



## CANADA

# ULTIMATE WESTERN CANADA SELF-DRIVE (TOUR CODE: 12959)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Vancouver

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 May 25 - 10 Oct 25

### EXPERIENCE

Self-Drive

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Embark on a captivating Rainforest to Rockies road trip that takes you from the Pacific Ocean to the Canadian Rockies.

## Highlights

- Sail through the waters between Vancouver and Vancouver Island aboard BC Ferries
- Witness the gem-coloured glacial lakes and waterfalls and snow-covered peaks of Yoho National Park
- Explore the Canadian Rockies driving along the stunning Icefields Parkway
- Discover the best wineries in Okanagan with the Kelowna Wine Lovers Day Tour
- Customise your days in Banff, Jasper, Whistler, Tofino and Victoria by selecting activities that match your preferences

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the breathtaking landscapes of Western Canada with the ultimate 16-day self-drive itinerary. This immersive adventure takes you through some of the most iconic destinations in the region, offering a perfect blend of pristine wilderness, charming mountain towns, and vibrant cities.

Start your adventure in the vibrant city of Vancouver, where you can explore Stanley Park, Granville Island, and the historic Gastown district. Enjoy diverse dining options and soak in the Pacific Coast vibes before heading into the wilderness.

Head east to Kelowna, a gem nestled in the Okanagan Valley. Discover world-class wineries, beautiful lakes, and scenic vineyards as you enjoy the region's culinary delights.

Travel through the awe-inspiring Canadian Rockies to reach Lake Louise, known for its turquoise waters. Explore the area's hiking trails, visit the iconic Lake Louise, and soak in the stunning surroundings.

Your adventure culminates in the iconic Banff National Park, where you'll encounter stunning alpine landscapes, including Emerald Lake and Moraine Lake. Hike through awe-inspiring terrain, soak in natural hot springs, and appreciate the charm of Banff town.

Continue your journey to Jasper National Park, where rugged wilderness and pristine lakes await. Hike among towering peaks, visit stunning

spots like Maligne Lake and Athabasca Falls, and embrace the tranquility of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Drive westward to Sun Peaks, a year-round alpine resort offering hiking, mountain biking, and relaxation. Then, journey to Whistler, a top spot for outdoor enthusiasts with its scenic village and spectacular mountain views. Experience the rugged coastlines and rainforests of Pacific Rim National Park before continuing to Victoria, renowned for its gardens and waterfront. End your adventure with a return to Vancouver.



✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period

✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind

✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices

✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited

✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

# INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Kelowna at The Royal Kelowna
- 2 nights in Emerald Lake at Emerald Lake Lodge
- 2 nights in Banff at Banff Caribou Lodge
- 2 nights in Jasper at Forest Park Hotel
- 1 night in Sun Peaks at Sun Peaks Grand Hotel
- 2 nights in Whistler at Delta Whistler Village Suites
- 2 nights in Ucluelet at Water's Edge Shoreside Suites
- 2 nights in Victoria at Inn at Laurel Point
- 16 days intermediate size car rental
- Kelowna Wine Lovers Day Tour
- Ice Explorer ride onto Athabasca Glacier
- Glacier Skywalk Admission
- BC Ferries for vehicle & passengers between Vancouver and Vancouver Island
- BC Ferries for vehicle & passengers between Vancouver Island and Vancouver

Freedom of Choice Days

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## Freedom of Choice



Our Freedom of Choice program offers flexibility, by allowing you to choose from different options on pre-selected days.

Our per person price includes one tour on each Freedom of Choice day, as follows:

- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 6
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 8
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 11
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 13
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 15

Expand the itinerary below for more details.

Please note, if more than one room is selected during the booking process, our team will contact you afterwards to discuss options.

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# ITINERARY

Day

1

## Vancouver Kelowna

Today, travel into the Thompson Okanagan region; this region is famous for its orchards and vineyards as well as the wildly varied landscape. To the north of the central wine-and-fruit-producing valley are vast boreal forests and to the south the desert of the Great Basin.

Overnight in Kelowna at **The Royal Kelowna**



Day **2**

## Kelowna

Tour into the countryside combining the best of the Lake, the Valley and the Vines. Experience the wineries we call hidden treasures and sample the Okanagan's finest wines.

