

# Canadian Rockies and Alaska Cruise

# 23 Night Self Drive Tour and Cruise

Experience the ultimate adventure with this unforgettable Tour & Cruise holiday through Western Canada and Alaska. Begin your journey on land, exploring the majestic Rockies, vibrant cities, and serene lakes of British Columbia and Alberta. From Vancouver to Whistler, Jasper to Banff, each stop reveals breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural charm.

Then, take to the sea on board the Celebrity Solstice® and sail through Alaska's awe-inspiring wilderness. Glide past towering glaciers, witness incredible wildlife, and discover the raw beauty of the Last Frontier—all from the comfort of a world-class cruise. This seamless blend of land and sea promises a holiday like no other.

# **Highlights:**

- Stroll through Vancouver's Stanley Park and Granville Island, or take a ferry to explore the breathtaking Butchart Gardens.
- Ride Whistler's Peak 2 Peak Gondola for unparalleled views of alpine peaks and lush valleys.
- Discover the majestic waterfalls and serene beauty of Wells Gray Provincial Park in Clearwater.
- Drive the stunning Icefields Parkway between Jasper and Banff, stopping at Lake Louise and Lake Moraine.
- Soak in the natural wonders of Banff National Park, from Sulphur Mountain to Johnston Canyon.
- Relax at Radium Hot Springs while driving through the stunning Kootenay National Park
- Ports at Icy Straight Point, Skagway, Endicott, Juneau and Ketchikan, all Alaskan locations.

#### What's included:

- Getting there: Return flights to Vancouver
- Transport: car hire inclusive of GPS and transfers to and from Vancouver Cruise Port
- Accommodation: 22 nights total duration (including 1 night on inbound flight) – 14 nights in hotels throughout Western Canada and 7 nights onboard Celebrity Solstice®
- Meals: as per accommodation booked, most hotels will only offer room only or breakfast

#### Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Optional excursion/tours
- Travel insurance and eTA
- Anything not mentioned in the "What's Included" column

# **Full Itinerary**

# Day 1: UK to Vancouver

Arrive in Vancouver, pick up your rental car at the airport, and check into your hotel. If time allows, enjoy a wander through the city. Explore Gastown's cobbled streets, or enjoy a leisurely dinner with stunning views of the harbour and mountains.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Best Western Premier Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver or similar



# Day 2: Vancouver

Enjoy a day at leisure to discover Vancouver's highlights. Stroll through Stanley Park's towering trees, visit the bustling Granville Island Public Market, or explore the trendy districts of Kitsilano and Yaletown.

For a memorable adventure, consider joining an optional excursion to Victoria and the stunning Butchart Gardens. Take the ferry across the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver Island, where, if you're lucky, you might spot bald eagles or whales. Immerse yourself in the lush beauty of Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site with 55 acres of stunning floral displays, before spending free time in Victoria's charming harbour city.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Best Western Premier Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver or similar

# Day 3: Vancouver

Another day to explore Vancouver at your own pace.

You may wish to take an optional tour to Grouse Mountain and the iconic Capilano Suspension Bridge. Watch for salmon leaping at the Capilano River Hatchery, take in the views from the Grouse Mountain Skyride, and immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Soar above Vancouver's skyline, the sparkling Pacific Ocean, and the surrounding mountains.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Best Western Premier Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver or similar





# Day 4: Vancouver to Whistler

Today, embark on your Western Canada road trip along the breathtaking Sea to Sky Highway. Stop at Shannon Falls to admire its cascading beauty, then enjoy panoramic views from the Sea to Sky Gondola in Squamish.

Arrive in Whistler, a year-round mountain resort offering world-class dining, cosy cafés, and stunning views. Explore the lively Whistler Village, or relax in one of its many restaurants.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Crystal Lodge Hotel, Whistler or similar

DRIVING TIME: 1 hr 30 mins // 75 mi

# Day 5: Whistler

Spend a day at leisure in Whistler, renowned for its outdoor beauty and activities. Stroll through Whistler Village, discovering unique boutiques and welcoming cafés. For a memorable experience, ride the Peak 2 Peak Gondola and enjoy spectacular views of alpine peaks and lush valleys.

Relax with lunch, then perhaps visit the Audain Art Museum, or embark on a tranquil hike at Lost Lake. Wind down with fine dining and soak in the vibrant village atmosphere.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Crystal Lodge Hotel, Whistler or similar





#### Day 6: Whistler to Clearwater

Leave Whistler early, driving north through the rugged Coast Mountains. Stop for a coffee in Pemberton, enjoying views of farmland, and then continue towards Lillooet, the starting point of the Cariboo Gold Rush Trail. Pause to admire the Fraser River and its dramatic canyon.

The landscape shifts as you reach the Thompson Plateau, with opportunities to stretch your legs at scenic spots like Marble Canyon Provincial Park.

