

FRASER RIVER FROM SOURCE TO MOUTH

September 2026



Float on the Fraser River

Includes a helicopter ride to the source and 2 boat trips on the "Mighty Fraser"!

The Fraser is truly British Columbia's great river. Flowing entirely within the province, it starts from a spring 50 km south of Yellowhead Pass and ends, 1,390 km later, in the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver. Along the Fraser's tortuous route, it races past Mount Robson, highest in the Canadian Rockies; it tumbles over Rearguard Falls where salmon can swim no further; it meanders for 250 km through the broad Rocky Mountain Trench; it flows past old homesteads like the Huble Farm and under historic crossings such as the Lillooet and Alexandra Suspension Bridges; it passes industrial cities like Prince George and Quesnel; it plunges through the awesome Fraser Canyon and squeezes through Hell's Gate. At the end of its journey, the Fraser spreads out into multiple channels and flows quietly into the ocean at Steveston. On this tour, you see all this as well as fly by helicopter to see the dripping spring that is the Fraser's birthplace.

Come with Wells Gray Tours because we pioneered this remarkable journey in 2001!



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** September 8, 2026 - 10 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** September 7, 2026 - 11 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** September 7, 2026 - 11 days

► Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$5,975** double/twin, **\$6,875** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

\$300 on first 6 seats; **\$150** on next 4.

► Earn 138 Experience Points



DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart on Tuesday, September 8 and drive to Valemount. We drive home from New Westminster on Thursday, September 17. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Monday, September 7 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna where we overnight. The BC Interior coach picks us up the following morning. We return from New Westminster on Thursday, September 17 via the ferry.

Departure from Victoria: Depending on the number of people booked and coach size, home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area. 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 to fly back to Nanaimo or Comox at the end of this tour. Flights to Kelowna at the beginning of the tour are included. Transportation to or 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 Airport at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Monday, September 7 and fly from Vancouver to Kelowna where we overnight. The BC Interior coach picks us up the following morning. We return on Thursday, September 17, after staying in New Westminster.

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. Flights may be available from Abbotsford to Kelowna for an additional cost. Please inquire about departure from Abbotsford Airport at the time of booking. Drop off at the end of the tour is by the BC Interior coach.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$5,975 double/twin \$6,875 single \$5,740 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• There is an additional cost to fly to Nanaimo/Comox at the end of this tour.• There is an additional cost to fly from Abbotsford Airport to join this tour.
V	Vancouver Island	\$6,550 double/twin \$7,550 single \$6,360 triple	
L	Lower Mainland	\$6,475 double/twin \$7,475 single \$6,285 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- I 20 total:** 7 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 4 dinners
- V L 20 total:** 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 4 dinners

▶ Transportation

- V L** Transfers between the Vancouver or Victoria Airport from the Greater Vancouver or Greater Victoria Areas
- V L** Flights from Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna
- V L** Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
 - Coach transportation for 10 days

▶ Accommodation

- I** 9 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- V L** 10 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
 - Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides, museum docents, raft guides, & boat crew

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Key Highlights

- Helicopter to the source of the Fraser River
- Fraser River raft float trip
- Ancient Forest boardwalk
- Huble Homestead tour
- Farwell Canyon with guide from Tsilhqot'in Nation (if open/available)
- Cariboo Chilcotin Museum
- Hat Creek Ranch & historic roadhouse tour
- Talk by a jade expert
- Lillooet Museum
- Ashcroft Manor
- Hell's Gate Airtram
- St. John the Divine Church in Yale
- Harrison Hot Springs pools
- Copper Room entertainment with band music
- Harrison Lake boat excursion
- Kilby Store Historic Site
- *Victorian Secrets* show at Kilby
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- *MV Gikumi* cruise from Steveston to the mouth of the Fraser River

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



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. This is a unique tour with lots of activity and time outdoors while you experience many

aspects of the Fraser River. The trip to the source of the Fraser requires getting in and out of a helicopter, and walking about ½ km in an alpine meadow at 2,000 metres altitude. On other days, you are boarding a large raft and two boats. Walks include the Ancient Forest and Othello Tunnels. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted, and can handle your own luggage at hotels where luggage handling is not available.

This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Walking poles are recommended. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. 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.

Please note: Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to [sign a declaration](#) that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Tour Size 20

This tour is limited to 20 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

ITINERARY

Monday, September 7

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

Accommodation: Hampton Inn YLW

Tuesday, September 8

We follow the Yellowhead Highway along the North Thompson River with a stop at 75-metre high Spahats Falls in **Wells Gray Park**.

