

### Coast to Coast – Luxury Canadian Rockies featuring the Rocky Mountaineer September 3 – 14, 2024 (12 Davs) **Tentative Tour Itinerary**



Welcome aboard our 11th Annual premium rail and coach tour from Eastern to Western Canada! Outlined below is the itinerary for this exceptional getaway. Please read the information carefully and contact us if you have any questions. I am sure you will agree that we have put together an exciting itinerary with attention to detail and a commitment to excellent service. All this to ensure a carefree and inspirational getaway for you! Please keep in mind that tour itineraries are used as a guideline and may need to be modified by your Tour Manager. Be sure to review the "Important **Information**" section (last page of this itinerary) and contact us with any questions. Your Tour manager looks forward to meeting you and creating an exciting, carefree, and well-managed tour.

#### Sincerely, Greg Collins – President & CEO

### Day 1 – Saturday, Sep 3 – Flight to Toronto – 5-Star Fairmont Royal York Hotel (Welcome Cocktail Reception)

- For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air Package, arrive at your local airport for your flight to Toronto where you meet your tour manager. All group flights are from local departure airport to Toronto.
- Arrive in Toronto airport early-afternoon and take a brief orientateion city tour on our downtown before arriving at your hotel, the iconic Fairmont Royal York. Your tour manager checks the group in, hands out room keys, and has bags sent to your room (bag handling fee of 1 bag per person included) - all part of the Collins Tours signature group check-in service!
- Join your fellow travellers and tour manager tonight for our Welcome Cocktail Reception at the hotel (included).

### Day 2 – Sunday, Sep 4 – Toronto, ON - Board VIA Rail's *The Canadian* for Jasper (B, L, D)

- Enjoy a magnificent Royal York breakfast inside the hotel (included) this morning before checking out. Upon check-out, your luggage will be collected by Via Rail staff and taken across the street to Union Station and loaded into the luggage car on the "Canadian" for your journey to Jasper. Please take your carry-on luggage from the room prior to meeting your tour manager this morning. Your carry-on luggage accompanies you to your cabin onboard the "Canadian" for the entire journey, while large, checked bags are stored in the luggage car. Please ensure all medication, travel documents, toiletries needed and change of clothes are packed into your carry-on luggage before checking out of the Royal York Hotel.
- All aboard! Get set this morning for VIA Rail's Canadian, with **sleeper plus** service across Canada! This train underwent \$22 million in renovations in recent years and is said to be among the most renowned trains in the world. Please note: Train departures and arrivals are subject to change due to shared train routes, emergencies, mechanical issues, acts of God and other unforeseen circumstances. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible, liable, or held



accountable for any such delays or changes. Reimbursements, credits, or refunds will not be provided from Collins Tours in the case of any such occurrences.

- Enjoy your accommodations in a **private sleeper plus cabin for two,** for the next three nights and four days, as you travel through lush boreal forest, Northern Ontario lakes, Western Canada's plains, and into the majestic Rocky Mountains destination... Jasper!
- Guests can log onto www.viarail.com to view "The Canadian" train accommodations. Each person is booked into a Sleeper Plus Cabin- with 1 upper bed and 1 lower bed, with private washroom, double picture window, transformed during the day by the cabin stewards, they simply fold up the beds and insert a small table and 2 chairs for private viewing. The showers are private showers, located in individual train cars. Showers are not located in each room.
- Full breakfast, Full lunch, and full dinner are included on the train with sit down service in the private dining car with a la carte menu, for the next three nights.
- Experience the history and beauty of Canada like never before! Be sure to make your way to the skyline car with its glass dome and lounge areas, making every seat a window seat.

### Day 3 – Monday, Sep 5 – On board The Canadian (B, L, D)

- Today's rail journey continues through the Canadian Prairies.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included again today. Enjoy VIA's impeccable style and only the highest quality food.
- Second overnight on *The Canadian*, VIA's flagship train.

### Day 4 – Tuesday, Sep 6 – On board The Canadian (B, L, D)

- More amazing scenery and service as your rail experience continues.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included today.

## Day 5 – Wednesday, Sep 7 – 5 Star – Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, AB (B, Welcome Reception)

- Breakfast included today. Your train arrives in Jasper at approximately 6:30 a.m. *Note: time may be delayed due to other trains as this is an estimated arrival time.*
- We will meet our guide for the day and immediately transfer to the Maligne Canyon for a buffet breakfast (included), before enjoying the rest of the day on our "Highlights of Jasper" half-day guided sightseeing tour of Jasper National Park.
- **OPTIONAL BOAT EXCURSION**: Add the 90-minute Maligne Lake boat tour to Spirit Island observation area for an experience by water atop the crystal waters of Maligne Lake fed by glaciers of Jasper National Park. Cruise along the scenic shores overlooked by towering peaks to a spectacular overlook at Spirit Island.
- After the tour, we will head to the Jasper Park Lodge where your tour manager will check you in, leaving you with time to explore this 700-acre year-round luxury mountain resort, which wraps around the shores of pristine Lac Beauvert.



