

CANADA & ALASKA



THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE




The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

INCORPORATING
BRIDGE &
WICKERS

CANADA & ALASKA



THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

The publication of this latest in our range of destination brochures comes at an opportune moment. I have recently returned from my very first visit to Canada, escorting a party of 78 on a Northwest Passage expedition through the wilds of the Canadian Arctic. We journeyed home via Edmonton and Vancouver, and I was totally seduced by the beauty of this great country.

As this brochure clearly illustrates, there is still much for me to discover - the stunning mountain scenery and wildlife of British Columbia, the French colonial heritage and Fall colours of Quebec, the magic of the Maritime provinces on Canada's Atlantic seaboard. Something I have every intention of putting right as soon as I can.

That said, the brochure represents just a snapshot of the knowledge and expertise our team of Canada experts here can call upon to ensure that your holiday is designed to perfectly suit you.

So don't leave it as long as I did. It really is too good to miss. As a certain Jane Fonda once said, "When I'm in Canada, I feel this is what the world should be like".

With best wishes,

NICK VAN GRUISEN

CANADA & ALASKA

CONTENTS

WHY I LOVE CANADA 6

THE WEST 8

 WHERE TO STAY 12

 SONORA 14

 BEAR COUNTRY 16

 ALASKA & THE YUKON 18

 WHEN IN THE WEST... 20

 ROCKY MOUNTAINEER..... 22

THE EAST 24

 WHERE TO STAY 28

 FAIRMONT 30

ATLANTIC CANADA..... 32

 WHERE TO STAY 36

 NEWFOUNDLAND 38

 FOGO ISLAND INN 40

MEET THE TEAM 42



“When I’m in Canada, I feel this is what the world should be like.”
JANE FONDA

WHY I LOVE CANADA

BY DAN SNOW



Historian and broadcaster, Dan Snow hosts the popular HISTORY HIT podcast, www.historyhit.com/podcast

Imagine the vast scale of scenery and freedom of the USA. Add the enthusiasm and charisma of the Americans. But then add the sanity of Europeans, the cultural legacy of the French, the understated pride and humour of the British. That, friends, is Canada. The greatest country in the world, the perfect fusion of North American and European, now with a rich mix of influences from all the other continents too.

If you seek massive wilderness, you will find it in Canada, the second largest country on Earth, with its mighty forests, breathtaking mountain ranges, unending coastline and sparkling network of lakes. If you like city life, then Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and others are as cosmopolitan, lively, culturally dynamic as any on Earth.

If you want idyllic, quaint rural America with its red barns, silver grain silos, white clapboard houses and shady porches, well, I spent my summers on a farm just like that with my grandparents in rural Ontario. The historic heart of Quebec is one of the first cities of the Americas. The wild Yukon is a place where people still escape to and search for gold, throwing down rough nuggets on the bar to pay for a round of drinks.

Skiing? The Rockies, Whistler, and interior British Columbia are where heli-skiing was invented. Sailing? Follow the trail of the Vikings down the East Coast, or Captain Cook up the fjord strewn West Coast with its pods of whales. Bears? Take your pick from black or brown, grizzly or polar, even the unique 'white spirit bear'.

The National Parks are the best in the world. They cover an area bigger than the UK or New Zealand. They are accessible but not tamed. The world's longest path is under construction, the Trans Canada trail which will run 24,000kms from the Pacific to the Atlantic, allowing people to bike, skate or walk without dodging cars.

Canada combines epic natural beauty, lively cities, a confident, modern cultural blend, and sane politics, which makes it unique. It astonishes me how little it is known or visited by the British. Once you go, you will find it extraordinary why anyone goes anywhere else.

THE WEST



CANADA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

The westernmost province of British Columbia showcases an irresistible combination of mountains, coastal fjords, islands, lakes, forests, vineyards, whales and bears, as well as the provincial capital of Victoria and the lively, liveable waterfront city of Vancouver. ➡



Banff National Park



Lake Louise

“... still pale waters perfectly mirror a sheer amphitheatre of ice and rock.”



Discovery Passage



Victoria

THE BEST OF THE WEST
16 DAYS



INCLUDES

- 3 nights at The Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff
- 2 nights at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper
- 2-day journey in GoldLeaf Service on Rocky Mountaineer train (night spent at hotel in Kamloops)
- 2 nights at Rosewood Hotel Georgia, Vancouver
- 3 nights at Sonora Resort, Sonora Island
- 3 nights at Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, Vancouver Island

PRICES FROM

£8,660 per person (Includes flights)

Note: Families might prefer to self drive from Jasper to Vancouver, with two nights in Clearwater en route, and substitute Whistler for Sonora. The cost of a two week trip for a family of four starts at £3,895 per person.

