

CANADA RAIL VACATIONS

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Grand Canadian Train Journey | Halifax to Vancouver

2026

Trans-Canada Itinerary

18 Days / 17 Nights Halifax to Vancouver
Not yet on sale

INTRODUCTION

Experience both VIA Rail and Rocky Mountaineer on the Grand Canadian Train Tour from Halifax to Vancouver. Beginning in Atlantic Canada, you'll explore the Bay of Fundy, Charlottetown, Montreal and more, then ride across the country aboard VIA Rail to the alpine towns of Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper in the Rockies. To personalize your trip and truly make it your own, select your choice of tours in Halifax, Charlottetown, Montreal and Banff. Choose from lighthouse tours or lobster trapping to bear and wildlife viewing or a cowboy cookout.

Itinerary at a Glance

- DAY 1** Halifax | Arrival
- DAY 2** Halifax | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions
- Option 1. Halifax Harbourfront Food Walking Tour
 - Option 2. Best of Halifax & Peggy's Cove Tour
 - Option 3. Lunenburg Express Tour with Lobster Lunch
- DAY 3** Halifax to Charlottetown | Private Transfer
- Island Drives & Anne of Green Gables Tour
- DAY 4** Charlottetown | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 2 Excursions
- Option 1. Morning Lobster Cruise
 - Option 2. Morning Charlottetown Highlights Tour

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- DAY 5** Charlottetown to Moncton| Evening Departure VIA Rail
- DAY 6** Arrive Montreal | VIA Rail
- Montreal | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
- Option 1. Montreal Half Day Sightseeing Tour
- Option 2 Walking Tour of Old Montreal
- Option 3 Beyond the Market Food Walking Tour
- Option 4. Montreal Personalised Tailor-made Excursion
- DAY 7** Montreal | Quebec City & Montmorency Falls Tour
- DAY 8** Montreal to Toronto | VIA Rail
- DAY 9** Toronto | Niagara Falls & Niagara on the Lake Tour
- DAY 10 - 12** Toronto to Jasper | VIA Rail
- DAY 13** Arrive Jasper | VIA Rail
- DAY 14** Jasper to Lake Louise Tour | with picnic lunch
- Includes Ice Explorer Ride onto the Athabasca Glacier + Glacier Skywalk
- DAY 15** Lake Louise to Banff Transfer | Coach
- DAY 16** Banff | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions
- Option 1. Discover Banff & Its Wildlife Tour + Banff Gondola
- Option 2. Banff National Park Explorer Moraine Lake & Lake Louise | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch
- Option 3. Rockies Hidden Gems Yoho & Kootenay National Parks | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch
- Option 4. Cowboy Horseback Cookout BBQ Lunch or Dinner
- Option 5. Banff Personalised Tailor-made Excursion
- DAY 17** Banff to Kamloops | Rocky Mountaineer
- DAY 18** Kamloops to Vancouver | Rocky Mountaineer



MAP

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DETAILED ITINERARY

The below itinerary reflects our recommendations for this specific trip. We also offer tailored private excursions, allowing you to personalize the itinerary to match your custom preferences.

Day 1 Halifax | Arrival

On arrival into Halifax transfer (own cost) to your hotel and spend the rest of the day exploring on your own.

Day 2 Halifax | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions

Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions.

Option 1. Halifax Harbourfront Food Walking Tour

Savor the flavors of Halifax on this delicious Harbourfront food tour! Start with fresh oysters, then stroll past the Halifax ferry terminal and Maritime Museum of the Atlantic to enjoy creamy seafood chowder. Indulge in a must-try Halifax donair before finishing with a delectable lobster roll and sweet dessert. This waterfront adventure offers iconic tastes of Halifax's culinary scene.

Option 2. Best of Halifax & Peggy's Cove Tour

Immerse in Nova Scotia's beauty with scenic Peggy's Cove Lighthouse, explore Halifax Citadel's historic alleyways, witness Halifax's vibrant landmarks, and visit iconic Titanic cemetery.

