# Spectacular Canadian Rockies



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#### Day 1 | Welcome to Vancouver



The soaring peaks of Canada's soul-stirring Rockies take centre stage on this epic alpine adventure that begins in Vancouver, one of the world's most livable cities. Spend the day discovering the city's scenic surrounds, then join your Travel Director and fellow travel companions for a Welcome Reception this evening.

Meals: Welcome Reception Hotel: Pinnacle Harbourfront

Day 2 | The Delights of Vancouver and Victoria



Embark on a morning sightseeing tour of Vancouver's historic neighborhoods. Savor the smells of freshly steamed Siopao in Chinatown and admire the Victorian façades of Gastown as you make your way to the leafy sanctuary of Stanley Park to view First Nations totem poles. Gain insights into Indigenous cultures and values during a visit to the Bill Reid Gallery on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience including a docent-led tour and time to explore the gallery on your own. Enjoy lunch at Al Porto Ristorante before continuing by ferry to Vancouver Island and having an orientation tour in Victoria.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites

Day 3 | Admire the Colours of Victoria



Embrace the Garden City status of Victoria as you greet the day with breakfast at Butchart Gardens, a 55-acre showcase of gorgeous floral gardens that have colourfully transformed a once unused quarry. After breakfast, enjoy exclusive time in the garden prior to the gates being open to the public. Spend the rest of the day at leisure exploring the walkable capital of British Columbia or join an optional Victoria Whale Watching Excursion and keep your eyes peeled for whales, bald eagles, porpoises or seals.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Victoria Whale Watching Excursion - Board your vessel to enjoy a three-hour whale-watching expedition in the waters off Victoria. While it can't be guaranteed in advance which of the abundant marine wildlife you'll see on your journey, chances are you'll also spot magnificent bald eagles, porpoises or seals. Spring and summer are the best times of the year to see a number of different species of whales including Bigg's killer whales (orca), humpback whales, South Resident orca, Minke, and gray whales.

Adult: 145.00 CAD

\*Please Note: This optional experience requires a signed liability waiver.

#### Day 4 | Relax And Enjoy The Outdoors In Kamloops



Depart Victoria by ferry with one last view of the city's historic buildings and make your way to Maan Farms for a Be My Guest lunch experience. Meet the Maan family and learn about how they turned one small berry stand into a farm that now provides quality local produce to the citizens of Abbottsford, the Fraser Valley and Greater British Columbia. Make your way to Kamloops for a relaxing evening, where you'll enjoy a Stays with Stories experience at The South Thompson Inn. Once home to a thoroughbred racing stable, this riverfront property still has the original brick manor and carriage houses. Relax in the lounge, swimming pool, or hot tub overlooking the South Thompson River, go on a nature walk around the Reflection Pond, try your hand at horseshoes and other lawn games, or take one of their bikes for a spin.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: South Thompson Inn & Conference Center

Day 5 | Gaze Upon Mount Robson



This afternoon you'll stop at the Mount Robson Visitor Center where you can admire UNESCO-listed Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies in all its 12,972 feet (3,954 meters) of glory. Continue to the raw wilderness of Jasper National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we'll spend the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Forest Park Hotel

### **Optional Experiences:**

**Ultimate Jasper Guided Hike** - Experience the majestic scenery of Jasper National Park on foot. This guided nature hike will feature a spectacular array of rolling hills, jagged peaks, forests, meadows, marshes, streams, and stunning glacial lakes. Your licensed interpreter will lead this leisurely walk as you explore the abundant flora and fauna along these routes that often offer incredible opportunities to spot wildlife. Marvel at snow-capped peaks during the months of May and early June, in mid-summer the forest and alpine meadows are ablaze in glorious wildflower shades of red, blue, yellow, and white. By late August and through the month of September, the mountain landscapes glow with the red, orange, and gold of the Larch and Aspen trees. Routes can change due to weather, wildlife and seasonal closures. Guides will provide hiking poles, water, and will guide the guest through both trail networks. Guests should be of a basic fitness level and comfortable walking for about 2 hours. Adult: 73.00 CAD

#### Day 6 | Admire Jasper National Park



Join a guided walk at Maligne Canyon this morning. Later, take to the agua waters and cruise Maligne Lake to Spirit Island (seasonal), admiring views of its three glaciers and Spirit Island. After the cruise enjoy a delicious lunch with wine at the lakeside Maligne Lake Chalet. Choose to join an optional rafting trip down the Athabasca River or take in an optional theatre performance highlighting the best of this little mountain town.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Forest Park Hotel