Arrive in Clearwater, the gateway to Wells Gray Provincial Park, known for its majestic waterfalls and unspoilt wilderness, perfect for exploring the next day.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Best Western Plus Gateway to the Falls, Clearwater or similar

DRIVING TIME: 5 hr 15 mins // 264 mi

# Day 7: Clearwater

Enjoy a day at leisure in Clearwater, where you can immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Wells Gray Provincial Park, also known as the Waterfall Park. Start with a visit to Helmcken Falls, Canada's fourth-highest waterfall, and marvel at the cascade into the canyon below. For a gentler experience, hike the easy trail to Dawson Falls, often called a "mini-Niagara".

In the afternoon, enjoy a serene paddle on Clearwater Lake and finish the day with a picnic by Spahats Creek Falls, soaking in the peaceful surroundings and stunning canyon views.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Best Western Plus Gateway to the Falls, Clearwater or similar



# Day 8: Clearwater to Jasper

After breakfast, head north to Jasper, passing Mount Robson, the tallest peak in the Rockies; it's a great spot to stop for photos. Take a brief break at Mount Robson Provincial Park for a short hike, then continue towards Tête Jaune Cache before entering Jasper National Park.

Upon arrival in Jasper, enjoy the charm of this mountain town, surrounded by rugged peaks, alpine meadows, and crystal-clear lakes.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* The Crimson Jasper or similar

DRIVING TIME: 3 hr 15 mins // 197 mi

### **Day 9: Jasper National Park**

Start your day with a peaceful stroll along Maligne Lake, where you can join a boat tour to Spirit Island, one of the most photographed spots in Canada. If you're feeling active, the Maligne Canyon Trail offers an easy hike through dramatic gorges and waterfalls.

In the afternoon, take a ride on the Jasper SkyTram for panoramic views, and then unwind at Pyramid Lake. End the day by watching the sunset over the mountains, followed by dinner in Jasper's cosy town, offering everything from casual bites to more upscale dining.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* The Crimson Jasper or similar





# Day 10: Jasper to Banff (via Lake Louise)

Start early for a scenic drive along the world-famous Icefields Parkway, one of the most stunning drives in the world. Stop at Athabasca Falls and Sunwapta Falls, or continue south to the Columbia Icefield for impressive glacier views.

At Lake Louise, enjoy lunch by its iconic turquoise waters, perhaps taking a canoe ride or a short hike. Next, visit Moraine Lake, famous for its breathtaking views, before heading south to Banff. Stop briefly at Bow Falls before checking into your hotel.

In the evening, explore the lively streets of Banff or relax at the Banff Upper Hot Springs, offering beautiful mountain views.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Mount Royal Hotel Banff or similar

DRIVING TIME: 3 hr 20 mins // 179 mi

### Day 11: Banff National Park

Spend a relaxing day exploring Banff National Park. Start with a leisurely breakfast at a local café, then take a stroll along Banff Avenue to browse shops, art galleries, and boutiques. Visit the Banff Park Museum or the Whyte Museum to learn about the area's history and wildlife. For stunning views, take the Banff Gondola to the top of Sulphur Mountain or hike up if you're feeling adventurous. Afterward, unwind at the Banff Upper Hot Springs, soaking in the warm waters with views of the surrounding mountains.

In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive to Lake Minnewanka, or hike to Johnston Canyon to see its beautiful waterfalls. For dinner, savour local cuisine at one of Banff's cosy restaurants, and end the evening with a relaxing walk around the picturesque town.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Mount Royal Hotel Banff or similar





# Day 12: Banff to Revelstoke

Depart from Banff early and drive west towards Revelstoke. Enjoy the views as you pass through Kootenay National Park, famous for its rugged mountains and lush forests.

Stop at Radium Hot Springs for a relaxing break, soaking in the hot springs with mountain views. Continue through Kootenay Valley, passing Golden and Columbia Valley. If time allows, take a detour to Glacier National Park for a short hike or visit the Roger's Pass Discovery Centre.

Arrive in Revelstoke, nestled in the Selkirk Mountains, in the late afternoon. Explore the town's charming shops or visit the Revelstoke Railway Museum. End the day with a delicious dinner before relaxing for the night.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Regent Hotel, Revelstoke or similar

DRIVING TIME: 3 hr 10 mins // 176 mi

### Day 13 - Revelstoke to Penticton

Start your day with breakfast before beginning your drive towards Penticton through the stunning Okanagan Valley, renowned for its vineyards and orchards. As you descend into the valley, stop at Mara Lake for a break and enjoy the scenic views.

Continue toward Salmon Arm, where you can explore the charming town or nearby Shuswap Lake. As you approach the Okanagan Valley, take in the changing landscapes, transitioning from mountain vistas to fertile farmland.

Upon arrival in Penticton, situated between Okanagan Lake and Skaha Lake, take a stroll along the Penticton River Channel, or relax at one of the area's renowned wineries. End the day with dinner overlooking the lakes or in the town's vibrant downtown.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Penticton Lakeside Resort or similar

DRIVING TIME: 3 hr 30 mins // 161 mi



# Day 14 - Penticton to Vancouver

On your journey back to Vancouver from Penticton, enjoy a scenic drive through the Okanagan Valley, stopping for photos and a break in Kelowna or Merritt along the way.

