

Banff & Jasper National Parks

Canadian Rockies Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Glorious Wilderness & Wildlife

Here is the secret most visitors on Canadian Rockies tours never understand. You don't have to go on a trek or sleep in a tent to experience the solitude of this awesome country away from the crowds. On this glorious Classic Journey, you enter into the heart of this remarkable landscape without ever giving up the creature comforts. Certainly, you'll see the essential sights like calendar-perfect Lake Louise. But we'll take you into whisper-quiet groves of lodgepole pines...arrange a guided walk onto the azure ice of an awesome glacier...offer the option of charging down Kicking Horse River on a raft...and put you in view of moose, elk or bighorn sheep (minus the camera-toting motorcoach groups). When we walk, we gravitate to gentle or moderate trails. For your comfort, we've arranged accommodations in gracious historic lodges and feasts on local specialties. The Cree used the word "Yoho"—an expression of awe—to describe this land. When you see it our way, we know you'll agree.

DAY 1

BANFF / JASPER NATIONAL PARK

- Walk at Bow Lake, Athabasca Falls, or Parker Ridge
- Wandering the grounds of our lodge in Jasper

Today you embark on your longest drive of the week, to Jasper National Park, the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. This drive along the Icefields Parkway is known as one of the top 10 most scenic drives in the world. Towering above us hang the Crowfoot Glacier as well as the Bow Glacier to the West. You'll stretch your legs on a short walk, perhaps at Mistaya Canyon – one of the least visited areas in the park. As the waters surge through deep sinuous limestone channels, you get a wonderful sense of solitude. An alternative walk is Athabasca Falls - a series of short and easy pathways along impressive cascades. There are many footpaths to choose from. Based on the weather, your guide will select the perfect route.

Later, you'll arrive in Jasper National Park, home to many healthy populations of wildlife. Over the next couple of days, you have the chance to see grizzly bears, moose, caribou, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and wolves that inhabit this mountain wilderness area.

This evening relax at your historic alpine-like lodge. Nestled on the shores of emerald-green Lac Beauvert and surrounded by majestic snow-capped mountains, Jasper Park Lodge was built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1922. Today it consists of a village of cedar chalets and log cabins connected by picturesque paths. After dinner on local specialties, you may want to head back out into the night. You're in the world's largest accessible Dark Sky Preserve – an amazing opportunity to look up and rediscover the wonders of the star-filled night.

Overnight: Jasper National Park

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

MALIGNE VALLEY

- Driving up the Maligne Valley
- Walking Maligne Lake's shores

Refueled from breakfast of local specialties, Jasper SkyTram whisks you up Whistler's Mountain to an elevation of over 7400 feet, showing you stunning vistas over mountain ranges stretching up to over forty miles. On a clear day, you can even see the white pyramid of Mount Robson in nearby British Columbia. Interpretive exhibits explain the high alpine environment, and a hiking trail leads you to the summit of the mountain. Be prepared to be amazed as you gain a brand new perspective of Jasper's stunning National Park. *Please note: Jasper SkyTram will be weather permitting.*

Afterward, you'll walk through the town of Jasper where you'll eat lunch on your own. Later, we'll drive up the Maligne Valley. At the top, there's impressive Maligne Canyon, carved deep into the stone, but so narrow that in some spots you can touch both walls. Footbridges span the 180-foot-deep canyon. The trails are well maintained and the views will have you reaching for your camera again and again.

Overnight: Jasper National Park

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

COLUMBIA ICEFIELDS

- Marveling at the views on the journey to Lake Louise
- Exploring the Columbia Icefields

After an appetizing breakfast at the lodge, we journey to Lake Louise. Your drive follows the Icefields Parkway, one of the most stunning mountain roads in the world. The journey would not be complete without a stop at the Columbia Icefields, a sheet of ice spanning more than 125 square miles. Here, your local glacier guide leads you on a walk on the Athabasca Glacier for an up-close view of the glacier and its icy crevasses.

Later this afternoon you'll arrive in the village of Lake Louise, nestled in a picturesque valley on the shores of the lake and named after one of Queen Victoria's daughters. Known as Canada's "Diamond in the Wilderness," Lake Louise is a thriving ski resort in the winter as well as a summer wilderness retreat.

