

## COAST TO COAST CANADA BY RAIL



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore the untamed scenery and majestic beauty of Canada on this epic train journey across the entire continent of North America. The view from your window changes every day from the rugged coastline of Nova Scotia, past the Great Lakes, the golden prairie fields of the central plains and finally to the towering Rockies of the east coast. Visit roaring Niagara Falls and explore Canada's most endearing cities and towns.

## ITINERARY &amp; DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Canada. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

**Your included meal guide:**

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

**DAY 1: UK to Halifax**

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Halifax and upon arrival, meet your guides and transfer to tonight's hotel. Enjoy getting acquainted with your group this evening over a welcome drink.

**DAY 2: Halifax B**

This morning, discover the provincial capital of Nova Scotia on a guided tour of Halifax. The city's colonial past spectacularly manifests itself at its distinctive 18th century star-shaped fortress, whose advantageous hilltop location protected the city against marauding assailants. Overlooking downtown Halifax, catch sight of the city's striking Old Town Clock, a 3-tiered octagon tower, before venturing into a tranquil oasis situated in the heart of the city. Laden with 140 species of verdant trees and a variety of brightly coloured flowers, saunter the winding paths of Halifax's Public Gardens before admiring two of the city's finest examples of Palladian architecture - Canada's longest serving legislative building, Province House and the resplendent St Paul's Church. This afternoon, a poignant visit to Fairview Lawn Cemetery, where 121 victims of the Titanic disaster are buried, uncovers Halifax's haunting connection to the tragedy. The fateful night is narrated through an evocative collection of recovered personal items at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

**DAY 3: Halifax/Via Rail B/D**

A morning at leisure allows the opportunity to explore this Maritime city at your own pace. Transfer to today's Via Rail and settle into your Sleeper Plus Cabin for a comfortable and relaxing overnight journey.

**DAY 4: Quebec City B**

Arriving into Quebec City this morning, begin a guided tour at the Citadelle of Quebec, continuing onwards to admire Parliament Building's lavishly embellished façade, adorned with 23 bronze statues. Next, take a leisurely stroll through Vieux Port's charming avenues lined with antique shops and art galleries, before being transported back in time at Place Royale. Teeming with traditional French architecture, this picture-perfect square may be slight in appearance, but it holds enormous historical symbolism as the founding place of Quebec City in 1608. Rubbing shoulders with one of the oldest commercial streets in North America, meander the cobblestone pathways of the Petit-Champlain quarters, a quaint boulevard brimming with boutiques. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

**DAY 5: Quebec City B**

A day at leisure provides the perfect opportunity to catch a glimpse of Quebec City's timeless treasures and sample the cuisine inspired by the region's unique French-Canadian identity.

**DAY 6: Quebec City - Ottawa B**

Experience uninterrupted views of verdant countryside on a captivating six-hour train journey to the capital of Canada, Ottawa. Arrive this evening and transfer to tonight's hotel.

**DAY 7: Ottawa B**

Experience Ottawa's cosmopolitan vibe on today's sightseeing city tour. Make a stop at the country's pioneering pedestrianised commercial mall on Sparks Street before exploring an array of stylish products being sold at independent outlets in the bustling ByWard Market. Journey away from the city centre and experience a fusion of regal grandeur and rural tranquillity at the majestic Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Canadian Monarch. Before enjoying an afternoon at leisure, savour incredible views of the Rideau Canal, a waterway which gracefully twists through the core of downtown Ottawa and notably transforms into the world's longest skating rink in winter.

**DAY 8: Ottawa to Toronto B**

After a spectacular rail journey, arrive in the multicultural city of Toronto this afternoon and begin today's tour at Saint Michael's Cathedral, an imposing Neo-Gothic structure whose vibrant stained-glass windows establish an elegant aura. Admire the Romanesque clock tower adjoining Toronto's prominent Old City Hall before making your way downtown to witness the charged atmosphere pulsating from the city's financial district. Finally, immerse yourself in creative energy with a visit to the Distillery District, a lovingly restored industrial centre which dramatically combines Victorian architecture and 21st century design. An innovative space, stroll through a collection of ground-breaking galleries and theatres within this buzzing hive of activity.

