

ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE

January 2025



Elephant Island

22 days on Holland America's Oosterdam cruising around Cape Horn

Wells Gray Tours only offers this special opportunity to visit the 7th continent every few years. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most astounding will likely be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. On-board experts will present lectures about glaciers, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain his route-finding skills. Other memorable experiences include elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, the isolated Falkland Islands, the thrill of rounding Cape Horn, Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city; the Chilean Fjords, Darwin Channel, Glacier Alley, and the vast Amalia Glacier. What an incredible journey!



CRUISE TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Fares per person

from **\$17,155** double/twin, **\$22,215** single*

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

► Early Booking Bonus

\$250 discount on first 10 seats; **\$125** on next 6.

► Earn 270 Experience Points

► Departure from:

BC Interior, Victoria & Lower Mainland



DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

- I BC Interior:** January 24, 2025 - 30 Days
- V Vancouver Island:** January 24, 2025 - 30 Days
- L Lower Mainland:** January 24, 2025 - 30 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 travel to Seattle on Friday, January 24 and overnight at the Embassy Suites near the airport. We return home on Saturday, February 22. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.
- V Vancouver Island:** We travel to Seattle on Friday, January 24 and stay overnight at the Embassy Suites near the airport. We return home on Saturday, February 22. For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back when we return.
Note: 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. There is an additional cost to up-island passengers flying from/to Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.
- L Lower Mainland:** We travel to Seattle on Friday, January 24 and stay overnight at the Embassy Suites near the airport. We return home on Saturday, February 22. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.
Note: Home pickup may be arranged at time of booking for passengers in the Greater Vancouver Area.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Inside Category - K	Oceanview Category - D	Verandah Category - VD
I	BC Interior	\$17,155 double/twin \$22,215 single	\$18,110 double/twin \$23,935 single	\$19,660 double/twin \$28,255 single
V	Vancouver Island	\$17,355 double/twin \$22,415 single	\$18,310 double/twin \$24,135 single	\$19,860 double/twin \$28,455 single
L	Lower Mainland	\$17,190 double/twin \$22,250 single	\$18,145 double/twin \$23,970 single	\$19,695 double/twin \$28,290 single

- This tour is exempt from GST.
- Other cruise categories including suites may be available.
- Up-island passengers: Vancouver Island pricing does not include flights from/to Nanaimo or Comox. Flights from Nanaimo or Comox would be an additional cost.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

🍽️ **78 total:** 26 breakfasts, 26 lunches, 26 dinners

🍽️ **76 total:** 26 breakfasts, 24 lunches, 26 dinners

🍽️ **76 total:** 26 breakfasts, 24 lunches, 26 dinners

► Transportation

- Transportation to/from Seattle Airport
- Flight from Seattle to Buenos Aires
- Current air transport taxes & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Buenos Aires airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to Newbery Airport
- Flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls & return
- Transportation & guide in Iguazu Falls area
- Transfer from Newbery Airport to cruise terminal
- Transfer from San Antonio terminal to Santiago
- Transfer to Santiago Airport
- Chile departure tax
- Flight from Santiago to Seattle

► Accommodation

- Hotel accommodation & taxes for 5 nights
- Stateroom for 22 nights on board *Oosterdam*
- Port charges & cruise taxes (C\$769 per person)
- Luggage handling at hotels & ship

► Key Highlights

- Iguazu Falls National Park fee
- Entertainment & expert lecturers on *Oosterdam*
- Locally-guided tour of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Locally-guided tour of Montevideo, Uruguay
- Locally-guided tour of Tierra del Fuego Park
- End of the World Steam Train excursion one-way
- Locally-guided tour of Punta Arenas, Chile
- Maggiorino Borgatello Museum
- Noa Victoria Ship Museum
- Fuerte Bulnes
- Locally-guided tour near Puerto Montt, Chile
- Petrohué Waterfalls Park
- Casablanca winery tour and wine tasting
- Locally-guided tour of Santiago, Chile

► Guides & Gratuities

- Guides & drivers in South America
- Cruise gratuities (US\$352 per person)

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

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 and can handle your own luggage in airports, cruise terminals, or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation.

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. 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.



Tour Size 30

This tour is limited to 30 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Iguazu falls

ITINERARY

Friday, January 24

We travel to Seattle. Get acquainted with your travelling companions at a reception after arrival.

Meals included: ① Lunch

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

Saturday, January 25

Our flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina, leaves in the morning and there is a connection stop. Flight schedules and the airline will be confirmed in April 2024. There is a five-hour time change from Seattle to Buenos Aires.

