TOUR AT A GLANCE:

2 Canadian Provinces: Alberta and British Columbia
Length: 15 days
Departs: Calgary
Trip code: PWV
Accommodation: 5 resorts, 4 lodges, 3 hotels and 2 cabin nights

Meals: 1 dinner; all other meals paid locally
Staff: Professional tour guide and specialist guides
Group size: Maximum 13
Transport: Private vehicle, ferry, zodiac boat

Please see our website for detailed destination information and insider tips.

TRIP OVERVIEW

This exploration through Canada and Vancouver Island delivers a wonderful blend of natural vistas and wildlife viewing opportunities. There are a host of included wildlife activities to maximise your time in Canada with Grand American Adventures.

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Banff, where the chance to walk the trails around Lake Louise and Moraine Lake will be music to the ears for all lovers of the great outdoors.

Negotiate the mountain passes and glacial peaks of the Icefields Parkway where you are treated to a stunning backdrop of natural vistas and landscapes. Get under the skin of Jasper National Park where amazing views of Alpine meadows, will leave you open-jawed.

Head into the wilds of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park well-known for fly-fishing and canoeing opportunities on the lake. British Columbia’s most beautiful provincial park is an absolute gem and you’ll hike through dense forest experiencing untouched areas, rarely seen by visitors.

If you’re lucky, spot grizzlies by the salmon-filled rivers of Bella Coola (mid August - September). Out of season, enjoy the tranquility of the British Columbia Wilderness and it’s many hiking trails.

See the giant firs of Cathedral Grove en route to Tofino, one of the most scenic areas on Vancouver Island where you head out on a bear viewing Zodiac trip and optional whale watching Zodiac tour. Spend a night exploring the Edwardian and Chinese-influenced buildings of Victoria, with an included Orca viewing Zodiac tour. Victoria is world famous as an excellent city to view these magnificent mammals.

This trip is a rare blend of the highlights and the lesser visited gems, showcasing Canada’s spectacular wilderness and the wildlife which lives here.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Orca viewing Zodiac tour around Victoria
- Bear viewing Zodiac tour in Tofino
- Unforgettable Inside Passage ferry journey spotting whales and birdlife
- Relax in Miette Hot Springs
- Visit remote Tweedsmuir Provincial Park and Bella Coola Valley
- Explore Jasper and Banff National Parks
- Drive along the stunning Icefields Parkway, one of the ‘best drives in the world’
- See Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies
- Endless wildlife viewing opportunities
- Many walks and hikes amongst stunning scenery
- Included beach BBQ in Tofino
Day 1: Calgary Welcome to Calgary, a cosmopolitan Alberta city. Calgary has historically been known for its Wild West roots and oozing with Western culture which earned it the nickname ‘Cowtown’. This is still evident in the rodeo and the Calgary Stampede, but it has also become a dynamic and vibrant city of skyscrapers at the centre of Canada’s oil industry. Wander around the city ahead of your welcome meeting at 18:00 hrs in the hotel lobby, where you’ll meet your tour leader and fellow travelling companions.

Options:
- Calgary Tower CAD$18
- Canada Olympic Park CAD$24 depending on the number of activities

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 2: Banff Banff National Park is one of the highlights of any visit to Western Canada, with its magnificent mountains, lakes and forests. It’s Canada’s first national park and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Banff town can easily be explored on foot and with plenty of optional activities there’s more than enough to fill your time. Check out the iconic Banff Springs Hotel where tourism in the Canadian Rockies first began, visit some of the many souvenir shops in town or take a short trail to the tumbling Bow Falls. You could also walk along Tunnel Mountain trail for a view of Banff and the Bow Valley. Why not take the gondola up to Sulphur Mountain for rewarding panoramic views of the Rockies? Or simply relax in the heated, natural pools of the Banff Hot Springs.

Accommodation: Lodge included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 3: Banff National Park It’s time to see more of the magnificent mountains, lakes and forests that Banff is so famous for. Drive to Moraine Lake located in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, the highest of which is Deltaform Mountain (3,424m). Next, take a walk on one of the many trails at nearby Lake Louise. A favourite with many visitors is the hike up to the Plain of Six Glaciers, offering incredible views of the valley. Both lakes are famous for their striking blue glacial colour, caused by rock flour carried into the lakes by meltwater from surrounding glaciers. This is picture-perfect scenery at its very best!

