

# AMAZING AUSTRALIA FROM COAST TO COAST

February 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



Sydney Opera House

## **With Indian Pacific train from Perth to Sydney**

Breathtaking natural landscapes, vibrant cities, and friendly locals are only some of the reasons why you should travel to Australia. Wells Gray Tours has offered several tours to Australia, but this is the first time we will travel coast to coast on the famous Indian Pacific Train. Be pampered for 5 days and 4 nights travelling in Gold Class right across the continent from Perth to Sydney. After 3 days in Perth and the train excursion, we explore Sydney, enjoying the historic Rocks district, Bondi and Manly Beaches, Sydney Opera House, a local farm, and a harbour cruise. Then we fly to Uluru (Ayers Rock) to admire the spectacle of sunrise and sunset in the vast outback dominated by this incredible monolith. In Cairns, we take a catamaran out to the remarkable Great Barrier Reef, and ride on the Rainforest Cableway and Kuranda Railway. In Melbourne, we enjoy the view from the Skydeck, watch the Penguin Parade on Phillip Island, and sample the wonderful wines of the Yarra Valley. Come and experience amazing Australia by train, coach and air with Wells Gray Tours!



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ▶ **Fares per person**

from **\$20,255** double/twin, **\$23,620** single\*

*\*pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

### ▶ **Earn 303 Experience Points**

### ▶ **Departure from:**

BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland



Koala bear

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972



# DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

- I BC Interior:** February 9, 2025 - 24 Days
- V Vancouver Island:** February 9, 2025 - 24 Days
- L Lower Mainland:** February 10, 2025 - 22 Days



**Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the 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 travel to New Westminster on Sunday, February 9 and overnight at the Inn at the Quay, overlooking the Fraser River. We fly to Perth, Australia the following day. We return from Melbourne via Sydney to Vancouver on Monday, March 3 and travel home to the BC Interior on Tuesday, March 4. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.

**V Vancouver Island:** We travel to New Westminster on Sunday, February 9 and overnight at the Inn at the Quay. We fly to Perth, Australia the following day. We return from Melbourne via Sydney to Vancouver on Monday, March 3 and travel home to Vancouver Island on Tuesday, March 4.

**Victoria departure:** Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about two weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Up-island departure:** Fly from Nanaimo or Comox for an additional cost. While we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding the scheduling after final payment. Transportation is not provided to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport.

**L Lower Mainland:** We fly from Vancouver to Perth on Monday, February 10 and return on Monday, March 3. Home pickup may be arranged at time of booking for passengers in the Greater Vancouver Area.

**Abbotsford or Chilliwack departure:** Please refer to BC Interior Departure information. We travel to New Westminster on Sunday, February 9, overnight at the Inn at the Quay and return home on Tuesday, March 4. Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport from Abbotsford or Chilliwack will be provided from your pickup location.

## FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
<b>I</b>	<b>BC Interior</b>	<b>\$20,550</b> double/twin <b>\$24,075</b> single	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please add 0.2% GST</li> <li>• There is an additional cost to fly from Nanaimo or Comox.</li> <li>• Please refer to BC Interior tour fares for departures from Abbotsford or Chilliwack.</li> </ul>
<b>V</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>\$20,700</b> double/twin <b>\$24,225</b> single	
<b>L</b>	<b>Lower Mainland</b>	<b>\$20,255</b> double/twin <b>\$23,620</b> single	



# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

- ❶ **44 total:** 19 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners
- ❷ **42 total:** 19 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners
- ❸ **41 total:** 19 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Areas.
- Flight from Vancouver to Perth
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- 13 transfers between airports, hotels, boat or ferry docks, & train stations
- 10 days of coach transportation
- Ferry to/from Rottnest Island
- Ferry to/from Manly Beach
- Flight from Sydney to Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Flight from Uluru (Ayers Rock) to Cairns
- Flight from Cairns to Melbourne
- Flight from Melbourne via Sydney to Vancouver

