

## **CANADA AND ALASKA 17 August 2017**



### **24 DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR**

Fully Escorted from Maitland by Warwick (Curly) Gladman

Includes the following:

- All airfares, taxes
- Fully inclusive tour of Canada & Alaska.
- Rockies Coach Tour
- Overnight Canadian VIA Rail Experience
- Alaskan Inside Passage Cruise, Oceanview Cabin
- Entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary
- Meals as stated
- Gratuities on Coach Tour and Cruise
- Private Tour Fully Escorted from Australia
- Maximum Group Size 22

Day 1: 17 August 2017 Sydney. Overnight at hotel near the airport.

Day 2: 18 August 2017 Depart Sydney and fly to Vancouver. 1 night pre tour.  
Afternoon free. Breakfast included.

British Columbia • Vancouver • VIA Rail • Jasper • Columbia Icefield • Choice of Glacier Experience or Glacier Skywalk • Lake Louise • Banff • Calgary  
See the dramatic Maligne Canyon, one of the area's most spectacular landmarks.  
At Columbia Icefield, choose a ride on the glacier or walk on the Glacier Skywalk.  
Behold spectacular Moraine Lake and the Valley of the Ten Peaks.  
Visit a ranch where you can play horseshoes and enjoy a wagon ride



### **Canadian Rockies by Train and Coach 19-27 August 2017**

Day 3: Vancouver, British Columbia - Tour Begins

Join us for a remarkable journey through the stunning landscapes, charming towns and beautiful lakes of the Canadian Rockies. Your adventure opens in Vancouver. Breakfast included.

#### Day 4: Vancouver - VIA Rail

A city tour of Vancouver begins this morning at beautiful Stanley Park, Canada's renowned urban rainforest. Then, continue to Chinatown, the waterfront, and Gastown, a turn-of-the-century centre comprised of pubs, art galleries, boutiques and the world-famous steam-powered clock, perhaps the most photographed subject in all of Vancouver. Stroll picturesque Granville Island and its fascinating markets. This evening, enjoy dinner overlooking the city skyline. Later, board VIA Rail's The Canadian to begin your journey to the majestic Canadian Rockies. Relive train travel in the days of old as you are rocked to sleep tonight in your private accommodations. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

#### Day 5: VIA Rail - Jasper, Alberta

Enjoy a lovely hot breakfast in the dining car as your eastbound train whisks you past the peaks of the Monashee Mountains and the stunning sight of Pyramid Falls cascading down Mt. Cheadle. Relax in the dome car as you experience 360-degree views of the glistening glaciers of the Albretha Icefields and on a clear day, view Mt. Robson – the highest peak of the Rockies! Moose, mountain goats, bear and caribou call this wonderland home. This afternoon, arrive in Jasper, nestled in the heart of the Canadian Rockies at the gateway to the incredible Icefields Parkway. Today breakfast and lunch will be included.

#### Day 6: Jasper

This morning we travel to Maligne Lake and enjoy breakfast\* against the backdrop of the picture-perfect sparkling waters of the lake. Whilst at Maligne Lake, the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rockies, you may choose to embark on an optional cruise highlighting the beauty of Spirit Island. Later, enjoy the dramatic Maligne Canyon, one of the area's most spectacular landmarks. Return to your hotel with leisure time to explore this lovely town. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

#### Day 7: Icefields Parkway-Glacier Experience or Glacier Skywalk-Lake Louise

Set off for a wonderful day of sightseeing en route to Lake Louise. Journey along the unforgettable Icefields Parkway! Waterfalls, rushing rivers, glacial peaks, imposing cliffs and snowcapped peaks paint the breathtaking canvas – so have your camera handy! Enjoy a stop at the Athabasca Falls and marvel at its sheer beauty and power. Stop at the Columbia Icefield and choose a fun ride\*\* across this mass of glacial ice which is over 1,000 feet thick – the largest accumulation of ice south of the Arctic Circle; or, take a walk on the Glacier Skywalk to experience the breathtaking views of the Sunwapta Valley and witness the dramatic landscape from the glass-floored platform. Continuing down the parkway, be on the lookout for bears, furry marmots and stately elk. Enjoy a stop at Peyto Lake – a turquoise glacier-fed lake that evokes pure serenity – before arriving in Lake Louise. Enjoy a stay at the world-famous Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. This evening it's Diner's Choice... choose the perfect spot from a "menu" of the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise's great restaurants. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

#### Day 8: Lake Louise - Banff

En route to Banff, view the spectacular Moraine Lake and the awe-inspiring Valley of the Ten Peaks. The jagged Ten Peaks are distinctively saw-toothed, standing out amidst stunning alpine scenery. Arrive at the grand Fairmont Banff Springs, known as the "Castle in the Rockies," for a luxurious 2-night stay. Today breakfast will be included.

