

BELLA COOLA & TWEEDSMUIR PARK

August 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**
a world to experience



A journey through the Coast Mountains on the Chilcotin Highway

Bella Coola is an isolated community on the central BC coast, surrounded by splendid mountain scenery. The only road access is Highway #20 from Williams Lake, a scenic drive across the Chilcotin and through the Coast Mountains. This tour travels both ways on the highway and stays 3 nights at Nimpo Lake. A full-day tour of the Bella Coola Valley with a local guide has many appealing stops and you have the thrill of driving "The Hill" twice. Another "wow" is the flight into Tweedsmuir Park to see Hunlen Falls, Canada's highest waterfall, the vast Monarch Icefields, and the colourful Rainbow Range. This tour is a remarkable opportunity to see a seldom-visited place close to home.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ **Departure from:**

📍 **BC Interior:** August 11, 2025 - 6 days

📍 **Vancouver Island:** August 10, 2025 - 7 days

📍 **Lower Mainland:** August 10, 2025 - 7 days

▶ **Fares per person**

📍 from **\$2,965** double/twin, **\$3,210** single*

**Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

▶ **Early Booking Bonus**

\$150 discount on first 8 seats; **\$75** on next 4.

▶ **Earn 70 Experience Points**



Hunlen Falls

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

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 depart from communities in the BC Interior on Monday, August 11, drive through the Thompson Valley to Cache Creek and join the Cariboo Highway to Williams Lake. We return home on Saturday, August 16. Transportation is arranged from your pickup location on the day of departure and to your dropoff location when we return.
-
- V Vancouver Island:** We fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna on Sunday, August 10 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW, conveniently located near the airport. We return to Kelowna on Saturday, August 16 and fly to Victoria, Nanaimo or Comox.
- Departure from Victoria:** Depending on the number of people booked and coach size, home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.
- Departure from Up-Island:** Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that 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 your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.
-
- L Lower Mainland:** We fly from Vancouver to Kelowna on Sunday, August 10 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW, conveniently located near the airport. We return to Kelowna on Saturday, August 16 and fly to Vancouver. Home pickup in the Greater Vancouver Area can be arranged at the time of booking.
- Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack:** No transportation is provided to/from Vancouver Airport to join this tour.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares Per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$2,965 double/twin \$3,210 single \$2,845 triple	
V	Vancouver Island	\$3,685 double/twin \$4,045 single \$3,535 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add 5% GST. • This tour can only accommodate 7 singles.
L	Lower Mainland	\$3,635 double/twin \$3,995 single \$3,485 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- ① **14 total:** 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners
- ✓② **15 total:** 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- ✓② Transfers to Victoria or Vancouver Airport from the Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver Area
- ✓② Flight to/from Kelowna from/to Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox

▶ Accommodation

- ① 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- ✓② 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
 - Luggage handling at some accommodation

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Highlights

- Hat Creek Ranch
- Presentation by author Chris Czajkowski (if available)
- Locally guided tour of Bella Coola Valley
- Augsburg Church
- Hagensborg Heritage House
- Snootli Creek Fish Hatchery
- Bella Coola Museum
- Saloompt Forest Trail
- Sightseeing flight to Hunlen Falls, Monarch Icefields, & Rainbow Range
- Farwell Canyon
- Ashcroft Manor

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

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities to local guides & pilots



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. You may need to handle your own luggage at places where luggage handling is not available.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If you choose the flight landing at Hunlen Falls, be aware that the walk takes at least 1¼ hours round trip with about 15 minutes being uphill. This excursion is rated as Activity Level 3. Everybody participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. 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 25

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





Nimpo Lake

ITINERARY

Sunday, August 10

Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland fly to Kelowna and stay overnight.

Accommodation: **V** **L** Hampton Inn YLW

Monday, August 11

We drive through the Thompson Valley to Cache Creek and join the Cariboo Highway. **Hat Creek Ranch** is one of the last remaining roadhouses from the era of the Cariboo Wagon Road. We tour the buildings and listen to tales of the Gold Rush. Our night stop is in **Williams Lake**.

