

BC FJORDS

July 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**
a world to experience



Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, Knight Inlet, Desolation Sound & Princess Louisa Fjord

Some of the most thrilling sights along the BC coast cannot be reached by road, and the only access is by boat. This tour includes four boat excursions into these remote places. Knight Inlet is the longest fjord on our coastline, extending 113 km deep into the Coast Mountains. Nakwakto Rapids are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness, and during our visit the waters pouring out of Seymour Inlet and Belize Inlet will attain the incredible speed of nearly 13 knots. A third boat trip departs Campbell River, weaves among the Northern Gulf Islands, and cruises through the magical beauty of Desolation Sound to Lund on the Sunshine Coast. A fourth cruise explores amazing Princess Louisa Fjord where sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water and thundering Chatterbox Falls dominates its upper end. Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ **Departure from:**

1 BC Interior: July 12, 2025 - 7 Days

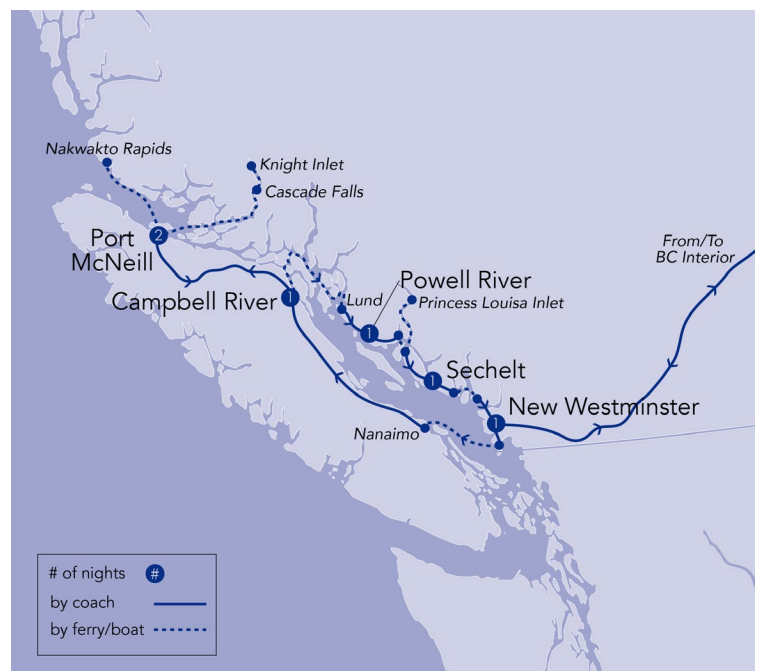
L Lower Mainland: July 13, 2025 - 6 Days

▶ **Fares per person**

L from **\$3,870** double/twin, **\$4,390** single*

*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ **Earn 95 Experience Points**



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DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart from the BC Interior on Saturday, July 12 and overnight in New Westminster at the Inn at the Quay. We travel home from Sechelt on Friday, July 18. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Sunday, July 13 and take the ferry to Nanaimo. We travel home from Sechelt on Friday, July 18. Home pickup for passengers in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: Pickup and dropoff will be by the main coach. Please refer to the BC Interior dates and fares per person.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares Per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$3,995 double/twin \$4,655 single \$3,795 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• BC Seniors (65 and over): \$12 discount with BC Services Card.
L Lower Mainland	\$3,870 double/twin \$4,390 single \$3,680 triple	

Nakwakto Rapids

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

I 14 total: 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners

L 12 total: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

▶ Transportation

I Coach transportation for 7 days

L Coach transportation for 6 days

- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Duke Point
- Ferry from Saltery Bay to Earls Cove
- Ferry from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay

▶ Accommodation

I 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

L 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

- Luggage handling at 2 hotels only

▶ Highlights

- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Day cruise from Campbell River to Lund in the Northern Gulf Islands & Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

ITINERARY

Saturday, July 12

We drive to New Westminster and stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay, built on a pier jutting into the Fraser River. Every room has a view of the river and you can watch all the shipping traffic going by. You may want to take a stroll along Westminster Quay this evening.

Meals included: ① Lunch

Accommodation: ① Inn at the Quay

Sunday, July 13

Passengers from the Lower Mainland join the tour this morning. After riding the ferry to Nanaimo, we drive through Campbell River and stay two nights in **Port McNeill**.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Humpback Inn

Monday, July 14

We board the ***Naiad Explorer*** in Port McNeill for the first of four exciting ocean experiences, heading to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain George Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village), then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The *Naiad's* powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet to Cascade Falls which plunges directly into the ocean. During the return ride to Port McNeill, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago looking for Steller sea lions.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Humpback Inn

Tuesday, July 15

Back on the *Naiad*, we cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the *Naiad's* big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of factors makes July 15 one of the best days in 2025 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 12.7 knots at 10:07 am. These are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local First Nations band. After returning to Port McNeill, we drive south to Campbell River.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Comfort Inn & Suites

ITINERARY continued

Wednesday, July 16

Our next boat excursion leaves from Campbell River and weaves among the Northern Gulf Islands such as Quadra, Cortes, Read, and Redonda. These waterways are great for **whale watching** and we keep an eye open for humpbacks, orcas, and dolphins. **Desolation Sound** is British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973. It attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, unusually warm waters, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain Vancouver saw it differently two centuries ago when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our six-hour cruise visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay, and Copeland Islands. Our coach meets the boats in Lund and we drive into **Powell River**. Stroll the hotel's waterfront this evening and enjoy the appealing views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Thursday, July 17

We ride a ferry across **Jervis Inlet** to Earls Cove. This is another day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best-known fjords. We cruise for two hours up Jervis Inlet past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade directly into the ocean. Malibu Narrows is the location of historic **Malibu Lodge**, an impressive log structure that was an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities in the 1940s and is now a popular church camp. The narrows mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. A picnic lunch is provided at the falls. Back on our coach, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Oceanside, Sechelt

Friday, July 18

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horseshoe Bay, then we travel home.

