

# BLACK HILLS & YELLOWSTONE

September 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



Yellowstone National Park

So many highlights on this amazing Western USA tour! The first is travelling by train through the Rockies and across Montana. In the Black Hills, we view two incredible mountain carvings, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse; admire the strange formations of Badlands National Park; go underground at Wind Cave; and stroll the historic boardwalks of Deadwood. In Wyoming, we view the soaring Devils Tower and cruise between the lofty cliffs of Bighorn Canyon. Later, we are awed by the erupting geysers, bubbling mud pots, and roaring waterfalls of Yellowstone. We enjoy lively entertainment at Fort Hays Chuckwagon, Dan Miller's Revue, and Cody Cattle Company. The fall foliage of the Black Hills, the brilliant colours of the Badlands, and the multitude of hues around the geyser basins all combine to create a kaleidoscope of colour. We visit 7 national parks and monuments, ranging from famous to obscure. Join Wells Gray Tours for this amazing journey through the wonderlands of Montana, the Dakotas, and Wyoming.



INTERNATIONAL



ACTIVITY LEVEL

## ► Departure from:

① **BC Interior:** September 20, 2025 - 16 days

▼ **Vancouver Island:** September 19, 2025 - 18 days

Ⓛ **Lower Mainland:** September 19, 2025 - 18 days

## ► Fares per person

① from **\$6,975** double/twin, **\$8,940** single\*

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

## ► Early Booking Bonus

**\$300** discount on first 12 seats; **\$150** on next 8.

## ► Earn 163 Experience Points



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 on Saturday, September 20 and travel east across Rogers Pass to Fairmont Hot Springs. We drive home from Spokane on Sunday, October 5. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.
- 
- V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Friday, September 19 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW, conveniently located near the airport. We continue on the main coach the following day. We return to Kelowna on Sunday, October 5 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW again. Flights from Kelowna to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox will be arranged for Monday, October 6.
- Departure from Victoria:** For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. 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 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.
- Departure from Up-island:** No transportation to/from these airports is 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 Nanaimo or Comox departure when booking.
- 
- L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Friday, September 19 and fly from Vancouver to Kelowna and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW, conveniently located near the airport. We continue on the main coach the following day. We return to Kelowna on Sunday, October 5 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW again. Flights from Kelowna to Vancouver will be arranged for Monday, October 6. Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.
- Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack:** No transportation is provided to/from Vancouver Airport.

## FARES PER PERSON

|          | Departure Point         | Fares per Person  | Notes                  |
|----------|-------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>I</b> | <b>BC Interior</b>      | \$6,975 double/twin<br>\$8,940 single<br>\$6,370 triple |                        |
| <b>V</b> | <b>Vancouver Island</b> | \$7,695 double/twin<br>\$9,815 single<br>\$7,055 triple | • Please add 0.2% GST. |
| <b>L</b> | <b>Lower Mainland</b>   | \$7,660 double/twin<br>\$9,780 single<br>\$7,020 triple |                        |



# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

- ① **31 total:** 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 5 dinners
- ✓ **33 total:** 17 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 5 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 16 days
- ✓ **L** Transfers to Victoria or Vancouver Airport from the Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver Area
- ✓ **L** Flight to/from Kelowna from/to Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox
- ✓ **L** Current air taxes, fees, & fuel surcharges
  - Amtrak train from Whitefish to Glasgow, MT

## ▶ Accommodation

- ① 15 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- ✓ **L** 17 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
  - Luggage handling at most hotels

## ▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & boat crew

## ▶ Key Highlights

- Fairmont Hot Springs pools
- Cranbrook History Centre
- Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Locally-guided tour of Roosevelt Park
- Badlands National Park

- Wall Drug Shopping Experience
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- Black Hills Central Railroad
- Rushmore Borglum Historical Center
- Wind Cave National Park & caverns tour
- Mammoth Site
- Journey Museum
- Fort Hays Chuckwagon dinner & entertainment
- Devils Tower National Monument
- Bighorn Canyon cruise
- Buffalo Bill Center of the West (5 museums)
- Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue
- Cody Cattle Company music show
- Buffalo Bill Dam
- Yellowstone National Park
- Old Faithful Inn
- Film *Yellowstone* at Giant Screen Theatre
- Grizzly Discovery Center
- Locally-guided historic tour of Butte
- Copper King Mansion tour
- Our Lady of the Rockies film
- Cataldo Mission