#### Day 9: Banff

Set off for a scenic drive through Banff featuring the powerful Bow Falls and Hoodoos – known as the "Land of the Sleeping Giants." Next, meet a local ammolite specialist to learn about this rare gemstone found only in Alberta. During an afternoon at leisure, perhaps you will take a stroll through Banff's delightful downtown. This evening experience another Diner's Choice...you'll choose the perfect spot from one of Banff's great restaurants. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

#### Day 10: Banff - Calgary

Leave the wonders of the Rockies for the prairies of Alberta en route to the Kananaskis Valley. Visit a local ranch where you can play a game of horseshoes, take a line dance lesson and enjoy a wagon ride\*\* in search of buffalo. Meet the family that lives there to gain insight into their daily life on the ranch. Then, delight in a traditional Albertan barbecue with beautiful views of the mountains in the background. Later, enjoy the views of the prairies before you reach the vibrant city of Calgary. Westin Calgary. Today breakfast and lunch will be included.

**Day 11: 27 August 2017 - 2 Sep 2017 Inside Passage Cruise.** Depart Calgary Hotel after breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Seattle.

Arrive Seattle, transfer to your cruise ship to begin your Alaskan Cruise. Breakfast and Dinner included. *Relax for six nights and enjoy the epic Alaskan scenery from aboard one of Princess Cruise Lines lovely ships.*

Day 12: Cruising at Sea. Sit back relax and watch the world go by. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.



Day 13: Ketchikan. Ketchikan is known as Alaska's "First City" because it's the first major community travelers come to as they journey north. Located on an island, Ketchikan began life as an Indian fishing camp. The name Ketchikan comes from a Tlingit phrase that means "eagle with spread-out wings," a reference to a waterfall near town.

In the early 1900s, when gold was Alaska's claim to fame, fishing and timber industries were established in Ketchikan. The growth of these industries helped make this Inside Passage port Alaska's fourth-largest city. Visitors to Ketchikan will be intrigued by its rich Native heritage, which includes the world's oldest collection of totem poles at Totem Heritage Center. The Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian are all a part of the city's colorful history. Ketchikan, with its abundance of salmon, is also a sportfishing paradise. Sightseers will be impressed with both the scenic town and its surroundings, especially Misty Fjords National Monument. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

Day 14: Tracey Arm Fjord (Scenic Cruising) - Juneau

Named after Civil War general Benjamin Franklin Tracy, this narrow fjord is located approximately 50 miles southeast of Juneau. Breathtaking Tracy Arm extends over 30 miles long, with nearly a quarter of its area covered in ice. In fact, it encompasses some of Alaska's largest glaciers, including the twin Sawyer glaciers, which often expel enormous chunks of ice into the waters below in a magnificent process known as calving. During the summer when Princess ships visit, icebergs float along the surface of the glistening water in an array of sizes, from just a few inches up to three stories wide.

Protected within the Tongass National Forest, Tracy Arm Fjord is a haven for wildlife. Black and brown bears, deer, wolves, harbor seals, mountain goats and a variety of seabirds have been spotted in the area.

As you glide through the pristine fjord, you'll first pass by a lush forest where a number of beautiful waterfalls cascade down, and then you'll be treated to views of snowcapped mountains and blue-tinged glaciers more spectacular than you could ever imagine.

Juneau

In 1880, it was slow going for Joe Juneau and Richard Harris as they searched for gold with the help of Native guides. After climbing mountains, forging streams and facing countless difficulties, they found nuggets "as large as beans."

From their discovery came three of the largest gold mines in the world. By the end of World War II, more than \$150 million in gold had been mined. Eventually the mines closed, but the town Joe Juneau founded became the capital of Alaska and the business of gold was replaced by the business of government.

Some 30,000 people live in Juneau. Its total area makes it one of the biggest towns, in size, in the world. Only Kiruna, Sweden, and Sitka, Alaska, exceed Juneau's 3,248 square miles.

Today Juneau is famous not only for gold and government but also for its breathtakingly beautiful glaciers and stunning views of both water and mountains. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

Day 15: Skagway

Skagway was the gateway to the gold fields for the thousands who flocked to Alaska and the Yukon with the hope of striking it rich. Skagway may have boasted the shortest route to the Klondike, but it wasn't the easiest.

Over 100 years ago, the White Pass route through the Coast Mountains and the shorter but steeper Chilkoot Trail were used by countless stampeders. Many a would-be miner perished on the treacherous Chilkoot Trail.

The gold rush was a boon and by 1898, Skagway was Alaska's largest town with a population of about 20,000. Hotels, saloons, dance halls and gambling houses prospered. But when the gold yield dwindled in 1900, so did the population as miners quickly shifted to new finds in Nome.

Today, Skagway has less than 1,000 residents. It still retains the flavor of the gold rush era. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

Day 16: Cruising at Sea. Sit back relax and watch the world go by.

Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

Day 17: 2 Sep 2017 Victoria. Arrive Victoria at 7.00 pm. Disembark and transfer to our hotel.

Victoria exudes old-world charm and fragrant and colorful flowers are everywhere. Founded in 1843 by James Douglas of the Hudson's Bay Company, the city was first known as Fort Victoria. By 1848, Vancouver Island was a British colony and Victoria was its capital.

In 1858, Victoria was a tent city and the base for some 25,000 prospectors on their way to the Frasier River gold fields. When Vancouver Island was incorporated with mainland British Columbia in 1868, Victoria became the capital of the entire province.

