

NORTHERN LIGHTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

March 2027



Experience the magic of the Northern Lights on an unforgettable winter getaway to Yellowknife. With four evening sessions at Aurora Village, located beneath the auroral oval, you will have multiple opportunities to watch the sky come alive while a local guide shares their knowledge and experiences. Heated, lighted teepees provide a welcoming place to warm up between viewing sessions. During the day, discover more of Yellowknife's winter magic with highlights including the Snowkings' Winter Festival and its spectacular Snow Castle, an exhilarating dog-sledding adventure, and fascinating stories at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and Yellowknife Historical Museum. Choose between an ice-fishing experience or a traditional medicine walk for another unique northern encounter. With flights to and from Yellowknife included, this is an effortless way to experience Canada's spectacular North. After six years of Northern Lights tours in the Yukon and a 2024 adventure in Iceland, Wells Gray Tours is excited to introduce you to the aurora from Yellowknife.



CANADIAN TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** March 15, 2027 – 5 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** March 15, 2027 – 5 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** March 15, 2027 – 5 days

► Fares per person

- ❶ from **\$4,545** double/twin, **\$5,070** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

\$200 discount on first 8 seats; **\$100** on next 4.

► Earn 104 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **8 total:** 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

► Transportation

- Transfers between the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas & the Kelowna, Vancouver, or Victoria Airport
- Flights to Yellowknife & return
- Current air transport taxes & fees
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfers from Yellowknife airport to hotel & return
- 4 days of bus transportation in Yellowknife

► Accommodation

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

► Key Highlights

- 4 sessions of Northern Lights viewing
- Snowkings' Winter Festival
- Snow Castle
- Dog sledding & visit with the dogs
- Locally-guided tour of Yellowknife
- Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
- Yellowknife Historical Museum
- Choice of Ice Fishing Experience **or** Medicine Walk

Attractions are subject to change. Please see our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.

► Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$4,545 double/twin \$5,070 single	• Please add 5% GST. • Triples are not available on this tour. • There is an additional cost to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.
V	Vancouver Island	\$4,695 double/twin \$5,220 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$4,585 double/twin \$5,110 single	

Yellowknife

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.

You can stand for prolonged periods in cool night temperatures during the Northern Lights viewing and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Please be aware that on tours with flights you must handle your own luggage and walk longer distances in airports. There is no luggage handling service at the hotel.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. 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 cannot keep 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 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

ITINERARY

Monday, March 15

Your [departure point](#) will be discussed at the time of booking. We fly to **Yellowknife**. We stay four nights at the Chateau Nova in downtown Yellowknife. A get-acquainted dinner is planned. At 9 pm, we drive out of Yellowknife to **Aurora Village**, the Northern Lights viewing facility, and settle in for what we hope will be a spectacular display.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Nova

Tuesday, March 16

The morning is relaxed after a late night watching the Aurora Borealis until about 1 am. This morning, we attend the **Snowkings' Winter Festival**, an annual event held each March in Yellowknife since 1996. The centrepiece is the **Snow Castle**, built entirely from snow and ice and located on Great Slave Lake. The design evolves every year and the castle has grown to include an auditorium, cafe, courtyard, slide, parapets and turrets. Carvers augment the castle with snow and ice sculptures. In the afternoon, enjoy a **dog sledding ride**, plus some time at the kennel meeting the dog mushers and learning how dogs are cared for and where they are from. Then enjoy a snowshoe walk with an Indigenous guide along pristine trails followed by relaxing by the fire. Tonight is our second night of Northern Lights viewing.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Nova

Wednesday, March 17

A local guide shows us around Yellowknife, including a visit to the **Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre**. It is the Northwest Territories' premier museum, showcasing the natural, cultural, and Indigenous history of Canada's North through exhibits on archaeology, wildlife, art, aviation, and northern heritage. Tonight is our third opportunity for Northern Lights viewing.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Chateau Nova

Thursday, March 18

We visit the **Yellowknife Historical Museum** which is dedicated to the history of Yellowknife, its mining heritage, early settlers, and aviation history. There is a choice of afternoon activities. Please choose no later than at final payment. One of the activities is included, or you can choose a free afternoon at the Aurora Village for a \$100 reduction per person.

