



TRIP ITINERARY

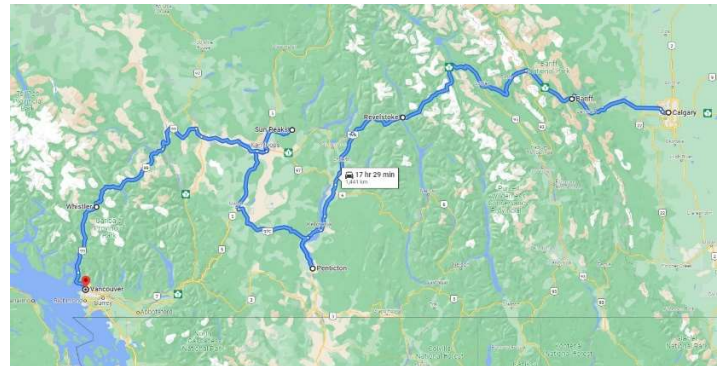
Western Canada family fly drive

Canada



Highlights:

- White water rafting; horse riding, mountain biking in the Rockies
- Relax in Banff's Hot Springs
- Relax on the beach, and lunch at a bistro in the vineyard-filled Okanagan Valley
- Take a 4WD tour to spot black bears
- Zip line over Fitzsimmons Creek in Whistler
- Take a Whale Watching trip off Vancouver
- Cycle Stanley Park and cross the Suspension bridge in Vancouver



This route is a great option 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, Whistler, and Vancouver, as well as the more laid back Sun Peaks and Kewlona areas, which offer great summer temperatures and wine tasting for parents! 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 ... we can amend it in terms of routing, duration, and direction ... please contact us so that we can tailor the perfect holiday for you.

Summary: 2 nights Banff – 1 night Revelstoke – 2 nights Pendicton – 2 nights Sun Peaks – 3 nights Whistler – 3 nights Vancouver

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN CALGARY

Arrive at Calgary International Airport and transfer 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*.

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

Collect your hire car and start your adventure! 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 trial ride, or take the gondola up Sulphur Mountain for hiking trails and viewing points.

The high street offers a range of restaurants, including gastro pub, vegetarian bistros, upmarket burger bar ... 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 on the Vermillion Lakes – a great place for wildlife spotting, or hike the Bow River Falls & Hoodoos Trail.

DAY 4 - BANFF TO REVELSTOKE (283km; 3 hours 20 mins)

A town lined with heritage buildings and an important railway crossing point, activities on offer here include a railway museum with restored steam locomotives, white water rafting, mountain biking, kayaking and dog sledding through the Kootenay wilderness. Don't miss free live music performances every evening in July and August on the pedestrian precinct. Hint: En route, stop to do the 1.2km boardwalk Skunk Cabbage Trail.

DAY 5 – REVELSTOKE TO PENTICTON (262KM; 3.5 hours)

The Okanagan Valley is home to orchards of peaches and apricots, and scores of excellent wineries. Penticton is a great base for time on Okanagan beach, sailboarding, boating, kayaking, SUP, and paddling on Okanagan Lake, and cycling on the Kettle Valley Rail Trail's old railway and trestle bridges. The area has over 120 wineries, many with excellent cafes and bistros.

DAY 6: PENTICTON

Pack a picnic and take a scenic drive to Naramata along the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake, zoom along Canada's highest zip lines at Zipzone Peachland, or ride the Kettle Valley Steam Railway.

DAY 7 – PENTICTON TO SUN PEAKS (294km; Drive time 3 hours 10 minutes)

In the small but lively 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, take SUP lessons on nearby Heffley Lake. There are regular concerts and family entertainment programmes throughout the school holidays.

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DAY 8 – SUN PEAKS

Take advantage of the many activities in the area.

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.

Days 10 & 11 - WHISTLER

Take a 4WD Tour along mountain tracks to look for black bears, take a thrilling half day white water rafting trip; the Peak 2 Peak Gondola will whisk you up to dizzy heights for spectacular views, do 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 12 – WHISTLER TO VANCOUVER (120KM 1.5 hours)

End of your driving route: this afternoon, 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.

DAY 13 - VANCOUVER

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

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 14 - VANCOUVER & RETURN FLIGHT

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.

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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.

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, Whistler

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)

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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.