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West Canada, Alaskan Highway, The Klondike Highway, Yukon Territory & Inside Passage Adventure

Friday 19th August - Friday 16th September 2022 (29 days)

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS NOT YOUR NORMAL CANADA ALASKA TOUR!

*This tour has been painstakingly designed especially for our clientele utilising plane, train, coach and ship over the full tour. The Alaskan (or Alcan) Highway by coach is just something spectacular and rarely done these days by international tourist groups. We kick off from home and fly to **Vancouver** to start our adventure by travelling west to east in southern **British Columbia**. Our tour takes us up through the western side of **Alberta** (Eastern side of the Rocky Mountains), before crossing back into the north east of British Columbia, on up through the heart of the **Yukon Territory** then via the **Klondike Highway** across the border to **Alaska** in the USA. Here we travel into the central south-western side of Alaska getting the real feel of this amazing area and the locals who live here, before joining a relaxing **7 night Inside Passage Cruise** back to Vancouver!*

DAY 1: FRI 19 AUG ROCKHAMPTON TO VANCOUVER (Meals in Flight) & (D)

Depart Rockhampton early this morning by flight to Brisbane where we connect to our Air Canada Flight. From Brisbane we depart on a 13 ½ hour flight to arrive **Vancouver** in the morning on the same date. Welcome to Canada! Upon arrival at Vancouver Intl Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure to catch up on sleep or have a wander on your own. Enjoy a welcome dinner at Joes Seafood & Chophouse Restaurant

Metropolitan Hotel – 3 nights

DAY 2: SAT 20 AUG DAY TRIP TO WHISTLER (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Today we start our adventure in **British Columbia** when we board a coach to **Whistler** with an English-speaking local Tour Guide. Travel along the scenic **Sea to Sky Highway** with stunning views of **Howe Sound** and the **Tantalus Mountain Range**. En route, the group may wish to stop at **Shannon** or **Brandywine Falls**. Upon arrival in Whistler there is free time to experience the spectacular **Peak to Peak Gondola ride** (not included), explore the shops in the pedestrian village, enjoy lunch at top the mountain or hike one of the stunning nature trails. Return to the hotel in Vancouver in late afternoon.

Metropolitan Hotel

DAY 3: SUN 21 AUG DAY TOUR OF VANCOUVER (B)

After Breakfast, board the chartered motorcoach to begin today's **City Highlights & Granville Island Tour** which starts with an intro to downtown Vancouver including Canada Place and Robson Street. Wind through historic and modern architectural wonders en route to **Stanley Park** - a 1,000-acre natural oasis - surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. View the **First Nations Totem Poles** and gaze upon rainforest and shoreline scenery on the way through the park. Get the camera ready for a photo stop at **Prospect Point** with a great view

of **Lions Gate Bridge**. Continue to the **English Bay** beach area, followed by the eclectic **Granville Island Market**. Granville Island is Canada's second most-visited destination, behind Niagara Falls, and Vancouver's destination for lovers of food, art and culture. During the tour guests can eat their way through the world famous Public Market and hear the intriguing stories, culture and history behind the tasty creations. Tour highlights include: locally-cured meats, small production local cheeses and freshly-baked artisan bread. Touring the **Granville Island Public Market** is one of the most authentic ways to experience Vancouver. Top off this adventure with a glass elevator ride 169 metres above the streets at the **Vancouver Lookout**, for views of the ocean, the Coastal Mountains, the city and rugged shoreline. Drop off back at the hotel.

Metropolitan Hotel

DAY 4: MON 22 AUG VANCOUVER - KAMLOOPS (BL)

Transfer from our hotel to **Rocky Mountaineer** Train Station. We commence our 2 day/1 night "**First Passage to the West**". Travelling "**Gold Leaf**" on today's journey you will see dramatic changes in scenery from the lush green fields of the **Fraser Valley**, through forests and winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and **Cascade Mountains**, to the desert like environment of the **British Columbia** interior. Enjoy breakfast and lunch on board with unlimited beverages and snacks. Upon arrival at the RMR Rail Station in **Kamloops**, you will be transferred to your hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Dinner at own cost.