Meals included: Breakfast (Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland), Lunch, Dinner (all)

Accommodation: Comfort Inn Valemount

Wednesday, September 9

Our scenic **helicopter flight** takes us to the source of the Fraser River high on the Continental Divide. The helicopter lands on the alpine meadows and you have about 45 minutes to stroll the area. Fewer than 200 people, most of them travelling with Wells Gray Tours, have seen the remarkable phenomenon of a **tiny dripping spring** flowing into a pond from where the Fraser River, all of 15 cm or six inches wide, starts its long journey to the ocean. Have your picture taken straddling the "mighty Fraser".

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Comfort Inn Valemount

Thursday, September 10

We board large **12-passenger rafts** and float gently down 8 km of the Fraser River for 1½ hours, watching for bears, moose, deer, bald eagles, beaver dams, and chinook salmon. Interpretive talks are provided by a guide on each raft. Dominating the view from the river is **Mount Robson**, highest in the Canadian Rockies at nearly 4,000 metres. There is no white water on this excursion. Back on our coach, a stop is made at Rearguard Falls, the upper limit of salmon migration on the Fraser. This afternoon, we drive west to Prince George, following the broad rift valley called the Rocky Mountain Trench and getting some views of the meandering Fraser.

A stop is made at the **Ancient Forest** for a stroll among towering 1000-year old cedars.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sandman Signature Hotel

Friday, September 11

During a drive around **Prince George**, we enjoy the view from Connaught Hill and take a nature walk at Cottonwood Island. The Fraser River rounds its "Big Bend" near Prince George and turns south. Here it is only 12 km to the Arctic drainage and, starting in the mid-19th century, the Giscome Portage Trail served early travellers. **Huble Homestead** was built in 1912 at this strategic bend of the Fraser. A heritage tour is followed by lunch in the old barn. Then we drive the Cariboo Highway south through Quesnel and stay two nights in Williams Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Saturday, September 12

The legendary **Chilcotin Highway** starts at Williams Lake and heads west to Bella Coola. We cross the Fraser River on a lofty bridge and drive across the vast ranchlands of the Chilcotin Plateau to Riske Creek. A highlight is the view of the glacial blue Chilcotin River as it races through **Farwell Canyon**. A guide from the Tsilhqot'in Nation may meet us to explain the pictographs and hoodoos nearby. (Note: Farwell Canyon visit may be cancelled if the area is deemed unsafe after the 2024 landslide.) Lunch is included at historic **Chilcotin Lodge**. Later, we visit the Cariboo Chilcotin Museum in Williams Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Sunday, September 13

Our first stop is at the colourful Painted Chasm, created by glacial meltwaters at the end of the last Ice Age. Next is **Hat Creek Ranch**, one of the last remaining roadhouses from the era of the Cariboo Wagon Road. We tour the buildings and

listen to tales of the Gold Rush. We drive beneath the soaring white cliffs of **Marble Canyon** and along the terraces above Fountain Canyon and Moran Canyon where a gigantic dam was planned in the 1960s to harness the Fraser River. The Bridge of the 23 Camels crosses the Fraser into Lillooet and commemorates that oddity in BC history when camels were used as pack animals to the gold fields. A **jade expert** talks to us about this much-prized rock, and we visit the Lillooet Museum and the Hanging Tree. Dinner is at **Ashcroft Manor**, another roadhouse which dates to 1862.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Sandman Inn Cache Creek

Monday, September 14

Today features sights through the famous **Fraser Canyon**. The clear Thompson River flows into the muddy Fraser at Lytton. We ride the **Hell's Gate Airtram** down to this awesome spectacle where the Fraser squeezes between sheer rock walls. We stop in Yale at St. John the Divine, BC's oldest church which dates to 1863. At Hope, the Fraser emerges from its canyon into the fertile farmlands of the Fraser Valley and turns west for its final 160 km to the ocean. We stay at **Harrison Hot Springs Resort** in lake view rooms. Relax in the soothing hot pools, then savour an elegant dinner in the Copper Room with band music and dancing.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Harrison Hot Springs Resort

Tuesday, September 15

We take a scenic **cruise on Harrison Lake** while viewing bird and animal life with expert commentary. Next we visit **Kilby Historic Site**, a

wonderful restoration of a century-old general store and farm. It was operated by the Kilby family from 1906 to 1977 and is now a provincial historic site. Included is an interior tour of the store, a walk around the farm, and the delightful show *Victorian Secrets* which incorporates humour, music, and 'revealing' surprises. We stay two nights in New Westminster at the Inn at the Quay, built on a pier jutting into the Fraser River.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Wednesday, September 16

We tour the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site at Steveston. On board the **MV Gikumi**, we cruise the last few kilometres of the Fraser River until it flows into the **Strait of Georgia** where its brown fresh water mingles with the blue salt water. A Spanish captain, José María Narváez, is credited with being the first European to see the Fraser River in 1791 when he saw "a vast brown stain lying upon the sea." He called it Boca de Florida Blanca and noted that the water was "more sweet than salt". Don't miss your tour director's "**Water Ceremony**" where a bottle of water collected from the Fraser's source is solemnly poured into the ocean, completing our journey along the entire river.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Thursday, September 17

