# GROUP TRAVELMASTERS - CANADIAN TRAIN ODYSSEY APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2018

14 Day Tour from Toronto to Vancouver

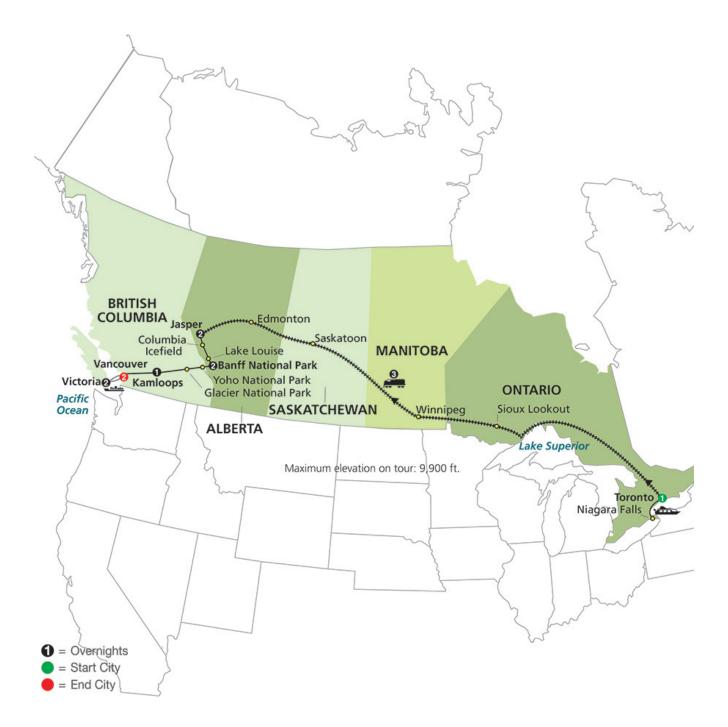
#### **Vacation Overview**

Your cross-country train adventure begins in cosmopolitan Toronto, Canada's largest city and Ontario's capital, and ends in Vancouver. But first, travel to Niagara Falls and board the Niagara Falls sightseeing cruise for up-close views of thundering Niagara Falls. After Toronto, board VIA Rail's Canadian premier continental train and head west. The next three days and nights are spent in first-class rail cars observing unparalleled views of Canada's countryside. After passing through the majestic Canadian Rockies to Jasper, the rail portion of this journey ends.

Continue on to Jasper National Park, the largest national park in Canada, for two nights and an orientation tour in Jasper. A highlight of your vacation is the Columbia Icefield for a thrilling ride aboard an Ice Explorer, an all-terrain vehicle that travels on the Columbia Icefield, the largest expanse of ice in the Canadian Rockies. Then, it's on to Lake Louise, where cold waters mirror the surrounding mountains and glaciers.

Travel through Yoho and Glacier National Parks before arriving at the cattle-ranching center of Kamloops. On to the Pacific Coast, where you'll sail across the Strait of Georgia to Victoria for a sightseeing tour, two overnights, free time to discover some of Victoria's most popular attractions, and a visit to Butchart Gardens, rated as one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Your cross-country adventure ends in Vancouver.





#### Itinerary

#### Day 1 Toronto

Welcome to Toronto! Your Tour Director is on hand late this afternoon to answer any questions.

#### Day 2 Toronto–Niagara Falls Excursion–Via Rail The Canadian

This morning, sightseeing in Niagara Falls includes a SIGHTSEEING BOAT CRUISE past the world-famous falls. Return to Toronto and join this evening's optional outing that combines dinner with the spectacular sight of Toronto's lights from the CN Tower. Afterward, transfer to Union Station for a late-evening departure on the CANADIAN, VIA Rail's premier transcontinental train. Spend the next three days and nights on this classic trip across Canada's heartland. Your first-class rail cars are refurbished art-deco cars from the 1950s. Try the observation dome for views of the Canadian countryside as you roll past Ontario's landscapes, or pass the time in one of the comfortable lounges. All meals are included, and you won't want to miss any of them, as the chef offers a tempting array of soups, salads, main courses, and desserts.

#### NOTE:

Operation of the Niagara Falls sightseeing cruise is subject to favorable weather and/or river conditions. When unfavorable conditions exist, a walking tour through the scenic tunnels will be substituted. Last day of operation for the 2016 season is November 30.

