

Great Parks of the West - Self-Drive Tour

14 Day Self-Drive Tour – 3-4V

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

• Vancouver • Penticton • Banff • Jasper • 100 Mile House • Whistler

ITINERARY

Day 1& 2: Vancouver

Fly to Vancouver from the UK and on arrival pick up your hire car. Upon check in at your hotel you'll be handed your road book at reception, which you can familiarise yourself with at leisure. On day 2, climb aboard a San Francisco-style trolley for a fully-commented Vancouver city tour. Sight-see at your own pace as you hop-on and hop-off for any length of time at many premier attractions. There's plenty to see and do in this city - visit Vancouver's No.1 attraction, Stanley Park, for a horse-drawn carriage ride. There's also Vancouver Lookout for stunning 360 degree views of the city. Vancouver Aquarium, home to over 70,000 aquatic species, is a great way to spend a few hours and for the brave amongst you, Capilano Suspension Bridge, offers plenty of thrills and spills! **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in Vancouver.**

Day 3: Vancouver – Penticton

Travel through the Coastal Mountains and Manning Provincial Park. In the park, you can take a walk on the remnants of the Dewdney Trail or the Rhododendron Flats. The town of Penticton lies at the lower end of Okanagan Lake and the lush orchards and vineyards of the Okanagan Valley. The region is also renowned for its beaches and hot, dry climate. Overnight in Penticton. **Accommodation stay – 1 Night in Penticton.**

Day 4: Penticton – Revelstoke

Spend the morning at leisure, exploring the Okanagan Valley, then drive past spectacular waterfalls and mountain peaks before arriving in Revelstoke. Home to some fantastic recreation opportunities, there's mountain biking, hiking, fishing, canoeing and white-water rafting to name but a few! If you've any time to spare, don't miss a self-guided tour of the massive Revelstoke Hydro Dam.

Accommodation stay – 1 Night near Revelstoke.

Days 5-6: Revelstoke – Banff

Enjoy a scenic drive through Glacier National Park and Rogers Pass today, en route to Banff, Canada's oldest national park. You'll be staying for 2 nights in this bustling resort town, jam-packed with fashionable shops, art galleries, stylish hotels and terrific restaurants. A renowned winter ski resort, there's plenty to do all year round here, including river rafting, boat tours and hiking. You may also want to ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola for stunning views* and take a walk to the Bow Falls. **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in Banff.**

Days 7-8: Banff-Jasper

After Banff it's onwards to Jasper via the spectacular Icefields Parkway, stopping en route at Peyto Lake or perhaps to enjoy an Ice Explorer Ride on the Columbia Icefield. The gateway to some of Canada's most majestic and pristine wilderness, there's plenty to see and do in Jasper. Explore the magnificent Maligne Valley, searching for osprey, bald eagles, deer and bears or take a cruise on Maligne Lake, one of the most beautiful in the Rockies. Athabasca River is also great for white water rafting excursions. **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in Jasper.**

Days 9-10: Jasper-100 Mile House

Drive through the Yellowhead Pass, beside Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Rockies. Stop in Blue River and Clearwater en route to 100 Mile House, the site of one of the earliest roadhouses built during the days of the Cariboo Gold Rush. Today, this area offers some of the finest cross country ski trails in winter and trout fishing in one of many lakes during summer. Nearby Centennial Park is one of the prettiest spots on earth! **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in 100 Mile House.**

Days 11-12: 100 Mile House – Whistler

Head into Whistler today via the scenic Cariboo Highway. You've 2 whole days to enjoy this world-class resort, which offers no end of outdoor activities. Take a gondola ride to a mountaintop restaurant for delicious food and stunning views, enjoy a guided canoe trip in Whistler's wetlands or head to the mountain bike park with its adrenaline fuelled descending trails. There's also great shopping in Whistler Village for those in need of some retail therapy and a very lively nightlife scene. **Accommodation stay – 2 Nights in Whistler.**

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Day 13-14: Whistler– Vancouver departure

Morning at leisure to enjoy Whistler Village before you make the scenic 2-hour drive back to your overnight hotel at Vancouver Airport. Your evening is free for you to relax or head to Downtown for some last minute shopping or to sample Vancouver's fine cuisine and nightlife. **Accommodation stay – 1 Night near Vancouver Airport.**

Day 14: Vancouver

Return your hire car before you check-in for your overnight flight home or continue to your next destination.

Meals: This tour is based on a Room only basis

***Denotes local charge** – Optional trips and excursions suggested on the itinerary can be added at the time of booking.

This is a set tour itinerary, if you have booked any pre/post or optional tour arrangements please refer to your separate vouchers and final documents.

TOUR NOTES

For current departure dates and prices please check our website

Pre/Post Tour information

If you would like to extend your trip or make the tour part of a longer holiday, we can easily add on pre or post night stays for you. Our Sales Team will work with you to arrange the best connecting flights and book any additional hotel stays or experiences. Simply tell us what you'd like and we can arrange it.

Time difference

Eastern Time Zone: GMT -5 hours
Western Time Zone: GMT -8 hours

Tour inclusions

- Accommodation listed
- Day 2, Vancouver – Hop on/Hop off Trolley Tour including Vancouver Lookout admission
- A personalised Jonview Canada Roadbook, containing essential travel information featuring overview notes of the area, local sightseeing and attractions, daily itinerary highlights provincial maps with city guides, hotel vouchers and customised day-to-day routing maps.

Tour exclusions

- All Flights and airport transfers in the UK
- Travel Insurance
- Car hire and insurance unless this has been booked by the sales consultant
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, tips & gratuities, video camera fees at monuments
- The required Canada Electronic Authorization (eTA)
- Anything not detailed on the itinerary and optional excursions

Dining inclusions

Room Only

Accommodation

Accommodation is a mix of 3-4V graded properties. Please note some tours are up to 3 weeks in duration and there may be some nights when staying in remote locations e.g. the National Parks, when the 'V' rating may vary. Hotels are subject to change up until 30 days prior to departure, but you will be advised of any changes.

Visa requirements

Under Canada's new eTA program, British citizens WILL need to obtain an online authorization before flying to Canada. This new entry requirement is mandatory. Travellers will have the opportunity to go online and apply for their eTA. The earlier travellers get their eTA, the sooner they will benefit from knowing they have been pre-screened to enter Canada. A fee of \$7 is payable for processing an application for an electronic travel authorization. An application for an electronic travel authorization must be made by means of an electronic system that is made available by the Department (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) for that purpose. Alternatively you can apply for your eTA through our partners CIBT visas who make the process as easy as possible and will apply for the eTA on your behalf. Contact them on www.cibtvisas.co.uk/virginholidays for more information.

Currency

The official unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar. Major credit cards and debit cards will be accepted within the Canada.

Electricity

If you bring any electrical appliance to Canada, you may need an adaptor to fit the Canadian electrical receptacles. You may also need a converter to change the voltage from 110 volts to 220 volts.

Tipping

Tipping is a big part of Canada's service economy and their taxation system, all visitors should understand that this is a part of the local culture; please see below a list of useful suggestions for tipping:

- Waiters/Waitresses: 15% - 20% for average - good service, more for exceptional service.
- Bartenders: \$1 - \$2 a round -or- 15% to 20% of the tab, with a minimum of 50 cents per soft drink, \$1 per alcoholic drink.
- Room Service: 15% - 20%
- Taxi driver: Varies depending on locality. Assume 15% will be enough; an extra \$1 to \$2 for help with bags.
- Hotel doorman: \$1 per bag for help with luggage; \$1 per person for hailing a cab.

Recommended vaccinations

We advise you to discuss your individual requirements for Canada with your GP at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel.