

ROAD TO THE ARCTIC

July 2026



Dempster Highway near Arctic Circle

Includes Dempster Highway to the Arctic Ocean

This epic journey to the Arctic Ocean has only been possible since the road to Tuktoyaktuk opened in 2017. Come and enjoy a great variety of sights and experiences in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Some of the many highlights are: Yellowknife, capital of the Northwest Territories; a boat trip on Great Slave Lake with a fish fry lunch served on an island, a scenic flight to Nahanni National Park landing at Virginia Falls, a swim at Liard Hot Springs and Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs, Dawson City with a show at Diamond Tooth Gerties, the storied Dempster Highway across the Arctic Circle to Inuvik, and a locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk with a visit to an Inuit home and a presentation on Inuit fashions and lifestyles.

What an incredible journey through the North!



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- ① **BC Interior:** July 24, 2026 - 19 days
- ⑤ **Vancouver Island:** July 24, 2026 - 19 days
- ④ **Lower Mainland:** July 24, 2026 - 18 days

► Fares per person

- ④ from **\$10,735** double/twin, **\$12,605** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

► Earn 256 Experience Points



DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart on Friday, July 24 and fly from Kelowna to Yellowknife. We fly from Dawson City to Vancouver on Monday, August 10 and overnight at the Inn at the Quay. We drive home on Tuesday, August 11. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Friday, July 24 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Yellowknife. We fly from Dawson City to Vancouver on Monday, August 10 and overnight at the Inn at the Quay. We travel home on Tuesday, August 11.

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. No transportation to/from these airports is provided. The overnight on Monday, August 10 may not be needed depending on flight schedules. 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 at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Friday, July 24 and fly from Vancouver to Yellowknife. We fly from Dawson City to Vancouver on Monday, August 10.

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: No transportation is provided to Vancouver Airport on Friday, July 24. On return, overnight at the Inn at the Quay on Monday, August 10. Return to Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack by the BC Interior coach on Tuesday, August 11. Please refer to BC Interior pricing below.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$10,845 double/twin \$12,840 single	
V	Vancouver Island	\$10,995 double/twin \$12,990 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• There is an additional cost to fly to Nanaimo or Comox Airport at the end of this tour.
L	Lower Mainland	\$10,735 double/twin \$12,605 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- ① **26 total:** 7 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 8 dinners
- ② **25 total:** 7 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfer to Kelowna, Victoria, or Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Areas
- Flights to Yellowknife
- Transfer from Yellowknife Airport to hotel
- Coach transportation for 18 days
- 1 checked bag per person
- Deh Cho Mackenzie River bridge toll
- Liard River ferry twice
- Flight from Inuvik to Dawson City
- Transfer from Dawson Airport to hotel
- Flight from Dawson City via Whitehorse to Vancouver
- Transfer from Vancouver Airport to the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Areas
- Current air taxes, fees, & fuel surcharges

▶ Accommodation

- ① ② 18 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
- ① 17 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides, boat crew, & docents

▶ Key Highlights

- NWT Diamond & Jewelry Centre
- Great Slave Lake boat trip with fish fry lunch
- Locally-guided tour of Yellowknife
- Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
- Yellowknife Historical Museum
- Scenic flight to Nahanni National Park with landing at Virginia Falls
- Nahanni National Park fee
- Swim at Liard Hot Springs
- Yukon Beringia Centre
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- Locally-guided tour of Whitehorse
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve
- Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs with towel rental
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Midnight Dome
- Local guide to Tombstone on Dempster Hwy
- Locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk
- Visit to an Inuit home in Tuktoyaktuk with traditional lunch & presentation on Inuit fashions & lifestyles
- SS Keno National Historic Site with guide
- Palace Grand Theatre with guide

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

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director



Nahanni Plane at Virginia Falls



Yellowknife

ITINERARY

Friday, July 24

We fly to **Yellowknife**, the capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories, and stay three nights.

Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Saturday, July 25

We go to the NWT Diamond and Jewellery Centre which showcases the fascinating geology of kimberlite deposits, the technology of mining in the sub-Arctic, and the process to turn a rough stone into a beautiful diamond. Of course, you can also purchase diamonds that have been mined, cut, and polished in the NWT. Next is a boat trip on **Great Slave Lake** with a fish fry lunch served on an island. This is the deepest lake in North America at 610 metres, and the 10th largest lake in the world, covering 27,195 square km.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Sunday, July 26

A locally-guided tour features highlights of Yellowknife such as the outstanding **Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre**. The rest of the day is free time. The Yellowknife Historical Museum is worth visiting (included).

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Monday, July 27

We start our road journey across the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The Mackenzie Highway winds around the north arm of Great Slave Lake to Fort Providence. The mighty **Mackenzie River** is crossed on the Deh Cho Bridge which opened in 2012 at a cost of \$200 million. The Mackenzie starts just upstream in Great Slave Lake and flows 1,742 km to the Arctic Ocean, making it Canada's longest river. After a stop at Samba Deh Falls, a ferry takes us over the broad Liard River to **Fort Simpson**.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Nahanni Traveller Hotel

Tuesday, July 28

Today is one of the most memorable of our Arctic journey. We board charter planes for a thrilling air excursion into the wilderness of **Nahanni National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The highlight is 100-metre high **Virginia Falls**, one of Canada's greatest cataracts and also one of the least-visited. The planes land near the falls and there are several awesome viewpoints. Downstream from the falls, the Nahanni River boils through miles of rapids below 1,000-metre tall cliffs. These canyonlands were made famous by prospectors' tales a century ago of lost gold and the Headless Valley. A recommended book is Raymond Patterson's *The Dangerous River*, a gripping account of his 1927 journey into the Nahanni. Weather permitting, our flight route follows the Nahanni River from 1st to 4th Canyon past Pulpit Rock, then over the rugged Mackenzie Mountains and the soaring cliffs of Ram Plateau.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Nahanni Traveller Hotel

ITINERARY continued

Wednesday, July 29

We follow the Liard Highway south into BC and join the **Alaska Highway**. This world-famous road was built in 1942 in just eight months and has been continually upgraded. This scenic section winds through the barren Rocky Mountains. We stay two nights on the shore of **Muncho Lake** at Northern Rockies Lodge, a handcrafted log building.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Northern Rockies Lodge

Thursday, July 30

Enjoy a relaxing swim at **Liard Hot Springs** where the water temperature ranges from 42° to 52°C. This afternoon, you may want to take a pleasant stroll along the shore of Muncho Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Northern Rockies Lodge

Friday, July 31

In **Watson Lake, Yukon**, we see the famous Signpost Forest, started by a homesick roadbuilder in 1942 and now numbering over 100,000 city signs. We drive along the east shore of **Teslin Lake** which is 120 km long and cross the Nisutlin Bay Bridge, longest on the Alaska Highway. The next three nights are in **Whitehorse** at the newly-opened Hyatt Place in downtown.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Saturday, August 1

A locally-guided tour of Whitehorse sights is offered. We visit the **Yukon Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals that lived in a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as the Bering Land Bridge. Next is the **Yukon Museum of Transportation** which brings life to tales of bush pilots, captains on the Yukon River sternwheelers, Klondike stamperders on the Chilkoot Trail, and Alaska Highway builders.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Sunday, August 2

We learn about the native animals at the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve**, a unique 350-acre viewing facility featuring northern mammals such as moose, muskox, mountain goat, wood bison, woodland caribou, elk, lynx, and Dall's sheep, presented in their natural environments. Later, we relax in the soothing waters of the three pools at **Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs** with temperatures up to 42°C.

Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Monday, August 3

We leave Whitehorse via the **Klondike Highway** and follow the Yukon River past Lake Laberge, made famous by Robert Service in *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. Further downstream are the Five Finger Rapids which were a challenge for the Yukon River sternwheelers. Our destination is **Dawson City**, the partly-restored town where the fabulous Klondike Gold Rush started in 1898. Tonight, we go to **Diamond Tooth Gerties** for casino gambling and a vaudeville show.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel



ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, August 4

The morning is free time and you may want to go to the Visitor Centre, see a presentation by the "Ghost of Robert Service", or stroll these storied streets. A local guide accompanies us on a tour around Dawson City and Bonanza Creek with many stories about the gold rush. The gigantic **Dredge #4 National Historic Site** is included and we drive to the top of Midnight Dome for a panoramic view. The Downtown Hotel's bar serves the famous Dawson drink, the Sour Toe Cocktail, if you dare!

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Wednesday, August 5

Canada's renowned wilderness road, **Dempster Highway**, heads north from Dawson City across the Arctic Circle to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Surveying of the route began in 1958 and it took 21 years to build. The road was named for William Dempster of the Northwest Mounted Police who searched for the Lost Patrol in 1911. During our first day on the Dempster, a local guide is with us as far as the rugged **Tombstone Mountains**. We follow the Klondike and Ogilvie Rivers through stunning scenery of barren mountains and tundra. The night stop is at Eagle Plains Hotel which perches on a lofty ridge with views in every direction of Arctic wilderness.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Eagle Plains Hotel

Thursday, August 6

We cross the **Arctic Circle** and the Dempster Highway winds over miles of mountain ridges without a tree in sight. We ride on small ferries across the Peel and Mackenzie Rivers. **Fort McPherson** is the location of the graves of the Lost Patrol. We stay two nights in **Inuvik**, a modern town of 3,200 people on the Mackenzie River where it widens into its huge delta. If you have free time, check out the Igloo Church and the Western Arctic Visitor Centre.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Mackenzie Hotel

Friday, August 7

A highway to Canada's Arctic Coast has been talked about since the 1960s, but it was not completed to **Tuktoyaktuk** until 2017. Today, we have the exciting experience of driving to the Arctic Ocean, across the permafrost of the **Mackenzie River Delta**. A tour of Tuktoyaktuk, Canada's most northerly mainland town, is conducted by a long-time local resident and includes a chance to dip a toe or finger in the frigid **Arctic Ocean**. We also enjoy a traditional lunch at an Inuit home and a presentation on Inuit fashions and lifestyles.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Mackenzie Hotel

Saturday, August 8

We fly from Inuvik to Dawson City. This afternoon, we tour the **S.S. Keno**, built in 1922 to carry silver lead ore down the Stewart and Yukon Rivers, returning with vital supplies. For 29 years, this wood-burning, steam-powered vessel navigated Yukon waterways.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Sunday, August 9

We visit the **Palace Grand Theatre** which is a replica of the original 1899 building that entertained many gold rush miners. A "Farewell to the Klondike" dinner is planned.

Option: Enjoy a nostalgic journey aboard the *Klondike Spirit*, the only operating sternwheeler in the Yukon. Cost will be available later.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

ITINERARY continued

Monday, August 10 We fly from Dawson City to Whitehorse and continue to Vancouver. Passengers from Vancouver travel home.

Accommodation:  Inn at the Quay

Tuesday, August 11 Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel home.

Meals included:  Lunch



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 and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Some travelling days are long as hotels and towns are far apart in the north. Some communities do not have paved streets and sidewalks, so the walking surface may be uneven. There are stairs on and off the lake cruise, the Nahanni plane, and Inuvik to Dawson plane. There can be long walks in the airports. Luggage handling is not offered in Yellowknife and Eagle Plains, and may not be available at other hotels.

This tour is not appropriate if you depend upon a walker, but you may bring a cane or walking poles. 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. 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 31

This tour is limited to 31 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

NOTES ABOUT YOUR ARCTIC TOUR

Accommodation in the North is the best available, but it may not be up to the standard you expect in the rest of Canada. In places such as Fort Simpson and Eagle Plains, there is only one place to stay. Since hotels in the North have a limited season and enormous operating expenses, room rates are very high, so that is why this tour costs more per day than most Wells Gray tours.

Tour dates: This tour is scheduled for late July to mid-August, so you can enjoy pleasantly warm days and cool nights, possibly the aurora borealis, and a minimum of mosquitoes or other insects. Some customers ask for a June tour to the North, but that is the height of bug season and some people have difficulty sleeping with nearly 24 hours of daylight.

A passport is not required as this tour does not enter Alaska.

Please book early! This tour is limited to 30 travellers because of aircraft capacity.

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 probably cannot 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.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the plane to Yellowknife. 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 \$595 and book your own flights which allow seat selection. Flights from Inuvik to Dawson City and Dawson City to Vancouver are included as a bundled package due to limited availability; partial opt-outs are not possible.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for an upgrade on the flight to Yellowknife. Business class may be available.

Flight delays or cancellations: We visit some remote locations on this tour. Flights can be delayed, postponed, cancelled, or rescheduled for a variety of reasons that are beyond our control which could alter the itinerary. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during any delays. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

TOUR NOTES

Payments: A deposit of \$700 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due April 22, 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.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 20, 2026, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From March 21 to April 22, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From April 23 to May 22, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 23 to June 22, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After June 22, 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. If inclement weather cancels the Nahanni flight, a refund will be provided.

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 Canada, but medical costs can vary wildly from one province or territory to another. While your BC Services Card may partly 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 medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Dempster Highway), Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs, Roland Neave (Nahanni Plane at Virginia Falls), and Wikimedia (Yellowknife, Arctic Ocean at Tuktoyaktuk).

Experience Points: This tour earns 256 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until April 22, 2026.

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. _____

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