#### Day 3 Via Rail The Canadian

Today, watch the scenery as you whisk by the ever-changing Canadian landscape and travel the full length of the Canadian National Railway's breathtaking mainline. Enjoy the many great onboard features, like use of the lounges and access to the domed Skyline Car for spectacular viewing. (B,L,D)

#### Day 4 Via Rail The Canadian–Winnipeg

An early arrival into Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital, a city rich in history and culture. In the early afternoon we continue our journey through Manitoba's prairies and into Saskatchewan. (B,L,D)

#### Day 5 Via Rail The Canadian–Jasper

Wake early and enjoy a delicious breakfast as you continue on the Canadian into the very heart of the Canadian Rockies. Arrive in Jasper this afternoon. An orientation tour includes Jasper's unspoiled beauty. Perhaps an optional float trip on the Athabasca River to end the day? The evening is free to enjoy the ambiance of this delightful mountain setting. (BR)

#### Day 6 Jasper

Consider an optional trip to Maligne Lake for a narrated cruise to much-photographed Spirit Island. On the return journey, stop to view mighty Maligne Canyon. With free time this afternoon, maybe hike on the trails and watch for wildlife, or stroll the streets of Jasper.

#### Day 7 Jasper–Columbia Icefield–Lake Louise–Banff National Park

Board your motorcoach this morning and journey through JASPER NATIONAL PARK, stopping along the way at the COLUMBIA ICEFIELD to experience the Ice Explorer, an all-terrain vehicle that travels on ice that is 1,200 feet (365 meters) thick. Continue down Icefields Parkway to

Lake Louise, where cold waters mirror the surrounding mountains and glaciers. Arrive in BANFF NATIONAL PARK for a leisurely two night stay.

#### Day 8 Banff National Park

This morning, consider an optional helicopter ride over the Canadian Rockies. Later, join the optional excursion to Sulphur Mountain for a gondola ride with panoramic views of the stunning scenery and a stop at sparkling Bow Falls.

#### Day 9 Banff National Park–Yoho National Park–Glacier National Park–Kamloops

This morning, leave Banff National Park and travel over Kicking Horse Pass on the Continental Divide. Travel through YOHO NATIONAL PARK, where pre-Cambrian fossils were discovered, and GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, where recreational mountain climbing was introduced to North America a century ago. Late this afternoon, arrive at the cattle-ranching center of Kamloops, a Shuswap Indian word for "meeting of the waters."

#### Day 10 Kamloops–Ferry Crossing–Victoria

As you travel through the Coast Mountain Range to its majestic Pacific coastline, the vegetation changes from desert landscape to lush alpine forests. Board your afternoon ferry for the spectacular crossing to Vancouver Island. Sightseeing in Victoria includes the Inner Harbour, Bastion Square, Thunderbird Park, and world-famous BUTCHART GARDENS. This evening, consider strolling along the Waterfront Promenade.

#### Day 11 Victoria

Be sure to discover some of the attractions this splendid city has to offer, including the Royal British Columbia Museum, Afternoon Tea at the Empress Hotel, a whale-watching cruise on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and fine shopping along Government Street. This evening, join our optional excursion in Chinatown, complete with colorful lanterns and dinner at an authentic restaurant.

#### Day 12 Victoria–Ferry Crossing–Vancouver

This morning, set sail across the Strait of Georgia and through the spectacular Gulf Islands, an archipelago known for its climate. In Vancouver, city sightseeing includes STANLEY PARK, Gastown, Chinatown, and many other famous landmarks. The remainder of the day is free to explore Robson Street and experience British Columbia's premier shopping and entertainment location.

#### Day 13 Vancouver

Today is at leisure for independent sightseeing. Maybe take a water taxi to lively Granville Island with its outdoor markets, street musicians, and waterfront cafés. Or, visit historic Gastown with its steam-powered clock, antique shops, art galleries, and street vendors.

#### Day 14 Vancouver

The trip ends today with guests departing on individual schedules. Transfers are provided to Vancouver International Airport.

#### **Transportation:**

Private bedroom on VIA Rail's® the Canadian train from Toronto to Jasper in Sleeper Plus class; ferry crossing to/from Vancouver Island; private, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach while touring.

#### **Vacation Highlights**

#### Sightseeing:

In Niagara Falls, Victoria, and Vancouver; Butchart Gardens, Niagara Falls sightseeing cruise, orientation tour in Jasper, Columbia Icefield (Ice Explorer ride), and Stanley Park. Inside visits as shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description, including admission charges where applicable.