Vancouver Island and Vancouver passengers travel home. BC Interior passengers journey home with stops at Bridal Falls and Othello Tunnels on the old Kettle Valley Railway.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)

THE MIGHTY FRASER

"Our past, present and future are linked with the Fraser. The past saw fur-traders, the gold rush of 1858, and early settlers. The present sees waters teeming with migrating salmon and a highway and railways confined to the gorge carved by the river. The Fraser, beautiful, bountiful and powerful, must always flow in the pattern of our future."

So read one of British Columbia's stop-of-interest plaques, erected in the early 1960s by the Department of Recreation & Conservation to provide travellers with 50-word snippets of roadside history. "The Mighty Fraser" plaque was located on the Trans-Canada Highway near Laidlaw and was relocated to the riverside park in Hope when the freeway was built in the 1980s.

The message is still true today, 65 years later, because the Fraser is truly British Columbia's great river. Flowing entirely within the province, it starts from a spring 50 km south of Yellowhead Pass and ends, 1390 km later, in the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver. Along the Fraser's tortuous route, it races past Mount Robson, highest in the Canadian Rockies; it tumbles over Rearguard Falls where salmon can swim no further; it meanders for 250 km through the broad Rocky Mountain Trench; it flows past old homesteads like the Huble Farm and under historic crossings such as the Lillooet and Alexandra Suspension Bridges; it passes industrial cities like Prince George and Quesnel; it plunges through the awesome Fraser Canyon and squeezes through Hell's Gate. At the end of its journey, the Fraser spreads out into multiple channels and carries its huge load of sediment quietly into the ocean at Steveston.

The Fraser River's intrigue is not only its geography, but the vital role it has played in British Columbia's history. First Nations lived and worked on its banks long before Europeans arrived; fur traders such as Simon Fraser and Alexander Mackenzie travelled on its waters over 200 years ago; thousands of miners sought gold on its sandbars in the 1850s; a route for the Canadian Pacific Railway was blasted through its canyons in the 1880s; and Vancouver grew from hamlet to metropolis at its outlet.

The source of the Fraser River was discovered by a *Beautiful British Columbia Magazine* team in the mid-1980s. The nearest road is 50 km away and there is no trail to the site, so the only access is by a helicopter. Fewer than 200 people, most of them travelling with Wells Gray Tours, have seen the remarkable phenomenon of a tiny dripping spring flowing into a pond from where the 15-cm wide Fraser River starts its long journey to the ocean. This tour lets you experience the thrill of a helicopter ride, as well as planting your feet on each side of the not-so-mighty Fraser. You have bragging rights for a truly unique opportunity!

In the United States, there is lots of enthusiasm for its great river, the Mississippi. Coach tours follow it from source to mouth and sightseeing vessels ply its waters to the end of navigation. In 2000, Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours, reasoned that if Americans can celebrate the Mississippi, we should do the same with British Columbia's own great river, the Fraser, and so this tour was born in 2001. The tour has been offered every two to four years since and 2008 was a special year being the 200th Anniversary of Simon Fraser's journey down his namesake river in 1808. Come and join Wells Gray Tours' own celebration of Simon Fraser and the mighty Fraser as you follow it from source to mouth.

TOUR NOTES

Accommodation: Some nights of this tour are "off the beaten track" so please do not expect luxury hotels in Valemount and Cache Creek. Although Lillooet would be a logical overnight stop beside the Fraser River, there are no accommodations that meet Wells Gray standards.

Helicopter: Most people have never flown in a helicopter and it is an exhilarating experience. The flight to the Fraser River source is arranged with Yellowhead Helicopters in Valemount and flights depart from their base. A safety briefing is provided. We will not know the size of the helicopter until early September, probably 4-6 passengers. If summer 2026 is bad for forest fires, it is possible that all helicopters will be fighting those fires and one will not be available for this flight. Inclement weather could also cancel this flight. That means the source of the Fraser River cannot be visited, obviously a disappointment, and a refund for the unused helicopter trip will be provided.

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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due July 21, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 3 [Declaration](#), 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: Early bookers receive a \$300 discount on the first 6 seats and \$150 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 21, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 19, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 20 to July 21, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From July 22 to August 4, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 4, 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 (Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland): 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 Marion.

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 138 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 July 21, 2026.

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

KAMLOOPS	KELOWNA	VERNON	PENTICTON	VICTORIA
(Head Office)	2575 Richter St.	3206 35th St.	159 Wade Ave E	102-736 Broughton St.
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