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

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director







# ITINERARY

## Friday, September 19

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

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

## Saturday, September 20

We travel east across Rogers Pass through Glacier National Park, then south along the Rocky Mountain Trench to **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort**. Tonight, soak in the hot pool where the water temperature ranges from 104 to 110 degrees F. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

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

**Accommodation:** Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

## Sunday, September 21

We take a guided tour of the Cranbrook History Centre which features a wonderful collection of railroad passenger cars including the 1927 Strathcona, the 1907 Curzon plus 11 other restored cars. Continuing south, we cross the border into Montana and stay overnight in **Whitefish**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hampton Inn

## Monday, September 22

We board **Amtrak's Empire Builder train** in Whitefish and follow the Middle Fork of the Flathead River east through the Montana Rockies, bordering **Glacier National Park** (in the US). At Marias Pass, we top the Continental Divide at 1,580 metres. For the rest of the day, we cross the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the plains of northern Montana. Meanwhile, our driver takes the empty coach (conveniently carrying our luggage so we don't have to handle it on/off the train) and meets us at Glasgow in eastern Montana.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Box lunch

**Accommodation:** Cottonwood Inn

## Tuesday, September 23

**Fort Peck Dam** stretches across the Missouri River for six km and backs up a reservoir that is 216 km long. We stop at the Interpretive Center which tells the story of construction during the 1930s. We enter North Dakota and a local guide conducts a drive through **Theodore Roosevelt National Park**. It is dedicated to President Roosevelt, a one-time resident who devoted his efforts to conserving the Dakota Badlands. We stay the night in Medora.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Rough Rider Hotel or Badlands Motel

## Wednesday, September 24

We head south through the Little Missouri National Grassland and past White Butte, highest point in North Dakota. **Welcome to the Black Hills of South Dakota!** The region has many natural and man-made attractions, and we spend the next four days exploring. We arrive about noon in **Deadwood**, a fascinating town born from a gold rush in 1874 when its population quickly soared to 5,000 people. The entire town is a National Historic Landmark District due to its well-preserved architecture. The afternoon is free time to stroll the boardwalks and browse the shops.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Four Points Hotel, Deadwood

## ITINERARY continued

### Thursday, September 25

An amazing shopping experience awaits at **Wall Drug**, a family-run store which covers over an acre and sells almost anything. In the 1930s, founder Ted Husted erected billboards along the highways advertising free ice water, and today two million people visit Wall Drug each year and the ice water is still free. In the afternoon, we explore **Badlands National Park** which contains spectacular examples of erosion and the fossils of many creatures. We stay three nights in Rapid City.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Doubletree Hotel Rapid City Downtown

### Friday, September 26

The day is devoted to touring the Black Hills. First, we view the famous gigantic carvings of the heads of four Presidents at **Mount Rushmore**, completed by Gutzon Borglum between 1927 and 1941. Next, we visit **Crazy Horse** where a mountain is presently being carved into a giant memorial to Native Americans. The work has been in progress for 70 years and is still far from complete. At the Black Hills Central Railroad, we ride in antique cars pulled by an 1880s steam locomotive. Lastly, we watch an interpretive film at the Rushmore Borglum Historical Center.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Doubletree Hotel Rapid City Downtown

### Saturday, September 27

This morning, we explore the caverns and passages of the exquisite **Wind Cave**. At Hot Springs, we see the Mammoth Site where dozens of prehistoric bones have been unearthed and archeological discoveries are continuing. Next, we take a high-tech trip through 2½ billion years of Black Hills history at the Journey Museum. Dinner with entertainment is included at the **Fort Hays Chuckwagon**.

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

**Accommodation:** Doubletree Hotel Rapid City Downtown

### Sunday, September 28

We start heading west, skirting the northern part of the Black Hills and entering Wyoming. **Devils Tower National Monument** is a volcanic landmark, composed of beautiful fluted columns, that soars 386 metres. The 1977 movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was partly filmed at Devils Tower and brought great fame to the site. We stay overnight in Buffalo.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Surestay Plus Hotel

### Monday, September 29

After crossing the mountains via scenic rural roads, we enjoy a two-hour cruise among the lofty cliffs of **Bighorn Canyon**. This once-wild river was tamed by Yellowtail Dam in 1967. We stay two nights in Cody.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn Cody