WHEN TO GO

If you are not planning to ski, then travel in the summer months from May - Sep

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Linked by nonstop flights from the UK, Vancouver stands with its feet in the Pacific and its head in the mountains. The city has a wealth of attractions, among them the 1,000 acre Stanley Park, the artisan studios and eclectic markets of Granville Island, the funky Yaletown warehouse district and the second largest Chinatown in the west, but it is also the perfect gateway for exploring Canada’s west.

Take the ferry across to Victoria on Vancouver Island, a charming city with a very British feel. It’s a great place for whale watching too. You could then drive across to Tofino on the island’s western shores, where the beaches are pounded by wild Pacific rollers, or return to Vancouver and hop on a floatplane to either Sonora or Knight Inlet. Grizzly bears roam free here at these remote but luxurious lodges amidst the spectacular coastal wilderness to the north.

Whistler, best known as Canada’s premier ski resort, is also a hive of activity in summer. You can fly in by floatplane again, drive up on the ‘Sea to Sky’ highway, or take your time on a scenic and romantic two day rail adventure aboard the Rocky Mountaineer (starting in Jasper).

The same train is best known for its hugely popular overnight journey between Vancouver and Banff in the neighbouring province of Alberta. Its big carriage windows and glass-domed observation car frame a gently moving canvas of some of the most magnificent mountain-scapes on the planet. Or you might prefer to ride the Skeena from Jasper to Prince Rupert, a 1,600km odyssey through a remarkable wilderness of lake, river and forest linking the Rockies with the Pacific.

Jasper and Banff are themselves linked by the Icefields Parkway, an equally remarkable stretch of highway which follows a valley studded with emerald lakes of unimaginable beauty beneath the Rockies’ highest and most rugged saw-toothed peaks and glaciers. En route is Lake Louise, whose still pale waters famously and perfectly mirror a sheer amphitheatre of ice and rock.

And finally from Banff, you might choose to drive back to Vancouver via the Okanagan Valley, a rich agricultural area best known for its wineries (it’s often referred to as the ‘Napa of the North’), or continue on to Calgary for your homeward flight.

MORE TO SEE & DO



Sulphur Mountain

When in Banff, ride the gondola to the top of Sulphur Mountain and bathe in the Cave and Basin Hot Springs.



Heli-hiking

Take the pain out of hiking! Ascend by helicopter and descend on foot. Available at key locations in the Rockies.



Butchart Gardens

These world-renowned gardens on a 130-acre country estate near Victoria are one of Vancouver Island’s most iconic attractions.



Sunshine Coast

Take a ferry from Vancouver and drive the Sunshine Coast, a spectacular 100-mile stretch of road that divides the fjords of the Pacific from the coastal mountains.

WHERE TO STAY

OUR SIX OF THE BEST



Wickaninnish Inn

1 ECHO VALLEY, CARIBOO

Set in 160 acres of lush valley, pine forest and desert canyon in the heart of British Columbia's Cariboo Mountains, Echo Valley is part ranch and part spa. Riding (for all abilities), hiking, fly fishing and biking are all on offer here, as well as a menu of therapeutic Thai treatments.

2 NITA LAKE LODGE, WHISTLER

A lakeside retreat in the resort of Whistler with its full range of summer activities right on the doorstep. There is also a wonderful spa with its own full range of wellness activities including rooftop hot tub bathing, eucalyptus steam treatments and hot stone massages.

3 THE POST HOTEL, LAKE LOUISE

More alpine lodge than hotel, the 'Relais & Chateaux' Post near Lake Louise is a popular spot for skiers in winter. Set within the Banff National Park, at some 1,500 metres above sea level, it also offers great hiking in summer and great dining anytime.

4 ROSEWOOD HOTEL GEORGIA, VANCOUVER

A legendary address dating back to the roaring '20s, the Georgia in Vancouver has been fully restored to its former grandeur. Located on the corner of Howe and West Georgia, it has a spa, sauna, steam room, fitness centre, indoor saltwater lap pool and delightful terrace bar.

5 SONORA RESORT, SONORA ISLAND

A Relais & Chateaux property that combines five star luxury with thrilling outdoor adventure at the northern end of Desolation Sound. There's a fleet of zodiacs for exploring this remote and stunning maritime wilderness, fishing, kayaking and even indoor tennis, but Sonora is also a great place simply to relax, eat well and enjoy the spa.

6 WICKANINNISH INN, VANCOUVER ISLAND

Built into the wuthering woodlands of Tofino overlooking Chesterman Beach on the surf pounded western shores of Vancouver Island, each of Wickaninnish's rooms has a fireplace, balcony and memorable views. The inn also attracts keen storm watchers in the winter months.



Rosewood Hotel Georgia



Nita Lake Lodge



Echo Valley



The Post Hotel



Sonora Resort

SONORA RESORT

OUR FAVOURITE WILDERNESS
RETREAT IN CANADA



Uncompromising luxury and thrilling adventure meet at this wonderful island lodge in Desolation Sound, set against the wild beauty of British Columbia's Pacific Coast.

