

KOOTENAYS GHOST TOWNS & HOT SPRINGS

September 2026



Retired Buses in Sandon

3 Hot Springs & 3 Ghost Towns

This is another of Wells Gray's popular themed tours. During six days in the Kootenays, we absorb the colourful history of the region while visiting ghost towns such as Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap. There are also historic towns with their own fascinating stories like Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson, and Greenwood. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, expert historians in Sandon and Greenwood, the 1897 powerhouse at Sandon, and three nights at Nelson's heritage Hume Hotel. We have hired guides at some places to explain the historical details as only a local person can do. In between these historical experiences, relax in the soothing hot springs of Radium, Fairmont, and Ainsworth. Come and join us on this exciting tour with a relaxing and ghostly twist!



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- 📍 **BC Interior:** September 27, 2026 – 6 days
- 📍 **Vancouver Island:** September 26, 2026 – 8 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** September 26, 2026 – 8 days

► Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$2,470** double/twin, **\$3,070** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

\$100 discount on first 12 seats; **\$50** on next 8.

► Earn 62 Experience Points



Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart on Sunday, September 27 and drive to Revelstoke. We return from Nelson on Friday, October 2. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Saturday, September 26 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Kelowna where we overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW. We are picked up by the BC Interior coach the following day. We return to Kelowna from Nelson on Friday, October 2 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW again before flying home on Saturday, October 3.

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: Transportation to/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 at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Saturday, September 26 and fly from Vancouver to Kelowna where we overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW. We are picked up by the main coach the following day. We return to Kelowna from Nelson on Friday, October 2 and overnight at the Hampton Inn YLW again before flying home on Saturday, October 3.

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/from Vancouver Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$2,470 double/twin \$3,070 single \$2,285 triple	
V Vancouver Island	\$3,275 double/twin \$4,070 single \$3,045 triple	• Please add 5% GST.
L Lower Mainland	\$3,225 double/twin \$4,020 single \$2,995 triple	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- 🕒 **11 total:** 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- 🕒 **13 total:** 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

▶ Transportation

- 🕒 **13 total:** Transfers between the Victoria or Vancouver Airport from the Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver Area
- 🕒 **13 total:** Flights to Kelowna from Victoria, Nanaimo, Comox, or Vancouver & return
- 🕒 **13 total:** Current air transportation taxes & fees
 - Coach transportation for 6 days

▶ Accommodation

- 🕒 **13 total:** 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 🕒 **13 total:** 7 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
 - Luggage handling at hotels

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & streetcar

▶ Highlights

- Three Valley Gap ghost town, roundhouse & auto museum
- Revelstoke Railway Museum
- Radium Hot Springs with towel rental
- Fairmont Hot Springs
- Kootenay Lake ferry to Balfour
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon & area
- SS *Moyie* sternwheeler with guide
- Japanese Canadian Museum
- Sandon ghost town walking tour
- Silversmith Powerhouse Historic Site
- Ride on Nelson's Streetcar #23
- Nelson Transportation Museum
- Ainsworth Hot Springs with towel rental
- Greenwood Museum & guide

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 on a guided walking tour is very doable for you without

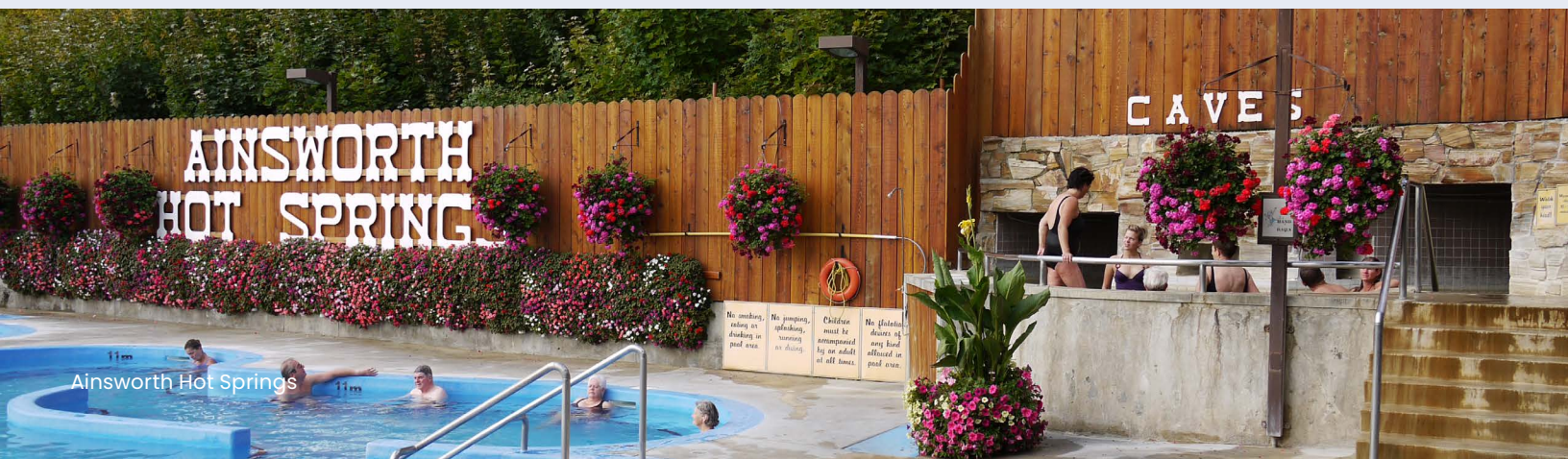
assistance. Walking tours are conducted at 3 Valley Gap, Kaslo, Sandon, and Greenwood at an easy pace; expect some stairs at SS *Moyie*, Japanese Canadian Museum, and the streetcar.