#### **Optional Experiences:**

**From Jasper with Love!** - See the live theater show *From Jasper with Love*. Caution: After seeing this show, you may fall in love with Jasper and never leave. This one-hour professional theatre performance presents an energetic, positive and fun sketch show that highlights all the best this little mountain town has to offer. 'From Jasper with Love' makes for a perfect dramatic end to your day exploring Jasper's outdoor playground. Adult: 33.00 CAD

Jasper Float Trip - Join the fun and experience an easy rafting / scenic float trip down the Athabasca River, a designated Canadian Heritage River. A National Park licensed guide will provide commentary on the human and natural history of Jasper while navigating you along the same route used by the "fur traders" over 2 centuries ago. Lifejackets and the specially designed, 7 meter / 25 foot long oar powered rafts offer a safe and comfortable ride through several small, easy sets of rapids and calm stretches that any first time rafter will enjoy. Don't worry, the guides do all the rowing; you sit back and enjoy while exploring all the spectacular scenery drifting down a route that was used by fur traders many years ago. There is always a chance of seeing various wildlife including elk, deer, moose, coyotes, wolves, eagles, ospreys, mountain sheep and bears. Tours will operate rain or shine, and a poncho will be provided when required.

Adult: 94.00 CAD

\*Please Note: This optional experience requires a signed liability waiver.

#### Day 7 | Voyage to Athabasca Glacier



The icy fingers of the Columbia Icefield beckon as we journey along the Icefields Parkway to Athabasca Glacier. Cross its icy terrain on board a specially designed Ice Explorer and continue on to Lake Louise, where there is time to soak in the majestic beauty of the lake and its turquoise, glacier-fed waters, fringed by high peaks, deep green forests and overlooked by Victoria Glacier. Continue on to the township of Banff, in the heart of UNESCO-listed Banff National Park. Settle in for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Banff Park Lodge

### Day 8 | Explore Banff



The day is free for you to pursue your own discoveries and your Travel Director is eager to help plan the perfect day for you. Join an optional guided Signature Hiking experience, a helicopter tour of Mt Assiniboine or Three Sisters Peak. After lunch, opt to take the Brewster Banff Gondola. Then enjoy Banff sightseeing including Bow Falls, Surprise Corner and other local sights. Tonight, we join our newfound friends for a Farewell Dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Banff Park Lodge

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Hike to the Plain of Six Glaciers (Wed, Fri) - Your hike starts by hiking along the Lake Louise shoreline to the back of the lake before ascending up an ancient glacial valley. As you get higher, the colour of the lake becomes even more stunning and the crowds begin to disappear. The trail turns into single track and the immensity of the the valley and its peaks becomes even more apparent. Near to your final destination is the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House where cakes and tea are served all day long – be sure to bring some cash! Just past the teahouse you will be treated to views of the six glaciers feeding into the valley and Lake Louise. If time and group ability allows you may be able to hike further to view historic Abbot Pass. Rated: Moderate. Return distance: 10.6 kms (6.6 miles). Elevation Gain: 340 m(1.100 feet).

Adult: 151.00 CAD

**Brewster Banff Gondola** - At the Banff Gondola, you'll see more mountains in a moment than most see in a lifetime! Ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain to experience a bird's eye view of six mountain ranges of the Canadian Rockies. Begin with an eight-minute journey to the summit in a fully enclosed four-passenger gondola cabin. The views become increasingly spectacular as you climb to an elevation of 7,486 feet (2,281 meters) to the Summit Upper Terminal. Witness the breathtaking views in every direction or go to the restaurant area to enjoy the views inside or from its upper deck. You can also take the Banff Skywalk for a short self-guided interpretive walkway along the summit ridge leading to the Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site of Canada. Adult: 75.00 CAD

\*Please Note: this optional experience is weather permitting.

Mt. Assiniboine Helicopter Tour (35 min) - You are in for something special as you are transported to Mount Assiniboine - "the Matterhorn" of the Canadian Rockies. Our most popular adventure has all the fantastic scenery of the previous tours plus a fly by over top of the glacier. This photogenic peak rises majestically to 3,611 meters (11,870) feet) along the Great Divide. The Gloria and Assiniboine Glaciers will astound you. This is an experience you will never forget!

Adult: 410.00 CAD

Three Sisters Peaks Tour (25 min) - The most action packed twenty minutes of your life. Get up close and personal with the famous Three Sisters Peaks. Reach out and touch them as you whisk by before escaping into the Spray Valley where you will explore the extraordinary hues of the Spray Lakes. Your return flight travels along the Goat Range before following the pristine Bow River back to Canmore. Prices are based on a minimum of 2 passengers. Adult: 305.00 CAD

Day 9 | Farewell Banff and Calgary



Descend from the glorious Canadian Rockies and transfer to Calgary International Airport, arriving at approximately 11:30 am, or to the Westin Calgary if you are extending your stay.

Meals: Breakfast