INSIDE PASSAGE & *SKEENA TRAIN*

July 2027

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience


Skeena Train

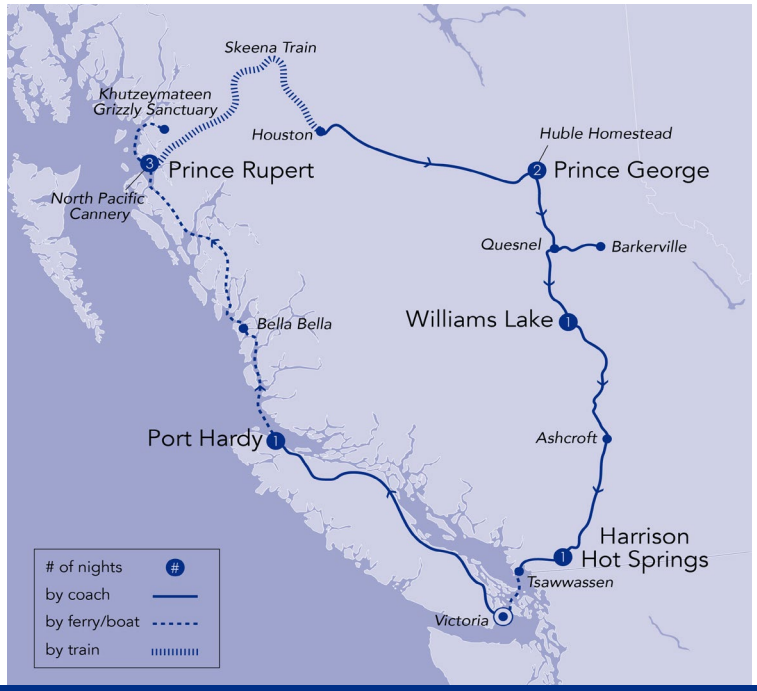
Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

Discover the spectacular beauty of British Columbia's North Coast by land and sea on this unforgettable circle tour. Settle in aboard BC Ferries' *Northern Expedition* for a 16½-hour journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert, travelling 500 kilometres along a rugged coastline where you can watch for wildlife and admire the scenery, mostly in daylight. In Prince Rupert, venture by catamaran to the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary for a seven-hour excursion in search of grizzly bears, then step back in time at the restored North Pacific Cannery. Continue inland aboard VIA Rail's *Skeena Train*, enjoying a spectacular journey through the Coast Mountains to Houston. You'll also explore Huble Homestead and wander through Barkerville, a beautifully restored gold rush town that brings British Columbia's gold rush history to life. From coastal wildlife and scenic rail travel to fascinating heritage sites, this is a wonderful way to experience the diverse landscapes and history of our province.

RAIL TOUR

ACTIVITY LEVEL 2

- **Departure from:**
  V Vancouver Island: July 10, 2027 - 9 days
- **Fares per person**
  V $4,555 double/twin, **$5,495** single*
  **Further pricing details provided on page 2.*
- **Early Booking Bonus**
  $250 discount on first 12 seats; **$125** on next 8.
- **Earn 115 Experience Points**



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Meals

- **14 total:** 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners

Transportation

- Coach transportation for 9 days
- *Northern Expedition* ferry through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay

Accommodation

- 8 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

Gratuities

- Gratuities for local guides & boat crew

Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

Key Highlights

- 7-hour boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- VIA Rail train from Prince Rupert to Houston
- Huble Homestead
- Northern Lights Winery
- Historian on coach from Quesnel to Barkerville
- Barkerville Historic Town
- Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Harrison Hot Springs pools
- Copper Room dinner with entertainment

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Terms & Conditions for more information.


Grizzly Bear

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
V Vancouver Island	**$4,555** double/twin **$5,495** single **$4,280** triple	• Please add 5% GST. • **BC Seniors from (65 & over):** $56 discount with BC Services card.

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. There is considerable walking involved in exploring Barkerville. There are steep steps on and off the train. The ferry has an elevator. Luggage service is not available in Port Hardy.

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 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.



Tour Size 40
This tour can accommodate 40 participants.

ITINERARY

Saturday, July 10

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking. We drive north on the Island Highway, past Campbell River to **Port Hardy.**
Meals included: Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Kwa'lilas Hotel

Sunday, July 11

The ***Northern Expedition*** departs Port Hardy for a 16½-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and watch for wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel, and the long canal-like Grenville Channel. Enjoy a comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge, accessed with a key. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay three nights at the Crest Hotel, the finest in the city.