Options:
- Aerial gondola/tramway in Banff CAD$62
- Sulphur Mountain hot springs, Banff CAD$8

Accommodation: Lodge included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 4: Icefields Parkway - Jasper National Park Brace yourself, as this morning you hit one of the most famous and beautiful drives in the world, the Icefields Parkway. This spectacular road traverses the Rockies, running parallel to the Continental Divide. Mountain passes, glaciers and high peaks are some of the many scenic highlights and there are opportunities to see elk, caribou, bears, Bighorn Sheep and goats, which often graze on the vegetation found at the roadside. You’ll stop at all of the ‘must see’ sights, including Bow Summit and Bow Lake, Peyto Lake and Crowfoot Glacier. There’s also the option for a guided glacier walk along the way. Your overnight location will be approximately forty minutes out of town.

Options:
- Guided glacier walk in Icefields Parkway CAD$90-100

Accommodation: Cabin included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 5: Jasper National Park Jasper is much quieter and less developed than Banff, which means it is much easier to escape the crowds and spend the day getting to know Jasper National Park and its surroundings. One option is to take the SkyTram and walk to the summit, which provides fantastic views over the Canadian Rockies. Alternatively, there are various hikes at Mount Edith Cavell including a short hike in the alpine meadows with chances to see caribou. At the top, you’ll enjoy spectacular views of Angel Glacier, a beautiful hanging glacier in the shape of angel wings. An included visit to Miette Hot Springs will relax your muscles after a day of exploring.

Options:
- Jasper Tramway cable car CAD$45
- Raft float trip on the Athabasca River CAD$70

Accommodation: Cabin included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 6-7: Mount Robson - Spruce Hill Ranch Spruce Hill Resort and Spa offers guests a place of peaceful refuge whilst also being surrounded by scenery which reflects the true Canadian west. Surrounded by 20,000 acres of Canadian wilderness an in the middle of a working cattle ranch, the area offers fantastic hiking, canoeing and biking. With over 100 miles of trails, acres of rolling range lands, lakes and meadows, your guide will lead you on hiking trails to see wildlife, high vistas, and mountain tops.

Accommodation: Spruce Hill Resort and Spa | Meals: Paid locally

Day 8: Tweedsmuir Provincial Park Today you drive through authentic Canadian wilderness as you head off the beaten track towards Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. The park was named after the 15th Governor General of Canada, Baron Tweedsmuir, who travelled extensively throughout the area by float plane and horseback. The park has varied landscapes on offer, and you can expect to see rugged mountains, deep valleys and ocean fjords. Your overnight location is close to the shores of Anahim Lake, a popular lake for fly fishing that supports plenty of wildlife. There’s an optional canoeing excursion on the lake in the late afternoon and in the evening, we recommend relaxing by the fireplace!

Please note: due to the remote nature of this property, some cabins will be more basic than others, often with a shared bathroom and a capacity of two to four people. On rare occasions you may have to use the bathrooms in the main lodge. The area is extremely beautiful and off the tourist trail.

Options:
- Canoeing (Anahim Lake/Tweedsmuir) CAD$12 per hour

Accommodation: Eagle Nest Resort | Meals: Paid locally

Day 9: Tweedsmuir Provincial Park and Bella Coola Tweedsmuir Provincial Park is completely off the radar for most tour groups, despite being named as British Columbia’s most beautiful park. Spend time in the southern area of the park and enjoy a hiking trail through an area of thick forest. A healthy population of Grizzly and Black Bears exist throughout the park, as well as elk, deer, moose and coyotes; it is possible to see any of these whilst visiting Tweedsmuir. Wildlife aside, the colours of the mountains combined with the flora and the wilderness feel will ensure that Tweedsmuir is a park to remember. After some time spent hiking, you’ll drive over ‘the Hill’ with superb views all the way to Bella Coola.

