



TRIP ITINERARY

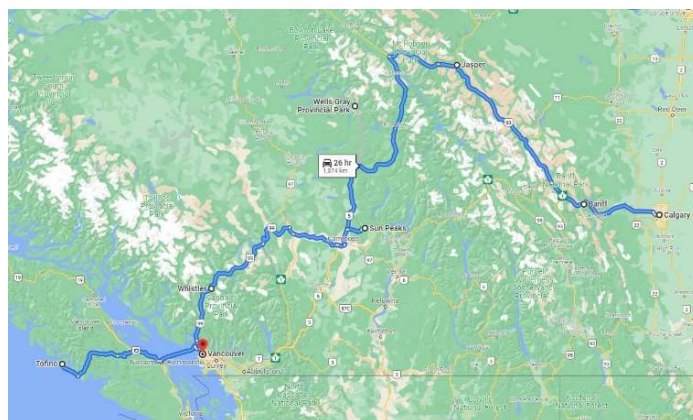
Family Adventure Roadtrip in Western Canada

Canada



Highlights:

- White water rafting; horse riding, mountain biking in the Rockies
- Relax in Banff or Jasper's Hot Springs
- Hike or cycle around – or kayak on - glassy, turquoise lakes
- Tour with a First Nations guide to spot black bears
- Zip line over Fitzsimmons Creek in Whistler
- Take a Whale Watching trip off Vancouver Island
- Cycle Stanley Park and cross the Suspension bridge in Vancouver



This route is perfect for a family looking for an action-packed adventure combined with wildlife discoveries in the diverse and stunning scenery of the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia. The itinerary includes the activity areas of Banff, Jasper, Whistler, Vancouver Island and Vancouver, as well as the more laid back Sun Peaks, which benefits from fabulous summer temperatures. There are some ideas for more quirky tours to take along the way, and some 'don't-miss' food stops.

Accommodations can be tailored to individual budgets: everything we offer is tailor made, and this itinerary is a sample to provide an idea of what is possible ... please contact us so that we can tailor the perfect holiday for you.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN CALGARY

Arrive at Calgary International Airport and transfer independently to your centrally located hotel. Depending on your arrival time, perhaps take a trip up the Calgary Tower for 360 degree views of the city. This evening, visit one of Calgary's legendary restaurants such as Caesar's Steak House & Lounge or Vintage Chophouse and Tavern.

DAY 2 - CALGARY TO BANFF (127 KM) Drive time approx. 1 hour 45 mins.

Banff National Park encompasses valleys, rugged mountains, enormous glaciers, deep forests, alpine meadows and glassy turquoise lakes. Through it wander wildlife such as bears, elks, wolves and bighorn sheep. The bustling town of Banff is a base for a multitude of outdoor activities.

This afternoon, take to horseback for a trail ride, or take the gondola up Sulphur Mountain for hiking trails and viewing points.

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The high street offers a range of restaurants, including gastro pub, vegetarian bistros, upmarket burger bar, etc ... don't miss the cheesecake and torte at Wild Flour.

DAY 3 - BANFF NATIONAL PARK

Activities abound: enjoy a fantastic whitewater rafting experience – choose from exciting grade 3-4 rapids or gentler grade 2-3; bathe in the Upper Hot Springs; rent a canoe or bike at the Vermillion Lakes – a great place for wildlife spotting, or hike the Bow River Falls & Hoodoos Trail.

DAY 4 - BANFF TO JASPER (288 KM) Drive time 3.5 hours.

Drive the spectacular Icefields Parkway: stop for photo opportunities at viewpoints of brilliantly coloured glacial lakes, gushing waterfalls, snow-topped mountains and wildlife. Ideas for stops include Lake Louise for a gondola ride, canoeing or a hike, the spectacular teal waters of Moraine Lake, Herbert Lake, Bow Lake and Peyto Lake; Glacier Skywalk, the Sunwapta Falls with a gorgeous mountain backdrop, and the mind blowing Athabasca canyon Falls ... arrive here at the end of the day and you could be treated to a sunset alpen-glow on the mountain backdrop. Keep eyes peeled for mountain goats, elk, black and grizzly bears.

