

THE GREAT CANADIAN ROAD TRIP

From British Columbia to Nova Scotia

September 5, 2020 - 29 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$8,995 double/twin

\$11,495 single

\$8,395 triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 12 seats; \$100 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 180 points from this tour.

Redeem **180 points** if you book by **June 2**.



Includes

- Coach transportation for 29 days
- 28 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Tunnels of Moose Jaw
- RCMP Heritage Centre
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Winnipeg Folklorama dinner and show
- Red River cruise
- Mennonite Heritage Village
- Thunder Bay Museum
- Terry Fox Monument
- Fort William with dinner at Beaver Club
- Agawa Canyon tour train
- Ferry across Georgian Bay to Tobermory
- Ticket to a Stratford Festival show
- Locally-guided tour of Niagara Falls
- Hornblower cruise to bottom of Niagara Falls
- Skylon Tower & dinner in revolving restaurant
- Locally-guided tour of Toronto
- CN Tower Observation Deck
- Casa Loma
- Theatre production in Toronto (show TBA)
- Locally-guided tour of Kingston
- Guided walking tour of Old Fort Henry
- Thousand Islands cruise & Tower
- Locally-guided tour of Ottawa
- Canadian Museum of History
- Canadian War Museum
- Cruise on the Rideau Canal
- Locally-guided tour of Montréal
- Biodome, Olympic Stadium & Tower
- Le Festin du Gouverneur dinner theatre
- Locally-guided tour of Québec City
- Montmorency Falls with cable car
- Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica
- King's Landing Historic Village with guides
- New Brunswick Museum
- Locally-guided tour of Saint John
- Ferry from Saint John to Digby
- Port Royal National Historic Site
- Locally-guided tour of Halifax
- Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
- Peggy's Cove
- Grafton Street Dinner Theatre
- WestJet flight from Halifax to Kelowna
- Current air transport tax & security fees
- Transfer from Kelowna Airport to pickup point
- Gratuities for local guides, train and boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and airline
- **42 meals:** 19 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 9 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831

Kelowna > 250-762-3435

www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255

Vernon > 250-545-9197

Toll Free > 800-667-9552



Experience the icons of Canada during this Great Canadian Road Trip!

The Canadian Pacific Railway united the country in 1885, but the Trans-Canada Highway has also performed an integral and essential foundation since its completion in 1962 with the opening of Rogers Pass. This achievement allowed people to drive from coast to coast, and many included this journey on their bucket lists (long before this term was invented). A cross-Canada drive is less common nowadays with frequent and cheap air service, and in a personal vehicle you had to plan for the drive home. Wells Gray Tours offered a cross-Canada tour about six times in the 1980s with a flight home, then the driver took the coach home empty. Since 2008, we have offered this epic journey by train from Vancouver to Halifax, a 15-day trip with stopovers in several cities. Following many requests, we have brought back this 1980s tour, but with a more leisurely itinerary and more multi-night hotel stays. Now you can experience the famous Trans-Canada Highway and other alternate routes during a journey of over 6,000 km across our great country. You will travel from coast to coast if you live in Victoria or Vancouver, and almost coast to coast if you live in the Interior, while visiting many Canadian icons. From the towering giants of the Rocky Mountains to the sea of grass in the vast prairies; from the unique mix of cultures in Montréal to the Scottish influence in the Maritimes; from the awesome view at the CN Tower to the spectacle of Niagara Falls — all aboard for the adventure of a lifetime!

Tour Notes

- This tour visits 8 of the 10 provinces. Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are the only exceptions. When planning this tour, it was difficult to select which places to include and which ones to omit. The tour would have to be 40 days long to include all 10 provinces.
- Current air taxes, fuel surcharges and security fees are included in the tour fare, but these are subject to change until air ticketing is completed one month prior to departure. The airline baggage fee of \$30 plus tax per suitcase is included in the tour fare (limit of one suitcase per person).
- You are welcome to make your own flight arrangements home from Halifax, if you want to use airline points or stay longer in the Maritimes. Your tour fare will be reduced by \$400 plus GST per person.
- The customary gratuities for the local guides, the crew on the train and boats, included meals, and docents at museums or attractions are all included in your tour fare. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and the cross-Canada coach driver are not included and are left to your discretion.
- The nature of a cross-Canada tour requires some long driving days, so please expect this. Our tour planners have spent many hours carefully preparing the itinerary, so you have two nights in many cities and even three nights in Ottawa. The first two days to Moose Jaw, Regina to Winnipeg, and Thunder Bay to Sault Ste Marie are 600 to 700 km driving each day. The latter is unavoidable as there are only a few modest motels and limited services along the highway north of Lake Superior. Your tour director has lots of commentary, games, and conversation during these longer drives.



