

# Western Journey

8 Day Guided Tour – 3-4V

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Calgary • Banff National Park • Lake Louise • Yoho & Glacier National Parks • Trans-Canada Highway • Whistler • Vancouver

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: UK– Calgary

Arrive at Calgary's International Airport and transfer independently to your downtown hotel. After an individual check-in, the remainder of the day is free to explore the streets of this dynamic city, famous for its annual Stampede. The tour director will contact you in the late afternoon. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Calgary.**

### Day 2: Calgary to Banff National Park /Canmore

This morning we set out to meet fellow travellers at breakfast before we tour the sights of Calgary. We admire such modern and historic landmarks as the Calgary Tower, Fort Calgary and the skyscrapers of the commercial district. Leaving Calgary behind we set our sights on the Rocky Mountains, which can already be seen, far off in the distance. Experience the majesty of the mountains as we first travel through the foothills and then enter Banff National Park. We tour the region around Banff amidst snow-capped peaks, sparkling glaciers and emerald green lakes and see landmark Banff Springs Hotel, Bow Falls and Tunnel Mountain. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Canmore. Canadian breakfast included.**

### Day 3: Canmore/Banff National Park

The entire day is at leisure to tour Banff and browse through the many boutiques and specialty shops along Banff Avenue. An *optional* full-day tour is offered to the Columbia Icefield\*. The tour starts with a visit to the turquoise waters and spectacular glacier of Lake Louise, the jewel of the Rockies. From the unsurpassed beauty of Lake Louise we enter rugged wilderness as we travel up the world famous Icefields Parkway. At the spectacular Columbia Icefield we board a Ice Explorer that will take us onto the surface of the ancient Athabasca Glacier. We return to Banff late in the afternoon. You may also take an *optional* helicopter tour of the world famous Three Sisters Mountains\*. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Canmore Continental breakfast included.**

### Day 4: Canmore to Kamloops

Our drive today is on the famed Trans-Canada Highway, following a route charted by the railroad engineers and fur traders of the mid 1800s. We continue our tour of the Canadian parks system as we cross the jagged Kicking Horse Pass into British Columbia's Yoho National Park. From the highway, we are treated to a dazzling display of vast icefields, deep canyons, dense forests and glacier-fed streams. One awe-inspiring landscape follows another en route to Glacier National Park. We continue through the Monashee and Selkirk mountain ranges to the rugged interior town of Kamloops. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Kamloops. Continental breakfast included.**

### Day 5: Kamloops to Whistler

We can expect a day of dramatic scenery changes when we drive through the ranch lands and head for the coastal mountains. An *optional* Floatplane Sightseeing Tour over Garibaldi Park gives you an inspiring view of a natural preserve of volcanic peaks, alpine lakes and meadows\*. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Whistler. Continental breakfast included.**

### Day 6: Whistler to Vancouver

We drive south along the spectacular Sea-to-Sky Highway through a dramatic landscape of jagged fjords and glaciated mountain peaks. We leave the countryside behind and explore the metropolis of Vancouver on a sightseeing tour. Highlights include Stanley Park, Prospect Point, English Bay, historic Gastown, bustling Chinatown and much more. The afternoon is free to discover more of this coastal gem. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Vancouver. Continental breakfast included.**

### **Day 7: Vancouver**

The Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountains form the backdrop to your day at leisure in Vancouver. You might want to do some shopping down on Robson Street, relax in Vancouver's playground Stanley Park or stroll through the markets of Granville Island. If you prefer to explore the outdoors, take a gondola ride to the summit of Grouse Mountain. You can also go on an *optional* full-day tour to Victoria, the charming provincial capital that is proud of her maritime heritage\*. See the beautiful 19th century landmarks and enjoy its lively atmosphere. Before taking the ferry back to Vancouver, you will visit Butchart Gardens, one of the world's great floral displays set in a reclaimed stone quarry. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Vancouver. Canadian breakfast included.**

### **Days 8: Vancouver**

The time has come for some last-minute shopping as your tour comes to an end. Individual transfer to Vancouver's International Airport in time to check in for your return flight back to the UK or continue to your next destination. **Canadian Breakfast Included.**

**Meals:** 7 breakfasts included.

\*Denotes local charge – Optional trips and excursions listed on the itinerary are bookable and payable locally. Passengers must pay by Visa or MasterCard credit card only. Cash or other methods of payment cannot be processed by our Tour Directors.

**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 a 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. Simply tell us what you'd like and we can arrange it.

### Time difference

GMT -5 hours Eastern Canada  
GMT -8 hours Western Canada

### Tour inclusions

- Private air conditioned motorcoach transportation throughout
- Accommodation and sightseeing as listed above
- Service of an English Speaking guide.

### Tour exclusions

- International flight in economy class, including all UK and overseas airport taxes and applicable fuel surcharges
- Flight upgrades and airport transfers in the UK
- Insurance
- Airport transfer upon arrival and departure
- 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.

### Dining inclusions

7 breakfasts.

### Included activities

Tours listed in the itinerary.

### Accommodation

Accommodation listed on the itinerary 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.

### Journey times

Please note due to long distances covered on some of the tours, there will be some days when the majority of the day will be spent on the coach, so just sit back and enjoy the view.

### Group size

Minimum 20 passengers, maximum approximately 50 passengers (full coach).

### Language

This tour will operate as English guaranteed, however Dutch passengers may join the tour therefore English and Dutch will be both spoken.

### Visa requirements

Under Canada's new eTA program, British citizens WILL need to obtain an online authorization before flying to Canada.

This 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.

An electronic travel authorization is valid for a period of five years from the day on which it is issued to the applicant or until the earliest of the following days, if they occur before the end of that period:

- (a) The day on which the applicant's passport or other travel document expires,
  - (b) The day on which the electronic travel authorization is cancelled, or
  - (c) The day on which a new electronic travel authorization is issued to the applicant
- Visit: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp> to arrange the eTA.

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](http://www.cibtvisas.co.uk/virginholidays) for more information.

### Currency

The official unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar. Optional excursions will need to be paid locally by creditcard to the tour guide. 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.
- Tour guide: \$5 per person, per day in your party.

### What to expect

We recommend you are of a reasonable fitness as touring often involves long walks and uneven surfaces; this tour is not suitable for those who require special assistance.

### Recommended vaccinations

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