

## **Majestic Rockies**

**Day 1 ARRIVE IN VANCOUVER, BC** Welcome to Vancouver! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a welcome drink.

**Day 2 VANCOUVER–VICTORIA** British Columbia Treasures Tour Vancouver, including the waterfront, Chinatown, and Stanley Park with its old-growth evergreen forests and totem poles. Catch the BC Ferry over to Vancouver Island and Victoria. See major attractions on your city orientation tour including the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Bastion Square, and Thunderbird Park. Later, visit world-famous [LF] Butchart Gardens, followed by a special dinner in the former historic greenhouse. (B,D)

### **LOCAL FAVORITE**

**PICTURE PERFECT** Butchart Gardens, named for the woman who founded this botanical oasis of blooming shades and horticultural design, is a National Historic site for its legacy and lush treasure of millions of flowering beds and over 900 varieties of plants in exquisitely landscaped gardens bring fairytales to life.

**Day 3 VICTORIA** City of Gardens The day is free to explore on your own. (B)

### **FREE TIME TIPS**

**EXPLORE MORE** in Victoria with a stroll in the quaint downtown area with its British colonial architecture to shop and admire its heritage buildings and stunning gardens, then relax over proper British afternoon tea. Your Tour Director may suggest an optional marine wildlife and whale-watching trip. Shoppers will love Government Street's elegant shops and Market Square's specialty stores. Your GlobusGO mobile app has the maps and tips for the perfect day.

**Day 4 VICTORIA–WHISTLER** Gulf Dreams Board a BC Ferry crossing the Strait of Georgia through the spectacular Gulf Islands, an archipelago known for its Mediterranean-type climate. En route to Whistler, stop at Shannon Falls, where a boardwalk leads to a viewing platform near the base of the roaring falls. On to the alpine resort of Whistler at the base of breathtaking Blackcomb Mountain. Time to explore the 2010 Winter Olympics' sites. Enjoy a 2-night stay at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, with classic elegance in a modern alpine setting at the base on Blackcomb Mountain. (B)

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

**ACCOMMODATION SPOTLIGHT** Nestled at the base of breathtaking Blackcomb Mountain, the luxurious Fairmont Chateau Whistler brings old and new together in a seamless blend of historical style and modern beauty. Enjoy impeccable service and outstanding cuisine in this pristine mountain wilderness.

**Day 5 WHISTLER** Alpine Adventures Full free day to explore all that Whistler has to offer. (B)

### **FREE TIME TIPS**

**EXPLORE MORE** in Whistler. You might enjoy a trip on Whistler's Peak2Peak Gondola, connecting Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. Enjoy spectacular scenery and incredible photo opportunities as you travel via the longest unsupported gondola span in the world. Other options include a walk in the treetops, a sightseeing excursion by air, shopping in the village, or just relaxing at your resort.

**Day 6 WHISTLER–SUN PEAKS****Ancient Traditions** This morning, enjoy a visit and breakfast at the [LF] Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, dedicated to the history and culture of the First Nations people. Then, journey north through the heart of the magnificent Cariboo region. Spectacular scenery abounds as you pass by rolling hills, deeply incised rivers, and sparkling lakes. Afternoon arrival in Sun Peaks with the balance of the day at leisure. Free time this evening. (B)

#### LOCAL FAVORITE

**CULTURAL GEMS** Visit the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre before opening hours where you will be greeted with a First Nations welcome followed by breakfast. The center is a spectacular setting, which brings to life the history of Native peoples whose traditions and beautiful culture still resonate today.

**Day 7 SUN PEAKS–JASPER****Sun, Snow & Stars** Continue north, following Yellowhead Highway and hugging the mighty North Thompson River, into the province of Alberta. See the base of 12,972-foot Mount Robson (the highest point in the Canadian Rockies) before entering Jasper National Park. Marvel at the precipitous gorges, snow-capped summits, and lakes of exquisite blues and greens in this wild mountain wilderness. Before arriving at your hotel, you may wish to take an optional float trip down the historic Athabasca River, where your experienced guide will navigate as you absorb the splendor of Jasper National Park. (B)

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHT

**NATURAL WONDERS** Spanning nearly 4,250 square miles of spectacular natural beauty, Jasper is the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies. Its vast wilderness, majestic peaks, abundant wildlife, and breathtaking panoramic sights lie below an incredible Dark Sky to thrill stargazers as well. A cruise to Spirit Island on the turquoise waters of Maligne Lake is a spectacular sight to behold as one of the most photographed locations in the world for its jaw-dropping beauty.

**Day 8 JASPER. EXCURSION TO MALIGNE LAKES****Spectacular Jasper National Park** Travel through Jasper's unspoiled beauty to glacial Maligne Canyon for lunch at the Wilderness Kitchen. Continue to stunning Maligne Lake for a narrated scenic cruise to Spirit Island. Return to Jasper where the balance of the day is at leisure to explore Jasper on your own. (B,L)

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHT

**NATURAL WONDERS** Spanning nearly 4,250 square miles of spectacular natural beauty, Jasper is the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies. Its vast wilderness, majestic peaks, abundant wildlife, and breathtaking panoramic sights lie below an incredible Dark Sky to thrill stargazers as well. A cruise to Spirit Island on the turquoise waters of Maligne Lake is a spectacular sight to behold as one of the most photographed locations in the world for its jaw-dropping beauty.

**Day 9 JASPER–COLUMBIA ICEFIELD–LAKE LOUISE–BANFF****Rocky Mountain Majesty** Head south through Jasper National Park on Icefields Parkway to the Columbia Icefield for a thrilling Ice Explorer ride on Athabasca Glacier with a Glaciologist guide. Climb Sunwapta Pass to savor stunning vistas of alpine meadows, waterfalls, and massive glaciers. Next, stop at Lake Louise, whose green-blue waters form a perfect mirror reflection of Mount Victoria. Continue into Banff for a free evening. (B)

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHT

**EPIC RIDE** Be moved by an expedition across the Athabasca Glacier. Traverse this massive glacier aboard the all-terrain Columbia Ice Explorer and walk on the surface where the Earth's geology is changing beneath your feet. Feel the force of nature's strength on an ancient glacier that still carves the face of the Rocky Mountains today.

**Day 10 BANFF** Heavenly Heights Breakfast this morning is served on top of Sulphur Mountain. Take a scenic ride on the [LF] Banff Gondola to the top of the mountain and then enjoy spectacular views of the valley below as you savor a flavorful meal. Additional sightseeing in Banff includes a visit to Bow Falls. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure. Consider an optional flightseeing trip for a bird's-eye view of the Rockies. This evening, join your Tour Director for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

#### LOCAL FAVORITE

**EPIC RIDE** Soar to the top of the world on the Banff Gondola ride to the summit of Sulphur Mountain. Enjoy breakfast and be in awe of the magnificent, natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies with breathtaking views you'll never forget.

**Day 11 BANFF–CALGARY** Happy trails until we meet again! Morning drive to Calgary. Your vacation ends at Calgary International Airport. Schedule flights to depart from Calgary International Airport after 2 pm. (B)