

SALT SPRING ISLAND & NOOTKA SOUND

June 2026



Friendly Cove

Highlights of Vancouver Island and area

Artisans and specialty producers abound in the Gulf Islands and on Vancouver Island. World class craftsmen 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 on Salt Spring Island is a focal point for unique shops and galleries. We get there on a small sightseeing vessel from Victoria with whale viewing in the Gulf Islands. With guiding by a local historian, we visit Strathcona Park and cruise on the *MV Uchuck III* to historic Nootka Sound and Friendly Cove. In Parksville, we stay at an oceanfront hotel and visit attractions such as Rathrevor Beach and Coombs Market.



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** June 16, 2026 - 7 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** June 17, 2026 - 6 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** June 16, 2026 - 7 days

▶ Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$3,230** double/twin, **\$3,770** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

- \$200** discount on first 12 seats; **\$100** on next 8.

▶ Earn 86 Experience Points



Coombs Market

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart on Tuesday, June 16 and take the ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. We return on Monday, June 22, taking the ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Wednesday, June 17 from Victoria. We return on Monday, June 22, driving home from Parksville.

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: Make your own way to Victoria and join the BC Interior group overnight on June 16. At the end of the tour, drop off points are offered south of Parksville.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Tuesday, June 16 and take the ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. We return on Monday, June 22, taking the ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen.

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 is by the BC Interior coach. Please refer to the BC Interior pricing below.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$3,435 double \$4,110 single \$3,235 triple	
V Vancouver Island	\$3,230 double \$3,770 single \$3,060 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• I L BC Seniors (65 & over): \$34 discount with BC Services Card.
L Lower Mainland	\$3,455 double \$4,135 single \$3,255 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- 📌 **13 total:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 tea, 4 dinners
- 📌 **12 total:** 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 tea, 4 dinners

▶ Transportation

- 📌 📌 Coach transportation for 7 days
- 📌 📌 Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- 📌 📌 Ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen
- 📌 Coach transportation for 6 days

▶ Accommodation

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

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides

▶ Highlights

- Morning tea at Pendray House
- *Pacific Explorer* cruise from Inner Harbour to Ganges
- Salt Spring Wild Cider tasting
- Ruckle Point Provincial Park
- Ferry from Salt Spring Island to Crofton
- Rath Trevor Beach
- Coombs Market
- Guided tour of Strathcona Park & Nootka Sound with author and expert, Catherine Gilbert
- Cruise on *MV Uchuck III* through Nootka Sound to Friendly Cove
- Museum at Campbell River

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 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. You may need to handle your own luggage at hotels if luggage service is not available.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coaches 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 Size 40

This tour can accommodate 40 participants.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, June 16

BC Interior and Lower Mainland passengers take a late afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay and stay overnight in Victoria.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific (BC Interior and Lower Mainland)

Wednesday, June 17

Victoria passengers start the tour today. We savour **morning tea at the Pendray House**, an extravagant mansion built in 1897. Afterwards, we board the *Pacific Explorer* and cruise out of the Inner Harbour. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of Orca whales or other marine creatures. A marine naturalist is with us to spot wildlife and provide commentary about the islands. We dock about 3 pm on **Salt Spring Island** and stay two nights in Ganges, the only town on the island. Enjoy a walk along the waterfront this evening.

Meals included: Tea, Dinner

Accommodation: Harbour House Hotel

Thursday, June 18

We drive to **Ruckle Point Provincial Park** and stroll some pleasant trails along the ocean. Our next stop is at Salt Spring Wild Cider which makes artisanal craft ciders from the heritage apples and pears that grow here.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Harbour House Hotel

Friday, June 19

We ride a mid-morning ferry from Salt Spring Island to Crofton on Vancouver Island. We stop at **Coombs Market**, full of interesting shops, and known for the goats grazing on its roof. From Campbell River, we drive through **Strathcona Provincial Park**, British Columbia's first provincial park established in 1911, which protects the rugged peaks of central Vancouver Island. Our guide is Catherine Gilbert, a local author and expert on the park and Nootka Sound. We stay two nights in Gold River.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Baymont by Wyndham

Saturday, June 20

We board the *MV Uchuck III* near Gold River for a cruise that offers splendid coastal scenery. Catherine is with us all day to provide interpretive talks on the ship and walks on shore. Our route follows the fjord Muchalat Inlet past Bligh Island to Nootka Sound where we dock at Friendly Cove, site of Captain James Cook's meeting with Chief Maquinna in 1778. Take a walk through the village and church, stroll the beach, or visit the lighthouse. The return cruise goes past Resolution Cove and through narrow King Passage.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Baymont by Wyndham

Sunday, June 21

Heading back through Strathcona Park, we soon arrive in Campbell River. We explore the exhibits at the Museum at Campbell River and see the old film about the Ripple Rock explosion. Our last night is in **Parksville** at the Bayside Resort with a beautiful location overlooking the bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Bayside Oceanfront Resort

Monday, June 22

BC Interior and Lower Mainland passengers take a mid-morning ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen and travel home. Vancouver Island passengers travel home from Parksville.

Meals included: Breakfast

MV UCHUCK III

MV *Uchuck III* derives her name from the First Nations Nootkan word for “healing waters” and has been serving the west coast of Vancouver Island for nearly 70 years. She was built in 1942 in Oregon as a minesweeper, then was converted to passenger and freight service in Barkley Sound. By 1961, she was operating in Nootka Sound, supplying remote logging camps and fishing villages. More recently, *Uchuck III* was fully renovated with a comfortable wood-finished lounge, coffee shop, bathrooms, and lots of seating on the open-air upper deck. She is 41 metres long and carries up to 100 passengers on cruises in Nootka Sound and nearby waterways.



TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due April 15, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 2, 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 a \$200 discount on the first 12 seats and \$100 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 15, 2026.

BC Seniors (65 & over; Interior & Lower Mainland customers): \$34 discount offered by BC Ferries. Please bring your BC Services Card on the tour.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 16, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From March 17 to April 15, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person (your deposit). From April 16 to May 15, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After May 15, 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. 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: Tour director Lisa (Friendly Cove), Coombs Market, Adobe Stock (Salt Spring Island), Wikimedia (Nootka Sound), and Roland Neave (*MV Uchuck III*).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 86 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 15, 2026.

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

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