Tom's Christian Tours

presents

Canadian Rockies-Calgary to Vancouver

July 19-August 1, 2023

Dear Travelers,

Thank you for your interest in our Canadian Rockies tour. We are excited to announce that we have teamed with Grand Circle Travel to make this tour available to you again. You will still have opportunity for a shuttle from DePere to the airport in Milwaukee and be accompanied by Scott and Tammy Monroe, TCT owners. We have traveled with Grand Circle Travel on many of our overseas tours and the company has been terrific. We have had first class guides and accommodations. We know you will enjoy this one as well.

Tom's Christian Tours is offering only one tour in 2023. Register soon, so you can be a part of the tour.

This letter is to let you know that Tom's Christian Tours and Grand Circle Travel are offering this tour for only $3975 per person. Price may vary if you fly out of an airport other than Milwaukee. There will be an additional charge for anyone needing a shuttle to the Milwaukee Airport. That price will be divided by the price of the bus and the number of people on the shuttle.

The tour includes the following:

- 24 meals—13 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Hotel accommodations for 13 nights: 2 in Calgary, 3 in Banff, 2 in Jasper, 1 in Kamloops, 2 in Kelowna, and 3 in Vancouver.
- 14 included features: 9 guided tours and 5 exclusive Discovery Series events including a ranch visit, salmon discussion, salmon cooking and demonstration, lavender farm visit and winery visit, and Maligne Lake cruise.
- Services of a full time Grand Circle Program Director.
- Luggage handling at each hotel.
- Included gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters.
- Personal headsets while on tours.
- This tour does not offer a pre or post tour

Highlights of the tour include the following:

- Banff National Park—We will stay in Banff National Park at the Mount Royal Hotel and take a tour of the town and the surrounding area.
- Drive to the Ice Fields Parkway, a scenic 144 mile stretch that cuts through breathtaking beautiful mountain passes.
- Jasper National Park—We will stay in Jasper National Park at the Mount Robson Inn or similar.
- Athabasca Glacier ride on the Columbia Icefield
- Lake Louise
- Buffalo Nations Museum
- Maligne Lake Cruise
- Kamloops Indian Residential School

- Kelowna Lavender farm visit
- Kelowna winery visit
- Vancouver and Calgary city tours
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Queen Elizabeth Gardens

Here's how you can register for this tour:

1. Call GCT Reservations: **800-955-1925**
2. Mention Group Code: **G3-24969**
3. Advise the Travel Counselor that you want to pre-register for **Best of the Canadian Rockies: Calgary to Vancouver** beginning July 19th with the **Tom's Christian Tours** group.
4. The deposit to pre-register for this tour is **$350** per person. This deposit is **100% fully refundable** for any reason until the official price is released.
5. GCT Reservations is open 7 days/week! Hours of operation are 9:00am to 9:00pm EST Monday through Friday, and 9:00am to 7:00pm EST on Saturday and Sunday.
6. **Contact Tom's Christian Tours** at strmonroe@gmail.com or call 262-408-5518 to let us know you have registered for this tour.
7. Travel insurance may be purchased through Grand Circle Travel. Discuss this with the agent when you register for your tour. I would recommend it.
8. There are a few people who kept their deposit on file with Grand Circle from the 2021 tour. Please mention that when you register.

