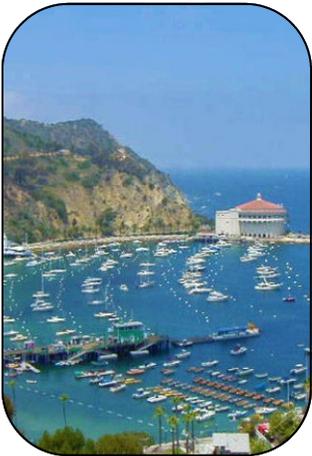


# NEW YEAR'S ON CATALINA ISLAND

December 29, 2014 - 9 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2775** double/twin

**\$3470** single

**\$2615** triple

Please add 0.8% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$150 discount on first 10 seats; \$75 on next 6

> **TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 3-Comprehensive  
\$266 double/twin, \$332 single, \$250 triple

**tour**  
a more intimate travel experience



**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **November 5** and redeem up to **55 e-points**

## Includes

- Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport
- Return flight from Vancouver to Los Angeles
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- 8 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Transfer from airport to Catalina ferry terminal
- Ferry from Long Beach to Catalina Island return
- Historic tour of Catalina Casino
- Catalina Museum
- New Year's Eve Dinner, Dance and Gala at Catalina Casino
- Taste of Catalina walking culinary tour
- Wrigley Memorial & Botanical Gardens
- Skyline tour on Catalina Island
- Transportation in Los Angeles for 2 days
- Locally-guided Los Angeles tour
- Gratuities for L.A. step-on guide and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling
- **13 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

**Experience Points:** Earn **55 e-points**

**Welcome 2015 on Catalina Island!** Wells Gray Tours is excited to offer a very unique experience, ringing in the New Year of 2015 at a Gala Ball on Santa Catalina Island off the coast of California. The event is the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Year's Eve Celebration, staged in the magnificent ballroom at the historic Catalina Casino on Avalon's waterfront. Catalina Island is reached by an hour-long fast ferry ride from Long Beach south of Los Angeles. During our 3½ days and 4 nights on the island, we take a drive across the scenic hills, learn about the history of the iconic Casino, savour a culinary walking tour of Avalon, explore the Catalina Museum, and stroll the Wrigley Botanical Gardens. There are also optional activities available: kayaking in the harbour, a zipline with 5 separate lines, a round of golf, and a Broadway show in Los Angeles. This will be a memorable New Year's to celebrate the arrival of the middle of the decade.

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
Vernon > 250-545-9197  
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



## Santa Catalina Island

Santa Catalina Island is located 22 miles off the coast of California south of Los Angeles. About 3,700 people live on Catalina, almost all in the island's only town, Avalon. The island is 22 miles long and 8 miles across at its widest point. Catalina Express provides frequent fast ferry service between Long Beach and Avalon for passengers only.

The chewing gum magnate, William Wrigley, bought the island in 1919 and the family has carefully controlled its development for the past century. In 1975, 88% of the island was deeded to the Catalina Island Conservancy, founded by the Wrigleys, and it still protects the island today. Avalon's cobblestone streets are narrow, quaint and winding, so the Wrigleys regulated the number of cars allowed, and today there is a 14-year waiting list to bring a car to the island. Most people get around by walking or using electric golf carts. Avalon is busy in the daytime when tourists come from Los Angeles on the ferries, but at night, after the last ferry has left, it is a delightful quiet village with an incomparable setting by the ocean.

Avalon is dominated by the Catalina Casino, a 12-storey Art-Deco building on the waterfront. It was built by the Wrigleys in 1929 as an entertainment centre and contained a movie theatre, seating 1,100 people, and a ballroom where 6,000 people could dance. It was never a casino for gambling; the name is from the Italian language meaning "gathering place" and Las Vegas popularized the word with an entirely different meaning in English. This magnificent building with perfect acoustics in the ballroom is the setting for our New Year's Eve Gala and Dance.

## Options

**Avalon Harbour Kayaking:** \$45 per person for 2 hours

**Catalina Eco Zipline:** \$100 per person. Travel nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile over five consecutive zip lines at heights of 300 feet above the canyon floor at speeds pushing 40 mph.

**Catalina Island Golf Course:** Located just outside of Avalon, it was built in 1892 and is the oldest operating golf course west of the Mississippi. Price depends on day, time and your age.

**Los Angeles show:** There are many shows offered during the two evenings and an afternoon available. Most theatres have not posted their January shows, times and prices yet, but these schedules will be available in the fall. Currently, Pantages Theatre in Hollywood is staging *Wicked* but tickets are not on sale yet.

## Itinerary

**Monday, December 29:** *Meals: L*  
We drive to Vancouver Airport and stay overnight at the luxurious **Fairmont Hotel**. From your sound-proof window, watch all the bustle of YVR with planes landing and taking off every few minutes.