For lovers of pure, undiluted nature, Sonora is the perfect playground. Here, amidst British Columbia's breathtaking coastal scenery, you can search for grizzly bears, fish for salmon on secluded rivers, hike in ancient forests, cruise ocean channels in search of whales and dolphins... even charter a helicopter to explore the high mountains and glaciers. As the resort itself says, "On our doorstep is the great outdoors - go wild!"

And when you return to the lodge after the rigours of a day in that great outdoors, you will be welcomed by superb local cuisine, a wine cellar stocked with award winning wines, a state of the art movie theatre, a revitalising Islands Current Spa, and spacious rooms with goose down duvets and spectacular views.

Little wonder then that Sonora is our favourite wilderness retreat in Canada!



SOME KEY FACTS:

- One of only seven Relais & Chateaux properties in western Canada.
- Fly in by helicopter or seaplane from Vancouver, or take it slow by boat from Campbell River.
- Choose from 88 rooms and suites spread across a dozen uniquely themed, ocean facing lodges. All have fireplaces, soaker tubs, satellite television and complimentary bar fridges with wine, beer and spirits. There are also two private villas if you prefer complete seclusion.
- Gourmet meals, Relais & Chateaux style, are served in the Tye Dining Room. Select either the chef's tasting menu or from the a la carte menu in the evening.
- Resort facilities include outdoor heated pool, tennis court, hot tubs, steam rooms, mountain bikes and two well stocked fly-fishing ponds (all equipment provided).
- Wireless internet access and long distance calls are free.
- Accommodation, meals, drinks and use of resort facilities are included in the price (premium spirits and wines, transport and activities are extra).



Grizzly bear



Kermode bear



Churchill, Manitoba

THE GREAT BEAR SAFARI
14 DAYS



INCLUDES
3 nights at Fairmont Pacific Rim, Vancouver
4 nights at Spirit Bear Lodge, Klemtu
1 night at Fairmont Vancouver Airport
4 nights at Great Bear Lodge, Great Bear Rainforest

PRICES FROM
£7,380 per person (Includes flights)

WHEN TO GO
During the salmon spawning season (Jul in Alaska, Sep - Oct in Canada) for grizzlies, and from Oct - Nov for polar bears

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Bears are big in Canada and Alaska. In terms of size, habitat and variety. There's black, brown, grizzly, polar...even a 'white spirit' bear.

The grizzly is the main attraction. The best time to catch these magnificent beasts is from September (or July in Alaska) when they make their way down to the rivers to gorge on salmon desperately fighting their way upstream from ocean to spawning ground. It's a phenomenal spectacle best seen from one of the dedicated wilderness lodges - **Sonora** to the north of Vancouver, where you can boat downriver to uniquely designed platforms for unobstructed but discreet views of the bears catching fish and playing with their cubs, or **Brooks Lodge** and **Katmai Wilderness Lodge** in Alaska's Katmai National Park. Millions of salmon pour from the Bering Sea into the park's lakes and waterways, and it is not unusual to see as many as fifty bears at one time setting out their stall by a river choked with fish.

Again to the north of Vancouver on British Columbia's wild Pacific Coast, grizzlies can also be seen at **Great Bear Lodge** (as you might expect!) and at **Tweedsmuir**, a luxury retreat where you can stroll to viewing platforms on the edge of the lawn without a guide, dine on gourmet cuisine and

recover from the day's exertions with a recuperative soak in the spa's hot tub. And at **Knight Inlet**, floating on the waters of a spectacular 100km long glacial fjord, you can observe the bears coming out of hibernation to feed on sedge grasses, mussels and barnacles beside the Glendale River.

The polar bear may not be nearly as prolific, but to watch these mythic creatures in their natural habitat, at close quarters from the safety of a 'tundra buggy', is a rare and very special privilege. Every autumn, a hundred or so white 'Lords of the Arctic' gather around the town of **Churchill** in the province of Manitoba, patiently waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze over so that they can hunt across the ice for their staple diet of ringed seal.

And if you want to see that most unusual of bears, the 'white spirit' or 'ghost' or Kermode as this black bear with a rare, double recessive gene is variously known, then fly up from Vancouver to Bella Bella on Campbell Island and water taxi in to the remote **Spirit Bear Lodge**.



Katmai NP, Alaska



ALASKA

AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER

Denali

Silversea's Silver Shadow

The Alaska Highway

Barely changed since the beginning of time, America's 49th state has eight national parks including the six million pristine acres of wilderness that make up Denali. Other natural assets include sixteen of the country's tallest mountains, half the world's glaciers, the second biggest rainforest after Amazonia and 34,000 miles of coastline, more than the east and west coasts of the 'Lower 48' combined.

