



THE CLASSIC CALGARY – VANCOUVER ROAD TRIP

TOUR G

A two-week camping trip from Calgary to Vancouver through the famous Rocky Mountain National Parks, past Glaciers along the Icefields Parkway in Alberta, then British Columbia with Wells Gray Park, sunbaked hills and huge lakes, Whistler in the Coastal Mountains next to Garibaldi Park and always so much nature, beautiful hikes, exciting outdoor activities and new impressions. After an adventure like this you surely want to come back to see the rest of Canada

Demands: easy to moderate hikes with light day pack, always accompanied by the guide. Campgrounds are accessible by the bus, you never have to carry your luggage very far.

Included:

- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
- ✓ other nights in spacious tents (2 pers./ tent)
- ✓ welcome gift
- ✓ cooking- and eating utensils
- ✓ camping gear (except sleeping bag)
- ✓ hard-foam mattress
- ✓ admission to the National Parks
- ✓ camping fees
- ✓ admittance for Miette Hot Springs in Jasper
- ✓ services of licensed guide who accompanies the group on the day hikes

Not included: personal equipment, meals (calculate with \$200.00 for the food kitty), sleeping bag, alcoholic beverages.

Whitewater rafting in Banff \$185.00, bike rental in Jasper \$65.00, trail riding in Jasper \$140.00/2 hrs.

Hotels:

Day 1, Acclaim Hotel Calgary Airport
Day 8, Twin Pines Hotel in Hinton
Day 14, B. Western Sands Hotel Vancouver downtown
Hotels are not necessarily as listed

For dates and prices please see price list or website.



11 GUIDED DAY HIKES USING THE MOST REWARDING TRAILS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARKS

WELLS GRAY PARK, WHISTLER

NO BACKPACKING

A HOTEL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRIP

TIME FOR MANY OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES

EXPERIENCED GUIDES WHO TAILOR THE ACTIVITIES TO INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES

Group size: maximum 12 persons

Length of tour: 15 days

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

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Day 1: CALGARY - Transfer from the Calgary airport with the hotel-owned shuttle bus to your hotel. You meet your guide and fellow travelers for pre trip information in the hotel.

Day 2: BANFF NATIONAL PARK - You board the bus for a drive through foothills and ranch country into the eastern range of the Rocky Mountains. On the campground (showers) in Banff National Park you pitch your tent under the trees for the next two days. After lunch it is time for the first hike, a round trip of 8 km (5 mi) starting in the forest of spruce, pine and Douglas fir, climbing 550 m (1800 ft) to the site of an abandoned cabin, a lookout over the wide Bow River valley with towering mountain ranges behind. Dinner by the fire on the campground.
Hiking time 3 – 4 hours.

Day 3: BANFF NATIONAL PARK - On a full day hike you explore passes above the tree line and alpine meadows. For example, a 6 km gentle climb through a wide-open valley, a riot of wildflowers in the early season, culminating in a steep ascent into a pass at 2330 m (7644 ft) with nothing blocking the view of the surrounding landscape. All the way to the pass it is a round trip of 18.4 km (11.4 mi) with 655 m (2150 ft) gain. After the hike you might want to relax in the warm sulphur pool of the Banff Hot Springs or browse along the busy streets of Banff with its many stores and visitors from around the world. Hiking time 5 – 6 hours.

Day 4: YOHO NATIONAL PARK - Today you follow the 3.5 km (2 mi) path beside the lake and up through the trees with 400 m gain (1325 ft) to a historic tea house by another alpine lake. Here a network of easy to demanding trails is tempting you to go further and higher. For example, the 15 km (9.3 mi) circuit into the Plain of Six Glaciers or a 2.5 km (1.6 mi) climb with 515 m (1705 ft) gain to a summit with exceptional views of nearby peaks and distant peaks. Camp for today and tomorrow (showers) is in Yoho National Park on the western side of the Rockies. Emerald Lake, the Natural Bridge, Takakkaw Falls, Spiral Tunnel are among the attractions of Yoho Park.
Hiking time 3 – 5 hours.

Day 5: YOHO NATIONAL PARK - There is an opportunity for a great white-water rafting trip on the wild Kicking Horse River. Alternative is a day of exploring the Iceline Trail, a network of loops and trails around lakes and past glaciers high above the tree line, up to 22 km (13.6 mi) with 585 m (1920 ft) gain. Hiking time 6 hours.