Hotel TBA by RMR

Gold Leaf features: • *Unparalleled panoramic views from your custom-designed bi-level dome coach* • *Indulge in delectable gourmet hot breakfasts and lunches from a la carte menu, served in the exclusive Gold leaf dining room* • *Complementary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and savoury gourmet snacks while listening to storytelling from your Rocky Mountaineer Hosts* • *Invigorate your senses in the fresh mountain air covered vestibule as you take countless photos of the scenery* • *Start your rail journey with a morning toast* • *Overnight accommodation in Kamloops with luggage delivered to your hotel*

DAY 5: TUE 23 AUG KAMLOOPS - BANFF (BL)

This morning our "**Gold Leaf**" journey continues to the mighty **Canadian Rockies**. You will see a spectacular array of scenery as you travel along rocky lakeshores, over high mountain passes and through the remarkable tunnels that form part of the rich rail history of the Canadian Rockies. Today we also cross the border from **British Columbia into Alberta** for the next section of our Canada adventure where we arrive at **Banff**. Here you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Evening at leisure! Dinner wherever takes your fancy.

Ptarmigan Inn – 2 nights

DAY 6: WED 24 AUG BANFF (B)

Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. Today enjoy a morning tour of Banff in our coach with driver providing narration to see, amongst others, historic **Cave & Basin**, **Banff Upper Hot Springs** where the town of Banff started, **the Hoodoos**, **Surprise Corner**, **Lake Minnewanka and Tunnel Mountain Drive**. The tour includes the Banff **Gondola ride** high up **Sulphur Mountain** for a short walk to the adjacent peak. The scenery of **Bow Valley**, Banff and the surrounding peaks of the Rockies is breathtaking.

Ptarmigan Inn

DAY 7: THU 25 AUG BANFF - JASPER (B)

Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. Leaving Banff behind we travel to **Jasper** on one of the most spectacular highways in North America. **The Ice Field Parkway** is highlighted by occasional wildlife sightings, towering mountain peaks, tranquil lakes and cascading waterfalls. Time permitting, stops will be made at **Lake Louise, Bow and Peyto Lakes and also Sunwapta and Athabasca Falls**. Continue to the **Columbia Icefield** where we shuttle to the **Athabasca Glacier** There you will board a unique, specially designed Ice Explorer for a guided tour onto the surface of the glacier - a true Ice Age adventure! Followed by the **Glacier Skywalk** which consists of a 500 metre interpretive boardwalk and a glass-floored observation platform extending 30 metres out over the **Sunwapta Valley**, Glacier Skywalk offers spectacular scenery and a rare view of nature. Anyone of any age and any activity level can immerse themselves in nature in a way that makes them feel truly overwhelmed by their surroundings and their unique vantage point!

Chateau Jasper – 2 nights

MAY 8: FRI 26 AUG JASPER (BD)

Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Jasper and its surroundings with our driver providing commentary. Travel to **Maligne Canyon** for a walk alongside the gorge and across the bridges to **Medicine Lake**. Finally, we board a boat for a 90-minute fully narrated cruise along **Maligne Lake**, the **largest glacially fed lake** in the Canadian Rockies, being part of the UNESCO-listed Jasper National Park. Visit **Spirit Island**, accessible only by boat and admire views of imposing granite peaks, vibrant blue water and ancient forests. Keep your camera close and your senses alert as you scan the area for the eagles, bears and deer that call this area home. Expert and amateur photographers alike will relish in the opportunities to capture the alpine scenery. Dinner included this evening at your hotel.

Chateau Jasper

DAY 9: SAT 27 AUG JASPER – GRAND PRAIRIE (BD)

After an early full breakfast at the hotel we head off on our amazing scenic journey from Jasper to Grand Prairie, a city in the **North West of Alberta** in a region known as the **Peace River Country**. Travel east then, via small towns such as Hinton, Edson, Whitecourt, Fox Creek and Valleyview. Dinner tonight at the **Keg Steakhouse Restaurant**

Sandman Hotel

DAY 10: SUN 28 AUG GRAND PRAIRIE – FORT NELSON (B)

Enjoy an early, full breakfast at the hotel before we get on the road for one of our biggest days on tour enjoying an epic scenic journey from **Grand Prairie** through **Dawson Creek** (the actual start of the famous historic **Alaskan Highway** built by the American Army in WW2) to **Fort Nelson** today. We also get to see one of the last remnants of the original highway at **Mile 20- the Kiskatinaw Bridge** - (the longest curved wooden bridge in North America. We have a time change of 1 hour today and again we will liaise with the driver on best stops as we go.

The Lakeview Inn – 1 night

DAY 11: MON 29 AUG FORT NELSON – WATSON LAKE (B)

Following a full breakfast at the hotel we board our coach to enjoy a scenic journey from Fort Nelson through **Fort St John, Pink Mountain, Buckinghorse River and Prophet River** to the “**Signpost Forest**” village of **Watson Lake**, just over the border in **Yukon Territory**.