Here is a link to the 2023 itinerary for this tour online: www.oattravel.com/CRG

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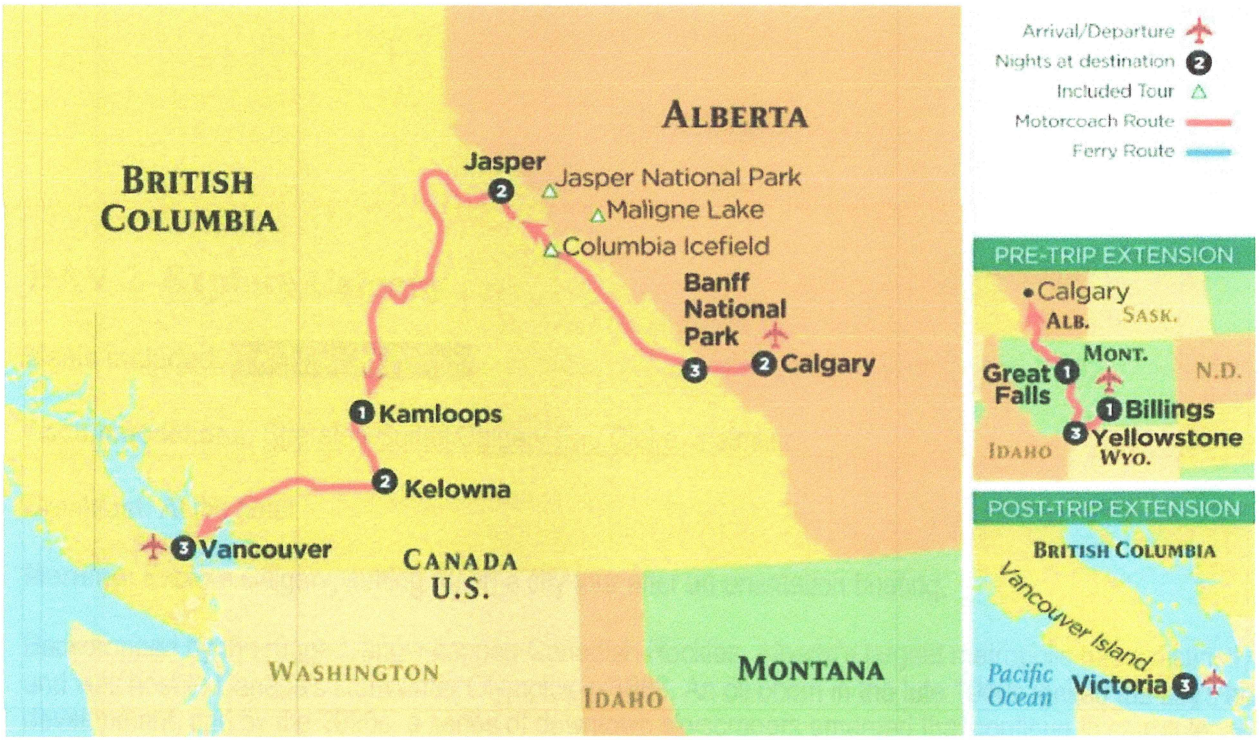
Enhanced! Best of the Canadian Rockies: Calgary to Vancouver

Canada: Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vancouver

July 19-August 1, 2023



Accommodations for 14 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths
24 meals: 13 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 3 dinners
14 included features: 9 guided tours and 5 exclusive Discovery Series events: Ranch visit • Salmon discussion • Salmon cooking demonstration • Lavender Farm visit • Winery visit
Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
Personal headset on all included and optional tours
Private motorcoach land travel
Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

DAY 1--Arrive Calgary, Alberta

Accommodations: Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire or similar

Morning/Afternoon: Travel to Calgary today to begin your Canadian Rockies tour, with your arrival time depending on your departure city. This evening, meet your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who took our *Yellowstone National Park & Montana* pre-trip extension, for a brief orientation walk of the neighborhood.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

After your museum visit, you'll tour Banff National Park, Canada's first and most popular national park, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your panoramic tour along the Tunnel Mountain Drive loop takes you to many of the park's scenic highlights, including Lake Minnewanka, Two Jack Lake, and the curiously shaped *hoodoos*—spires of eroded limestone and sandstone.

Lunch: Enjoy an included lunch at a local Banff restaurant.

Afternoon: Return to Banff this afternoon, and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Banff is an outdoor paradise, and your Program Director can help you arrange nature hikes, horseback excursions, or gondola rides during your free time.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 5--Banff • Visit Lake Louise

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Mount Royal Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Travel to Lake Louise, named for Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, daughter of Queen Victoria. When thawed, the blue-green waters appear almost tropical, though it generally stays frozen through mid-June. Commanding a spectacular view of the lake and surrounding mountains, the Victorian Chateau Lake Louise offers paths you can stroll between shoreline and cliffs.

After your visit, the day is yours to spend at leisure in Banff.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll choose to stroll down Banff Avenue, the main street of this quaint town lined with boutiques and restaurants. Or visit the Whyte Museum, uncovering the history here (Banff was created in 1885) through a collection of pieces and archived photographs.

