

## Calgary Stampede Tour Itinerary

### Day 1. Vancouver

Arrive in Vancouver. Transfers will take you to the Ramada Limited Downtown, your accommodation for the next three nights.

### Day 2. Vancouver

Free day. Spend the day exploring the city on your own or hop on a City Highlights Tour. Do some shopping and see all the fantastic sights this city has to offer. If you feel a little more adventurous, take in a North Shore, Capilano Suspension Bridge and Grouse Mountain tour. (B)

### Day 3. Vancouver

It's a full day Whale Watching so it's an early start. Get picked up from your hotel and transferred onto the boat. The actual boat trip is 3 to 5 hours long. Sighting chances are 85 per cent. Other marine wild life you are likely to encounter include Dall's Porpoises, seals, sea lions, and bald eagles. On rare occasions Minke whales and sea elephants have been encountered. You travel protected from the elements in covered, comfortable, high-speed boats equipped with washroom facilities. On-board lunch is provided. You will be back in Vancouver in the afternoon and returned to your hotel. (B,L)

### Day 4. Vancouver to Kamloops

Board the Rock Mountaineer and travel through the heart of British Columbia's interior. On today's journey you will see dramatic changes in scenery, from the lush green fields of the Fraser River Valley, through forests and winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains, to the desert-like environment of the interior. Overnight Kamloops. (B,L)

### Day 5. Kamloops to Jasper

Continue eastward towards the mighty Canadian Rockies and enjoy spectacular scenery as you travel across ranchlands, along rocky lakeshores, over high mountain passes and through remarkable tunnels. Continue north and east to the Canadian Rockies. You will enjoy more dramatic scenery as you follow the banks of the North Thompson River through the Monashee and Cariboo Mountains, climbing even nearer to the high peaks of the Continental Divide. Your journey ends in the resort town of Jasper. (B,L)

### Day 6. Jasper

The first day in Jasper, head off on a guided wildlife tour. We guarantee wildlife sightings, or your next Wildlife Tour is free! These 4 hr. tours are a great way to see Jasper's unique highlights as well as its impressive array of wildlife. Sightings often include deer, elk, big horn sheep, coyote and bear. The rest of the day is yours. See things from a new perspective on a Helicopter Tour, do some canoeing or some fishing.

#### Day 7. Jasper

Head off from Jasper and head north to Larry's Riding Stables. Get geared up and set off on the Folding Mountain Day Trip trail ride. A day spent above tree line on top of Folding Mountain with spectacular scenery in all four directions is an unforgettable experience. Picnic lunch included. 6 hour riding time, 11 am - 5 pm. Enjoy a barbeque steak dinner at our base camp at the foot of the mountain, \$10/person.

Return to Jasper after a rewarding days riding. (L)

#### Day 8. Jasper

Morning free. Explore the area on foot, check out the town and the local walks. Or head off on the Magical Mystical Maligne Canyon Walk. Try some rafting or even some caving.

In the afternoon you head off on a Mount Edith Cavell walk

An absolute must! With your guide on the "Path of the Glacier" walk, experience three kinds of glacier formations, icebergs, snow and ice avalanches, ice caves, waterfalls, and emerald green of Lake of Forgiveness." This is an exceptional interpretive tour to one of Jasper's Most Scenic Areas.

#### Day 9. Jasper to Lake Louise

Today you are transferred from Jasper to Lake Louise via the Athabasca Falls and the Columbia Icefields.

Visit the beautiful Athabasca Falls, learn about the Athabasca Glacier and watch for the wildlife of the Canadian Rockies. While at the Athabasca Falls, the most powerful falls of the National Parks, you can stroll the walkways and explore the interpretive panels displayed along the route. Travelling from the falls along the spectacular mountain roadway of the Icefields Parkway you reach the Icefields Centre. Visit the Glacier Gallery, restaurants or gift shop and take a ride on the all-terrain Ice Explorer. Arrive Lake Louise late afternoon.

#### Day 10. Lake Louise

In the morning, walk on one of the most hiked trails in the Canadian Rockies, the Lake Louise Teahouse walk. This destination offers it all: an enjoyable trail, stunning views, and a teahouse for refuelling before the descent.

Hikers are treated to a mixture of trail that begins in old-growth forest of spruce and fir before leading to an open view of the waters below (the magical blue of glacier-fed Lake Louise). Further up the trail, slightly less than one kilometre from the teahouse, Mirror Lake appears offering a nice view and a chance to rest. The "Beehive" loom, and the waterfall from Lake Agnes beckons a photograph. The trail continues up the right side of the waterfall, and leads to the rustic teahouse. Enjoy.

Free afternoon. Spend the rest of the day exploring on foot or hire a canoe and discover the magic of the lake if you're still feeling active. If not, relax on the shore.

#### Day 11. Lake Louise to Banff

This morning you are transferred to Banff where you can spend the afternoon discovering the town, doing some shopping or just taking it easy.

Day 12. Banff

Have a relaxing start to the morning. In the late morning head on up to the Banff Gondola for lunch with amazing views at one of the restaurants at the top

In the evening you go on a trail ride and Steak fry. Enjoy a leisurely one-hour trail ride to the BBQ site, located near the Sundance Canyon trail. Try your hand at roping, challenge friends to a game of horseshoes or relax in the picnic area, while our cook prepares your steak to order. After a hearty meal you will ride back to Warner Stables for an hour along the banks of the Bow River.

(B,D)

Day 13. Banff

In the morning you head off on a coach and cruise tour of Lake Minnewanke. As the largest lake in Banff National Park, Lake Minnewanka provides a stunning backdrop to a wealth of human and natural history information, a rich lore of native legends and abundant wildlife along her shores. Join us for a leisurely boat cruise and interpretive narrative onboard the "Water of the Spirits".

Free afternoon. Head out to the Grizzly Bear Sanctuary and meet Boo the Grizzly, try your hand at canoeing or play some golf. If you fancy something a bit more relaxing there are the hot springs to enjoy. (B)

Day 14. Banff to Calgary

This morning you are transferred to Calgary. You have the afternoon at your leisure to explore your surroundings and get into Rodeo mode. (B)

Day 15. Calgary

Today you get to experience "The Greatest Show on Earth". Sample the free pancake breakfast then head to Stampede Park and take in all that it has to offer. In the afternoon you have your first taste of the rodeo.

Day 16. Calgary

Today you spend at Stampede Park. Visit the First Nations Village, watch the blacksmithing competition and the heavy horse team pull, check out the stock dog competition and all the other exhibitions. Take a Skyride over Stampede Park.

In the evening get your dancing boots on, head to Ranchman's and dance the night away.

Day 17. Calgary

Free morning. Take a City Tour or explore by yourself, head to Stampede Park and see the things you missed.

Go to the afternoon rodeo then in the evening experience the thrill of the Chuck Wagon racing and the Grandstand show.

Day 18. Calgary

Experience the last day of the Stampede before you say farewell to Calgary and get transferred to the airport and head off on the rest of your journey.