## ▶ Accommodation

- ❶❷ 17 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- ❸ 15 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
  - 4 nights & 5 days on the Indian Pacific Train with Gold category cabin
  - Luggage handling at hotels & train

## ▶ Key Highlights

- Bloedel Conservatory
- ❶❷ Choice of MacMillan Space Centre or Vancouver Maritime Museum
- Locally-guided tour of Perth
- Swan Bell Tower
- Historic Perth Mint
- Perth Botanic Gardens

- Guided tour around Rottnest Island
- Western Australia Museum Boola Bardip
- Nyumbi Aboriginal program
- All beverages on the Indian Pacific Train
- Off-train excursion at Kalgoorlie
- Off-train excursion at Cook
- Off-train excursion to Barossa Valley
- Seppeltsfield Winery tour
- Off-train excursion at Broken Hill
- Blue Mountains tour with cablecar & funicular
- Locally-guided tour of Sydney with Bondi Beach
- Sydney Opera House tour
- Dreaming Aboriginal Heritage Tour
- Calmsley Hill Farm
- Featherdale Wildlife Park
- Dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour
- Uluru sunset & sunrise events
- Dot Painting Workshop
- Uluru Field of Lights Dinner Experience
- Catamaran excursion to Great Barrier Reef with glass-bottom boat ride & snorkel equipment
- Skyrail Rainforest Cableway
- Army Duck ride
- Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience
- Kuranda Scenic Railway
- Melbourne Skydeck
- Phillip Island with Koala Conservatory
- Penguin Parade
- Yarra Valley tour
- Rayner's Orchard with tractor tour
- Wine tasting at de Bortoli Estate

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

## ▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for guides & drivers in Australia





## ITINERARY

### Sunday, February 9

Transportation is provided to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay, overlooking the Fraser River. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

**Note:** While it may seem unnecessary to travel to the Lower Mainland the day before your flight, the Coquihalla can have long closures or ferries and flights can be cancelled by weather which would cause a missed international flight.

**Meals included:** ① Lunch, Dinner      ② Dinner

**Accommodation:** Inn at the Quay

### Monday, February 10

The morning is leisure time and you may want to take a walk along Westminister Quay. During the afternoon, we stroll through the Bloedel Conservatory and there is a choice between the MacMillan Space Centre or the Vancouver Maritime Museum. Passengers from the Greater Vancouver Area join us at YVR. Our flight departs about 8 pm.

### Tuesday, February 11

We cross the International Date Line during the flight and lose one day, gaining it back March 3.

### Wednesday, February 12

Our flight arrives in Sydney and we connect to a flight across Australia to the west coast cosmopolitan city of Perth. **Welcome to Australia!** Our coach and guide meet us at the airport and we drive downtown to the Hyatt Regency Hotel for a three-night stay. It is located on the foreshore parklands overlooking the picturesque Swan River, and features a spectacular atrium lobby.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hyatt Regency Perth

### Thursday, February 13

**Perth** is the metropolis of the west coast and 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Australia. A guided tour of highlights visits the Botanic Gardens at Kings Park, historic Perth Mint with colonial architecture, Cottesloe Beach on the Indian Ocean, and Swan Bell Tower, and drives past the Royal Yacht Club and Western Australia Cricket Ground. Then we head to the port of Fremantle for lunch and shopping in this charming historic district. A welcome dinner is planned tonight.

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

**Accommodation:** Hyatt Regency Perth

### Friday, February 14

We spend the day on **Rottnest Island**, a sandy low-lying island off the coast of Perth. It is protected as parkland and noted for its population of quokkas, a small animal resembling a rat. We take a ferry from Fremantle to the island, then board a coach for a drive around Rottnest. There are stops at Wadjemup Lighthouse, the westernmost point for a view from the boardwalk, the salt lakes, and anytime we see a group of quokkas.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hyatt Regency Perth