You might walk to Bow Falls, a short but dramatic convergence of Spray and Bow Rivers. Or continue your explorations in Banff National Park with recommendations from your Program Director.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 6--Banff • Visit Columbia Icefield • Jasper

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations: Mount Robson Inn or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Your tour of the Canadian Rockies continues with a full-day journey to Jasper, a 185-mile trek across one of the world's most spectacular highways, the Icefields Parkway. You'll travel over Bow Pass, which rises to an altitude of 7,000 feet.

Lunch: Along the way, you'll stop at a local restaurant for an included lunch.

Afternoon: Continue along the Icefields Parkway, marveling at the many glaciers of the Columbia Icefield, the largest body of ice in the Rocky Mountains—and the Athabasca Glacier, the largest accessible by road in the Canadian Rockies.

Stop here for a ride aboard the Ice Explorer snowcoach onto the Athabasca Glacier, whose ice is almost 1,000 feet thick. Stepping onto the glacier's surface, don't fight the temptation to toss a snowball or two!

Arrive late this afternoon in Jasper, an old trading post town located in the heart of Jasper National Park.

Dinner: Enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant with your fellow travelers tonight.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

DAY 7--Jasper • Visit Maligne Lake

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Mount Robson Inn or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: After breakfast, set out for a cruise of Maligne Lake, passing by tiny Spirit Island—often featured in quintessential images of the Canadian Rockies. This 90-minute cruise on the turquoise waters is a golden opportunity to relax and experience the sheer majesty of the Rockies in all their unspoiled glory.

Then, return to Jasper, arriving early in the afternoon, where the rest of the day is at your leisure.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 8--Jasper • Salmon discussion • Kamloops, British Columbia

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations: Thompson Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart Jasper for your next destination, the Canadian Rockies province of British Columbia (changing time zones) as you travel from Jasper to Kamloops today. You'll enjoy an illuminating exclusive Discovery Series conversation along the way about the role of salmon in the local ecosystem from an expert.

Set on the banks of the Thompson River, where two of its branches converge, Kamloops was a favored location for the Shuswap First Nation for its abundance of salmon fishing and ease of transportation, and also served as a fur-trading post the 1800s.

Lunch: You'll enjoy a bag lunch as you travel toward British Columbia.

Afternoon: Continue your journey toward Kamloops, arriving at your hotel with time to settle in before dinner.

Dinner: Enjoy an included dinner at your hotel this evening.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

DAY 9--Kamloops • Visit Kamloops Indian Residential School • Salmon cooking demonstration • Kelowna

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodations: Delta Grand Okanagan Resort or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Head to Kelowna this morning, stopping en route for an encounter with a controversial chapter of Canadian history during a visit to the Kamloops Indian Residential School. The school was created in 1893, and operated until 1977, with a mission to "Christianize and civilize" the native Secwepemc population. First Nations children were forcibly removed from their families and sent to the school, where they were forbidden to speak their native language or practice their religion.

During your tour of the school, you'll learn from a local expert about the history of the First Nations people in this region, and about the challenges they continue to face looking toward the future.

Next, travel to a lodge on the banks of Little Shuswap Lake for an exclusive Discovery Series salmon cooking demonstration. You'll learn about some of the clever ways that salmon is employed in local delicacies, using techniques originated by the First Nations people.

Lunch: Included at the lodge.

Afternoon: Continue your transfer to Kelowna, arriving late today.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 10--Explore Kelowna • Lavender farm visit • Winery visit

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Delta Grand Okanagan Resort or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Begin your exploration of Kelowna today, a burgeoning town on the shores of Lake Okaganan. Kelowna is the heart of the Okanagan region of British Columbia, whose sandy lakeside beaches, lush forested hills, and fertile valleys offer a stark contrast to the icy glaciers and rugged mountain peaks of the nearby Rockies.

This region is one of Canada's largest agricultural centers, and you'll get acquainted with one of its local specialties during an exclusive Discovery Series visit to a lavender farm. Here, you'll tour the colorful fields, meet the workers who tend to the fragrant herbs, and learn how they're distilled for use in local beauty products—perhaps you'll bring some back home with you as a souvenir.

Lunch: Return to Kelowna, where you'll have time to seek lunch on your own.