America's last frontier is also one of the most spectacular cruise destinations on the planet. Sail, for example, its fabled Inside Passage and you will enter the 70-mile deep fjord of Glacier Bay, an awesome spectacle of icefields and 'calving' icebergs every bit as stunning as anything you can find in the polar regions.

Ports of call will include Ketchikan, the salmon capital of the world with a preserved old quarter built on stilts and populated by scores of resident bald eagles; the former Russian capital of Sitka; the state capital of Juneau; and Skagway, gateway to the Klondike gold fields. Scenery and wildlife apart, passengers can also enjoy such adventures as helicopter flights from the ship and white water rafting.

THE YUKON CANADA'S 'WILD WEST'

Aside from five golden years at the tail end of the 19th century, the Yukon has remained untouched. There are just over 32,000 people living in a land the size of the UK, with two moose, two caribou and half a bear for each one of them. Canada's 'wild west' is also rich in First Nations culture.

Brightened by the midnight sun in summer and the Northern Lights in winter, the Yukon is accessible by air or, for a real sense of space and place, via the wonderfully scenic Alaska Highway which runs from Dawson Creek in British Columbia to Fairbanks in Alaska. Hire a suitably robust vehicle and you can combine both in two glorious weeks of open road exploration.

ALASKA 'INSIDE PASSAGE' CRUISE 14 DAYS



- INCLUDES**
- 3 nights at Pan Pacific Vancouver
 - 7 night 'Inside Passage' cruise aboard Silversea's Silver Shadow
 - 2 nights at The Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

PRICES FROM
£6,430 per person (Includes flights)

ALASKA & YUKON SELF DRIVE 17 DAYS

- INCLUDES**
- 1 night at Alaskan Lodge, Talkeetna
 - 2 nights at Grande Lodge, Denali
 - 2 nights at Springhill Suites, Fairbanks
 - 2 nights at Cleft of the Rock, Tok
 - 2 nights at Westmark Inn, Dawson City
 - 1 night at Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse
 - 1 night at Westmark Inn, Skagway
 - 1 night at Hotel Halsingland, Haines
 - 1 night at The Raven Hotel, Haines Junction
 - 1 night at Harbor Inn, Valdez
 - 1 night at Exit Glacier Lodge, Seward

PRICES FROM
£5,245 per person (Includes flights)

Note: If you prefer not to travel independently, we can also arrange for you to join a small group escorted tour which follows a similar itinerary.

WHEN TO GO
Winters are cold and inhospitable, so travel in the summer months from May - Sep

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Time and space do not allow us to produce an exhaustive list of everything that Canada's West has to offer its visitors, but here are a few more suggestions to either enhance your first adventure or dictate your next.

Calgary Stampede

The mother of all rodeos and the largest of its kind in the world. In action for more than a century, the Stampede brings the city of Calgary to life every July in a 10-day carnival of steer wrestling, bareback bronco riding, cattle roping and bull riding. There's also a show every evening with chuck wagon racing, circus-style performers and fireworks. Book early as tickets sell out many weeks in advance.

Stay at Le Germain

Canadian Arctic

An unearthly world of savage ice and rock, isolated Inuit villages, seafaring history and extraordinary wildlife. An expedition cruise is the only way to unlock its immense proportions and mythic appeal, and itineraries will include such 'landmarks' as the infamous Northwest Passage, Resolute Bay, Baffin Island and the Torngat Mountains Reserve, Canada's most remote national park.

One Ocean Expeditions operate 12-night Northwest Passage cruises in August and September

Canada's Galapagos

The popular moniker for Haida Gwaii, a dagger-shaped archipelago of some 450 islands that lie 80km off the British Columbia coast. The main attraction here is the very remote Gwaii Haanas National Park, which makes up the bottom third of the archipelago and whose many unique species of flora and fauna are reason for the moniker.

Stay at Ocean House (opening May 2018)

Ski Canada

Legendary Canadian resorts such as Whistler, Lake Louise and Banff are fast becoming popular winter destinations for us Brits who are prepared to make the long journey in search of more reliable snow conditions and traditional Rocky Mountain hospitality. Closer to home, in the Laurentians on the other side of the country, the lakeside mountain village of Mont-Tremblant has also begun to attract international attention.

Stay at Four Seasons Resort, Whistler



Golf & Wine, Okanagan

The perfect pairing! There are some 200 wineries in the Okanagan, with the best centred around Kelowna and many just an easy fairway wood from such championship calibre courses as Black Mountain and Gallagher's Canyon. It's little wonder that Golf.com rated the valley their 'number one spot for golf and wine tasting'.

Stay at The Cove Lakeside Resort, Kelowna

Northern Lights

The Northern Lights are one of Earth's most awesome natural sights. Although best seen in winter because of the long nights, the essential conditions for viewing - darkness, cloudless skies, a northerly location far from artificial lights and as little moonlight as possible, make it a year round possibility in the Yukon, North West Territories and Alaska, as well as in Churchill on Hudson Bay.

Stay at Solstice Skywatch, Yellowknife (opening August 2018)



Via Rail

If you want to combine both western and eastern seaboards in one trip, then let the train take the strain and board Via Rail's The Canadian for the 4,424km journey through the Rockies and across the great prairies on the 'track of iron' linking Vancouver with Toronto.

Three night trips depart Vancouver and Toronto two to three times a week year round.

Whale Watching

There are any number of places along British Columbia's Pacific Coast where whale watching excursions can be arranged, but the best and most accessible are Victoria, Tofino and Campbell River on Vancouver Island. The whale watching season runs from May to September.

Stay at Painter's Lodge, Campbell River

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

ALL ABOARD AMAZING!



David Wickers, Chief Travel Correspondent on The Sunday Times for 17 years and former director of The Ultimate Travel Company, shares his memories of a 'once in a lifetime' journey from Vancouver to Banff aboard the Rocky Mountaineer.

"To the shrill toot of the whistle, the refrain of a Scottish bagpiper and cries of 'All Aboard', we took our seats on what is without doubt one of the world's most scenic rail journeys.

Canada's Rocky Mountaineer is more than just a train ride. Travel in the luxurious, newly refurbished GoldLeaf Service class and the views through the big carriage windows and glass-domed upper deck frame a gently moving canvas of some of the most magnificent mountainscapes on the planet. Head down to the lower deck of your carriage and you will discover an exclusive dining room where you can wine and dine on the finest produce available.

The experience was like watching one long, living 'Come to Canada' promotional poster. Aside from our front row, super comfy, reclining chairs, there was also an open air observation deck in between the carriages where we could breathe in the alpine beauty as well as see it.

The on board crew turned an incredible journey into an incredible story too with their on board commentary, from historic tales of the Gold Rush to the adventures of the Hudson Bay traders. The driver even slowed the train down for his so-called 'Kodak Moments' (how long, we wondered before he changes that to 'iPad images').

Memorable sights were many. We loved the passing freight trains with their 100 or more carriages snaking along the contours, the massive osprey nests built on top of the telegraph poles, the flocks of wild Big Horn sheep, the occasional logging community and the views of Mount Robson, highest point in the Canadian Rockies.

As they say, 'All Aboard Amazing!'



SOME KEY FACTS:

- Rocky Mountaineer trains run from mid-April to mid-October, with two to three departures a week on most routes, so easily included in any tailor-made Canadian holiday.
- The 2-day journey between Vancouver and either Jasper, Lake Louise or Banff is the most popular, but the trains also connect Jasper with Whistler and Vancouver with Seattle.
- You spend the night off the train at a downtown hotel in Kamloops, so that not a single mile of scenery is missed.
- There are two classes on the train (GoldLeaf & SilverLeaf Service), but GoldLeaf Service gives you the best views, fine dining and an exceptional level of service.
- A la carte, gourmet meals are served either at your seat (SilverLeaf Service) or in the dining room on the lower floor of each bi-level, glass-domed carriage (GoldLeaf Service). All food and drink, both soft and alcoholic, is included in the fare.
- Ten brand new GoldLeaf Service class carriages will come into service for the 2018 season.

THE EAST

A MARRIAGE OF TOWN, COUNTRY AND COAST



“... 90% of Niagara’s thundering waters and the most spectacular views belong to Canada.”

Niagara Falls



Algonquin



Rideau Canal, Ottawa



Toronto

A broad canvas of French heritage and Fall colours, of historic cities and picturesque fishing villages, national parks, superb seafood and the mighty splendour of Niagara Falls...Canada's East is an irresistible marriage of town, country and coast.

