

KOOTENAYS HOT SPRINGS & GHOST TOWNS

September 2025



Retired Buses in Sandon

3 Hot Springs & 3 Ghost Towns

This is another of Wells Gray's popular themed tours. During six days in the Kootenays, we relax in the soothing hot springs of Radium, Fairmont, and Ainsworth. In between, we absorb the colourful history of the region while visiting ghost towns such as Retallack and Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap. There are also historic towns with their own fascinating stories like Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson, and Greenwood. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, expert historians in Sandon and Greenwood, 3 nights at Nelson's heritage Hume Hotel, and the 1897 powerhouse at Sandon. We have hired guides at some places to explain the historical details as only a local person can do. Come and join us on this exciting tour with a relaxing and ghostly twist!



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

- 📍 **BC Interior:** September 28, 2025 - 6 days
- 📍 **Vancouver Island:** September 27, 2025 - 8 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** September 27, 2025 - 8 days

▶ Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$2,195** double/twin, **\$2,695** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

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

▶ Earn 51 Experience Points



Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

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 Sunday, September 28 and drive to Three Valley Gap. We return from Nelson on Friday, October 3. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.
-
- V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Saturday, September 27 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna where we overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW. We are picked up by the main coach the following day. We return to Kelowna from Nelson on Friday, October 3 and overnight at the Hampton YLW again before flying home on Saturday, October 4.
- 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:** Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. 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 depart on Saturday, September 27 and fly from Vancouver to Kelowna where we overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW. We are picked up by the main coach the following day. We return to Kelowna from Nelson on Friday, October 3 and overnight at the Hampton YLW again before flying home on Saturday, October 4.
- Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack:** No transportation is provided to/from Vancouver Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$2,195 double/twin \$2,695 single \$2,035 triple	
V	Vancouver Island	\$2,865 double/twin \$3,520 single \$2,670 triple	• Please add 5% GST.
L	Lower Mainland	\$2,815 double/twin \$3,470 single \$2,620 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **11 total:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- **13 total:** 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfers to/from Victoria or Vancouver Airport from the Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver Area
- Flights to/from Kelowna from Victoria, Nanaimo, Comox, or Vancouver
- Current air transportation taxes & fees
 - Coach transportation for 6 days

▶ Accommodation

- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 7 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
 - Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & streetcar

▶ Highlights

- Revelstoke Railway Museum
- Three Valley Gap ghost town, roundhouse & auto museum
- Radium Hot Springs with towel rental
- Fairmont Hot Springs
- Kootenay Lake ferry to Balfour
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon & area
- SS Moyie sternwheeler with guide
- Langham Cultural Centre with Japanese Canadian Museum
- Sandon ghost town tour
- Silversmith Powerhouse Historic Site
- Ride on Nelson's Streetcar #23
- Transportation Museum
- Nelson Museum
- Ainsworth Hot Springs with towel rental
- Greenwood Museum & guide

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

▶ 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 on a guided walking tour is very doable for you without

assistance. Walking tours are conducted at 3 Valley Gap, Kaslo, Sandon, and Greenwood at an easy pace; expect some stairs at SS Moyie, Langham Cultural Centre, and the streetcar.

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 40

This tour can accommodate 40 participants.





ITINERARY

Three Valley Lake Chateau

Saturday, September 27

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

Accommodation:   Hampton Inn YLW

Sunday, September 28

We head through Eagle Pass to Revelstoke and visit the **Railway Museum** which has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the CPR. We stay overnight at **Three Valley Lake Chateau**. The adjoining ghost town is full of authentic buildings moved here from other sites. After exploring the antique auto museum and railway roundhouse, we enjoy a barbecue dinner served in one of the old buildings.

Meals included:  Dinner   Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Three Valley Lake Chateau

Monday, September 29

The journey across **Rogers Pass** through Glacier National Park has many stories about how the CPR conquered the Selkirk Mountains. Learn about the trestles, loops, snowsheds, the Connaught Tunnel, and the luxurious Glacier House. From Golden, we drive along the Columbia River to **Radium Hot Springs** in Kootenay National Park. Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company made the first recorded visit in 1841, bathing in a one-person sized pool dug out of the gravel. It is now Canada's largest hot springs facility with a temperature of 39.5°C or 103°F. A second opportunity to soak up the soothing mineral waters is at **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort** where we stay overnight. As a hotel guest, you have access to the private hot pool near your room. The water temperature ranges from 40 to 43°C (104-110°F) and about 1.4 million gallons of odourless, mineral-rich water flows through the pools daily.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Tuesday, September 30

We travel along the Kootenay River to Cranbrook, then the east shore of **Kootenay Lake** and ride the 'longest free ferry in the world' over to Balfour. We stay three nights at Nelson's **Hume Hotel**, a downtown landmark which opened in 1898.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Wednesday, October 1

A Kootenays historian joins us for the day to provide expert commentary about the many heritage sights. We pass the fabulous **Blaylock Mansion**, built by the president of Cominco in 1934 and sometimes called the finest example of Tudor architecture in North America. In Kaslo, we tour the restored sternwheeler **SS Moyie** which once plied Kootenay Lake. Kaslo was a Japanese internment camp during World War II and the Japanese Canadian Museum in the restored Langham

ITINERARY continued

Wednesday, October 1 continued

Cultural Centre tells the story of 1100 people who were forced to move here from Coastal BC. We pass the ghost towns of Retallack and Three Forks, while following the tortuous route of the once-busy Kaslo & Slocan Railway to reach **Sandon**. In the 1890s, when silver was king, Sandon was a boomtown with a population of 5,000, two newspapers, 24 hotels, 23 saloons, and three railways. It was incorporated as a city in 1898 and remained the soul of the silvery Slocan for half a century. Our guide shares stories of Sandon during a walking tour. The **Silversmith Powerhouse** is a fascinating look back at old technology, now preserved as a Historic Site. Perhaps you can sense the presence of "Headless Eric", Sandon's longtime ghost, who sometimes occupies a rocking chair on his favourite porch.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Thursday, October 2

In Nelson, we ride the restored **Streetcar #23** which was built in 1906, served Nelson residents from 1924 to 1949, then became a dog kennel for 33 years. The Transportation Museum and Nelson Museum are included. This afternoon, we relax at **Ainsworth Hot Springs**. The horseshoe-shaped cave is the hottest at 45.5°C or 114°F and the main lounging pool averages 35.5°C or 96°F. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Friday, October 3

In Grand Forks, we pass the Averill Mansion, built in the Queen Anne style in 1895. **Greenwood** once boasted 7,000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20th century when copper, gold, and silver poured from its smelter. A local guide points out surviving landmarks such as the city hall, courthouse, and smelter chimney. We return to the BC Interior via the Kettle Valley. Passengers from the BC Interior return home. Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland overnight in Kelowna.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

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

Saturday, October 4

Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland fly home.

Meals included: **V****L** Breakfast

TOUR NOTES

Please pack your bathing suit in your carry-on bag on September 29, as Radium Hot Springs is visited during the travelling day. An early dinner is planned at Fairmont Hot Springs, so you can enjoy the hot pools through the evening.

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.

V**L** **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 \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 6, 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 6, 2025.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 4, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From July 5 to August 6, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From August 7 to August 27, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 27, 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: Wikimedia (Retired Buses in Sandon, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Three Valley Lake Chateau, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, and Kootenay Lake Tourism (SS Moyie).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 51 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 6, 2025.

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

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

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