Kingston
- Bellevue House National Historic Site
- Old Fort Henry with guided tour

- Entertainment and other services on the ship
- Wine and beer at lunch and dinner on ship
- 1000 Islands Heritage Museum
- Brockville Museum
- Horse-drawn wagon ride from ship to Upper Canada Village and orientation ride
- Upper Canada Village
- Locally-guided tour of Montréal
- Montréal Botanical Gardens
- Fur Trade Museum at Lachine Historic Site
- Tour of Historic SDG Jail at Cornwall
- Doran Bay Model Ship Museum
- Fort Wellington National Historic Site
- 1000 Islands Boat Museum

## ► Guides & Gratuities

- Cruise gratuities
- Gratuities to guides & drivers on city tours

## ► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

## Activity Level 2



**Moderate Activity:** As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without assistance. You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain from cobblestone streets to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Please be aware that on tours with flights you will be required to handle your own luggage and walk longer distances in airports.

This tour includes short distances to walk and stairs during the shore excursions. **There is no elevator on the ship.** No matter which deck you are on, expect to use some stairs such as up to the dining room from St. Lawrence Deck or down to the dock from Ottawa Deck, or up from both those decks to the Sun Deck. This tour is not suitable for people who depend on walkers or have mobility challenges with a flight of stairs. The coaches and ship cannot carry a scooter or any type of wheelchair. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. The tour director, ship crew, local guides, and drivers 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.



### Tour Size 45

This tour is limited to 45 participants.





Boldt Castle

## ITINERARY

### Thursday, August 22

We fly to **Toronto** and stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, conveniently located inside Terminal 3 at Pearson International Airport.

**Accommodation:** Sheraton Gateway Hotel

### Friday, August 23

We drive to **Kingston** which played a vital role in Canada's birth. It was always a military fort, first as a French stronghold against both British and Iroquois enemies and then as a British fort defending against American invaders. After the Rideau Canal was built in 1832, Kingston became the primary economic centre for Upper Canada and was briefly the capital of the Province of Canada. A local guide conducts a drive past landmarks such as Queen's University, City Hall, the Martello Towers, Royal Military College, and infamous Kingston Penitentiary. We stay one night at the Holiday Inn on the picturesque Lake Ontario waterfront.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Kingston

### Saturday, August 24

We tour John A. Macdonald's **Bellevue House**, now a National Historic Site. Lunch is included in a unique restaurant inside the stone walls of **Old Fort Henry**. Afterwards, we take a guided walk through the fort which has loomed over Kingston since the War of 1812. The gun salute is scheduled for 4 pm. A much larger fort was constructed between 1832 and 1836 to defend Lake Ontario, the entrance to the Rideau Canal, and the harbour. These were the strongest defences in Canada west of Québec City, but neither was ever attacked. At 5 pm, **Canadian Empress** is ready for boarding in downtown Kingston. After the Captain's welcome reception, we depart Kingston's harbour at 7 pm and anchor for the night in the midst of the **1000 Islands**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

### Sunday, August 25

The ship weaves among the 1000 Islands and docks at **Gananoque** for a visit to the Heritage Museum. Our route follows Wanderer's Channel past the Admiralty Islands and along Millionaires' Row where palatial mansions overlook the St. Lawrence River. The amazing **Boldt Castle** was built in 1900 by George Boldt who owned the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The castle was meant to be a gift for his wife with 120 rooms, 6 storeys, indoor pool, powerhouse, ballrooms, and gardens. In 1904, Mrs. Boldt suddenly died and work stopped on the castle, never to be completed. We sail around the castle, but do not land because it is in the USA. Nearby is the 42-room **Singer Castle**, built in 1896 by the owner of Singer Sewing Machines. We continue down the river to Brockville, then visit the Brockville Museum. In late afternoon, the *Canadian Empress* cruises along the Galop Canal, built in 1846, and passes through **Iroquois Lock**, first on this voyage. We dock for the night at Chrysler Park Marina.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

### Monday, August 26

The morning is devoted to **Upper Canada Village**, an elaborate living history museum. A horse-drawn wagon takes us from the ship to the village and provides an orientation. Step back 150 years and stroll the streets, visiting restored buildings and chatting to costumed actors about their work and life. We cast off at 12:30 and,

# ITINERARY continued

## Monday, August 26 continued

near Cornwall, enter the **Wiley-Dondero Canal** for 15 km where the ship is lowered through Eisenhower and Snell Locks. We cruise across Lake St. Francis and dock overnight at Coteau Landing in Québec.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

## Tuesday, August 27

This morning, the ship enters the 21-km long **Beauharnois Canal** and descends through the two Beauharnois Locks. While crossing Lake St. Louis, we view the approach to **Montréal** and dock in Lachine after lunch. A locally-guided driving tour of Montréal explores this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions including Mount Royal, Île Sainte-Hélène, downtown landmarks, and Notre Dame Basilica. Later we walk through the beautiful Botanical Gardens.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

## Wednesday, August 28

At the **Fur Trade Museum** in Lachine National Historic Site, we explore the 1803 warehouse where furs and pelts were stored and learn about the life of the voyageur. After casting off from Lachine, the *Canadian Empress* starts the journey up the St. Lawrence River. Tonight, we dock in Cornwall.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

## Thursday, August 29

The **Historic SDG Jail** was constructed in 1833 and was active until 2002, serving as both a minimum and maximum security facility. Accompanied by a historian guide, our tour visits the old courthouse, cell block, surveillance room, exercise yard, and gallows. This afternoon, we cruise up the river to Morrisburg to moor for the night.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

## Friday, August 30

This morning, we visit the **Doran Bay Model Ship Museum** which displays about 125 sailing ships built with exquisite detail. The afternoon cruise stops at Prescott to explore **Fort Wellington National Historic Site** which defended the St. Lawrence during the War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. Brockville is our overnight port.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Canadian Empress*

## Saturday, August 31

In the morning, we visit the 1000 Islands Boat Museum at Gananoque. Then it is a short cruise to **Kingston** where we disembark the *Canadian Empress* at 2 pm. Our coach is waiting and we drive to Toronto Airport. A farewell dinner is planned at the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sheraton Gateway Hotel

## Sunday, September 1

We fly from Toronto to departure cities. Transfers are provided to your pickup point.





## TOUR & CRUISE NOTES

Canadian Empress

**CANADIAN EMPRESS:** The *M/V Canadian Empress* was the result of some fanciful thinking on the part of Bob Clark in 1979. Having lived on the St. Lawrence River for years and being familiar with its many attractions and scenic beauty, Bob could not understand why there wasn't an overnight cruise ship providing excursions up and down the river. He was active in the architecture, real estate, and housing industries, so Bob's entrepreneurial spirit wouldn't allow him to let go of this idea and soon the keel for the ship was being laid. The *Canadian Empress* was launched in 1981. The year 1908 was chosen as a design and decor theme because Bob wanted a vessel that would integrate well with the history of the St. Lawrence River. The ship is not a replica of any specific vessel, but is a composite of many vessels that were common in the St. Lawrence region during the last century.

The *Canadian Empress* is 33 metres long with a 9-metre beam and a draft of just 1.5 metres. She carries only 62 passengers in 31 cabins. There are three decks. St. Lawrence Deck is the lowest and has most of the cabins and the gift shop. Ottawa Deck has 8 cabins, the Grand Saloon Lounge and Dining Room, and forward and aft outdoor sitting areas. The Sun Deck has lots of outdoor seating. All cabins have two single beds (2 cabins in Premier category have a double bed), toilet, shower, sink, and window(s). Cabins are compact compared to an ocean cruise ship, typically about 8 square metres. There is daily housekeeping service. You will likely spend most daylight time away from your cabin in the Grand Saloon or on deck enjoying the scenery. Nightly entertainment is provided, usually by a local group or person and can include music, singing or magic.

The ship docks most nights in a town along the St. Lawrence River, so you can go ashore at your leisure and explore the area. Although the ship enters the USA several times, it does not dock there, so no passport is needed for the whole trip.

Three meals a day plus afternoon tea and in-between treats are served in the Grand Saloon. There are usually two entrees offered with dinner. The menus utilize

fresh in-season locally produced fruits and vegetables, and bread may come from the pioneer ovens at Upper Canada Village. Wine and beer is complimentary at lunch and dinner, and other choices are available from the well-stocked bar. Coffee and tea are available 24 hours a day.