This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. 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.



ITINERARY

Saturday, September 26

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

Accommodation: Hampton Inn YLW

Sunday, September 27

While crossing Eagle Pass in the Monashee Mountains, we have lunch at **Three Valley Gap** and explore the adjoining ghost town. It contains authentic buildings moved here from other sites, an antique auto museum, and a railway roundhouse. Continuing into Revelstoke, we visit the **Railway Museum** which has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the CPR.

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

Accommodation: Sutton Place Hotel

Monday, September 28

The journey across **Rogers Pass** through Glacier National Park has many stories about how the CPR conquered the Selkirk Mountains. Learn about the trestles, loops, snowsheds, the Connaught Tunnel, and the luxurious Glacier House. From Golden, we drive along the Columbia River to **Radium Hot Springs** in Kootenay National Park. Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company made the first recorded visit in 1841, bathing in a one-person sized pool dug out of the gravel. It is now Canada's largest hot springs facility with a temperature of 39.5°C or 103°F. A second opportunity to soak up the soothing mineral waters is at **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort** where we stay overnight. As a hotel guest, you have access to the private hot pool near your room. The water temperature ranges from 40 to 43°C (104-110°F) and about 1.4 million gallons of odourless, mineral-rich water flows through the pools daily.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Tuesday, September 29

We travel along the Kootenay River to Cranbrook, then the east shore of **Kootenay Lake** and ride the 'longest free ferry in the world' over to Balfour.

We stay three nights at Nelson's **Hume Hotel**, a downtown landmark which opened in 1898.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Wednesday, September 30

A Kootenays historian joins us for the day to provide expert commentary about the many heritage sights. We pass the fabulous **Blaylock Mansion**, built by the president of Cominco in 1934 and sometimes called the finest example of Tudor architecture in North America. In Kaslo, we tour the restored sternwheeler **SS Moyie** which plied Kootenay Lake from 1898 to 1957. Kaslo was a Japanese internment camp during World War II and the Japanese Canadian Museum tells the story of 1100 people who were forced to move here from the coast. We pass the ghost towns of Retallack and Three Forks, while following the tortuous route of the once-busy Kaslo & Slocan Railway to reach **Sandon**. In the 1890s, when silver was king, Sandon was a boomtown with a population of 5,000, two newspapers, 24 hotels, 23 saloons, and three railways. It was incorporated as a city in 1898 and remained the soul of the silvery Slocan for half a century. Our guide shares stories of Sandon during a walking tour. The **Silversmith Powerhouse** is a fascinating look back at old technology, now preserved as a Historic Site. Perhaps you can sense the presence of "Headless Eric", Sandon's longtime ghost, who sometimes occupies a rocking chair on his favourite porch.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Thursday, October 1

In Nelson, we ride the restored **Streetcar #23** which was built in 1906, served Nelson residents from 1924 to 1949, then became a dog kennel for 33 years. The Transportation Museum is included. This afternoon, we relax at **Ainsworth Hot Springs**. The horseshoe-shaped cave is the hottest at 45.5°C or 114°F and the main lounging pool averages 35.5°C or 96°F. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hume Hotel, Nelson

Friday, October 2

Greenwood once boasted 7,000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20th century when copper, gold,

and silver poured from its smelter. A local guide points out surviving landmarks such as the city hall, courthouse, and smelter chimney. We head to the Okanagan via the Kettle Valley. Passengers from the BC Interior travel home, while passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland overnight in Kelowna.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hampton Inn YLW (Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland)

Saturday, October 3

Passengers from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland fly home.

Meals included: Breakfast (Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland)



TOUR NOTES

Hot Springs: Don't forget your bathing suit! Please pack your bathing suit in your carry-on bag on September 28, as Radium Hot Springs is visited during the travelling day. An early dinner is planned at Fairmont Hot Springs, so you can enjoy the hot pools through the evening.

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 \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 5, 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 a \$100 discount on the first 12 seats and \$50 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 5, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 3, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 4 to August 5, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person (your deposit). From August 6 to August 26, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 26, 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 and 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: Wikimedia (Retired Buses in Sandon, Ainsworth Hot Springs), Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, and Kootenay Lake Tourism (SS Moyie, Nelson).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 62 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 August 5, 2026.

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

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