

Canadian Rockies Adventure – Featuring Two Days Onboard the Rocky Mountaineer

May 14 – 23, 2020

\$5,645 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, May 14 – CHICAGO / VANCOUVER (L)

This morning we depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and take to the skies for Vancouver, British Columbia. Lying between the Coast Mountain range and the Pacific Ocean, Vancouver is one of the most scenic cities in the world. Its cosmopolitan character is reflected in areas like the very urban Robson Street, Canada's Rodeo Drive, contrasted by trendy Granville Island with its mix of cobblestone streets, artisan studios and eclectic market.

Friday, May 15 – VANCOUVER / KAMLOOPS (Journey Through the Clouds) (B,L)

Today we depart Vancouver aboard the Rocky Mountaineer for a spectacular rail journey through British Columbia. We'll travel on the route known as the *Journey Through the Clouds* line. Leaving Vancouver, today's rail journey will take us from the coastal city of Vancouver to Kamloops, in the heart of British Columbia's interior. Our journey begins as we travel through the fertile farmland of the Fraser Valley before entering the forests and winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains. Along the way, the train will slow so that we can fully appreciate Hell's Gate, a must-see while traveling through Fraser Canyon. At this spot, the river is just 115 feet wide and is bound by jagged cliffs on both sides. The water rushes through this narrow stretch at high speeds, making it a wondrous sight to behold. This stretch of the river gets its name from Samuel Fraser, who in 1808 wrote: "surely this is the gate of hell." Then, the landscape undergoes another transformation as we follow the Thompson River through scrub brush and desert to historic Kamloops. Known as the "meeting place" of the North and South Thompson rivers, we'll experience an unhurried lifestyle and warm hospitality in this friendly town that basks in over 2,000 hours of sunshine per year.

Saturday, May 16 – KAMLOOPS / JASPER (Journey Through the Clouds) (B,L)

On today's *Journey Through the Clouds* we will once again be surrounded by dramatic scenery as we follow the banks of the North Thompson River through the Monashee and Cariboo Mountains, climbing ever nearer to the high peaks of the Continental Divide. One of the highlights of today's rail journey is Pyramid Falls. Cascading in two dramatic drops totaling 300 feet, we'll have an up-close view of the drama of the falls flowing under the tracks before joining the rushing North Thompson River. Then we'll traverse the Yellowhead Pass into Jasper National Park, as we rail past teal-green lakes closing in on Mount Robson, the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies. With amazing views of the tallest peaks in the area, the scenery continues to unfold outside our windows on our way to the self-described little town of Jasper. Located in the heart of Jasper National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we'll soon find out that Jasper offers unlimited activities both day and night.

Sunday, May 17 – JASPER (B)

A leisurely day on tour will introduce us to Jasper National Park. Our day will feature a visit to Patricia and Pyramid

Lakes, as well as Maligne Canyon, one of the most spectacular forges in the Canadian Rockies, with sheer limestone walls that plunge to depths of over 540 feet. We'll marvel at the magnificent shoreline with dense forests and glacial peaks rising abruptly from the water's edge, and learn of the local history, geology, wildlife and glaciology of the lakes and of Jasper National Park. Afterward, we'll return to Jasper for an afternoon at leisure while enjoying one of Canada's most awe-inspiring panoramas. A quintessential mountain town nestled on the Athabasca River, Jasper's history dates to 1813. Today, it's bustling with shops, galleries, cafes and spectacular views in every direction.

Monday, May 18 – JASPER / LAKE LOUISE (Columbia Icefield) (B,L)

An exciting day on tour will introduce us to the Columbia Icefield, located on the boundary of Jasper and Banff National Parks. This morning we depart Jasper and travel along the Icefields Parkway, considered one of the most scenic highways in the world, offering an ever-changing view of waterfalls, emerald lakes, alpine meadows and snow-capped peaks. For 143 miles from Jasper to Banff, the Parkway winds along the shoulder of the Great Divide and passes by the spectacular mountains of the Eastern Main Ranges of the Canadian Rockies. On arrival at the Columbia Icefield Centre, we'll take part in an interactive learning experience in the Glacier Gallery Exhibit, a self-guided tour that takes you back in time to discover how a glacier moves and highlights the importance of icefields in climate research. Then we'll board the massive Ice Explorer, an all-terrain vehicle that will take us on a remarkable excursion onto the surface of the Athabasca Glacier. Afterward, we'll return to the Icefields Parkway where we'll make a brief stop at Bow Lake on our way to Lake Louise, one of the most photographed scenes in the Canadian Rockies.

