

25 DAY CANADA & ALASKA EXPLORER

“A truly breathtaking ★★★★★ tour”

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER TO SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024
SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION



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NUMEROUS HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **Rocky Mountaineer**, riding the luxurious world famous Rocky Mountaineer for a truly moving train journey **Five ★★★★★ Rail travel. Five ★★★★★ Views.** Our train tour includes the **Gold Leaf Service** where we travel in a two level glass domed coach with full windows allowing us to experience part of the beautiful Rockies by rail.
- **Alaskan Inside Passage Cruise**, included with this tour on the cruise ship our accommodation features the fashionable **Verandah Staterooms**, with a **private balcony** their floor to ceiling glass windows for uninterrupted views, private bathroom. **Five ★★★★★ Cruising. Five ★★★★★ Views.**
- Sailing and witnessing the splendour of the remarkable Inside Passage.
- Visiting Juneau capital of Alaska and USA's most scenic state, with the immense Juneau Icefields right at its back door.
- Historic and beautiful Skagway.
- The World Heritage site Glacier Bay National Park will be a real highlight with its ever changing glacial landscape. Glacier Bay has more actively calving tidewater glaciers than any place else in the world.
- Ketchikan, a network of deep water fiords, waterways and numerous waterfalls that snake through some of the most beautiful wilderness in the world. Ketchikan is best known for three things: feisty salmon, idyllic scenery, and an incredibly rich Alaska native culture.
- Banff within the vast and extremely scenic Banff National Park, which is part of the Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER**D.****HOME TO MELBOURNE**

After your home pickup today we travel to Tullamarine for our overnight stop prior to flying to Vancouver. By staying in Melbourne overnight allows us an early start for Vancouver the next morning.

Accom: Ciloms Airport Lodge.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER**D.****DEPART MELBOURNE at 6.15am – ARRIVE SYDNEY at 7.40am.****DEPART SYDNEY at 9.25am – ARRIVE VANCOUVER at 7.00am.**

On arrival in Vancouver International Airport we will be met and transferred to our downtown hotel where we can check straight into our rooms. The day is at leisure and you may like to explore a little. Located in the heart of the city, the hotel offers rooms with unique decor, 5 star service, hotel amenities include restaurants and complimentary Wi-Fi. Tonight enjoy a special Welcome to Canada dinner.

Accommodation: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre (2 Nights)

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER**B.****VANCOUVER**

This morning following breakfast we explore Canada's third largest city as our tour takes us to some of the many unique areas of the city including Chinatown, Gastown, Granville Island and 1000-acre Stanley Park and of course, Capilano Suspension Park. Following the tour, the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

DAY 4 – SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER**B.D****EMBARK HOLLAND MS KONINGS DAM**

This afternoon, transfer to Canada Place Cruise terminal where you board your exciting Alaskan Inside Passage Cruise on the MS Koningsdam. If complete bliss is the destination, Koningsdam is the journey. Fluid lines, light-filled spaces, and a blend of 21st-century elegance and nautical tradition dazzle at every turn. The ship abounds with innovative dining and entertainment options. Head to B.B. King's Blues Club for Memphis R&B, take in visually stunning entertainment at World Stage, revisit classic hits at Billboard Onboard, and head to the Rolling Stone Lounge for the best in rock music. There's so much to see and do on Koningsdam. Filled with light from floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a private verandah. These Verandah Staterooms include a sitting area, two lower beds convertible to one queen-size bed – our signature Mariner's Dream bed with plush Euro-Top mattresses and shower with premium massage showerheads.

