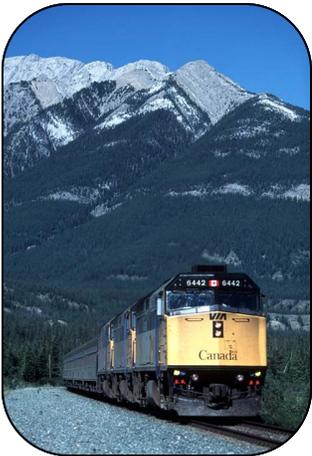


COAST TO COAST WESTBOUND BY TRAIN

May 15, 2018 - 19 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$9,040 double/twin

\$10,410 single

\$8,700 triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 197 points from this tour.

Redeem **197 points** if you book by **February 21**.



Includes

- Transfer to Victoria airport
- Westjet flight from Victoria to Halifax
- Current air transport tax & security fees
- Coach transportation for 12 days in Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg
- 13 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- 5 nights bedroom accommodation on VIA Rail
- Locally-guided tour of Halifax
- Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
- Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
- Alexander Keith's Brewery Tour
- Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic
- Grafton Street Dinner Theatre
- VIA Rail's *The Ocean* from Halifax to Montréal, Sleeper Plus Class
- Locally-guided tour of Montréal
- Montréal's Biodome and Botanical Garden
- Le Festin du Gouverneur dinner theatre
- St. Lawrence River cruise at Montréal
- Business Class VIA train from Montréal to Ottawa with lounge access in Montréal
- Locally-guided tour of Ottawa
- Parliament Buildings tour
- Canadian Museum of History
- Business Class VIA train from Ottawa to Toronto with lounge access in Ottawa
- Locally-guided tour of Toronto
- Theatre production in Toronto (show TBA)
- Hornblower cruise to bottom of Niagara Falls
- Locally-guided tour of Niagara Falls
- Skylon Tower & dinner in revolving restaurant
- Casa Loma & Royal Ontario Museum
- Dinner cruise along Toronto's waterfront
- VIA Rail's *The Canadian* from Toronto to Vancouver with disembark in Winnipeg, Sleeper Plus Class
- Locally-guided tour of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Museum
- FortWhyte Alive, Bison Safari & Prairie Legacy
- Cultural evening of Folklorama
- Mennonite Heritage Village
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Assiniboia Downs horse-racing
- Transfer to your Victoria pickup point
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels, trains & airline
- **35 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners

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Experience history as you cross Canada by rail!

The railway in Canada is an integral and essential foundation for the country. When the last spike was driven in the cross-country rail line on November 7, 1885 at Craigellachie, something truly magnificent had been accomplished: Canada had been united. The railway was written into the agreement of Confederation on that historic day when the Dominion of Canada was formed in 1867. The railway was a condition of entry into Confederation by British Columbia and it was the common thread that linked the vast spaces and diverse cultures of the grand new nation. Experience Canada's national railway on this epic journey from Halifax on the Atlantic coast to Vancouver on the Pacific coast. From the unique mix of cultures in Winnipeg and Montréal to the Scottish influence in the Maritimes; from the awesome view of Niagara Falls from the Skylon Tower to the Parliament Buildings of our capital city; from the sea of grass in the vast prairies to the towering giants of the Rocky Mountains — all aboard for the adventure of a lifetime!

Train & Tour Notes

HALIFAX TO MONTRÉAL — Space is booked in Sleeper Plus Class on *The Ocean* with lunch, dinner, and breakfast included. Sleeping accommodation is in private cabins, either double with upper and lower berths or single with lower berth only. Amenities include toilet, handbasin, and couch(es) that convert into bed(s). Exclusive access to the dome car is included.

MONTRÉAL TO OTTAWA TO TORONTO — Enjoy the luxury of Business Class on these fast trains with large comfortable seats, wi-fi, and meals served at your seat. Relax in the business lounge before departure.

TORONTO TO VANCOUVER — Space is booked in Sleeper Plus Class on *The Canadian* with all meals included. Sleeping accommodation is in private bedrooms, either double with upper and lower berths or single with lower berth only. Amenities include couch-style seats that convert to beds at night, electrical outlet, toilet, sink, and mirror. Shower facilities are located nearby. Exclusive access to the dome car with its excellent views and Bullet Lounge is included. You also have access to the dining car and the Skyline Car which has books, games, lectures on local topics, and refreshments.

TIMING — Rail travel is subject to unexpected delays, and Wells Gray Tours cannot be held responsible for missed attractions due to a late train. Listed times are from VIA Rail's published schedule.

LUGGAGE — While on the train, your suitcase is stored in the baggage car. You may bring your suitcase to your private room for overnight stays, but it is highly recommended that you bring a more compact bag with just your needs for those few days while on board.