DAY 5 - JASPER NATIONAL PARK

Take a drive to Maligne Lake for a cruise on the turquoise waters with stunning views of the mountains, take a short hike from Maligne Canyon; bathe in Miette Hot Springs; walk around Horseshoe Lake; ride the Jasper Skytram for more breathless scenery. Whitewater rafting can be experienced on the Maligne, Sunwapta and Athabasca Rivers. This evening, choose from wood-burning-stove pizzas, bistros serving barbeque ribs, or vegetarian bistros. Don't miss *Other Paw Bakery* for pastries, muffins, soups, wraps and coffee.

Quirky Excursion: take a scenic float trip on the Athabasca River: for easy rapids and calm stretches of water on an oar-powered raft, you keep an eye out for elk, mountain sheep, deer and possibly bears and coyotes on the riverbank.

Or

Explore the area with a Metis Guide: see wildlife through the eyes of your Indigenous Guide and hear stories about how nature runs in the blood of the people who have lived here since the 19th century.

DAY 6 - JASPER TO WELLS GRAY PROVINCIAL PARK/ CLEARWATER (318 KM) Drive time 3hours 40 mins.

Drive the scenic Yellowhead Highway to Wells Gray Park: spot the mist-shrouded peak of Mt Robson en route through the vast unspoiled landscape. We recommend driving through Clearwater to Wells Gray Provincial Park, where craggy mountains rise above evergreen forests, lakes and steaming waterfalls. Hike along one of the trails, looking out for moose, black and grizzly bears, elk and deer. Horse riding and boat trips are available. Dine in Clearwater at the local smokehouse.

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DAYS 7-8 - WELLS GRAY PROVINCIAL PARK/ CLEARWATER TO SUN PEAKS (131km) Drive time 1.5 hours.

In the small but likely resort town of Sun Peaks, take a gondola up the hillside for great walking trails, follow one of the many cross country bike trails, hire a canoe or kayak on McGivillray Lake, or take SUP lessons on nearby Heffley Lake. There are regular concerts and family entertainment programmes throughout the school holidays.

DAY 9 – SUN PEAKS TO WHISTLER (356 KM) 4 Hours 45 mins

This afternoon, perhaps rent a canoe at twilight, when the river comes alive with birds and animals ... look out for black bears, otters, beavers, raccoons, eagles and osprey, and marvel at the golden glow of the sunset against the snow capped mountain peaks. In the evening, dine on tapas, French bistro dishes, tacos – and don't miss *Purebread* for their salted caramel bars and gooey shortbread cookie bars.

Day 10 - WHISTLER

Take a 4WD Tour along mountain tracks to look for black bears, a thrilling half day white water rafting trip; the Peak 2 Peak Gondola to whisk you up to dizzy heights for spectacular views, the exhilarating Whistler zip lining experience: high over Fitzsimmons Creek, amongst rainforest by the Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking opportunities abound.

DAY 11 - WHISTLER TO PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK (Tofino) (275 KM, land only) Drive time: 1.5 hours to ferry terminal, Ferry: 1.5 hours: Nanaimo to Tofino: 3 hours

Your drive on Vancouver Island's Pacific Rim Highway is true wildlife territory: you may see bears, deer or wolves. Stop en route at Beaches Shopping Centre, home to dozens of little wood-built businesses: try the salted caramel ice cream at Chocolate Tofino, or have a late lunch at Tacofino.

DAY 12 – TOFINO

Take an introductory surf lesson; paddle the waters in a canoe, take a boat trip watching for bears on the shoreline with a First Nations guide ... at low tide, the bears wander down to the shoreline to forage for crabs, clams and barnacles – and so can be observed from a safe distance on the water. Take a whale watching trip: pods of Orca are commonly sighted, as well as gray and humpback whales ... an expert guide will help spot other marine wildlife such as porpoises, sea lions, seals, and an array of seabirds. For food, don't miss the seafood bounty at Schooner, a Tofino dining fixture.

