



# Canadian Rockies: Banff, Kelowna & Vancouver

#### 9 days | 11 days with Victoria extension

Pristine national parks and glittering turquoise lakes often come to mind when you think of the idyllic provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Travel throughout the region to find that classic scenery in places like Lake Louise while also uncovering some of the area's unexpected treasures, including the world-renowned Okanagan Valley wine region. From rugged Banff National Park to coastal Vancouver, discover the diversity of western Canada.



#### Your tour package includes

8 nights in handpicked hotels
8 breakfasts
1 lunch
3 dinners with beer or wine
1 wine tasting
4 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

#### Included highlights

Banff National Park
Cave and Basin National Historic Site
Moraine Lake
Lake Louise Gondola
Glacier National Park of Canada
Okanagan Valley wine tasting
Vancouver's waterfront

#### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and paths with some steep inclines. During certain seasons, there may be snow or ice on the paths. Some activities will take place at high altitudes.

#### Group size

15-35

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#### Calgary, Alberta → 1 night

#### Day 1: Arrival in Calgary

Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Canada! Settle in to your hotel.
Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow
travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

#### **Banff Region, Alberta** → 2 nights

### Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Calgary & Banff National Park

Included meals: breakfast
With your Tour Director leading the way, head
out on a guided sightseeing tour of Calgary, site
of the 1988 Winter Olympics.

- Drive by City Hall, the Olympic Park, and the winding Bow River
- Pass by Fort Calgary and make a photo stop at the vast Calgary Stampede grounds, where an annual festival and tournament-style rodeo are hosted

Make your way to Banff, a glamorous resort town known for its mix of outdoor activities, art galleries, and vibrant culture. Join your Tour Director to explore the natural wonders in Banff National Park, Canada's first national park, this afternoon.

- Pass by Bow Falls, the Banff Springs Hotel, and Lake Minnewanka
- Admire Banff's beautiful landscapes, which are rich in history and home to a wide variety of wildlife
- Enter the Cave and Basin National Historic Site, the birthplace of Canada's first national park

#### Day 3: Free day in the Banff Region

Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in the Banff region or add an excursion.

+ Icefields Parkway & Glacier Experience

# Canadian Rockies, British Columbia $\rightarrow$ 1 night

### Day 4: Rockies Region via Moraine Lake & Lake Louise

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Today, discover the showstopping scenery in
southwestern Alberta.

- Pass through the Valley of the Ten Peaks in Banff National Park to stop at Moraine Lake and take in its beautiful turquoise water (seasonal, June-September)
- Soak in panoramic mountain views while you ride the Lake Louise Gondola
- View Château Lake Louise and then spend your free time canoeing or walking around the lake

Later, cross into the Rockies region of British Columbia and enjoy an included dinner.

# **Kelowna, British Colombia** → 2 nights

## Day 5: Kelowna via Glacier National Park of Canada & Revelstoke

Included meals: breakfast

Pass by the beautiful Rocky Mountains and travel through winding valleys en route to the city of Kelowna, which is bordered by Okanagan Lake and the acclaimed Okanagan Valley wine region.

- Drive through Glacier National Park of Canada, stopping to take photos of the snow-capped peaks and sprawling forest
- Enjoy free time for lunch in Revelstoke, an outdoorsy city nestled between Mount Revelstoke National Park and the Columbia Pivor

Please note: You may visit Glacier National Park of Canada on day 4 instead of day 5.

Spend a free evening in Kelowna or add an excursion.

+ Okanagan Lake Dinner Cruise

#### Day 6: Okanagan Valley wine tasting

Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Spend the afternoon getting to know the flavors
and wine making traditions of the Okanagan
Valley.

 Join a local wine expert for a guided walk through an estate vineyard

- Learn about the unique microclimates of the Okanagan Valley and why this new world wine region is often called the Napa of the North
- Visit the wine cellar to discover the production process
- Sample some wines, many of which can only be found locally, including the region's signature Pinot Noir
- Sit down to enjoy an included lunch

# Vancouver, British Columbia $\rightarrow 2$ nights

#### Day 7: Transfer to Vancouver

Included meals: breakfast

Take in the picturesque views of British

Columbia's coastal range as you travel to the city
of Vancouver today.

#### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Vancouver

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Today, tour the multicultural, cosmopolitan city
of Vancouver with your guide before enjoying a
free afternoon for exploration at your leisure.

- Drive through downtown Vancouver, passing the Roman-inspired Public Library
- See the historic Gastown district
- Head to the waterfront to see Canada Place, a sail-inspired building, which houses the Vancouver Convention Center and World Trade Center
- Pass by Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth
   Park to take in views of the city
- Enjoy free time to explore Granville Island, located directly across the water from downtown Vancouver

Tonight, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner with your group.

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to explore Victoria.

#### + Victoria extension

Victoria is a turn-of-the-century, multicultural capital with British charm, making it one irresistibly great place to explore. After a short ferry ride, you'll get to know this captivating city on a sightseeing tour with a local guide.

# $\mbox{ Victoria, British Columbia} \rightarrow 2 \\ \mbox{ nights}$

#### Day 9: Ferry to Victoria & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Board a ferry to Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, which is located on Vancouver Island. Then, set off on a guided sightseeing tour of the city that's known for having the most beautiful gardens and mildest weather in Canada.

- Stroll along the charming Inner Harbour to see the Parliament Buildings and the Empress Hotel
- Explore the colorful and eclectic downtown
  area.
- Head out into the countryside to visit the 55-acre Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site of Canada
- Learn about the Butchart family and how they turned a former limestone quarry into a sprawling, beautiful green space
- Explore the lush gardens to see the wide variety of colorful flowers

#### Day 10: Free day in Victoria

Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Victoria or add an excursion.
Raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

+ Vancouver Island Wildlife Cruise

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

#### Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/CBC | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 3: Icefields Parkway & Glacier Experience

\$145CAD (9 hours, departs in the morning) Soak in the beauty of one of the most scenic drives in North America as you journey along the Icefields Parkway. Keep your eyes open for a variety of wildlife such as bears, elk, and moose as you drive along this highway, which stretches for almost 150 miles past stunning lakes, soaring mountains, and picturesque valleys. Continue on to the Columbia Icefield Centre, where you'll learn more about Jasper National Park. Enjoy free time for lunch before boarding a snow coach and traveling up to the Athabasca Glacier for a short walk on the ice. Please note: We recommend wearing extra layers and walking shoes or sneakers, as walking may involve steep inclines. This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through mid-October. It is also weather-dependent through late spring and early summer. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

#### Day 5: Okanagan Lake Dinner Cruise

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (2.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

See Kelowna's captivating skyline and the diverse landscapes that surround the city from the waters of Okanagan Lake. You'll enjoy a buffet dinner and two-hour boat ride along the serene waters as you pass by City Park and sail under the William R. Bennett Bridge. Continue south down the lake to view the beautiful homes and vineyards that dot the hills above the shoreline. After admiring the scenery, circle back under the bridge to snap a photo of the sparkling cityscape. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from June through August. It is also weather-dependent.

#### **Extension excursion options**

#### Day 10: Vancouver Island Wildlife Cruise

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the morning) Join local, certified naturalists and marine experts for a guided boat ride along the coast of Vancouver Island. You'll sail to the southwestern tip of the island and visit Race Rocks Ecological Reserve. See many of the rare birds, mammals, urchins, and fish that live on the reserve, which is one of the Canada's Marine Protected Areas. You'll have an opportunity to learn about and take pictures of many of these animals including sea lions, seals, and porpoises. Be sure to keep a lookout for whales that often breach in the open waters. You may spot grey, minke, humpback, and killers whales, all of which call this part of British Columbia home. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through October. In addition, it is weather dependent. The amount and type of wildlife you see cannot be guaranteed and may vary based on season.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms