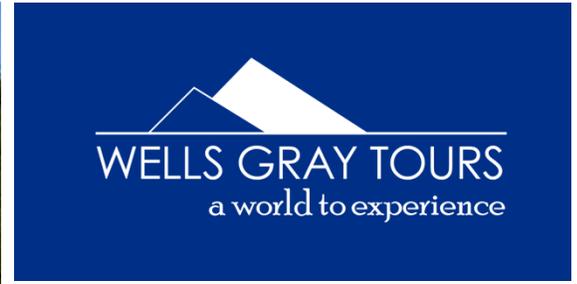




Mount Robson



COAST TO COAST BY TRAIN

May 13, 2022 – 17 Days

Across Canada by Via Rail from Vancouver to Halifax

The railway in Canada is an integral and essential foundation for the country. When the last spike of the cross-country rail line was driven at Craigellachie on November 7, 1885, 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 Vancouver on the Pacific coast to Halifax on the Atlantic coast. From the soaring 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 Olympic Tower to the spectacle of Niagara Falls — all aboard for the adventure of a lifetime!

Activity Level: 2



27 Meals Included:

8 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners

Fares per person:

\$8,815 double/twin; \$10,125 single; \$7,930 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 190 points on this tour.

Redeem 190 points if you book by February 2, 2022.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, May 13

Meet the BC Interior and Victoria travellers this morning. We stop at English Bay to ceremonially put a finger into the Pacific Ocean prior to our journey to the Atlantic Ocean, and your tour director collects a bottle of west coast salt water. At 3 pm, we begin our epic adventure on **VIA Rail's *The Canadian***, touring Canada's most breathtaking expanses across eight provinces. Relax in the luxury and comfort of Sleeper Plus Class with superbly refurbished Art-Deco rail cars from the 1950s. From your armchair or the dome car, admire the views as we travel through the Fraser Valley and the awesome Fraser Canyon until dark. Wander over to the Skyline Car and



meet some fellow travellers. All meals are included in the elegant dining car with freshly prepared dishes served on china with silverware and linen. Later, your room steward converts your private sitting area to bunk beds. We travel through Kamloops about midnight.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: VIA Rail

Day 2: Saturday, May 14

We follow the North Thompson Valley past soaring **Mount Robson**, highest in the Canadian Rockies. After crossing Yellowhead Pass and the



Continental Divide, we stop in **Jasper** about 11 am. Savour afternoon tea while following the Athabasca River through the foothills. There is a stop in **Edmonton** during our second sumptuous dinner on board.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: VIA Rail



Day 3: Sunday, May 15

At dawn, the train stops in Saskatoon, then we travel across eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba with the sight of the wheat swaying in the wind on the broad prairie. We get off the train in Portage la Prairie about 7:15 pm and our coach meets us for the hour-long drive into Winnipeg (the train takes three hours). We stay three nights in downtown Winnipeg.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Winnipeg

Day 4: Monday, May 16

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 with a local guide includes St. Boniface and its cathedral, the Legislative Building, Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, and the fine homes along Wellington Crescent. This afternoon, we visit the **Manitoba Museum** to discover the fascinating landscape and history of Manitoba.

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Winnipeg

Day 5: Tuesday, May 17

We drive to 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. Next is the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, an imposing spectacle of architecture. Opened in 2014, it is Canada's first new national museum since 1967 and cost \$300 million to build.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Delta Hotel Winnipeg



Day 6: Wednesday, May 18

The morning is leisure time. This afternoon, we tour the **Royal Canadian Mint** which produces every coin used in Canada and also manufactures coins for about 75 other countries. See how massive strips of metal meet 50-ton presses to produce over 1,000 coins per second, or about 55 billion coins since 1976. Then we go to The Forks National Historic Site where the Assiniboine River meets the Red River. The Forks Market consists of dozens of charming shops with unique wares. Tonight, we attend a cultural presentation by **Winnipeg Folklorama** including dinner and entertainment. Afterwards, we reboard *The Canadian* and the train leaves at 11:30 pm.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: VIA Rail