Accommodation: Bella Coola Mountain Lodge (or similar) | Meals: Paid locally
Day 10: Bella Coola
Bella Coola is located at the point where the Bella Coola River joins with the saltwater of the Pacific Ocean. Here, amongst the lush valley bottoms and snow-capped peaks, some of the largest Grizzly Bears in the world reside - this little community is gaining a reputation as one of the finest places to spot them in British Columbia. The best time of year to view Grizzly Bears is late August and September, when they descend from the mountains to catch salmon in the rivers and eat berries. In season, it’s possible to join an optional excursion in search of Grizzly Bears. Outside of bear season, there’s a selection of excellent hikes on offer and plenty of optional activities, such as fishing and a scenic float excursion.

Options:
• Grizzly bear viewing (in season) in Bella Coola CAD$440
• Wildlife scenic raft tour; Bella Coola CAD$95

Accommodation: Bella Coola Mountain Lodge (or similar) | Meals: Paid locally

Day 11: Inside Passage - Port Hardy
An absolute delight for wildlife lovers, the Inside Passage offers one of the most amazing ferry crossings in North America, with everything from frozen fjords to forest-covered hillsides flanking your route. The journey cannot be completed with one ferry, so we take two ferries with a total duration of 16.5 hours. The scenery is simply spectacular: towering, forest-clad peaks surround the deep fjords and those with a keen eye can often spot Bald Eagles and bears. The Inside Passage also supports one of the world’s richest marine environments and it may be possible to see Gray, Orca, Pacific White Sided and occasionally Humpback Whales. The remoteness of the Inside Passage is its most striking feature; this area is largely inaccessible by road and the tiny Humpback Whales. The remoteness of the Inside Passage is its most stunning feature; this area is largely inaccessible by road and the tiny communities that spread along it, rely on boats for transportation. You’ll spend tonight in Vancouver Island’s most northerly town, Port Hardy. This is only an overnight stop and there will be no real time to explore.

Please note: One of the ferries is more basic, without a restaurant or lounge area, but offers an excellent opportunity to spot wildlife.

Accommodation: North Shore Inn (or similar) | Meals: Paid locally

Day 12: Tofino - Ucluelet, Vancouver Island
Drive from the northern side of Vancouver Island to Tofino on the western side through some beautiful scenic areas. Make a stop at Cathedral Grove, where there are many trails which meander through the Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir and Western Red Cedar trees. Enjoy the scenery and breathe in that fresh island air! You’ll stay in Ucluelet for the next two nights.

Options:
• Sea kayaking in Tofino CAD$75-$90
• Zodiac whale watching adventure CAD$20

Accommodation: Canadian Princess Resort (or similar) | Meals: 1 beach BBQ included (other meals paid locally)

Day 13: Tofino - Ucluelet, Vancouver Island
The West coast of Vancouver Island is well-known for its whale and bear sightings, so you’ll board a boat trip which gives you a unique chance to get up close with the iconic Black Bear. You’ll be guided by an experienced on-board specialist. You may even be lucky enough to spot whales on your trip. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy as you wish, with kayaking, hiking or perhaps even a whale watching boat trip.

Accommodation: Canadian Princess Resort (or similar) | Meals: Paid locally

Day 14: Victoria
Travel to Victoria, Vancouver Island’s main city and the capital of British Columbia. It’s a remarkable mix of English Edwardian, First Nations and even some unique Chinese style buildings, and was home to the first Chinatown in Canada. Victoria is well-known for being the ultimate place to spot Orca, so we’ve included a Zodiac boat tour to search out these magnificent mammals in their natural environment. In the late afternoon, enjoy a brief tour of the city’s highlights with free time for you to explore afterwards.

Accommodation: Canadian Princess Resort (or similar) | Meals: Paid locally

Day 15: Victoria - Vancouver
In the morning, you’ll board a ferry across the Salish Sea, admiring the small islands and magnificent panorama of Vancouver City as it comes into view. This cosmopolitan and diverse metropolis is a real contrast to the rest of British Columbia, but always proves to be a highlight. Enjoy a scenic drive through Stanley Park, a 400-hectare green wonderland with authentic totem poles erected in the 1920s; and stop by Prospect Point, a scenic lookout where you can gaze out at spectacular views of Lions Gate Bridge, North Vancouver and West Vancouver.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We can book you post-tour accommodation at our gateway hotel if required. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

Please note: This tour is also available to operate in the reverse direction, starting from Vancouver and finishing in Calgary (code PWX).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
There are opportunities for optional activities during your tour. Your tour guide will organise these on your behalf and you will pay locally in cash. You’ll find the main optional activities listed above under each itinerary day description, along with guideline prices which were correct at the time this dossier was updated. It may not be possible to do all optional activities listed on each tour.