- Enjoy our group "Welcome to the Rockies" Cocktail Reception featuring fine wines & cheeses upon our arrival!
- The rest of the evening is free as you acquaint yourself with this chalet style resort and its dining options.



### Day 6 – Thursday, Sep 8 – Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge (B, Group D)

- A fabulous Jasper Park Lodge full buffet breakfast included this morning in the hotel.
- Today is a free day to explore Jasper your way! Perhaps some shopping in the local town is on the agenda, a round of golf at the resorts golf course, or some nature watching and relaxing at your hotel is best for you!
- Lunch is on own today.
- This evening join your tour manager and fellow passengers for an incredible 5-star meal at our hotel **(Included in your tour package)**. Get together and break bread together as we discuss the next days journey through the Rockies by motor coach!
- Rest of the evening is on your own. Enjoy your last night in Jasper Park Lodge.

# Day 7 – Friday, Sep 9 – Jasper Park Lodge – Lake Louise – 4.5 Star- Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff, AB (B)

- Start the day right, with another gourmet buffet breakfast **(included)** before we check-out of the hotel and make our way to the mountain resort town Banff!
- Please board the coach this morning as we make our way to the Columbia Icefield Discovery Center and board our "Ice Explorer" vehicle for an exciting excursion on the Athabasca Glacier (Ice Explorer included). After the Ice Explorer experience, you have a chance to do the "Skywalk" overlooking the Rockies before taking time at the Discovery Centre for lunch (on own).
- After lunch we will have photo stops while traveling along the Icefield Parkway including Lake Louise photo stop and its emerald waters and mountain backdrop.
- Late this afternoon we expect to arrive at the 5-star Banff Springs Hotel in stunning Banff, called the castle in the mountains! This iconic hotel is considered Canada's premier hotel with views showing mountains all around.
- Rest of the evening on your own.

### Day 8 – Saturday, Sep 10 – Rimrock Resort Hotel – Banff, AB (B, Group D)

- This morning enjoy gourmet hot breakfast at our hotel (included) before your morning tour of Banff.
- Today's half-day guided tour of the Banff area; includes a gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain. We will take you to view Bow River up close and personal, and then to view the Hoodoo's, a local favourite!
- Lunch is on your own while you spend the afternoon in Banff. This afternoon while on your own perhaps a local Helicopter Tour for a unique experience in the Banff area is on your list? (Not included)
- Tonight, meet your tour manager and enjoy another gourmet group dinner this evening as we dine together **(included)** to discuss the incredible journey through the clouds so far, and our exciting adventure tomorrow aboard the Rocky Mountaineer!
- Your tour manager will provide you details regarding tomorrow's new adventure!

## Day 9 – Sunday, Sept 11 – Rocky Mountaineer Begins! – Banff - Kamloops, BC Overnight (Hotel TBA) (B, L)

- Check out of your room in time to board the coach for our short early morning transfer to the Rocky Mountaineer Train station (transfer included). Please note: Collins Tours recommends having a light snack this morning prior to meeting our morning transfer as breakfast will not be served until approximately 9:30 a.m.
- Get set for the highlight of the trip, your Rocky Mountaineer daytime rail journey. Gourmet breakfast (included) is served onboard the train this morning in a private dining car! (Gold Leaf Service)





- Scenic highlights along our "*First Passage to the West,*" include the Continental Divide, Spiral Tunnels, Kicking Horse Canyon, Rogers Pass and Craigellachie, where the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven.
- Enjoy full-length windows, complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and snacks during your two-day **all daylight** elite service! This afternoon you will be served another gourmet meal in the lower level of your private dining car (**Gold Leaf Service**), complete with a la carte menu for appetizer, entrees, desert, tea or coffee!
- The train arrives in Kamloops BC this evening. Once we arrive at Kamloops train station, transfers to your local deluxe hotel (hotel TBA) are included and your luggage will be waiting for you in your hotel room once you arrive. Dinner is on your own this evening.

### Day 10 – Monday, Sept 12 – Rocky Mountaineer - Vancouver, 4.4 Star JW Marriott Parq (B, L)

- Check out of our hotel this morning and board the coach for our short transfer back to the train terminal. Time to step aboard the Rocky Mountaineer for day two (assigned seating from previous day) of this incredible rail experience.
- Start the day off again with gourmet breakfast aboard the train as we make our way from Kamloops to Vancouver, B.C. **(Gold Leaf Service)**
- Highlights during this part of your world-class rail tour today include the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River and the rushing waters of Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon.



- Enjoy another gourmet meal while traveling on board the Rocky Mountaineer again today **(Included in Gold Leaf Service)**. Your rail adventure may have come to an end but your experience in the beautiful seaside port city of Vancouver, B.C. this evening has only just begun!
- Board the coach upon arrival in Vancouver for a transfer to your 5 Star Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Holding a prime downtown location, we are minutes away from some of Vancouver's biggest attractions including Granville Island, Robson Street shopping, Stanley Park Seawall, Vancouver Aquarium, Gastown, Canada Place and Science World. Guests will feel at home as our canine pet ambassadors welcome them and our knowledgeable Concierge team is here to help with local travel suggestions.
- Enjoy dinner on your own tonight with countless options available in the area around the hotel.

