

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ECHO

November 2024

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
ECHO™



Plus The Book of Mormon at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Two great shows are featured on this quick getaway to Vancouver. Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO* is a thrilling new show, travelling North America since April 2023 and will be staged in the Grand Chapiteau. The second show is *The Book of Mormon* at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Vancouver theatre tours are offered several times a year, so you probably don't want to see the same attractions each time. For this tour, we are offering the Bloedel Conservatory and Museum of Anthropology. We are staying two nights at the popular Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street, surrounded by shops and restaurants.



THEATRE TOUR

1

ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Fares per person

from **\$1,095** double/twin, **\$1,295** single*
**further pricing details provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

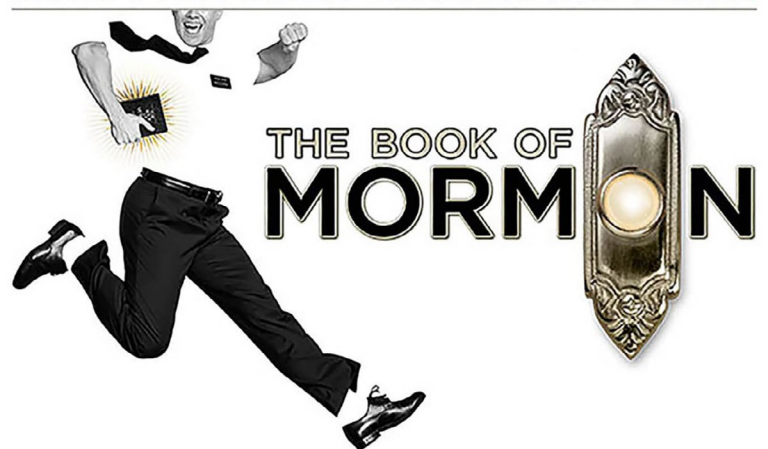
\$60 discount on first 15 seats; **\$30** on next 10.

► Earn 26 Experience Points

► Departure from:

Vancouver Island

WINNER 9 TONY AWARDS* INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL



DEPARTURE POINTS & DATES

V Vancouver Island: November 12, 2024 - 3 Days



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

V Vancouver Island: After pickups in the Greater Victoria Area, we travel to Vancouver via the ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen on Tuesday, November 12. We return to Victoria via the ferry on Thursday, November 14.

Departure from up-island: There is an additional cost for transportation from/to up-island. We can provide transportation from up-island communities to Victoria on Monday, November 11. You can organize your own accommodation this evening, or we can book accommodation for you at the Chateau Victoria Hotel at an additional cost. Transportation back to your drop off point up-island can be provided on Thursday, November 14.

Departure from Victoria: Designated pickup points are offered in the Greater Victoria Area. 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 | \$1,095 double/twin \$1,295 single \$1,060 triple | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• BC Seniors (65 & over) receive a \$34 discount extended by BC Ferries with BC Services Card. |

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 3 days
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings

▶ Accommodation

- 2 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at the hotel

▶ Key Highlights

- Bloedel Floral Conservatory
- Museum of Anthropology
- *The Book of Mormon* at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre
- Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO* at the Grand Chapiteau

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director



ITINERARY

Tuesday, November 12

After pickups around Greater Victoria, we take a morning ferry to Tsawwassen. This afternoon, we stroll through the **Bloedel Floral Conservatory** in Queen Elizabeth Park, a triodetic dome erected in 1969 and named for one of its biggest donors, Prentice Bloedel of MacMillan Bloedel Lumber Company. The conservatory contains three habitats: tropical rainforest, sub-tropical rainforest, and desert. Over 200 birds of various species reside within the dome and are allowed to fly freely. The conservatory houses about 500 species of plants from jungle to desert climates. We stay two nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street which is surrounded by restaurants and shops. Tonight, we go to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre to see **The Book of Mormon**.

Note: Seeing *The Book of Mormon* is an option included in your tour fare. If you would like to opt out, it is a fare reduction of \$118 per person.

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Wednesday, November 13

There is free time this morning and you may want to visit relatives or take in a different attraction. This afternoon, we visit the **Museum of Anthropology** which will reopen in June 2024 after a 1½ year closure for seismic upgrades and a rebuild of the Great Hall. It is housed in a stunning Arthur Erickson structure with exquisite First Nations artifacts and exhibits, including Bill Reid’s famous sculpture “The Raven and the First Men”.

