

JEWELS OF WESTERN CANADA

Classic Flex Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

Calgary 1N – Banff 3N – Revelstoke 2N – Osoyoos 2N – Vancouver 3N

Embark on a journey through Western Canada, from the rugged peaks of the Rockies to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. On the way, you'll explore in and among lakes, glaciers, forests and vineyards, sip local wines and delve into Indigenous heritage before arriving in the vibrant city of Vancouver.

- Soar to the summit of Sulphur Mountain
- Marvel at magnificent Emerald Lake
- Step onto the glass-bottomed Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- Cross Canada's highest suspension bridge in Golden
- Explore the Okanagan Valley
- Discover the mountain scenery and charm of Revelstoke

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Most meals
- Most sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC FLEX TOURS:

Classic Flex tours let you see the iconic sites and signature experiences of each destination on an excellent-value, fully escorted group tour, with a little more freedom to do things your own way. Your international flights, accommodation, transportation, touring and most meals are all arranged, so you can travel with complete peace of mind. Where it works best for the destination, personal time is woven into the itinerary, giving you the chance to explore independently, seek out a local restaurant, or simply relax at your own pace.

Throughout, your National Escort's unparalleled knowledge will bring each destination to life and turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique landscapes and attractions of Canada.

'Jewels of Western Canada' is rated as a physical level 1. A reasonable level of fitness is required, with regular sightseeing on foot and some longer days exploring cities, national parks and mountain destinations. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains and ferries, walking on a variety of surfaces, climbing steps and occasionally spending several hours on your feet. Some sightseeing may involve gentle inclines or uneven ground.

Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods, including in Banff, Yoho National Park, Vancouver and the Okanagan Valley.
- Some excursions involve walking on uneven or unpaved surfaces, particularly at Johnston Canyon, the Columbia Icefield, Emerald Lake and the Giant Cedars Boardwalk.
- You will need to get on and off coaches and ferries independently, sometimes using steps.
- The Ice Explorer, Skywalk and Golden Skybridge involve accessing visitor attractions on foot, including walking across elevated walkways and suspension bridges.
- Some days involve longer coach journeys between destinations, with stops along the way to visit sights and attractions.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour and they are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including international flights or 12 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Calgary and end the tour on Day 12 in Vancouver.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Calgary Meals: D



On arrival in Calgary International Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours, or a representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our reservations team to book.

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held tonight.

Destination Information

Calgary – Set against the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, Calgary is Alberta's largest city and a major centre for the energy and agricultural industries. Founded in 1875, it grew from a North West Mounted Police post into a modern city of more than 1.6 million people. Calgary hosted the 1988 Winter Olympics and is known for its annual Calgary Stampede, while the Bow River and surrounding prairies provide a scenic setting.

Day 2: Banff National Park Meals: B, D



Depart Calgary for Banff National Park, a journey of approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, driving into some of Canada's most emblematic landscapes of rugged mountain peaks, ice-blue lakes and thick forest. At the park's heart is the town of Banff, where you'll have time to find lunch and wander before taking the Banff Gondola to the summit of Sulphur Mountain for magnificent 360-degree views. Later, get a taste of Old West charm with a wagon ride along the Bow River to a scenic cabin, where you'll enjoy an authentic cowboy cookout for dinner.

Destination Information

Banff – Set within Banff National Park, Canada's oldest national park, Banff is surrounded by the peaks of the Canadian Rockies. The town sits in the Bow Valley and is known for its mountain scenery, alpine lakes and access to a wide range of outdoor activities.

Banff Gondola – Ride the gondola to the summit of Sulphur Mountain, rising to 2,281 metres above sea level. From the upper station, a boardwalk leads along the ridge to panoramic viewpoints overlooking Banff, the Bow Valley and surrounding Rocky Mountain peaks.

Bow River – Flowing from the Canadian Rockies through Banff and Calgary, the Bow River has shaped the region's landscape and played an important role in its settlement and development. Its clear, glacier-fed waters pass beneath mountain peaks and through forested valleys, with the riverbanks providing habitats for wildlife and popular walking paths in Banff and along Calgary's waterfront.

Day 3: Banff National Park

Meals: B

This morning, enjoy some Flex time for independent exploration. Later, travel approximately 30 minutes to Johnston Canyon for an easy hike through its dramatic landscape of towering canyon walls and waterfalls. Continue for around 30 minutes to Lake Louise for a walk along the shores of this striking glacial lake, admiring its turquoise waters and surrounding mountain peaks.



Destination Information

Lake Louise – One of Banff National Park's best-known sights, Lake Louise is surrounded by the peaks of the Canadian Rockies and fed by meltwater from Victoria Glacier. Its distinctive turquoise colour comes from fine rock flour carried into the lake by glacial streams.

Johnston Canyon – Carved into the limestone of Banff National Park, Johnston Canyon features narrow rock walls, waterfalls and turquoise pools fed by Johnston Creek. A network of elevated walkways and forest trails leads to the Lower and Upper Falls, where water plunges through the canyon's steep-sided passages.