#### Scenic Highlights:

Niagara Falls, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Canadian Rockies, Jasper National Park, Icefields Parkway, Banff National Park, Lake Louise, Yoho National Park, Glacier National Park, Fraser River, Strait of Georgia, and Gulf Islands.

#### Guides:

Services of a professional Tour Director.

#### Hotels

TORONTO Chelsea Hotel, Toronto (F) VIA RAIL CANADIAN TRAIN Sleeper Plus class JASPER Lobstick Lodge (F) BANFF NATIONAL PARK Mount Royal Hotel (F) KAMLOOPS Ramada Inn - Kamloops (ST) VICTORIA Royal Scot Hotel & Suites (F) VANCOUVER Sandman Suites on Davie (F)

#### Meals

2 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

## **Optional Excursions**

The following list of optional excursions are **examples only** for this vacation. These optional excursions might or might not be available. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them. Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our online <u>currency</u> <u>converter</u> for exchange rate information.

## **CITY: Toronto**



**CN Tower - Toronto By Night** 360 The Restaurant at the CN Tower, one of Toronto's finest, features unforgettable food combined with a magnificent revolving view of Toronto more than 351 metres (1,151 ft) below. 360 offers market-fresh cuisine, featuring regional ingredients to ensure an incomparable culinary experience. Following dinner, enjoy panoramic views from the observation decks.

Approximate value: \$102 CAD per person



**Niagara Helicopter Sightseeing** Take a thrilling eight-minute ride over the most famous falls in North America. You will be dazzled by the sights of the Rainbow Bridge, Horseshoe Falls, and Whirlpool Rapids. Bring your camera and it's up, up, and away! Helicopter tour duration approximately 12 minutes. Weather permitting.

Approximate value: \$125 CAD per person

## **CITY: Jasper National Park**



Jasper Raft On The Athabasca River Bring the entire family and join us for a unique perspective of Jasper National Park. Jasper's best rafting float trips take you down the Athabasca River for those in seek of a complete and fun filled Alberta wilderness adventure. Our 16 kilometer trip passes through many small sets of rapids and calm stretches, which allows your National Park Licensed guide to point out the natural and human history of Jasper. The Athabasca River is the same route that was used by the fur traders many years ago, (David

Thompson 1811). Our specially designed rafts offer a safe, comfortable ride that any first time rafter will enjoy. This trip is for everyone from toddlers to seniors. The guides do all the rowing so you can sit back & enjoy the majestic scenery. Subject to favorable weather conditions. Approximate value: \$67 CAD per person



**Magical Mystical Maligne Canyon Walk** Join us on a walk along the edge of the Maligne Canyon, the deepest accessible canyon in Jasper National Park. Your guide will transport you from Jasper to the top of the canyon and guide you from the first to the fifth (1st -5th) bridge, allowing for breath taking photographic opportunities. You will enjoy award winning interpretation about this limestone slot canyon, and the many mysteries that are contained within. The Maligne Canyon is a favourite haunt of the Big Horn Sheep and Mule Deer and is

excellent habitat for Fairy Slipper and Rattlesnake Plantain Orchids. Upon reaching the sixth bridge, the confluence of the Maligne and Athabasca Rivers, the coach will be waiting to return you to the

Jasper town site. This trip covers approximately 3.5 km and travels mostly downhill. Participants are requested to wear comfortable boots or shoes, bring rain/wind jacket, water, and a camera. Approximate value: \$70 CAD per person



Maligne Lake Cruise to Spirit Island Maligne Lake, a location that epitomizes the Canadian Rockies, is a 45-minute drive from Jasper. Departing from the Maligne Lake Day Lodge, you'll enjoy the 90-minute narrated cruise with a brief stop at Spirit Island for photos of the magnificent mountains that surround you. Learn of the local history, geology, wildlife, and glaciology of Maligne Lake and of Jasper National Park as some of the most spectacular scenery in the Rockies drift past your window.