PHYSICAL RATING/PREPARATION
Active
This active tour is suitable for people of all levels of experience and with a general degree of fitness, although we do encourage some mild training to ensure you’re able to hike the trails. Active tours are about exploring the places you visit so whether it’s sightseeing, walking, hiking, kayaking or white water rafting you’ll be experiencing the best from each place.

Please consider the distances involved on this tour and keep in mind that you will spend time in the vehicle travelling from point A to B, however, our aim is to have you on the trails as much as humanly possible.

Wildlife
As this tour has a strong focus on wildlife, it has a more relaxed pace with an emphasis on getting close to nature, wildlife spotting, enjoying beautiful surroundings and visiting main attractions.
GUARANTEED DEPARTURES
All departure dates for this trips in 2019 are 100% guaranteed, so once you’ve booked and paid your deposit you’re going. Please check our website for our latest range of departure dates for this trip.

TOUR ITINERARIES
Although each tour follows an itinerary, there is a certain amount of flexibility and from time to time our tour guide may suggest changes. This may be due to road conditions, weather or a visit to a special attraction or event that happens to be in progress. Flexibility is key and often a side diversion will be a highlight of the tour. Hikes and optional activities cannot be guaranteed and may vary depending on ability, group interest, local weather conditions and time of year. Please note this is not a dedicated walking tour although we aim to provide as many options for hiking as possible.

All details are provided in good faith. Due to the nature of travel, this information can change and should therefore be taken as an indication only and not as a contractual obligation on the part of Grand American Adventures. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Please ensure that you download an up-to-date copy of this dossier before you depart to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Our itineraries are occasionally amended in response to customer feedback or for operational reasons.

This dossier is valid for all tours departing in 2019. Itineraries may be subject to change with the publication of our 2020/21 brochure in Autumn 2019, at which point revised 2020 dossiers will be made available.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK
“The trip was a lovely balance of exploring and wildlife. We covered a great distance in a short space of time but the itinerary is very well thought out.”
- Georgina Biltcliffe

Please see our website for more customer reviews from independent reviewer Feefo.

BEFORE YOU DEPART

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS
For anyone leaving from the UK we would be pleased to book your flight in conjunction with your tour. Please contact us for competitive prices on flights departing from most UK airports.

If you are booking your own flights, you are free to arrive at any time on day one but it is advisable that you arrive in plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your welcome meeting. We also suggest that you book your return flight the day after your tour finishes. If you have to return home on the day your tour finishes, please make sure that your flight does not depart before 21:00 hrs.

Please note that we cannot be held responsible for any delays, cancellations, changes to your flights, or any missed flights. We are unable to delay a tour, or finish a tour early due to your flight times.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue service).

You will be asked to provide details of your insurance policy, including insurer, policy number and phone number before embarking on the trip.

We offer an insurance policy that is designed specifically to cover the potential risks on our tours - particularly the many optional activities offered. If you do not take our policy, you must ensure that the policy you do take offers an equivalent level of protection and covers you for the activities involved - be aware that some policies do not include, or restrict, coverage for this type of travel. There may be cheaper policies available, but this does not mean it may be better value - we strongly advise you check fully what will and won’t be covered. Any claims concerning matters for which you are insured must be directed to your insurers.

Please note: We can only offer cover for passengers residing within the European Union.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS
It is important that you apply for your Canadian entry (eTA) while in your home country. For specific visa information, please consult the relevant embassies.

Please note: It is your responsibility to ensure you have valid passport and the correct visas for your tour.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADA

Rules for entry into Canada
The Government of Canada has an entry requirement, known as an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), for some international travellers flying into Canada. Citizens from countries other than the US who do not require a visa to enter Canada will be required to obtain an eTA before entering the country. Eligible travellers will need to go online to apply for their eTA.

To apply for your eTA you will need your passport, credit or debit card and an email address. At the time of publication there is a CAD$7 fee to process your eTA. Your eTA will be valid for a period of five years, or until your passport expires. We recommend you carry a print out of your eTA process your eTA. Your eTA will be valid for a period of five years, or until your passport expires. We recommend you carry a print out of your eTA approval when you travel. Please visit www.canada.ca/eta to apply.