Overnight in Kelowna at **The Royal Kelowna**



Day **3**

## Kelowna Emerald Lake Lodge

Your journey today takes you through some of the most spectacular stretches of highway in Canada. Travel through Yoho National Park, filled with gem-coloured glacial lakes and waterfalls, snow-covered peaks, and dense forests of western red cedar and western hemlock.

Overnight in Emerald Lake at **Emerald Lake Lodge**



EMERALD LAKE | CREDIT: DESTINATION BC DAVE HEATH

Day 4

## Emerald Lake Lodge Yoho National Park Emerald Lake Lodge

Located on the shores of the famous pristine lake and surrounded by some of the Rockies' most impressive peaks, the lodge is built of hand-hewn timber and features massive stone fireplaces. It includes a formal dining room as well as quiet reading and sitting rooms. From the large upper or lower verandahs, you can enjoy serene views of this wilderness landscape.

Overnight in Emerald Lake at **Emerald Lake Lodge**



YOHO NATIONAL PARK | CREDIT: DESTINATION BC / DAVE HEATH

Day 5

## Emerald Lake Lodge Banff

Enjoy the leisurely drive to Banff. Choose the Bow Valley Parkway, beside the Bow River, with an option for you to take a stop at Johnston Canyon and walk along the paved footpath to either the lower or upper waterfalls.

Overnight in Banff at **Banff Caribou Lodge**



AERIAL OF BANFF TOWNSITE | CREDIT: PAUL ZIZKA

Day **6**

## Banff

Today, you can personalise your day by choosing one of four excursions.

Overnight in Banff at **Banff Caribou Lodge**

### Freedom of Choice Options

- **Banff Gondola:**

Maximise your views of Banff National Park with minimal exertion on a round-trip gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain.

OR

- **Lake Minnewanka Cruise:**

Admire views of the Canadian Rockies by boat as you cruise across the turquoise-hued Lake Minnewanka and over to Devil's Gap.

OR

- **River Explorer Canoe Tour:**

Enjoy the serenity of the Bow River and marvel at the surroundings. A fun & interactive way with your guide to explore the waterways of Banff National Park. Perfect for families. No paddling experience necessary.

OR

- **Bow River Horseback Adventure:**

Saddle up for a journey through the celebrated landscape of Banff National Park on this guided horseback riding adventure.



BANFF GONDOLA | CREDIT: PURSUIT

Day 7

## Banff Jasper

Explore the Canadian Rockies on Icefields Parkway, relishing glacier exploration. Walk on ancient ice, experience the Ice Explorer ride, and thrill at the Glacier Skywalk's thousand-foot-high glass platform. Experience and appreciate this rocky treasure.

Overnight in Jasper at **Forest Park Hotel**



GLACIER SKYWALK | CREDIT: PURSUIT

Day 8

## Jasper

Today, you can personalise your day by choosing one of three excursions.

Overnight in Jasper at **Forest Park Hotel**

### Freedom of Choice Options

- **Maligne Lake Cruise:**

Cruise Maligne Lake, where you can marvel at the magnificent shoreline and Spirit Island.

OR

- **Jasper River Float:**

Enjoy a gentle rafting tour on the Athabasca River for a unique perspective of Jasper National Park.

OR

- **Jasper Nature Walk:**

A guided nature walk featuring a spectacular array of rolling hills, jagged peaks, forests, meadows, marshes, streams, and stunning glacial lakes.



Day **9**

## Jasper Sun Peaks

Embark from Jasper National Park, traversing the 'Yellowhead' Route to admire Mount Robson's majesty, highest in the Canadian Rockies. Journey beyond, via Thompson River, through snowy Monashee and Caribou Mountains, concluding at Sun Peaks Resort.

Overnight in Sun Peaks at **Sun Peaks Grand Hotel**





Day **10** Sun Peaks Whistler

Continue to Lillooet, known as the land of the Gold Rush Trail and 'Mile Zero' of the Old Caribou Wagon Road. Leaving Lillooet travel the Duffey Lake Road to Whistler. Be sure to stop at Joffre Lake for breathtaking views of Joffre Glacier.