ONTARIO

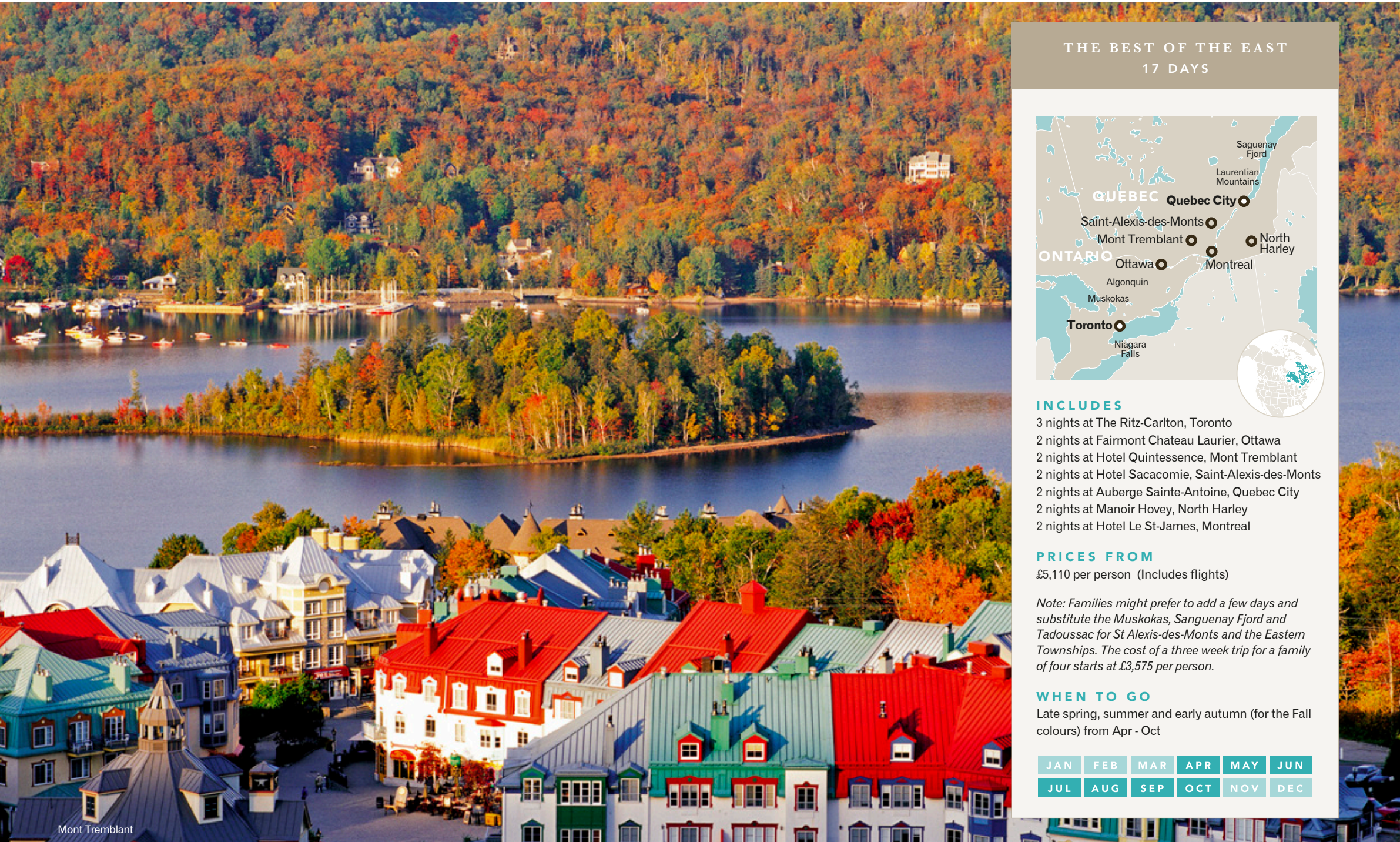
Canada's second largest province is bordered to the south by the Saint Lawrence River and the Great Lakes and to the north by Hudson Bay. Its gateway is Toronto, linked to the UK by frequent non-stop flights. This largest and most dynamic of cities on the shores of Lake Ontario has a number of cosmopolitan attractions to sustain you for the first few days.

Undoubtedly the province's most iconic and impressive sight is Niagara Falls. It may form the border with the USA, but 90% of Niagara's thundering waters and the most spectacular views belong to Canada. For a better understanding of their breathtaking scale and power, try to see the Falls from above by helicopter and from below by boat.

Ontario is also home to some 300 national and provincial parks, among them the Algonquin whose vast interior of maple hills, rocky ridges and innumerable

lakes defines the natural splendour of Canada's East. Here too are the award winning vineyards of Muskokas, just a short drive north of Toronto on the shores of Lake Hudson - little surprise given they share the same latitude with Bordeaux.

A classic fly-drive itinerary would take you from Toronto to Niagara Falls, where you can stay in one of the traditional inns at Niagara-on-the-Lake, then on through the wilderness of Algonquin to the Muskokas for an indulgent blend of wine tasting and spa treatments. End with a couple of nights in Ottawa - Ontario's historic capital has many fine museums and is home to the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site connecting the city with the Saint Lawrence River and a 'masterpiece of creative genius'. ➡



Mont Tremblant

QUEBEC

With its French roots, traditions and language, Quebec is unlike anywhere else in North America. Think forests, lakes, waterways, fishing and farming. Then add to this timeless pastoral canvas the lively metropolis of Montreal, which stands on a croissant-shaped island in the middle of the Saint Lawrence, and Quebec City, charmingly Gallic and the only place in the Americas north of Mexico still fortified by its original city walls.

The province is enormous, seven times the size of the UK but with the population of Greater London, half of whom live in Montreal. It has a million lakes, 100,000 miles of river, 6,000 miles of coastline, the Laurentian Mountains and the dramatic Saguenay Fjord, at 62 miles one of the longest in the world. Suffused into all this natural wonder is a rich seam of French colonial heritage.