# ITINERARY continued

## Saturday, February 15

We go to the Western Australia Museum Boola Bardip for the **Nyumbi Aboriginal program**. Experience a celebration of Nyoongar culture through song, dance and language, as local performers share their rich culture and history. At 2:30 pm, we are at the Perth railway station and boarding the **Indian Pacific Train**. From the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, this incredible transcontinental journey travels from city to outback to city, highlighting the diverse landscapes of this beautiful country, from urban skylines to arid plains. You are welcomed on board by a friendly hospitality attendant who acquaints you with your cabin and arranges your dining and "Off Train Experience" bookings. As we pull away from Perth, leaving the Indian Ocean behind, this epic journey begins with a welcome gathering. Spend a relaxed afternoon getting to know your fellow travellers. Tonight, a delectable dinner is served on board, featuring contemporary Australian cuisine with seasonal and regional flavours. We are travelling in Gold class which includes all meals and fine wines.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Indian Pacific Train

## Sunday, February 16

Awake to see the sunrise unfold across Australia's largest outback town, **Kalgoorlie**. We get off the train for a tour and delve into this mining town's fascinating past with a visit to the region's gold-rush era and the quaint main street lined with century-old buildings. The Fimiston gold mine opened in 1893 and is now usually called the Super Pit with a depth of 600 metres. Decide how you want to explore Kalgoorlie on your choice of "Off Train Experiences". After reboarding the train in mid-morning for brunch, the remainder of the day is on board at your leisure. Sit back and enjoy the hospitality as you take in spectacular views of the seemingly endless expanse of the Nullarbor Plain. We enter South Australia before dinner, about 1500 km east of Perth. In late evening, the train pulls into the almost-ghost-town of Cook for a nightcap, bonfire, and stargazing experience. Established in 1917, Cook was originally built as a support town for the railway, but is said to have a current population of four. Get off the train for a while and wander this remote, time-worn town for a slightly eerie, unique glimpse of pioneering Australia.

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

**Accommodation:** Indian Pacific Train

## Monday, February 17

During the morning, the train travels through the pastoral lands and communities of remote South Australia, past the Flinders Ranges, Spencer Gulf, and the Adelaide Plains. In mid-afternoon, the train pulls into Two Wells, where we disembark and ride by coach to the renowned, wine-producing region of the **Barossa Valley**. The stone cottages and Lutheran churches throughout the region are testament to a 19<sup>th</sup> century wave of German settlers. From tasting the official best wine in the world, to sipping a local drop that's as old as you, the Barossa is Australia's wine capital, featuring more than 80 cellars. The Mediterranean climate of cool summers and rainy winters is perfectly suited for red wine production, particularly Shiraz and Cabernet. With great wine comes great food and we spend the evening at **Seppeltsfield Winery**, delighting in a signature dining experience in the vintage cellar. A traditional 'Firing of the Barrel' display kicks off the evening, followed by a food and wine pairing curated by Executive Chef Owen Andrews, highlighting regional produce and traditional methods that reflect the story of the Barossa. After dinner, we return to the Indian Pacific and continue our rail journey through the night.

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

**Accommodation:** Indian Pacific Train

## ITINERARY continued

### Tuesday, February 18

Crossing another border during the night, we wake up in **Broken Hill, New South Wales**. Enjoy a hearty breakfast, ready for the day's activities in the Silver City. Broken Hill was born of the richness that lies beneath it and, in this far-flung region of Australia, mining was a tough and often dangerous business. Choose one of four Off Train Experiences including guided history, art, and cultural experiences that showcase Australia's first heritage-listed city. Returning to the train for lunch, admire the scenery as the Indian Pacific travels through rural New South Wales.

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

**Accommodation:** Indian Pacific Train

### Wednesday, February 19

The Indian Pacific train arrives in the scenic **Blue Mountains** and we disembark after breakfast and meet our coach. Along Cliff Drive, there are panoramic views of the Three Sisters, Katoomba Falls, and Jamison Valley. We descend 600 metres by cablecar into the rainforest, then stroll along a boardwalk through the jungle, and ride the steep funicular railway back up to the rim, all with terrific views. Lunch is included at Lookout Echo Point. A chartered train takes us on the last leg from the Blue Mountains into Sydney where we stay four nights.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Sofitel Wentworth Hotel

