



# The Cultural & Historical Explorer



**DURATION** 8 Nights / 9 Days  
**DATES** May to October, Daily  
**ROUTE** Vancouver | Whistler | Lillooet | Williams Lake | Kamloops  
 Harrison Hot Springs / Agassiz | Vancouver

Start your Aboriginal adventure in metropolitan Vancouver, and then follow a fascinating cultural journey north along the Sea to Sky Highway to explore the world-famous Whistler Resort and the area's First Nations history. After Whistler, the tour winds its way along stunning mountain highways with jaw-dropping mountain vistas to Lillooet for a glimpse of traditional fishing grounds before heading off to Williams Lake. Spend two days in Williams Lake exploring the local First Nations culture on jetboat adventures and at heritage sites, then travel to Kamloops, Agassiz and the rejuvenating natural waters of Harrison Hot Springs. On the way you'll discover fascinating museums, First Nations interpretive centres, Native art galleries, exciting outdoor activities and more, before heading back to the bright lights of Vancouver.

## SUGGESTED ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival in Vancouver

Vancouver is one of the world's most beautiful cities, rich with culture, nature and world-class shopping, dining and hotels. It is also home to the Coast Salish peoples including the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam and Squamish Nations. Explore Aboriginal culture at the **Klahowya Village in Stanley Park** or the **Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art** in downtown Vancouver. In the evening enjoy First Nations cuisine at the **Salmon n' Bannock** restaurant.

### Day 2 Vancouver | Whistler

Before leaving Vancouver stop at **Khot-La-Cha Art Gallery & Gift Shop**, located just off Lions Gate Bridge. Then continue your journey north along the Sea to Sky Highway (#99) to Whistler. Discover scenic ocean vistas, soaring mountains, dramatic waterfalls, bustling parks and outdoor activities. Along the way you can explore the Cultural Journey—a fascinating set of markers and maps recounting the area's ancient place names and legends. Stop at kiosks one through five for easy access off the highway. Today's journey ends in the resort town of Whistler.

### Day 3 Whistler | Lillooet

Explore the **Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre** in the morning. This museum invites guests to experience Whistler's First Nations heritage through a welcome song, guided tour of the museum and exhibits, cultural forest walk, craft-making in the centre's longhouse and exploration of the café and gift shop.

Early afternoon, drive two hours north along the scenic Duffey Lake Road to Lillooet. The town is spread along a grassy bench of land overlooking the mighty Fraser River and set against a backdrop of the Coast Mountains.

Lillooet's spectacular setting is accompanied by a rich culture and history. Explore the traditional fishing grounds of the St'at'imc people with **Xwisten Experience Tours** and learn time-honoured techniques such as preparing the salmon for preservation through wind-drying. Tour a real archaeological village site, and finish the experience with a traditional barbecued salmon meal.

## Day 4 Lillooet | Williams Lake

From Lillooet drive north to Williams Lake, the forestry and ranching capital of the Cariboo region. The Williams Lake experience includes endless outdoor and water activities at the many lakes and rivers within the region, as well as exploring the local history and culture.

## Day 5 - 6 Williams Lake Region Exploring

Discover the region and parts of the Fraser River with **Cariboo Chilcotin Jetboat Adventures**. Offerings include beautiful scenery, wildlife, Aboriginal and gold rush

history with an educational interpretation by local guides. Highlights are traditional dip netting for wild salmon, salmon barbecue, viewing ancient petroglyphs and ancient village sites, identifying food and medicinal plants and, of course, running the rapids through towering rock-wall canyons. Located 35 km north of Williams Lake, the Xat'sull First Nation community welcomes visitors to the **Xat' II Heritage Village** which offers guided tours and educational workshops, traditional meals and authentic accommodation in a teepee or pithouse.

## Day 7 Williams Lake to Kamloops

Today's drive will take you south-east to the city of Kamloops. You can discover the rich history and culture of the Secwepemc at the **Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park** through exhibits, oral histories and legends, photos, artifacts and videos. The site encompasses the archaeological remains of a 2,000-year-old Secwepemc village, with reconstructed pithouses and ethnobotanical gardens showing traditional plant use.

## Day 8 Kamloops to Harrison Hot Springs region / Agassiz

Travel the highway through the spectacular Fraser Canyon and stop at Boston Bar to explore the **Tuckkwiowhum Village**, a First Nations site that offers guided adventures featuring a summer lodge, smoke house, food caches, sweat lodge, earth ovens, storytelling and an authentic pithouse. From Hope, travel south-west via Highway #7 to Agassiz. **Ruby Creek Art Gallery** features an extraordinary collection of Pacific Northwest First Nations Art. Your home for tonight is the beautiful **Sasquatch Crossing Eco Lodge**. Originally built in 1903, the B&B features nine unique guest rooms, a library, living room with a fireplace, dining room and more. Relax at the B&B or visit the nearby town of Harrison Hot Springs.

## Day 9 Harrison Hot Springs region / Agassiz | Vancouver

Return to Vancouver along the northern or southern bank of the Fraser River.

## TRIP OVERVIEW

Day	City	Activities	Hotel Suggestions	km/day
1	Arrive in Vancouver	Klahowya Village in Stanley Park (Jun - Sep) Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art Salmon n' Bannock Restaurant Khot-La-Cha Art Gallery & Gift Shop	Coast Coal Harbour Hotel	N/A
2	Vancouver to Whistler	Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	Coast Whistler Hotel	125 km
3	Whistler to Lillooet	Xwisten Experience Tours	Retasket Lodge & RV Park	130 km
4	Lillooet to Williams Lake		Coast Fraser Inn	397 km
5-6	Williams Lake Exploring	Cariboo Chilcotin Jetboat Adventures Xat' II Heritage Village	Coast Fraser Inn	N/A
7	Williams Lake to Kamloops	Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park	Coast Canadian Inn	287 km
8	Kamloops to Harrison Hot Spring / Agassiz	Tuckkwiowhum Village Ruby Creek Art Gallery	Sasquatch Crossing Eco Lodge in Agassiz	244 km
9	Harrison Hot Spring / Agassiz to Vancouver	Tour ends in Vancouver		122 km
	Tour ends in Vancouver			