

# THANKSGIVING ON THE ISLAND

October 2025



Parksville

## Salt Spring, Chemainus & Parksville

Artisans and specialty producers abound in the Gulf Islands and on Vancouver Island. World-class crafters are drawn here by the laid back idyllic lifestyle, and they stay because they find a vibrant market for their products. The seaside village of Ganges is a focal point for unique shops, highlighted by its Saturday Market. Chemainus has numerous craft shops, galleries, and dozens of murals. In Parksville, we stay at an oceanfront hotel and visit attractions such as Cathedral Grove, Englishman River Falls, and Coombs Market. A show at Chemainus Theatre is included – *Home to Roost*. Happy Thanksgiving with Wells Gray Tours!



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ▶ Departure from

- 📍 **BC Interior:** October 9, 2025 - 7 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** October 10, 2025 - 6 days

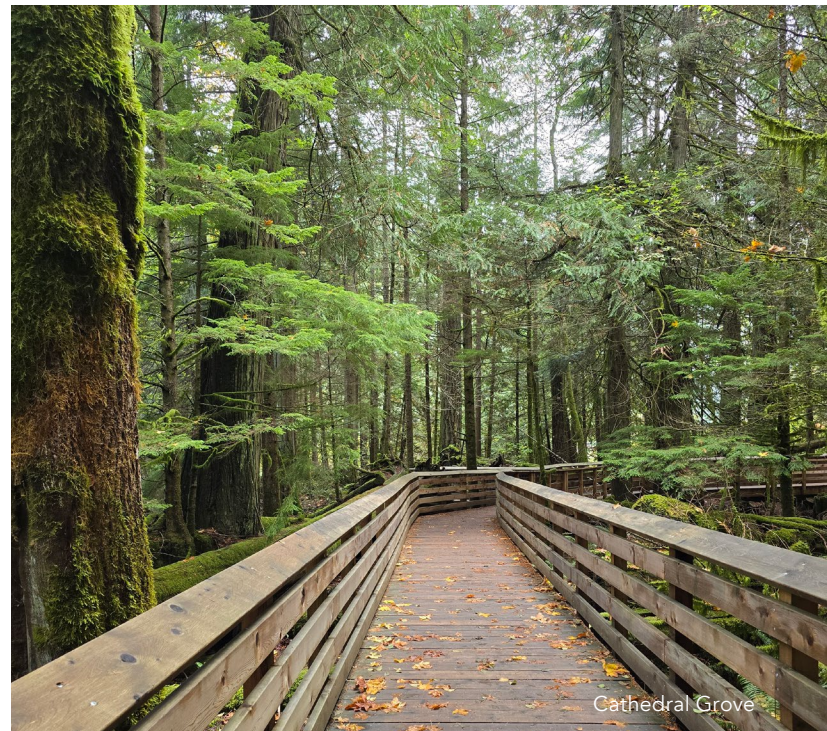
### ▶ Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$2,490** double, **\$2,975** single\*
- \*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

### ▶ Early Booking Bonus

**\$100** discount on first 12 seats; **\$50** on next 8.

### ▶ Earn 62 Experience Points



Cathedral Grove

**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 Thursday, October 9, and drive to Vancouver, where we stay overnight downtown. We take the ferry to Salt Spring Island the following day. We return home on Wednesday, October 15, from Parksville. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.

**L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Friday, October 10, and take the ferry to Salt Spring Island. We return home on Wednesday, October 15, from Parksville. 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 are by the main coach. Please refer to the BC Interior tour fares and dates.

## FARES PER PERSON

Goats on the Roof at Coombs Market

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
<b>I</b>	<b>BC Interior</b>	<b>\$2,590</b> double/twin <b>\$3,195</b> single <b>\$2,440</b> triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please add 5% GST.</li> <li>• <b>BC Seniors (65 &amp; over):</b> \$16 discount with BC Services Card.</li> </ul>
<b>L</b>	<b>Lower Mainland</b>	<b>\$2,490</b> double/twin <b>\$2,975</b> single <b>\$2,365</b> triple	

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### ▶ Meals

- I 12 total:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- L 11 total:** 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners

### ▶ Transportation

- I** Coach transportation for 7 days
- L** Coach transportation for 6 days
  - Ferry from Tsawwassen to Salt Spring Island
  - Ferry from Salt Spring Island to Crofton
  - Ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen

### ▶ Accommodation

- I** 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- L** 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
  - Luggage handling at most hotels

### ▶ Highlights

- Salt Spring Wild Cider tour
- Ruckle Point Provincial Park
- Ganges Saturday Market
- *Home to Roost* at Chemainus Theatre
- Pacific Northwest Raptors Centre
- Merridale Cidery tour
- Cathedral Grove & Englishman River Falls
- Coombs Market

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

### ▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & tastings

### ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director



Wells Gray Travellers in 2024 at Coombs Market

## ITINERARY

### Thursday, October 9

Passengers from the BC Interior travel by coach to Vancouver with a lunch stop in Chilliwack. We stay overnight at the Blue Horizon Hotel which has an excellent location on Robson Street surrounded by restaurants and shops. There is a possibility of a show tonight (extra cost) but most Vancouver theatres have not released their fall schedules yet.

