ROAD TO THE ARCTIC

July 2027

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Wells Gray Travellers at the Arctic Ocean in 2026

Includes Dempster Highway to Arctic Ocean

Journey to the edge of the Arctic Ocean on an unforgettable adventure through the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Travel the legendary Dempster Highway across the Arctic Circle to Tuktoyaktuk, a remote Inuvialuit community on the Arctic coast, and enjoy a locally guided tour, including a visit to an Inuit home with a presentation on Inuit fashion and lifestyle. Along the way, discover Yellowknife, cruise Great Slave Lake for a fish fry lunch, and take a spectacular scenic flight into Nahanni National Park to see magnificent Virginia Falls. Relax in the soothing waters of Liard Hot Springs and Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs, and step back in time in Dawson City with an evening at Diamond Tooth Gerties. With scenic flights, boat excursions, remarkable landscapes, and fascinating cultural experiences, this is a wonderful opportunity to discover Canada's far north.

CANADIAN TOUR

2
ACTIVITY LEVEL

- **Departure from:**
  - **I BC Interior:** July 23, 2027 - 20 days
  - **V Vancouver Island:** July 23, 2027 - 20 days
  - **L Lower Mainland:** July 23, 2027 - 19 days
- **Fares per person**
  - **L** from **$11,885** double/twin, **$13,995** single*
  - **Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*
- **Earn 290 Experience Points**



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Meals

I **27 total:** 8 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 8 dinners
V **L** **26 total:** 8 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners

Transportation

- Transfers between the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Area to Kelowna, Victoria or Vancouver Airport
- Coach transportation for 18 days
- Flights to Yellowknife
- Current air taxes & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Yellowknife Airport to hotel
- Deh Cho Mackenzie River bridge toll
- Liard River ferry twice
- Ferry crossings of the Peel & Mackenzie Rivers
- Flight from Inuvik to Dawson City
- Transfer from Dawson Airport to hotel
- Flight from Dawson City via Whitehorse to Vancouver

Accommodation

I **V** 19 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
L 18 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

Gratuities & Fees

- Gratuities for local guides, boat crew, & docents
- Nahanni National Park fee

Key Highlights

- NWT Diamond & Jewellery Centre
- Great Slave Lake boat trip with fish fry lunch
- Locally-guided tour of Yellowknife
- Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
- Yellowknife Historical Museum
- Scenic flight to Nahanni National Park with possible landing at Virginia Falls
- Swim at Liard Hot Springs
- Locally-guided tour of Whitehorse
- Yukon Beringia Centre
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve
- Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs with towel rental
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Midnight Dome
- Local guide to Tombstone on Dempster Hwy
- Igloo Church
- Community Greenhouse in Inuvik
- Western Arctic Visitor Centre
- Locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk
- Visit to an Inuit home in Tuktoyaktuk with lunch & presentation on Inuit fashion & lifestyle
- *SS Keno* National Historic Site with guide
- Palace Grand Theatre with guide

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

Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	**$11,995** double/twin **$14,250** single	• Please add 5% GST. • There is an additional cost to fly to Nanaimo or Comox Airport at the end of this tour.
V	Vancouver Island	**$12,170** double/twin **$14,425** single	
L	Lower Mainland	**$11,885** double/twin **$13,995** single	

Tombstone Mountains

ITINERARY

Friday, July 23

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking. We fly to **Yellowknife**, the capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories, and stay three nights.
Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Saturday, July 24

We go to the NWT Diamond and Jewellery Centre which showcases the fascinating geology of kimberlite deposits, the technology of mining in the sub-Arctic, and the process of turning a rough stone into a beautiful diamond. Of course, you can also purchase diamonds that have been mined, cut, and polished in the NWT. Next is a boat trip on **Great Slave Lake** with a fish fry lunch served on an island. This is the deepest lake in North America at 610 metres, and the 10th largest lake in the world, covering 27,195 square km.
Meals included: Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Sunday, July 25

A locally-guided tour features highlights of Yellowknife such as the outstanding **Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre**. The rest of the day is free time. The self-guided Yellowknife Historical Museum is worth visiting (included).
Meals included: Lunch
Accommodation: Explorer Hotel

Monday, July 26

We start our road journey across the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The Mackenzie Highway winds around the north arm of Great Slave Lake to Fort Providence. The mighty **Mackenzie River** is crossed on the Deh Cho Bridge which opened in 2012 at a cost of $200 million. The Mackenzie starts just upstream in Great Slave Lake and flows 1,742 km to the Arctic Ocean, making it Canada's longest river. After a stop at Sambaa Deh Falls, a ferry takes us over the broad Liard River to **Fort Simpson**.
Meals included: Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Nahanni Traveller Hotel