Wells Gray Tours has offered eight cruises on the *Canadian Empress* since 2016 with excellent reviews. Come and experience a different kind of river cruising on an intimate ship.

**THE 1000 ISLANDS:** With each nautical mile, nature's northern masterpiece unfolds. Within one 80-kilometre stretch of the mighty St. Lawrence River, there are no less than 1,870 islands. In these "1000 Islands", birthplace of the famous 1000 Islands Dressing, we explore intricate river channels, sumptuous greenery, mysterious coves, and nooks and crannies veiled in folklore. We sail past summer cottages, opulent mansions and even two castles, Boldt and Singer. These islands have been the summer homes of the rich and famous: the Astors, the Pullmans, the McNallys, Helena Rubenstein, Irving Berlin, Mary Pickford, and a host of others. We cruise under several bridges including the multiple spans of the Thousand Islands Bridge. The New York Times wrote, "When the time comes for sleep, sleep comes easily on a ship surrounded by a thousand islands and a million stars."

**THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY:** The St. Lawrence Seaway was one of the most ambitious engineering feats of the last century. The objectives were to increase the size of the St. Lawrence River shipping channel and generate hydro-electric power for Ontario, Québec, and New York State. Entire villages were relocated to higher ground, utilizing the largest moving and construction equipment in the world. As the temporary coffer dams were blown on July 1st, 1958, people watched with mixed emotions. Slowly rising water covered familiar land forever. It was sad for some to know they could never go home again. Others were excited to think of the new conveniences and services, modern schools, and ocean ships being able to access the Great Lakes. A highlight of our cruise on the *Canadian Empress* is the opportunity to pass

through 10 locks between Kingston and Montréal (round trip), experiencing an overall change in water level of 75 metres. All locks on the Seaway are similar in size — 233 metres long, 24½ metres wide, and 9 metres deep over the sill. A lock fills with about 91 million litres of water in just 7 to 10 minutes. The ship takes about 45 minutes to go through a lock.

**All Shore Excursions Included:** On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense. On this cruise, all shore excursions are included. Usually a bus picks you up beside the ship and takes you to a local attraction. Sometimes a museum is right beside the dock.

**Please Book Early:** *Canadian Empress* has confirmed a block of cabins for this tour, mostly on the St. Lawrence Deck. These are normally held until 60 days before sailing. However, any unsold cabins can be taken away from us at any time if the ship fills. This tour is limited to 45 people.

**Singles:** Four ship cabins on St. Lawrence deck are designated for singles with a lower single supplement. Book early for these! After these are booked, the fare for a St. Lawrence cabin will increase for a single.

**Doubles (one bed):** There are only 2 cabins on the ship with a double bed and both are in the Premier category. These cabins also have a small settee. Book early for these! All other cabins have 2 single beds.

**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 \$850 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 21, 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:** Early bookers receive a \$150 discount on the first 15 seats and \$75 on the next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 21, 2024.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 19, 2024, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 20 to May 21, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From May 22 to June 21, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From June 22 to July 19, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After July 19, 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 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.

**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.

**Flight Delays due to Weather:** In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. The *Canadian Empress* is limited on the food allergies it can handle due to the small galley. This tour may not be suitable if you have certain food allergies. Restaurants away from the ship may be able to honour most food allergies, but it is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. 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.



# POLICIES continued

**Photo Credits:** St. Lawrence Cruise Lines (*Canadian Empress*, page 1 & 8), tour director Lisa (Boldt Castle, page 4), and Roland Neave (*Canadian Empress* page 6).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 130 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 May 21, 2024.

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



First night anchored in 1000 Islands

WE PLAN.  
YOU PACK.  
NO WORRIES!

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)  
1-800-667-9552



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

**KAMLOOPS**

Head Office  
250 Lansdowne St.  
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V2C 1X7  
**250-374-0831**

**KELOWNA**

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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**



# 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](http://travel.gc.ca). For public-health information, we recommend contacting the BC Centers for Disease Control at 604-707-2400 or [bccdc.ca](http://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.*