Sunday, January 26

The flight arrives in **Buenos Aires** and our bilingual guide, driver, and coach meet us at the international airport. Buenos Aires, the capital and largest city of Argentina, was founded in 1580 and now boasts a metropolitan population of 14 million. Early check-in has been arranged at the four-star Claridge Hotel. The afternoon is leisure time to rest after the long flight. The hotel has a wonderful location half a block from Florida Street which is a pedestrian mall with many shops.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Claridge Hotel

Monday, January 27

Our morning flight to Iguazu takes less than two hours. The magnificent **Iguazu Falls** is one of the world's most incredible natural sights and it is sure to take your breath away — in fact, it won the distinction of being voted one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World. Iguazu consists of 275 waterfalls spread along an escarpment nearly three km wide. The individual cascades range from 65 to 80 metres high, considerably taller than Niagara. The most stunning section is Garganta del Diablo (**Devil's Throat**) which has water pouring into it from three sides. Walkways and bridges provide easy access to numerous viewpoints on the Argentinian side of the falls. A local guide accompanies us as we stroll from one panoramic vista to another.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Gran Melia Hotel Iguazu Falls

Tuesday, January 28

Part of the morning is free to return to your favourite viewpoints of Iguazu Falls. We take a noon flight back to Buenos Aires, then we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Oosterdam**. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. This evening is our first sumptuous dinner on board, followed by a lively "welcome" stage show. The *Oosterdam* stays docked in Buenos Aires tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Wednesday, January 29

A morning sightseeing tour of Buenos Aires includes the Palermo and Barrio Norte districts with expensive houses and classic architecture, the historic districts of La Boca and San Telmo, the Opera House, **Julio Avenue** (widest boulevard in the world), and Eva Perón's mausoleum. At the vast **Plaza de Mayo**, we admire the pink Casa Rosada, home of the Argentinian government. This is the square where Eva and

ITINERARY continued

Wednesday, January 29 continued

Juan Perón addressed the crowds during their political rallies (memorialized by the musical Evita). We return to the ship in time for a late lunch on board. The afternoon is free time to explore more sights in Buenos Aires, or relax on board. At 5 pm, be sure you are out on deck or on your balcony as we cast off and sail out into the **Rio de la Plata**. This is the second largest drainage basin in South America and the river is about 80 km wide at Buenos Aires.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Thursday, January 30

Overnight, we sail slowly down the Rio de la Plata and arrive at 11 am at **Punta del Este** in the remote southeastern corner of Uruguay. The town used to be one of those places that travel writers describe as "sleepy." With a population of laid-back permanent residents numbering 10,000, there wasn't a lot going on until the news got out. Punta del Este began to be referred to as the Hamptons of South America and as the continent's own Saint-Tropez. It has gorgeous beaches and the city is safe and wealthy. We take tenders ashore and you can explore on your own or purchase a shore excursion. The *Oosterdam* sails at 6 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Friday, January 31

Overnight, we cruise up the Rio de la Plata and arrive in **Montevideo**, the capital of Uruguay. The city was founded in 1726 and Uruguay was created a century later as a buffer between the competing Spanish of Argentina and Portuguese of Brazil. Today, Montevideo is one of the principal ports of South America with a population of 1.4 million. A morning sightseeing tour is included which visits Plaza Independencia, Palacio Salvo, Solis Theatre, and the Legislative Palace. The *Oosterdam* sails at 6 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Saturday, February 1

This is a leisurely day at sea, cruising off the coast of Argentina. Because this is a specialty cruise, several experts are on board who are knowledgeable with geology, history, bird, and marine life, as well as Argentina, Antarctica, and Chile. Fascinating illustrated lectures are given during all the days at sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Sunday, February 2

The *Oosterdam* docks next to downtown **Puerto Madryn**, a city of 95,000 people in Argentina's Patagonia district. The town was founded in 1865 when 150 Welsh immigrants on board the clipper *Mimosa* sailed into this sheltered harbour and named it Porth Madryn from their homeland. Conditions were difficult and the settlers had to dig irrigation ditches for their first crops. The *Oosterdam* is docked here from 10 am to 6 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Monday, February 3

A day at sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Tuesday, February 4

The ship anchors in the harbour of Port Stanley, the largest settlement of the **Falkland Islands**, at 8 am and we ride on tenders to go ashore. The Falklands consist of some 200 barren and rugged islands with a population of less than 3,000 people, of which Port Stanley accounts for over half. The islands have been a British dependency since 1833, although Argentina also claims sovereignty, and this sparked the 1982 skirmish known as the Falklands War. Stroll the attractive waterfront, visit

ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, February 4 continued

the museum, and buy souvenirs that are surprisingly reasonably priced in British pounds. The *Oosterdam* departs at 5 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch (on ship), Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Wednesday, February 5

This is a day at sea cruising south to Antarctica.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Thursday, February 6

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up amid the spectacular beauty of **Antarctica**. It is the fifth largest of the Earth's seven continents, covering 14 million square kilometres. All but 2.4% is covered by ice and, even along the rugged coastline, there are few areas of exposed land or beaches. Seven nations claim territory in Antarctica. Since 1961, the continent has been administered cooperatively under the Antarctic Treaty, an international agreement to preserve it for peaceful scientific study. The climate can be summarized as "cold" – the world record low temperature was minus 195 degrees Celsius! The areas we visit along the coast are warm by comparison and, during this late summer cruise, temperatures should be about freezing. Holland America Line pioneered cruise ship travel in Antarctica and this is a unique opportunity to explore this seldom-visited continent.

Please note: that there are **no landings** during this Antarctica cruise as ships with over 500 passengers are not permitted to do shore excursions. The ice pilot has planned the ideal route for optimum sightseeing in Antarctica, but weather, ocean and ice conditions, and visibility are likely to change the course several times.

During our four days (February 6 to 9) of slow cruising along the awesome coastline of Antarctica, we may see **Elephant Island**, the Endurance Glacier, **Esperanza Station** (an Argentina research facility), Paulet Island, Half Moon Island, and Deception Island. Half a day is devoted to cruising through a wonderland of icebergs and narrow waterways in the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels. During the passage of "**Iceberg Alley**", we have the thrilling experience of sailing close to immense floating ice sheets that are taller than the ship and up to 6 km around.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Friday, February 7

Enjoy the spectacular beauty of cruising Antarctica.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Saturday, February 8

Enjoy cruising Antarctica. On this third day of cruising the coastline, the *Oosterdam* usually picks up some staff from **Palmer Station** who give a talk about living year-round in this isolated place.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Sunday, February 9

Late on this day, the ship starts the northward journey across **Drake Passage** and it takes 1½ days before South America is visible on the horizon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Monday, February 10

Cruising north across Drake Passage.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, February 11

The next highlight is storied **Cape Horn** at the south tip of South America. It was discovered in 1616 by the Dutch navigator, Willem Schouten, who named it for his Netherlands birthplace, Hoorn. For centuries, the cape was legendary in the annals of world explorers for its strong currents, high winds, and rocky hazards for sailing ships. Cape Horn is actually on one of the Wollaston Islands. If conditions permit, the *Oosterdam* may sail close enough to spot the albatross monument at the actual tip.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Wednesday, February 12

The *Oosterdam* calls at **Ushuaia**, Argentina, between 8 am and 1 pm. It is the world's southern-most city at Latitude 55 south and is located on **Tierra del Fuego**. Our included tour drives into Tierra del Fuego National Park, affording spectacular views of the mountains, forests, and waterfalls near the tip of South America. At Lago Roca and Bahía Lapataia where the Pan-American Highway ends, there are short walks to appreciate the different species of native forest and fauna. We ride the **End of the World Steam Train** back to Ushuaia. After the ship's departure, we enter Chile and some awesome scenery awaits as we cruise past the **Italia, Francia, Alemania**, and **Romanche Glaciers** which tumble from rugged mountains right to tidewater. We follow the **Beagle Channel**, named for Charles Darwin's ship in 1839, and Cockburn Channel through a myriad of islands off Tierra del Fuego.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Thursday, February 13

Our first port of call in Chile is **Punta Arenas**, a city of 125,000 on the Strait of Magellan. We arrive at 10 am and depart at 10 pm. The Plaza de Armas Square is dominated by the Hernando de Magallanes Monument, commemorating the discovery of this important waterway in 1520. We start with a two-hour city tour visiting Cerro Mirador to enjoy a panoramic view of the city and the Strait, followed by Muñoz Gamero Square, the Plaza de Armas, Cerro de la Cruz, and monuments along Bulnes Avenue. The Maggiorino Borgatello Museum has an excellent collection of flora and fauna, and relics of Patagonian Indian tribes. The Noa Victoria Ship Museum contains a reproduction of Magellan's ship. Later, we drive along the **Strait of Magellan** to Fuerte Bulnes which was the first Chilean settlement in Southern Patagonia in 1843. The museum explains the great challenges these settlers endured to inhabit this region.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Friday, February 14