Overnight: Lake Louise

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

LAKE LOUISE

- Following a trail along the spectacular trail of Lake Louise
- Lunching at the historic Chateau Lake Louise
- Strolling the shores of Moraine Lake

This morning's walk takes a path that rises 1,400 feet – and it's well worth the effort. You begin on the shores of Lake Louise. It's a gorgeous sight as the sunlight refracts off the vivid green water, a result of the minerals that fill the lake from the hanging glaciers above us. As you ascend above the tree line, the grassy slopes and alpine meadows open wide and you occasionally have a long-distance spotting of a grizzly bear foraging for berries. Your walk ascends along a trail that offers breathtaking views of the lake as well as Mount Victoria and the Victoria Glacier.

If you prefer a morning with a more relaxing pace, you have the option of going for an easy canoe paddle, exploring the shops and grounds of Chateau Lake Louise, or going for a horseback ride.

This afternoon, we all come back together for a short drive to Moraine Lake. Once featured on the back of the Canadian twenty-dollar bill, this tiny sapphire-blue lake sits amid the mountains that form the Valley of the Ten Peaks. Here you'll enjoy a relaxing walk with incredible views.

Overnight: Lake Louise

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

EMERALD LAKE

- Crossing the Continental Divide at Kicking Horse
- Taking inspiring walks at Takakkaw Falls and canoe on Emerald Lake

You spend the day in nearby Yoho National Park. Yoho is a Cree expression of awe and wonder. As we cross the Continental Divide, we drive over Kicking Horse Pass, named for the explorer who was knocked unconscious by his horse while searching for a suitable route through the Rockies in 1858.

In fact, finding routes through the Rockies – especially for the crucial train lines – led to some astonishing engineering feats. You'll see one of them, the Spiral Tunnels that ingeniously loop and loop to tame the high elevations. Local roads solve the same problem with intense switchbacks, and we'll drive one of them up to Takakkaw Falls, the second highest waterfall in Canada. These falls give credence to their name, which means "magnificent" in Cree. You follow a short trail to the base of these majestic falls, which plunge over 1000 feet into the Kicking Horse River.

This afternoon you have the option of going for an easy canoe paddling on Emerald Lake, one of the most beautiful lakes in the Canadian Rockies, or join your guide for a scenic walk around the lake.

Overnight: Lake Louise

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

BANFF

- Picnicking in the depths of a Rocky Mountain forest
- Discovering the original site of Canada's first National Park

After a farewell breakfast at the hotel, you venture into Banff National Park. A short walk brings you to perfect spots to enjoy in the shade of the Aspen trees, lodgepole pines and Douglas fir trees that make up this magnificent forest. This morning, you take a walk above the tree line to Sunshine Meadows, regarded by many as the most stunning alpine setting in the Canadian Rockies. The meadows straddle the Continental Divide and are surrounded by some of the Rockies' highest peaks. *Please note: Sunshine Meadows hike is weather permitting. Your guide may opt for an alternate hike in the area.*

Back to the town of Banff, located in the heart of Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Canada's oldest national park. With your guide, you start with a visit to the Cave and Basin hot springs that spurred the creation of the park after three Canadian Pacific Railway workers stumbled upon the site in 1888.

You part company in Banff with many wonderful memories of your week.

Meals: B, L

DAILY ITINERARY

Canadian Rockies: Banff & Jasper National Parks | Cultural Walking Adventure



Tour Hotels



Jasper Park Lodge

Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1920's, this historic lodge is on the shores of Lac Beauvert. Picturesque paths connect the cedar chalets and heritage log cabins that house each of the charming guestrooms, decorated with country décor.

OVERNIGHT: Jasper | **NIGHTS:** 2



Cathedral Mountain Lodge

Located in Yoho National Park and a short drive from Lake Louise, the lodge is located on the banks of the Kicking Horse River, and was built with reclaimed Douglas-fir posts and beams. Welcome to a place where nature and luxury are one and the same.

OVERNIGHT: Field | **NIGHTS:** 3

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	6 Days, 5 Nights
START	Banff Park Lodge, Banff, Canada
END	Downtown Banff, Banff, Canada
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate along the mountain, forest and glacier trails on generally well-maintained paths. Elevation ranges from about 7425 feet in Jasper and about 6950 feet in Lake Louise. Plan on 3-4 hours of continuous walking each day.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Privileged Access Events
- Invisible Check-In

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Canadian Rockies...

- Hiking in spectacular gorges with rushing waterfalls
- Marvel at spectacular alpine vistas over Sunshine Meadows
- Exploring Athabasca Glacier on an unforgettable ice walk
- Walking scenic trails to the base of the 1,000-foot-high Takakkaw Falls
- Spotting bighorn sheep, elk, moose, eagles and more

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT