



WATERTON LAKES & COWBOY TRAIL

September 16, 2023 – 7 Days

Highlights of Southern Alberta

Highway #22 traverses the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains and has been nicknamed the Cowboy Trail. Ranching and the cowboy life are still very much part of the lifestyle of this region. During this tour, we visit several attractions that celebrate history such as Bar U Ranch, Remington Carriage Museum, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Fort Macleod, and Frank Slide. Southern Alberta also boasts one of Canada's less-visited national parks, Waterton Lakes, which features rugged mountains rising from a stark prairie, surrounding an idyllic lake. Add to this a cruise on Waterton Lake, the dramatic beauty of Kananaskis and Crowsnest Pass, relaxing Fairmont Hot Springs, and the fall foliage colours, and you have the perfect autumn getaway.

Activity Level: 2



13 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,765 double/twin; \$3,350 single; \$2,605 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$120 discount on first 15 seats; \$60 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 51 points on this tour.

Redeem 51 points if you book by August 2, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria, Nanaimo or Comox



ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, September 16

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

Note: Your flight can be arranged from Nanaimo or Comox airports if that is more convenient.

Accommodation: Hampton Inn Airport

Day 2: Sunday, September 17

We meet the BC Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley, then travel east through Rogers Pass to Radium Hot Springs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Prestige Radium Hot Springs

Day 3: Monday, September 18

After driving through Kootenay National Park and into Alberta, we enter **Kananaskis Country** where the peaks tower even more dramatically than in Banff. We visit Kananaskis Lakes in Peter Lougheed Park, then continue across Highwood Pass into the cattle country of the foothills. The **Bar U Ranch National Historic Site** commemorates western Canadian ranching heritage. A knowledgeable interpreter takes us on a tour around the site, and we explore the Percheron barn, blacksmith shop, and cookhouse. Highway #22 is nicknamed **The Cowboy Trail** and we follow it south through the foothills to Pincher Creek with a stop at Lundbreck Falls.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Heritage Inn, Pincher Creek

Day 4: Tuesday, September 19

We continue to **Waterton Lakes National Park**, a gorgeous meeting of ecological elements. In 1932, the park was joined with Montana's Glacier National Park to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Enjoy a leisurely two-hour **cruise on Waterton Lake** nearly to the south end at Goat Haunt in Montana. The landmark of Waterton, perched on the hill above the town, is the Prince of Wales Hotel, built in 1927 by the Great Northern Railway. During free time this afternoon, you may want to take a walk along the lakeshore, stop at the Waterton Visitor Centre, or see Cameron Falls. The Bayshore Inn is our hotel for two nights, located in the town along the lakeshore.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Bayshore Inn

Day 5: Wednesday, September 20

We visit the unique **Remington Carriage Museum** in Cardston which contains North America's largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles. A carriage ride is included. Next is **Fort Macleod** which was



a trading post in 1874 and is now home to the North West Mounted Police Museum. Our last stop is **Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump**, designated a World Heritage Site as one of the oldest, largest and best preserved buffalo jumps in the western plains. An interpreter guides us through the site to explain the culture of the Blackfoot.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Bayshore Inn

Day 6: Thursday, September 21

We stop at the **Frank Slide** where tons of rock fell from Turtle Mountain in 1903. We have lunch in Coleman and explore its unusual museum. At Crowsnest Pass, we re-enter British Columbia, headed to **Fairmont Hot Springs**. As a hotel guest, you can relax in a private hot pool close to your room. The water temperature ranges from 40 to 43 degrees Celsius and about 6.3 million litres of odourless, mineral-rich water flow through the pools daily.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Day 7: Friday, September 22

We travel through the Columbia River Valley to Golden, then rejoin the Trans-Canada Highway. We take an evening flight from Kelowna to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 6 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Kootenay & Banff National Park fees
- Peter Lougheed Provincial Park
- Bar U Ranch National Historic Site
- Waterton Lakes National Park
- Cruise on Waterton Lake
- Remington Carriage Museum and carriage ride
- Northwest Mounted Police Museum
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
- Coleman Museum
- Fairmont Hot Springs pools
- Gratuities for local guides and boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some stairs such as on the Waterton boat cruise. There is lots of walking at the museums and historic sites if you want to see everything. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 2, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 15 seats and \$60 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 2, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 30, 2023, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 1 to August 2, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From August 3 to August 16, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 16, 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. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

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: Adobe Stock (Waterton Lakes, Buffalo Jump), Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Travel Alberta (Remington)

Experience Points: This tour earns 51 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 August 2, 2023.

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

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