Starting at 7:30 pm, we thrill to **Cirque du Soleil’s ECHO** at the Grand Chapiteau.

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Thursday, November 14

The morning is leisure time, then we take an afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay.



Activity Level 1

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

Light Activity: You are a traveller who prefers to see places without a lot of physical activity. You can climb stairs (mainly to and from your theatre seats), board a coach, stand for short periods, and walk around the attractions. You may bring a walker or cane if needed. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. Everybody participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 1. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.



Tour Size 46

This tour can accommodate 46 participants.



Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO*

TWO GREAT SHOWS IN A 3-DAY VANCOUVER GETAWAY

Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO*

Cirque du Soleil was founded in 1984 in Gaspé as part of the celebrations around the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in Québec. Cirque was based on a totally new concept: a striking, dramatic mix of the circus arts and street entertainment, featuring wild, outrageous costumes, staged under magical lighting, and set to original music. With not a single animal in the ring, Cirque's difference was clear from the start. With its fame growing across Canada (including a performance at Expo '86), Cirque offered its first show in California in 1987 and became an overnight success. The Mirage Resort in Las Vegas signed Cirque to a year-long contract in 1992. Meanwhile touring groups performed in Europe and Japan, also to unprecedented acclaim. Today, Cirque du Soleil has about 4,000 employees with headquarters in Montreal, and 20 different shows are performing around the world, six of them in Las Vegas. Over 100 million people have seen a Cirque show.

ECHO is a tale about evolution as well as the symbiotic relationships that our lives depend on. This spectacular performance combines poetry, stagecraft, daring acrobatics, and technology while exploring the delicate balance between people, animals, and the world we all share. The main female heroine, Future, and the characters discover that their choices have the potential to influence the world as they progress through the stages of evolution. They are motivated to work as a team to piece together the planet we all wish to live on. Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO* allows the audience to join in a world of colour, inspired by the youth's optimism, the inventive power, and the value of empathy. launched in April 2023 and has been touring since then, coming to Vancouver in the fall for the first time.

Cirque du Soleil sometimes sends a touring show to BC Interior cities. These are much smaller productions than *ECHO* and cannot be compared to those staged in the Grand Chapiteau.

The Book of Mormon

This is a religious satire musical that lampoons organized religion and traditional musical theatre, reflecting the playwrights' lifelong fascination with Mormonism and musicals. The story follows two young Mormon missionaries sent to a remote village in northern Uganda where a brutal warlord is threatening the local population. Naive and optimistic, the two missionaries try to share *The Book of Mormon* which only one of them knows very well, but have trouble connecting with the locals who are more worried about war, famine, poverty, and AIDS than about religion. *The Book of Mormon* features book, music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, and Matt Stone. Parker and Stone are the four-time Emmy Award-winning creators of the landmark animated series, *South Park*. Tony Award-winner Lopez is co-creator of the long-running hit musical comedy, *Avenue Q*.

The Book of Mormon opened on Broadway in 2011 and swept the Tony Awards, winning nine including Best Musical. It is still playing on Broadway 12 years later and is the 13th longest running musical. The London production has been playing since 2013 and several touring shows have been mounted. *The Book of Mormon* has grossed over \$700 million world-wide, making it one of the most successful musicals of all time.

Please note that the show contains explicit language and subject matter that may not be enjoyable for all viewers. If you wish to opt out, please tell us before final payment and your fare will be reduced by \$118 plus GST.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due September 25, 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: Receive a \$60 discount on the first 15 seats and \$30 on the next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 25, 2024.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$34 discount offered by BC Ferries. Please bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 23, 2024, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From August 24 to September 25, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From September 26 to October 10, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After October 10, 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.

Show cancellation: It rarely happens, but actors occasionally get sick, or some mishap causes the cancellation of a show. This can occur even shortly before the performance begins. We know that this would be

extremely disappointing for our customers, but the only refund we would be able to obtain for you would be the actual ticket price of the show. The hotel, motorcoach, and other tour services are all prepaid and are non-refundable at short notice.

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: Cirque du Soleil (*ECHO* page 1 and 4), Paramount Theatre (*The Book of Mormon*), and Unsplash (Vancouver).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 26 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 points on tours longer than 3 days. You can accumulate enough points to earn a free tour (this tour eligible until September 25, 2024).

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

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552



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

KAMLOOPS

Head Office
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC
V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON

3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC
V1T 6B7
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

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.

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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.

Revised March 2023