

WELLS GRAY PARK

September 2024


WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Helmcken Falls

Explore Canada's Waterfalls Park with the expert and author, Roland Neave.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! Nicknamed 'Canada's Waterfalls Park' and 'Volcanoes Park,' Wells Gray is a wonderland of natural sights including Canada's 4th highest waterfall, Helmcken Falls. Late September is an excellent time to visit as the colourful fall foliage is starting and the waterfalls look quite different than during the spring runoff. The tour is directed by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guesthouse, and author of the popular guide-book, *Exploring Wells Gray Park*. Other highlights are Helmcken Canyon, Dawson Falls, Bailey's Chute, Ray Farm & Mineral Springs, Trophies Lodge, Spahats Falls, and an all-day boat tour on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► **Fares per person**

from **\$1,560** double/twin, **\$1,760** single*

**additional pricing details provided on page 2.*

► **Earn 36 Experience Points**

► **Departure from:**

BC Interior



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

1 BC Interior: September 19, 2024 - 4 Days



Your specific departure point will be confirmed at time of booking.
Passengers travelling from the BC Interior will begin and end the tour as follows:

1 BC Interior: We depart from communities in the BC Interior on Thursday, September 19 and travel to Clearwater. We return on Sunday, September 22. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return on September 22.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
BC Interior	\$1,560 double/twin \$1,760 single \$1,495 triple	• Please add 5% GST

Clearwater Lake

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **9 total:** 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 2 dinners

► Transportation

- Coach transportation for 4 days

► Accommodation

- 3 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

► Key Highlights

- Copy of *Exploring Wells Gray Park*, 7th edition
- 6-hour boat excursion on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls
- Trophies Lodge historic tour

► Gratuities

- Gratuities for boat crew



Trophies Lodge

ITINERARY

- Thursday, September 19** We travel north along the Yellowhead Highway to Clearwater. After lunch, while driving through the **Clearwater River Valley**, we see extinct Pyramid Volcano, the Mushbowl Canyon, and 90-metre wide **Dawson Falls** on the Murtle River. The highlight is awesome **Helmcken Falls** where the Murtle River plunges 141 metres (465 feet) over a lava cliff to form Canada's 4th highest waterfall. After dinner, Roland presents a slide show about Wells Gray Park, gleaned from over 50 years of exploring its roads and trails.
- Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn
- Friday, September 20** At road's end, we board two fast jet-boats for the journey up lovely **Clearwater Lake** with splendid views of the Cariboo Mountains and **Garnet Peak**, Wells Gray Park's third-highest mountain. The boats' powerful engines make easy work of the fast-flowing Clearwater River and soon we enter pristine **Azure Lake** which is 24 km long and surrounded by soaring peaks. A stroll through an old-growth cedar forest leads to **Rainbow Falls** on Angus Horne Creek, then a picnic lunch is provided at the beach. This six-hour boat excursion explores a spectacular area of Wells Gray Park that few tourists get to see, since it can only be reached by boat.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn
- Saturday, September 21** We start with a historical tour of **Trophies Lodge** which catered to celebrities fishing the teeming waters of the Clearwater River from 1950 to 1970. We return to Helmcken Falls for a picnic lunch and a walk along the rim of **Helmcken Canyon** to view the clash of white water at the meeting of the Clearwater and Murtle Rivers. Another walk leads to the abandoned pioneer Ray Family homestead and the bubbling **Mineral Springs**. A third walk visits two thundering waterfalls on the Clearwater River – **Bailey's Chute** and Marcus Falls.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Wells Gray Inn
- Sunday, September 22** At **Spahats Falls**, we stand on the edge of a colourful 200-metre deep gorge. There are also stops at Clearwater Valley Overlook and the waterfalls of Third Canyon. The Wells Gray Park Visitor Centre is our last stop, then we have a picnic lunch at North Thompson Park, and travel home in the afternoon.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch



Ray Family homestead



Dawson Falls

THE “WATERFALLS PARK” OF CANADA

Wells Gray Park is a vast wilderness area of 1.3 million acres, nicknamed Canada’s “Waterfalls Park” for its 42 named falls and “Volcanoes Park” for its six old volcanoes and vast lava flows. Late September is an excellent time to visit as the colourful fall foliage is starting and the waterfalls look quite different than during the spring runoff. The tour is directed by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guesthouse. Roland is also the author of the popular guidebook *Exploring Wells Gray Park* (7th Edition published in 2023) and a complimentary autographed copy of this 416-page all-colour book is your souvenir from this tour.

With a small group like this, the boats can take us up Clearwater Lake, through the Clearwater River into Azure Lake, then to the beach at the east end of Azure Lake to view Rainbow Falls.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! There is a connection to the Park’s name, dating back 52 years. An environmental organization offered tours of Wells Gray Park in 1972 as a means of protesting BC Hydro’s plans to build seven dams on the Clearwater River. Roland and some university friends were volunteer guides. From this modest beginning with a single tour route, Wells Gray Tours has evolved to offer travel to all seven continents.



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 on trails, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground; climb in and out of small boats without assistance; stand for prolonged periods, and handle your own luggage at the hotel.

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.

The longer walks are:

- Murtle & Clearwater Rivers overlook – 1 hour or 2.2 km return; 50 metres descent outbound
- Ray Farm & Mineral Springs – 30 mins or 1.1 km return; 20 metres descent outbound
- Bailey’s Chute & Marcus Falls – 1¼ hours or 3.2 km return; minor elevation change

These times are at a leisurely pace including viewpoint stops. These 3 walks are on the same day, September 21. A day pack, water bottle, and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes are essential; walking poles are recommended. There are no bathrooms on the boats and the trip to Rainbow Falls is about 2 hours each way.

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 21

This tour is limited to 21 travellers which is the capacity of the two boats. Please book early! A small group like this provides a more intimate travel experience.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 1, 2024. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 2, 2024, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 3 to August 1, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From August 2 to August 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 19, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where 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: 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 (Helmcken Falls and Dawson Falls), Roland Neave (Wells Gray Park entrance, Clearwater Lake, Trophies Lodge and forest), and Miranda Schulz (Ray Farm Homestead).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 36 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 August 1, 2024.

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



Beautiful old growth forest en route to Rainbow Falls

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

WELLS GRAY PARK — September 19, 2024

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity as described here:



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 on trails, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground; climb in and out of small boats without any assistance; stand for prolonged periods, and handle your own luggage at the hotel. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices.

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. Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3” on the new scale with 4 levels.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level, and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.
- If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require frequent 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.