

# VANCOUVER ISLAND WITH SMALL SHIPS

September 2024

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



Telegraph Cove Resort

## ***Includes whale watching at Telegraph Cove, MV Uchuck from Zeballos to Gold River, and Bute Inlet grizzly bear viewing***

Vancouver Island is the 11th largest island in Canada, stretching 460 km from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Queen Charlotte Sound. Named for Captain George Vancouver who explored B.C.'s coast in 1792, the island has great diversity ranging from the capital city of Victoria to remote mountain peaks in Strathcona Park, and from narrow fjords that slice into the west coast to secluded harbours like Telegraph Cove. To explore northern Vancouver Island properly, you have to get out of your car (or coach) and head out on the water. This tour features 3 exciting excursions on small vessels – whale watching at Telegraph Cove, *MV Uchuck III* to historic Nootka Sound, and grizzly bear viewing at Bute Inlet.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ► **Fares per person**

from **\$3,120** double/twin, **\$3,695** single\*

*\*pricing details provided on page 2*

### ► **Earn 72 Experience Points**

### ► **Departure from:**

Vancouver Island



Whale Interpretive Centre

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

# DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

**V Vancouver Island:** September 14, 2024 - 5 Days



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

**V Vancouver Island:** We depart from Victoria and up-island communities on Saturday, September 14, and drive the Island Highway to Telegraph Cove Resort. Transportation is provided back to your pickup point on Wednesday, September 18.

**Note:** Home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area to the first 10 passengers for an additional cost.

## FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares Per person	Notes
Vancouver Island	<b>\$3,120</b> double/twin <b>\$3,695</b> single <b>\$2,920</b> triple	• Please add 5% GST

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### ▶ Meals

- **12 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

### ▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- Bus at Orford River for transportation to grizzly bear viewing platforms

### ▶ Accommodation

- 4 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels

### ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

### ▶ Highlights

- Whale Interpretive Centre
- Whale watching excursion at Telegraph Cove
- Cruise on *MV Uchuck III* from Zeballos to Gold River through Nootka Sound
- Local guide / historian on board *Uchuck*
- Cruise from Campbell River to Bute Inlet
- Homalco First Nation

### ▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guide and crew on ships



## ITINERARY

**Saturday, September 14** After pickups around Greater Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway with a stop in Parksville for lunch. We continue up-Island to **Telegraph Cove**, a charming village surrounding a narrow harbour. This was the northern terminus of the telegraph line built on Vancouver Island in 1912. A sawmill and commercial fishery supported the village for many years, but 30 years ago it transitioned into tourism. Telegraph Cove Resort owns most of the village and has renovated the old buildings into lodging, restaurant, shops, and a museum. Whale watching cruises are the big draw with Robson Bight located nearby. Our accommodation is in two buildings, the Lodge and the Dockside. A welcome dinner is at the Whale Café on the waterfront.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

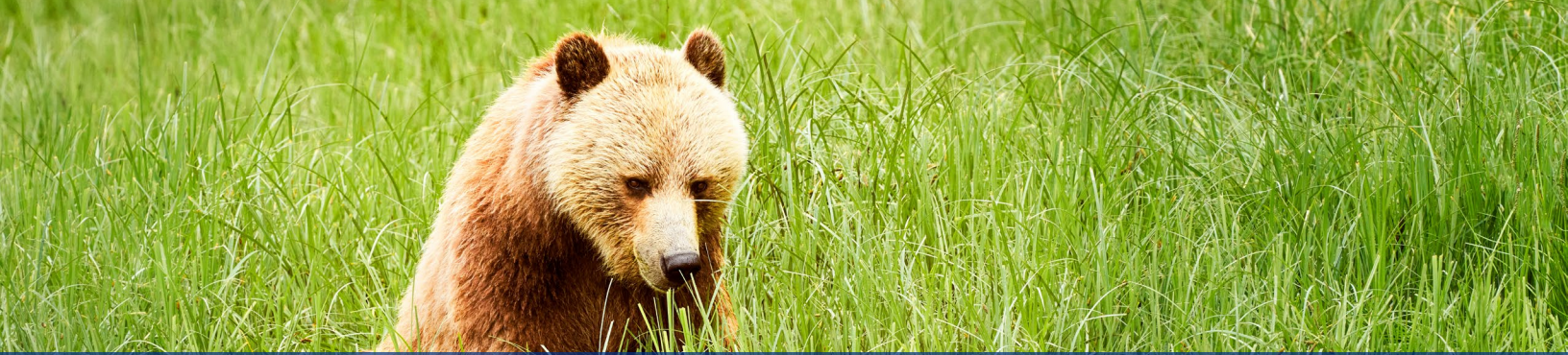
**Accommodation:** Telegraph Cove Resort

