

NEW ORLEANS & CAJUN COUNTRY

October 2025

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Oak Alley

Fall in Love with New Orleans & Louisiana

The state of Louisiana is divided into five distinct regions, and you experience three on this vacation. New Orleans is one of the great cities of the western world, not a place you simply visit, but one you fall in love with during four nights staying in the vibrant French Quarter. The cultural riches, sensual indulgences, and unparalleled service that define the New Orleans experience still flourish. History comes to life in Plantation Country as you travel back to the 1800s and the days of sprawling antebellum plantations. Visit Laura and Oak Alley, two of the most famous plantation mansions. During three days exploring Cajun Country, experience the peaceful bayous where French Canadians settled and forever changed the landscape and culture of the state. Take a swamp boat trip, hear the Evangeline story, tour the Tabasco Factory, and enjoy the Soko Music Experience.



INTERNATIONAL



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** October 13, 2025 - 11 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** October 13, 2025 - 11 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** October 13, 2025 - 11 days

▶ Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$5,760** double/twin, **\$6,785** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

\$250 discount on first 12 seats; **\$125** on next 8.

▶ Earn 128 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 travel to Seattle on Monday, October 13 and overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. We fly to New Orleans the following day. We fly to Seattle from New Orleans on Wednesday, October 22. We return home from Seattle on Thursday, October 23. Transportation is provided from your pickup point to on the day of departure, and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We travel to Seattle on Monday, October 13 and overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. We fly to New Orleans the following day. We fly to Seattle from New Orleans on Wednesday, October 22. We return home from Seattle on Thursday, October 23.

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: There is an additional cost for clients who wish to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox Airport on this tour. Transportation is not provided to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport. 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 travel to Seattle on Monday, October 13 and overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. We fly to New Orleans the following day. We fly to Seattle from New Orleans on Wednesday, October 22. We return home from Seattle on Thursday, October 23. Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: Pickup and drop off is by the main coach. Please refer to the BC Interior tour fares below.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$5,760 double/twin \$6,785 single \$5,470 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour is exempt from GST. • There is an additional cost to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.
V Vancouver Island	\$5,960 double/twin \$6,985 single \$5,670 triple	
L Lower Mainland	\$5,795 double/twin \$6,820 single \$5,510 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **14 total:** 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
- **13 total:** 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transportation to Seattle airport & return from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flight from Seattle to New Orleans & return
- Current air taxes & security fees
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from New Orleans Airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Louisiana for 7 days

▶ Accommodation

- 10 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels

▶ Key Highlights

- Locally-guided walking tour of French Quarter
- Coffee & beignets at Café du Monde
- Locally-guided driving tour of New Orleans
- Flooded House Museum
- Mississippi River cruise on Sternwheeler Natchez with lunch & music

- Mardi Gras World
- New Orleans School of Cooking class
- Drink & music at Fritzel's Jazz Pub
- Historic tour of Laura Plantation
- Historic tour of Oak Alley Plantation
- Local guide for 3 days in Cajun Country
- Rip Van Winkle Gardens
- St. Martinville Church
- Evangeline Mighty Oak
- Longfellow State Park
- Soko Music Experience
- Swamp & wildlife tour on pontoon boat
- Tabasco Factory tour
- Jungle Gardens
- Konriko Rice Mill
- Shadows-on-the-Teche Mansion
- Alexandre Mouton Mansion
- Vermilionville Acadian Village
- Rural Life Museum

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

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for Louisiana guides & drivers

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

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.

There is a walking tour of the French Quarter and walking to attractions on uneven pavement on October 15 and 16, maximum 6 blocks or less than 1 km. Coaches are not allowed in the French Quarter except for arrival and departure days with luggage, so there is a one block walk between the hotel and coach. Touring the historic mansions usually requires some stairs and standing. There can be longer walks at the airports in Seattle and New Orleans.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coaches 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.