Devils Tower National Monument



## ITINERARY continued

- Tuesday, September 30** Cody's **Buffalo Bill Center of the West** is a huge complex of five museums featuring artifacts of the American West. The museums are the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Plains Indians Museum, the Whitney Western Art Museum, the Draper Natural History Museum, and the Cody Firearms Museum. Founded in 1917 by Cornelius Whitney to preserve the legacy of Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, this is the oldest and most comprehensive museum complex in the West. All this in the little town of Cody, population 10,000! Some people claim that it takes two days to see everything, but we only have today! Two shows are offered today – **Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue** followed by dinner and a live music show at the **Cody Cattle Company**.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn Cody
- Wednesday, October 1** Leaving Cody, we stop at the Buffalo Bill Dam in Shoshone Canyon which is 110 metres tall. Entering **Yellowstone National Park**, the United States' oldest national park, we visit several highlights of this renowned park. We walk the shore of huge Yellowstone Lake, and admire awesome **Yellowstone Falls** and the colourful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. We stroll the boardwalks of **Norris Geyser Basin** with its many fumaroles, bubbling mud pots, and spouts. Two days are devoted to the wonders of Yellowstone, and we stay two nights at West Yellowstone.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Yellowstone Park Hotel
- Thursday, October 2** Yellowstone's most famous attraction has been saved to today – **Old Faithful**. Eruptions of this renowned geyser occur about every hour, so we gather on the boardwalk to wait and watch this extraordinary spectacle. Lunch is included at the iconic Old Faithful Inn, built in 1904 and noted for its amazing log craftsmanship. Other stops today are the Fountain Paint Pots and Grand Prismatic Spring.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Yellowstone Park Hotel
- Friday, October 3** We watch the thrilling Imax film *Yellowstone* on a giant screen, then visit the **Grizzly Discovery Center**, home to bears and wolves. At Three Forks, we see three rivers come together to form the mighty Missouri River. **Butte** has been nicknamed "richest hill on earth" for its vast mine workings that started in 1864. The city's entire Uptown District is on the National Register of Historic Places and contains over 5,000 properties. With the benefit of a local guide, we take a historical tour of Butte, admiring its many remarkable buildings such as **Copper King Mansion**, and stopping at the infamous Berkley Open Pit. We also watch a film about Our Lady of the Rockies statue on a nearby mountaintop.
- Meals included:** Breakfast  
**Accommodation:** Best Western Butte Plaza Inn
- Saturday, October 4** We follow the Clark Fork River west through Missoula, then across the panhandle of Idaho. A stop is made at historic **Cataldo Mission**, Idaho's oldest building. Tonight is spent at Spokane's splendid Davenport Hotel which opened in 1914 at a cost of \$3 million and was soon famous around the world for its luxury and amenities. For 70 years, the Davenport hosted the world's elite, but it fell on hard times and closed in 1985. It reopened in 2002 after a \$38 million renovation and has become the centrepiece of downtown Spokane. A farewell dinner is planned at the nearby Steam Plant Grill.
- Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Davenport Hotel

## ITINERARY continued

### Sunday, October 5

We drive across the volcanic plateaux of central Washington past immense Grand Coulee Dam. At the border, there is a stop at the Duty Free Store, then passengers from the BC Interior travel home, and passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland overnight in Kelowna.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:**   Hampton Inn YLW

### Monday, October 6

Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland fly home.

**Meals included:**   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 from stony trails to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. The maximum altitude is about 2,500 metres. Luggage handling service is not available at hotels in Medora and Cody, and there could be others where you need to handle your own luggage.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. 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. 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 40

This tour can accommodate 40 participants.

## TOUR NOTES

**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, 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.

**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 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. This applies to the three music shows in the Black Hills and Cody.

**Please book early!** The Black Hills and Yellowstone Park are very popular tourist destinations. Some hotels have strict policies about our commitment to the number of rooms needed and will cancel rooms from our original reservation if they can sell the rooms to other visitors. If this happens, we have to consider the tour full, even though seats are available on the motorcoach. Therefore, waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait till next year."

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



# TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due July 16, 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).

**Early Booking Bonus:** Receive a \$300 discount on the first 12 seats and \$150 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 16, 2025.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 16, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 17 to July 16, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From July 17 to August 15, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 15, there is no refund.

**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.

**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. 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. Please do not travel to the USA without medical insurance as a minimum.

**Photo Credits:** Pixabay (Yellowstone National Park, Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial), Wikimedia (Deadwood), and Pexels (Devils Tower National Monument).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 163 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 16, 2025.

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

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[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://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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