Day 6: JASPER NATIONAL PARK - Frequent stops and short excursions along the Icefields Parkway on your way into the heart of the Rockies. Famous names like Peyto Lake and Bow Summit. At the Columbia Icefields huge glaciers spawn rivers, which eventually reach three different oceans. Trails here start at tree line and are especially rewarding thanks to their magnificent views. One of your guide's favourite hikes is the 8 km (5 mi) hike with 335 m (1155 ft) gain into a pass at 2375 m (7980 ft). Mighty Athabasca Falls count among the attractions of this park. Camp for the next three days is near the little holiday town of Jasper (showers). Hiking time 2 hours.

Day 7: JASPER NATIONAL PARK - So many possibilities, swimming and a picnic at Pyramid Lake, mountain biking, trail rides, canoeing and more. Or take advantage of the trail system near Maligne Lake, for example an 8 km (5 mile) loop hike with 460 m gain (1532 ft) into the hills above tree line at 2150 m (7160 ft) elevation and possibly all the way to a 2790 m (9290 ft) peak overlooking this picturesque lake. Hiking time 2 – 6 hours.

Day 8: JASPER / HINTON - Today's highlight is the peak experience of Sulphur Skyline in the eastern ranges of the Rocky Mountains. A side trip into a remote valley ends at the parking lot of warm outdoor pool of a natural hot spring. From here you climb 4 km (2.5 mi) with 700 m (2296 ft) gain to the 2070 m (6791 ft) summit and then along the ridge with panorama views. The reward, on the way back, is the warm, relaxing water of the Miette Hot Springs (included). Tonight, you stay in a pleasant hotel in Hinton, just east of the National Park. How about a game of pool in the tavern with the local miners and forestry workers. Hiking time 3 - 4 hrs.

Day 9: WELLS GRAY PARK - At Mount Robson, highest peak of the Canadian Rockies with 3954 m (12964 ft), You hike the 4.5 km (2.8 mi) trail under huge cedars and hemlock trees to Kinney Lake. Leaving the western ranges Rockies behind you cross the Columbia Ranges and reach Wells Gray Provincial Park in the Cariboo Mountains. A beautiful lakeside campground (showers) for tonight and tomorrow where you can rent a boat and fishing gear and try to catch your dinner. Hiking time 2 hours

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Day 10: WELLS GRAY PARK - Relax by the lake or join the guide on a side trip into Wells Gray Park, famous for its spectacular water falls. Today's easy hike actually takes you behind one of the falls. You also can go on a trail ride western style or rent a canoe on Clearwater Lake. Hiking time 2 hours.

Day 11: CACHE CREEK - Following the North Thompson River you are soon in the warm and dry interior plateau of British Columbia with Kamloops the only larger town. Time to browse and to shop for supplies and groceries. Your campground (showers) is by the historic Hat Creek Ranch, once an important "road house", a place to rest and stock up supplies during the gold rush of 150 years ago.

Day 12: WHISTLER - The Gold Rush Trail cuts through the land of the Salish First Nations. It came into existence during the 1850 Frazer River gold rush and linked the coast with the northern interior before the automobile. You visit the small historic town of Lillooet which celebrates those wild gold rush years. Now you make your way down the western slopes of the steep and rugged Coast Mountains to Whistler, the renowned summer and winter holiday resort at the edge of Garibaldi Park. Years ago Whistler was an almost unknown place for hippies and dreamers. On the menu is a visit of the lively town with its attractions and an easy hike under ancient trees to a lake surrounded by mountain giants. Camping for the next two nights in Whistler or nearby. Hiking time 1 to 2 hours.

Day 13: WHISTLER - Mount Garibaldi with 2678 m (8786 ft) is the highest peak of the park which contains a multitude of plant and animal species and 90 km (56 mi) of hiking trails from easy walks to extreme trekking. Black Tusk, in the heart of the park, offers amazing natural spectacles like Panorama Ridge, Helm Glacier, or the Sphinx. A day hike takes you to the shore of a Lake with trails for further exploring. Hiking time 4 to 6 hours.

Day 14: VANCOUVER - South along the scenic Sea to Sky Highway with towering rock faces that plunge to the sea and rivers cascading in bubbly plumes off sheer cliffs. The intense blue colours of Howe Sound clash with brilliant white glacier ice and jagged black peaks against an azure sky. It winds through mountain communities that started as logging, mining, ranching and farming outposts and ends just north of Vancouver. Short city tour of downtown with Canada Place, Chinatown, Gastown, a walk on busy Robson Street and then downtown hotel for tonight.

Day 15: Transfer to the airport on own, return flight home or connecting program.