Bourbon Street

ITINERARY

Monday, October 13

We travel to Seattle for an overnight stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. Meet your fellow travellers during tonight's reception.

Meals included: ① Lunch

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

Tuesday, October 14

We fly to **New Orleans**. Welcome to Louisiana! Our coach meets us at the airport. We stay four nights at the Wyndham Hotel, located in the French Quarter on Royal Street and a block off Canal Street. It has a restaurant, free Wi-Fi, indoor pool, and fitness centre.

Accommodation: Wyndham Hotel

Wednesday, October 15

This morning, a local guide takes us on a walking tour of the **French Quarter** where we hear the fascinating 300-year history of characters who built this city. Some highlights are the Spanish Quarter, St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square (where the original Louisiana Purchase is housed), Louis Armstrong Park, and **Bourbon Street**. After this walk, everyone gets a voucher to enjoy, at your leisure, a New Orleans tradition of coffee and beignets at Café du Monde. There is free time for lunch at the Historic French Market. Then we board the coach for a drive around the city with a local guide: Audubon Park; **St. Louis Cemetery**, an above-ground cemetery known for its voodoo history; elegant **St. Charles Avenue**, lined with gracious mansions and trees; Tulane and Loyola Universities; Flooded House Museum which shows the devastating effect of Hurricane Katrina; and the central business district beside the Mississippi River. Dinner is included at **Court of Two Sisters** in the French Quarter. The two sisters, Emma and Bertha Camors, born in 1858 and 1860, belonged to a proud and aristocratic Creole family. Their "rabais" or notions outfitted many of the city's elite women with formal gowns, lace, and perfumes imported from Paris.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Wyndham Hotel

Thursday, October 16

At 11 am, we board the **Natchez Riverboat**, one of the few sternwheeler vessels left on the Mississippi River. There is a jazz band on board, calliope music, and a buffet lunch. During the two-hour cruise, we pass downtown high rises, the Domino Sugar Refinery, and the site of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. The mighty Mississippi rises in northern Minnesota and flows generally south for 3,730 km to the Gulf of Mexico. With its many tributaries, the Mississippi's watershed drains all or parts of 32 states and two provinces, and is the second longest river in North America. Next, we visit **Mardi Gras World**, the famous float-making studio where 90% of the floats used in New Orleans' Mardi Gras parades are built. We tour the many carnival dens and observe artists and sculptors as they create the world's largest fleet of floats. Tonight, we attend **New Orleans School of Cooking** for a demonstration of the taste of Louisiana, Cajun and Creole, and recipes are provided. Our host entertains us with history, tall tales, and trivia.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Wyndham Hotel

ITINERARY continued

Friday, October 17

New Orleans has so much to offer and we have selected some highlights for the last two days. This is a free day to enjoy some other attractions or experiences. Suggestions are the National World War II Museum, the Audubon Aquarium, or a tour inside the Superdome. Tonight, we gather at Fritzel's European Jazz Pub for a drink with music.

Accommodation: Wyndham Hotel

Saturday October 18

Today is devoted to learning about life in rural Louisiana, from the perspectives of both the wealthy and the workers. Step back in time as we enter **Plantation Country** which borders the Mississippi River and features splendid plantation homes and sugar cane fields at every turn. Our first stop is **Laura Plantation**, once owned by one of the early Creole settlers. The house was built in 1805 and is surrounded by 12 Historic Register buildings. West African folktales of Br'er Rabbit were first recorded in the slave cabins. **Oak Alley Plantation**, the Grand Dame of the River Road, is next. A 400-metre-long canopy of giant live oak trees, believed to be 300 years old, forms an impressive avenue leading to the classic Greek-revival style antebellum home. Lunch is included on the grounds, followed by the house tour. Afterwards, we head west via I-10 on the 30-km long bridge across the Atchafalaya Swamp, leading to Lafayette where we stay four nights.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Comfort Suites