Meals included: **V** **L** Breakfast, Lunch **I** Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Tuesday, August 12

The legendary **Chilcotin Highway** starts at Williams Lake and heads west to Bella Coola at the head of a long coastal fjord. We cross the Fraser River on a lofty bridge and drive across the vast ranchlands of the Chilcotin Plateau past Riske Creek and Alexis Creek. We stop for a view of the glacial blue Chilcotin River as it races through **Bull Canyon**. After passing Tatla Lake and Kleena Kleene, we stay three nights at **Nimpo Lake**, known as "Float Plane Capital of BC" because it is the access point for numerous fishing lakes in the West Chilcotin.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Stewart's Lodge or Waterfront Motel

Wednesday, August 13

A local guide accompanies us for today's journey into the **Bella Coola Valley** and presents expert interpretation about the history, ecology, and First Nations culture. West of Anahim Lake, we enter Tweedsmuir Park, British Columbia's largest provincial park, and soon arrive at Heckman Pass at the top of the famous **Bella Coola Hill**. By 1950, residents decided that they needed better service than a periodic coastal steamer, but they were unable to convince the government that a road through the Coast Mountains was even feasible. So they raised money themselves and built their own road using bulldozers working from the top and bottom. When their blades met on September 26, 1953, British Columbia's third route to the Pacific became a reality and was nicknamed the "Freedom Road". During the tortuous 1,500-metre descent over the next 20 km, we enjoy two panoramic viewpoints. At the valley bottom, the road is hemmed by soaring mountains with descriptive names such as Stupendous, Defiance, Table, and Matterhorn. Stops are made at the "Split Rock", Fisheries Pool on the Atnarko River, the towering giants of the **Saloompt Forest**, a fish hatchery, and Bella Coola Museum. Alexander Mackenzie visited Bella Coola in 1793, the first white man to cross the continent, and stories about his incredible expedition are recounted by our guide. Norwegian settlers from Minnesota and Wisconsin arrived

ITINERARY continued

Wednesday, August 13 continued

in 1894 and the Hagensborg Heritage House and **Augsburg Church** tell their remarkable story. There is a shopping opportunity at the popular Kopas Store before heading back up the hill to Nimpo Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Stewart's Lodge or Waterfront Motel

Thursday, August 14

We board chartered float planes to explore the wilderness of **Tweedsmuir Provincial Park** which protects some dramatic scenery of the Coast Mountains and awesome **Hunlen Falls**. There are two flight options today. Please refer to descriptions on page 6. This evening, we meet **Chris Czajkowski**, the author, poet and botanist, who talks to us about her pioneer lifestyle in the wilderness and how she built the Nuk Tessli cabin single-handed. Her many books, such as *Cabin at Singing River* and *Diary of a Wilderness Dweller*, describe her experiences in the Coast Mountains.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Stewart's Lodge or Waterfront Motel

Friday, August 15

We retrace our westward drive on the Chilcotin Highway with some different stops. A side trip is made to **Farwell Canyon** on the Chilcotin River to see some hoodoos and pictographs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Saturday, August 16

We admire the view at the colourful Painted Chasm, created by glacial meltwaters at the end of the last Ice Age. Lunch is included at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. We travel home in the afternoon. Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland fly home.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

ACCOMMODATION

At Nimpo Lake, rooms are booked at two places – Stewart's Lodge and Waterfront Motel. Do not expect luxurious lodgings as Nimpo Lake is remote and typically hosts travellers looking for a backcountry experience. You do not need to make any choices here as Wells Gray Tours will assign your accommodation based on how early you booked and whether you are travelling double, twin, or single.

Stewart's Lodge has log cabins with views of Nimpo Lake. One large log cabin has 3 private bedrooms suitable for 3 singles, large living room, deck overlooking the lake, and shared bathroom. Another log cabin has 2 private bedrooms suitable for 2 singles, living room, deck overlooking the lake, and shared bathroom.

Waterfront Motel has 3 log cabins and 5 motel rooms beside the lake. Transportation is provided to Stewart's for your flight.

Meals for everybody are served at the Nimpo Restaurant on the highway.

Single travellers – Your fare includes a single room at the Coast Fraser Inn in Williams Lake. In Nimpo Lake, singles share the large log cabins, so you have your own private bedroom, and you share the bathroom, living room, and deck overlooking the lake. **Only 7 single spots are available on this tour**, so early booking is recommended if you prefer to travel single.



Floatplane on Nimpo Lake

TWEEDSMUIR PARK FLIGHTS ON AUGUST 14

We board chartered floatplanes to explore Tweedsmuir Park. **There are 2 flight options today.** At the time of booking, please choose the one best suited to your mobility. Note that you must be able to climb 3 ladder-like steps (with assistance) to get into the planes. Both flights see the awesome **Hunlen Falls** which plunges 400 metres and is Canada's highest waterfall, measured as a continuous drop. In the valley below is **Lonesome Lake** and the remote abandoned homestead of the famous pioneer, Ralph Edwards, about whom three books have been written, including *Crusoe of Lonesome Lake*. Then we fly into the Talchako Range where dozens of tumbling glaciers cling to sheer cliffs, icebergs float around glacial lakes, and the vast **Monarch Icefields** stretch to the horizon. The next spectacle is the **Rainbow Range** where eruptions eight million years ago created a huge shield volcano and lava flows with brilliant colours.

Flight #1 (Hunlen Falls landing, Monarch Icefields, Rainbow Range) – Your plane lands at Turner Lake, then you walk on a trail for about 40 mins to the view of Hunlen Falls (at least 1¼ hours round trip). The last 15 mins of walking is uphill to the falls viewpoint. After 2½ hours stop, you get back on the plane and fly over the Monarch Icefields and Rainbow Range. Total trip time is about 4¼ hours. This flight option is rated as "Activity Level 3" due to the Hunlen Falls walk (the rest of the tour is Level 2). Please add \$60 to the tour fare for this option.

Flight #2 (Hunlen Falls flyover, Monarch Icefields, Rainbow Range) – Your plane flies over and circles Hunlen Falls, but does not land. You get good views of the falls from either side of the plane. Afterwards, you fly over the Monarch Icefields and the Rainbow Range. Total trip time is about 2 hours, all in the plane. This flight is included in the tour fare.

Option #3 (no flight) – If you prefer not to fly, there is a fare reduction of \$295 per person.

TOUR NOTES

Why doesn't this tour stay in Bella Coola? After many years of running this tour using the ferry from Port Hardy to Bella Coola, we had to make a major change for 2024. Accommodation is very limited in Bella Coola. The only hotel is rundown and does not meet Wells Gray standards. Two small lodges are fully-booked with long-term guests. Since the ferry arrives about 6 pm, it would be necessary to stay in Bella Coola, otherwise it is a 2-hour drive to the nearest accommodation. So Wells Gray planners have rearranged this itinerary to drive both ways on Highway #20 from Williams Lake and we are staying 3 nights at Nimpo Lake. A day trip on August 13 with a local guide visits most of the attractions of the Bella Coola Valley. This is a long day with dinner in Hagensborg, but the extended stay at Nimpo Lake makes it seem leisurely.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Nimpo Lake and Bella Coola are very remote and restaurants probably cannot satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

VL 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 18, 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.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$150 discount on the first 8 seats and \$75 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 18, 2025.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 15, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From May 16 to June 18, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From June 19 to July 10, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After July 10, 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.

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: Tour director Pat (Wells Gray Group in 2024, Floatplane, Nimpo Lake), Roland Neave (Hunlen Falls), BC Parks (Rainbow Range), and Sylvia Nicholson (Floatplane on Nimpo Lake).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 70 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 June 18, 2025.

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

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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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