Tuesday, May 19 – LAKE LOUISE (B,HD)

The day is at leisure to explore Lake Louise Village and also allow ample time for a relaxing stroll along the interpretive trails around the lake famed for the blueness of its water and snow-capped peaks that surround it. Lake Louise has become symbolic of the quintessentially Canadian mountain scene. This Alpine lake, known for its sparkling turquoise waters, is situated at the base of impressive glacier-clad peaks that have long been at the heart of Canadian mountaineering.

Wednesday, May 20 – LAKE LOUISE / BANFF (Yoho National Park) (B)

Today we depart Lake Louise and travel into Yoho National Park. Our first stop will be the Spiral Tunnels. Because of the descent of Kicking Horse River, the Canadian Pacific Railway was challenged with the task of getting locomotives through the mountains and across the river safely. The answer was the Spiral Tunnels. Completed in 1909, this carefully planned maze of tunnels and tracks takes travelers through Cathedral Mountain on the Upper Spiral and Mount Ogden on the Lower Spiral. Next, we'll visit Emerald Lake, with its vivid emerald-colored waters it is the largest lake in

Yoho National Park and one of the most spectacular in the region. Then, we'll stop to view the Natural Bridge, an impressive natural rock formation that spans the flow of the Kicking Horse River. The lookout presents visitors with an opportunity to view the formation from a variety of different vantage points, with interpretive displays explaining the physical processes at work - a powerful reminder of how much influence water has in shaping the landscape. Afterward, we'll be on our way to Banff, the best known of the Canadian Rockies' national parks, and also Canada's first. Our home for the next two evenings is the mountain resort of Banff, located along the banks of the Bow River and an excellent base for exploring the surrounding countryside.

Thursday, May 21 – BANFF (B)

The day is at leisure for independent sightseeing. The town of Banff is only four square kilometers, bordered on all sides by wilderness, so it's not uncommon to see wildlife, such as deer and elk, in backyards! The town is a service center for Banff National Park visitors and offers everything from museums and galleries, shopping, plus a long line up of outdoor activities. Whatever you choose to do, Banff will have something for everyone!

Friday, May 22 – BANFF / CALGARY (B,HD)

Today we depart Banff and travel to the bustling city of Calgary. But first, we'll learn about Banff's colorful history and then take to the skies by gondola as we climb to an elevation of 7,486 feet at the Summit Upper Terminal where we'll experience a bird's eye view of six mountain ranges. You will feel like you're on top of the world when we are standing on the observation deck. We'll see the interactive giant compass where you can find the distance and direction to home and other cities around the world. Then, we'll be on our way to Kananaskis Country, a park system located in the foothills and front ranges of the Canadian Rockies for the highlight of today's adventure, a panoramic Helicopter



Tour in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. The 12-minute flight is chock full of natural beauty, glaciers and waterfalls, including many amazing sights you have to see from above! Afterward, we'll continue our journey to the eastern foothills of the Rockies on our way to Calgary. One of Canada's fastest growing cities, much of Calgary's growth is tied to the oil and ranching industries, which is apparent in the business district where suits and cowboy hats go hand in hand.

Saturday, May 23 – CALGARY / CHICAGO (B)

This morning we depart our downtown hotel and travel to Calgary International Airport in preparation for our journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Canadian Rockies Adventure* vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Driver-Guides.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- SilverLeaf rail service aboard the Rocky Mountaineer with included onboard gratuities.
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person at the hotels and rail stations.
- **Taxes for included air and ground services of \$300 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; airline checked luggage fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach Driver-Guides, and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

Please Note: The tour price is based on a minimum participation of 15 paying travelers. Less than this may result in additional cost to the traveler and possible cancellation of this tour.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

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**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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