

# INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

June 2026



Inside Passage from Northern Expedition

## Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzymateen Sanctuary

Explore the amazing North Coast by land and sea! The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert aboard BC Ferries' *Northern Expedition* takes 15 hours, all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife. In Prince Rupert, we thrill to a seven-hour catamaran excursion to the Khutzymateen Grizzly Sanctuary and also tour the restored North Pacific Cannery. Then we board VIA Rail's *Skeena Train* for a spectacular journey through the Coast Mountains to Houston. Fort St. James National Historic Site and the restored gold rush town of Barkerville are also included.

What a wonderful British Columbia circle tour!



RAIL TOUR



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ► Departure from:

- 1 **BC Interior:** June 5, 2026 - 9 Days
- 2 **Lower Mainland:** June 5, 2026 - 9 Days

### ► Fares per person

- 1 from **\$3,995** double/twin, **\$4,855** single\*  
\*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

### ► Earn 100 Experience Points



# DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

**I BC Interior:** We depart from the BC Interior on Friday, June 5 and travel to Nanaimo by ferry from Horseshoe Bay. We travel home from Quesnel on Saturday, June 13. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.

**L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Friday, June 5 and travel to Nanaimo by ferry from Horseshoe Bay. We fly back to Vancouver from Kelowna on Saturday, June 13.

**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 on Friday, June 5 is by the BC Interior coach. No transportation is arranged from Vancouver Airport on Saturday, June 13.

## FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares Per person	Notes
<b>I</b>	BC Interior	\$3,995 double/twin \$4,855 single \$3,735 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please add 5% GST.</li><li>• BC Seniors (65 and over): \$78 discount with BC Services Card.</li></ul>
<b>L</b>	Lower Mainland	\$4,395 double/twin \$5,250 single \$4,130 triple	



### 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 moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. There is lots of walking to see everything in Barkerville. The ferry has an elevator. Luggage service is not available in Port Hardy and Fort St. James.

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 40

This tour can accommodate 40 passengers.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

- 🍽️ 13 total:** 4 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 2 dinners
- 🍽️ 12 total:** 4 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 9 days
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- *Northern Expedition* ferry through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- 🛫** Flight from Kelowna to Vancouver
- 🛫** Current air taxes & security fees

## ▶ Accommodation

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

## ▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & boat crew

## ▶ Highlights

- Reserved seat in the ferry's Aurora Lounge
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- North Pacific Cannery Museum with guide
- Museum of Northern British Columbia with guide
- VIA Rail train from Prince Rupert to Houston
- Fort St. James National Historic Site with Parks Canada program
- Historian on coach from Quesnel to Barkerville
- Barkerville Historic Town
- Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor

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

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

# NORTHERN EXPEDITION

BC Ferries' *Northern Expedition* was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers, and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop, and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert takes 15 hours, almost all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life, and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.



*Northern Expedition*



Skeena Train

## ITINERARY

### Friday, June 5

We ride the ferry to Nanaimo and stay overnight.

**Meals included:** ① Lunch

**Accommodation:** Coast Bastion Hotel

### Saturday, June 6

We drive north on the Island Highway through Campbell River to **Port Hardy**.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Kwa'lilas Hotel

### Sunday, June 7

The **Northern Expedition** departs Port Hardy for a 15-hour scenic voyage through the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel, and the long canal-like Grenville Channel. Enjoy a comfortable reserved seat in the private, key-access Aurora Lounge for the whole voyage. On arrival at Prince Rupert, we stay three nights at the Crest Hotel, the finest in the city.

**Cabin option:** You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$175 or an inside cabin for \$145 (per cabin). Cabins are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices may increase in 2026. Each cabin includes two berths, a sink, toilet, and shower. Please request when you book this tour.

**Accommodation:** Crest Hotel

### Monday, June 8

The **Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary** preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in BC. We board a 22-metre catamaran for a seven-hour excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has lots of outdoor deck space and floor to ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about native villages and watching for dolphins, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. June is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are playing and feeding along the shoreline.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Crest Hotel

### Tuesday, June 9

We drive to Port Edward on the Skeena River and tour the restored **North Pacific Cannery**, built in 1889. This afternoon, we admire the wonderful exhibits at the **Museum of Northern British Columbia** with the assistance of a docent.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Crest Hotel

## ITINERARY continued

### Wednesday, June 10

**VIA Rail's Skeena Train** offers an awesome eight-hour journey as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the **Coast Mountains**. Our coach driver meets us in Houston because the train usually runs late for the last 300 km into Prince George due to many freight trains. Your luggage travels conveniently on the coach today.

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

**Accommodation:** View Hotel, Fort St. James

### Thursday, June 11

Originally established by Simon Fraser for the North West Company in 1806, **Fort St. James** displays the largest group of original wooden buildings representing the fur trade in Canada. Now preserved as a National Historic Site and operated as a living history museum, the fort is a fascinating glimpse into the past. We continue to Prince George, then join the **Cariboo Highway** to Quesnel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Billy Barker Hotel, Quesnel

### Friday, June 12

We are treated to the knowledge of an expert historian during the drive from Quesnel to **Barkerville**. This is BC's largest restored heritage town and offers plenty to do today – listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, attend church at St. Saviour's, or discuss an 1880s character with a costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at the **Theatre Royal** is an hour of lively music and songs, funny stories of the gold rush, and great entertainment.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Billy Barker Hotel, Quesnel

### Saturday, June 13

We follow the Cariboo Highway to Cache Creek, hearing more stories about the gold rush and pioneer characters. Lunch is at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. In the afternoon, we travel through Kamloops to the Okanagan. A flight is arranged for Lower Mainland customers from Kelowna to Vancouver.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

## TOUR NOTES & POLICIES

**Please Book Early!** Unsold ferry and train space must be released on April 15, 2026. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

**Leisurely Tour:** This tour has been 8 days long for many years, but has been increased to 9 days for 2026. Due to the constraints of ferry and train schedules and lack of hotels in the north, there were some early departures and late nights, and the extra day allows this tour to be more leisurely with an added visit to Fort St. James.

**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.

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 2, 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.

# TOUR NOTES & POLICIES continued

**Seniors Discount:** BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$78 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Booking deadline is April 15, 2026. You must show your BC Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour. Your photo ID is required to board the ferry.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to March 2, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From March 3 to April 2, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From April 3 to May 1, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After May 1, 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.

**Flight delays or cancellations:** In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

**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:** Tour director Lisa (Inside Passage from *Northern Expedition, Skeena Train*), tour director Laura (Grizzly Bear), and Wikimedia (*Northern Expedition*).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 100 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 April 2, 2026.

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

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YOU PACK.  
NO WORRIES!

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://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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