

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S AT THE COAST

December 2026



Victoria Inner Harbour

A longer stay in Vancouver & Victoria

Celebrate the holiday season with an extended stay in Vancouver and Victoria, filled with theatre, sparkling lights, and warm holiday gatherings. With three wonderful stage shows, plus the Vancouver Symphony performing *Salute to Vienna* and a solo show by Stan Davis, this is a holiday filled with entertainment. Five nights are in Vancouver at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street and six nights are in Victoria at the Grand Pacific Hotel, so there is plenty of time for Christmas attractions. Continue the festive spirit with an up-island theatre production of *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* in Chemainus before you wander at your own pace through the dazzling Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights, a true seasonal highlight. Savour the season also at Bloedel Conservatory, Abkhazi Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Craigdarroch Castle, and VanDusen Festival of Lights.



CANADIAN



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

📍 **BC Interior:** December 21, 2026 - 13 days

📍 **Lower Mainland:** December 21, 2026 - 13 days

▶ Fares per person

from **\$6,095** double/twin, **\$7,350** single*

*Further pricing details provided on page 2.

▶ Early Booking Bonus

\$250 discount on first 12 seats; **\$125** on next 8.

▶ Earn 154 Experience Points



VanDusen Festival of Lights

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

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

I BC Interior: We depart from the BC Interior on Monday, December 21, and drive to Vancouver. We return home on Saturday, January 2, driving home from Vancouver. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return.

L Lower Mainland: Join this tour on Monday, December 21 in Vancouver. Depart the group on Saturday, January 2 in Vancouver.

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 and drop off is by the BC Interior coach.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Standard Room	Signature Room	Harbour View Room
BC Interior & Lower Mainland	\$6,095 double/twin \$7,350 single \$5,820 triple	\$6,235 double/twin \$7,605 single \$5,910 triple	\$6,485 double/twin \$8,075 single \$6,075 triple

- Please add 5% GST.
- **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$36 discount with BC Services Card.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- 📍 **19 total:** 5 breakfasts, 2 brunches, 4 lunches, 8 dinners
- 📍 **17 total:** 5 breakfasts, 2 brunches, 2 lunches, 8 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Coach transportation for 13 days
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings

▶ Accommodation

- 12 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels

▶ Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides, docents, & boat crews

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Key Highlights

- Vancouver Harbour Lights Dinner Cruise
- Bloedel Floral Conservatory
- *A Wonderheads Christmas Carol* at Lindsay Family Stage
- Nanaimo Museum
- Chemainus Murals
- *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* at Chemainus Theatre
- Abkhazi Garden
- Stan Davis solo performance
- Butterfly Gardens
- Walking tour of downtown Victoria with Historian
- Craigdarroch Castle
- Royal BC Museum with special exhibit *Ancient Egypt: Obsessed with Life*
- IMAX film
- Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights & dinner in the mansion
- Guided driving tour of Victoria
- Inner Harbour boat tour
- VanDusen Festival of Lights
- Museum of Anthropology
- *42nd Street* at Gateway Theatre
- *Salute to Vienna* concert at Orpheum Theatre

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

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Activity Level 1

Light Activity: You are a traveller who prefers to see places without a lot of physical activity. You can climb a flight of stairs, board a coach, stand for short periods and walk at a leisurely pace with breaks for up to 30 minutes without difficulty or assistance. There are short distances to walk and some stairs such as to/from theatre seats, the downtown walking tour, and at Butchart Gardens. Craigdarroch Castle is a walk of 2 short blocks partly uphill.

