

CRUISING THE GULF ISLANDS

May 2026



Poets Cove Resort

4 nights at Poets Cove with 2 days cruising

Poets Cove is the premier luxury resort in the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with a balcony and spectacular ocean view. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is leisure time for you to enjoy this service. This tour features two full days of cruising in the Gulf Islands on Orca Spirit's *Pacific Explorer*. She is equipped with hydrophones to enhance the underwater experience and a certified marine naturalist with great knowledge and passion for Vancouver Island's marine wildlife is on board. We ride a water taxi over to Salt Spring Island and spend some time in Ganges. Also included is a visit to historic Roesland and the Pender Islands Museum, part of Gulf Islands National Park.

Come and explore the Gulf Islands with the benefits of small vessel cruising and a luxury resort for home base.



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** May 24, 2026 - 7 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** May 25, 2026 - 5 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** May 24, 2026 - 6 days

▶ Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$4,090** double, **\$4,595** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

\$80 discount on first 8 seats; **\$40** on next 6.

▶ Earn 116 Experience Points



Salt Spring Island Market

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

I BC Interior: We travel to Tsawwassen on Sunday, May 24 by coach and take the ferry to Swartz Bay. We return on Saturday, May 30. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart Victoria on Monday, May 25 and return on Friday, May 29.
Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure to the dock at the Coast Victoria Hotel, where we board the *Pacific Explorer*, and back when we return on May 29. 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: Passengers must make their own way to Victoria prior to departure on May 25. You can make your own arrangements for overnight accommodation on May 24 or we can book you at the Coast Victoria Hotel at your expense.

L Lower Mainland: We travel to Tsawwassen on Sunday, May 24 by coach and take the ferry to Swartz Bay. We return on Friday, May 29.

Departure from Vancouver: Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack: Pickup and drop off is by the BC Interior coach. Please refer to the BC Interior dates, pricing, and inclusions. We return home on Saturday, May 30.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares Per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$4,585 double (king bed) \$4,640 twin \$5,330 single	
V	Vancouver Island	\$4,090 double (king bed) \$4,145 twin \$4,595 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• Rooms at Poets Cove have either a king bed or two twin beds.
L	Lower Mainland	\$4,350 double (king bed) \$4,405 twin \$5,010 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- I 12 total:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- V 10 total:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- L 10 total:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners

▶ Transportation

- I L** Coach transportation for 3 days
- I L** 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- V** Transfers to/from Coast Victoria Hotel for passengers in the Greater Victoria Area
 - Water taxi from Pender Island to Salt Spring Island & return

▶ Accommodation

- I** 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- L** 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- V** 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
 - Luggage handling at hotels

▶ Highlights

- 2½ days of cruising on *Pacific Explorer* around the Gulf Islands & San Juan Islands
- Marine naturalist for 2 days on board
- Locally-guided tour of Pender Island sights
- Pender Islands Museum at Roesland
- Gulf Islands National Park
- I** *Come From Away* at Stanley Theatre

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

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for crew on vessels
- Gratuity for Pender Island guide

▶ 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.

You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain including moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. There are steps getting on and off *Pacific Explorer* and the water taxi. The ramps to the boat docks can be steep at low tide. You may need to handle your own luggage at the hotels if luggage service is not available.

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.



Orcas



ITINERARY

Sunday, May 24

Passengers from the BC Interior and Lower Mainland depart today. We drive to Tsawwassen and take the ferry to Swartz Bay. We stay overnight in **Victoria** on the waterfront of the Inner Harbour.

Meals included: ① Lunch

Accommodation: ① ② Coast Victoria Hotel

Monday, May 25

Passengers from Victoria meet us at the dock at the Coast Victoria Hotel. We board the **Pacific Explorer** at the hotel and cruise out of the Inner Harbour. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of **Orca whales** or other marine creatures. We may cross the border to the San Juan Islands (no passport needed, since we don't land). We may cruise along **Spieden Island**, a privately-owned island with a collection of exotic animals. A marine naturalist is with us on board today and tomorrow to spot wildlife and provide commentary about the islands. A box lunch is served on board. After about six hours of splendid Gulf Islands scenery, we enter peaceful Bedwell Harbour and dock in front of **Poets Cove Resort** on South Pender Island. Settle into your luxurious lodge room with a view of the harbour for the next four nights. Following an excellent dinner in the Aurora Room, enjoy music in Syrens, a walk on the extensive grounds, or relaxing on your deck watching the sunset across the bay.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Tuesday, May 26

The Gulf Islands water taxi picks us up at the marina and takes us over to **Salt Spring Island** and the town of Ganges. There is free time in Ganges to browse the Tuesday Farmer's Market (today is supposed to be its opening day in 2026) and other shops. We ride the water taxi back to Poets Cove in mid-afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Wednesday, May 27

Back on board the *Pacific Explorer*, a six-hour cruise is offered which may explore the shorelines of **Saturna, Mayne, or Prevost Islands**. The captain continues to watch for whales, seals, sea lions, and other marine life. Lunch is served on board.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Thursday, May 28

A tour of **Pender Island** with a local guide is offered. A stop is made at Roesland, once a popular beach resort that closed in 1990 and is now part of **Gulf Islands National Park**. Here we visit Pender Islands Museum and enjoy a walk among the arbutus trees to the tip of Roe Island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

ITINERARY continued

Friday, May 29

We board the *Pacific Explorer* and return to Victoria, bidding farewell to Victoria passengers. Passengers from the BC Interior and Lower Mainland take the ferry to Tsawwassen. Passengers from the Greater Vancouver Area return home. Remaining passengers will overnight at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster. At 7:30 pm, we are at the Stanley Theatre to see **Come From Away**. This Canadian musical by Irene Sankoff and David Hein tells the true story of Gander, Newfoundland residents who welcomed 7,000 stranded travellers after the September 11 attacks. Celebrated for its message of kindness and humanity, this show grew from modest beginnings in 2013 to a Broadway hit in 2017, earning multiple awards including a Tony for Best Direction of a Musical. [Learn more](#).

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: ① Inn at the Quay

Saturday, May 30

Passengers from the BC Interior, Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack travel home.

Meals included: ① Lunch

TOUR NOTES

POETS COVE RESORT: Poets Cove is the luxury resort of the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. It was built in 2004 at a cost of \$30 million. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. There are also spacious 2-bedroom cottages and villas with living room and 2 bathrooms which are suitable for 4 double/twin guests sharing or 2 single guests sharing at the same fares (please request availability). The Aurora Dining Room serves our breakfasts and dinners, and Syrens Bistro offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is leisure time to enjoy this service. An

outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. This tour was first offered as the 2010 Mystery Tour and everybody was impressed with the luxury of Poets Cove; the tour has been offered 14 times since then and is consistently a sell-out.

PACIFIC EXPLORER: Our charter vessel, *Pacific Explorer*, is licenced for 70, but this tour carries only 30 passengers for comfort. She has full-length tinted windows, indoor nook seating for everyone, washrooms, bar service, and an open-air viewing deck with bench seats and awning. She is 15.5 metres long and travels at up to 22 knots. The vessel is equipped with hydrophones to hear what is happening underwater and a certified marine naturalist is on board.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 25, 2026. 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 (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive an \$80 discount on the first 8 seats and \$40 on the next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 25, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 25, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From February 26 to March 25, the cancellation charge is \$200 per

person. From March 26 to April 23, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After April 23, 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.

TOUR POLICIES continued

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. The hotel, motorcoach, boats, 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: Poets Cove Resort, tour director Elvia (Salt Spring Island Market), Adobe Stock (Orcas), and Pender Islands Museum (Roesland).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 116 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 March 25, 2026.

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

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
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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