Day 4: Columbia Icefield Adventure

Meals: B, L, D

Drive along the spectacular Icefields Parkway from Banff to the Columbia Icefield, a journey of approximately 3 hours, following a scenic mountain road through the heart of the Rockies.



On arrival, board an Ice Explorer to venture onto the Athabasca Glacier, where you'll step out onto the ancient ice. Then, walk along the glass-floored Skywalk, suspended above the Sunwapta Valley, for views of the surrounding glaciers and snow-capped mountains.

Destination Information

Icefields Parkway – Stretching 232 kilometres between Lake Louise and Jasper, this mountain highway crosses the heart of the Canadian Rockies, passing turquoise lakes, towering peaks and ancient glaciers. Highlights include the Columbia Icefield, Athabasca Falls and Peyto Lake, whose distinctive shape and vivid blue water can be viewed from a lookout above the valley.

Columbia Icefield – One of the largest icefields in the Canadian Rockies, covering around 325 square kilometres across the Continental Divide. Its glaciers feed rivers flowing towards three different oceans, including the Athabasca Glacier.

Day 5: Emerald Lake & Golden Skybridge

Meals: B



Continue through the Rockies and into British Columbia, travelling approximately 2 hours to Yoho National Park, where you'll visit the turquoise waters of Emerald Lake.

Continue to Golden to cross the Golden Skybridge, Canada's highest suspension bridge, taking in views across the canyon, waterfalls and surrounding forests.

Next, visit the Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge, Canada's longest freestanding timber-frame bridge, before heading to the Giant Cedars Boardwalk for an easy walk among towering red cedars and hemlock.

Destination Information

British Columbia – Canada's westernmost province, stretching from the Pacific coast to the peaks of the Canadian Rockies. Its landscapes range from temperate rainforests and coastal islands to mountain ranges and interior valleys, with the province's history shaped by Indigenous peoples, the fur trade, forestry and the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Golden Skybridge – Located in the mountain town of Golden, this attraction features two suspension bridges spanning a deep canyon, with the highest bridge standing 130 metres above the ground. Elevated walkways and viewing platforms provide views across the Columbia Valley towards the Rocky and Purcell mountain ranges.

Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge – Spanning the Kicking Horse River in Golden, this timber-framed covered bridge was completed in 2001 and is one of Canada's longest covered timber bridges. Its distinctive wooden structure reflects traditional bridge-building styles, while the river below flows through the heart of the town.

Day 6: Discover Revelstoke Meals: B, L, D



Visit the Revelstoke Railway Museum where you'll take a guided tour through the fascinating history of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

This afternoon you'll have Flex time for some independent exploration of Revelstoke or simply relax and enjoy the facilities of your hotel, before a hosted Alpine dinner featuring plenty of local flavours.

Destination Information

Canadian Pacific Railway – Completed in 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway connected eastern Canada with the Pacific coast, helping unite the country and opening up the west to settlement and trade. Its construction through the Rocky Mountains involved challenging mountain passes, tunnels and bridges, with the railway still operating freight and passenger services across western Canada today.

Revelstoke – Set between the Selkirk and Monashee mountains in British Columbia, Revelstoke developed as a railway town during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s. The town retains a strong connection to its railway heritage, while nearby Mount Revelstoke National Park protects mountain forests, alpine meadows and high-altitude scenery.

Day 7: Okanagan Valley Meals: B, L



Head for the Okanagan Valley, a journey of approximately 3 hours 30 minutes from Revelstoke, watching the scenery change from soaring mountain peaks to rolling hills and farmland.

Stop in Kelowna for lunch before continuing for around 1 hour 30 minutes to Osoyoos, a town nestled among vineyards and the semi-arid landscapes of Canada's only desert region. Later, visit a local vineyard for a tour and wine tasting.

Destination Information

Okanagan Valley – A fertile region in British Columbia's interior, stretching along a chain of lakes from Vernon in the north to the US border. It's warm, dry summers support orchards, vineyards and wineries, particularly around Kelowna and Penticton, while the surrounding hills and lakes make it one of Canada's leading wine-producing areas.

Osoyoos – Situated at the southern end of the Okanagan Valley near the US border, Osoyoos lies beside a lake of the same name in one of Canada's warmest and driest regions. The surrounding semi-arid landscape supports vineyards and orchards, while the nearby Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre explores the ecology and cultural heritage of the Osoyoos Indian Band and the region's rare desert habitat.

Day 8: Osoyoos & Nk'Mip Experience Meals: B, D

This morning, enjoy Flex time for independent exploration in Osoyoos. This afternoon, visit the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre to learn about the ecology of Canada's semi-arid desert region and the living culture of the Syilx (Okanagan) people. Explore a reconstructed traditional village and discover local myths and legends through immersive presentations. Continue to Nk'Mip Cellars, an Indigenous-owned winery, for a tour before enjoying a special dinner combining vineyard cuisine with Indigenous heritage.



Destination Information

Nk'Mip –Nk'Mip is a cultural and tourism destination operated by the Osoyoos Indian Band. The name means "bottomland" in the local Okanagan language, referring to the southern end of the valley. Visitors can learn about the Syilx people's traditions, history and connection to the region's semi-arid landscape at the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre.

