

## UBC MERIT – 2024 VSP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Please do **NOT** book your tours until you have secured your Canada visa or ETA.

Booking link coming soon!

### GROUP 1 TOUR OVERVIEW

Please see the table below for an overview of tours and prices.

Special Early Booking Discount – book by April 15

Regular Price – from April 15 onwards

Tour Name	Early Bird Price	Reg. Price	Departure Date	Guest Arrival Time	Departure Time	Approx. Return Time*
GROUP 1						
Whistler Day Tour	\$85	\$90	June 15, 2024	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	Approx. 8:00pm
Victoria Day Tour	\$165	\$175	June 22, 2024	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	Approx. 9:30pm
Pacific Rim 3-Day Tour	\$785	\$820	June 29- July 1, 2024	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	Approx. 9:30pm
Thompson Okanagan Wilderness Tour	\$575	\$595	July 4-6, 2024	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	Approx. 7:30pm

\*We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions.

### GROUP 1 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

#### WHISTLER DAY TOUR DESCRIPTION

[Watch video](#)

**Tour Date: June 15**

**Price:** The regular per person price including GST is \$90

**Special price if booked by April 15: \$85**

**Price Includes:**

- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly & fun Tour Guide
- Park fees
- Enroute entertainment with music & games
- Guided tour of Whistler Village
- Great discounts on optional activities
- All taxes & tips

**Itinerary:**

- Depart UBC Campus from the Gage Tower Residence at 8:00am. Please arrive by 7:45am
- Visit beautiful Shannon Falls
- Arrive in Whistler at approximately 10am and enjoy a guided tour of the area.
- Option to participate in the following activities for an additional price: Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural (\$), Peak 2 Peak Sightseeing Gondola (\$), or TreeTrek Canopy Walk (\$).
- For those not interested in any of the options, you can join your tour guide for an extended tour & walk to Lost Lake where you can spend the remainder of the afternoon swimming and sunbathing; or spend your afternoon shopping & exploring Whistler Village
- 5:30pm – Depart Whistler
- 8:00pm (approximately) – Return to UBC Campus

**Optional Activity Options:**

- Peak 2 Peak Sightseeing Gondola - \$TBD
- TreeTrek Canopy Walk- \$TBD
- Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre - \$TBD

**\*\* optional activities need to be added at time of booking. You can only choose 1 activity.**



## VICTORIA DAY TOUR DESCRIPTION

[Watch video](#)

**Tour Date: June 22**

**Price:** The regular per person price including GST is \$175

**Special price if booked by April 15: \$165**

**Price Includes:**

- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly & fun Tour Guide
- Ferry fees
- Enroute entertainment with music & games
- Guided tour of Victoria
- Great discounts on optional activities
- All taxes & tips

**Itinerary:**

- Depart UBC Campus from the Gage Tower Residence at 8:30am, please arrive by 8:15am
- Ferry through the beautiful Gulf Islands
- Enjoy a scenic coastal drive.
- Stop at Beacon Hill Park and Mile 0 (the start of the Trans Canada Highway)
- Sightseeing tour of downtown Victoria - including the Inner Harbor, Government Street, China Town, Empress hotel, and Legislative Buildings
- Option to visit Butchart Gardens (\$).
- Enjoy some free time in downtown Victoria.
- Take the 7:00pm return ferry.
- Return to UBC campus at approximately 9:30pm

**Optional Activity Options:**

Butchart Gardens with transfers- \$45

*\*\* optional activities need to be added at time of booking*



## PACIFIC RIM TOUR (TOFINO & UCLUELET)

### [Watch video](#)

#### **Tour Date: June 29- July 1 (2 nights)**

**Price:** The per person price including GST is \$820

**Special price if booked by April 15: \$785**

#### **Price Includes:**

- Accommodation at the waterfront Canadian Princess Resort in Ucluelet
- Deluxe transportation
- Ferry fees
- Meals: 2 continental breakfasts
- Experienced, friendly, and fun tour guide
- Park fees