We sail through the western half of the Strait of Magellan, past soaring peaks, and emerge into the Pacific Ocean at the pinnacles of Cabo Pilar. Next, we cruise along the natural Canal Sarmiento, then to the head of a fjord where the vast **Amalia Glacier** plunges into the ocean. It is a finger of the Southern Patagonia Icefield and is a kilometre wide as seen from the *Oosterdam*. The glacier is noted for its incredible blue colour. Chunks of ice periodically break off its 40-metre high face and crash into the sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Saturday, February 15

The *Oosterdam* sails through **Darwin Channel** with the massive peaks of the Andes rising to the east. Among these many islands, you may see albatross, penguins, sea lions, and dolphins. These fjords of Chile rival the famous fjords of Norway and Alaska.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

ITINERARY continued

Sunday, February 16

The *Oosterdam* enters the **Aisen Fjord** and stops for the day at the isolated town of Puerto Chacabuco which has a population of only 2,000 people. This is a tender port. The ship arrives at 8 am and leaves at 3 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Monday, February 17

We cruise through Reloncavi Sound to reach our last port, **Puerto Montt**. The city has an attractive setting at the gateway to Chile's lakes district. After taking tenders ashore, our private tour travels along Lago Llanquihue to the imposing **Osorno Volcano** which last erupted in 1869. It soars to an altitude of 2,650 metres and its upper slopes are covered with glaciers. Other stops are **Petrohué Waterfalls**, created by lava from the volcano, and gorgeous Lago Todos los Santos, surrounded by the peaks of the Andes. These sights are all protected within Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. We return to Puerto Montt and the ship sails at 5 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Tuesday, February 18

Enjoy your last day at sea!

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Oosterdam*

Wednesday, February 19

We dock at San Antonio and bid farewell to the *Oosterdam*. A coach meets us and, with a local guide, we head inland from the Pacific Coast. Lunch, a winery tour, and wine tasting are included in the pastoral **Casablanca Valley**, then we continue on the 150-km drive to Santiago.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Eco Boutique Bidasoa

Thursday, February 20

The morning is leisure time. **Santiago** was established in 1541 by the Spanish and became the capital in 1818 when Chile achieved independence. Its population is now approaching five million. An afternoon tour includes the main square, the Presidential Palace, the cathedral, and Barrio Bellavista, one of the classic neighborhoods of Providencia. The tour ends in Mercado Central, an excellent place for some final shopping. A "Farewell to South America" dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about all our adventures, probably highlighted by Antarctica and rounding Cape Horn. Then we go to the airport and board our overnight flight to North America.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight flight

Friday, February 21

We change planes and continue to Seattle. Our coach meets us for a transfer to the hotel.

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Lynnwood

Saturday, February 22

We travel home to departure cities.

Meals included: **I** Breakfast, Lunch **V L** Breakfast



Lookout at Iguazu falls



CRUISE TO THE 7TH CONTINENT

Wells Gray Tours offers a cruise to Antarctica every two to three years. This is a very special opportunity to visit the 7th continent and certainly has bragging rights because probably not many of your friends have been there. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most memorable will likely be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs along the Antarctica coast. It is hard to imagine waking up one morning and looking out to see an iceberg longer and higher than the *Oosterdam*. Antarctica experts are on board to present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain his route-finding skills.

Other memorable experiences are strolling the elegant streets of Buenos Aires; standing at the rim of awesome Iguazu Falls, 3 km wide and 80 metres high; exploring the remote Falkland Islands; rounding legendary Cape Horn; sailing through the storied Strait of Magellan following sea captains of past centuries; Tierra del Fuego National Park; Ushuaia, world's southernmost city; cruising past tumbling glaciers in the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel; and hearing the thunder of falling ice at the vast Amalia Glacier.

This thrilling tour and cruise should be on everyone's bucket list. It will also qualify you for two more continents towards being honoured by Wells Gray Tours' 7 Continents Trophy.

TOUR & CRUISE NOTES

MS OOSTERDAM: Holland America's *MS Oosterdam* made her inaugural cruise in 2003. She was the second of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by *Zuiderdam* in 2002 and followed by *Westerdam* in 2004 and *Noordam* in 2006. Carrying 1,848 passengers, these ships are Holland America's third largest design, but they still have an intimate feel to them. *Oosterdam's* gross tonnage is 82,000 and she is 300 metres long. Her 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie lounge, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). *Oosterdam* has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views.