**DAY 9: Toronto B**

An unforgettable multi-sensory experience awaits today with a visit to one of the seven marvels of the world; experience a plummeting cascade of water which produces gargantuan plumes of mist, undoubtedly a highlight of the tour. Spend some time at leisure to experience this breath-taking spectacle's thundering torrent before transferring to the enchanting town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Enjoy the laid-back rhythms that characterise this quaint old town whilst sampling the region's famed dessert beverage, Ice Wine. Later today, return to Toronto.

**DAY 10: Toronto/ Via Rail B/D**

After breakfast, board Via Rail's 'The Canadian' for a remarkable 4-day journey across Southern Canada. Designated an upper berth in a Manor Sleeper Plus Cabin, unwind in your comfortably sized compartment and make the most of a fantastic range of on-board facilities including wine tasting, musical entertainment and A La Carte Cuisine.

### DAY 11-13: Via Rail B/L/D

Spanning 4,466 kilometres, be entranced by a rail journey which continues through an ever-changing Canadian backdrop where bears and moose dot a countryside of surpassing beauty. From the glass topped observation cabin you can observe the journey through golden prairie fields, past cascading waterfalls, picturesque towns, rugged lake country and on towards the snowy peaks of the majestic Rockies.

### DAY 14: Vancouver

Arriving into Vancouver this morning, disembark your train and begin a half-day city tour, strolling through Granville's Entertainment district, a lively performance hub in the midst of the city. Head to the iconic waterfront Canada Place to admire

its characteristic exterior, whose five fabricated peaks fittingly resemble boating sails. Next, get a taste of the city's thriving shopping scene from three contrasting districts: Sample an assortment of gastronomic delights from Chinatown's revitalised community, experience Gastown's old world charm, and wander a network of chic sidewalks at the former Terminus town of Yaletown. Continuing to Vancouver's biggest and most beloved urban paradise and explore the Totem Poles of stunning Stanley Park. Conclude at Granville Island's indoor Market, a dazzling showcase of local produce and handcrafted gifts, and enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring this cosmopolitan metropolis.

### DAY 15: Vancouver to the UK

After a morning at leisure, transfer to the airport for your return flight.

## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

### Accommodation guide

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Canada. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

**Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel. Dinner (when included) will be taken on the VIA Rail. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



## TRAIN AND CABIN INFORMATION

Berths are open by day - two couch-style seats facing each other. By night, berths convert to curtained, semi-private compartments with two stacked beds. Use of public washroom. Upper and/or lower berths are open areas during the day, one bench-type seat designated for the upper berth (facing the rear of the train) and the locomotive-facing bench designated for the lower berth passenger. Passengers have access to the two public washrooms and the shower facility - and are provided with shower kits (shampoo, soap) and fresh towels. At night, the upper berth is lowered forming one bed (no window) and the lower benches pull out to meet and create a second bed. Our staff drapes the area with two heavy half-curtains to ensure privacy and a ladder is added to access the upper berth. Beds are 70x33 inches and 178x109 cm. As a safety measure and a concern for all passengers' comfort, beds are made and ladders are put away each morning no later than 10:00 am.

### Inclusions:

- Roomy armchair
- Access to in-car shower
- All meals and non-alcoholic beverages included in the dining car
- Complementary coffee, tea, fruit and cookies in the lounge cars
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for sale
- Baggage registration service
- Priority boarding
- Attendant and turndown service available
- Access to the Vancouver and Toronto lounge upon departure
- Access to the Skyline car
- Access to the Panorama car on some departures (\*peak season)

- Scheduled access to the Park car (\*peak season)
  - Unrestricted access to the Park car (\*\*off-peak season)
- \*Peak season: September 04 to October 09, 2020 & May 14 to October 08, 2021  
 \*\*Off-Peak season: October 30, 2020 to March 19, 2021 & October 29, 2021

As space in cabins is limited, passengers are permitted only airline-approved sized carry-on bags on board (maximum 2 per person). All other suitcases are loaded into the baggage car prior to the train departure. Guests will not have access to their large suitcases in the baggage car during the train journey, so it is imperative that all essential items, such as medications, are packed into the carry-on bag. Assistance can be arranged for customers unable to lift their bags into the train if required.

