

Abercrombie & Kent



CANADIAN ROCKIES ADVENTURE

Twinkling glaciers, turquoise lakes and snow-crowned peaks — welcome to the scenic splendour of the Rockies.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



North America, Canada



9 days from AU\$22,265 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Twinkling glaciers, turquoise lakes and snow-crueted peaks — welcome to the scenic splendour of the Rockies. Whether hiking across Athabasca Glacier or learning techniques for survival on an Indigenous Medicine Walk, immerse yourself in an active adventure like no other as you explore UNESCO-listed national parks: Yoho, Jasper and Banff, and wind your way through sweeping valleys and rocky gorges on the famous Highway 93. Along the way come face to face with diverse wildlife, including bear, moose, elk, and more, and stay in alpine chateaux that meld perfectly with the surrounding wilderness.

Journey highlights:

- Don ice spikes for a hike across the surface of Athabasca Glacier, accompanied by a professional mountain guide
- Drive the scenic Icefields Parkway (Highway 93), one of the most stunning drives on the planet, stopping along the way at sites chosen to reflect your interests
- Learn techniques for survival on a private, First Nations Medicine Walk
- Fly by helicopter to a specially chosen spot in Cougar Canyon for a hiking adventure tailored to your interests and fitness level
- Explore the town of Banff, visiting historic sites, natural wonders, or a mix of both according to your preference
- Stay at luxury lodges and alpine chateaux which meld perfectly with the surrounding wilderness, each with activities for further exploration



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Calgary - Lake Louise

Arrive in Calgary and meet your A&K representative who will drive you to Banff National Park. Depending on your arrival time, explore the sites en route and then settle into your accommodation at Lake Louise. The iconic chateau sits on the shores of the turquoise lake, surrounded by mountain peaks, looking out over Victoria Glacier. If time allows, stretch your legs along the lakeshore.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Day 2: Lake Louise - Moraine Lake - 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.

Finish the day with a visit to Yoho National Park where glaciers and waterfalls cling to colossal peaks. Experience a quieter side of the Rockies 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 Chateau Lake Louise / Meals: BL

Day 3: Lake Louise - Jasper National Park, via Icefields Parkway

Experience one of the most iconic and stunning drives in the world: the Icefields Parkway. Lined with ridges, waterfalls, lakes and glaciers, this 230 km journey traverses the heart of the Canadian Rockies and has racked up a whole slew of accolades including 'one of the top drives in the world' by Condé Nast Traveller. Expect beauty on an epic scale as you wind your way through vast sweeping valleys, rocky gorges and breathtaking forests into the remote wilderness.

Stop at the Columbia Icefields en route and don a set of ice spikes to walk along the Athabasca Glacier with a professional mountain guide. Get up close to deep crevasses, cascading waterfalls and other glacial features, hang onto your camera and soak up the splendour.

Arrive at your luxury lodge in Jasper on the banks of the Athabasca River, where you can relax on the patio as the sun sets behind Lac Beauvert.

Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Meals: BL

Day 4: Jasper National Park

The chance to observe wild animals as they go about their lives is one of the most magical experiences of Jasper National Park. Set out early this morning with your private naturalist in jeep and on foot, in search of diverse wildlife, including bear, moose, mountain goat, wolverine, caribou, mountain lion, elk, bighorn sheep and more. The morning light provides a warm ambience to capture photos, and your guide will use their expertise to select the best route based on seasonal wildlife movements.

Continue to Maligne Canyon, where churning water, waterfalls, and underground stream outlets thunder below. Cross a series of bridges for the best vantage into the 50 m depths, and finish at Maligne Lake, the second largest glacially fed lake in the world, where you can stretch your legs and watch for wildlife foraging along the shores.

Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Meals: BL

Day 5: Jasper National Park

Set out on a private backcountry hike (moderate) up one of Jasper's peaks with your local wilderness guide, identifying and picking edible plants and mushrooms as you go. Having worked up an appetite, enjoy an authentic backcountry cooking lesson, and then feast on your fare in a beautiful alpine setting.

This afternoon, explore the town of Jasper at your leisure. Stroll through quaint streets, wander into Indigenous art galleries, browse boutiques and hang out in comfy brew pubs.

Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Meals: BL

Day 6: Jasper - Banff

Jump back onto the Icefield Parkway and head south. The return journey to Banff provides a whole new perspective. Stop along the way and explore more iconic sights such as the Athabasca River and the Athabasca Falls. Feel the spray on your skin as they plunge into the canyon 24 metres below.

Arrive at Banff town, nestled in the heart of the national park. The rest of your day is at leisure: ride the Banff Gondola for thrilling views of the area's jewel-coloured lakes, mountains and rivers, then settle into your accommodation, locally known as Canada's 'Castle in the Rockies'.

Fairmont Banff Springs | Meals: BL

Day 7: Banff National Park

Set out on an inspiring First Nations Medicine Walk. Stroll through mountain meadows and Banff National Park with an Indigenous guide who points out key plants and trees traditionally used for healing, food or starting a fire. This experience invites you to open your heart to the landscape in a more conscious way, with an opportunity to appreciate the sophisticated, ancient knowledge of the area's First Peoples.

Spend the rest of the day uncovering the highlights of Banff resort town with a local guide. Tailored to your interests, the tour may include the historic Cave and Basin, with its ranger-led biodiversity experience, the Whyte Museum, home to a million mountain stories, and more. There are several other galleries, heritage spaces and exhibits you can explore to learn more about the arts, culture and history of this enchanting town.

Fairmont Banff Springs | Meals: B

Day 8: Banff National Park

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.

This afternoon is yours to enjoy Banff in any way that suits you. Perhaps take time to appreciate the town setting and boutiques, wander the lively streets and soak in the views, sample the downtown food scene, or pamper yourself at the Fairmont Willow Stream Spa.

Fairmont Banff Springs | Meals: BL

Day 9: Depart Calgary

Meet your A&K representative and transfer back to Calgary for your departing flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise



The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise appears in thousands of visitors' photographs each year with its signature location on the shores of this dazzling lake - only a 90 minute drive from Calgary, along the famous Sea to Sky highway, one of the most picturesque drives in North America. Or if you fancy arriving in style then we can arrange a helicopter transfer - the views are magnificent.

Once at the hotel we recommend the Deluxe Lake View Room or the Gold Rooms. There is nothing better than relaxing in bed sipping a glass of champagne as you take in the amazing view of the Victoria Glacier. Fairmont Chateau is a hotel with two distinct seasons: a cold winter full of snow, and a warm summer with clear blue skies, melting the ice to reveal picturesque scenery and places to explore by foot or bike. One of North America's top ski resort destinations, a stay here will be a highlight of your journey to this beautiful part of the world.

Why we like it

- A year round resort destination
- The rooms form a 'village' of chalets and original log cabins
- Make sure you take a cruise on Lac Beauvert
- Visitors can compare whether the lodge or the Fairmont Banff Springs has the best golf

- course in Canada. A source of much debate
- Lake front location perfect for an afternoon picnic

Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge



Apparently the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge was set up as something of a rival to the Banff Springs. Now both hotels are part of the Fairmont Group many guests stay in both to experience their history and luxury. The lodge is 'cabin style' and serves as a jumping off point for the countless outdoor activities in the nearby area. The views from the lodge are stunning, so much so the area has been protected with UNESCO World Heritage status.

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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

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