Afternoon: You'll have a little free time to relax or explore Kelowna independently, then enjoy another exclusive Discovery Series event during a visit to a local winery. The Okanagan valley is one of Canada's largest wine regions, and during your

time here, you'll learn about the work that goes into its production. You'll also enjoy the chance to sample a few vintages during a tasting, including a local specialty: icewine, made from grapes frozen on the vine.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner on your own this evening. Your Program Director would be happy to provide suggestions for the best places to eat in the area.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

DAY 11--Kelowna • Explore Vancouver

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodations: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Bid farewell to Kelowna and begin your transfer to Vancouver, the final stop on your Canadian Rockies vacation.

Lunch: En route, stop in the town of Hope for an included lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Arrive in Vancouver, then set off on a city tour and see how the city's urban character is complemented by its proximity to the mountains, lush forests, and beaches. Visit Stanley Park, dedicated by Lord Stanley in 1889 for the "use and enjoyment of all people of all colors, creeds, and customs for all time" and dotted with majestic evergreen forests, a beautiful formal rose garden, and pristine beaches.

You'll also see downtown, the epicenter of business and government, and Gastown, the historical center of the city—which you'll have the opportunity to explore more closely tomorrow.

Arrive at your hotel at the conclusion of your tour, and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 12--Explore Vancouver

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodations: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: After breakfast, step back in time to Vancouver's oldest neighborhood, Gastown. Named for steamboat captain John "Gassy Jack" Deighton, so known because of his chattiness and affinity for storytelling, Gastown is considered the hub in which downtown Vancouver was born. After Deighton opened a saloon there in 1867, the town began to grow into a center for commerce complete with a sawmill and seaport, and gradually became a place for local fishermen and sailors to relax outside of work.

Gastown was incorporated into the city of Vancouver in 1886, and is now known for its unique nineteenth-century architecture, quaint shops, and some of the best restaurants the city has to offer. It's perhaps best known for its steam clock tower—one of the few in the world still operational. You can still spot the original steam engines through the clock's translucent glass, though the clock itself now runs on an electric motor.

You'll have the afternoon to explore this dynamic neighborhood at leisure.

Lunch: Included at a local restaurant in Gastown.

Afternoon: After returning to the hotel, the rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Your Program Director will provide suggestions for what to see and do in Gastown.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

DAY 13--Explore Vancouver • Visit Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden • Visit Granville Island

Meals included: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodations: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Experience Vancouver's expansive Chinatown, the second-largest in North America, this morning. The Chinese were among the first settlers of Vancouver, so while it's a relatively new city, Chinatown is one of its oldest neighborhoods.

Enter through the gaily painted pillars of China Gate, and once inside, find landmarks such as the Chinese Cultural Centre Museum and Archives and the Sam Kee building, the narrowest office building in the world. You'll notice that many of Chinatown's buildings date from Victorian times and have typically Chinese features.

You'll also explore the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, the first of its kind outside of China. As you wander the manicured grounds that evoke 15th-century China, learn about the Ming Dynasty through the architecture and horticulture you find here.

Afterwards, you'll take a panoramic motorcoach ride through nearby Queen Elizabeth Gardens, a hilly, verdant park that provides some of the best views of Vancouver.

Lunch/Afternoon: Head to the bustling shopping district of Granville Island for lunch on your own, and some free time to peruse the sprawling Public Market. Your Program Director would be happy to provide suggestions for restaurants in the area as well as free time activities.

Dinner: Gather with your fellow travelers for an included Farewell Dinner at a the hotel restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

DAY 14--Depart Vancouver

Meals included: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport and return home today, or continue your Canadian explorations on our optional *Vancouver, British Columbia* extension.

Physical Requirements

Group Size

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Program Director

Pacing

- 6 locations in 14 days, including 1 single-night stay
- 3 days feature 6-8 hours of travel by motorcoach

Physical Requirements

- Walk 1 mile unassisted and participate in 3-4 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- Some activities in the Rockies take place at higher altitudes and may be more strenuous
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

Terrain & Transportation

- Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestones, and ice
- Travel by 55-seat motorcoach, *Ice Explorer* snowcoach, and boat

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 48-78°F during touring season
- June-August are the warmest months
- May, late September, and October are the coolest months, when snow and frozen lakes are common
- Weather in the mountains can be unpredictable throughout the year and change quickly