Tuesday, July 27

Today is one of the most memorable of our Arctic journey. We board charter planes for a thrilling air excursion into the wilderness of **Nahanni National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The highlight is 100-metre-high **Virginia Falls**, one of Canada's greatest cataracts and also one of the least-visited. If possible, we land near the falls where there are several awesome viewpoints. Downstream from the falls, the Nahanni River surges through miles of rapids beneath towering cliffs. These canyonlands were made famous by prospectors' tales a century ago of lost gold and the Headless Valley. A recommended book is Raymond Patterson's *The Dangerous River*, a gripping account of his 1927 journey into the Nahanni. Weather permitting, our flight route follows the Nahanni River from 1st to 4th Canyon past Pulpit Rock, then over the rugged **Mackenzie Mountains** and the soaring cliffs of Ram Plateau.
Note: Flight departures are weather permitting. Should a flight be cancelled due to weather conditions, a refund will be provided to guests unable to participate.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Nahanni Traveller Hotel

Wednesday, July 28

We follow the Liard Highway south into BC and join the **Alaska Highway**. This world-famous road was built in 1942 in just eight months and has been continually upgraded. This scenic section winds through the barren Rocky Mountains. We stay two nights on the shore of **Muncho Lake** at Northern Rockies Lodge, a handcrafted log building.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Northern Rockies Lodge

Thursday, July 29

Enjoy a relaxing swim at **Liard Hot Springs** where the water temperature ranges from 42° to 52°C. This afternoon, you may want to take a pleasant stroll along the shore of Muncho Lake.
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation: Northern Rockies Lodge

Friday, July 30

In **Watson Lake, Yukon**, we see the famous Signpost Forest, started by a homesick roadbuilder in 1942 and now displaying over 100,000 city signs. We drive along the east shore of **Teslin Lake** which is 120 km long and cross the Nisutlin Bay Bridge, longest on the Alaska Highway. The next three nights are in **Whitehorse** at the newly opened Hyatt Place downtown.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Saturday, July 31

A locally-guided tour of Whitehorse sights is offered. We visit the **Yukon Beringia Centre** which explores the people, animals, and environment of the prehistoric land bridge between Alaska and Siberia. Next is the **Yukon Museum of Transportation** which brings to life vivid tales of bush pilots, captains on the Yukon River sternwheelers, Klondike stampeders on the Chilkoot Trail, and Alaska Highway builders.
Meals included: Dinner
Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Sunday, August 1

We start the day at the Yukon **Wildlife Preserve**, a unique 350-acre wildlife viewing facility. We learn about northern mammals such as moose, muskox, mountain goat, wood bison, woodland caribou, elk, lynx, and Dall's sheep, presented in their natural environments. Later, we relax in the soothing waters of the three pools at **Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs** with temperatures up to 42°C.

Option: Choose to opt-out of the Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs experience for a free afternoon. Reduction of $60 per person. Please choose by final payment.

Accommodation: Hyatt Place Whitehorse

Monday, August 2

We leave Whitehorse via the **Klondike Highway** and follow the Yukon River past Lake Laberge, made famous by Robert Service in *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. Further downstream are the Five Finger Rapids which were a challenge for the Yukon River sternwheelers. Our destination is **Dawson City**, the partially restored town where the fabulous Klondike Gold Rush started in 1898. Tonight, we go to **Diamond Tooth Gerties** for casino gambling and a vaudeville show.
Meals included: Lunch
Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Tuesday, August 3

The morning is free time and you may want to go to the Visitor Centre, see a presentation by the "Ghost of Robert Service", or stroll these storied streets. A local guide accompanies us on a tour around Dawson City and Bonanza Creek with many stories about the gold rush. The gigantic **Dredge #4 National Historic Site** is included and we drive to the top of Midnight Dome for a panoramic view. The Downtown Hotel's bar is home to the famous Sourtoe Cocktail, if you dare!
Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Wednesday, August 4

Canada's renowned wilderness road, **Dempster Highway**, heads north from Dawson City, passing through Inuvik and continuing across the Arctic Circle to Tuktoyaktuk. Surveying of the route began in 1958 and it took 21 years to build. The road was named for William Dempster of the Northwest Mounted Police who searched for the Lost Patrol in 1911. During our first day on the Dempster, a local guide is with us as far as the rugged **Tombstone Mountains**. We follow the Klondike and Ogilvie Rivers through stunning scenery of barren mountains and tundra. The night stop is at Eagle Plains Hotel which perches on a lofty ridge with views in every direction of Arctic wilderness.
Meals included: Boxed Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Eagle Plains Hotel

Thursday, August 5

We cross the **Arctic Circle** and the Dempster Highway winds over miles of mountain ridges without a tree in sight. We ride on small ferries across the Peel and Mackenzie Rivers. **Fort McPherson** is the location of the graves of the Lost Patrol. We stay three nights in **Inuvik**, a modern town of 3,200 people on the Mackenzie River where it widens into its huge delta.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Mackenzie Hotel

Friday, August 6

Today we discover more of **Inuvik**, the largest community in Canada's Western Arctic. A local guide introduces us to the town's unique northern lifestyle and culture, beginning with the distinctive **Igloo Church**, one of the most recognizable landmarks in the Northwest Territories. We also visit the remarkable Community Greenhouse, an innovative northern project that produces fresh vegetables despite the short Arctic growing season. At the **Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre**, exhibits help explain the history, people, wildlife, and geography of this fascinating region. The afternoon is free to relax or explore Inuvik at your own pace.

Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation: Mackenzie Hotel

Saturday, August 7

A highway to Canada's Arctic Coast has been talked about since the 1960s, but it was not completed to **Tuktoyaktuk** until 2017. Today, we have the exciting experience of driving to the Arctic Ocean, across the permafrost of the **Mackenzie River Delta**. A tour of Tuktoyaktuk, Canada's most northerly mainland town, is conducted by a long-time local resident and includes a chance to dip a toe or finger in the frigid **Arctic Ocean**. We also enjoy lunch at an Inuit home and a presentation on Inuit fashions and lifestyles.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Mackenzie Hotel

Sunday, August 8

We fly from Inuvik to Dawson City. This afternoon, we tour the ***S.S. Keno***, built in 1922 to carry silver lead ore down the Stewart and Yukon Rivers, returning with vital supplies. For 29 years, this wood-burning, steam-powered vessel navigated Yukon waterways.

Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Monday, August 9

We visit the **Palace Grand Theatre** which is a replica of the original 1899 building that entertained many gold rush miners. This evening, we enjoy a "Farewell to the Klondike" dinner.

Option: This afternoon, enjoy a nostalgic journey aboard the *Klondike Spirit*, the only operating sternwheeler in the Yukon. Cost is $80 per person plus GST. Please choose no later than final payment.

Meals included: Dinner
Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Tuesday, August 10

We fly from Dawson City to Whitehorse and continue to Vancouver. Passengers from Vancouver travel home, while passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island spend the night in New Westminster.

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay (BC Interior & Vancouver Island)

Wednesday, August 11

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel home.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)

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 and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Some travelling days are long as hotels and towns are far apart in the north. Some communities do not have paved streets and sidewalks, so the walking surface may be uneven. There are stairs on and off the lake cruise, the Nahanni plane, and Inuvik to Dawson plane. There can be long walks in the airports. Luggage handling is not available in Yellowknife and Eagle Plains and may not be available at other hotels.

This tour is not appropriate if you depend upon a walker, but you may bring a cane or walking poles. 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. 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 32
This tour is limited to 32 participants due to the limited capacity on the planes for the Nahanni Flightseeing excursion, making it a more intimate travel experience.

NOTES ABOUT YOUR ARCTIC TOUR

Accommodation in the North is the best available, but it may not be up to the standard you expect in the rest of Canada. In places such as Fort Simpson and Eagle Plains, there is only one place to stay. Since hotels in the North have a limited season and enormous operating expenses, room rates are very high, which is why this tour costs more per day than most Wells Gray tours.

Schedule: This tour is scheduled for late-July to mid-August, so you can enjoy pleasantly warm days and cool nights, possibly the aurora borealis, and fewer mosquitoes or other insects. Some customers ask for a June tour to the North, but that is the height of bug season and some people have difficulty sleeping with nearly 24 hours of daylight.

Passport is not required as this tour does not enter Alaska.

Please book early! This tour is limited to 32 travellers because of aircraft capacity.

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 probably cannot 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.

Flight seating: We are unable to accept seating requests of any kind in any class on the flight to Yellowknife. 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 $500 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Flights from Inuvik to Dawson City and Dawson City to Vancouver are included as a bundled package due to limited availability; partial opt-outs are not possible. For more information about the "No Flight" option, please see our **Terms and Conditions**.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for an upgrade on the flight to Yellowknife. Business class may be available.

Flight delays or cancellations: We visit some remote locations on this tour. Flights can be delayed, postponed, cancelled, or rescheduled for a variety of reasons that are beyond our control which could alter the itinerary. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during any delays. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of $800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due April 19, 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.

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to March 19, 2027, the cancellation charge is $100 per person.
- From March 20 to April 19, the cancellation charge is $300 per person.
- From April 20 to May 19, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare.
- From May 20 to June 18, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare.
- After June 18, 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 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 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.

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Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 290 Experience Points or e-points. Redeem up to 290 of your earned e-points from a previous tour until April 19, 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.

KAMLOOPS
(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA
2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON
3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON
159 Wade Ave E
Penticton, BC V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA
102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

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www.wellsgraytours.com 1-800-667-9552