**Sunday, September 15** Be sure to visit the **Whale Interpretive Centre** on Telegraph Cove's boardwalk. It was founded in 2002 to increase public awareness about the biology of marine mammals and the threats facing their populations. The Centre is home to one of the best collections of marine mammal skeletons in British Columbia. The exhibits focus on orca whales, fin whales, humpback whales, and sea otters. There are also several shops to browse nearby. This afternoon, we board a 70-person semi-covered vessel for a three-hour fully-guided **whale and marine wildlife viewing** excursion. We head out into Johnstone Strait and navigate the Broughton Archipelago in search of orcas and humpback whales. Marine mammal experts are on board to bring the animals' stories to life from the comfort of the cruiser.

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

**Accommodation:** Telegraph Cove Resort

**Monday, September 16** This morning, we drive to **Zeballos**, a tiny community at the end of a fjord on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This waterway was named for Lt. Ciriaco Ceballos, a crew member on board the Malaspina expedition of 1789-1794. A gold rush in the 1930s established a mining camp spelled "Zeballos" and that name became official when a post office opened in 1937. Zeballos may have had a population of over 5,000 during the peak of the gold rush when \$13 million worth of gold bricks were shipped from here. Forestry replaced mining in the 1950s. Today, Zeballos has shrunk to about 100 residents. About 1 pm, we board the **MV Uchuck III** for a private five-hour cruise from Zeballos to Gold River with splendid coastal scenery. Catherine Gilbert, a local historian and Nootka expert, is on board to provide interpretive talks. Our route follows a maze of narrow waterways such as Zeballos Inlet, Esperanza Narrows, and Tahsis Inlet. Emerging into **Nootka Sound**, the ship sails along the north side of Bligh Island, named for the *Mutiny on the Bounty* captain who was in these waters with Captain Vancouver in 1792. Then we cruise along Muchalat Inlet to the dock near **Gold River**. Meanwhile, our coach has travelled empty on the roundabout road from Zeballos to Gold River to meet the ship, and we drive via Strathcona Park into Campbell River. We stay two nights at the awesome Naturally



## ITINERARY continued

Grizzly bear

### Monday, September 16 continued

Pacific Resort in Campbell River, the newest hotel on Vancouver Island opening in early summer 2024.

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

**Accommodation:** Naturally Pacific Resort

### Tuesday, September 17

Our next boat excursion leaves from Campbell River and weaves among the Northern Gulf Islands, headed for **Bute Inlet**. These waterways are great for whale watching and we keep an eye open for many types of marine life. The Orford River, halfway up Bute Inlet, offers some of the best **grizzly bear viewing** sites on the BC coast and September is prime season for watching them as they catch the spawning salmon moving up these rivers. On arrival at the mouth of the Orford River, a bus is waiting and we drive through the traditional territory of the Homalco First Nation to several bear viewing platforms. This is an amazing experience, enhanced by a Homalco First Nation bear guide while on land and a naturalist all day. We spend about three hours at the Orford viewing site, then return to Campbell River by boat.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Naturally Pacific Resort

### Wednesday, September 18

We drive back to Victoria along the Island Highway, completing dropoffs for up-island clients along the way.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch



## Activity Level 2

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

**Moderate Activity:** As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without assistance. Expect some stairs or gangways getting on and off the vessels, and the ramps to the boat docks may be steep at low tide. Telegraph Cove is a compact village with a boardwalk that accesses businesses, and the coach cannot drive there. You may need to handle your own luggage at hotels if luggage service is not available. You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour.



### Tour Size 35

This tour is limited to 35 participants.



## MV UCHUCK III

MV Uchuck III

*MV Uchuck III* derives her name from the First Nations Nootkan word for “healing waters” and has been serving the west coast of Vancouver Island area for nearly 70 years. She was built in 1942 in Oregon as a minesweeper, then was converted to passenger and freight service in Barkley Sound. By 1961, she was operating in Nootka Sound, supplying remote logging camps and fishing villages. More recently, *Uchuck III* was fully renovated with a comfortable wood-finished lounge, coffee shop, bathrooms, and lots of seating on the open-air upper deck. She is 41 metres long and carries up to 100 passengers on cruises in Nootka Sound and nearby waterways.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due July 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.