### Thursday, February 20

We start with a driving tour of **Sydney** highlights such as the historic Rocks district, bustling Darling Harbour, Parliament House, Hyde Park, Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, and popular Bondi Beach. Next is a guided tour of the renowned **Sydney Opera House**. This is Sydney's most recognizable building and officially one of the seven wonders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, completed in 1973. Joern Utzon, the Danish architect, said the inspiration for his masterpiece was the sails of yachts on the harbour. There may be an opportunity to see a show in one of the four theatres and discounted tickets can be purchased after taking a tour.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Sofitel Wentworth Hotel

### Friday, February 21

During a 90-minute leisurely walkabout, an indigenous guide uncovers the authentic history of the Aboriginal people's saltwater heritage within Sydney Harbour, their land and water use, and their spiritual connection to the adjoining waterways and foreshores. Drawing upon knowledge populated from the oldest ecologists, conservationists, botanists, astronomers, climatologists and marine biologists, the guide explains how this ancient wisdom continues to reveal itself within the English settlement of The Rocks. Next, we drive to Calmsley Hill Farm, a unique, interactive farm experience which hosts a variety of farm animals. We are treated to a talk from the owner, Noah Mosley, on the day-to-day operations and their sustainability journey. A barbecue lunch is served. We continue to **Featherdale Wildlife Park** to meet Australian animals such as koala, kangaroo, wallaby, Tasmanian devil, wombat, dingo, emu, echidna, platypus, and penguin.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Sofitel Wentworth Hotel

### Saturday, February 22

We ride the ferry from Sydney to **Manly Beach**. Enjoy the gorgeous beach, cosmopolitan buzz, and a relaxed vibe for as long as you wish, then take a ferry back to Sydney. Tonight's dinner features a cruise on **Sydney Harbour** with views of the Harbour Bridge, Opera House, Fort Denison, Point Piper, and Watson's Bay. A smorgasbord of fine Australian cuisine is provided while listening to live music and commentary about the passing sights.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sofitel Wentworth Hotel

## ITINERARY continued

### Sunday, February 23

We fly from Sydney to **Uluru (Ayers Rock)**, and stay two nights at the luxurious five-star Sails in the Desert Hotel. In a destination where one of the world's oldest cultures still thrives, the mystery, colour and wisdom of the local Anangu people is interwoven into every facet of the hotel's modern design. The extraordinary monolith of Uluru was named in 1873 for Sir Henry Ayers, Colonial Secretary, but was given the dual name "Uluru / Ayers Rock" in 2002, recognizing the aboriginal name. Uluru originally sat at the bottom of a sea, but today stands 348 metres above ground. Uluru is about 3.6 km long and 1.9 km wide, with a circumference of 9.4 km. Tonight, we drive to a viewing area for the Uluru sunset. Watching the colours change over this incredible landscape is a splendid experience. As the sun sinks behind you, the rock transforms from pinkish hues to a fluorescent orange and deep shades of red. The sky also displays a varied palette of colours, with the rock surrounded by delicate baby blues and bright pinks.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Sails in the Desert Hotel

### Monday, February 24

We get up early to witness the **Uluru sunrise** as the first light gently embraces the desert landscape. As the sun rises, so too does the remarkable birdlife that calls Uluru home. Listen as the birdsong welcomes the new day and experience the tranquility of nature. We visit the base of Uluru, the Mutitjulu waterhole, home of a wanampi which is an ancestral watersnake. The afternoon is leisure time at the hotel, but a **Dot Painting Workshop** is offered by a local Anangu artist. Learn about traditional art, symbols, and tools, and create your own art treasure. As darkness falls and Uluru becomes a silhouette, the acclaimed **Field of Lights** illuminates. As far as the eye can see, gentle rhythms of colour light up the desert. Created by artist Bruce Munro, the exhibition covers seven football fields and contains 50,000 spindles of light in a spectrum of ochre, deep violet, blue, and gentle white. Dinner is served overlooking the spectacle.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sails in the Desert Hotel

