

# EVERY LEARNER ADVENTURES THE CANADIAN ROCKIES BY RAIL



**SEPTEMBER 15-22, 2008**

***Up Mountains,  
Onto Glaciers,  
Into Rainforests,  
Through Deserts,  
and More!***

***On the Rails That Opened the West!***

**An 8-Day Learning Adventure with:**

- **Michael Himick,  
Founder of *KnowledgeNews***
- **James Ryan,  
Founder of *Insider Cultural Tours***
- **And special guests, the orcas around Vancouver Island**

# DAY 1

Arrive at Vancouver International Airport.

A private limousine will take you to your hotel, the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

“A soaring, venerable city landmark, styled to look like a French château, complete with gables and green copper roofs, the Fairmont Hotel is a cut above.”

*--London Telegraph*

If you arrive early, we suggest you:

- Take in the **Vancouver Aquarium** and the white Beluga whales, natives of arctic Canada. You can book a Beluga encounter and come face-to-face with a whale.
- Head to the **Harbour Centre** on West Hastings Street. The lookout at the top of the 177-meter (581-foot) tower offers panoramic views of the city.
- Discover **Granville Island** and explore its famed public market and great restaurants. You'll meet plenty of artists here, and shop like a chef.

Evening:

Meet **Michael Himick** and **James Ryan**, and all your fellow learning adventurers, at a special **welcome dinner**. Not only do we promise food and fine company—we'll cruise the romantic Vancouver Harbor as we dine, too.

**Dinner included. Overnight at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.**





# DAY 2

## Morning:

Join Michael Himick and James Ryan for this morning's **learning breakfast**. We'll brief you on the highlights of your week in Canada and dish out a buffet of brain food—serving up Canada's compelling history, the science of its breathtaking landscape, the culture of its First Nations people, and much more.

After breakfast, we'll take a brief **tour of Vancouver**. Set between the mountains and the sea, Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in North America. And it's the site of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, so you'll be in the know when the games begin.

Our tour will include a visit to historic Gastown, neighboring Chinatown, and 1,000-acre Stanley Park. Then, we'll travel to the North Shore and take the gondola to the top of Grouse Mountain. There, we'll explore the Refuge for Endangered Wildlife, with its Grizzly Bear Habitat, Grey Wolf Habitat, and Birds in Motion Demonstration. High above the city of Vancouver and the sparkling Pacific Ocean, we'll have a leisurely lunch.

## Afternoon:

In the afternoon, we'll take an easy **walking tour of the rainforest**. Like the mountains and the sea, the rainforest lies just minutes from Vancouver. In fact, north of Vancouver lies one of the largest remaining tracts of temperate rainforest in the world.

You'll enter a magical world of giant Douglas firs, wrapped in blankets of soft green moss. Here there are trees more than 2,000 years old and as tall as 30-story buildings. With circumferences exceeding 9 meters (30 feet), it would take at least five of us to completely embrace them.

You don't need to be an experienced hiker to experience the rainforest. A guide will take you through the lush landscape and teach you about the biology and ecology of this natural cathedral. Just wear comfortable shoes and bring your camera.

**Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.**



# DAY 3

## Morning:

This morning will start early with a short coach ride to the ferry terminal and a relaxing **90-minute sail to Vancouver Island**. We'll arrive at the island's southern tip—at Victoria, the capital of Canada's British Columbia province. It's a beautiful city, but we are not here for its charms. Not yet at least. First, we come in search of whales!

## Afternoon:

We are here for what many people say is the experience of a lifetime: **whale watching**. We'll board a sleek, specially designed Zodiac and speed out of the harbor, heading for waters that are ruled by **pods of powerful orcas** (killer whales). Apex predators, the orcas hunt in packs to kill and consume about 225 kg (500 lb) of food a day.

With a little luck, we'll see much, much more, too. The waters around Vancouver Island are on the main migration route of the great **gray and humpback whales** as they voyage to and from Alaska. Seals, sea lions, porpoises, otters, bald eagles, and great blue herons have all been spotted on these trips as well.

## Evening:

After our whale watching expedition, you can explore the shops and sights of Victoria. We'll enjoy dinner on our deluxe BC Ferry as we make our way back to Vancouver.

**Breakfast and dinner included. Overnight at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.**





# DAY 4

## Day:

Today, we board the Rocky Mountaineer Train (Red Leaf Service) for a full day of travel. Often called “**the world’s most spectacular train journey**,” this world-renowned rail route will take us from Vancouver to Kamloops, in the heart of British Columbia.

You’ll see dramatic changes in scenery, from the lush green fields of the Fraser River Valley, to winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains, to the desert-like environment of the interior. Highlights include the rushing waters of Hell’s Gate in Fraser Canyon, the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River, and any magnificent moose that wander near.

A guide on the train will offer intermittent commentary during the trip. And we’ll weigh in with the knowledge you need for a deeper understanding of all the sights in this amazing part of the world. We’ll talk about trains, and how railroads changed the world. We’ll even tackle a round or two of *Canadian* Trivial Pursuit. That’s right: *Canadian*.

## Evening:

Once we get to Kamloops, we’ll relax with dinner and a fun-filled western show, about the grandfatherly gent who pulled off Canada’s first train robbery. (Don’t get any ideas.)

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included. Overnight in Kamloops.**





# DAY 5

## Day:

Our railroad journey is still only half-done. The Rocky Mountaineer continues eastward today to **reach the Canadian Rockies** and **cross the continental divide**. Again your eyes will feast as we glide across ranchlands, coast along lakeshores, cross towering bridges, wind through spiral tunnels, and carefully make our way over mountain passes.

## Evening:

At sunset, as the wildlife come out to feed, you may start to see mountain goats and bighorn sheep, enormous elk, black bears, and perhaps even a few grizzlies. We'll be ready to tell you about all these amazing animals should they choose to come and see us as we make for the province of Alberta in our big steel snake.

At last, we'll arrive in Banff, the small Alberta town that anchors the Canadian Rockies' Banff National Park. **Banff National Park** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It, along with other nearby parks, protects a stretch of the Canadian Rockies larger than the state of New Jersey—and preserves wilderness for the moose, elk, caribou, wolves, cougars, bears, and other magnificent creatures that inhabit this breathtaking place.

**Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight at the Banff Caribou Lodge.**





# DAY 6

Morning:

Many, many trails explore the stunning lands that sit in the shadow of the mountains surrounding Banff. This morning, a private guide will take us for a leisurely and **informative adventure walk** on one of those gorgeous trails.

We'll explore the unforgettable **Vermillion Lakes Wetlands** and marvel at its flora and fauna. Home to muskrats, beavers, elk, and hundreds of native and migratory birds, beautiful Vermillion Lakes will get our feet wet for mountain adventures still to come.

Afternoon:

Now, are you ready to **climb a mountain**? We've explored the beautiful lands at the mountains' feet. This afternoon, it's time for us to climb to 2,300 meters (7,500 feet) above sea level and get a bird's-eye view of Banff and six Rocky Mountain ranges.

Don't worry. You can leave your ropes, crampons, and carabiners at home. The **Sulphur Mountain Gondola** will transport us to the summit of Sulphur Mountain in just 8 minutes so that we can explore the vista trail (and cafe) at the top.

Of course, if you want to have a hard-core hiking experience, you can. It takes about 2 hours to walk up the steep, wooded trail on the mountain's east side. Then, you can take the gondola back down. We can also make arrangements for you to go on a mountain rafting trip or to take a helicopter tour instead of climbing Sulphur Mountain.

Evening:

**Cocktails and dinner at the world-famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.** Very few hotels can rival the majesty, hospitality, and scenery of the Fairmont Banff Springs. Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, its unique blend of opulence and seclusion has been a symbol of Rocky Mountain magnificence for more than a century. We'll enjoy its spectacular views with cocktails in the Moose's Nook, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

**Breakfast and dinner included. Overnight at the Banff Caribou Lodge.**









# DAY 7

## Morning:

Today our journey will take us north along **the Icefields Parkway**, a mountain strand of blacktop that runs parallel to the continental divide through a vast wilderness of peaks, glaciers, forests, and lakes. Our eventual destination: the magnificent Columbia Icefield.

The **Columbia Icefield** is the largest sub-polar accumulation of snow and ice in North America. The huge yearly snowfalls feed 8 major glaciers, including the Athabasca Glacier—a thick tongue of ice 6 kilometers (4 miles) long.

We'll board a special Ice Explorer vehicle and **trek onto the Athabasca Glacier**. A guide will explain how glaciers form, and you'll get to walk on a slab of ice 300 meters (1,000 feet) thick, formed out of snow that fell to Earth as long as 400 years ago.

## Afternoon:

After walking on a glacier, we'll return to the Icefields Parkway—and make exceptional picture stops—until we arrive at the “**gem of the Rockies**,” **Lake Louise**. This small but deep glacial lake is known the world over for its beauty. One newspaper recently called it “the most beautiful lake in the western hemisphere.” What better place to rest?

## Evening:

We'll spend tonight at the famously unique, truly historic **Deer Lodge in Lake Louise**. Nestled among the towering peaks surrounding Lake Louise, the Deer Lodge has been treating travelers since 1921, when it got started as a log teahouse. Today, much of the original hand-hewn log structure and rustic decor are still in place.

We'll have dinner in the Deer Lodge's award-winning dining room. There you can try authentic **Rocky Mountain cuisine**, featuring fresh berries, wild fruits, and game meat such as elk, buffalo, caribou, and venison. After, you can relax in front of the fireplace, enjoy a quiet moment in the cedar sauna, or gaze at the stars over the Victoria Glacier from the Deer Lodge's rooftop hot tub. It will take your breath away.

**Breakfast and dinner included. Overnight at the Deer Lodge in Lake Louise.**







# **DAY 8**

Even as our learning adventure comes to an end, the scenery remains spectacular—on our 2-hour journey from Lake Louise to Calgary. We say goodbye to each other today at the Calgary International Airport. But we will see you on another adventure soon.

## **SUMMARY**

- 3 nights at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
- 1 night lodging in Kamloops
- 2 nights at the Banff Caribou Lodge
- 1 night at the Deer Lodge in Lake Louise
- 2-day Rocky Mountaineer Train Tour, Red Leaf Service
- Private limousine from the Vancouver airport to the Fairmont Hotel
- Ground transportation as described in the itinerary
- Whale watching expedition
- Rainforest walking tour
- Sulphur Mountain gondola tour
- Ice Explorer glacier tour
- 6 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 5 dinners, including cocktails and dinner at Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
- Porterage, up to 2 bags per person
- Gratuities for drivers and step-on guides

**COST: \$4,650 USD per traveler**

**Single travelers requesting private rooms: add \$1,740 USD**

**This is a land package only, based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included. Upgrades and additional days can be arranged based on availability.**

***CALL 877-99-LEARN***