GRATUITIES — The customary gratuities for train attendants are not included in your tour fare due to the challenges of distribution on board. Please budget \$10 per person per day. Gratuities are covered for all included meals off the train, local guides and drivers. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and BC coach driver are not included and are left to your discretion.

EARLY BOOKING is recommended. This tour is limited to 40 travellers and Wells Gray has not previously offered a westbound tour with Ottawa by train.



ACTIVITY LEVEL — Moderate activity including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and steps. On the train, you may have to walk through up to 5 train cars to access the dining car.

If booking a single bedroom, be aware that at night you may need to go down the hall to a toilet. Double bedrooms have upper and lower berths, so one person must be able to get into the upper berth. Steps on and off the train may be awkward for those with mobility challenges. There can be longer walks in Toronto and Halifax airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

Itinerary

Tuesday, May 15:

A transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly on Westjet to **Halifax** and stay three nights at the historic Westin Hotel.

Wednesday, May 16:

Meals: B

Today there is a locally-guided tour of Halifax including the waterfront, St. Paul's Church, the universities, and shopping and residential districts. We also visit **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site**,

a fortress perched on the hill overlooking the city. Nova Scotia's naval heritage comes alive during a visit to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and we celebrate a maritime tradition during the fun and flavourful Alexander Keith's Brewery Tour.

Thursday, May 17:

Meals: B,D

We head to **Peggy's Cove**, one of the most picturesque fishing villages along the Eastern seaboard. There is time to stroll the waterfront and take pic-

tures of its famous lighthouse before continuing along the delightful coastal drive to **Lunenburg**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic highlights the ship building industry and the fisheries of Nova Scotia. Tonight, get set for musical comedy, fun and frivolity at **Grafton Street Dinner Theatre**.

Friday, May 18:

Meals: B,L,D

The morning is leisure time. At 1 pm, we begin our memorable journey across Canada aboard VIA Rail's **The Ocean** when it pulls out of Halifax headed to Montréal. When Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia joined in Confederation to form the Dominion of Canada in 1867, a railway to connect Halifax with the St. Lawrence River was promised. For the rest of the daylight hours, the train skirts the **Bay of Fundy** to Moncton, then goes north along the Acadian Coast and along Chaleur Bay. During the night, the train crosses the neck of the Gaspé Peninsula. Our Sleeper Plus Class of service includes exclusive access to the dome car.

Saturday, May 19:

Meals: B,D

The train follows the south shore of the St. Lawrence River and arrives in **Montréal** about 10 am. Explore this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions with a locally guided tour that includes Mount Royal, Ile Sainte-Hélène, and downtown landmarks. In the afternoon, we visit the **Montréal Biodome**, an oasis in the city that recreates some unique ecosystems, and the **Botanical Garden** which has 30 theme gardens, exhibition greenhouses, and 22,000 species. Both are located in Olympic Park and the huge 1976 Olympic Stadium and Tower dominates the site. We stay two nights at the famed **Fairmont Queen Elizabeth**, a Canadian icon. The hotel reopened in 2017 after a \$140 million dollar year-long renovation. It is located above Montreal's vast underground city full of shops and restaurants. Tonight, enjoy revelry and entertainment at **Le Festin du Gouverneur** dinner theatre.

Sunday, May 20:

Meals: Brunch

We see Montréal's landmarks from a different vantage point during a 2½-hour cruise on the St. Lawrence River with a delectable Sunday brunch served. This afternoon, you may want to stroll the streets of **Old Montréal** and visit the imposing Notre Dame Basilica.

Monday, May 21:

Meals: B,L

Ride the elevator from the lobby of the Queen Elizabeth down into the train station, then relax in the exclusive business lounge while waiting for our train departure at 9 am. We are whisked from

Montréal to Ottawa at up to 130 kph while enjoying the luxury of Business Class with large seats, a delicious breakfast, and many amenities. In Ottawa, a sightseeing tour with a local guide passes the Parliament Buildings, Rideau Canal, Chateau Laurier, Rideau Hall, and the lovely homes of Rockcliffe Park. We stay two nights at the historic **Lord Elgin Hotel**.

Tuesday, May 22:

Meals: B

A tour of the **Parliament Buildings** is arranged, including the House of Commons and the Senate chambers. The rest of the day is free time.

Wednesday, May 23:

Meals: B,L

The morning is devoted to the **Canadian Museum of History** (formerly Museum of Civilization) and we enjoy its vast collection and amazing architecture. Enjoy Ottawa's business lounge until our **train to Toronto** leaves at 12:30 pm with seating again in business class. The trip is about 4¾ hours with lunch and wine service included. Our accommodation for two nights is at the renowned **Fairmont Royal York Hotel** which opened in 1929 and is across the street from the train station.