### Day 11 - Tuesday, Sept 13 - Vancouver, BC (B, Farewell Group Dinner)

• Gourmet buffet breakfast is included again this morning. We have included a 4.5 hour guided city tour this morning featuring Stanley Park, a temperate rain forest surrounded by ocean and famous for old growth trees, colourful totem poles, popular beaches, and spectacular views of Coal Harbour, the North Shore Mountains, and English Bay. You'll also visit Prospect Point for a view of the famous Lions Gate Bridge - a suspension bridge built during the Great Depression. This engineering marvel connects downtown Vancouver with its mountain-filled sibling, North Vancouver. We will end this tour in the Granville market for some time on own before heading back to the hotel for the afternoon at your leisure.



• Lunch is on your own this afternoon at the Granville Market and not included in tour price.





- This afternoon take time to walk the seawall, take a ride up Grouse Mountain, shop or relax at the hotel (on own; your expense).
- This evening meet your tour manager for our final dinner together, our farewell dinner with wine or beer included! Say your goodbyes and reminisce the journey experienced together over the past 11 days. Final times and departure information will be discussed with the group this evening for tomorrows departure by your tour manager.

## Day 12 – Wednesday, Sept 14 – Home, Conclusion of tour

- For travellers who purchased the Collins Tours Inclusive Flight Package your private transfers to the airport from the hotel as we bid farewell to the west coast of Canada.
- Please note, Collins Tours has checked you into the flights in advance, one less thing to worry about and another signature service of the Collins Tours family.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- \*Tour itineraries are **a guideline and may need to be adjusted** by CTC or your tour manager. All times on tour itineraries are only estimates as various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues, Train delays, emergencies, and other "Acts of God," can influence tour timing. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd. is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by any of the unforeseen events described above or any events with similar outcome not mentioned above. No refunds, reimbursements, or credits will be offered in the event of any such occurrences. Please note Covid-19 may cause changes in certain activities of the tour or overall operation of tour. Compensation in reimbursed activities will be provided if necessary. Refunds or credits for missed events due to a Covid 19 change will NOT be reimbursed from Collins Tours Consulting Ltd.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements or for these additional expenses, loss of use, or loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance
- Tour price does NOT include incidental room charges e.g. movie rentals, Internet connections, phone calls, etc. Please be sure to give the front desk your credit card information to cover these fees.

#### Hotel contact information:

Toronto, ON: Fairmont Royal York, 100 Front St. W., Toronto, Ph: 416-368-2511. VIA Rail passengers 1-888-842-7245 Jasper, AB: Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge 1 Old Lodge Road, Jasper Ph: 780-852-3301 Banff, AB: Rimrock Resort Hotel, 300 Mountain Ave, Banff, AB T1L 1J2, Ph: (403) 762-3356 Kamloops, BC: Accommodations in Kamloops (TBD) – Arranged by Rocky Mountaineer Vancouver, BC: JW Marriott Parq Vancouver, 39 Smithe St, Vancouver, BC V6B 0R3, Ph: (604) 676-0888



- Please remove all personal belongings when departing the bus. We are not responsible for items left behind so please **double check your seat!**
- When boarding VIA Rail "The Canadian" from Toronto to Jasper, all passengers are required to bring a carryon piece of luggage, as large pieces of luggage are taken at check in and stored in luggage car until we arrival in Jasper. Carry-on luggage does not have a weight restriction but needs to be easily carried/pulled by all passengers since each person brings this into his/her cabin.
- Guests can log onto <u>www.viarail.com</u> to view "The Canadian" train accommodations. Each person is booked into a Sleeper Plus Cabin- with 1 upper bed and 1 lower bed, with private washroom, double picture window, transformed during the day by the cabin stewards, they simply fold up the beds and insert a small table and 2 chairs for private viewing. As well, you can always go to the dome car or activity cars for public viewing (limited/restricted access due to Covid-19). The showers are private showers, located in individual train cars, not showers in each room.
- Covid-19 Protocol. Guests who contract Covid-19 while traveling with the tour many not be able to continue with the tour depending on the itinerary of each tour. Depending on the severity of sickness or illness, guests may be removed and isolated. If symptoms are mild, fully boosted, and vaccinated guests can continue with advisement from Management. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements or and king for these additional expenses, loss of use, or loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.
- <u>**REMEMBER</u>**: Your Collins Tours group tour manager handles: hotel check in/check out procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation with airlines, at sport and concert venues, as well as with Customs and Immigration officials where applicable. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his or her experience to the fullest. **Gratuities for your Tour Manager and driver are not included in your tour price.**</u>
- Gratuities for CTC tour manager, professional city tour guides & driver. Tipping is your way of saying "Thank You," for a job well done. **Guidelines on** *Tipping Etiquette*:
  - Tip private tour guides for city tours \$3.00 per person per day
  - CTC Tour managers anywhere from \$7.00-10.00 per person per day
  - Bus driver- \$5.00 \$6.00 per person per day



Thank you for traveling with Collins Tours. We look forward to assisting you with all your future travel plans!