### Tuesday, February 25

We fly from Ayers Rock to **Cairns**, on the northeast coast. During a tour of highlights, we visit St. Monica's Cathedral, noted for its Peace Windows which were installed in 1995 to celebrate 50 years of peace in the Pacific region since the end of World War II, and the Creation Windows which are the world's largest themed stained-glass windows, depicting the story of creation from the Book of Genesis. Next is the Cairns Botanic Gardens, renowned as one of the best exhibitions of tropical plants in Australia.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Shangri-La Marina Hotel

### Wednesday, February 26

We ride on a catamaran for the trip out to the amazing **Great Barrier Reef**. Its protected shallow waters make it the perfect location from which to explore the reef, for both snorkelers and scuba divers. Equipment is supplied along with expert commentary by a naturalist, a glass-bottom boat tour, and a buffet lunch. Nearby is **Michaelmas Cay National Park**, a pristine sand cay surrounded by fringing reef and a protected sanctuary for migratory seabirds. A shuttle operates during the day between the catamaran and the beautiful beach on the cay.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Shangri-La Marina Hotel

## ITINERARY continued

### Thursday, February 27

We board the **Skyrail Rainforest Cableway** which skims along the tops of the rainforest canopy for 7 km and provides awesome views of the Barron Falls. We get off twice at the mid-stations and take short walks through the jungle. At the top in Kuranda, there is time to browse the shops of the Heritage Market. A fun experience is riding an amphibious WW II Army Duck for a Rainforest tour. Then we go to Rainforestation Nature Park which has preserved Australia's Indigenous culture. The **Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience** presents the fascinating customs and ancient traditions with a dance performance and Dreamtime Walk. Later, we board the awesome **Kuranda Scenic Railway** to travel back down to the coast. Opened in 1891, the train crosses 37 bridges and goes through 15 tunnels during the 37 km journey.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Shangri-La Marina Hotel

### Friday, February 28

We fly from Cairns to **Melbourne**. Australia's second largest city has a wonderful blend of architectural heritage and modern skyscrapers. We ride the fast elevators to the **Melbourne Skydeck** for an awesome view of the city from the Southern Hemisphere's highest observation deck 300 metres above ground.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Intercontinental Melbourne

### Saturday, March 1

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, we drive to Phillip Island and visit the **Koala Conservatory and Nature Park**, home to koalas, seals, and shearwaters. We continue to The Nobbies which boasts spectacular clifftop views overlooking the Bass Strait. Stroll the winding boardwalks and watch the explosive blowhole in action, and see Australia's largest fur seal colony. When dusk arrives, we have admission to the premium viewing area to witness the **Penguin Parade** on floodlit Summerland Beach. The Visitor Centre has excellent exhibits about the life of the Little Penguin.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Intercontinental Melbourne

### Sunday, March 2

We spend the day in the **Yarra Valley**, east of Melbourne. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area developed as the primary food production region for Melbourne, and the wine industry dates to 1838 with award-winning wines being exported to the British and European markets. First we visit **Rayner's Orchard** which grows over 450 varieties of fruit including peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, tamarillo, pomegranate, persimmon, figs, pepino, feijoa, guava, kiwi fruit, dutch medlar, and various citrus throughout winter. Jump on a tractor tour around the farm and sample tree-ripened fruit picked straight from the tree. Lunch and wine tasting is at one of the many wine estates, followed by Yarra Valley Chocolaterie where you may want to try a delicious ice-cream. Our farewell dinner is in Melbourne to reminisce about our Australian coast to coast adventures.

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

**Accommodation:** Intercontinental Melbourne

### Monday, March 3

The morning is free time, then we go to the airport for our flight via Sydney to Vancouver. Transportation is provided for passengers returning home to the Greater Vancouver Area.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Inn at the Quay

### Tuesday, March 4

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel home.

