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The Golden Rockies Circle and cruise

2018

Day 1: Board in Vancouver

Begin your journey at the Vancouver cruise terminal where you board your ship. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 2: Cruise the Inside Passage

Enjoy sailing through the dramatic Inside Passage. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 3: Port of Call Juneau, Alaska

Located at the foot of grand mountain peaks on the Gastineau Channel, the town of Juneau has the massive Mendenhall Glacier and the immense Juneau Icefields at its back door. Juneau is the place to let your imagination run wild. Explore the lush Tongass National Forest, visit the rustic shops in town, set out and whale watch, flightsee, hike, kayak, raft or fish. Due to the long daylight hours, there's plenty of time for your perfect Juneau adventure. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 4: Port of Call Skagway, Alaska

Take your time and poke into every little store from the Trail Bench to Lynch & Kennedy's Dry Goods. The Red Onion Saloon, with its honky tonk piano and costumed barmaids, is a treasure trove of memorabilia featuring pictures of Klondike Kate, Peahull Annie and other vintage characters. To complete the picture of those rip-roaring days, visit the nostalgic Trail of '98 Museum. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park boasts restored buildings and wooden boardwalks that invite you to take a stroll into the past. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 5: Glacier Bay Scenic Cruise

As Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Glacier Bay National Park protects a unique ecosystem of plants and animals living in concert with an ever-changing glacial landscape. Bring out the camera and listen for the thunderous sound of a monumental chunk of ice that has split from a glacier as it crashes into the sea. The impact shoots water hundreds of feet into the air. Glacier Bay has more actively calving tidewater glaciers than anyplace else in the world. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 6: Port of Call Ketchikan, Alaska

Built out over the water and climbing weathered stairways, Ketchikan clings to the shores of Tongass Narrows and drapes the mountains with a cheerful air. Take time to explore Creek Street, the Tongass Historical Museum, Totem Bight State Park and Saxman Village, Ketchikan's main attractions. Deep water fjords created by retreating glaciers has left behind stunning granite cliffs towering thousands of feet above the sea and countless waterfalls cascading into placid waters. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 7: Cruise the Inside Passage

Enjoy sailing through the dramatic Inside Passage. Overnight on Holland America's ms Volendam.

Day 8: Disembark in Vancouver / Free Day in Vancouver

After breakfast you will disembark the ms Volendam in Vancouver and spend time exploring this scenic city on your own. Overnight in Vancouver. Take full advantage of a free day at leisure in Vancouver, and check out Vancouver's must-see attractions like the Vancouver Aquarium (admission not included), Stanley Park, or Granville Island, explore the city's museums, art galleries, gardens, and varied neighbourhoods, or take a day trip to discover the nearby resort town of Whistler or British Columbia's charming capital on Vancouver Island, Victoria. Overnight in Vancouver.

Day 9: North Shore Sightseeing Tour

Enjoy a six-hour sightseeing tour of Vancouver's spectacular North Shore. Travel across the Lions Gate Bridge and into the Coast Mountains. Experience the Capilano Suspension Bridge and Treetops Adventure, discovering the coastal temperate rainforest and British Columbia's First Nations heritage. Next, visit Grouse Mountain (gondola admission included), the Peak of Vancouver, and take in breathtaking views of the city, ocean, and surrounding mountains. Overnight in Vancouver.

Day 10: Free Day in Vancouver

Take full advantage of a free day at leisure in Vancouver, and check out Vancouver's must-see attractions like the Vancouver Aquarium (admission not included), Stanley Park, or Granville Island, explore the city's museums, art galleries, gardens, and varied neighbourhoods, or take a day trip to discover the nearby resort town of Whistler or British Columbia's charming capital on Vancouver Island, Victoria. Overnight in Vancouver.

Day 11: Vancouver to Whistler

Following your motorcoach transfer from downtown Vancouver, the Rocky Mountaineer takes you through the stunning scenery of the Sea to Sky Corridor to the resort town of Whistler. Highlights of the trip include spectacular views of Howe Sound and the Coast Mountains, Brandywine Falls, Mount Garibaldi, and the impressive Cheakamus Canyon. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Overnight in Whistler.