It is remarkably easy to combine Quebec and Ontario, and we would encourage you to find the time to do so. From Ottawa, cross the provincial border and head up to Mont Tremblant, a popular weekend bolt hole for 'Montrealistes' who come to relax, ride and raft at this lakeside resort in the Laurentians. Continue on to Saint-Alexis-des-Monts and the luxurious mountain retreat of Sacacomie, then drop down to Quebec City...very pretty, very French, and with looks more akin to St Malo than anywhere in the Americas.

From here, you can explore the Sanguenay Fjord and whale watch at Tadoussac (from May to September), before driving back west through the charming villages of the Eastern Townships to Montreal, a city that promotes itself to visitors from the USA as 'Paris without the jetlag!' It's a place where you can have a lot more fun than you ever thought possible in Canada.

THE BEST OF THE EAST
17 DAYS



INCLUDES
3 nights at The Ritz-Carlton, Toronto
2 nights at Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa
2 nights at Hotel Quintessence, Mont Tremblant
2 nights at Hotel Sacacomie, Saint-Alexis-des-Monts
2 nights at Auberge Sainte-Antoine, Quebec City
2 nights at Manoir Hovey, North Harley
2 nights at Hotel Le St-James, Montreal

PRICES FROM
£5,110 per person (Includes flights)

Note: Families might prefer to add a few days and substitute the Muskokas, Sanguenay Fjord and Tadoussac for St Alexis-des-Monts and the Eastern Townships. The cost of a three week trip for a family of four starts at £3,575 per person.

WHEN TO GO
Late spring, summer and early autumn (for the Fall colours) from Apr - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Quebec City

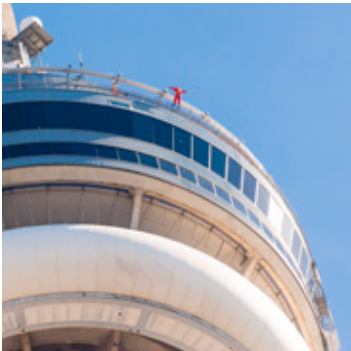
MORE TO SEE & DO



Whale Watching
One of Canada's great outdoor adventures, but particularly outstanding from Baie-Sainte-Catherine at the confluence of the Sanguenay and Saint Lawrence rivers, where blue, fin, minke, humpback and beluga are all on the spotter's list.



Canoe Trails
There are more than 2,000kms of canoe trails to choose from in the wilderness of Algonquin Provincial Park. Travel in the autumn months and you can enjoy Canada's Fall colours - an absolute treat from the water.



Edge Walk
Take the escalator to the very top of Toronto's CN Tower and dare to take the Edge Walk, a dizzy 116 storeys above the street.



Ocean Train
Board the Ocean Train in Montreal or Quebec City and head to Halifax in Nova Scotia (see pages 32-37) - as far east as it's possible to go on mainland Canada.



Gaspé Peninsula
A wonderfully remote knuckle of land jutting out into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence where you can hike, whale watch, search for moose and even spend the night in a lighthouse.



Ottawa's Museums
If you like your history and your science, then spend time in Ottawa. Ontario's provincial capital boasts many great museums, including one devoted to 'Nature' and another to the Cold War.

WHERE TO STAY

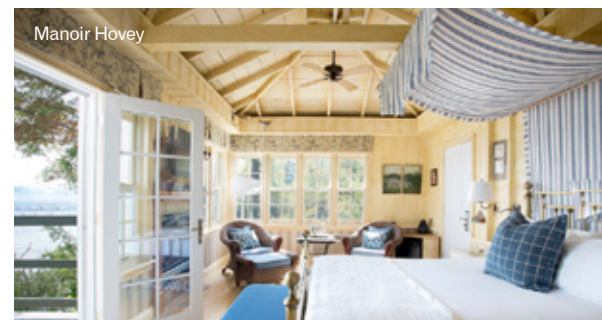
OUR SIX OF THE BEST



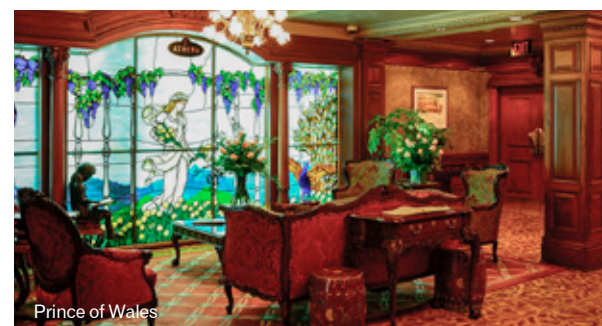
Hotel Sacacomie



Andaz Ottawa



Manoir Hovey



Prince of Wales

1 ANDAZ OTTAWA

A contemporary address in Ottawa's Byward Market district with lots of distinctive local design, a restaurant serving Canadian cuisine and sweeping views of the city from its rooftop lounge. One of Hyatt's 'lifestyle' brand of hotels.