Overnight in Whistler at **Delta Whistler Village Suites**



Day **11** Whistler

Whistler is a charming Canadian village known for its stunning scenery and outdoor activities. Nestled in the mountains, it offers hiking trails, picturesque lakes, and a welcoming atmosphere with various dining and shopping options. Explore Whistler by pre-selecting one of the following Freedom of Choice excursions below.

Overnight in Whistler at **Delta Whistler Village Suites**

### Freedom of Choice Options

- **River of Golden Dreams Canoe Tour:**

This summertime paddle takes you on an enchanting canoe journey from Alta Lake to Green Lake. Wildflower-lined banks, old-growth forests and local wildlife are all part of your passing tableaux.

OR

- **Whistler Guided Lunch Tour:**

There's no better way to spend an afternoon in Whistler than exploring the eclectic culinary scene. Guests will enjoy a delicious multi-course lunch while visiting some of the best local lunch spots and indulge a sweet tooth at a couple of chocolate shops

OR

- **Whistler Peak 2 Peak Gondola:**

Experience the beauty via the Peak Adventure on Whistler Mountain as you soak in the unbelievable views of glaciers, extinct volcanoes and snow-capped peaks.



## Day 12 Whistler Tofino/Ucluelet

Travel the Sea-to-Sky Highway through a landscape carved out by glaciers and edged by craggy fjords. After a brief stop at Shannon Falls, continue to Horseshoe Bay where you will board a ferry to sail across the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver Island. Your drive to the Pacific Coast will take you through ancient rainforests and provincial parks to windswept beaches.

Overnight at **Water's Edge Shoreside Suites** (or similar)



Day **13** Tofino/Ucluelet

Today, you can personalise your day by choosing one of two excursions.

Overnight at **Water's Edge Shoreside Suites** (or similar)

**Freedom of Choice Options**

• **Coastal Bear Watch Cruise:**

Search for bears from the comfort and safety of a 24' Zodiac vessel. Abundant on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, black bears roam the shores at low tide in search of their favourite delicacy, the Rock Crab.

**OR**

• **Whale Watching Cruise:**

Cruise through the waters of Clayoquot Sound to view beautiful scenery and wildlife. Depending on the time of year, you may encounter grey whales, humpback whales, sea lions, sea birds and resident bald eagles.



Day **14** Tofino/Ucluelet Victoria

Return through quaint seaside towns, and the murals of Chemainus and the quaint Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan are well worth the visit. The day winds down in Victoria.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**



Day **15** Victoria

Located on Vancouver Island, Victoria offers waterfront views, historic sites, and a welcoming atmosphere with plenty of dining and shopping options. Explore Victoria by pre-selecting one of the following Freedom of Choice excursions below.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**

## Freedom of Choice Options

- **Butchart Gardens Admission:**

On its 100th birthday in 2004, the Butchart Gardens was named a National Historic Site of Canada. Explore 22 hectares/55 acres of breathtaking gardens on the 53-hectare/130-acre estate.

OR

- **Eat like a Canadian Food Tour:**

Not many people can define exactly what Canadian food is. From local ingredients to historic dishes, this tour is the best way to experience Canadian culinary culture. Sip and savour local cuisine, explore the iconic Inner Harbour, and meet the chefs and owners that make Victoria such an exciting culinary hot spot.

OR

- **Whale Watch Cruise:**

Get up close with the killer whales on the Salish Sea with this guided, 3.5-hour whale-watching cruise from Victoria. Climb aboard a covered or open boat equipped with hydrophones to hear the whales and bring the underwater experience to light.

OR

- **High Tea at the Empress Hotel:**

Enjoy High tea at the Fairmont Empress Hotel is a delightful, traditional experience. Indulge in a lavish array of tea, finger sandwiches, pastries, and scones, served in an elegant setting, enhancing the allure of this historic Victoria, British Columbia landmark.



## Day 16 Victoria Vancouver

Leaving Victoria, drive north to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal for a 90-minute ferry ride to Tsawwassen. On-board BC Ferries enjoy the scenery of the Gulf Islands as you cross the Strait of Georgia. From Tsawwassen continue on to downtown Vancouver or airport.