**Meals included:** ① Lunch

**Accommodation:** ① Blue Horizon Hotel

### Friday, October 10

Passengers from Vancouver join us this morning. We board a ferry at Tsawwassen for a three-hour voyage into the **Gulf Islands**. Brief stops are made at Galiano, Mayne, and Pender Islands, then we disembark at Long Harbour on **Salt Spring Island**. Our first stop is at Salt Spring Wild Cider which makes artisanal craft ciders from the heritage apples and pears that grow here. We continue to Ruckle Park and enjoy a stroll along the beach. We stay two nights in Ganges, the only town on Salt Spring Island.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Harbour House Hotel

### Saturday, October 11

Salt Spring Island is home to numerous artisans who practice skills from painting to pottery and many others. The **Saturday Market in Ganges** is a chance to show off their creations and it is well-known for its great variety of offerings, not only arts and crafts, but also local produce, jewellery, photography, fine art, books, and clothing. It's a very busy market, as shoppers come from Vancouver Island and the mainland. The coach cannot move today because of the street closures, but it is less than a 15-minute walk from the hotel to the market. Enjoy a free day and hopefully you can find something you love at the market.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Harbour House Hotel

### Sunday, October 12

We ride the ferry from Salt Spring Island to Crofton on Vancouver Island. There is free time in Chemainus to view its dozens of colourful murals and browse the shops. At noon, we go to **Chemainus Theatre** for a superb buffet lunch followed by a matinee performance of *Home to Roost*. "Sisters, sisters, there were never such devoted sisters!" Glenda and Suzanne enjoy their retirement by selling homemade jam and cherishing visits from Suzanne's adult daughter, Beth. This poignant comedy beautifully captures the essence of family ties as they stretch, strain, yet ultimately weave a fabric of unwavering love and support. A great Thanksgiving show!

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

**Accommodation:** Best Western Chemainus Inn

## ITINERARY continued

### Monday, October 13

Happy Thanksgiving! At the **Pacific Northwest Raptor Centre**, British Columbia's first falconry facility, marvel at the Birds of Prey flying demonstration featuring falcons, eagles, owls, and hawks. Next we go to **Merridale Cidery** to learn about cider craftsmanship as knowledgeable storytellers guide you through the production process. Wander through the cider apple orchard and visit the cellar for a look at traditional methods. Lunch at Merridale is served with cider of course. We stay two nights in Parksville at the Bayside Resort with a beautiful location overlooking the bay. Savour a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

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

**Accommodation:** Bayside Resort Parksville

### Tuesday, October 14

A morning drive near Parksville includes **Coombs Market**, full of interesting shops, and known for the goats grazing on its roof. Nearby sights are Englishman River Falls and the humbling giant trees of Cathedral Grove. The afternoon is leisure time and you may want to stroll the boardwalk along the waterfront.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Bayside Resort Parksville

### Wednesday, October 15

We ride a mid-morning ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen and travel 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.

This tour has short distances to walk such as the parks at Ruckle, Englishman River Falls, and Cathedral Grove. There could be some stairs to reach your theatre seat. The walk from the hotel to the Salt Spring Saturday Market is less than 1 km or 15 mins each way. Be prepared to handle your own luggage at the hotel Parksville. 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.

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 tour days.



### Tour Size 40

This tour can accommodate 40 participants.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due August 20, 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 \$100 discount on the first 12 seats and \$50 on the next 8 seats for booking

early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 20, 2025.

**BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$16 discount offered by BC Ferries. Please bring your BC Services Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to July 8, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From July 9 to August 20, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From August 21 to September 8, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After September 8, there is no refund.

# TOUR POLICIES continued

**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 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, but the only refund we would be able to obtain for you would be the actual ticket price of the show. The hotels, 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:** Adobe Stock (Parksville, Salt Spring Island), tour director Elvia (Cathedral Grove, Wells Gray Travellers in 2024 at Coombs Market), and Coombs Market (Goats on the Roof at Coombs Market).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 62 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 20, 2025.

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

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YOU PACK.  
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[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://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. \_\_\_\_\_

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