Day 9: Vancouver Meals: B, L

Travel from Osoyoos to the laid-back, oceanfront city of Vancouver, a journey of approximately 4 hours 30 minutes. On arrival, take an orientation tour to get your bearings before enjoying the evening at leisure to explore the city or sample its food scene.



Destination Information

Vancouver – Rising through the coastal forest of Vancouver Island, the Malahat SkyWalk is a 600-metre elevated walkway leading to a 32-metre-high spiral tower. From the top, there are views across the Saanich Inlet, Gulf Islands and surrounding mountains.

Day 10: North Shore & Stanley Park Meals: B



This morning, take the Skyride or gondola to the summit of Grouse Mountain for panoramic views across Vancouver and the surrounding mountains. Continue to Capilano Suspension Bridge Park to cross its 137-metre-long suspension bridge, hanging 70 metres above the Capilano River, and enjoy the forest walkways. Later, visit Stanley Park, where an Indigenous guide will introduce you to the park's collection of totem poles and the stories behind them.

Destination Information

Stanley Park – Covering more than 400 hectares on a forested peninsula, Stanley Park is larger than New York's Central Park and is one of Vancouver's most visited attractions. Its 8.8-kilometre seawall follows the waterfront, while the park contains towering Douglas firs, beaches, gardens and collection of First Nations totem poles.

Grouse Mountain – Rising above North Vancouver, Grouse Mountain offers views across Vancouver, Burrard Inlet and the Strait of Georgia. The Skyride gondola carries visitors to the mountaintop, where attractions include wildlife habitats, lumberjack shows in summer and trails through the surrounding alpine environment.

Capilano Suspension Bridge – Suspended 70 metres above the Capilano River, this 137-metre-long bridge has been a Vancouver attraction since 1889. The surrounding park includes elevated walkways through the coastal rainforest and the Treetops Adventure, a series of platforms connected between towering Douglas firs.

Day 11: Granville Island Meals: B, D



Stroll among the shops and stalls of Granville Island Market, browsing the fascinating assortment of produce, speciality foods and artisanal products. Cross the city to Canada Place, where you'll experience the immersive Flyover, a virtual flight-simulation ride. This afternoon is Flex time for to discover Vancouver at your own pace. Join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner this evening.

Destination Information

Granville Island – Once an industrial site of factories, sawmills and warehouses, Granville Island has been transformed into one of Vancouver's best-known public spaces. Its Public Market brings together local produce, seafood, baked goods and artisan food stalls, while the surrounding former industrial buildings now house craft studios, galleries and theatres.

Canada Place – Recognisable by its five white sails, Canada Place is a waterfront landmark on Vancouver's Burrard Inlet, originally built as the Canadian pavilion for Expo 86.

Days 12 - 14: Depart Vancouver to New Zealand

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Vancouver International Airport, according to the departure time of your international flight, arriving home two days later.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

CANADA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Canada without a visa for stays of up to 6 months, but must obtain an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization) online before departure if arriving by air. The eTA must be completed by each traveller and is not included in the cost of your tour. Wendy Wu Tours can offer general guidance on the application.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 16 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Classic Flex Tours, there will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu Tours groups while you are travelling.

EATING IN CANADA:

Canadian cuisine reflects the country's varied landscapes and cultural influences, from fresh seafood on the Atlantic coast to salmon and Pacific seafood in British Columbia. Across the country, you may also encounter regional favourites such as poutine, maple syrup, smoked meats and locally produced cheeses, while dishes often draw influence from French, British and Indigenous traditions.

Breakfasts are generally served buffet-style at hotels, with a choice of cooked and continental options. Lunches may be served at restaurants, cafés or as packed lunches when travelling through more remote areas or on longer touring days. Evening meals are typically served in local restaurants or hotels, with menus offering a mixture of Canadian and international dishes.

Canada is well equipped for a wide range of dietary requirements, although choices can become more limited when travelling through remote areas. If you have specific dietary needs, please let us know when booking so these can be communicated to our local partners in advance.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation in Canada is carefully selected for its location, comfort and character, with a mixture of well-established hotels, locally owned properties and larger city hotels possibly used throughout your journey.

Accommodation will generally be of a good three- to four-star standard, with some five-star hotels included too. Standards are comparable with those you would expect in New Zealand, although individual properties may vary in style, facilities and size.

All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathroom facilities, air conditioning or heating, a TV and Wi-Fi. In some smaller towns or more remote areas, hotel facilities may be simpler than those found in the major cities, but all properties are selected to provide a comfortable base from which to explore the destination.

If you experience any difficulty during your stay, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide. All hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly reviewed by our staff and local partners to ensure they meet our standards.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Air-conditioned coaches are used for sightseeing, excursions and longer journeys throughout Canada. Coaches generally have comfortable reclining seats and an onboard toilet, although facilities vary between vehicles. Canada is a vast country and some journeys involve several hours of driving, particularly when travelling between provinces and cities. Journey times are approximate and may be affected by traffic, road conditions, weather and scheduled stops.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Canada is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time.
In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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