



BudgetTravel.com

## Canadian Rockies, 7 Nights, \$1,820

Explore Western Canada's waterfalls, glaciers, and rugged mountains on this sightseeing train-and-bus tour from Vancouver to Calgary.

Wednesday, August 15, 2007;



**The Real Deal:** Seven nights' accommodations, transportation by train and coach bus, some meals, guided sightseeing tours, and admission fees, from \$1,820 (Can\$1,919) per person--plus taxes of about \$109.

**When:** Arrive Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from Sept. 29-Oct. 10, 2007; add \$446 for tours beginning now through Sept. 26.

**The Fine Print:** Fuel surcharges, two breakfasts and two lunches, a national parks pass, museum admission, and guided tours are included. Hotel taxes and the Canadian Goods and Service Tax come to about \$109 per person in addition. Tour groups range from 39 to 50 people. Based on

double occupancy; single supplement is \$626 (Can\$660). Read these [guidelines](#) before you book any Real Deal.

**Book By:** No deadline; based on availability. Note that the tour company recommends booking the package at least three weeks in advance.

**Contact:** Rocky Mountaineer Vacations, 877/460-3200, [rockymountaineer.com](http://rockymountaineer.com).

**Why It's a Deal:** The rate of \$1,820 is one of the lowest you'll find for this package because its travel dates fall during October, which is considered the off-season for train travel in the region. Also consider the convenience of having all the logistics, from train tickets to accommodations to sightseeing tours and national park fees, arranged by Rocky Mountaineer, which specializes in Canadian train travel.

**Trip Details:** This [rail-tour package](#) for Western Canada includes seven nights' accommodations in hotels between Vancouver and Calgary, transportation by coach bus and two days of scenic train travel, plus guided sightseeing tours, some meals and stops in Western Canada's world-famous national parks. The company relies on a network of popular hotels with restaurants available at each location or within easy walking distance.

The trip begins with an overnight stay in the coastal city of Vancouver. The following day you will board the *Rocky Mountaineer* for a scenic eight-hour train ride through the heart of British Columbia's interior, traveling through the wide green fields of the Fraser River Valley, through canyons lying between the coast and the Cascade Mountains, to the small

city of Kamloops, an outdoor-sports paradise surrounded by farmland and spectacular rocky bluffs.

On day two, you'll continue your journey by train past magnificent Mount Robson and Pyramid Falls before arriving in the evening at Jasper, which is surrounded by the dramatic scenery of the Canadian Rockies. You'll have part of the next day free to explore Jasper National Park and tour other nearby attractions by coach bus.

The following day, you will travel by bus down the scenic Icefields Parkway and stop at the Columbia Icefield, where you will board the Brewster Ice Explorer to the middle of Athabasca Glacier to learn about its geological features. You'll spend the night at the 550-room [Fairmont Chateau](#) in the midst of the remarkable natural scenery of Lake Louise.

The remainder of the trip will take you from Lake Louise to Calgary, with an overnight stop in Banff, where you will board a Gondola for an eight-minute ride to the summit of Sulphur Mountain, where you'll have a 360-degree view of the surrounding mountain ridges.

The entire itinerary of this trip can also be done in reverse from Calgary to Vancouver, with your initial arrival in Calgary scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Persons booking this tour by August 31 will receive a free night's accommodation in Vancouver or Calgary. In general, extra nights cost about \$160 per person in Calgary and \$200 per person in Vancouver.

A special self-drive option is available to those wishing for more flexibility which allows you to replace the bus portion of the tour with a car rental. The company uses Hertz, and it costs approximately \$320, plus taxes, to rent a full-size car for all three days (rate is per car, not per person).

For information on what to do, visit the official tourism websites of [Calgary](#) and [Vancouver](#). Before you go, check the [weather forecast](#), the [cal time](#), and the [exchange rate](#) on BudgetTravel.com.

**Getting There:** The lowest multicity fares we found for flights arriving in Vancouver and departing from Calgary in late September were \$344 from Los Angeles (US Airways), \$375 from New York City (Continental), and \$428 from Chicago (Frontier), according to a recent search on Kayak.

For multicity flights arriving in Calgary and departing from Vancouver, the lowest fares we found were \$341 from Los Angeles (US Airways), \$373 from New York (Delta), and \$423 from Chicago (Frontier).

### **Related Stories:**

- [Vancouver's Best Vintage Boutiques](#)
- [Road Trip: From Vancouver to Calgary](#)
- [10 Canadian National Parks](#)