Quirky Excursion: take a full day coastal exploration tour by boat, watching out for marine wildlife along the way, to Hot Springs Cove, where a 2km walk will take you to natural sulphur springs. Soak up the hot water as water tumbles down rocks into the pools.

DAY 13 – TOFINO TO VANCOUVER (206KM TO FERRY – 3 hours drive; ferry: 1.5 hours; 21km / 20 mins to Vancouver)

Explore downtown Vancouver: people-watch at a pavement café or visit the Aquarium or excellent science centre, take the Stanley Park train or relax at English Bay beach.

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DAY 14

Hire bikes and cycle Stanley Park and the sea Wall. Visit Granville Island: a vibrant dining, shopping and entertainment district full of artisans creating unique gifts; a market where you can sample a host of interesting foods, and aspiring musicians perfecting their craft. Soak up the atmosphere in Chinatown with its quirky shops and markets, or take a guided walk around historic Gastown. Vancouver is a foodie's delight; evident from the mouth-watering lines at food trucks and the enticing aromas wafting from kitchens on nearly every block. Try the fresh pasta at *Ask for Luigi* in Gastown, the organic burgers at Templeton in Downtown- or try one of the many popular food trucks. Be sure to look up *Beaucoup Bakery* for fabulous pastries.

Quirky Excursion: for an insight into the indigenous culture, take a cultural kayak expedition from North Vancouver. You will paddle in a First Nations canoe around Burrard Inlet, sing traditional coast Salish songs and spot centuries-old pictographs on the surrounding cliffs.

DAY 15 - VANCOUVER

Visit the Capilano Suspension Bridge Park today and spend some time exploring the walkways and forest here. Take the Cliffwalk, which gives a birds eye view of the river below, visit the First Nations Cultural Centre for arts and crafts demonstrations and stories of this heritage, take guided eco walks throughout the park where there is also live seasonal music entertainment. There is also an elevated canopy trail through the trees.

Quirky Tour: Take the Mail Run Scenic Flight. Fly over rainforest clad islands to land at the main village on Salt Spring Island, where you can browse shops and coffee outlets. Scenic views of the stunning coastline make this a special experience.

DAY 16 - END OF TOUR

Return to Vancouver International Airport in time to check-in for your departure flight.

Special Places to Stay

If you are looking for somewhere special to stay that provides the ultimate in style and comfort, with attention to detail, superlative service and excellent cuisine, we would suggest including one of the following properties on this itinerary:

- Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Banff
- Fairmont Banff Springs
- Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
- Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge
- Fairmont Chateau, Whistler

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Trip Extensions

We offer a range of trip extensions in Canada: including Bear Watching Lodges, Wilderness Resorts, Ranch Stays, Niagara Falls, Aurora Lights, and Polar Bears. See our Trip Extensions Document for more information. For extensions within British Columbia, see:

- Spirit Bear Lodge, Grizzly & Spirit Bear Viewing (3 nights)
- Tweed,uir Park Lodge, Grizzly Bear Safari (3 nights)
- Black Bear Lodge, Grizzly & Black Bear Viewing (4 nights)
- Pyna-Tee-Ah Lodge: Walk with the Bears, Grizzly Viewing (3 nights)
- Knight Inlet Lodge, Grizzly Bear & Wildlife Viewing (2-4 nights)
- Farewell Harbour Lodge Wildlife Eco Tour: Grizzly & Black Bear Viewing, Whales & Wildlife watching (3 – 6 nights)
- Klahoose Wilderness Resort (3-4 nights)
- Sonora Resort: Wilderness Experience; bear watching (2 nights)
- Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge: bear watching, wilderness adventures (3-7 nights)

GENERAL INFORMATION – PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE FOLLOWING

Passports: Please ensure these are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below). You are required to take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas: Not required for Canada for UK or EU nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to Canada must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to Canada with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in Canada.

Health: All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options. Travel insurance is part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is essential that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

Native Escapes complies with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to Native Escapes in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709. We have testimonials on our website: visit www.nativeescapes.com/aboutus for more information.

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