## ACCOMMODATION

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## The Royal Kelowna

### **Kelowna**

An all-suite luxurious resort in downtown Kelowna backing directly onto Okanagan Lake. This waterfront resort features some of the largest luxury suites in the region and offers an unrivalled experience where opulence meets natural beauty. Immerse yourself in the crystal-clear waters of their outdoor infinity pool, unwind in the soothing waters of their rooftop hot tub, or sweat it out in their steam showers. The hotel's rooftop features lush amenities including a fitness centre, rooftop BBQs, an intimate lounge area with a gas firepit, and cosy blue lounge chairs.



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## Emerald Lake Lodge

### **Emerald Lake**

Set on a 13-acre peninsula on Yoho National Park's Emerald Lake, this upscale lodge is 13.4 km from the Canadian Rocky Mountains Parks World Heritage Site and 14.8 km from Mount Field. The posh rooms feature private balconies with lake views, wood-burning fireplaces and coffeemakers, plus sitting areas. A refined restaurant serves regional cuisine, and there's a seasonal bistro. A stately lounge features a stone fireplace, plus an oak bar from an 1890s saloon.



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## Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa

### **Banff**

Located in Banff National Park, the Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa offers a mountain lodge hotel, a great steakhouse restaurant and a full-service

spa, all in one outstanding location. This ideal vacation spot is located on Banff Avenue, the main street in the town of Banff. Surrounded by mountains, there are plenty of activities to keep you busy.



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## Forest Park Hotel

### Jasper

Set amidst the breathtaking Canadian Rockies, the Forest Park Hotel (formerly the Sawridge Inn) is a resort style hotel that offers the rustic charm you'd expect in Jasper National Park. Beautiful guest rooms, on-site spa, decadent dining and heated pool with jacuzzi and steam room add to the luxury you want in your mountain getaway.



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## Sun Peaks Grand Hotel

### Sun Peaks

Located a scenic 45-minute jaunt from Kamloops in British Columbia's Thompson-Okanagan region, Sun Peaks Grand Hotel is the only full-service hotel experience in Sun Peaks Resort. There are chairlifts, trails and activities at the doorstep, as well as an on site grocery store, boutiques, eateries, and brand-new guest rooms delivering quiet luxury.



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## Delta Whistler Village Suites

### Whistler

Retreat to the mountains of British Columbia, Canada, where your adventure begins at Delta Hotels Whistler Village Suites. Located in the heart of Whistler Village, our hotel places you near the area's top attractions, including boutiques, dining, ski slopes and bike trails. Take advantage of our heated indoor / outdoor pool and 24-hour fitness centre. End your night in Whistler at Hy's Steakhouse, our signature hotel restaurant that offers delicious cuisine and handcrafted cocktails. Relax and reset in spacious pet friendly hotel suites that include full kitchens, fireplaces, flat-panel TVs, free Wi-Fi and plush bedding.



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## Water's Edge Shoreside Suites

### Ucluelet

Water's Edge is the only property with access to both the serene Ucluelet Harbour & bordering Marina from every Shoreside Suite. Nestled on a peaceful island joined by a causeway within the Harbour. Nothing else compares. Stunning surroundings, breathtaking views, and open spaces.





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## Inn at Laurel Point

### Victoria

Overlooking Laurel Point Park, this waterfront hotel is a 5-minute walk from the Black Ball Ferry Line and a 10-minute walk from the Royal BC Museum. Featuring private balconies with water views, the airy rooms include flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi, plus minibridges, and tea and coffeemaking equipment. There's a heated indoor pool, an exercise room and a Japanese garden, plus a Pacific Rim-inspired restaurant with a patio and harbour views.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French & English

## LOCAL CURRENCY

Canadian Dollars

## Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package
- One-way car rental fees (if applicable). If any one-way surcharges apply, this will be advised at the time of booking and is payable locally upon collection of the vehicle
- Car rental rates exclude optional coverage such as Personal Accident Insurance Plus (PAI Plus) and Personal Effects Protection (PEP)
- GPS rental is not included and can be requested (at an additional supplement paid locally) if required