Cabin option: You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for $175 or inside cabin for $145 (per cabin), if available. Prices may increase in 2027. Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet, and shower. Please request when you book this tour.

Accommodation: Crest Hotel

Monday, July 12

The **Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary** preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in BC. We board a 22-metre catamaran for a seven-hour excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has ample outdoor deck space and floor-to-ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about Indigenous communities and watching for dolphins, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. July is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are playing and feeding along the shoreline.
Meals included: Lunch
Accommodation: Crest Hotel

Tuesday, July 13

We drive to Port Edward on the Skeena River and tour the restored **North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site** which was built in 1889. This afternoon, we admire the wonderful exhibits at the **Museum of Northern British Columbia** which focuses on Indigenous art and artifacts.
Meals included: Lunch
Accommodation: Crest Hotel

Wednesday, July 14

VIA Rail's *Skeena Train* offers a spectacular eight-hour journey as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the **Coast Mountains**. Our coach driver meets us in Houston because the train usually runs late for the last 300 km into Prince George due to freight train traffic. Your luggage travels conveniently on the coach.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Sandman Signature Prince George Hotel

Thursday, July 15

The morning is at leisure, and you may wish to visit the Cottonwood Island Nature Park, where the Nechako and Fraser Rivers meet. In the late morning, we visit the Huble Homestead which was built in 1912 at this strategic bend of the Fraser. A heritage tour is followed by lunch in the old barn. During the afternoon, we go to the Northern Lights Estate Winery on the banks of the Nechako River and enjoy a tour and tasting.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Sandman Signature Prince George Hotel

Friday, July 16

We enjoy commentary from an expert historian during the drive from Quesnel to **Barkerville**. This is BC's largest restored historic town. There is plenty to see and do today. You can hear a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, attend a service at St. Saviour's, or chat with an 1880s character portrayed by a

costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at the **Theatre Royal** is an hour of lively music and songs, funny stories of the gold rush, and great entertainment. Afterwards, we continue to Williams Lake.
Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn

Saturday, July 17

We follow the Cariboo Highway south to Cache Creek. We stop for lunch at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. This afternoon, we enjoy dramatic views through the scenic Thompson and Fraser Canyons. Our last night is at **Harrison Hot Springs** where you can relax in the hot pools and savour an elegant dinner in the Copper Room with entertainment.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Harrison Hot Springs Resort

Sunday, July 18

The morning is leisure time to use the hot pools again or stroll the park-like grounds. We take an afternoon ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. After dropping off the Victoria passengers, transportation is provided up-island.
Meals included: Breakfast



NORTHERN EXPEDITION

BC Ferries' ***Northern Expedition*** was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers, and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop, and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert takes 16½ hours, almost all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life, and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.

TOUR NOTES

Please Book Early! Unsold ferry and train space must be released in May 2027. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

VIA Rail's *Skeena Train*: Seating is in Economy, which is the only class offered, but there is a dome car with open (unreserved) seating.

Accommodation: There are limited accommodation choices in northern BC, so please do not expect luxury lodging.

Photo ID: You must bring government-issued photo ID, otherwise you will not be allowed to board the ferry or the train.

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 the balance is due May 10, 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 $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 May 10, 2027.

Senior Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive a $56 discount extended by BC Ferries and VIA Rail. Booking deadline is May 10, 2027. You must show your BC government-issued ID to receive the discount, so please bring it with you on the tour.

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to April 9, 2027, the cancellation charge is $50 per person.
- From April 10 to May 10, the cancellation charge is $200 per person.
- From May 11 to June 9, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare.
- After June 9, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by battleface® travel insurance. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the preexisting 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. Insurance premiums are not refundable whether or not you make a claim.

Photo Credits: VIA Rail (*Skeena Train*), Prince Rupert Adventure Tours (Grizzly Bear), and Wikimedia (*Northern Expedition*).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 115 Experience Points or e-points. Redeem up to 115 of your earned e-points from a previous tour until May 10, 2027. Please see loyalty rewards on our website for more information about e-points.

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

For information on itinerary changes, fare changes, and more, please see our Terms, Conditions, and Company Policies.

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