Meals included: ① Breakfast, Lunch ② Breakfast

Activity Level 2



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.

You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain such as moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Accommodations in Port McNeill, Campbell River, and Powell River have no luggage service, so please be prepared to handle your own from the coach to your room and back.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coach and boats 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 22

This tour is limited to 22 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Naiad Explorer

OUR CRUISE VESSELS

Knight Inlet & Nakwakto Rapids — *MV Naiad Explorer* was built in 1999 and is 17 metres long. She is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each which were designed to minimize underwater noise for whales. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating with washroom and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, *Naiad Explorer* can travel great distances in a day, including the full length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing phenomenon.

Northern Gulf Islands & Desolation Sound — Two covered boats carrying 12 people each are used for this one-way cruise from Campbell River to Lund. Both are equipped with a washroom. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to get close to shore and view the marine life.

Princess Louisa Fjord — Two vessels with indoor seating are used for the voyage up Jervis Inlet, through the narrows of Malibu Rapids, and into Princess Louisa Fjord. There is no washroom on either boat. The trip is two hours each way plus 1½ hours on shore at Chatterbox Falls.

All vessels are operated by long-time captains with lots of experience on the BC coast.

Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 24th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 21st trip along the full length of Knight Inlet, and our 19th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, four days are devoted to cruising sheltered waters near Vancouver Island.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 8, 2025. 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).

BC seniors (65 & over): \$12 discount offered by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 8, 2025, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 9 to May 8, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From May 9 to May 22, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From May 23 to June 9, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After June 9, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us 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 some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies,

TOUR POLICIES continued

please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

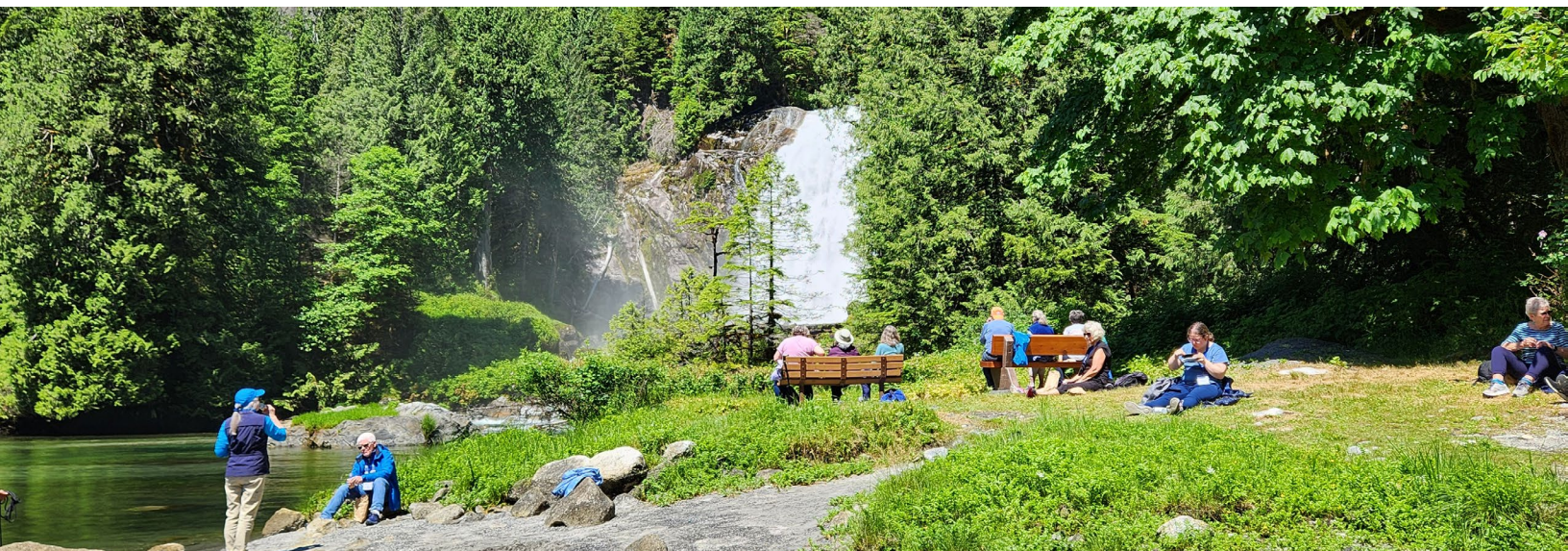
Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. This tour stays in British Columbia. While your BC Services Card may cover you for a medical issue that arises during the tour, you will probably benefit from trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage in case of illness or a mishap before or during the tour. Many other benefits such as luggage insurance are included. 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: Wikimedia (Princess Louisa Inlet), tour director Pat (Nakwakto Rapids, *Naiad Explorer*), tour director Laura (Knight Inlet), and tour director Lisa (Chatterbox Falls).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 95 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 May 8, 2025.

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



Chatterbox Falls

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

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