Thursday, May 24:

The morning is free time, then we take a city tour of **Toronto** with a local guide. We pass landmarks such as the CN Tower, Skydome, Eaton Centre, Queen's Park, City Hall, Yonge Street, and the Lake Ontario waterfront. Tonight, we attend a live theatre performance (show will be announced in early 2018).

Friday, May 25:

Meals: L,D

We spend the day at **Niagara Falls**, one of the world's mightiest cataracts, measured by its great width of nearly 1 km, its water volume of about 3 million litres per second, and its height of 50 metres. First we cruise to the bottom of the falls with Hornblower (replaced Maid of the Mist) for an awesome view of the Horseshoe and American Falls from the river. Lunch is included at Table Rock, then a sightseeing tour of the Niagara area is conducted by a local guide and visits several impressive viewpoints. One of the landmarks of Niagara is the **Skylon Tower** which soars 160 metres above the falls, and dinner is included in the revolving restaurant. We stay at the Hilton Hotel.

Saturday, May 26:

Meals: B,D

The morning is free time to again admire the spectacle of Niagara Falls. We return to Toronto in the afternoon and take a tour of **Casa Loma**, the fabulous castle built by Sir Henry Pellatt between 1911 and 1914. It has 98 rooms, secret passages,

and two towers, and cost \$3½ million to build. Next we go to the venerable Royal Ontario Museum, followed by a **dinner cruise** along Toronto's amazing waterfront with views of its many landmarks. At 10 pm, VIA Rail's **The Canadian** pulls out of Toronto, headed west across the breathtaking expanses of five provinces. Relax in the luxury and comfort of Sleeper Plus Class with superbly refurbished Art-Deco rail cars from the 1950s.

Sunday, May 27: *Meals: B,L,D*
Enjoy a full day on the train crossing northern Ontario. From your armchair or the dome car, admire the rugged **Canadian Shield**, the immense forests, and many sparkling lakes. All meals are included in the elegant dining car with freshly prepared dishes served on china with silverware and linen. Wander over to the Skyline Car and meet some fellow travellers.

Monday, May 28: *Meals: B,L*
We arrive in Winnipeg at 8 am and say a temporary farewell to our train. **Winnipeg** is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada where you can hear some 100 languages. This morning's tour of Manitoba's capital includes St. Boniface and its cathedral, the Legislative Building, Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, and the fine homes along Wellington Crescent. Lunch is in the French Quarter of St. Boniface overlooking the Red River. This afternoon, we visit the **Manitoba Museum** to discover the fascinating landscape and history of Manitoba. The next three nights are at the Delta Hotel.

Tuesday, May 29: *Meals: L,D*
We visit **FortWhyte Alive**, an environmental and education centre. The Aquarium of the Prairies is included along with the Touch Museum, Climate Change Greenhouse, Bison Safari, and a tour

themed around prairie legacy. This evening, we attend **Winnipeg Folklorama**, a cultural presentation with dinner and entertainment.

Wednesday, May 30: *Meals: B,L,D*
We drive to Steinbach to visit an authentic **Mennonite Heritage Village** which has 20 preserved buildings and brings to life their way of life from the 16th century to the present. A lunch of traditional Russian cuisine is served. Next is the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, an imposing spectacle of architecture which opened in 2014 at a cost of \$300 million. There is free time at The Forks with dozens of charming shops. Tonight, we enjoy the action at Assiniboia Downs, one of Canada's premier horse-racing tracks.

Thursday, May 31: *Meals: B,L,D*
We reboard **The Canadian** and the train leaves Winnipeg at 11:45 am. During the afternoon and evening, the train travels across Manitoba and **Saskatchewan** with the sight of the wheat swaying in the wind on the broad prairie. We stop briefly in Saskatoon at 10 pm.

Friday, June 1: *Meals: B,L,D*
We pass through Edmonton about 7 am and soon the **Rocky Mountains** loom ahead. During the afternoon, we travel through Jasper National Park, cross Yellowhead Pass, and see soaring Mount Robson, highest in the Canadian Rockies.

Saturday, June 2: *Meals: B*
At night, we travel through the Fraser Canyon, then in the morning past the farmlands of the Fraser Valley. Having crossed our great nation by rail, we celebrate the sight of **Vancouver** and the end of our amazing journey by rail. A transfer is provided to your pickup point in Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 21, 2018.

Cancellation Policy: Up to January 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From January 18 to February 21, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From February 22 to March 21, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From March 22 to April 12, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After April 12, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from trains, airline and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: VIA Rail (at Jasper)

e-points: This tour earns 197 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until February 21.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842