Day 7: Thursday, May 19

When you wake up, the train is travelling through northern Ontario where you can admire the rugged **Canadian Shield**, the immense forests, and many sparkling lakes for most of the day.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: VIA Rail



Day 8: Friday, May 20

During the morning, the train travels east of **Georgian Bay** with some glimpses of this vast expanse of water, part of Lake Huron. We are



headed into the urban sprawl of Toronto and *The Canadian* arrives at cavernous Union Station about 2:30 pm, the end of the second leg of our cross-Canada journey. We walk across the street to the

renowned **Fairmont Royal York Hotel** and stay three nights. When the hotel opened in 1929, it was a landmark of downtown Toronto and today seems dwarfed by nearby skyscrapers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Royal York Hotel

Day 9: Saturday, May 21

We take a city tour of **Toronto** with a local guide, seeing landmarks such as the CN Tower, Rogers Centre, Eaton Centre, Queen's Park, City Hall, Yonge Street, and the Lake Ontario waterfront. 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. There is free time afterwards. Tonight, we go to one of the Mirvish Theatres for a live stage performance (show title to be announced when 2022 theatre schedules are available).

Accommodation: Fairmont Royal York Hotel

Day 10: Sunday, May 22

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 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 with a terrific view. We return to Toronto in the evening.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Royal York Hotel

Day 11: Monday, May 23

We relax in the exclusive Panorama Lounge at Union Station while waiting for our train departure at 11:30 am. We are whisked from **Toronto to Montréal** at up to 160 kph while enjoying the luxury of Business Class with large seats, a delicious three-course lunch with wine, and many amenities. Arrival is at 5 pm, and we ride the elevator from the train station up to the lobby of the famed **Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel**, a Canadian icon. The hotel is located above Montréal's vast underground city full of interesting shops and restaurants.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel



Day 12: Tuesday, May 24

The city of **Montréal** awaits! Explore this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions with a locally-guided tour that includes Mount Royal, Ile Sainte-Hélène, downtown landmarks, and Olympic Park. The tour ends in Old Montréal, where there is free time for lunch and maybe a visit to the imposing Notre Dame Basilica. Later, we see Montréal's landmarks from a different vantage point during a **cruise on the St. Lawrence River**. Tonight, enjoy revelry and fun entertainment at **Le Festin du Gouverneur dinner theatre**.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel

Day 13: Wednesday, May 25

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, we visit the **Biodome** which was built as the cycling stadium for the 1976 Olympics. You can walk through four ecosystems of the Americas: a tropical rainforest, a Laurentian maple forest, the Saint Lawrence marine ecosystem, and the Arctic and Antarctic polar habitat. Next, we ride the glass funicular up the **Montréal Olympic Tower**, the tallest inclined tower in the world at 165 metres. There is a fabulous view of Montréal and Olympic Park from the top. At 7 pm, **The Ocean**, the last of our VIA Rail trains, pulls out of Montréal headed to Halifax. 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. During the night, the train follows the south shore of the St. Lawrence and crosses the neck of the Gaspé Peninsula. Our Sleeper Plus Class of service includes access to the dome car.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: VIA Rail

Day 14: Thursday, May 26

In the morning, we travel along Chaleur Bay, then through New Brunswick to Moncton. In the afternoon, the train skirts the **Bay of Fundy** to Truro, and arrives in Halifax about 7 pm. Having crossed our great nation by rail, we celebrate the sight of the **Atlantic Ocean**. We stay three nights in the centre of Halifax.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Cambridge Suites Hotel

Day 15: Friday, May 27

The day starts with a locally-guided tour of historic **Halifax** including the waterfront, St. Paul's church, the universities, the colourful Public Gardens, and residential areas. **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site** is 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 lively and flavourful **Alexander Keith's Brewery Tour**. Tonight, get set for musical comedy, fun, and frivolity at **Grafton Street Dinner Theatre**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Cambridge Suites Hotel

Day 16: Saturday, May 28

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. This is an appropriate place for your tour director to perform the **Water Ceremony** and pour the bottle of Pacific Ocean water into the Atlantic Ocean! We continue along the delightful coastal drive to **Lunenburg**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic highlights the Nova Scotia ship building and fishing industries.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Cambridge Suites Hotel

Day 17: Sunday, May 29

We fly on WestJet from Halifax via Toronto to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast



NOTES ABOUT THE TRAINS

VANCOUVER TO TORONTO – You are reserved in Sleeper Plus Class on *The Canadian*. 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. All meals are included in the elegant dining car which offers exclusive service for first-class travellers. You also have access to the Skyline Car which has books, games, lectures on local topics, and refreshments.