You may bring a walker or cane to support your mobility. Please let us know when you book if you will be bringing a walker on this tour. 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

Monday, December 21

Upon arriving in Vancouver, we stay two nights at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street which is surrounded by restaurants and shops. Tonight we board a private yacht for a 2½-hour **dinner cruise** through Vancouver Harbour viewing all the waterfront lights and some other decorated ships.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior), Dinner

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Tuesday, December 22

This morning, we stroll through the **Bloedel Floral Conservatory** in Queen Elizabeth Park. The triodetic dome was erected in 1969 and named for one of its biggest donors, Prentice Bloedel of MacMillan Bloedel Lumber Company. The conservatory contains habitats of tropical rainforest, subtropical rainforest, and desert, plus over 200 birds and 500 species of plants. Lunch is at Top of Vancouver, a revolving restaurant with a terrific view. The afternoon is free time. At 7 pm, we are at the Lindsay Family Stage to see **A Wonderheads Christmas Carol**, an unusual interpretation of Dickens' holiday classic. This unforgettable experience brings Ebenezer Scrooge's wondrous Christmas Eve journey to life with dazzling masks, three-metre tall puppets, a mesmerizing original score, and astonishing stagecraft, all without a word of dialogue.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Wednesday, December 23

We ride the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo. We explore the Nanaimo Museum which documents the city's long history starting with the Hudson's Bay Company and evolving into coal mining. In Chemainus, we view some of the engaging murals. This evening, we savour a sumptuous buffet dinner at Chemainus Theatre and a performance of **The Wickhams:**

Christmas at Pemberley. Downton Abbey meets Jane Austen in this witty and wonderful *Pride and Prejudice* sequel. While the family celebrates upstairs, the servants in the downstairs quarters

must deal with a shocking holiday scandal when Mr. Wickham, Darcy's nemesis and Lydia's spouse, stumbles in.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Chemainus

Thursday, December 24

We drive across the Malahat into Victoria.

Abkhazi Garden is a heritage garden created by Prince Nicholas Abkhazi and his wife Peggy who came to Canada from Georgia (the country) in 1946. Lunch is served in their heritage home, followed by a guided walk around the garden.

Later, we settle into the wonderful **Hotel Grand Pacific** for six nights. It has a great location on the Inner Harbour, next to the Legislative Buildings, and convenient to the shopping of Government and Douglas Streets. Hotel amenities include the Courtyard Café and Fathom Restaurant for dining, an indoor pool, fitness centre, and free Wi-Fi. Choose from three room types when you book this tour:

- **Standard Room** is a city-view room, usually facing south across the James Bay neighbourhood.
- **Signature Room** also has a city view with fancier furnishings and more amenities.
- **Harbour View Room** offers a great view of the Inner Harbour with all its activity, so you can watch boats and the ferry.

At 3 pm, gather with another Wells Gray group for a social holiday get-together in the Grand Pacific's ballroom. Christmas Eve dinner is at the Marriott Hotel, followed by a solo performance by **Stan Davis.**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas! A continental breakfast is served for early risers, followed by a delectable brunch. Expect a gift from Santa to add a little sparkle to the day. A hospitality room is available throughout the day for relaxing, visiting, or simply enjoying the holiday atmosphere at your own pace. The afternoon is leisure time, then we

savour a wonderful Christmas Dinner in the decorated ballroom.

Meals included: Continental Breakfast, Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Saturday, December 26

In the morning, we visit **Butterfly Gardens**, a tropical jungle with thousands of butterflies and other creatures. This afternoon, a walking tour near the Inner Harbour with Don Keith, a local historian, offers tales of Francis Rattenbury, Amor de Cosmos, and other colourful characters who made their mark along Government Street, the first paved street west of the Rockies.

Note: If you want more free time, you can opt out of Butterfly Gardens for a fare reduction of \$15. Please notify us by final payment date.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Sunday, December 27

This morning, we visit extraordinary **Craigdarroch Castle**, a Victorian-era mansion of 39 rooms built in the 1890s by wealthy coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir. The Castle features four floors of exquisite stained-glass windows, intricate woodwork, and lavish furnishings representing late 19th century lifestyles of the rich and famous. This afternoon, we explore the Royal BC Museum which has a special exhibit during Christmas – **Ancient Egypt: Obsessed with Life**. A show at the IMAX Theatre is included.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Monday, December 28

The morning is free time, then brunch is served at **Bard and Banker**. Opened in 1885 as the Bank of British Columbia, the building remained a bank until 1988. Of all the bank employees to work at this location, the most notable was the bard of the Yukon, Robert Service. Later, we go to the **Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights** to admire a fantasyland of Christmas lights and listen to traditional carollers and festive brass. Dinner is served in the Mansion at Butchart Gardens.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Tuesday, December 29