### Checked baggage

2 checked articles (per person): Maximum 23 kg (50 lb.) each. 158 linear cm (62 linear inches)

### Carry-on baggage

1 personal article per person: Max. 11.5 kg (25 lb.). Max. 43 x 15 x 33 cm (17 x 6 x 13 in.)

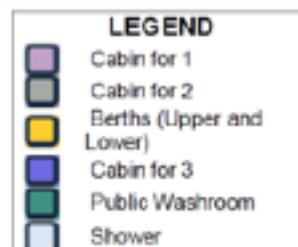
### Cabin baggage

2 small articles per cabin: Max. 11.5 kg (25 lb.) each. Max. 54.5 x 39.5 x 23 cm (21.5 x 15.5 x 9 in.) each

### "MANOR" SLEEPER



Limited space is available for carry-on baggage in Sleeper class.



## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Halifax you will be met by a representative from our local agent **Go West** holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Go West representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

### Go West Tours Head Office:

790 Eddy Street @Van Ness, San Francisco. CA, 94109  
Telephone: 001 415 837 0154

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Go West Tours**  
**24 hour:** 001 415 837 0154 (business hours 08:30-17:30 USA Pacific Time)  
001 415 710 1913 (out of hours West Coast Groups) 001 415 793 6458 (out of hours East Coast Groups).

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

British Citizens will need an eTA to visit Canada. Applying for an eTA is a simple online process that takes just a few minutes. You will need your passport, a credit card, and an email address. It costs \$7 CAD to get an eTA and it will be valid for up to five years. You must also make sure that you carry the correct travel documents and identification. Please visit [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca). Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries.

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you always have first-hand knowledge.

### Tipping

It is customary/at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately \$3-4 CAD per person per day. This is a total of \$27-36 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 25, and the maximum will be 30. If in the unlikely event there are less than 25 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £800-£900 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat in summer
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Binoculars
- Small day pack for excursions
- Lightweight clothing

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

### Physical Accessibility

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Coast to Coast Canada by Rail is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

### Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

### Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- A plug adaptor - the voltage is 110 V. You will need a two-pin adaptor in Canada

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight is to [Halifax international Airport](#) with [Air Canada](#), departing from [London Heathrow Terminal 2](#).

