



BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL

February 20, 2022 – 7 Days

4 nights at the "Castle in the Rockies"

One of Canada's most famous hotels, Banff Springs enjoys an enviable setting in magnificent Banff National Park. Originally built in 1888 with the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, the hotel set new standards for accommodation and hospitality in the wilderness. It has been expanded several times in the last century and now offers 770 bedrooms as well as impressive public areas and dining rooms. During the 1990s, about \$100 million was invested in modernizing the hotel while keeping all its ornate features. In 2001, a grand new lobby was completed at a cost of \$57 million and the old lobby was converted to a Great Room with spectacular floor to ceiling windows looking out onto the Bow Valley. Canadian Pacific Hotels acquired the Fairmont chain of luxury hotels in 2000 and replaced the long-standing "CP Banff Springs" name with "Fairmont Banff Springs". Today, Banff Springs Hotel is a year-round mountain resort with all modern amenities, excellent cuisine, the soothing Willow Stream Spa, and impeccable service.

Activity Level: 1



11 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner

Fares per person:

Fairmont Room: \$2,535 double/twin; \$3,110 single

Deluxe Room: \$2,620 double/twin; \$3,280 single

Junior Suite: \$2,790 double/twin; \$3,620 single

Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$100 discount on first 15 seats; \$50 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 45 points on this tour

Redeem 45 points if you book by December 14, 2021.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, February 20

We fly from Vancouver to Kelowna and stay overnight.

Accommodation: Best Western Hotel

Day 2: Monday, February 21

We meet the BC Interior travellers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley, then travel east through Glacier, Yoho, and Banff National Parks, admiring a winter wonderland of snowy peaks and frozen rivers. Upon arrival in Banff, jewel of the Canadian Rockies, we check in to the fabulous **Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel** for our four-night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

Day 3: Tuesday, February 22

Enjoy a delicious breakfast each morning in the Vermillion Room. A short orientation drive around Banff is offered in the morning with stops dependent on road or weather conditions. Sulphur Mountain dominates the south side of Banff and rises to 2,451 metres. After riding up on the **Banff Gondola**, we admire a stunning view over the Bow River Valley. For over 100 years, Banff has been the place to relax in soothing hot mineral water amidst spectacular mountain scenery. We enjoy soaking in the 38-degree C water of the **Upper Hot Springs** this afternoon. Savour an elegant dinner in the Vermillion Room at the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

Day 4: Wednesday, February 23

Banff Springs Hotel is an extraordinary building, steeped in history. Cornelius Van Horne, the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, famously said in the 1880s, "Since we can't export the scenery, we'll have to import the tourists." He commissioned the building of a first-class hotel to serve wealthy travellers on his railroad. This morning, we take a guided tour of the elegant public areas of the Banff Springs with fascinating stories from the **hotel historian**. Afterwards, we drive to Lake Louise where the railway built a

chalet in 1890 that evolved into another renowned hotel, **Chateau Lake Louise**. We enjoy lunch in one of the dining rooms overlooking the lake and the Victoria Glacier. Back in Banff, we explore the **Whyte Museum** which has wonderful exhibits about the cultural heritage of the Rockies.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel



Day 5: Thursday, February 24

The **Cave and Basin Hot Springs** was discovered by James Hector of the Palliser Expedition in 1859, but it gained attention with the construction of the railway in 1883. Canada's first national park was created to protect an area of 10 square miles around the hot springs. The Cave and Basin was declared a National Historic Site in 1981. We take a walk through the facilities which were developed a century ago, but are now closed and serve as a museum. The afternoon is leisure time in Banff or at the Banff Springs Hotel, and you may wish to book an appointment at the Willow Stream Spa.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

Day 6: Friday, February 25

We say goodbye to the Fairmont Banff Springs and follow the Trans-Canada Highway across Kicking Horse Pass and Rogers Pass to Kelowna.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Best Western Kelowna

Day 7: Saturday, February 26

A transfer is provided to Kelowna Airport, then we fly to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast

BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL

"A haven of gracious living in a setting of breath-taking beauty, where visitors from all over the world return year after year; once visited, Banff Springs calls again." – CPR brochure, 1935

Ever since the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway first chiseled and blasted its way through the Rocky Mountains in the 1880s, Banff Springs Hotel has lured adventurers from all over the world. Drawn to the unspoiled wilderness of Canada's first national park and the enchanting fairytale-like "Castle in the Rockies", guests flocked to the palatial hotel to bathe in the steaming mineral pools, hike the trails, golf the Stanley Thompson course, swim in the indoor/outdoor pool, ride the gondola, and ski two mountains. The soul-stirring grandeur of the Canadian Rockies is celebrated around the world. Pair that with a stay in the iconic castle, and you've got the makings of a perfect dream. In winter, when the snow dusts the turrets and a peaceful hush settles over the forest, you might want to stay put. Dine at one of the hotel's 12 restaurants or bars, relax at the resort day spa, or settle into a comfy chair in one of the grand historic rooms. Your castle awaits!



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight from Vancouver to Kelowna and return
- Current air taxes and security fees
- 2 transfers between Kelowna Airport and hotel
- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 6 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- 4 days of Banff National Park entry fees
- Banff Gondola up Sulphur Mountain
- Banff Upper Hot Springs and towel rental
- Banff Springs Hotel tour with historian
- Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies
- Cave and Basin National Historic Site
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Housekeeping and service gratuities at Banff
- Gratuities for guides and historian
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner

TOUR NOTES

Dinners: Banff Springs Hotel offers elegant dining with meals prepared by world-class chefs. One dinner is included at the hotel, and the other three dinners are on your own. The Vermillion Room is the main dining room and the 1888 Chop House is a step up in fine dining. Waldhaus Pub has casual dining and is located in a separate building with shuttle service. You can expect to spend \$100 per person for a 3-course dinner in the Vermillion or Chop House (plus tax and gratuity). Downtown Banff is 2 km from the hotel and has dozens of restaurants if you prefer to have dinner there. Our coach provides a free transfer to and from downtown on the evenings of February 23 and 24. Alternatively, the hotel provides a shuttle into Banff (no return service) and taxis are readily available.

Room upgrades: A Fairmont room is the standard category included on this tour. Deluxe category rooms and junior suites are also available. Triples are not available.



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. Banff Springs is a large hotel and there could be a walk from the elevator to your room. There is some walking on the hotel tour, at Chateau Lake Louise, and the Cave and Basin Historic Site. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due December 14, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 15 seats and \$50 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after December 14, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to November 12, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From November 13 to December 14, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From December 15, 2021 to January 14, 2022, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After January 14, 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 until 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. Transfer is to and from YVR. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Banff Springs Hotel, Banff Gondola; Banff Lake Louise Tourism, photo by Noel Hendrickson (Hot Springs), Wikimedia (Chateau Lake Louise, Banff Springs lobby)

Experience Points: This tour earns 45 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 December 14, 2021.

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

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