Day 12: Whistler to Quesnel

Travel onboard the Rocky Mountaineer to the charming rural town of Quesnel, gateway to the North Cariboo. Enjoy breathtaking and varied scenery, from the river canyons and lush farmland of the Pemberton Valley, through the desert-like conditions of the Fraser Canyon, to rolling hills and vast ranchlands of the Cariboo Plateau. Highlights include the shorelines of Anderson Lake and glacier-fed Seton Lake, sweeping views of the Fraser Canyon, and the crossing of Deep Creek Bridge, one of the highest railway bridges in the world. Your day concludes as the Rocky Mountaineer follows the banks of the Fraser River into Quesnel. Overnight in Quesnel.

Day 13: Quesnel to Jasper

Tour journey continues eastwards today to the majestic Canadian Rockies and Jasper National Park. From Quesnel, the Rocky Mountaineer follows the Fraser River north to the town of Prince George, then travels east through the forests of northern British Columbia, home to plentiful wildlife, including a large population of moose. Entering the Rocky Mountain Trench you are surrounded by the steeply rising Rocky Mountains to the north and the Cariboo Mountains to the south. Continue climbing past Mount Robson, at 3,954 metres (12,972 feet) the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, through Yellowhead Pass into the province of Alberta. Your rail journey ends today on arrival in Jasper.

Day 14: Experience Jasper Highlights Tour

Jasper National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Canadian Rockies' largest national park. Enjoy a scenic half-day tour of some of the park's natural attractions and rugged peaks. The remainder of the day is free to explore Jasper on your own. Overnight in Jasper.

Day 15: Icefields Parkway Tour, including Ice Explorer, Jasper to Lake Louise

Travel to Lake Louise via one of the most scenic highways in the world, the Icefields Parkway. A stop will be made at Athabasca Falls before arriving at the Columbia Icefield. Here you will ride on an Ice Explorer to the middle of the Athabasca Glacier to learn more about its geological features. Your driver/guide will explain how glaciers are formed and point out some interesting geological features. Time will be available for lunch (not included). Afterward, a brief stop will be made at Bow Lake before arriving in Lake Louise this afternoon. Overnight in Lake Louise.

Day 16: Free Day in Lake Louise

Enjoy a free day in Lake Louise. Local activities include canoeing, hiking in the mountains, or simply relaxing and taking in the magnificent views. Overnight in Lake Louise.

Day 17: Experience Yoho Park Tour, Lake Louise to Banff

This morning explore beautiful Lake Louise on your own. After lunch, a half-day tour takes you into Yoho National Park to view some of its natural wonders including the Spiral Tunnels, Emerald Lake, and a natural rock bridge that spans the Kicking Horse River. Afterwards, you will be transferred to Banff. Overnight in Banff.

Day 18: Free Day in Banff

Explore Banff National Park on your own. Optional activities include the mineral pools at Upper Hot Springs, a nature walk on nearby mountain trails, historic museums, Lake Minnewanka or golf at The Fairmont Banff Springs. Overnight in Banff.

Day 19: Banff to Kamloops

Travel onboard the Rocky Mountaineer from the mountain town of Banff to Kamloops, in the heart of the BC Interior. Enjoy the spectacular array of scenery as you travel between the glacier and snow-capped peaks of the Canadian Rockies, over mountain passes and through remarkable tunnels, along rocky lakeshores and across the ranchlands of the Interior. Today's highlights include the Continental Divide, the Spiral Tunnels, Kicking Horse Canyon, Rogers Pass, and Craigellachie, where the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven. Overnight in Kamloops.

Day 20: Kamloops to Vancouver

Your journey continues towards the Pacific Ocean and the coastal city of Vancouver. You will again see dramatic changes in scenery, from the desert-like environment of the Interior, through winding river canyons and pristine forests, to the Coast and Cascade Mountains and the lush green fields of the Fraser Valley. Highlights include the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River and the rushing waters of Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon. Your rail journey ends on arrival in Vancouver.

Day 21: Tour End – Vancouver

Your vacation ends upon checkout from your Vancouver hotel.

Meals: B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner

Tour code: WRTR