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner with full choice of menu. The Lido Market offers six

buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the 11 pm buffet. The Pinnacle Grill and Canaletto Restaurant offer extraordinary service, reserved seating, and gourmet menus for an extra charge. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the complimentary room service menu 24 hours a day.

Staterooms have twin lower beds (some convert to queen-size double), television, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 800 ensures top-quality service and entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, and board games. The movie theatre presents recent films frequently, there is an entertaining live stage show every evening, and musicians are playing in most lounges.

TOUR NOTES continued

A very unique voyage: This cruise features 12 days at sea (including 6 days of scenic cruising) and 9 days visiting ports in Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, and Chile. The voyage is most likely to appeal to people who want to learn about their destinations and experience awesome scenery. Antarctica and South America experts are on board to present lectures and they are so popular that it's a good idea to be in the theatre half an hour before to get a seat. During the four days in Antarctica, you should be in the Crowsnest Lounge by 5 am to secure a good window seat, although many people bring winter coats, sweaters, toques, and gloves, and spend many hours on deck enthralled with the passing icy spectacles. Even though February is late summer in Antarctica, the weather is still cool. The ship does not dock in Antarctica and you do not set foot on land or ice. Regulations about visiting Antarctica are very strict and only small expedition ships are allowed to put guests ashore, 100 at a time. The wildlife, including hundreds of penguins, can be seen from the ship, but bring along some binoculars for even better viewing.

Shore excursions included: On most cruises, shore excursions are a major additional expense during your holiday. For this trip, Wells Gray has arranged private guided tours at Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Puerto Montt, and Santiago. Gratuities to drivers and guides are also included.

Please book early: Cruises are incredibly popular nowadays. Ships are filling up faster and earlier than they once did, so waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait until another year." Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this cruise and they are normally held until 4 months before sailing (late September 2024). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills, and Antarctica cruises always sell out due to the limited number of departures. This often occurs on our group cruises, then we must turn away disappointed customers, even though seats are available on the motorcoach. Please don't delay booking this tour.

Documentation: A passport is required with an expiry date after you return to Canada. A visa is not required for a Canadian to enter Argentina, Falkland Islands or Chile.

Currency & expenses: As this tour has been planned and priced 14 months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations between the Canadian and US dollars could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. Your purchases on the ship are charged in US dollars. The US dollar is preferred in Argentina and Uruguay, although each has its local currency. The Chilean peso is used in Chile and US dollars are not widely accepted; a Canadian dollar is worth about 640 pesos. You should order US dollars or Chilean pesos from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. The Falkland Islands use their own pound which is at par with the British pound; there are no ATMs there, so it is best to pay by credit card. In all these countries, credit cards are accepted almost everywhere (exceptions are the markets where cash is typical).

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. The flight cannot be booked until April 2024, but the cost has been estimated based on current fares and could change.

Gratuities are included for the local guides and coach drivers for the Wells Gray shore excursions. If you buy a shore excursion on the ship or at the dock, bring cash for gratuities. The standard crew gratuities on board the ship are included, but a gratuity is normally charged extra for your purchases such as drinks or spa. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and Canadian drivers are not included and left to your discretion.



Amalia Glacier

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 8, 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 a \$250 discount on the first 10 seats and \$125 on the next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 8, 2024.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 9, 2024, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 10 to October 8, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From October 9 to November 8, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 9 to December 6, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 6, there is no refund.

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 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Flights cannot be booked until early April 2024.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Seattle to Buenos Aires and return from Santiago. Premium economy and business class may be available. Quotes will be available from April 2024 onwards.

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. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. During the pre-cruise and post-cruise touring and the included shore excursions, some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Most food allergies can be handled at meals on the ship, but you may have to order 24 hours in advance. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve. Unfortunately, restaurants cannot accommodate food preferences.

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: Adobe Stock (Elephant Island and Antarctica, page 1 and 9), tour director Lisa (Iguazu Falls, iceberg, and lookout at Iguazu Falls; pages 2, 4, and 8) and Wikimedia (Amalia Glacier, page 10).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 270 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 8, 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



ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE — January 24, 2025

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours, using our new activity 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 expect light activity on the ship but there are some shore excursions and pre- and post-cruise tours that are rated as Activity Level 3.
- You can walk 2 kilometres in 1 hour. To see Iguazu Falls, you must be able to walk this distance.
- You can climb into and out of a ship’s tender (small boat to take you ashore).
- You can walk on cobblestones, uneven sidewalks, beaches with sand or rock, and on boat docks that may have steep ramps.
- You can carry your own luggage in airports and cruise terminals.

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 during the tours on land.

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.