#### **ITINERARY:**

##### **Day 1: Vancouver to Pacific Rim & Ucluelet**

- Depart UBC from Gage Residence at 6:45am, please arrive by 6:30am
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Visit Coombs – A camera is a must item on a trip to Coombs, as on a good day, visitors might get a picture of the goats on the roof.
- Hike around Little Qualicum Falls – straddles the scenic Little Qualicum River, west of Parksville, where impressive waterfalls cascade and plummet down a rocky gorge in a beautiful forest setting
- Check into the waterfront Canadian Princess Lodge located in Ucluelet.
- Free time for dinner
- Enjoy evening games and a campfire (weather permitting)

##### **Day 2: Tofino**

- Depart for the Town of Tofino. Today you can choose to explore the town on your own or book one of the optional activities such as whale watching (\$), bear watching (\$), kayaking (\$), or a Hot Springs Cove tour (\$). We highly recommend booking in advance. You will have a full day to explore Tofino.
- Option to join your guide today on a leisure walk/hike to Tonquin Beach. Easily accessible from downtown Tofino for those who want to explore on their own.
- Stop at Long Beach on your way back to Ucluelet this afternoon.
- Free evening to relax at the resort.
- Option to join your guide at Big Beach for a campfire & marshmallow roast, a 10-minute walk from the resort (fire ban dependent)

##### **Day 3: Ucluelet to Vancouver**

- Check out of your hotel this morning and make your way to the Wild Pacific Trail: you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of the rugged coastline, and the working Lighthouse that marks the end of the trail.
- Visit Cathedral Grove, a protected old growth forest with ancient Douglas Fir trees dating back more than 800 years.
- Arrive in Nanaimo and check in for the ferry back to the Mainland.
- Return to UBC at approximately 9:30pm, depending on traffic.



**ACCOMMODATION NOTES:**

This tour stays at the Canadian Princess Lodge which is a newly renovated 46 room lodge and 250 ft marina. It is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island in Ucluelet. The lodge consists of standard rooms, lofts, and suites. All rooms have fridges, microwaves, private balconies, and free WiFi. The from price is based on shared beds, either 4 or 6 per room depending on the room type. Guests can upgrade to have their own bed for an additional \$150.

**Optional Activity Options (prices include eco and park fees):** *\*\*optional activities need to be added at time of booking. You can only choose 1 activity.*

- Whale Watching (2.5 - 3 hours) - \$TBD
- Bear Watching (2.5 - 3 hours) - \$TBD
- Hot Springs Cove (6 hours) - \$TBD
- Kayak Tour - Discover the Islands (2.5 hours) - \$TBD
- Kayak Tour - Discover the Rainforest (4 hours) - \$TBD



## THOMPSON OKANAGAN WILDERNESS 3-DAY TOUR

**Tour dates: July 4- July 6**

**Price:** The per person price including GST is \$595

**Special price if booked by April 15: \$575**

**Price Includes:**

- Transportation for all passengers
- Experienced, friendly, and fun tour guide (1 guide per bus)
- 2 nights hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy.
- Breakfast daily
- 1 bagged lunch
- Admission to the BC Wildlife Park
- Wine tasting
- Admission to Historic Hat Creek Ranch
- Enroute entertainment with music, games, and prizes
- All taxes and park passes.

**ITINERARY:**

**July 4: Vancouver – Kamloops**

- 2:30 pm – Meet your guide at UBC (exact meeting point TBD) and prepare for departure.
- 3:00 pm Let the journey begin! Depart Vancouver and travel through the Fraser Valley
- Stop at Bridal Falls and enjoy a short nature walk to view the waterfall.
- Dinner break in Hope
- 8:30 pm Check into your Kamloops hotel
- Free time to relax at the hotel for the evening.

