



TRIP ITINERARY

Coastal BC, Inside Passage and Rockies

Canada



Highlights:

- Canada's Desert – the Okanagan Valley
- The majestic Rocky Mountains
- Northern British Columbia and Indigenous experiences
- The famous Inside Passage, experiences onboard BC Ferries
- Travel Vancouver Island from North to South
- Indigenous Museum visit on a small Island near Vancouver Island
- Small Group trip – max 20 guests.

This small intimate tour provides a journey of a lifetime through one of the wildest, diverse and unbelievably beautiful parts of the world. Starting and finishing in Vancouver, we explore some of the most scenic places in British Columbia & Alberta. We navigate routes that are embedded into Canadian History: we follow the Fraser River as we leave Vancouver, make our way to the Rocky Mountains and the Continental Divide before following the Skeena River and embark on a cruise on the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, you will experience distinctly Canadian activities that will deepen your understanding of Canadian culture, nature and landscape. Be sure to pack your binoculars for this tour!

DAY 1 - Vancouver to Kelowna

Depart Vancouver and enjoy incredible sights traveling through the Fraser Valley. We carry on along the Coquihalla Highway towards the Okanagan and wine country valley. There is the chance to enjoy some wine tasting at a local winery.

You arrive in Kelowna, your overnight stop, where you'll be able to walk the beautiful boardwalk along Lake Okanagan or through the cute shops that line the streets of this desert town. The evening is at your leisure

DAY 2 - Kelowna to Lake Louise & Banff

We depart the Okanagan Valley and are heading for the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Before we arrive in the Rockies, we will stop at Craigellachie, where the last Spike of the Canadian Railways was set, and travel over Roger's Pass. Stop at Lake Louise and Moraine Lake to marvel at the glacier-fed lakes, which are considered two of the most beautiful lakes in the area. Check in to your hotel in downtown Banff this evening. Leisure time to explore the town

DAY 3 Banff

Enjoy a tour of Banff. Stop at Bow Falls, Banff HooDoos, take a peek at the famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel and Visit the Sulphur Mountain Gondola. The rest of the day is at your leisure to stroll along Banff Avenue or arrange for an optional activity with your guide.

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DAY 4 – Banff-Jasper

We depart Banff for an amazing day exploring the Icefield Parkway, as we make our way to Jasper. Stops at Bow Lake and Athabasca Falls and finally at the Columbia Icefields for an unforgettable experience – ride the Ice Explorer onto the Athabasca Glacier (included). Arrive in Jasper in the Late afternoon where the remainder of the day is at your leisure

DAY 5 – Jasper – to Prince George

We travel along the Maligne Lake Road to the famous Maligne Lake where you can stroll the lake edge, enjoy the beautiful views, or take a boat tour to one of the most photographed spots in Canada, Spirit Island (additional cost).

We then visit Maligne Canyon and stop at Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, topping out at an altitude of 3,954 m. Arrive at Prince George in the evening.

DAY 6 – Prince George – to Prince Rupert

Today we will follow the Skeena River West towards BC's coast. Arrive in the coastal town of Prince Rupert in the evening. Enjoy the stunning water views the restaurant and patio of your hotel are offering.

DAY 7 – Prince Rupert

After we have been traveling for a few days, today is time for relaxation. You will have the option to visit the Museum of Northern BC or participate in an optional activity for an additional cost (Grizzly Bear Tour into the Kluane National Park or Whale Watching depending on the time of year)

DAY 8 – Prince Rupert – Port Hardy

Today is an early start to the day as we check in to the Inside Passage Ferry Cruise at approx. 5:30am. Enjoy the 16-hour journey from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy including several points of interest along the way, including Princess Royal Channel and Chatham Sound. Late night arrival in Port Hardy and check-in to your hotel

DAY 9 – Port Hardy – Campbell River

Drive to Port McNeill where we will take BC Ferries to Alert Bay on Cormorant Island.

Alert Bay is deeply rooted in indigenous culture, with up to half of its residents being First Nations people. One of the unique attractions of Alert Bay is the world's tallest totem pole. This remarkable landmark is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous communities in the area and offers a fascinating sight for visitor.

Visit U'mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay (admission included) which houses a museum showcasing returned artefacts from the indigenous communities. These artefacts, which were once confiscated by the Government of Canada, provide a deep insight

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into the rich cultural heritage of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. Later this afternoon we will arrive in Campbell River where you will check in to your waterfront hotel

DAY 10 – Campbell River

Join your tour guide for an early morning walk through Millennium Trail. Today you have the option to go on a whale watching tour at an additional cost

Explore the waters of the Salish Sea, Discovery Passage, and Johnstone Strait. With an abundance of wildlife in this area, we are likely to encounter Humpback Whales, Killer Whales, Pacific White-Sided Dolphins, Bears, Steller Sea Lions, and so much more. From August 20 – October 15 there is also the option to go on a bear watching tour. Evening at leisure.

DAY 11 – Campbell River – Victoria

Today we are traveling south towards Victoria. Along the way we will stop in the town of Comox for a lunch stop. We arrive in Victoria this afternoon and take a fully guided city tour of BC's Capital, including Fan Tan Alley in Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, Beacon Hill Park and Mile Zer. The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 12 – Victoria – Vancouver

After breakfast enjoy free time to explore downtown or book an optional activity, including High Tea at the Empress Hotel, Cycling Tour around Victoria Harbour. This afternoon visit the famous Butchart Gardens.

Later, we will head to Swartz Bay where we will board BC Ferries for a 90-minute mini-cruise through the Southern Gulf Island, we will arrive in downtown Vancouver around 8pm. Check into your hotel and evening at leisure.

Inclusions

- Mini-coach transportation
- Experienced, fun & friendly tour guide
- Daily breakfast
- Fees for BC Ferries through the Inside Passage
- Inside Passage cruise (BC Ferries): Prince Rupert - Port Hardy
- BC Ferries to Alert Bay, Cormorant Island
- Winery tour and tasting
- 11 Nights Accommodation
- Luggage handling in each hotel (1 suitcase per person)
- KELOWNA - 1 night
- BANFF - 2 nights
- JASPER - 1 night
- PRINCE GEORGE - 1 night

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• PRINCE RUPERT - 2 nights

- PORT HARDY - 1 night
- CAMPBELL RIVER - 2 nights
- VICTORIA - 1 night
- Admission to Columbia Icefields Glacier Adventure
- Admission to the Banff Sulphur Mountain Gondola
- Admission to Butchart Gardens
- Admission to U'Mista Cultural Centre
- All taxes and park fees

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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