### Abercrombie & Kent



# CLASSIC ROCKIES FEATURING THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

The Canadian Rockies offer some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury Rail Journeys



(Ī) North America, Canada 8 days from AU\$21,280 pp Private

# Journey Overview

The Canadian Rockies offer some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. From snow-capped peaks that touch the sky and tranquil alpine valleys, to emerald lakes and the jewels of Yoho National Park, this is a landscape that will captivate your soul. Immerse yourself in the best of the Rockies seeking out bear, elk, moose and more, then hop aboard the luxurious Rocky Mountaineer train. Sit back and relax in your glass-domed carriage as you curl your way through the changing landscapes from Banff to Vancouver. Finish in the small town of Whistler for an unparalleled perspective of peaks, coastal rainforest and ancient glaciers.

### Journey highlights:

- Fly by helicopter to a specially chosen spot in Cougar Canyon for a hiking adventure tailored to you
- Explore the Canadian Rockies's famed turquoise lakes visiting Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and UNESCO-listed Yoho National Park
- Enjoy Rocky Mountaineer Gold Leaf Service on your rail journey between Banff and Vancouver
- Experience vibrant Vancouver with a guided city and nature tour
- Journey up the Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler Resort, one of the most gorgeous drives in North America



## Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arrive Calgary - Banff

Welcome to Calgary. Meet your A&K representative who will drive you to your luxury mountain resort in UNESCO-listed Banff National Park. Depending on your arrival time, take a stroll around Banff resort town or visit the Rundle Lounge for a wind-down cocktail.

#### Fairmont Banff Springs

#### Day 2: Banff

This morning, step aboard the Sulphur Mountain Gondola and ascend to sweeping views of Bow Valley and the surrounding peaks of the Rockies. Once at the summit, walk the boardwalk to the historic Cosmic Ray weather station for a scenic panorama of the UNESCO-listed Banff National Park.

This afternoon, trek through the alpine wilderness on a Canadian Rockies heli-hiking adventure. Join a certified mountain guide for a spectacular scenic helicopter ride into Cougar Canyon. Touch down in the mountains and embark on a hike tailored to your wishes. From a gentle meadow walk to a trek along an alpine ridge, your guide will lead the way and teach you all about the plants and animals that call the Rockies home.

#### Fairmont Banff Springs | Meals: BL

#### Day 3: Banff | Moraine Lake, Lake Louise and Yoho National Park

This morning, journey to glacially fed Moraine Lake which snakes its way through the Valley of the Ten Peaks. This mountain-ringed turquoise gem is like something straight out of a fairytale. Stroll the lakeshore with your expert guide discovering pristine waterfalls and moraines, and basking in Mother Nature's tranquillity.

Continue to Lake Louise, where you'll see what's left of the once mighty Victoria Glacier that created this iconic turquoise lake at the end of the last Ice Age.

Finish the day with a visit to Yoho National Park where glaciers and waterfalls cling to towering peaks. Of the four Rockies national parks, Yoho is the least visited. Experience a quieter side of the mountains at sites such as Takkakaw Falls and Emerald Lake. Your guide will find the perfect walk for your energy levels, and you'll have the opportunity to spot bear, elk, moose and other wildlife as you go.

#### Fairmont Banff Springs | Meals: BL

#### Day 4: Banff - Rocky Mountaineer - Kamloops

Today your two-day luxury train journey begins. From Banff Train Station, hop aboard the Rocky Mountaineer at Banff train station, and find your seat in GoldLeaf Premium for your spectacular passage to Vancouver. You are seated under a fully glass-domed coach with unobstructed views from every angle. Savour gourmet meals prepared by executive chefs and stretch your legs as you need with the exclusive outdoor viewing platform. Your hosts will entertain you with stories about passing landmarks, topping up your glass of wine as you wish and calling out wildlife sightings.

Your first day takes you on a steep climb up to the Continental Divide and on to the architectural marvel of the Spiral Tunnels, and the pristine wilderness of Kicking Horse Canyon. Next, cruise through the sheer jagged peaks – cut through by the Columbia River - and the richly forested havens of Rogers Pass. Arrive in the quaint town of Kamloops in the evening, where you are escorted to your overnight accommodation.

#### Kamloops | Meals: BL

#### Day 5: Kamloops - Rocky Mountaineer - Vancouver

Today the Rocky Mountaineer will follow the Thompson River through Ashcroft and Rainbow Canyon, where the cliffs have pink, green and grey hues. Continue through Fraser River Canyon, where you'll witness the torrid rapids of Hells Gate, and learn about the hundreds of ships that have sunk trying to navigate its swirling waters. The last leg takes you through the scenic Fraser Valley, arriving in Vancouver late afternoon. Upon arrival, you will be privately transferred to your luxury waterfront hotel with unparalleled views of Vancouver Harbor.