Accommodation: MS Koningsdam – Verandah Cabin Category V

DAY 5 – SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****INSIDE PASSAGE ALASKA-SCENIC CRUISING**

The Inside Passage is a coastal route for ocean-going vessels along a network of passages that weave through the islands on the Pacific coast of North America. The route extends from south-eastern Alaska in the United States, through western British Columbia in Canada, to north-western Washington State in the USA. Ships using the route can avoid some of the bad weather in the open ocean and may visit some of the many isolated communities along the route. Carved by glaciers and blanketed with majestic hemlock and spruce, the Passage is a region of pristine water, snow-capped mountains, deep fjords and forested islands. With its mild, maritime climate, this area is a prime habitat for bald eagles, sea lions, porpoises and whales. Glacier Bay National park has 16 active tidewater glaciers, and Misty Fjords National Monument near Ketchikan has 900 m cliffs rising directly from pristine ocean channels. Alaska's Inside Passage offers spectacular scenery, abundant wild-life, vivid Native cultures, astounding history and exceptional hospitality that are hallmarks of the region. Interestingly, the Inside Passage is also a destination for kayakers and canoeists from all over the world, who paddle along the fjords from British Columbia to Glacier Bay in Alaska. People have been living along the Inside Passage for a very long time. Due to the fluctuations in sea level over the millennia, much of the record of human habitation is under water. Original visitors travelled the Inside Passage in spectacular seagoing canoes.

DAY 6 – MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****JUNEAU**

Arrive Juneau at 1.00pm, the capital city of Alaska located on the Gastineau Channel of the Alaskan panhandle. It is best known as a destination for glacier viewing and is surrounded by intercoastal waterways, lush rainforests, and spectacular mountain scenery. Juneau has some of the most magnificent wildlife viewing in the world. Viewing highlights are whales, brown bear and eagles. A variety of wildlife tours can get you up close to black bear, Dall porpoise, sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters, mountain goats and Sitka Black Tail Deer. Juneau is home to the magnificent Mendenhall Glacier located just 13 miles from downtown. Juneau is also the sending off point to Glacier Bay National Park and Tracy Arm Fjord.

DAY 7 – TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****SKAGWAY.**

Skagway is a borough in Alaska, on the Alaska Panhandle. It sits at the very end of the Lynn Canal and is the gateway to the Klondike that was established during the great gold rush days. Famous for the discovery of gold in the late 1800's, Skagway once boasted a population of over 10,000, with another 20,000 gold seekers passing through to strike it rich. Skagway's streets are bordered with wooden sidewalks and buildings with false fronts, which give Skagway the feeling of an old western town. The city offers historic cemeteries, interesting museums, fantastic parks, and lively saloons. It is fun to visit and an interesting place to visit.

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****GLACIER BAY**

Glacier Bay was originally a large single glacier of solid ice until early in the 18th century. Since it started retreating, it has left about 50 glaciers in its trail and become the largest protected water area park in the world. While its many branches, inlets, lagoons, islands, and channels provide prospects for scientific exploration, it is primarily an amazing visual spectacle. Glaciers descending from high snow-capped mountains into the bay create spectacular displays of ice and iceberg formations. Interestingly, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve includes nine tidewater glaciers, four of which actively carve icebergs into the bay. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is also famous for its wildlife that include grizzly and black bears, moose, black-tailed deer, mountain goats, wolves, lynx, sea otters, seals, sea lions, Pacific white-sided dolphins, orcas, humpback whales, bald eagles, and gulls, as well over 200 bird species.

DAY 9 – THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****KETCHIKAN**

Alaska's first city' Ketchikan is situated along the shores of Alaska's Inside Passage within the heart of the Tongass National Forest. Evergreen mountains rise out of the water, the lush green landscape nurtured by the abundant rainfall of the temperate rainforest environment. Visitors are presented with a remarkable array of activities and attractions that highlight the town's history, industry and culture, and bring them up close to resident wildlife. Ketchikan's impressive variety of shops and galleries feature work by many of the island's resident artists as well as an assortment of souvenir items and unique gifts that make shopping a 'must-do'. Try the local salmon as Ketchikan is known as the Salmon Capital of the World.

DAY 10 – FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER**B.L.D****INSIDE PASSAGE - CRUISING**

The Inside Passage is one of the most scenic sea-lanes in the world, and one of the few where deep-draft vessels can sail close to steep mountain walls. The scenery is unbelievable, with forests in a hundred shades of green, tumbling turquoise glaciers, and evocative towns loaded with history, culture and adventure. With most of Southeast Alaska accessible only by boat or plane, the Inside Passage is a lifeline to the outside world. All day long it hums with activity.