**Tuesday, December 30:** *Meals: B*  
We fly on Westjet at 11 am, arriving in Los Angeles at the small Orange County Airport and avoiding the hassles of LAX. We transfer to Long Beach and ride the Catalina Express fast ferry over to Avalon. It is a 10-minute walk from the dock to the **Pavilion Hotel** where we stay for four nights. It is located on the harbour with a pedestrian walkway between the buildings and the beach. Numerous shops and restaurants are within a few blocks. Each night, the hotel hosts a reception featuring local and imported wines and fine cheeses, and a sommelier explains the attributes of each.

**Wednesday, December 31:** *Meals: B,D*  
Breakfast is included each morning, either indoors or on the patio overlooking the harbour. This morning is free time for optional activities such as kayaking in the harbour, the thrilling zipline with five lines and platforms, or a round of golf. In the afternoon, we take a walking tour of the **Catalina Casino**. Listen to stories about this magnificent structure, test the perfect acoustics in the ballroom, and enjoy the view of Avalon from the balcony. You are taking the more extensive behind-the-scenes tour, not the basic introduction that most visitors get. The **Catalina Island Museum** is also included. There is free time to enjoy the hotel's reception and perhaps a snack along the street. Then we go back to the Casino for a splendid buffet dinner starting at 8 pm, followed by entertainment, dancing and the **New Year's Eve Gala Ball**. Music is provided by The Xceptional

Music Company Band featuring ten incredible musicians who have appeared on Austin City Limits, The Tonight Show, the Joan Rivers show, and at the Royal Albert Hall. They have opened for Crosby Stills Nash and Young, Edgar Winter, Bad Company, UB40, Davy Jones of the Monkees, Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits. They bring Big Band Music from Duke Ellington to *In The Mood* to *Sing Sing Sing*, and then the best music from the sixties till now to appeal to guests of all ages. The band performs from 9 pm to 1 am. Party favours, hats, noisemakers and a champagne split are provided, ready for midnight when a balloon drop is staged. **Happy New Year!** Please note that the dress code tonight is semi-formal (tie required for men).

**Thursday, January 1, 2015:** *Meals: B,L*

The morning is free time. At noon, we start a culinary walk through Avalon with **Taste of Catalina Food Tours**. Local guides share the inside scoop on everything food-related including hidden tidbits of the island's rich history and culture. Satisfy your appetite with award winning cuisines as you indulge your palate for a few hours of sipping, sampling and savouring!

**Friday, January 2:** *Meals: B,D*

This morning, we go to **Wrigley Botanic Garden**. Created in 1935 by Mrs. Ada Wrigley, its 37 acres feature California island endemic plants. Many are extremely rare and some are on the Endangered Species list. The centerpiece is the Memorial, dedicated to William Wrigley and his vision for Catalina Island - that it remain protected for all

generations to enjoy. This afternoon, we take the **Skyline Tour** which uses low-g geared buses that can navigate the narrow roads to the island's interior. Many roads are single-lane with mirrors at the sharp corners to help the driver spot occasional oncoming vehicles. Along the way, there are splendid views of the island and ocean as we climb nearly 2,000 feet to the Airport in the Sky. Our Farewell to Catalina dinner is at the Bluewater Avalon Seafood Restaurant.

**Saturday, January 3:** *Meals: B*

The morning is free time and we ride the afternoon fast ferry back to Long Beach. We drive to **Santa Monica** and enjoy the shops and action at its famous pier. Accommodation for two nights is at the Radisson Midtown Hotel on the campus of University of Southern California.

**Sunday, January 4:** *Meals: B*

A locally-guided tour features the **Hollywood area** and the Griffith Observatory on the hills north of Los Angeles.

**Monday, January 5:** *Meals: B*

In the afternoon, we fly on Westjet from Orange County Airport to Vancouver. After clearing customs, we enjoy the convenience of riding an elevator upstairs to our rooms at the Fairmont YVR Hotel.

**Tuesday, January 6:** *Meals: B,L*

We drive home with a lunch stop in Hope.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 5, 2014.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$150 discount on first 10 seats and \$75 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after November 5.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 30, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From October 1 to November 5, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From November 6 to December 1, the cancellation charge is 30% of the tour fare. From December 2 to December 15, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After December 15, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and exchange rates, and surcharges from airlines and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

**TIC Insurance:** In addition to Plan 3-Comprehensive, plans are available for Trip Cancellation & Interruption only and Extended Medical only. Policies can be purchased no later than at final payment.

**Photo credit:** California Travel

**Tour 25:** This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of tour is limited to 25 participants or less, a more intimate travel experience.

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps. Motorized vehicles are discouraged on Catalina Island, so there is a 10-minute walk from the ferry to hotel (a cart can be requested if you need one) and a 15-minute walk to the Catalina Casino. Transportation has been requested for the Gala Ball. The hotel has no restaurant (breakfast is included), but there are numerous restaurants within a few minutes walk. Luggage handling from the ferry to the hotel and back is included. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Los Angeles; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you.

**e-points:** This tour earns 55 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. 1 e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until Nov. 5.

**Travel Wholesaler License:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924