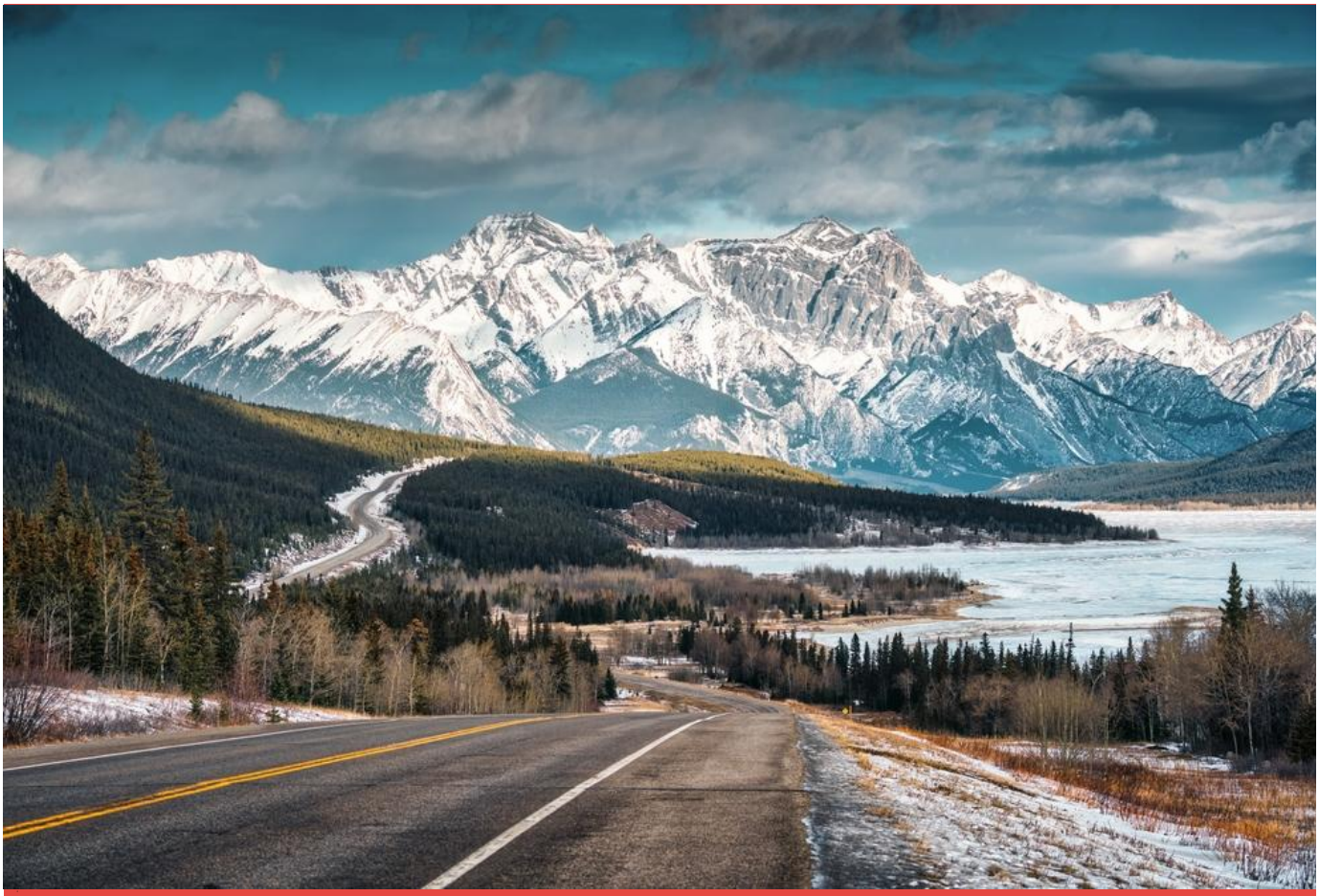

WINTER TREASURES OF THE ROCKIES

Classic Flex Tour | 10 Days | Physical Level 1

Banff 3N – Jasper 3N – Calgary 1N

Discover the magic of the Canadian Rockies in winter! Blanketed in shimmering snow, the grand mountain, lake and valley landscapes of Banff and Jasper National Parks are more magnificent than ever, offering unique opportunities to take part in outdoor pursuits, gaze into dark skies, and experience some of Canada's most beautiful scenery - all in a true winter wonderland.

- Ride in a horse-drawn sleigh in Banff
- Relax in Banff Hot Springs
- Admire the frozen beauty of Lake Louise
- Journey along the Icefields Parkway
- Enjoy lunch at the Fairmont Chateau by Lake Louise
- Stay at the 5* Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

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.

'Winter Treasures of the Rockies' 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, 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 in Banff & Jasper.
- Some excursions involve walking on uneven or unpaved surfaces, particularly at Sulphur Mountain, Lake Louise, and Pleckaitis Canyon.
- You will need to get on and off coaches independently, sometimes using steps.
- 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 10 days in duration including international flights or 8 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Calgary and end the tour on Day 8 in Calgary.