Option 3. Lunenburg Express Tour with Lobster Lunch

Discover the rich history of this 18th-century fishing village known for its colorful waterfront and shipbuilding heritage, including the famous Bluenose schooner. Enjoy a guided tour, explore local shops, and savor a delicious lobster roll lunch. This scenic coastal trip offers a perfect blend of history, culture, and fresh Atlantic seafood, all in one unforgettable day.

Day 3 Halifax to Charlottetown | Private Transfer | Island Drives & Anne of Green Gables Tour

Depart Halifax early this morning on a private transfer to Charlottetown via the Confederation Bridge. This 13 km bridge connects Cape Jourimain, New Brunswick with Borden-Carleton, Prince Edward Island and is the longest bridge in the world crossing ice-covered water. Upon arrival, connect with your Island Drives Tour and enjoy views of rolling farmland, stunning seascapes, tiny villages and bustling harbors along the Green Gables Shore.

Day 4 Charlottetown | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 2 Excursions

Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions

Option 1. Morning Lobster Cruise

Catch a buoy, haul a trap and band a claw as you learn about the world of lobster fishing on Prince Edward Island. Onboard feel the ocean breeze and watch for seabirds as Captain Mark explains the hard life of a lobster fisherman.

Option 2. Morning Charlottetown Highlights Tour

Discover the history and charm of Canada's Birthplace as you ride through the streets of Charlottetown.

Day 5 Charlottetown to Moncton | Evening Departure VIA Rail

This morning is yours to explore and relax in Charlottetown before an afternoon private transfer back over the Confederation Bridge to Moncton to board VIA Rail. From Moncton, New Brunswick journey overnight in the comfort of 'Easterly Class' through the rural communities of Quebec's south shore to Montreal, Quebec. (dinner is included today)

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Day 6 Arrive Montreal | VIA Rail*Montreal | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions*

Breakfast is included on the train this morning before your arrival into Montreal, then you can personalize your day by choosing your excursion.

Option 1. Montreal Half Day Sightseeing Tour

Enjoy a fully guided driving tour to all the "must see" areas of Montréal such as Mont Royal, Old Montréal, and the city's picturesque riverfront.

Option 2 Walking Tour of Old Montreal

Explore the winding cobblestone streets of Old Montréal on a guided walking tour.

Option 3 Beyond the Market Food Walking Tour

The city's best food tour takes you to at least 6 of your local guide's favourite eateries and watering holes.

Option 4. Personalised Tailor-made Excursion

Talk with one of our local Canada specialists to tailor your day in Montreal to your preferences. Choose from a variety of experiences, including special interest guided walking tours, guided bike tours, river cruises, or upgrade to a selection of private tours of the region. Alternatively, you can spend the day relaxing or exploring Montreal's vibrant neighborhoods, such as Old Montreal with its historic architecture, or the Plateau for local cafes and boutiques. You could also visit the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts or take a stroll through Mount Royal Park for panoramic city views, and we'll credit the cost of your excursion.

Day 7 Montreal | Quebec City & Montmorency Falls Tour

Quebec City is the heart of French Canada. Nowhere else in North America is the appearance and atmosphere of an old-world city so complete. Quebec City looks and feels very European; perhaps that is why the entire old section of the town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 8 Montreal to Toronto | VIA Rail

Today you'll ride in business class – along Canada's famed "Corridor" into Toronto. Located on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, Canada's largest city abounds with closely quartered attractions including Fort York, Little Italy and Toronto Island. Arrive Toronto mid-afternoon with the rest of the day free to explore (lunch is included today onboard VIA Rail)

Day 9 Toronto | Niagara Falls & Niagara on the Lake Tour

Travel by air-conditioned motorcoach for a breathtaking, full-day tour through the orchard-laden Niagara Peninsula to Niagara Falls, one of the great wonders of the world. Tour includes: Hornblower Niagara Falls Cruise or Journey Behind the Falls and free time in Niagara Falls.

Day 10 Toronto to Jasper | VIA Rail

This morning, check in at Toronto's Union Station and board VIA Rail's 'Canadian' for the train journey across the prairies to the Canadian Rockies. Travel in restored stainless steel 'streamliner' railcars from the 1950s, now equipped with air conditioning, a café car, lounge car, and access to the dome car. The journey begins in downtown Toronto with views of the CN Tower and the skyline. As you continue, the landscape shifts from city views to diverse natural scenery. Depending on the season, see lush greenery, autumn colors, or snow-covered landscapes. Pass through Georgian Bay and the Canadian Shield, with its rock formations, lakes, and forests, and keep an eye out for possible wildlife sightings such as deer, moose, and birds. (brunch & dinner included)

Day 11 On-board VIA Rail

Awaken to the vast wilderness of Northern Ontario, with its dense forests and pristine lakes providing a spectacular start to your morning. As the train glides through the Canadian Shield, one of Earth's oldest geological formations, be enthralled by the sight of rugged, rocky terrains interspersed with verdant forests.

The route takes you through Ontario's famed lake country, where a myriad of lakes offer tranquil and picturesque views, especially enchanting during the golden hours of sunrise and sunset. As the train nears Manitoba, watch as the scenery transforms into vast, open prairies, a stark contrast to the dense forests you've passed. This transition beautifully illustrates Canada's varied geography. (breakfast, lunch & dinner included)

Day 12 On-board VIA Rail

Awake this morning for a breathtaking journey across the Canadian Prairies, an expanse where the vastness of the sky meets the endless horizon. Traverse through rolling hills and boundless fields of wheat, canola, and barley, weaving a vibrant tapestry of colors that shift with the seasons. This journey not only showcases the natural beauty but also highlights the economic vitality of the Prairies, rooted in agriculture and energy industries. (breakfast, lunch & dinner included)

Day 13 Arrive Jasper | VIA Rail

As dawn breaks, your train arrives in Jasper, nestled in the heart of Jasper National Park. Surrounded by pristine wilderness, this charming town is a gateway to breathtaking landscapes, abundant wildlife, and endless outdoor adventures, offering an immersive experience in one of Canada's most stunning natural settings. Step off the "Canadian" train and take a deep breath – you're here in the Canadian Rockies and the crisp mountain air is invigorating. After an orientation of this scenic mountain town, we will take you to your hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

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Day 14 Jasper to Lake Louise Tour | Glacier Adventure, Skywalk & picnic lunch

Your sightseeing tour today will encompass the ultimate glacier exploration as you travel along the spectacular Icefields Parkway. From walking on ancient ice with the Ice Explorer ride (included), to standing on a glass platform almost one thousand feet in the air at the Glacier Skywalk (included), today's experiences will leave you with a special appreciation for this treasured region of the Rockies. (Picnic lunch included today)

Day 15 Lake Louise to Banff Transfer | Coach

Start your day with a leisurely morning exploring the stunning beauty of Lake Louise. With either a mid or late afternoon transfer to Banff, you have the flexibility to canoe on the lake, hike to the Glacier Teahouse, or indulge in afternoon tea at the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise before departing for the 45-minute journey along the breathtaking Bow Valley Parkway. Whether you choose the scheduled transfer (included) or a private transfer, both options allow you to customize your time between these two stunning destinations.

Day 16 Banff | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions

Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions.

Option 1. Discover Banff & Its Wildlife Tour + Banff Gondola

Discover Banff's natural wonders on this half-day, small-group tour. Marvel at sights like Bow Falls, Hoodoos rock formation, and Lake Minnewanka. Conclude your exploration with a relaxing gondola ride to Sulphur Mountain's peak, maximizing your views of Banff National Park effortlessly. Enjoy the enchanting beauty of these landmarks with minimum exertion.

Option 2. Banff National Park Explorer Moraine Lake & Lake Louise | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch

Join this small group tour for a curated experience of Banff National Park's highlights, with the added chance to spot wildlife through expert local guidance. Enjoy unhindered access to Moraine Lake & Lake Louise, spending over 1 1/2 hours at each, discovering hidden gems and serene trails. The final phase of the tour is tailor-made in Banff by your guide, considering recent wildlife sightings and your interests, ensuring the day concludes on a high note.

Option 3. Rockies Hidden Gems Yoho & Kootenay National Parks | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch

Avoid the crowds with this full-day adventure in the Kootenay and Yoho National Parks, featuring picturesque waterfalls and Canadian Rockies views. Start with a relaxing stroll in Kootenay National Park's Marble Canyon, marveling at turquoise glacial waters and striking canyon walls. Enjoy Emerald Lake's neon blue waters, where optional canoe rentals, hiking trails, and lakeside picnics are available. The day concludes with a visit to Canada's 2nd tallest waterfall, Takakkaw Falls, accessible through backroads offering mountain vistas and wildlife sightings.

Option 4. Cowboy Horseback Cookout BBQ Lunch or Dinner

Saddle up for a ride along the Bow River in Banff and a Western style cookout. Choose from riding on horseback or in a covered wagon through the beautiful Rocky Mountain terrain.

Option 5. Personalised Tailor-made Excursion

Talk with one of our local Canada specialists to tailor your day in Banff to your preferences. Choose from a variety of experiences, including guided hikes, evening wildlife e-bike tours, river explorer canoe tours, a foodie tour at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, or upgrade to a selection of private tours of the region. Alternatively, you can spend the day relaxing and enjoying the fresh mountain air, and we'll credit the cost of your excursion.

Day 17 Banff to Kamloops | Rocky Mountaineer

All aboard Rocky Mountaineer for the scenic rail journey to Kamloops in the interior of British Columbia. As the train crosses over the continental divide, you pass through the spiral tunnels in Yoho National Park, a remarkable engineering achievement. Continue on through the Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park with endless views of snow-capped mountains and stunning glaciers. Pass by Craigellachie, where the last spike was driven completing the Canadian Pacific Railway Trans Canada link in 1885. (breakfast & lunch is included today)

Day 18 Kamloops to Vancouver | Rocky Mountaineer

Re-board the train and follow the Thompson River through Ashcroft - one of Canada's driest towns (with an average rainfall of just 18 centimetres). Pass through Rainbow Canyon with its cliffs striped with pinks, greens and greys creating a stunning effect. The last leg of the journey takes you through the lush farming region of the Fraser Valley to arrive in the Pacific port of Vancouver late afternoon. (breakfast & lunch is included today)

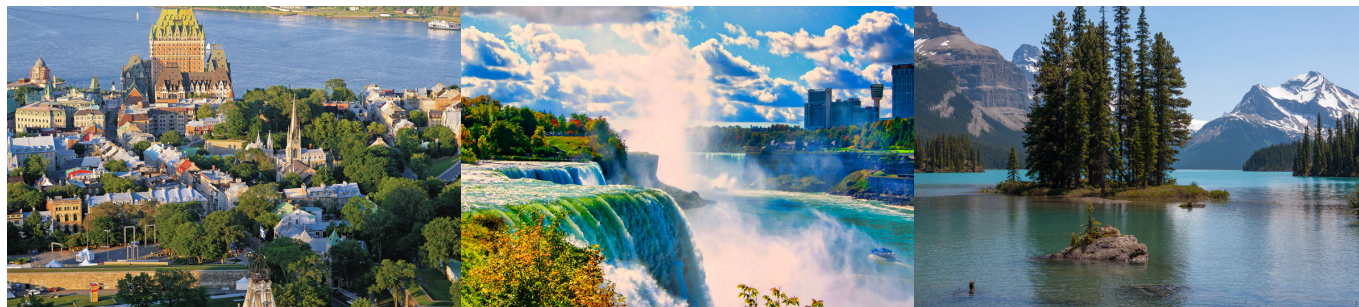
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INCLUDED

Package Includes:

- 2 nights accommodation in Halifax
- 2 nights accommodation in Charlottetown
- 2 nights accommodation in Montreal
- 2 nights accommodation in Toronto
- 1 night accommodation in Jasper
- 1 night accommodation in Lake Louise
- 2 nights accommodation in Banff
- 1 night accommodation in Kamloops provided by Rocky Mountaineer
- VIA Rail onboard accommodation for 4 nights
- Halifax | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions
- Halifax Harbourfront Food Walking Tour
- Best of Halifax & Peggy's Cove Tour
- Lunenburg Express Tour with Lobster Lunch
- Private Transfers between Halifax & Charlottetown
- Island Drive & Anne of Green Gables Tour
- Charlottetown | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 2 Excursions
- Lobster Cruise
- Charlottetown Highlights Tour
- Private Transfers between Charlottetown & Moncton
- Montreal | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
- Montreal Half Day Sightseeing Tour
- Walking Tour of Old Montreal
- Beyond the Market Food Walking Tour (operates Thu - Mon)
- Personalised Tailor-made Excursion
- Full Day Quebec City & Montmorency Falls tour
- Business class rail travel Montreal to Toronto (lunch included)
- Niagara Falls & Niagara on the Lake Tour
- Meet & Greet Jasper with Orientation of Town
- Full day tour between Jasper and Lake Louise with picnic lunch included
- Ice Explorer ride onto Athabasca Glacier + Glacier Skywalk
- Scheduled transfer between Lake Louise and Banff

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- Banff | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions
- Discover Banff & Its Wildlife Tour + Banff Gondola
- Banff National Park Explorer Moraine Lake & Lake Louise | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch
- Rockies Hidden Gems Yoho & Kootenay National Parks | Small Group Tour with Picnic Lunch
- Cowboy Horseback Cookout BBQ Lunch or Dinner
- Personalised Tailor-made Excursion
- Transfer between hotel and rail station in Banff
- Meals as per Itinerary
- National Park fees

Hotel & Rail Information | Moderate Grade

- Halifax – The Barrington Hotel | Guest Room
- Charlottetown - The Great George | Classic Room Breakfast included
- Moncton to Montreal - VIA Rail | Sleeper Plus Private Bedroom
- Montreal – Alt Montreal | Standard Room
- Toronto – Chelsea Hotel | Chelsea Room
- Toronto to Jasper - VIA Rail | Upper/Lower Semi Private Bedroom
- Jasper - Moderate Hotel | Standard Room
- Lake Louise - Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise | Fairmont Room
- Banff - Elk+Avenue Hotel | Standard Room
- Rocky Mountaineer & Kamloops Hotel | SilverLeaf Service

Hotel & Rail Information | Superior Grade

- Halifax – Hotel Halifax | Guest Room Harbour View
- Charlottetown - The Great George | Classic Room Breakfast Included
- Moncton to Montreal - VIA Rail | Sleeper Plus Private Bedroom
- Montreal - Le Germain Hotel | Prestige Room
- Toronto - Le Germain Hotel | Signature Room
- Toronto to Jasper - VIA Rail | Private Cabin
- Jasper - Forest Park Hotel | Woodland Balcony / Alpine Standard
- Lake Louise - Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise | Fairmont Room
- Banff - Banff Caribou Lodge | Superior Room
- Rocky Mountaineer & Kamloops Hotel | SilverLeaf Service

Hotel & Rail Information | Deluxe Grade

- Halifax - The Sutton Place Hotel | Sutton Room
- Charlottetown - The Great George | Classic Room
- Moncton to Montreal - VIA Rail | Sleeper Plus Private Bedroom
- Montreal - Fairmont Queen Elizabeth | Fairmont View Room
- Toronto – Fairmont Royal York Hotel | Fairmont Luxury Room
- Toronto to Jasper - VIA Rail | Private Cabin
- Jasper - Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Deluxe Room
- Lake Louise - Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise | Deluxe Mount Temple
- Banff - Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel | Deluxe Room
- Rocky Mountaineer & Kamloops Hotel | GoldLeaf Service

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Not Included

- Gratuities
- Activities other than specified
- Meals other than specified
- Portage fees

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