TORONTO TO MONTRÉAL – Enjoy the luxury of Business Class on this 5½ hour fast train with large comfortable seats, wi-fi, and a three-course gourmet lunch with wine. Travel at speeds up to 160 kph.

MONTRÉAL TO HALIFAX — Space is booked in Sleeper Plus Class on *The Ocean* with dinner, breakfast and lunch 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.



TRAIN SCHEDULE – Rail travel in Canada 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. In some years, the train has been many hours late into Toronto as freight trains have priority, but in 2019 the train was 2 hours early! VIA Rail made major changes to its 2019 schedule in an effort to arrive closer to published times and has added about 12 hours for the journey from Vancouver to Toronto. Also, only two trains a week are scheduled now, instead of three. The off-train break has been in Winnipeg or Saskatoon for the last few years, depending on train schedules. For 2022, the arrival times are not too convenient, either 10 pm or 6 am respectively, so the solution is to disembark the train in Portage la Prairie, about 80 km west of Winnipeg, and drive by coach to get you to Winnipeg at a better time.

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 room attendants are not included in your tour fare due to the challenges of distribution on board, so please budget \$5 per person per day. Gratuities are included for the dining car train staff, and for all included meals off the train, local guides, museum docents, boat crew, and coach drivers (outside of BC). Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and BC coach driver are not included and are left to your discretion.

EARLY BOOKING is recommended as this tour is limited to 40 travellers and it goes full every year.



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and steps. 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 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 coaches and trains 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 drivers 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to Vancouver train station
- Coach transportation for 9 days in Winnipeg, Toronto, Montréal and Halifax
- 11 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 5 nights bedroom accommodation on VIA Rail
- VIA Rail's *The Canadian* from Vancouver to Portage la Prairie in Sleeper Plus Class
- Transfer from Portage to Winnipeg hotel
- Locally-guided tour of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Museum
- Mennonite Heritage Village
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Royal Canadian Mint
- The Forks National Historic Site
- Cultural evening of Folklorama
- VIA Rail's *The Canadian* from Winnipeg to Toronto in Sleeper Plus Class
- Locally-guided tour of Toronto
- Casa Loma
- Theatre production in Toronto (show TBA)
- Hornblower cruise to bottom of Niagara Falls
- Niagara Parks fee
- Locally-guided tour of Niagara Falls
- Skylon Tower & dinner in revolving restaurant
- Business Class VIA Rail train from Toronto to Montréal with lounge access in Toronto
- Locally-guided tour of Montréal
- St. Lawrence River cruise in Montréal
- Le Festin du Gouverneur dinner theatre
- Montréal Biodome
- Montréal Olympic Tower
- VIA Rail's *The Ocean* from Montréal to Halifax in Sleeper Plus Class
- Locally-guided tour of Halifax
- Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
- Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
- Alexander Keith's Brewery Tour
- Grafton Street Dinner Theatre
- Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic
- Transfer from Halifax hotel to airport
- WestJet flight from Halifax to Vancouver
- Current air transport tax & security fees
- Airline fee for one suitcase per person
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides, docents, boat crew, and coach drivers outside BC
- Gratuities for dining car staff on trains
- Luggage handling fees at hotels
- Luggage handling gratuities on and off trains
- Luggage handling gratuities between trains and hotels (Toronto and Montréal)
- **27 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 2, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 12 seats and \$150 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after February 2, 2022.

Cancellation Policy: Up to January 4, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From January 5 to February 2, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From February 3 to March 2, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From March 3 to April 1, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After April 1, 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.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please request no later than at final payment.

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Experience Points: This tour earns 190 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 2, 2022.

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

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