**Early Booking Bonus:** Early bookers receive a \$150 discount on the first 10 seats, and \$75 on the next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 30, 2024.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 28, 2024, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From June 29 to July 30, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 31 to August 13, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 13, there is no refund.

**Itinerary and Fare Changes:** Due to continuing after effects of the pandemic, sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your

## TOUR POLICIES continued

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.

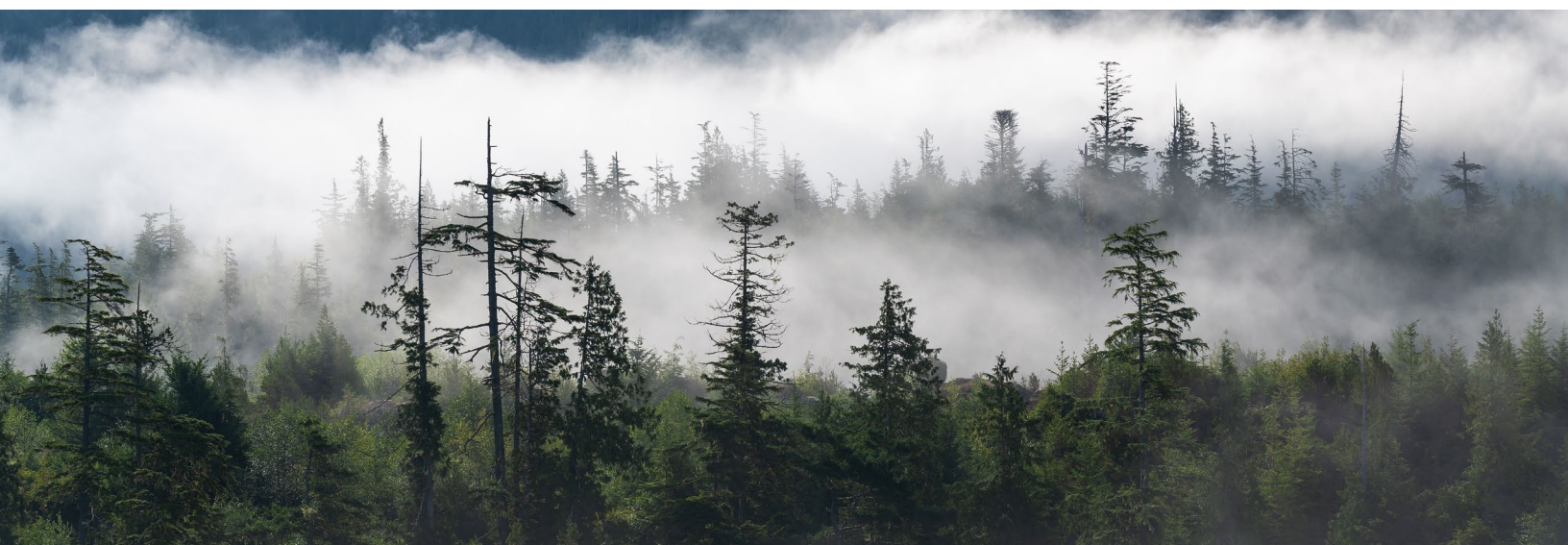
**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. This tour stays in British Columbia, so you are protected with your BC CareCard for a medical issue that arises during the tour. Remember that travel insurance typically provides cancellation coverage if you get sick the day before at home or you are in an accident. 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 cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

**Photo Credits:** Telegraph Cove Resort, Whale Interpretive Centre, Adobe Stock (coastal landscape, Whales, Grizzly Bear, and temperate rainforest near Telegraph Cove), Roland Neave (*MV Uchuck III*).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 72 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 July 30, 2024.

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



WE PLAN.  
YOU PACK.  
NO WORRIES!

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



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

KAMLOOPS	KELOWNA	VERNON	PENTICTON	VICTORIA
Head Office				
250 Lansdowne St.	2575 Richter St.	3206 35th St.	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
<b>250-374-0831</b>	<b>250-762-3435</b>	<b>250-545-9197</b>	<b>250-493-1255</b>	<b>250-590-7889</b>

**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