DAY 11 – SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER**B.D.****VICTORIA**

Disembarkation in Vancouver will commence after breakfast. A beautiful day lies ahead as we board our coach for a short trip to the BC Ferry Dock and a 90-minute cruise through the Gulf Islands to Vancouver Island. Our first stop on the Island will be at the spectacular Butchart Gardens with over 50 acres where we will have plenty of time to view the flowers and enjoy the unique areas of the park. Enjoy 2 leisurely hours to fully explore one of the world's premier floral show gardens. Next we depart for downtown Victoria through China Town and the Inner Harbour. Once downtown, arrive at the hotel for an overnight night stay. Our hotel is located on Scenic Peninsula on the Inner Harbor Waterfront with an easy 15 minute walk to all the major downtown attractions. Dinner is included tonight.

Accommodation: Inn at Laurel Point, Laurel Wing Studio

DAY 12 – SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**B.****VICTORIA – VANCOUVER**

There will be time for some last-minute shopping or sightseeing before boarding the coach and returning to the dock in time for our return cruise to the mainland. Keep an eye open for the dolphins, seals and orca whales that frequent the waters. Later in the afternoon we arrive in Vancouver with some time free for shopping or just relaxing in our deluxe hotel.

Accommodation: The Listel Vancouver

DAY 13 – MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**B.D****VANCOUVER – KELOWNA**

We bid farewell to Vancouver and travel east through the lush farmlands of the Fraser Valley before entering the rugged Coastal Mountains for a spectacular journey inland. The Coquihalla Highway provides many vistas of snow-covered peaks, sparkling waterfalls and deep rugged valleys as our coach climbs into the interior region of British Columbia. In the early afternoon, we will arrive in the Okanagan area, famous for its spectacular lakes, orchards and wineries. We stop for a winery tour and tasting before arriving at our Lakeside Resort to relax and enjoy the many facilities of this hotel. An evening stroll along the lakeside brings the day to a delightful conclusion.

Accommodation: Prestige Beach House

DAY 14 – TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER**B.D****KELOWNA – LAKE LOUISE**

Departing from Kelowna, our tour joins the Trans-Canada Highway for a spectacular journey that will climb through three rugged mountain ranges, follow the banks of four major river systems, and travel through tunnels, avalanche sheds and dramatic valleys. Later in the afternoon, make a final ascent for the day, and enter the province of Alberta and Banff National Park. Arrive at the "Jewell of the Rockies" Lake Louise for an overnight stay at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise which is an iconic hotel located on the shore of Lake Louise. Dinner is included tonight.

Accommodation: Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

DAY 15 – WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER**B.****LAKE LOUISE - BANFF**

Depart Lake Louise and follow the Bow River to Banff. The Bow River was named for the bows that were made by the First Nations People from the shrubs that they collected. Along the way we pass by two of the more outstanding landmarks in the region, Castle Mountain (2750m) and Mount Temple (3523m). Arrive at our hotel located a 1-minute walk from the heart of downtown Banff. Hotel amenities include a restaurant, spa, indoor swimming pool, fitness room, exercise room on the 3rd floor and two spectacular rooftop hot pools with views of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. This afternoon is at leisure.

Accommodation: Moose Hotel & Suites

DAY 16 – THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER**B.****BANFF including BANFF GONDOLA**

Start the day with a morning tour of the Banff area that will feature many highlights including Bow Falls, the Mysterious Hoodoos, the Cascade Gardens and an exciting gondola ride to the top of the 7500ft Sulphur

Mountain. The afternoon is free to enjoy optional activities including rafting, trail riding, hiking and golf or shopping in the Baniff town site.

DAY 17 – FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER
BANFF – JASPER

B.D

Get ready for one of the most spectacular days of the tour! This morning, our journey takes us north along the famed Icefield Highway and through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. As our coach climbs through two 7,000 ft passes, we will be surrounded by azure blue lakes, glacier-fed rivers, dazzling waterfalls and glacier capped mountains. In the late morning, we will arrive at the massive Columbia Icefields and there we will board a specially designed Ice Explorer vehicle to venture out on to the Athabasca Glacier. This afternoon, the journey continues along the endless chain of mountains, stopping to view the raging waters at Athabasca Falls before continuing on to the resort community of Jasper.