ACTIVITY LEVEL — Moderate activity including walking up to 1 km over uneven surfaces, stairs, beaches, and some trails. You will miss some attractions if you are unable to do this amount of activity. There can be longer walks in Halifax and Toronto airports while flying home; request a cart or wheelchair in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coach cannot carry a scooter. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. 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 driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Itinerary

Saturday, September 5:

Meals: L,D

Welcome to the Great Canadian Road Trip as we embark on our journey across Canada. We travel east through Rogers Pass and Kicking Horse Pass while admiring the peaks of the Selkirks and Rockies. We stay overnight in **Calgary** at the Glenmore Inn. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

Sunday, September 6:

Meals: B,L

We travel across the prairies through Medicine Hat and Swift Current, and stay the night in Moose Jaw at Temple Gardens Hotel & Spa. Relax in the soothing **hot springs pools** fed by geothermal mineral water.

Monday, September 7:

Meals: L

We take a tour through the **Tunnels of Moose Jaw**, built in 1908 to connect downtown buildings. They were used for rum running, prostitution, and gambling to avoid interference by the corrupt police chief. It is less than an hour's drive into Regina, and we go first to the **RCMP Heritage Centre** where new police officers are trained. An orientation movie, a trolley tour around the training facilities, and the Chapel are included (Sergeant Major's Parade may not happen on Labour Day). Accommodation is in **Regina** at the Delta Hotel.

Tuesday, September 8:

Meals: B,L

Our route passes the broad wheatfields of eastern Saskatchewan and the oil rigs of western Manitoba. **Winnipeg** is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada where you can hear some 100 languages as you tour the city. The next two nights are at the Delta Hotel which has an excellent downtown location.

Wednesday, September 9:

Meals: B,D

This morning, we visit the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, an imposing spectacle of architecture. Opened in 2014, it was Canada's first new national museum since 1967 and cost \$300 million to build. In the afternoon, we take a cruise on the meandering **Red River** past the landmarks of Manitoba's capital. Tonight, we attend a cultural presentation by **Winnipeg Folklorama** including dinner and entertainment.

Thursday, September 10:

Meals: B,L

Leaving Winnipeg, we stop in Steinbach to visit an authentic **Mennonite Heritage Village** which has 20 preserved buildings and brings to life the Mennonite way of life from the 16th century to the present. A lunch of traditional Russian cuisine is served in the livery barn. The prairies end near the Ontario border, then we enter the vast and rugged **Canadian Shield** with its immense forests and

hundreds of sparkling lakes. We stop in Dryden tonight at the Best Western Hotel.

Friday, September 11:

Meals: B,L,D

The Canadian Shield has some of the oldest rocks on earth, possibly dating to 2½ billion years. Covering some eight million sq km, these metamorphic rocks sweep around Hudson Bay. Typical Shield landscapes are lakes, exposed rocks, swamps, and boreal forests, inhabited by many mammals such as caribou, white-tailed deer, moose, wolves, wolverines, weasels, mink, otters, grizzly bears, polar bears, and black bears. There are few settlements and most towns depend on the mining industry. We stop at Kakabeka Falls, then arrive in **Thunder Bay** and stay two nights at the new Delta Hotel on the shore of Lake Superior.

Saturday, September 12:

Meals: D

We visit several historic sites around Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay Museum has six galleries about local and Northwestern Ontario heritage. Next, we visit the **Terry Fox Monument** commemorating his Marathon of Hope that ended near this spot in 1980. This afternoon, we go to **Fort William** which was an important fur trading post at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River. Established in 1684, it had a strategic location on the Grand Portage used by fur traders heading to and from western Canada. Today's fort is a replica of its appearance in 1816 with costumed interpreters. Tonight, we attend a re-creation of the exclusive Northwest Fur Company's **Beaver Club** which operated in Montreal from 1685 to 1824. The five traditional Beaver Club toasts are offered during dinner, and Northwest characters regale us with tales of the fur trade and other anecdotes.

Sunday, September 13:

Meals: L

Today's drive travels along the rugged north shore of **Lake Superior**. It is the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area and the third largest freshwater lake by volume. From Sault Ste Marie to Duluth it is 560 km long, and has a maximum width of 260 km. A stop is made at the famous **Wawa goose** statue. Today's long drive is unavoidable as there are only a few modest motels and limited services along the 700 km from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste Marie. The next 2 nights are at the Quattro Hotel in **Sault Ste Marie**.

