

WorldSkills Australia Post Competition Tour

07 September to 17 September 2009

Day 1 **Monday 07 September**
Calgary/Banff (B)

Breakfast is included at your hotel

Following the Trans-Canada Highway, watch the Olympic city dissolve into the Foothills, as the majestic Rockies rise ahead. Pass by the Three Sisters, Fairholme and Rundle Ranges en-route to one of the best know destinations in the Rockies- The charming mountain resort townsite of Banff, a thriving, four season resort of wood and stone, with activities all year round. Today's sightseeing will highlight many local delights including Bow Falls, the Hoodoo Lookout, Lake Minnewanka and Surprise corner. After a short gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain enjoy a 360 degree panorama of a sea of mountain ranges, valleys, lakes and bird's eye view of the Banff townsite, 770 meters below. Visitors can stroll along the length of the mountain on a boardwalk to Sanson's Peak. It was at the base of this mountain in 1883 that CPR workers found the hot springs that led to the creation of the park

Overnight at Banff International Hotel.

Day 2 **Tuesday 08 September**
Banff to Lake Louise (B/L/D)

This is a great tour for anyone who simply appreciates spectacular mountain scenery. Journey along the Bow Valley Parkway to Johnston Canyon where time is available to enjoy a short nature walk to the lower falls. Views of Castle Mountain prevail as you continue touring along the Parkway toward Lake Louise. En-route stop off at a photographers dream Moraine Lake. Located in the dramatic Valley of the Ten Peaks, this setting is one of the finest in the Rockies. Enjoy your lunch at Moraine Lake Lodge. After lunch your tour continues on to cross the Great Divide and enter Yoho National Park. Within Yoho visit such sights as The Spiral Tunnels, Takakkaw Falls, Kicking Horse Pass, Emerald Lake and the Natural Rock Bridge that spans the Kicking Horse River. Retrace your journey to Lake Louise, often known as the "Jewel of the Canadian Rockies". With the Chateau Lake Louise proudly standing at one end and the Victoria Glacier reflecting off the other, Lake Louise is one of the sights most often preserved in photos by visitors the world over.

Dinner and overnight at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.



Day 3 **Wednesday 9 September**

Lake Louise to Jasper (B)

Rushing waterfalls, crystal-clear rivers and emerald lakes await you on your journey today. Alpine meadows, snow-capped mountains, glaciers and broad-reaching valleys create an ever-changing montage of mountain wilderness along the Icefield Parkway. From Banff to Jasper, this tour guides you along one of the most scenic highways in the world. At the Columbia Icefield take this opportunity to tour onto the surface of Athabasca Glacier on board one of Brewster's environmentally-friendly Ice Explorers. Enroute, opportunities to photograph the spectacular views at stops near the Crowfoot Glacier and Peyto Lake, if accessible. While at Columbia Icefield a digital group photo will be taken with the magnificent Athabasca Glacier in the background.

After visiting the Glacier, continue northward to Athabasca Falls and the peaceful Mountain town site of Jasper.

Overnight Chateau Jasper.

Day 4 **Thursday 10 September**

Jasper to Kamloops onboard the Rocky Mountaineer Redleaf Service (B/L/D)

You will be transferred from your hotel to Jasper train station

Board Rocky Mountain Rail Tour's "Rocky Mountaineer" Redleaf service...often called the most spectacular train trip in the world. Sit back and relax as you tour from Jasper to Vancouver. Discover the unspoiled wilderness and the majestic Rocky Mountain beauty from the comfort of this daylight train's coach compartments. Pass through the Canadian Rockies catch a glimpse of Mt Robson, the highest peak in the Rockies. Views of waterfalls and glaciers abound. Tour through the rolling plateaus of British Columbia interior and follow the Thompson River to Kamloops where you spend the night.

*Continental Breakfast, lunch and snacks are included on board.
Tonight enjoy Dinner and a show at Accommodation in Kamloops.*

Day 5 **Friday 11 September**

Kamloops to Vancouver Onboard Rocky Mountaineer (B/L)

An early morning transfer brings you back to the Kamloops railway station for the continuation of your rail tour. Continental breakfast, lunch and snacks are included on board. Follow the Fraser River through Hell's Gate and Fraser Canyon, into the Coastal Mountains. Arriving Vancouver late afternoon.

Upon arrival you will be met and a transfer arranged to your hotel.

*Best Western Sands by the Sea.
Dinner own arrangements.*



Day 6

Saturday 12 September

Vancouver to Victoria (B)

Discover Vancouver Island today, the amazing scenery of the Strait of Georgia will not soon be forgotten. Arrive in Nanaimo the Bathtub Race Capital, and follow the scenic Malahat Highway to Chemainus, world famous for its outdoor murals. Welcome to Chemainus a seaside jewel, nostalgic and delightful. Stroll by the world famous outdoor gallery of murals and sculptures revealing the history of the culturally-rich area. Artistic treasures in boutiques and antique shops await your discovery. Continuing on pass through Duncan, known for its variety of Totem Poles. Your destination for the day is the quaint city of gardens and British Columbia's provincial capital Victoria. Originally Fort Victoria, Victoria was the first European settlement on Vancouver Island and is the oldest city on Canada's west coast. It was chosen in 1843 by James Douglas to be the Hudson's Bay Company's westernmost outpost, and it became the capital of British Columbia in 1968. This city 71km south of Vancouver and two and half hours from Seattle by high-speed ferry, has since evolved walkable livable seaside town of gardens, waterfront walks and restored 19th century architecture. It is often called the most British city in Canada. These days, except for the odd red phone box, good beer, and well mannered drives, this very Canadian town is working to shed its tea cozy image and preferring to celebrate its combined native, Asian and European heritage.

Overnight at the Executive House Hotel.

Day 7

Sunday 13 September

Victoria Sightseeing and at Leisure (B)

Victoria has been the capital of British Columbia since the late 1800's and today it still looks every inch the British Empire outpost it once was. Today we invite you to enjoy the sights of this charming Garden City, lovely homes handsome 19th century stone buildings, vibrant gardens and many points of historical interest. Tour City centre Chinatown, Antique Row as well as experiencing the truly English flavor of the Rockland area. Visit the World famous Butchart Gardens. With over 50 acres of gardens including the fragrant Rose Garden the relaxing Japanese Garden the unique Sunken Garden, the Italian Garden, the Concert Lawn and Ross fountain just to name a few. A visit to Butchart Gardens is a treat for all your senses. After your tour, return to your hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at the Executive House Hotel.

Day 8

Monday 14 September

Victoria to Vancouver (B)

Travel to Swartz Bay where you will board a BC Ferries vessel bound for a relaxing voyage through The Gulf Islands-renowned for their picturesque landscapes and seascapes and particularly for their Rustic character. Your BC Ferry departs the terminal from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen for the 90 minute cruise through the Gulf Islands and cross the Strait of Georgia. Occasionally, killer whales can be seen from the ships deck. Upon arrival at



Includes

- Experienced Tour Manager
- 9 Nights accommodation (*Accommodation is subject to change*)
- 9 breakfasts
- 3 Lunches
- 2 Dinners
- Transportation and Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Attractions:-
 - Banff Gondola, Brewster Glacier experience, BC Ferries, Butchart Gardens
 - Luggage Handling and Gratuities :- 2 suitcases, Maid gratuities and meal gratuities
 - Fees:- National Park Fees, Vancouver City Fees
 - Taxes :- All applicable taxes, including the FGS Tax.

Not Included

- Insurance
- Any items of a personal nature
- Driver/Local Guide gratuities
- Rocky Mountaineer Gratuities

Contact Details

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