

KATHAUMIXW CHORAL FESTIVAL

June 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**
a world to experience



Attend one of Canada's top choral events on the Sunshine Coast!

International Choral Kathaumixw has taken place every two years since its founding in Powell River in 1984. Choirs from around the world participate and compete for awards in front of a distinguished international jury. The event takes place over 5 days with 18 concerts in 3 venues and 8 performances are included. The Gala Closing Concert usually has a massed choir with over 1,000 voices, a truly spectacular triumph of choral skills. In addition to these performances, the tour includes several other activities – a self-guided heritage walking tour in Powell River, a guided nature walk, the Farmers' Market, and a 5-hour cruise in the pristine beauty of Desolation Sound.



SHOW TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

1 **BC Interior:** June 30, 2025 - 7 Days

► Fares per person

1 from **\$2,770** double/twin, **\$3,310** single*

*Further pricing details provided on page 2.

► Earn 65 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 will begin and end the tour as follows:

- I BC Interior:** We depart from the BC Interior on Monday, June 30 and stay overnight in New Westminster at the Inn at the Quay. We travel home from the Sunshine Coast on Sunday, July 6. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares Per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$2,770 double/twin \$3,310 single \$2,595 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add 5% GST. • This tour can only accommodate 6 singles.

Powell River

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **10 total:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale & return
- Ferry across Jervis Inlet & return

▶ Accommodation

- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at Inn at the Quay

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Highlights

- Kathaumixw Gala Opening Concert
- Choice of five concerts over 3 days
- Powell River heritage townsite self-guided tour
- Desolation Sound cruise
- qathet Museum
- Kathaumixw Awards Concert
- Nature and historical guided walk
- Kathaumixw Gala Closing Concert

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

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for guides & crew on boat tour



ITINERARY

Monday, June 30

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.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Tuesday, July 1

We ride a morning ferry from Horseshoe Bay across Howe Sound to Langdale. Welcome to the Sunshine Coast! Another ferry crosses Jervis Inlet to Saltery Bay, then we drive into **Powell River** for a stay of five nights at the oceanfront Beach Gardens Resort. The hotel has a splendid setting overlooking Malaspina Strait and every room has an ocean view with a balcony. Happy Canada Day! After the Powell River schedule is decided, we can participate in an event and a Canada Day dinner is planned. The **Gala Opening Concert** of International Choral Kathaumixw starts at 8 pm in the Great Hall. During the weeks prior, the Powell River community arena is transformed into a concert hall with excellent acoustics and the ability to accommodate over 1,000 singers.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Wednesday, July 2

Enjoy the historic townsite of Powell River during a self-guided **walking tour**. Lunch is at the Shingle Mill Bistro, overlooking Powell Lake. At 3 pm, there are three concerts simultaneously at the Evergreen Theatre, Max Cameron Theatre, and James Hall. Each concert typically features three choirs. The schedule listing participating choirs will be published in the spring of 2025. Transportation is provided to all three venues. Three more concerts, each with three different choirs, start at 8 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Thursday, July 3

We drive to the end of Highway 101 at Lund which is the jumping-off point for boat excursions into **Desolation Sound**. British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snowcapped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain George Vancouver saw it differently in 1792 when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our four-hour cruise from Lund has a flexible route and the captain decides where to go based on wildlife sightings. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allows the boat to enter narrow passages. The vessel has indoor seating and a restroom. We are back in Powell River in time for you to attend one of the 3 pm concerts. Three more concerts, each with three different choirs, start at 8 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

ITINERARY continued

Friday, July 4

The morning is free time if you wish or you can visit the **qathet Museum** which offers inspiring exhibits about First Nations. Choose one of three concerts at 3 pm. The choirs are different than those on Wednesday and Thursday. Tonight is the **Awards Concert** in the Great Hall, featuring performances by First Place Choirs and Soloists.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Saturday, July 5

The morning is free time and transfers are provided into downtown if you wish to browse the shops. The Farmers' Market operates this morning. During the afternoon, a **guided nature walk** is conducted at Willingdon Beach by the Museum. Tonight is the **Gala Closing Concert**, featuring the Choir of the World and the spectacular massed choir with over 1,000 voices.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Sunday, July 6

We head home along the Sunshine Coast and the Coquihalla.

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 and climb two flights of stairs without assistance. The ramp onto the dock for the cruise can be steep at low tide. There is no luggage handling service at the Beach Gardens Resort.

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 30

This tour is limited to 30 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.





INTERNATIONAL CHORAL KATHAUMIXW

The idea of Kathaumixw was born because Don James, music director of the Powell River Academy of Music, wanted to establish an international choral festival in North America that would be on par with festivals that the Academy Choirs had experienced in Europe. With his friend Dal Matterson and a group of close friends, they successfully organized the first International Choral Kathaumixw in 1984. What happened next was beyond anyone's expectations. Since the first festival, attended by about 400 singers, International Choral Kathaumixw has taken place every two years. The festival almost doubled in size in 1986 and developed a definite international flavour in 1988. Today, more than 1,200 singers from around the world gather to share their music, culture, and friendship. Kathaumixw is a Coast Salish word meaning "a gathering together of different peoples". It is pronounced ka-THOU-mew.

Kathaumixw has been a breeding ground for musical talent and innovation. Several works have been commissioned for festivals over the years, including staged choral works by Canadian and foreign composers. The festival features Artists in Residence, internationally renowned soloists, orchestras, and a distinguished international jury.

The success of Kathaumixw is due to its volunteers and committee members who work for months in advance, organizing the venues, registering choirs from all over the world, and planning meals, transportation, and homestays. Many local people open their homes and welcome foreign visitors during Kathaumixw week.

TOUR NOTES

With thousands of visitors in Powell River this week, accommodation is at a premium and Wells Gray Tours booked your rooms a year in advance.

To ensure that no beds in the town are empty this week, single rooms are extremely limited.

Please arrange to travel with a friend if possible, or we can help partner you with somebody.

Please book early! We were fortunate to get 20 rooms confirmed at the Beach Gardens Resort because we bring other tours to Powell River. However, if these rooms are unsold for a long time, they may be recalled

and it is very unlikely that we can get them back for later bookings.

The Kathaumixw schedule of events will be posted on its website (www.kathaumixw.org) in spring 2025. Before final payment, you will be asked to choose which five concerts out of 15 offered over 3 days (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) you wish to attend. The package includes those five, plus the Gala Opening Concert, Awards Concert, and Gala Closing Concert. Coach transfers are provided between the hotel and concert venues for all afternoon and evening events.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$250 per person is requested at the time of booking and 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.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 31, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From April 1 to May 8, the cancellation charge is \$250 per person (your deposit). From May 9 to May 29, the cancellation charge is 60% of tour fare. After May 29, 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.

Show cancellation: It rarely happens, but some mishap could cause the cancellation of a performance. This can occur even an hour before the performance begins. We know that this would be extremely disappointing for our customers, but the only refund we may 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.

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.

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 (Powell River), International Choral Kathaumixw (page 5 choir photo), tour director Pat (all others).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 65 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

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NO WORRIES!

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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