Monday, September 14:

Meals: B

Today is devoted to the **Agawa Canyon train trip**. This all-day excursion into the wilderness of the Canadian Shield is often called the most scenic rail journey in eastern Canada. From the "Soo", we wind north past numerous clear lakes, rushing rivers and narrow gorges. The trestle at Montreal

River is a highlight. At Agawa Canyon, there's a two-hour stop to explore the area and view several waterfalls. *Note: This train trip is famous for its fall foliage, but colours generally don't start until late September.*

Tuesday, September 15: *Meals: B*

Leaving Sault Ste Marie, we drive along the north shore of **Lake Huron** and cross several bridges to reach **Manitoulin Island**. It is the largest fresh water island in the world and a curiosity is that there are over 100 lakes on the island, some with islands in them. A ferry takes us from Manitoulin across the entrance to Georgian Bay to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. We stay overnight in the resort town of **Tobermory** at the Bruce Harbour Motel.

Wednesday, September 16: *Meals: L,D*

We drive south from Tobermory to the small town of **Stratford**. The largest classical repertory theatre in North America started in the 1950s when Tom Patterson conceived the idea of a theatre festival devoted to the works of William Shakespeare. His vision won the support of the legendary British actor Tyrone Guthrie, who agreed to become the first Artistic Director. The initial performance was on July 13, 1953, when actor Alec Guinness spoke the opening lines of *Richard III*. We stay overnight at the Best Western Stratford. Tonight, attend one of two shows (please choose no later than final payment):

Wolf Hall — As potent forces of politics and religion unsettle Henry VIII's England, Thomas Cromwell, the blacksmith's son who has risen to become the king's trusted confidant, seems immune to the swirl of gossip and intrigue around him.

Here's What It Takes — With an original score by Canadian Music Hall of Famer Steven Page, this brand new musical charts the journey of fictional rock duo Walker and Rhodes from their start as children's entertainers through their reign as pop stars of the nineties.

Thursday, September 17: *Meals: B,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. We take a Hornblower cruise to the bottom of the falls for an awesome view of the Horseshoe and American Falls. 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 with a terrific view. We stay overnight at the Hilton Fallsview Hotel and every room has a view of Niagara.

Friday, September 18: *Meals: B*

We drive into **Toronto**, then a local guide conducts a tour viewing landmarks such as the CN Tower, Skydome, Eaton Centre, Queen's Park, City Hall, Yonge Street, and the Lake Ontario waterfront. Then we ride the fast elevators up the **CN Tower**, one of the tallest structures in the world at 550 metres, and enjoy a panoramic view of Toronto. This afternoon, we tour **Casa Loma**, Toronto's fabulous castle built by Sir Henry Pellatt between 1911 and 1914, and today used in many movie productions. It has 98 rooms, secret passages, and two towers, and cost \$3½ million to build. Tonight, we attend a live theatre performance (show will be announced in spring 2020). We stay two nights at the Novotel Hotel.

Saturday, September 19: *Meals: B*

This is a free day to explore more of Toronto. The Novotel has an excellent downtown location, close to Yonge Street and St. Lawrence Market.

Sunday, September 20: *Meals: B,D*

We drive to **Kingston** which played a vital role in Canada's birth. After the Rideau Canal was built in 1832, Kingston became the primary economic centre for Upper Canada and was briefly the capital of the Province of Canada. A local guide conducts a drive past landmarks such as Queens University, Martello Towers, Royal Military College, Kingston Penitentiary, and John A. Macdonald's Bellevue House. Afterwards, we take a guided walk through **Old Fort Henry** which has loomed over Kingston since the War of 1812. A much larger fort was constructed between 1832 and 1836 to defend the entrance to the Rideau Canal and the harbour, but it was never attacked. Dinner is included in a unique restaurant inside its stone walls. We stay overnight at the Holiday Inn on the picturesque Lake Ontario waterfront.

Monday, September 21: *Meals: B,L*

We enjoy a 2½ hour cruise from Gananoque among the **Thousand Islands**, although there are actually about 1,870 islands. We sail past summer cottages, opulent mansions, and under the multiple spans of the Thousand Islands Bridge. The vessel circles **Boldt Castle** which was built in 1900 by George Boldt, a gift for his wife with 120 rooms, six storeys, indoor pool, powerhouse, ballrooms, and gardens. In 1904, Mrs. Boldt suddenly died and work stopped on the castle, never to be completed. Several shipwrecks dating from the 19th century can be seen underwater. Later, we ride up the 40-storey **1000 Islands Tower** and admire the panoramic view. This afternoon, we drive into Ottawa and stay three nights at Carleton Suite Hotel.