Approximate value: \$62 CAD per person



Maligne Valley, Canyon & Lake Tour Come and enjoy the beauty of the spectacular Maligne Valley during any season. A short walk at the Maligne Canyon is followed by a scenic drive up the valley to the disappearing Medicine Lake, then on to Maligne Lake, all the time enjoying the enlightening commentary of the guide on the mysteries, facts and folklore of the area. Approximate value: \$39 CAD per person

## **CITY: Banff National Park**



**Banff Gondola** The adventure begins with an eight minute journey to the summit of Sulphur Mountain in a modern, fully-enclosed four passenger gondola cabin. The views become increasingly spectacular as you climb 698m (2,292 ft) to an elevation of 2,281m (7,486 ft) at the Summit Upper Terminal. Stay on the look out for wildlife and birds that frequent the Banff Gondola. This is nature's wild playground, so a camera is a must! You can encounter the local wildlife including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Golden mantled ground squirrels,

Hoary marmots, Clark's nutcracker and the Canada (Gray) jay. Afterwards, we'll visit thundering Bow Falls where plenty of great photo opportunities await you. Be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket as the wind can become quite cool at 2,285 metres above sea level. Approximate value: \$40 CAD per person



**Country & Western Night** Enjoy a BBQ dinner at Wild Bill's Legendary Saloon then be entertained with live music by a local country & western band and take to the dance floor for a fun and casual line dancing lesson. Approximate value: \$80 CAD per person



**Mount Assiniboine Glacier Helicopter Tour** Your adventure will take you past the Three Sisters Peaks as you spectacularly escape to the Spray Valley. You will see the magnificent Goat Range where you will observe the radiant aqua blue/green colors of the Spray Lakes. Next, your journey will take you to new heights through the Goat Range Pass and along the Sundance Range of Banff National Park where you will see mountain peaks, alpine meadows and pristine lakes. Finally, you will be transported to the "Matterhorn of the Canadian

Rockies" which rises majestically to 3,611 meters (11,870 feet) along the Great Divide. The surrounding glaciers and icefalls will astound you and capture your imagination where you will get up close and personal with the Gloria Glacier as it tumbles off of Mount Assiniboine. This is an experience you will not forget! (30 minute flight) Flights are subject to favorable weather conditions and minimum of 2 passengers.

Approximate value: \$303 CAD per person



**Royal Canadian Helicopter Tour** Your adventure will take you past the Three Sisters Peaks as you spectacularly escape to the Spray Valley. You will see the magnificent Goat Range where you will observe the radiant aqua blue/green colors of the Spray Lakes. Next, your journey will take you to new heights through the Goat Range Pass and along the Sundance Range of Banff National Park where you will see mountain peaks, alpine meadows and pristine lakes. An extraordinary adventure not to be missed! (25 minute flight) Flights are subject

to favorable weather conditions and minimum of 2 passengers. Approximate value: \$261 CAD per person



Three Sisters Peaks Tour - 12 Minute Helicopter Tour This will be the most action packed 12 minutes of your life. Your adventure will take you past the Three Sisters Peaks as you spectacularly escape to the Spray Valley. You will see the magnificent Goat Range where you will observe the radiant aqua blue/green colors of the Spray Lakes. Your return flight will provide views of the Bow River as it meanders back towards the Town of Canmore. (12 minute flight) Flights are subject to favorable weather conditions and minimum of 2

passengers. Approximate value: \$130 CAD per person

## **CITY: Victoria**



Chinatown Dinner and Lantern Walk A fascinating tour of Chinatown, one of the oldest in Canada. Your expert local guide will offer you the opportunity to learn about the "East meets West" portals. Themes range from Feng Shui and the Chinese Zodiac to Brave Pioneers and World Developments. Food sampling along the way with dinner in a first-class restaurant. Finally, at dusk you will be given lanterns and lead through the narrow alleys to Bastion Square. A very unique and memorable way to experience Victoria. (Approximately 3 hours)

Approximate value: \$78 CAD per person



Marine And Wildlife Whale Watching Whale watching is a an experience many say they will never forget. Whale Watching Excursions in Victoria and around beautiful Vancouver Island provide you with wonderful memories of British Columbia. Whale and Marine Wildlife watching expeditions have become one of Victoria's most popular activities. The rich marine wildlife of beautiful

southern Vancouver Island is world renowned for its abundance and diversity.