If you have not applied for and received authorisation via an eTA prior to travel you may be denied boarding, experience a delayed processing or be denied admission at the Canadian point of entry. However, neither possession of a visa nor meeting the basic requirements for travelling visa free on the eTA, guarantees admission to Canada. As with most countries, the final determination of admissibility is made by immigration officials at the point of entry.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
If you have any medical conditions, take prescribed medicines, or have a condition that will affect your participation in the tour, you must inform Grand American Adventures or your travel agent at the time of booking. Please be aware we may require a doctor’s note prior to travel for some
conditions. This information is essential in case of emergency. All of our vehicles carry a basic first-aid kit however, our leaders are not legally allowed to administer medicine. For everyday use you should bring your own medical supplies, such as pain relievers, antibiotic cream and upset stomach relievers, in addition to sunscreen and insect repellent.

★ WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

SPENDING MONEY

Your spending money needs to cover meals not included in the tour, drinks, and personal expenses such as laundry, souvenirs and snacks along the way. As this is a hotel tour, we recommend you take at least CAD$50 dollars per person per day, but it’s better to bring more than you need rather than run short on tour. You will also need to budget for any optional activities you wish to do. ATM/Cash points are widely available in all major cities and small towns, but may be limited in some off the beaten track destinations, so we suggest you have CAD$50 with you in cash. Please ensure that your credit or debit cards have international access and a PIN number to access your funds at the start of the tour.

You should bring most of your funds in CAD$, but can withdraw money at cash machines along our route. If relying on cash machines, please advise your bank of your travel plans prior to departure to help reduce the chance of your card being blocked.

ATM availability/Credit Card Acceptance

ATMs are widely available in Canada, although this trip visits some remote areas so it’s good to ensure you always have enough on you to last a few days ahead. Credit cards are widely accepted in shops and restaurants. Please be sure to inform your bank prior to travel to avoid them blocking your card with suspected fraud.

PRE-PAID CURRENCY CARDS

It is personal preference as to how you take your money and it’s recommended to take some cash with you for arrival. Grand American Adventures recommend FairFX prepaid credit cards, as these can be a cost effective and safe way to take funds overseas. Please ask one of our sales consultants or visit www.fairfx.com/refer/grandamericanadventures to find out how to receive a FREE currency card, worth a retail value of £9.95.

TIPPING

Although it may not be customary in your country, it is normal and expected in Canada to tip local guides, waiters, bar staff, taxi drivers and anyone who provides a service for you. Service workers are paid a low wage and depend on tips for their livelihood. It can be embarrassing if you’re confronted by a local who is expecting a tip and you are not aware anyone who provides a service for you. Service workers are paid a low wage and depend on tips for their livelihood. It can be embarrassing if you’re confronted by a local who is expecting a tip and you are not aware of how much to offer. For this reason we have listed guideline prices below.

A 15-17% tip is standard in restaurants and you should also expect to tip $1 per drink in bars, $2-2 per bag for porters and 10-15% for taxi drivers. It’s also typical to tip around 10% for local guides who provide optional activities.

Your tour leader will work long and hard for you during your tour and we recommend a discretionary tip of CASS-S10 per passenger per day if your leader’s performance meets or exceeds your expectations. This is of course entirely optional.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

One suitcase, soft holdall or rucksack (23kg maximum) per person. A small daypack and camera can also be carried in the van. Before you travel, please check the baggage allowance with the airline you’re flying with as this may be less than 23kg.

We are unable to offer luggage storage facilities however, some of our pre and post tour hotels will provide this service although there may be a charge. Please contact the hotels directly for further information.

TEMPERATURE CHART

![Temperature Chart]

Temperatures in the coastal region around Vancouver average 22°C in summer, but can reach as high as 30°C in the low lying interior. June and September are usually a bit cooler, and the coast can get rain at any time of year. The mountains have typically unpredictable weather; sun, cloud, rain and even snow can all be experienced in a day!

PACKING TIPS

CLOTHING

Please keep in mind that our dress tends to be informal. It is advised that you take a practical selection of clothes for both warm and cool climates to suit the season. Please see the temperature guide showing the highs and lows that can be expected in key locations that your tour visits. However, please remember that this is just a guide and you may encounter a wide variety of temperatures en route due to altitude and unforeseen weather conditions - so it’s best to be prepared!