**Meals included:** ① Lunch





Indian Pacific Train

# INDIAN PACIFIC TRAIN

The Indian Pacific Train travels from Perth to Sydney along the longest stretch of straight railway track in the world. The epic 4,352 km-long journey takes five days and four nights and traverses the south of Australia through the barren expanses of the Nullarbor via Kalgoorlie, Cook, Two Wells, and Broken Hill, and across the Blue Mountains. We are reserved in all-inclusive Gold Service cabins and dine in style on gourmet dishes paired with fine Australian wines in the classically styled Queen Adelaide Restaurant. The Outback Explorer Lounge is the train’s centre of activity where passengers can socialize and enjoy a wide range of all-inclusive refreshments. Extended off-train excursions are offered at Kalgoorlie, Cook, the Barossa Valley, Broken Hill, and Blue Mountains.

**Accommodation:** The Gold twin cabins are comfortable sleeper cabins featuring private ensuite bathrooms and upper and lower berths that convert to a three-seat lounge by day. Facilities include power outlets, in-cabin music, and journey audio commentary. The Gold single cabins are compact sleeper cabins featuring a bed

that converts to a seat by day. Facilities include power outlets, in-cabin music, and journey audio commentary. Shared shower/toilet facilities are located at the end of the carriage. Seats within cabins are a mix of forward or rear-facing configuration and not a preference that can be confirmed.

**Dining:** The classically designed Queen Adelaide Restaurant offers dynamic menus showcasing the finest regional flavours available, including top-end barramundi, locally-produced beef and lamb, Margaret River cheeses, Barossa Valley small goods; and native Australian fare including kangaroo, saltbush, and wild rosella flower. All meals are complemented by wines, beers, and non-alcoholic beverages. The Queen Adelaide Restaurant is open for breakfast, a two-course lunch, and three-course dinner.

**Luggage:** Your suitcase is checked from Perth to Sydney and you do not have access to it during the train journey. Please bring a small bag for everything that you need on the train trip including change of clothes, night wear, toiletries, camera, and chargers.



## Activity Level 3

This activity rating uses the new scale of 1 to 4 introduced in November 2023.

**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 or beaches and shorelines; 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 or at hotels where luggage service may not be available. One person in a couple must be able to climb to the upper bunk in your cabin on the Indian Pacific train. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. You may want to bring walking poles. The tour director and Australian 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.

**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. Please see page 12 for the activity level waiver.



## Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Rainforest Cableway

## TOUR NOTES & POLICIES

**Documentation:** A passport is required and must be valid on the date of entry. An Australian Electronic Travel Authorization is required and is applied for online before you leave home. Cost is A\$20. Instructions will be provided at final payment.

**Currency & Expenses:** The currency in Australia is the dollar and, as of April 2024, a Canadian dollar is worth about A\$1.12. You should order Australian dollars from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for local guides, naturalists, and driver-guides. Tipping is not expected for meals you buy on your own and tax is included on menu prices. Costs for meals and attractions you choose yourself are generally higher than in Canada.

**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.

**Accommodation** is booked in superior hotels, generally 4 or 5 stars. Hotel costs are similar to those in large Canadian cities, so many travellers would consider them expensive. However, on an extensive holiday like this, you want to be staying in well-located and memorable accommodations. On the Indian Pacific Train, you are booked in Gold category including all meals and beverages.

**Beverages:** In many countries outside Canada and USA, it is not standard practice to include beverages with tour meals. On this tour, tea, coffee, or bottled water

is usually included with each meal and other beverages can be purchased. A few dinners have a glass of beer or wine included. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are complimentary on the Indian Pacific Train.

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

**Flight seating:** We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$1,980 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. This applies to the flights from Vancouver to Perth and Melbourne to Vancouver.

**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. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for weather delays.

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 30, 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).

