

## Travel aboard the Rocky Mountaineer from Banff, AB to Vancouver, BC

**August 18:**

### **All Aboard!**

*The journey will begin with a delectable breakfast in the elegant dining room of the bi-level dome car. The wild beauty of the Canadian Rockies will serve as a backdrop for the dining experience onboard the train. The Western Canadian inspired meals are freshly prepared with local ingredients in the moving kitchen by our remarkable onboard chefs.*

*Travel through the famed Canadian Rockies, crossing the Continental Divide at Kicking Horse Pass. The excitement builds as the train enters the Spiral Tunnels, cuts into Cathedral Mountain and Mount Ogden, before descending through spectacular canyons to the Columbia River valley. Experience the breathtaking beauty of the mountains and canyons of Rogers Pass before entering the five-mile Connaught Tunnel. View the site of the "Last Spike" of the Canadian Pacific Railway and continue along the scenic shores of Shuswap Lake towards your overnight destination, Kamloops.*

### **Castle Mountain**

*At just over 2,730 m/ 8,950 feet, this bulky, turreted mountain is an excellent example of castellate type mountains (featuring horizontal rock layers). It was named by Dr. James Hector in 1858 for its obvious castle-like shape.*

### **Spiral Tunnel**

*In 1907, construction began on the unique Spiral Tunnels, modeled after the tunnel system in Switzerland. It was open in 1909 on the CP Rail Line and is an engineering feat with two tunnels in the form of three-quarter circles in the valley walls. The tunnel is the steepest part of the rail line in North America.*

### **Stoney Creek Bridge**

*The Stoney Creek Bridge is located on the eastern slopes of Mount Tupper. Its architectural design and beauty made it one of the world's most important bridges of its time. This beautiful bridge spans 147.6 m/484 feet and towers 99 m/ 325 feet above the creek bed.*

### **Craigellachie**

*The last spike of the CP Rail line was driven here by Donald Smith, an enthusiastic supporter of the CP Rail, on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1885. A cairn now marks the spot of this historic event, which linked Canada by rail from coast to coast.*

### **Hoodoos**

*Scattered throughout this region, there are unique rock and clay formations called Hoodoos. Hoodoos were formed after the end of the last ice age. As glacial ice retreated, sediment was deposited in the bottom of the glacial lake. When the lake retreated, erosion began and 10,000 years later, the erosion terraces and pillar-like hoodoos are all that remain of the former lakebed.*

**Welcome to Kamloops, BC!**

*Kamloops is a historic rail city in central BC with a vibrant community. A city of close to 85,000 people, Kamloops is a major economic hub in British Columbia, attracting a wide variety of events and business opportunities.*

*Tourism Kamloops will host a dinner at a popular restaurant in Downtown Kamloops. A representative of Tourism Kamloops will meet the group in the hotel lobby.*

**Overnight in Kamloops**, courtesy of Rocky Mountaineer.

**August 19:**

### **En route to Vancouver**

*Your journey continues west along the Thompson River through Canada's desert belt. Pass through the rock sheds of Avalanche Alley and watch out for the two distinct colours of water merging at the meeting of the mighty Thompson and Fraser Rivers. Through the Fraser Canyon marvel at the water's force raging in Hell's Gate, the narrowest point of the Fraser River, before reaching the tranquillity of the Fraser Valley's rich farmlands. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountains is Vancouver, your final destination.*

### **Ashcroft**

*Ashcroft is one of the driest places in Canada with less than 25.4 cm/ 1 inches of annual rainfall. Clement Cornwall and his brother Henry came to BC in 1862 and established a ranch here called Ashcroft Manor, named after their family home in England. Clement Cornwall became one of the province's first senators after Confederation with Canada in 1871 and the LT. Governor of BC for six years commencing in 1881. Today, Ashcroft is a large cattle ranching are.*

### **Avalanche Alley**

*Rock sheds and slide detection fences protect the CN Rail track from unstable areas above. Alongside, we see a number of old telegraph poles, which were once used to communicate with the train.*

### **Hell's Gate**

*The Canyon's most popular and renowned tourist attraction is Hell's Gate, the narrowest part of the Fraser River. As much as 909,218,000 litres/ 200 million gallons of water pound and surge each minute through a 33.53 m/110 foot wide gorge. The height of the Fraser can vary as much as 24.38/ 80 feet throughout the year at this point. It was named by Simon Fraser in 1808 because it reminded him of the "Gates of Hell." Many visitors take in the excitement of Hell's Gate by riding the Swiss built, AirTram, which ascends 152.4 m/ 500 feet to the opposite side of the gorge.*

