



WATERTON LAKES & CYPRESS HILLS

September 11, 2020 - 9 Days

Southern Alberta has numerous attractions and, each time we offer this tour, we must select only a few to include, so the tour is often different from year to year. Cypress Hills is a naturalist's wonder with unique flora and fauna because the area was not glaciated during the last Ice Age. Other attractions celebrate history such as Brooks Aqueduct, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Remington Carriage Museum, Frank Slide, and Coleman Museum. Tap your toes during the 'Music Legends' show at Great Canadian Barn Dance. We stay 2 nights in one of Canada's less visited national parks, Waterton Lakes, which has rugged mountains rising from a stark prairie, surrounding an idyllic lake. Add to this the ancient carvings at Writing-on-Stone Park, the Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens, Fairmont Hot Springs, and the emerging autumn colours, and you have the perfect fall getaway.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
30

17 Meals Included:

7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners

Fares:

\$2,940 pp double, \$3,670 pp single, \$2,740 triple
Please add 5% GST

Early Bookers:

\$140 discount on first 15 seats; \$70 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 57 points on this tour

Redeem 57 points if you book by July 30



ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, September 11

A transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Best Western.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Best Western

Day 2: Saturday, September 12

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan, then travel east amidst the stunning scenery of Rogers Pass, Kicking Horse Pass, and Banff National Park. We stay overnight in Calgary at the Marriott Hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Marriott Hotel

Day 3: Sunday, September 13

The **Brooks Aqueduct** was completed in 1914 to carry irrigation water across a valley and was the largest concrete structure of its kind in the world at the time. Long abandoned, it is now a National Historic Site. We continue east into Saskatchewan and stay two nights at the Resort at Cypress Hills.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: The Resort at Cypress Hills

Day 4: Monday, September 14

A local naturalist conducts a six-hour tour of the unique ecosystem protected by the **Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park**. Its altitude of 1,392 metres (highest point in Saskatchewan) and the lack of glaciation during the last Ice Age has fostered unique flora and fauna which are explained and if possible, shown during our tour. We visit Fort Walsh (subject to fall operating hours), founded as a Northwest Mounted Police post in 1875.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: The Resort at Cypress Hills

Day 5: Tuesday, September 15

We follow rural roads into the Milk River Valley and **Writing-on-Stone Park**. It contains the greatest concentration of rock art on the North

American Great Plains with 50 petroglyph sites and thousands of individual works, some as old as 9,000 years. To protect these precious artifacts, an expert interpreter accompanies all visitors and our program lasts about two hours. We stay overnight in **Lethbridge** at the Best Western.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Best Western

Day 6: Wednesday, September 16

This morning, we admire the colours and tranquility of Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens in Lethbridge and experience the traditional Tea Ceremony. Later, we visit **Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump**, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site as it is one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved buffalo jumps in the western plains. We continue to **Waterton Lakes National Park**. In 1932, the park was joined with Montana's Glacier National Park to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a world first. The summer 2017 forest fires devastated parts of Waterton and destroyed the visitor centre, but a new one will open in 2021. We stay two nights at the Bayshore Inn overlooking Waterton Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Bayshore Inn

Day 7: Thursday, September 17

First, we enjoy a scenic **Waterton Lake cruise** for two hours. Next, we travel to Cardston to visit the fascinating **Remington Carriage Museum** which displays North America's largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles. A carriage ride is included. Tonight, is the weekly **Music Legends Dinner Show** at the Great Canadian Barn Dance at the Kunkel Ranch featuring lively western music, old time entertainment, and incredible country cooking.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Bayshore Inn

Day 8: Friday, September 18

During our drive across Crowsnest Pass, we stop at the **Frank Slide** where tons of rock fell from Turtle Mountain in 1903, and the quaint Coleman Museum. We stay overnight at **Fairmont Hot Springs**. As a hotel guest, you can enjoy a private hot pool close to your room or use the larger public pool. The water

temperature ranges up to 43°Celsius and about 1.4 million gallons of odourless, mineral-rich water flow through the pools daily.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs


Day 9: Saturday, September 19

We drive to Kelowna and fly to Victoria tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfer to/from Victoria airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 8 days
- 7 nights' accommodation and hotel taxes
- Brooks Aqueduct National Historic Site
- Naturalist tour of Cypress Hills Park
- Writing-on-Stone Park with ranger tour
- Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens & tea Ceremony
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Waterton Lakes National Park fee
- Cruise on Waterton Lakes
- Remington Carriage Museum with carriage ride
- *Music Legends* dinner show at the Great Canadian Barn Dance
- Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
- Coleman Museum
- Fairmont Hot Springs
- Gratuities for local guides and naturalists
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **17 meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps. The naturalist walk at Writing-on-Stone takes 2 hours with lots of stops and you can opt out. There are also short interpretive walks at Cypress Hills and Buffalo Jump. The coach cannot carry a scooter. 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 days of the tour. 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.

TOUR 30 **Tour 30:** This is a Tour 30 departure, meaning capacity of tour is limited to 30 participants or less, a more intimate travel experience. This tour is limited to 30 travellers.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$250 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 30, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$140 discount on first 15 seats and \$70 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 30.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 30, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 1 to July 30, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From July 31 to August 12, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 12, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from 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 until the time of 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.

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Experience Points: This tour earns 57 points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 30.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Victoria 6584, Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924

VICTORIA
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Closed holidays &
weekends

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www.wellsgraytours.com

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