Andrea’s Hotel - Night

DAY 12: TUE 30 AUG WATSON LAKE - WHITEHORSE (B)

Again, enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel before we head west crossing the border of BC & the Yukon a couple of times on our coach journey from Watson Lake. We pass through **Swift River, Teslin and Jakes Corner** to our next overnigher at **Whitehorse**. On the banks of the famous **Yukon River**, Whitehorse is the capital of the Yukon Territories and called **Canada's Wilderness City** - you will understand why once you have been there.

Best Western Gold Rush Inn – 1 night

DAY 13: WED 31 AUG WHITEHORSE – DAWSON CITY (BD)

Today we leave the Alaskan Highway and travel north on the **Klondike Highway**. We follow the Yukon River until we reach **Dawson City**, best known for the world-famous **Klondike Gold Rush**. It is also known as the wildest little town in the Yukon, where people still dig for gold and where the Klondike flows into the Yukon River.

On arrival you will feel like you've just landed in a different century. Dinner included this evening at the hotel.

Downtown Hotel – 2 Nights

DAY 14: THU 01 SEPT TOMBSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK (BD)

Today we visit **Tombstone Territorial Park**. The park protects over 2100 square kilometers of rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and wildlife, including sections of the **Blackstone Uplands** and the **Ogilvie Mountains**. The Park is named for Tombstone Mountain's resemblance to a **grave marker**. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Dinner has been arranged at a local restaurant.

Downtown Hotel

DAY 15: FRI 02 SEPT DAWSON CITY - TOK (BD)

This morning we depart Dawson City and head west to cross the border into **the USA** before deviating south through the quirky town of **Chicken**, to Tok. During your trip you will cross the mighty **Yukon River** by ferry to gain access to the **Taylor and Top of the World Highways**. **Tok** is commonly known as the "**Gateway to Alaska**," and famous for its dog sled racing. It is a small rural village found deep in Alaska's interior and an important distribution hub for the numerous small communities that dot the Interior. Tok took its name from the **Athabaskan Indians** who used to gather there. The rest of the day is at your leisure and dinner has been arranged at a local restaurant.

Overnight Tok: Three Bears Tok Motel

DAY 16: SAT 03 SEPT TOK - FAIRBANKS (B)

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel this morning before departing on the **Alaska Highway** to **Fairbanks**. Commonly referred to as the "**Gateway to the Arctic**", Fairbanks has the widest temperature spread of any city on earth, from **- 55C in the winter, to +38C in the summer**. There are no activities planned for the remainder of the day, so you have free time to explore **Alaska's second largest city**.

Fairbanks TBA – 2 nights

DAY 17: SUN 04 SEPT FAIRBANKS (BLD)

A full day in Fairbanks gives you time to get a feel for the unique culture and history of the region. We travel the **Chena & Tanana River** on the only **authentic sternwheeler riverboat** operating in Alaska followed by a fun filled adventure aboard the Tanana Valley Railroad as we ride into gold mining history. We then enjoy a Gold Dredge 8 tour with the chance to pan for your own gold. A hearty miner's lunch is included. Your evening is at leisure.

Fairbanks TBA

DAY 18: MON 05 SEPT FAIRBANKS TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK (BD)

After breakfast we join our motor coach for a scenic journey to **Denali National Park** and the chance to check out the deck and vistas of the **Nenana River Canyon** before checking in to our accommodation for the next couple of nights.

Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge – 2 nights

DAY 19: TUE 06 SEPT DENALI NATIONAL PARK (BLD)

Enjoy an early morning breakfast before a day trip into the park. Today you will travel 52-miles into **Denali National Park**. This narrated tour takes you through the **pristine wilderness** of Denali. As you travel the park road an experienced driver/naturalist will provide an overview of the land and a narrated history of the park road.

Enjoy the incredible scenery and keep a lookout for possible wildlife! Along the way, your driver will stop at scenic overlooks and for viewing wildlife, such as **bears and moose**
Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge

DAY 20: WED 07 SEPT TALKEETNA - WHITTIER - CORAL PRINCESS (BLD)

This morning after breakfast you will depart **Talkeetna** onboard the exclusive **Direct to the Wilderness Rail journey** through some of the best wilderness areas, to **Whittier** where you will step from the train onto your waiting **Princess Cruise** ship for the beginning of your unforgettable cruise.

DAY 21: THU 08 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - HUBBARD GLACIER (BLD)

Today experience the wilds of Alaska as your ship makes its way through icy waters turning from **Yakutat Bay** into the narrow **Disenchantment Bay** to come face-to-face with the towering **Hubbard Glacier**. The strong currents and riptides which flow between **Gilbert Point** and the face of the glacier cause calving to occur on a daily basis, sending massive chunks of ice crashing into Disenchantment Bay. Witness this awe-inspiring phenomenon onboard a Hubbard Glacier cruise through the misty, chilled air of the **Gulf of Alaska**. The Hubbard Glacier is the longest tidewater glacier in the world. Dramatically massive at about 7-miles wide, 76-miles long and as tall as a 30-story building above the waterline, it's the **largest river of ice** in North America.

DAY 22: FRI 09 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - GLACIER BAY (BLD)

Princess is one of a select few cruise lines permitted to cruise the pristine waters of **Glacier Bay**, the highlight of our 7-day Voyage of the Glaciers cruise. Just west of Juneau this breathtaking national park and reserve boasts some of the world's most spectacular tidewater glaciers, such as **Margerie Glacier** which often drops colossal chunks of ice into the sea. Not surprisingly, **Glacier Bay National Park** and its epic ice giants are part of a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** comprising Alaska's magnificent park system. During your scenic cruise you will be able to identify Glacier Bay's abundant wildlife including humpback whales, sea otters, porpoises, harbor seals, black bears, mountain goats, bald eagles and large colonies of seabirds. Take in the aweinspiring scenery as you enjoy an unforgettable day of sailing through this dazzling park, where you'll glide along emerald waters and past calving icebergs and can breathe in the crisp, fresh air to your heart's content.

DAY 23: SAT 10 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - SKAGWAY (BLD)

The great **Klondike Gold Rush** lives on in **Skagway's** charming downtown of restored 19th-century buildings and its historic railway. Located on the edge of the wilderness this small town saw its fair share of gold rush, getrich dreamers pass through. Today, its residents are more than welcome to share the stories of its untamed past.

And there's so much fascinating history to uncover on a Skagway cruise. Make your way to **Klondike Gold Rush National Park Museum** for an in-depth look at Klondike and the two routes out of Skagway – Chilkoot Pass and White Pass.

The **White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad** (a must to do as one of your **options**) runs the vintage locomotives through the famously steep **Chilkoot Trail** and offers sweeping mountain views during its climb toward Canada.

DAY 24: SUN 11 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - JUNEAU (BLD)

In 1880, it was slow going for Joe Juneau and Richard Harris as they searched for gold with the help of Native guides. After climbing mountains, forging streams and facing countless difficulties, they found nuggets "as large as beans." From their discovery came three of the largest gold mines in the world. Eventually the mines closed, but the town of **Juneau** became the **capital of Alaska** and the business of gold was replaced by the business of government. Some 30,000 people live in Juneau. Its total area makes it one of the biggest towns, in size, in the world. Only Kiruna, Sweden and Sitka, Alaska, exceed Juneau's 3,248 square miles. Today Juneau is also famous for its breathtakingly beautiful glaciers and stunning views of both water and mountains.

DAY 25: MON 12 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - KETCHIKAN (BLD)

You've never tasted salmon so fresh. Known as the '**Salmon Capital of the World**', Ketchikan is also the ancestral home of the Tlingit people who have carved the **world's largest collection of totem poles**. If you're up for an adventure, take a canoe and nature trail excursion through the rain forest or a wilderness exploration followed by a sumptuous crab feast you'll long remember.

DAY 26: TUE 13 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - INSIDE PASSAGE (BLD)

You'll sail beyond the Inside Passage into the more protected Alaska Inside Passage in **south-eastern Alaska**. This complex labyrinth of fjords, bays and lush green islands is home to an abundance of wildlife, including orca, mountain goats, bald eagles, bears, puffins, sea otters and much more. During the summer months the long hours of daylight allow for ample opportunities for nature photos on your **Inside Passage Cruise**. You'll never forget the sight of 40-ton whales hurling themselves into the air, almost completely escaping the water. If you're especially lucky you could see them swimming together to create a bubble net, trapping and eating fish by the giant mouthful.

DAY 27: WED 14 SEPT GRAND PRINCESS - VANCOUVER (B)

A local guide will provide a 'Meet & Greet' in Vancouver when you arrive into port from your Cruise. Board your chartered coach to cross over the water to North Vancouver for a visit to **Capilano Suspension Bridge** with **Treetop Adventure** and **Cliffwalk**, followed by the **Skyride** up to the top of **Grouse Mountain**. We can enjoy spectacular views (weather permitting) from the Theatre in the Sky, Grizzly Bear and Grey Wolf Refuge and Lumberjack Show. Continue on to MacArthur Glen shopping Outlets if time allows. Finally we are transferred to the Vancouver International Airport in good time to check in for our **Air Canada** flight home.

DAY 28: THU 15 SEPT IN-FLIGHT (Inflight Meals)

DAY 29: FRI 16 SEPT ARRIVAL BRISBANE AIRPORT

We arrive in Brisbane in the morning and then connect to a domestic flight to Rockhampton