- Sunglasses
- Sunhat
- Sunscreen
- Waterproof poncho or waterproofs (including trousers)
- Warm sweater
- Shorts
- Swim wear
- Camera, lens, SD memory cards, spare batteries
- Binoculars
- Small daypack for walks
- Insect repellent
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Camera / binoculars
- Small flashlight / torch
• Travel power adaptor (optional)
• Toiletries / personal medicine
• Water bottle
• A small sewing kit with safety pins
• Personal music player / books etc. for the drives

Please note airlines have various rules on what can be carried in your luggage - if in doubt check with your airline before travelling.

FOOTWEAR
We recommend walking shoes/boots, as comfortable shoes with good ankle support will make all walking more enjoyable. If you do not own a pair, then sports trainers will suffice although this is very much a personal choice. We recommend at least two pairs of thick walking socks.

CLOTHES WASHING
You will have the opportunity to wash your clothes whilst you are on tour, and this can often be done at the hotel or in town. Ask your tour guide for local information.

BATTERY CHARGING
Many of our travellers bring mobile phones, music devices and cameras that require frequent battery charging during a tour. Your hotel rooms have an electrical outlet (just remember your international adaptor!) and we recommend that you bring a car charger. Every vehicle has two outlets for your use, but please bear in mind that thirteen people travelling with multiple devices can mean very little charge time per person per day, so it may be useful to bring along extra batteries just in case!

EMERGENCY CONTACT
In the event of an emergency or if you wish to report a problem on tour please do not hesitate to call our 24-hour emergency contact number. Remember, if we don’t know about it we won’t be able to do anything about it.

Phone number for family to contact you in case of emergency:
International: +1 514 948 4445 or +1 514 623 4448

JOINING YOUR TOUR

PRE AND POST TOUR HOTELS
Grand American Adventures tours begin and end at our gateway hotels, which are conveniently located in the departure and arrival cities. We offer you the option to book additional hotel nights before or after your tour however, they should be booked prior to departure with our reservations team. See below for joining and end hotel details.

JOINING POINT
You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel for your tour. Please find the details below:

Ramada Calgary Downtown
708 – 8 Ave. S.W.
Calgary
Alberta T2P 1H2
Canada
Tel: +1-403-263-7600

Transfer: To travel from the airport to the hotel there are two options. The first is to visit the Allied Shuttle airport service before exiting the airport terminal, which drops at multiple hotels and costs CAD$15 plus tax per person, a CAD$1-2 tip is also expected. The second way is to take a taxi which costs approximately CAD$35-$40 and takes between 35 to 40 minutes depending on road conditions.

JOINING POINT FOR TOURS DEPARTING JUN 11, 2019 AND JUL 09, 2019
Clarion Airport Hotel Calgary
2120 16 Ave. N.E.
Calgary
Alberta T2E 1L4
Canada
+1 403-291-4666

Transfer: To travel to the airport to the Clarion, the hotel operates a complementary shuttle service. This must be arranged with the hotel the day before departure.

You are free to arrive on any time on day one of your tour but please ensure you leave plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your 18:00hrs welcome meeting. During this evening meeting you will meet your tour guide and fellow travellers and also spend a few minutes filling out necessary paperwork, so please bring your insurance documents, passport and tour documentation to the meeting.

ARRIVAL COMPLICATIONS
Sometimes the unexpected can happen; your plane may be delayed or you may even miss it! If you have missed your tour departure, first check with the hotel to see if your tour guide has left you a message. If not, call the relevant emergency number and speak to our staff who will be happy to help you catch up with the group. Please note that you are responsible for any extra travelling expenses incurred due to you missing your tour’s departure, so please be on time.