Arrive in Vancouver by the afternoon and enjoy a relaxed evening. Perhaps enjoy a final dinner with stunning views before preparing for your flight home to the UK the following day.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Best Western Premier Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver or similar

DRIVING TIME: 4 hr 30 mins // 260 mi

# Day 15: Board ship for Alaska Cruise

Enjoy your last morning in Vancouver before meeting your private transfer to embark Celebrity Solstice® from port., which is scheduled to depart at 16:00.



# Day 16: Cruising through the Inside Passage

You'll sail beyond the Inside Passage into the more protected Alaska Inside Passage in southeastern 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 17: Icy Straight Point, Alaska

Ports at Icy Straight Point, Alaska at 13:30, departs at 22:00.

For thousands of years, the Tlingit Indians have called this place home. Located near the city of Hoonah, and home to a historic cannery, Icy Strait Point also offers travelers the chance to view wildlife like humpback whales, orcas, seals, eagles, and brown bears, or to explore monuments to the region's fishing heritage.





# Day 18: Skagway, Alaska

Ports at Skagway, Alaska at 07:00, departs at 20:00

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, get rich dreamers pass through. Today, it's residents are more than welcome to share the stories of its untamed past, and there's so much fascinating history to uncover in Skagway. Head 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. From the vintage train, admire the mountains and see the 1898 trail that fortune seekers traveled on foot. The White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad runs the vintage locomotives through the famously steep Chilkoot Trail and offers sweeping mountain views during its climb toward Canada.

### Day 19: Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier, and Juneau

Ports at Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier at 05:30, departs at 10:00 Ports at Juneau, Alaska at 13:30, departs at 20:30

Alaska's Endicott Arm Fjord marks the southern edge of the 653,179-acre Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness area. As you sail through its 30-mile-long stretch, you can't help but be amazed by the untouched beauty of the surrounding granite mountains, verdant valleys and numerous waterfalls. Drifting icebergs, deep blue waters and a spectacular tidewater glacier only add to this natural spectacle's appeal. Endicott Arm is one of the largest breeding grounds for harbor seals on the planet. Keep your eyes open for these creatures splashing in icy waters near the ship or floating with their pups on giant chunks of ice. Along the shore you might also glimpse brown bears, bald eagles, sea ducks, deer, moose and wolves. Your journey through scenic Endicott Arm Fjord ends with a front-row view of the striking Dawes Glacier. Standing over 600 feet tall and a half-mile wide, this very active icecap is known for its spectacular calving displays which noisily produce huge, chunky icebergs that float in area waters. Remember to dress in wind-resistant layers for viewing scenery outside on deck.

In Juneau it's your chance to take a glacial dogsled adventure in Alaska's capital, where cultured sophistication meets the ruggedness of the Last Frontier.



# Day 20: Ketchikan, Alaska

Ports at Ketchikan, Alaska at 13:30, departs at 20:00

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 21: Cruise through the Inside Passage

Today you will cruise back through the Inside Passage, heading towards Vancouver.

### Day 22: Vancouver to the UK

Arrive at Vancouver Cruise Port around 6am, and meet your private transfer to take you to Vancouver Airport for your overnight flight home.

### Day 23: Arrive back in the UK

Your overnight flight arrives in the UK ready for you to make your journey home.

# **FAQs**

#### **BEST TIME TO TRAVEL**

The best time to visit Vancouver and the Rocky Mountains is from June to September, when the weather is warm, the alpine lakes are at their most vibrant, and hiking trails are fully accessible. For fewer crowds and stunning autumn colours, September is ideal, while winter (November to March) is perfect for skiing and enjoying snowy landscapes.

#### **CAR HIRE**

Please note to rent a car the lead driver must have a credit card in their name. Debit cards are only accepted in some cases. Please ensure a GPS is included in the car rental, as well as multiple drivers and a free tank of petrol should you wish to benefit from this. There may be an excess applicable for car rentals in Canada, which will be advised at the time of booking. You may wish to include rental car excess cover in your travel insurance policy, or ask one of our team if there is an additional policy that can be added to your holiday.

#### **MAPS**

Your car hire will have a GPS included so you can find your way; physical driving instructions are not included, to give you the flexibility to stop and change route at any time.

#### **VISA**

UK passport holders require an eTA to enter Canada by air, and an ESTA to enter the USA by sea. Please visit the FCDO website for more information.

#### **NATIONAL PARKS**

Most National Parks and historic sites in Canada charge a mandatory fee. Please visit Parks Canada for more information.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CRUISE

Classic Drinks Package and WiFi per passenger are part of your package.

Prepaid gratuities are not automatically included in your cruise fare but can be added at the time of booking at an additional cost.

The time you can board the cruise depends on your chosen stateroom and what time your cruise departs. Please download and refer to the Celebrity Cruises® mobile app for the exact times on embarkation day.

