

ITINERARY

Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description, including admission charges where applicable.

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN VANCOUVER, BC

Welcome to Vancouver, your gateway to the Canadian Rockies! At 6 pm, meet your traveling companions for a welcome drink. Your Tour Director will prepare you for your upcoming adventure.

DAY 2 VANCOUVER–VICTORIA

B, D

This morning, tour Vancouver, including the waterfront, Chinatown, and Stanley Park with its old-growth evergreen forests and totem poles. Catch the BC FERRY over to Vancouver Island and Victoria. Visit world-famous BUTCHART GARDENS, followed by a special dinner in the former historic greenhouse overlooking the gardens. See major attractions on your city orientation tour, including the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Bastion Square, and Thunderbird Park.

DAY 3 VICTORIA

B

This day is free to explore on your own; your Tour Director suggests an optional wildlife and whale-watching trip. For shoppers, Government Street's elegant shops and Market Square's collection of specialty stores are good places to start. History buffs should be sure to visit the Royal British Columbia Museum.

DAY 4 VICTORIA–WHISTLER

B

Today, board a BC FERRY and cross the Strait of Georgia through the spectacular Gulf Islands, an archipelago known for its Mediterranean-type climate. On to the alpine resort of Whistler, nestled at the base of breathtaking Blackcomb Mountain. There's time today to explore many of the 2010 Winter Olympics' sites.

DAY 5 WHISTLER

B

Today is free to explore all that Whistler has to offer. You might enjoy a trip on Whistler's Peak2Peak Gondola, connecting Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. Enjoy spectacular scenery and incredible photo opportunities by exploring the village on foot, including a walk to beautiful Alta Lake. Other options include a walk in the tree tops, a sightseeing excursion by air, shopping in the village, or just relaxing at your resort.

DAY 6 WHISTLER–SUN PEAKS

B

This morning, enjoy a visit and private breakfast at the SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE, dedicated to the history and culture of the First Nations people. Then, journey north through the heart of the magnificent Cariboo region. Stop at SHANNON FALLS, where a boardwalk leads to a viewing platform near the base of the roaring falls. Spectacular scenery abounds as you pass by rolling hills, deeply incised rivers, and sparkling lakes. Afternoon arrival in Sun Peaks, with the balance of the day at leisure. You may take advantage of an optional canoe trip on Lake McGillivray, where, surrounded by beautiful scenery, you learn about Canada's fur trade.

NOTE: *Operation of the canoe trip is subject to favorable weather conditions.*

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DAY 7 SUN PEAKS–JASPER

B, D

Continue north, following the Yellowhead Highway and hugging the mighty North Thompson River into the province of Alberta. See the base of 12,972-foot Mount Robson (the highest point in the Canadian Rockies) before entering JASPER NATIONAL PARK. Marvel at the precipitous gorges, snowcapped summits, and lakes of exquisite blues and greens in this wild mountain wilderness. Perhaps take an optional float trip down the historic Athabasca River, where your experienced guide will navigate as you absorb the splendor of Jasper National Park.

DAY 8 JASPER. EXCURSION TO MALIGNE LAKE

B

Enjoy a short sightseeing tour to see Jasper's unspoiled beauty. Afterward, travel to glacial Maligne Lake for a narrated CRUISE to Spirit Island. On the return journey, stop to view Maligne Canyon. Balance of the day is at leisure to explore Jasper on your own.

DAY 9 JASPER–COLUMBIA ICEFIELD–LAKE LOUISE–BANFF

B

This morning, travel through Jasper National Park on Icefields Parkway to the 750-foot-thick Columbia Icefield for a thrilling ICE EXPLORER RIDE. Climb Sunwapta Pass to savor stunning vistas of alpine meadows, waterfalls, and massive glaciers, then scale Bow Pass for splendid views of Peyto Lake. Next, stop at Lake Louise, whose green-blue waters form a perfect mirror reflection of Mount Victoria. Continue into BANFF NATIONAL PARK.

NOTE: *The July 26 departure will enjoy overnights at the luxurious Rimrock Resort Hotel, nestled in the mountains 750 feet above Banff, offering exceptional views, fine dining, and an enjoyable location near the Upper Hot Springs and the Banff Gondola.*

DAY 10 BANFF

B, D

Breakfast this morning is served on top of Sulphur Mountain. Take a scenic ride on the BANFF GONDOLA to the top of the mountain and then enjoy spectacular views of the valley below as you savor a flavorful meal. Additional sightseeing in Banff includes a visit to Bow Falls. The balance of the day is at leisure. Consider an optional helicopter flightseeing trip for a bird's-eye view of the Rockies. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

DAY 11 BANFF–YOHO NATIONAL PARK–GLACIER NATIONAL PARK–KELOWNA

B

This morning, depart Banff and scale Kicking Horse Pass across the Continental Divide into British Columbia and Yoho National Park. Next, enjoy panoramic vistas of peaks exceeding 10,000 feet on Rogers Pass at the summit in Canada's Glacier National Park. Descend into the agricultural region of the Okanagan Valley to the resort city of Kelowna. Tonight, why not enjoy a wine tasting or dinner at one of Kelowna's many restaurants.

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DAY 12 KELOWNA–VANCOUVER

B, FD

Today, continue through the fertile Fraser Valley, with grand vistas of vineyards and orchards, before traveling over the towering Cascade Mountains into Vancouver. Upon arrival, enjoy some time at leisure. This evening, your Tour Director hosts a farewell dinner.

DAY 13 VANCOUVER

B

The tour ends after breakfast this morning with guests departing on individual schedules.

Meals:

- B = Breakfast**
- K = Lunch**
- D = Dinner**
- WD = Welcome Dinner**
- FD = Farewell Dinner**