FINISHING POINT
Metropolitan Hotel
645 Howe Street
Vancouver V6C 2Y9
British Columbia
Canada
Tel: +1 604-687-1122
Transfer: To travel from the hotel to the airport there are two options. Take the Canada Line metro from Vancouver City Centre Station (approx. CAD$19) and exit at the airport. Failing this a taxi will cost in the region of CAD$35-45. Both options will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

FINISHING POINT FOR TOURS DEPARTING JUL 09, 2019, AUG 06, 2019 AND SEP 03, 2019

Moda Hotel
900 Seymour Street
Vancouver V6B 3L9
British Columbia
Canada
Tel. +1 604-683-4251

Transfer: To travel from the hotel to the airport there are two options. Take the Canada Line metro from Vancouver City Centre Station (approx. CAD$19) and exit at the airport. Failing this a taxi will cost in the region of CAD$35-45. Both options will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

Your tour will end upon arrival at the above hotel, which will be around 17:00 hrs on the final day. Some tour activities scheduled for the last day may preclude an earlier arrival at the end point hotel, so you should not book a flight that leaves prior to 21:00 hrs. You will be responsible for any transportation costs if you have to arrive for an earlier flight and you must make us aware of this well in advance of your tour departing. If you require accommodation for the last night, it is essential that you book this before your tour departs.

★ ABOUT OUR TOURS

TRANSPORTATION

You’ll travel in a private 15-Seater Ford vehicle which is driven by your tour guide. All luggage, equipment and other necessities are stored in a specially designed trailer or storage area to maximise space and comfort in the vehicle. The size of our vehicles allows us to reach more remote destinations not accessible to larger vehicles. All our vehicles are equipped with CD stereo systems (often iPod compatible) and air-conditioning.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be in clean, comfortable hotels, lodges and cabins, mainly with en-suite bathroom facilities, chosen for their friendly atmosphere and proximity to the highlights of the region. You will be roomed with a fellow passenger of the same sex on a twin share basis (two people per room) unless you are travelling as a couple.

OPTIONAL SOLO SLEEPER

The accommodation on our tours is based on twin-share, so if you’re travelling on your own, you’ll share a room with a fellow passenger of the same sex. However, if you would prefer your own space we offer a Solo Sleeper option where you can have your own room for an additional fee.

On this tour, we are able to provide the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room for every night of the tour. Please note that the number of single rooms we can offer per tour is limited, so it’s best to book early if you would like this option. Please see our website or call us for the cost of the Solo Sleeper option.

SECURITY

No matter where you find yourself in the world, you need to look after your valuables. In general, the safest place for items such as passports, flight tickets and cash is on your person or in a hotel safe where available. It is not advised to leave valuables in the vehicle. When in doubt consult your tour guide.

We would like to remind you that you are ultimately responsible for your safety and well-being. Whether you are taking public transport, going for a hike or taking part in an optional activity, we request that you carry yourself in a mature and responsible manner - not only for your own personal safety, but for that of the group and other travellers.

MEALS

On hotel based tours, you will usually eat out in local restaurants. To help you budget for your meals on average hotel breakfasts cost from CAD$5-6, lunches from CAD$8-11 and dinners from CAD$13-30; this does not include alcoholic beverages. Wine costs approximately CAD$7 per glass and beer CAD$6 per bottle.

Please also be aware that a tip of approximately 15%-20% is added to group meals in Canadian restaurants. Applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices. Your tour guide may offer your group the option to operate a 'lunch only' food kitty; this has proven to be a popular alternative to three daily restaurant meals. Tour guides will explain this option while on your tour, and the whole group will have to agree for this system to run.

Please make sure we are aware of any special meal requirements before travelling. We will do all we can to accommodate for various dietary requirements but in certain parts of Canada certain food types can be limited.

YOUR TOUR GUIDE

Your tour guide will take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your tour, they will drive the van taking you from A to B and make sure everything runs smoothly. Your tour guide is there to make sure you get the most out of your tour; organising activities, providing information and answering any questions you may have as well as sorting out any queries or problems you may encounter. On our Canadian tours it is not uncommon for your guide to be French Canadian. If you have any particular interests or things you would like to do on your tour, then please let your tour leader know at the beginning of the tour and they will do their best to help you. We will also use specialist tour guides in certain locations, to provide in depth information. If for any reason you have an issue and do not feel comfortable raising this with your guide, please contact info@grandamericanadventures.co.uk.

We would like to note that Canadian law regulates the total number of hours your tour guide is available to work. Our trips are designed to make the most of your time in Canada, but please understand that there will be certain times each day that your guide will need to be off duty from work. Due to these restrictions, particularly after the longer driving days, your guide may not be able to join you for some of the daily activities or may need to tend to other work duties.