Overnight: Forest Park Hotel

DAY 18 – SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER
JASPER SIGHTSEEING

B.L

What could be a more invigorating way to start the day than a gondola ride to the top of a 7500 ft high mountain? From the top of Whistlers Mountain, we will be able to see for miles in every direction. It is amazing! Back in the valley, our tour will join the route of the Maligne River for a 45-minute journey to Maligne Lake. This is one of the best routes to see Black Bear, Elk and Deer. Keep your camera ready. A 90-minute cruise on the lake will include more opportunities for spectacular pictures and a short hike on the mystical Spirit Island. On the way back to Jasper, we take a short hike along the rim of Maligne Canyon. The afternoon is free to explore Jasper or take an optional rafting trip down the Athabasca River.

DAY 19 – SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER
JASPER – KAMLOOPS (ROCKY MOUNTAINS)

B.L

An early morning departure from the hotel will bring us trackside to the Rocky Mountaineer Train and the beginning of an incredible two-day journey. Our home for the next two days will be your reserved seat in the new **Gold Leaf higher level dome car** where our hosts will pamper us with a hot breakfast and lunch as well as continual beverage and snack service. Today's journey travels west along the Fraser River into the province of British Columbia and past towering Mt Robson. We will be traveling along the western slope of the Rocky Mountains and following the Thompson River Valley into the Interior Plateau area and the bustling city of Kamloops.

Overnight: Kamloops Hotel provided by Rocky Mountaineer

DAY 20 – MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER
KAMLOOPS – VANCOUVER

B.L.

Another day of pampering and beautiful scenery lies ahead as the Rocky Mountaineer pulls out of the station on its way to Vancouver. The journey will follow the shores of Kamloops Lake and the south Thompson River, eventually joining up with the mighty Fraser River. The Fraser River Canyon was the first highway of the Gold Miners of the 1940's as they headed to the goldfields in the Interior of BC. The railway clings to the side of the canyon offering dramatic views of landmarks like Hells Gate, Saddle Rock and Black Canyon. Watch for the colourful river rafts as they charge through the rapids. In the afternoon, the Canyon gives way to the lush farmlands of the Fraser Valley heralding your arrival in the beautiful west coast city of Vancouver.

Overnight: The Listel Vancouver

DAY 21 – TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER
AT LEISURE

B.

Today is at leisure to explore Vancouver. Time for that last-minute shopping or visit to nearby sights. Lunch and dinner are at leisure. Vancouver lies nestled between sea and mountains in the extreme south-western corner of British Columbia. The physical setting and features of Vancouver make it easily one of the most attractive cities in Canada.

DAY 22 – WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER**B.D****SEA TO SKY TOURING**

Today we embark on a final day of spectacular sightseeing along in Sea to Sky country. We start the day traveling North of Vancouver and soon arrive at the Britannia Mine museum where we enjoy a guided tour of this historic copper mine, once an economic driver in the area. We continue along the highway with the waters of Howe sound to the left and mountains to the right of the coach. We soon arrive in Whistler, home to of the 2010 Olympic Alpine events. We enjoy some time at leisure in Whistler to enjoy the village stroll before joining the group for a farewell dinner. Return to Vancouver this evening.

DAY 23 – THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER**DEPART VANCOUVER**

Enjoy a final day at leisure in Vancouver. Late checkout is included today so there is no need to rush. We will be transferred to the airport in time for our flight home from Vancouver departing at 10.40pm.

We are in transit

DAY 24 – FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER

We are in transit

DAY 25 – SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Arrive in Sydney at 8.10am. We then depart Sydney at 10.00am and arrive in Melbourne at 11.35am. Here you will be met and transferred to your home after 25 days travelling through the pristine areas of Canada and Alaska.

PRICE: \$22,885.00

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$6990.00

Prices include GST

FITNESS

A good level of general fitness is required for this tour. Passengers should be able to climb on and off coaches unassisted.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Luxury Coach Travel**
- 5 Star Cruise Ship Travel**
- 5 Star Rail Travel**
- Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag & Wallet**
- Hotel accommodation**
- All Meals & Admissions as specified**
- B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner**
- Return Economy Airfares**
- Melbourne to Vancouver with Air Canada**
- Vancouver to Melbourne with Air Canada**
- Airport taxes \$633.00 – Cruise Taxes \$789.00**
- Pick up and return to your home**

Please note: You DO require a passport to travel to Canada and it must be valid for six months after the date of the return travel.

Travel Insurance is mandatory for this tour, and is the responsibility of each passenger.