Sunday, October 19

A local guide joins us for the next three days while we tour **Cajun Country**. We learn about the Cajuns who settled in Louisiana after their deportation from Nova Scotia and retained a unique dialect of the French language. Here they joined exiled French aristocrats fleeing the French Revolution and their Louisiana born, called Creoles. The meeting of Acadian and Creole cultures was made famous by Henry Wadsworth **Longfellow's poem Evangeline**. Some of the sites visited are Rip Van Winkle Gardens, St. Martinville Church, 500-year old Evangeline Mighty Oak, and Longfellow State Park. At **Soko Music Experience**, Yvette Landry brings Cajun culture to life. Listen to musicians perform ancestral tunes covering multiple genres such as Cajun, Creole, Juré, and Swamp Pop, and learn about their instruments. Hear stories of the people who influenced the food, music, and language. Later, we take a pontoon boat trip through a **cypress swamp**. Floating among trees draped with Spanish Moss, we watch for alligators, turtles, egrets, and many other native bird and animal species.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Comfort Suites

Monday, October 20

Today's focus is on the New Iberia area. We visit the **Tabasco Factory** which makes the famous hot sauce. When Ned McIlhenny took over his father's Tabasco company in 1898, he was an Arctic explorer, naturalist, and conservationist, and he set aside a bird sanctuary on Avery Island to protect the endangered snowy egret. He created **Jungle Gardens** in 1935 and today we can marvel at a vast collection of 400 varieties of camellias, 100 types of azaleas, 50 kinds of juniper, and 1,000 varieties of iris. Later, we visit the Konriko Rice Mill, now a century old and the oldest rice mill in the USA. Our last stop is **Shadows-on-the-Teche**, built in 1834 and formerly a working sugar cane plantation.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Comfort Suites

Tuesday, October 21

In the morning, we visit a family-owned grocery store featuring Louisiana products and a nursery specializing in plants that flourish in Louisiana. We also walk through the **Alexandre Mouton Mansion** which was the home of the first Democratic Governor of Louisiana in the 1840s. At **Vermilionville**, we explore an Acadian

ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, October 21
continued

village of living history with seven restored buildings dating to 1765. A Cajun farewell dinner is held at Bon Temps.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation: Comfort Suites

Wednesday, October 22

In **Baton Rouge**, we visit the **Rural Life Museum** which has 24 buildings displaying folk architecture, tools, furniture, and farming equipment of the diverse cultures that settled and farmed pre-industrial Louisiana. It is an hour's drive to New Orleans Airport, then we fly to Seattle.

Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation: Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

Thursday, October 23

We travel home. Stops are made at Bellis Fair Mall and the Duty Free store for those travelling by coach.

Meals included: Breakfast

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

by Terri Lynn, Kamloops

I fell back in time while touring the antebellum plantation homes when life was simpler, and fashion meant dressing from head to toe. Being surrounded by my Wells Gray Tours family healed my broken heart after a glimpse into the life of master and slave and hearing their stories.

New Orleans is best known for the Mardi Gras carnival. At Mardi Gras World, you need to eat the decadent King Cake and chat with the artists as their imagination comes to life in the elaborate parade floats. We spent our evenings feeling the beat of jazz music on Bourbon Street and indulging in New Orleans' signature beverage – the hurricane.

You are never far from the mouthwatering aroma of Creole and Cajun cuisine as you travel through this unique itinerary. You really will "Fall in Love with Louisiana."





Wells Gray Group in Lafayette

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$655 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights between Seattle and New Orleans. First Class may be available.

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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. 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.

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 7, 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 \$250 discount on the first 12 seats and \$125 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 7, 2025.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 7, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 8 to August 7, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From August 8 to September 8, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 8, 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, 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.

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES continued

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: Adobe Stock (Oak Alley), Pixabay (Jackson Square, Natchez Sternwheeler), Unsplash (Bourbon Street), Terri Lynn (Avery Island), and tour director Pat (Wells Gray Group in Lafayette).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 128 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 August 7, 2025.

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



Natchez Sternwheeler

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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