- 1) **Ice Fishing & Fish Tasting:** A fishing net is set using Indigenous methods and equipment at Prosperous Lake. Watch your guide pull the net, then learn about the different fish species that are caught here. The fish are cooked, then enjoy a tasting.
- 2) **Medicine walk & Workshop:** The guided walk takes place on traditional snowshoes along moderate, mostly level trails. The guide describes surrounding medicine items and how they are used in Indigenous medicine. Spruce tips may be gathered and prepared in oil over a fire to create a salve. If time allows, the workshop also includes a demonstration of how to make a dreamcatcher.

Let's hope for a terrific Northern Lights show for our last night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Nova

Friday, March 19

A late morning transfer is provided to Yellowknife Airport, then we fly to Kelowna, Victoria, or Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast



THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OR AURORA BOREALIS

The Northern Lights, otherwise known as the Aurora Borealis, are magical, mystical, and mesmerizing. The scientific explanation lies with the sun and the output of energy particles from sunspots. These energy particles, which take the form of free electrons and protons, leave the sun as plasma and create solar wind. When these particles reach Earth's atmosphere, contact with atmospheric gases excites the particles, causing them to emit light. The magnetic poles cause the particles to become unstable and concentrated, thereby becoming visible on earth as dancing lights.

Folklore has always surrounded the aurora phenomenon. In Scandinavia, the lights were called 'herring flash', caused by the reflections cast by large swarms of herring onto the sky. Norse legend refers to "the fires that surround the North and South edges of the world", and this has been put forward as evidence that the Norse ventured as far as Antarctica. In Inuit folklore, Northern Lights were the spirits of the dead demonstrating that they don't feel pain anymore, appropriately named Pathway to Heaven. Many prospectors during the Klondike Gold Rush believed that the Northern Lights were the reflection of the mother lode of all gold.

Whatever the explanation, the sight of the Northern Lights fills one with awe and childlike wonder, as though we are witnessing a magical event as curtains of ever-changing light dance across the sky. The best time of year to view the Northern Lights is in mid-winter when the nights are longest and darkest. Although it is not possible to predict auroral activity very far in advance, chances of viewing increase dramatically when you go out four nights in a row, as on this tour. The most active region of the auroral oval typically becomes visible around local midnight, and this region is also the widest part of the oval. Our evenings of viewing begin between 9 and 10 pm and last 3-4 hours to catch the darkest hours of the night. However, please be aware that the Northern Lights are unpredictable. We have increased odds in every way possible, but there is no guarantee that we will actually witness a spectacular show.

TOUR NOTES

Flexible Itinerary: Much of this itinerary is dependent on the weather for the most enjoyment of activities. Therefore, treat this tour as an adventure in travel and allow maximum flexibility for changing conditions. If an activity is cancelled one day due to inclement weather, we will try to reschedule during our stay. We plan to visit Aurora Village on four evenings, starting between 9 and 10 pm, but cloudy skies could interfere with one or more of these viewings. You can opt out of any of the planned viewings, but no refund can be provided.

Wells Gray Tours cannot guarantee that the Northern Lights will be active any night or every night.

Clothing: Dress warmly, no matter what weather forecast you see for Yellowknife. You will be outside at night watching the Northern Lights and it is easy to get chilled, even if there is a warm teepee to retreat to. Bring a warm coat, warm pants, sweatshirt, sweater, warm underwear, snow boots or hiking boots, toque, and warm gloves. If you don't want to pack your own winter clothing, a winter gear rental is offered. Includes boots, snow pants, parka (all rated for minus 60°C), mittens, and a branded facemask (yours to keep). Cost is \$145 per person plus GST. Keep in mind that this tour is in mid-March, so extreme cold would be unusual. Daytime temperatures may range from minus 22°C to 3°C, with colder temperatures possible at night.

Flight seating: We are unable to take seating requests of any kind in any class. 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 \$890 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Please refer to our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information on the "No Flight" option.

Flight delays or cancellations: 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due January 13, 2027. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms and Conditions, Company Policies](#), 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 \$200 discount on the first 8 seats and \$100 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 13, 2027.

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to December 10, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person.
- From December 11, 2026 to January 13, 2027, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person.
- From January 14 to February 12, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare.
- After February 12, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard until September 8, 2026 and Battleface after that. 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 a lot from one province/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. Insurance premiums are not refundable whether or not you make a claim.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Aurora Village page 1 and 4) and Wikimedia (Snowkings' Winter Festival, Yellowknife).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 104 Experience Points or e-points. Redeem up to 104 of your earned e-points from a previous tour until January 13, 2027. Please see our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information about e-points.

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

For information on itinerary and fare changes, food allergies, and more, please see our [Terms, Conditions, and Company Policies](#).

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