Don Keith joins us on the coach for a morning tour of historic sites of Victoria including St. Ann's Academy, imposing Christ Church Cathedral, the grand homes of Rockland Avenue, Government House, and the upscale Uplands neighbourhood. In the afternoon, we enjoy a different view of downtown Victoria while **cruising on small vessels** around the Inner Harbour. Dinner is at Vista 18 with a panoramic view of Victoria.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Pacific

Wednesday, December 30

We take a morning ferry to Tsawwassen and return to the Blue Horizon Hotel for a three-night stay. Dinner is at the Shaughnessy Restaurant at VanDusen Gardens. Afterwards, wander through the **Festival of Lights** and admire the awesome spectacle of thousands of lights, the dancing lights on the lake, a giant decorated tree, and Candy Cane Lane.

Note: If you want free time after dinner, you can opt out of VanDusen Gardens for a fare reduction of \$21. Please notify us by final payment date.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Thursday, December 31

We visit the **Museum of Anthropology**, housed in a stunning Arthur Erickson structure with exquisite First Nations artifacts and exhibits, including Bill Reid's famous sculpture "The Raven and the First Men". The afternoon is free time. Tonight, we go to the Gateway Theatre to see **42nd Street**. Peggy Sawyer is a small-town girl with big Broadway dreams. When she arrives in New York City, she lands her first role in a glitzy new musical on Broadway. When the show's leading lady breaks her ankle, Peggy gets her chance in the spotlight and shines. *42nd Street* is full of toe-tapping songs, including *Forty-Second Street*, *We're In the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, and *Shuffle Off To Buffalo*. With high-energy choreography, sensational tap numbers, and a dazzling story, *42nd Street* celebrates showbiz with wit, humour and glamour. It has won 10 Tony Awards for the 1981 original and two revivals. Back at the hotel, a private lounge is set up with complimentary

coffee or tea to celebrate the arrival of 2027.

Happy New Year!

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Friday, January 1, 2027

The curtain rises at 2 pm at the ornate Orpheum Theatre for the annual performance of **Salute to Vienna**. It has been billed as the world's greatest New Year's concert. For 85 years, the Vienna Philharmonic's "Neujahrskonzert" broadcast has thrilled 1.2 billion people annually around the globe – a joyous celebration of the musical legacy of Johann Strauss Jr. *Salute to Vienna* started in Toronto in 1995 and it was modelled carefully after the original. Now, 31 years later, the show has become a New Year's tradition,

featuring glorious music and dancing, staged almost simultaneously in 21 cities throughout Canada and USA. The show is performed by the Vancouver Symphony with an outstanding cast of 75 musicians, singers, and dancers. We have reserved superb seats in Right and Left Centre Orchestra. Our farewell dinner is on the 31st floor of the hotel with a terrific view.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Blue Horizon Hotel

Saturday, January 2

We head for home with happy memories of our Christmas and New Year's sojourn.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)



TOUR NOTES

Theatre seat assignments: Seats for the shows are assigned according to the date you booked the tour.

Show cancellation: It rarely happens, but actors occasionally get sick, or some mishap causes the cancellation of a show. This can occur even shortly before the performance begins. We know that this would be disappointing for our customers, but the only refund we would be able to obtain for you would be the actual ticket price of the show. The hotels, motorcoach, and other tour services are all prepaid and are non-refundable at short notice.

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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 14, 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 \$250 discount on the first 12 seats and \$125 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 14, 2026.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$36 discount offered by BC Ferries. Please bring your BC Services Card on the tour.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 14, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 15 to October 14, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 15 to November 6, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 7 to November 20, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 20, 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.

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: Adobe Stock (Victoria Inner Harbour), tour director Marion (Victoria Inner Harbour Tour), and tour director Elvia (VanDusen Festival of Lights, Salute to Vienna).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 154 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 October 14, 2026.

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

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