THE GROUP

The maximum group size is 13 passengers. Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of four nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your fellow travellers, including a passion for discovery and a strong interest in exploring the national parks.

Grand American Adventures tours are designed for adults 16 years and above. Anyone under 18 must travel with someone who is 18 years old. While most passengers are aged 25-55, every year we get many people both...
above and below this age range. All travellers over the age of 70 will be requested to complete a self-declaration of fitness form prior to travel.

Our tours are a unique holiday experience and much of your enjoyment will come from the team spirit of your group and the fun you’ll have together, as well as from the local setting. We cannot stress strongly enough the importance of bringing a positive attitude with you on tour; a sure guarantee to enjoying each and every moment, even in the adversity of the odd rainstorm!

RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

We are committed to offering low impact tours that benefit the places and communities we visit as well as our travellers. It is important for us all to be aware of the delicate balance that exists in the variety of natural wonders you will visit. National parks and monuments, archaeological sites and other sensitive areas should and must be treated with respect.

We are proud supporters of Bay Area Wilderness Training (www.bawt.org) a charity based in Oakland California which works to connect disadvantaged children in the local urban area with the great outdoors. Their work helps to provide these young people with life changing experiences which they can apply to everyday life. Everyone booking with Grand American Adventures has the option to donate £1/€1/US$1 to support this well-deserved charity and we will match this donation.

Whenever possible, we use local accommodation and activity providers. We also shop locally for groceries, eat in small family-run restaurants and visit local shops whenever possible. This all brings economic benefit to the local communities that we visit.

We also support conservation of the wilderness areas visited by employing specialist local guides in the fields of geology, wilderness and wildlife to accompany us at different stages of the trek. This channels money back into the local economy and at the same time increases our understanding of the environment that we are visiting and its local flora and fauna. With a small group size of 13, we hope to reduce the environmental impacts of visiting remote areas.

Responsible Tourism on the Canadian Wildlife and Vancouver Island...

This Canadian tour visits some of the lesser visited parks in Canada, often left off the travellers itinerary due to their remoteness. We use locally owned hotels here which helps disperse money spent in Canada to those who may struggle for business during the short summer season. Some of these areas include Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Bella Coola, and Port Hardy.

As there is a heavy wildlife focus on this tour, all travellers are advised how to best avoid upsetting the balance of nature by straying from the trails, and more importantly how to avoid close encounters with wildlife and how to react should this happen.

Whilst on Vancouver Island on the bear and Orca viewing cruise, we get close to the animals as they come near the shoreline, but not close enough to disturb them in their natural habitat and not infringing on their hunting and living territory.

This tour offers a wide range of optional activities in the popular and more remote areas to help evenly disperse tourist dollars during the short summer season.

★ AFTER YOUR TOUR

FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

We want to hear about your experience and stories from the road, so please feel free to e-mail us any comments, feedback or reviews whilst you are on tour or when you return home to comments@grandamericanadventures.com.

We value your feedback and tour reviews, which help us in developing and improving our programme. It’s input and suggestions from travellers like you that has helped make Grand American Adventures what it is today.

Towards the end of your trip, your tour leader will email you an online questionnaire to complete. Please submit your feedback as soon as possible once your trip has finished. Please do not be influenced and we answer honestly as we treat this feedback very seriously and it is crucial to ensuring we provide the best possible customer experience.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

We can always use your holiday snaps and short videos to better depict and promote all the fascinating places we visit. Whether it’s hiking the trails or enjoying a great meal, there’s no better way to share your Grand American Adventure. So if you want to send over a couple of your best shots (max 10MB) please e-mail them to comments@grandamericanadventures.com. You know what they say, a picture’s worth a thousand words!

★ HOW TO BOOK

Contact us by telephone, email or via our website to check availability for the tour you are interested in. We can normally hold a seat on ‘option’ for up to three days to allow you time to finalise your travel arrangements. In order to secure your place we require a deposit (full payment within eight weeks of travel) and an agreement from you to our terms and conditions. Check availability early to avoid disappointment: www.grandamericanadventures.com

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Please contact our UK Sales team on:
Tel: +44 (0)208 682 8921
Fax: +44 (0)208 675 0551
Enquiries: info@grandamericanadventures.com

This dossier was last updated 25 Mar 2019