



## BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL

February 19, 2023 – 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. 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. In addition, the tour includes other experiences such as the Banff Gondola, a swim in the Upper Hot Springs, the Whyte Museum, afternoon tea at Chateau Lake Louise, and a show in Calgary *Elvis Has Left the Building*.

Activity Level: 1



12 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 tea, 1 dinner

Fares per person:

Fairmont Room: \$2,995 double/twin; \$3,735 single

Deluxe Room: \$3,065 double/twin; \$3,855 single

1-Bedroom Suite: \$3,745 double/twin; \$5,220 single

Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$120 discount on first 12 seats; \$60 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 54 points on this tour.

Redeem 54 points if you book by December 14, 2022.

Departure from: Victoria



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Sunday, February 19

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay overnight.

**Accommodation:** Hampton Inn Kelowna Airport

### Day 2: Monday, February 20

We meet the BC Interior passengers 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, the jewel of the Canadian Rockies, we check in to the fabulous **Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel** for our four-night stay. Savour an elegant dinner in the Vermillion Room at the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

### Day 3: Tuesday, February 21

Enjoy a delicious breakfast each day in the Vermillion Room. An orientation drive around Banff is offered in the morning with stops dependent on weather conditions. After riding the **Banff Gondola** up Sulphur Mountain, 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

### Day 4: Wednesday, February 22

We drive to Stage West Theatre in Calgary to enjoy a lunch buffet and attend the matinee show, **Elvis Has Left the Building**. In this whacky comedy, Elvis Presley has disappeared and not even his wily manager, "The Colonel", knows his whereabouts. The Colonel is all shook up because he has racked up a secret debt and, with the King himself missing, the only way to pay it off is to find an Elvis impersonator within 24 hours. Hijinks ensue as the Colonel takes desperate measures to replace a man who is irreplaceable, while keeping a nosy reporter at bay and figuring out what happened to the real Elvis.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

### Day 5: Thursday, 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 Banff Springs Hotel with fascinating stories from the **hotel historian**. At noon, we drive to Lake Louise where the CPR built a chalet in 1890 that evolved into another renowned hotel, **Chateau Lake Louise**. We enjoy an extravagant afternoon tea in one of the dining rooms, then take a stroll along the lakefront while admiring views of 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, Tea

**Accommodation:** Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel



### Day 6: Friday, February 24

We say goodbye to Banff Springs Hotel and drive via the Trans-Canada Highway across Kicking Horse Pass and Rogers Pass to Kelowna.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hampton Inn Kelowna Airport

### Day 7: Saturday, February 25

We fly to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

**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. 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. 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 elaborate historic rooms. Your castle awaits!



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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights accommodation at Banff Springs Hotel in a Fairmont room and hotel taxes
- 2 nights accommodation in Kelowna and taxes
- 4 days of Banff National Park entry fees
- Banff Gondola up Sulphur Mountain
- Banff Upper Hot Springs and towel rental
- Ticket to *Elvis Has Left the Building* at Stage West Theatre
- Banff Springs Hotel tour with historian
- Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Housekeeping and service gratuities at hotel
- Gratuities for guides and historian
- Luggage handling at Banff Springs
- **12 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 tea, 1 dinner

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## 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 also 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 evening of February 23. 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 one-bedroom suites are also 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 Stage West Theatre. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If Activity Level 1 could be challenging, you are urged to 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.

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due December 14, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 12 seats and \$60 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after December 14, 2022.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to November 14, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From November 15 to December 14, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From December 15, 2022 to January 13, 2023, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After January 13, 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.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy.

**Home pickups** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**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 54 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, 2022.

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

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### VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.  
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1  
250-590-7889

### KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)  
250 Lansdowne St.  
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7  
250-374-0831

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[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

1-800-667-9552