Killer Whales are magnificent and never fail to impress, but there are many other living treasures that share their waters. Bring your camera and your excitement because this is a trip you won't soon forget! (Excursion is approximately 3 hours)

Approximate value: \$111 CAD per person



Victoria Panorama This is the most popular tour departing from Victoria harbour. This 20-minute flight is an ideal introduction to seaplane aviation. It includes spectacular vistas of downtown Victoria and the Strait of Juan de Fuca with the Olympic Mountains in the distance. Enjoy unique views of the buildings ringing the harbor and grand houses perched above the rugged coastline. The exhilarating spray of the water is always a highlight during take-off and landing. Approximate value: \$111 CAD per person



**Zipline Adventure** At Adrena Line Zipline Adventure Tours experience an exhilarating fully guided tour, which includes eight ziplines, two suspension bridges and a rugged ATV ride; with speeds of up to 60km/hr as you soar up to 150 feet off the ground on eight scenic ziplines ranging from 150 feet to an unforgettable 1000 feet. Professionally trained guides emphasize safety and comfort, ensuring a ride full of thrills, beautiful surroundings, and fond memories. As you descend through the forest and over the beautiful Sooke

Hills, your guides will provide you with interesting facts and stories about the local ecology and

wildlife of the area. Our guided tour promises to be unforgettable, so step to the edge...and let yourself go! Approximate value: \$95 CAD per person

## **CITY: Vancouver**

**FlyOver Canada - General Admission Ticket** Buckle up your seatbelt and prepare for the flight of your life! FlyOver Canada incorporates state-of-the-art technology to bring you some of Canada's most thrilling sights like you have never seen them before. Groups of up to 60 guests at a time will hang suspended, feet dangling, immersed in a huge 20m spherical screen while our film takes you on a thrilling 8 minute journey from east to west across Canada. It will be a fully immersive experience including wind, mist and even scents! Approximate value: \$21 CAD per person



**Grouse Mountain & Capilano Suspension Bridge** Visit Vancouver's North Shore. Drive over Lion's Gate Bridge to world famous Capilano Suspension Bridge, one of Vancouver's most popular attractions. Capilano Suspension Bridge offers a unique mix of adventure, history and culture making this Vancouver tourist attraction a complete British Columbia experience. Afterwards, board the gondola up to the 4,000-foot level of Grouse Mountain, the peak of Vancouver. Take in a World Famous Lumberjack Show, visit

orphaned grizzly bears and grey wolves, or enjoy a leisurely walk through the many trails. This excursion is only available on multiple night stays in Vancouver. (Full Day Excursion) Approximate value: \$149 CAD per person



Sunset Dinner Cruise It's like dining in a restaurant which looks out onto all of Vancouver's finest views. Enjoy a leisurely cruise past the downtown skyline, the cruise ship terminal of Canada Place, the Mountains behind the North Shore, the West Vancouver shoreline and more. Take in the sights and sounds of the city as you enjoy live music and delicious West Coast-themed cuisine.
You'll have the best spot in Vancouver to watch the sun slowly disappear into the Pacific Ocean. During the shoulder months (May & October) enjoy the

evening under a star-lit sky as the moon reflects off the Pacific. Take in the sights and sounds of the city while cruising past the magnificent skyline at night while enjoying live music and delicious West Coast-themed cuisine. Treat yourself to Vancouver's favourite dining cruise experience, the Sunset Dinner Cruise. (2.5 hours) (Seasonal, May - October)

Approximate value: \$106 CAD per person



Whistler Day Trip Take the scenic Sea to Sky Highway with wonderful views of Howe Sound and the Gulf Islands. Make a stop at Shannon Falls. You'll have free time in Whistler to explore this world famous resort and host of the 2010 Olympics. There are restaurants, shops, galleries and plenty of other options to enjoy your day. (10 hours) Approximate value: \$135 CAD per person

Departure Date: April - Septrember, 2016 From: \$2917.00pp Double

Popular Departure - due to itinerary and time of year, this departure historically sells out quickly. Early booking is encouraged.

Any applicable Goods and Service Tax (GST) and/or Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) for Canada are additional. Taxes will be calculated and listed at the time of booking, prior to payment being collected. (For 2016 it is \$25.00)

Prices based on double-room occupancy.

Single Room Supplement:

\$680.00

#### Triple Room Reduction per person:

\$139.00

Triple rooms on the Canadian may be one room or two separate rooms that may or may not be located near each other on the train.

Air Rate Roundtrip from Memphis \$600.00\*

\*Based on 2015 rates subject to change.

\*\*PLEASE NOTE THIS TOUR HAS A \$250.00 NON-REFUNDABLE INDIVIDUAL DEPOSIT.