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 in Banff, a journey of approximately 1.5 hours.

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

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.

Day 2: Explore Banff Meals: B, L, D



Take an orientation tour of Banff, with time to admire the town's setting in the heart of dramatic mountain peaks and glacial valleys, all blanketed in snow. Later, set out deeper into Banff National Park in a horse-drawn sleigh, gliding through the Bow River Valley and taking in the winter wonderland scenery as you go.

Destination Information

Bow River Valley – Stretching through the Canadian Rockies and into Alberta's foothills, the Bow River Valley follows a route shaped by glaciers and flowing water. The valley passes through Banff and Canmore before reaching Calgary, with the river winding past forested slopes, mountain peaks and open grasslands.

Day 3: Banff Gondola Meals: B

This morning, enjoy Flex time to discover the town at your own pace. This afternoon, soar up to the summit of Sulphur Mountain on the Banff Gondola for magnificent 360-degree views before warming up with a scenic soak in the mineral-rich waters of Banff Hot Springs, admiring the jagged peaks of Mount Rundle and Cascade Mountain.



Destination Information

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.

Banff Hot Springs - Located on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain in Banff National Park, these natural mineral hot springs have attracted visitors since the late 19th century. The outdoor pool is fed by geothermally heated water rising from deep underground, with temperatures varying seasonally and views across the surrounding Rocky Mountains.

Day 4: Lake Louise & Icefields Parkway Meals: B, L, D

Travel deeper into the Canadian Rockies to the celebrated Lake Louise, approximately 1 hour from Banff. Admire the frozen lake and snow-covered peaks before enjoying lunch at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, overlooking the lake. Afterwards, follow the Icefields Parkway towards Jasper, a journey of around 3 hours 30 minutes, passing mountain valleys, glaciers and forested slopes along the way. On arrival, check into the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge before taking an orientation tour of the town. Later, take part in an immersive Indigenous cultural experience with a fireside chat hosted by Warrior Women, learning about Indigenous traditions and perspectives.



Destination Information

Lake Louise – Set at an elevation of 1,600 metres in Banff National Park, Lake Louise is renowned for its turquoise water, coloured by fine rock flour carried down from Victoria Glacier. The lake is framed by forested slopes and towering Rocky Mountain peaks, with the historic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise standing on its eastern shore.

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.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise – Originally established as a small railway chalet by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1890, this landmark hotel grew into one of the Canadian Rockies' most celebrated mountain resorts. Set directly on the shores of Lake Louise in Banff National Park, the château-style property overlooks the lake and Victoria Glacier, with its grand architecture reflecting the golden age of Canadian railway tourism.

Day 5: Jasper National Park

Meals: B

Enjoy a relaxing morning at the hotel before venturing out to explore Pleckaitis Canyon. Make your way between towering rock walls and into a serene, otherworldly setting, winding through this striking canyon and learning about its history and geology as you go. This evening, visit the Jasper Planetarium for an adventure through the stars featuring indoor dome shows and outdoor telescopes.



Destination Information

Jasper - Established as a railway settlement in 1911, Jasper grew around the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and later became an important stop on Canada's transcontinental rail network. The town takes its name from Jasper Hawes, who operated a fur-trading post in the area in the early 19th century, and became a gateway to Jasper National Park when it was established in 1907.

Pleckaitis Canyon – Hidden in Jasper National Park's Maligne Valley, Pleckaitis Canyon is a narrow gorge with towering rock walls, winding passages and frozen waterfalls in winter. Guided ice walks lead visitors along the canyon floor, where they can discover its geological features and learn about the surrounding landscape.

Jasper Planetarium – Located at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, the Jasper Planetarium offers a guided introduction to the night sky above Jasper National Park, one of the world's largest dark sky preserves. Explore the constellations and learn about the Northern Lights in a domed theatre, with combined experiences offering outdoor telescope viewing of planets, stars and distant galaxies.

Day 6: Jasper Foodie Tour Meals: B, D



Today has been left free for independent exploration of Jasper and the surrounding winter landscapes, with the freedom to choose how you spend your time at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

From your hotel, you may wish to:

- Make use of the Winter Activity Centre's complimentary equipment to snowshoe along woodland trails and explore the grounds on foot.
- Head out onto Mildred Lake to enjoy ice skating, or try cross-country skiing and tobogganing.
- Enjoy a more relaxing day at the lodge, making use of its heated outdoor pool, hot tubs and fitness centre.

Your National Escort is available to help you plan your explorations and is always happy to point you towards activities that capture your interests, whether that's an outdoor adventure or a more relaxing day at the lodge.

Day 7: Return to Calgary Meals: B, L, D



Leave the Rocky Mountains behind as you return to Calgary, stopping en route for lunch. After an orientation tour to get acquainted with the city, spend the afternoon exploring at leisure. Perhaps ascend the Calgary Tower for sweeping panoramas, stroll along historic Stephen Avenue or relax in the tranquil surroundings of Prince's Island Park. This evening, come together for a farewell dinner.

Days 8 - 10: Depart Calgary to New Zealand Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Calgary 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.

Updated November 2026