**July 5: Kamloops to Clearwater**

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 9:30 am Visit the BC Wildlife Park this morning (included) and learn about the work the park does in rehabilitating orphaned and injured animals.
- Enjoy a wine tasting experience (included)
- 12:00 pm Stop for lunch at Yew Street Food Hall where you will have the chance to purchase lunch from one of several local food & drink vendors (own expense)
- Depart for Clearwater after lunch.
- Make your way into Wells Gray Provincial Park! Visit two of the parks most stunning waterfalls.
- Check into your Clearwater hotel. Free time for the remainder of the evening.

**July 6: Clearwater to Vancouver**

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 8:00 am Depart Clearwater and begin the journey back to Vancouver.
- 11:00 am Visit Historic Hat Creek Ranch today and learn about BC's Gold Rush history. Bagged lunch will be provided here.
- Return to UBC at approximately 7:30 pm

**ACCOMMODATION NOTES:**

This tour stays at two different hotels in Kamloops and Clearwater. All rooms are standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).

**IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ALL TOURS**

- **All tours require a minimum number of passengers to run. If the minimum number is not met the tour may be cancelled. In this case guests will receive a full refund and assistance in booking another tour option.**
- Due to the volume of passengers traveling the actual timing of the sightseeing stops will vary so that we don't have too many people at one attraction at the same time.
- Itinerary and some inclusions (i.e. campfire and marshmallow roast) is subject to change and may not be available based on weather, fire restrictions, and road conditions
- The price for overnight tours is based on shared beds, which means that 2 people of the same gender will be sharing a bed with another 2-6 people of the same gender in the same unit. To accommodate the high number of travellers we use many different accommodation properties with a variety of room types. **The majority of accommodation properties have standard hotel rooms with 2 queen beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).**
- Other room types may include:
  - 1 regular queen/double bed with a pull-out couch
  - 1 regular queen/double bed with a pull-out murphy bed
  - 1 regular queen/double bed with two twin beds
  - 1 regular queen/double bed with bunk beds
  - Condo style units with 2 up to 4 beds (sleep either 4 or 8 people) with a shared kitchen.
- Itineraries are subject to minor changes between now and when the booking link will be live to accept bookings.

**Merit Travel Responsibility:**

Merit Travel acts as an agent for hotels and transportation companies as such Merit Travel cannot accept responsibility for any damage, loss, injury, or other irregularities in connection with any transportation, accommodation or service provided.

**Limits on Responsibility:**

Participants agree not to hold Merit Travel and any of its representatives responsible for but not limited to any loss, injury or damage to any person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodation or transportation, due to 'Acts of God', any incident at sea, fire, breakdowns in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or authorities, de jure or de facto, wars declared or threatened, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage epidemics, pandemics, travel quarantines, force majeure, medical or customs regulations, defaults, delays, cancellations or any causes beyond which Merit Travel can control. Merit Travel cannot be named responsible for any loss of damage resulting from improperly issued visas or other

documents. Merit Travel transacts and secures transportation, hotels, lodging accommodations, restaurants, ground handling and other services from various independent suppliers. As a result, Merit Travel is not liable for any negligent or willful act of any such person or entity or of any third person.

Merit Travel makes every effort to plan your trip so that it is seamless and worry free. It is the sole responsibility for each traveller and group coordinator to ensure that everyone has the proper travel documents, including parental consent forms in the case of minors. Additionally, if the participant is a minor, you agree to assume all liability and release Merit Travel of any indemnification.

Travel restrictions, provincial closures and flight suspensions/airline schedule changes may occur during these extraordinary times. Travellers are responsible for any problems/costs if you are not able to enter a province/country, quarantining upon arrival or during your journey.

Please ensure you have sufficient travel insurance for your trip.

While we are dedicated to assisting you through your travel arrangements, Merit Travel will not be held responsible for any additional charges you may encounter related, but not limited to, the above or any COVID-19 risks, and the risk to travel is solely at the traveler's discretion.