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to August 9, 2024, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From August 10 to October 30, the cancellation charge is \$700 per person. From October 31 to November 29, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 30 to December 30, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 30, there is no refund.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit



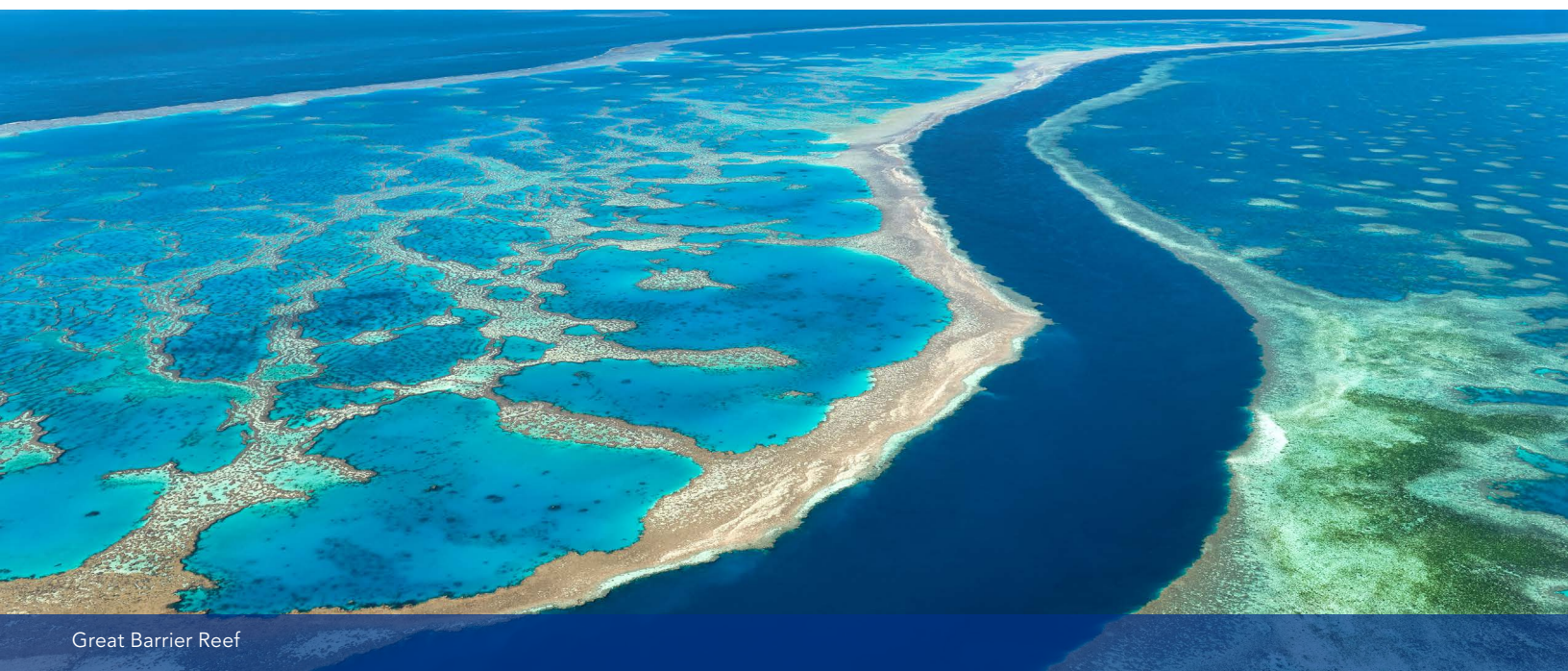
## TOUR NOTES & POLICIES continued

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. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

**Photo Credits:** Adobe Stock (Sydney Opera House, Koala, and Great Barrier Reef), Journey Beyond (Indian Pacific Train), tour director Jill (kangaroo and Uluru/Ayers Rock), and Wikimedia by Bob Lindsell (Kuranda Train).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 303 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 30, 2024.

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



Great Barrier Reef

WE PLAN.  
YOU PACK.  
NO WORRIES!

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



Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. \_\_\_\_\_

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**250-545-9197**

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

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

## Amazing Australia from Coast to Coast — February 9, 2025

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity 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, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground or beaches and shorelines; 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 or at hotels where luggage service may not be available. One person in a couple must be able to climb to the upper bunk in your cabin on the Indian Pacific train. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. You may want to bring walking poles.

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** \_\_\_\_\_



**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.

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

**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.*

Revised March 2023