Tuesday, September 22:*Meals: B*

A local guide is with us as we drive past the landmarks of **Ottawa** such as the Parliament Buildings, 24 Sussex Drive, some foreign embassies, Rideau Falls, Rideau Canal, and Chateau Laurier. This afternoon, we explore the amazing collection and fascinating architecture of the **Canadian Museum of History** and Canadian War Museum.

Wednesday, September 23:*Meals: B*

This is a free day to enjoy Ottawa as you wish. You might visit the National Gallery and Byward Market, and stroll the Rideau Canal or Sparks Street. Parts of the **Parliament Buildings** are open but the Centre Block is closed for renovation in 2020.

Thursday, September 24:*Meals: B*

We board an electric-powered vessel for a 1½ hour cruise along the storied **Rideau Canal**. This afternoon, we drive to Montréal and stay two nights at the Sheraton Le Centre Hotel.

Friday, September 25:*Meals: D*

The city of **Montréal** awaits! Explore this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions with a locally guided tour of Mount Royal, Ile Sainte-Hélène, downtown landmarks, and imposing Notre Dame Basilica. This afternoon, we tour the huge 1976 **Olympic Stadium** and ride the funicular up the Tower for a terrific view of Montréal. The adjacent **Biodome** is reopening in 2020 with fascinating new exhibits about lush tropical rainforests, Antarctic penguins, the Laurentian maple forests, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Tonight, we enjoy revelry and entertainment at a dinner theatre, **Le Festin du Gouverneur**.

Saturday, September 26:*Meals: L*

We drive along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River through Trois-Rivières to Québec City. Our hotel for two nights is the Delta which has a great location near the National Assembly and the walls of Old Québec.

Sunday, September 27:

A morning sightseeing tour of **Québec City** with a local guide takes us past the Legislative Buildings, the St. Louis Gate into this walled city, the Citadelle, and the Plains of Abraham. We take a walk along quaint narrow cobbled streets past the centuries-old buildings of Place Royale. This afternoon, we take a dramatic ride by cablecar to the top of 85-metre high **Montmorency Falls** and visit the imposing Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica.

Monday, September 28:*Meals: L*

We follow the ever-widening St. Lawrence River to Rivière-du-Loup and soon enter New Brunswick. **Welcome to the Maritimes!** During our drive

through the Saint John River Valley, we see Grand Falls and the world's longest covered bridge at Hartland. In the provincial capital of **Fredericton**, we stay two nights at the historic Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in the downtown area. The opening of this grand hotel in 1948 was the social event of New Brunswick, attended by Lord Beaverbrook (Sir Max Aitken) himself.

Tuesday, September 29:*Meals: B,L*

At **King's Landing** on the Saint John River, we visit a restored village of the 19th century, complete with costumed actors, school, store, gristmill, printer, and theatre. Lunch is in the 1855 Kings Head Inn. The afternoon is at leisure in Fredericton.

Wednesday, September 30:*Meals: B*

Our cross-Canada drive reaches tidewater at the Bay of Fundy in **Saint John**. A local guide shows us around the city with a stop at the **Reversing Falls**. The New Brunswick Museum is Canada's oldest continuously operating museum and features galleries on Canadian and International art, New Brunswick's industry, and a whales exhibit. Our overnight stay is at the Delta Hotel which has a great location in historic Market Square.

Thursday, October 1:*Meals: L*

We ride the morning ferry from Saint John across the **Bay of Fundy** to Digby, Nova Scotia, then we drive through the verdant **Annapolis Valley**. The shelter provided by low mountain ridges on each side has produced a micro-climate with mild temperatures, so the region grows abundant vegetable and fruit crops, and is particularly famous for its apple orchards. We stop at **Port Royal National Historic Site** which re-creates a 17th century French colonial settlement. Having crossed our great nation by road, we celebrate the sight of the **Atlantic Ocean** at Halifax. We stay two nights at the Cambridge Suites Hotel.

Friday, October 2:*Meals: B,D*

The day starts with a locally-guided tour of historic **Halifax** including the waterfront, St. Paul's Church, the universities, shopping, and residential areas. Nova Scotia's naval heritage comes alive during a visit to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. This afternoon, 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 pictures of its famous lighthouse. Tonight, get set for musical comedy, fun and frivolity at Graf-ton Street Dinner Theatre.

Saturday, October 3:*Meals: B*

We fly on WestJet from Halifax via Toronto to Kelowna. Transfers are provided to home cities.



Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 2, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 1, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From May 2 to June 2, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From June 3 to July 2, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From July 3 to August 2, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 2, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers and the airline 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: Government of Canada

E-points: This tour earns 180 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 June 2.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842