#### Fairmont Pacific Rim | Meals: BL

#### Day 6: Vancouver

Experience the vibrancy and natural beauty of Vancouver on a day of short walking tours and scenic drives. Admire views of English Bay, where the city meets the sea, and peel back the storied history of Yaletown and False Creek, cultural Chinatown, and historic Gastown — full of cobblestoned streets, art galleries and dramatic ocean views. You'll also see the beaches, trails and ever-blooming gardens of Stanley Park, and visit Capilano River Canyon Rainforest. Along the way, enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch.

Depending on your month of travel, learn about sustainability as you observe the salmon run — a mass mating event where salmon migrate from the ocean to the rivers — and experience thrills on the 50-metre-high Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge. Get high above the treetops, and you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the rainforest and canyon below.

#### Fairmont Pacific Rim | Meals: BL

#### Day 7: Vancouver - Whistler - Vancouver

Join your guide for a private trip up the Sea to Sky Highway, lauded as one of the most magnificent drives in North America, en route to Whistler Resort. Gaze out at ocean views, towering mountains and sprawling glaciers as you travel along the Coast Range, with bountiful photo opportunities, and optional stops at Shannon Falls and Squamish.

Upon arrival in Whistler, follow your guide through the pedestrian village before boarding the Peak-2-Peak Gondola with its stunning 360-degree views of Whistler Village, mountain peaks, lakes, glaciers and forests. If you like you can ride the special glass-bottom gondola for a bird's-eye view of the forest. Enjoy lunch at one of Whistler's many fine restaurants before returning to Vancouver Harbour via shared float plane.

#### Fairmont Pacific Rim | Meals: BL

#### **Day 8: Depart Vancouver**

Transfer privately to the airport for your departing flight. Alternatively, extend your trip into beautiful Victoria on Vancouver Island, or stay at one of the remote lodges in the mountains.

Meals: B

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# Accommodation

#### **Fairmont Banff Springs**



The Fairmont Banff Springs is another member of the famous 'Grand Railway Hotels'. These hotels were conceived in the 19th century as a way for the Canadian railway companies to entice visitors into the interior. Today they are national landmarks featuring in photographs, postcards and brochures. The Fairmont Banff Springs was supposedly modelled on a Scottish Baronial castle. You can debate how much they succeeded with this when you arrive, but you will certainly agree that it is grand.

#### Why we like it

- Situated just above the famous Bow Falls and close to the thermal springs
- Views across the valley to the spectacular Mount Rundle
- The hotel's golf course has been awarded the best in Canada so perfect for a relaxing morning
- Wonderful 'castle' style property in the heart of the Rockies
- Classical Fairmont service and style

### **Rocky Mountaineer**



Rocky Mountaineer is undoubtedly the most spectacular train trip in North America. Departing from Jasper, Alberta you'll travel to Kamloops through the Rockies enjoying the dramatic landscape as you tuck into a fabulous lunch. Abercrombie & Kent recommends the GoldLeaf Service which will provide much better views of the Continental Divide, the river valleys of the Monashee and Cariboo Mountains, and Mount Robson the highest peak in the Rockies. The night is spent in Kamloops a former gold mining town.

Continuing on the luxury train, you'll head west through the desert-like interior. Here you'll see winding river canyons which are surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and also Cascade Mountains. The journey continues into the lush green fields of the Fraser River Valley. Again, a great lunch aboard will be served as you travel along the Thompson River. The journey concludes in Vancouver, where we will transfer you to your choice of luxury hotel.

#### Why we like it

- Classic elegance through the iconic Rockies
- Highly entertaining staff to animate your Rockies journey
- A unique rail experience
- Travel through the most spectacular scenery in western Canada
- Personalised service for each guest
- Regionally-inspired meals and all-inclusive beverages

#### **Fairmont Pacific Rim**



The Fairmont Pacific Rim offers sensational views over Vancouver's bustling harbour and Stanley Park. A true city oasis within walking distance from the shops and restaurants. Stay in classically styled Fairmont rooms or contemporary styled suites. All rooms have an iPad2 offering interactive customer service. In the morning, the giovane café is the place to pick up your freshly baked pastry or later in the day a selection of sweet treats will be ready to tempt you. Enjoy the vibrant bar scene located in the open plan area beside the lobby and its giant fireplace. After exploring the city indulge your senses at the Willow Stream Spa with its beautiful chill out zone on the roof top. The hotel is ideal for families and couples alike with an outdoor rooftop pool complete with private cabanas, and BMW bikes available to hire and explore Stanley Park – a true oasis in the heart of the city.

#### Why we like it

- Enviable location, with incredible views of Coal Harbour
- Make use of the outdoor hot tubs after a massage at the spa, very unusual for a major city
- Take a jog from the hotel along the waterfront and around Stanley Park
- Watch the seaplanes landing and departing right in front of your room
- Funky modern lobby with sounds of live jazz perfect for a pre dinner drink

## Abercrombie & Kent

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