**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Baggage Allowance

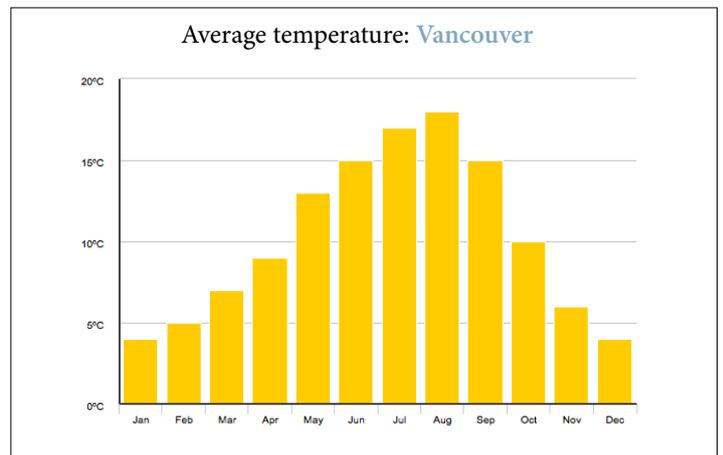
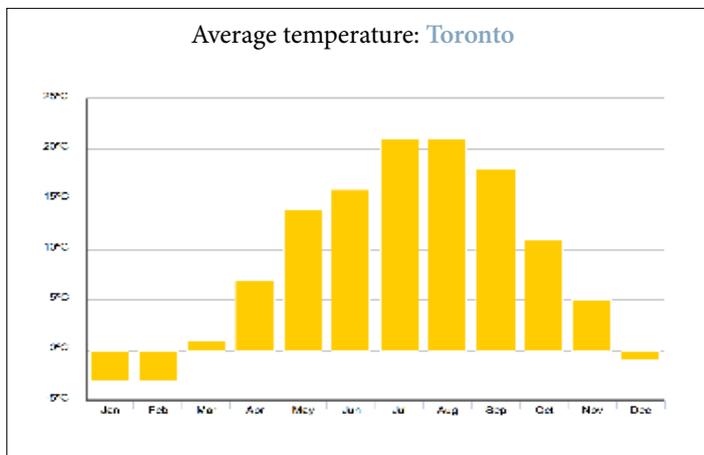
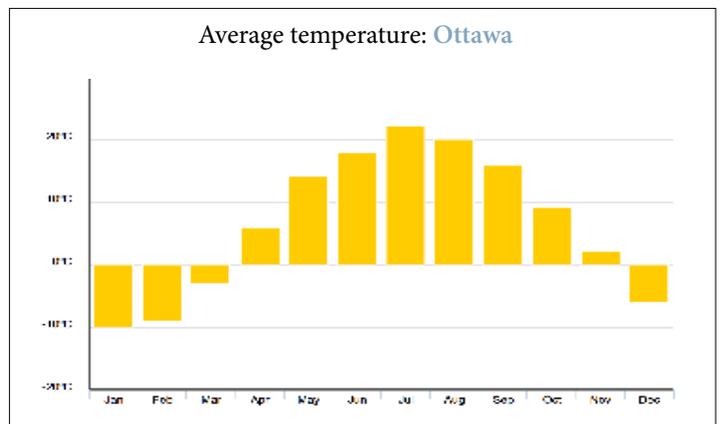
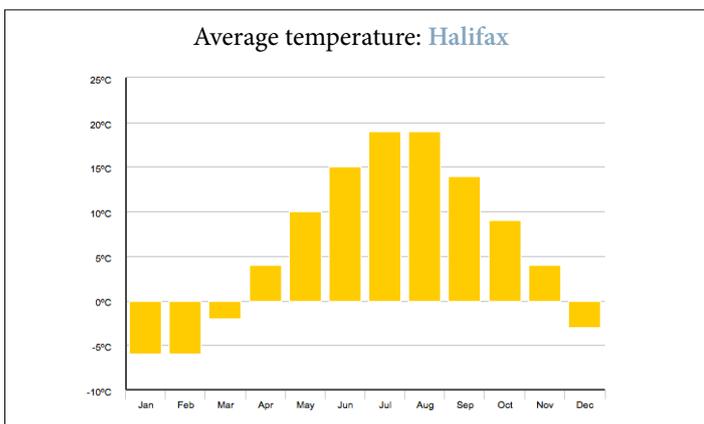
Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage, Sum of length, width and height of each piece should not exceed 55cm x 23cm x 40cm and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check – in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# VANCOUVER CITY STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Enjoy free time in Vancouver to explore its most famous and iconic sights at your own pace. explore Vancouver's diverse landscape, peruse world-class museums, sample a host of cuisines that span the globe and browse the thriving shopping scene on this fantastic 2 night extension.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

*This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on to Vancouver.*

### Itinerary

#### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

#### DAY 15: Vancouver

Following your main tour enjoy an extended stay in Vancouver. Explore the sights of this fantastic city at leisure, explore its world-class museums and sample the mouth watering cuisines on offer.

#### DAY 16: Vancouver to UK B

In the morning transfer to Vancouver airport for your return flight to the UK.

#### Hotel (2 nights on Room Only)

Your stay in Vancouver will take place at the following hotel:

#### 4★ Metropolitan Vancouver

Address: 645 Howe St, Vancouver, BC V6C 2Y9, Canada

Contact number: 001 604 687 1122

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

**Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

#### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

#### Tour Guides

Your stay in Vancouver is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the city at your own pace. Transfers are included.

#### Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**