### **Welcome to the Metropolitan City of Vancouver**

*Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountains, Vancouver is sassy, sophisticated and outdoorsy. Recognized as one of the world's most liveable cities (Economist Intelligence Unit, Mercer Human Resources Consulting), Vancouver is home to two million people who enjoy a mild climate, breathtaking scenery and a wealth of recreational activities. Visitors can enjoy all the best of world class destinations here: unique shopping and neighbourhoods, exceptional cuisine, exciting entertainment and multicultural festivals – all perched on nature's edge. [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com)*

## ***Welcome to Fairmont Hotels & Resorts in Vancouver!***

### **About the Pacific Northwest Region:**

With luxurious accommodations, regional cuisine, inviting ocean views, cultural celebrations and West Coast recreation, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts in the Pacific Northwest has an unrivalled collection that includes fabled castles and modern retreats in unrivalled settings. The three properties in downtown Vancouver include the edgy luxe **Fairmont Pacific Rim** that opened in 2010; the contemporary **Fairmont Waterfront** known for its organic rooftop garden and apiaries, and the grand railway hotel in the heart of the city, **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**. The award-winning **Fairmont Vancouver Airport** (rated #1 Airport Hotel in North America by SkyTrax), located 99 steps from US departures redefines airport accommodation, and pre or post visits can be arranged at The **Fairmont Empress**, the regal grand dame on Victoria's Inner Harbour on Vancouver Island (and world-renowned for their afternoon tea), The **Fairmont Olympic**, a celebrated historic treasure in downtown Seattle, or in Whistler at the year round resort, The **Fairmont Chateau Whistler** .

**Arrive late afternoon in Vancouver:** Take time to walk along the seawall or sit on the patio and relax.

### **Cocktails at The Lobby Lounge, Fairmont Pacific Rim**

It's the hot spot in the city! Perfect to meet or people watch from morning 'til midnight, The Lobby Lounge has a raw bar with chilled seafood towers, oysters and sashimi, as live entertainment plays six nights.

### **Dinner - Viva l'Italia - Giovane winebar seminar hosted by Sommelier, Jill Spoor**

Join us to celebrate the Italian world of wine. Executive Chef Darren Brown also pairs regional cuisine paired perfectly with each sip.

### **Overnight in Vancouver, *courtesy of Fairmont Hotels and Resorts***

#### **August 20:**

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure. At Fairmont Pacific Rim, visit Giovane – Vancouver's Italian Bakery and coffee destination for coffee utopia and freshly baked pastries, or ORU for a breakfast buffet. At Fairmont Waterfront, the Fairmont Gold Lounge provides an oasis of comfort and spectacular views!

### **Time on own to explore, or some suggestions. We would be glad to make personalized arrangements for your interests:**

- Culture buffs may want to check out the Grand Hotels Exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Museum of Anthropology at University of BC, or the Bill Reid First Nations Gallery.
- Fly to our sister property, the iconic Fairmont Empress in Victoria, via Helijet for Afternoon Tea, or continue to experience Rocky Mountaineer with a day trip to Whistler.

- Browse – and taste - Granville Island with an Edible Canada walking tour, or take a food cart tour in the downtown area.
- Experience a spa treatment at the Willow Stream spa.
- For “activists”, try the Vancouver summer tradition of the Grouse Grind, kayak and see the city from the harbour, or cycle Stanley Park (complimentary BMW bikes are available from the hotel). Or go whale watching!

**Meet at Fairmont Waterfront for Kitchen Party & Tour of Organic Rooftop Garden.** Meet Executive Chef Dana Hauser for a tour of the hotel’s organic rooftop garden and honeybee apiaries. Sip a cool honey lager ale or signature honey basil Collins (made with the hotel’s honey), be part of a demo on Ocean Wise salmon, and hear how everyone can entertain in a sustainable way in their home kitchen – while you are in hers.

**Hosted dinner** (tba) at one of Vancouver’s great restaurants.

**Overnight in Vancouver**, *courtesy of Fairmont Hotels and Resorts*

**August 21:** Check out and settle any incidentals.

#### **About Rocky Mountaineer:**

Rocky Mountaineer offers over 45 vacation packages and five unique rail routes, rich in history and natural wonders, through the Pacific Northwest and Alberta. This world-renowned, luxurious train travels by daylight through the wild beauty of Canada’s West and is considered by many as the only way to experience the majestic Canadian Rockies. Since its inception in 1990, the company has grown to become the largest privately owned passenger rail service in North America and has welcomed more than one and a half million guests from around the world. Rocky Mountaineer has received numerous international awards and accolades for service excellence. Most recently, the company received its seventh World Travel Award as, “World’s Leading Travel Experience By Train” and has been recognized by National Geographic as one of the “World’s Greatest Trips.”

During its 2013 season, Rocky Mountaineer launches Coastal Passage, a new route connecting Seattle WA and the Canadian Rockies. It signifies the company’s first rail journey to and from the United States.