2 AUBERGE SAINT-ANTOINE, QUEBEC CITY

With soaring ceilings, wooden beams and stone floors, the award winning Auberge directly faces the Saint Lawrence River at the heart of the Old Port and is just steps away from the myriad attractions of the historic Le Petit Champlain neighbourhood.

3 CHIC-CHOCs, GASPE PENINSULA

Its full name, Auberge de Montagne des Chic-Chocs, will give you a clue to its location - in the middle of nowhere at the heart of the mountainous Gaspé Peninsula. Chic-Chocs has just 18 rooms with superb hiking, biking, fishing and canoeing right on the doorstep.

4 MANOIR HOVEY, EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

A beautiful manor house in the beautiful Eastern Townships village of North Hatley at the northern end of Lake Massawippi which combines traditional charm with modern day comfort. A prime spot for golf, tennis, hiking, biking, fishing, sailing and canoeing.

5 PRINCE OF WALES, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

First opened in 1864 and so named to commemorate the royal visit of the future king George V in 1907, this historic landmark in Niagara-on-the-Lake has lavish period décor, a spa and even a haunted room (strangely popular with guests).

6 HOTEL SACACOMIE, SAINT-ALEXIS-DES-MONTS

Set in stunning seclusion on its own private lake high in the Laurentians, this mountain spa retreat offers the ultimate wilderness experience for all the family. Stay in giant log cabins, search for bears and beavers in the surrounding forests, and feast on delicious regional dishes in Sacacomie's superb restaurant.



Auberge Saint-Antoine

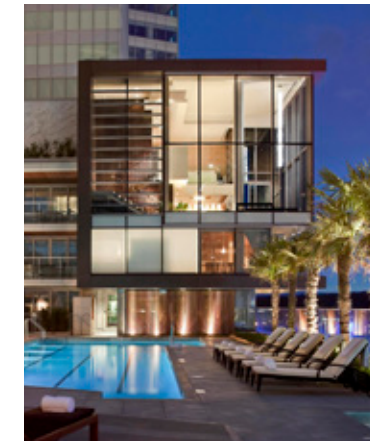


Chic-Chocs

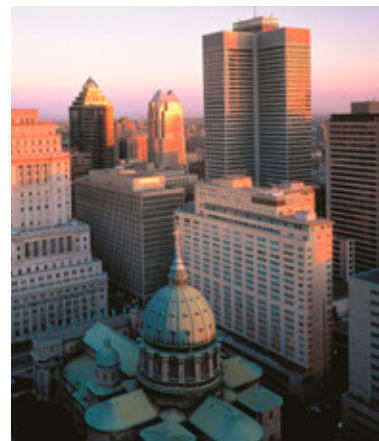


FAIRMONT IN CANADA

Wherever you go in Canada, you are likely to find a Fairmont hotel. From British Columbia to Quebec, across the length and the breadth of the country, there are no fewer than 25 in such key locations as Vancouver, Banff, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. Here is a brief introduction to four of our favourite Fairmonts...


Fairmont Pacific Rim, Vancouver

Stunning harbour and mountain views, a Willow Stream Spa and some of the world's most individually luxurious suites are just some of the reasons to make the Fairmont Pacific Rim your choice of hotel in Vancouver.


Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth, Montreal

Reopened in July 2017 in time for the city's 375th anniversary and the Canadian Confederation's 150th following an extensive \$140 million transformation, Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth has been restored to its rightful place as Montreal's signature address.

Fairmont's global collection of 70 hotels includes such legendary addresses as The Savoy in London, The Plaza in New York...and Quebec City's Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac.

Located within the walls of Old Quebec, and dominating the city skyline, this Canadian 'grande dame' has recently undergone a multimillion dollar renaissance project that will reposition it as one of the world's leading hotels. A restoration that blends the enchantment and rich history of its past with modern, dynamic innovation.

There are 611 guest rooms and suites in total, all with an elegant European touch to their design and many with breathtaking views of the St Lawrence River or across the roofs of the old city. It is well worth booking a Gold level room, which will introduce you to Fairmont's private concierge floor experience and a range of exclusive benefits.

Great facilities and service apart, the key to the hotel's unique appeal is location. Quebec is one of the most beautiful and walkable cities in the world. Stay at Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac and you are within easy walking distance of all its main attractions, including the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame and the Citadelle of Quebec.

SOME KEY FACTS:

- All rooms and suites have individually controlled air conditioning, mini bars, cable television and windows that open.
- There are four restaurants - Champlain, 1608 Wine & Cheese Bar, Bistro Le Sam and Place Dufferin. Each offers a very different culinary experience, but all four have wonderful views of the Saint Lawrence River.
- Extensive guest facilities include a health club with heated pool and a 'Moment' spa.
- 2018 marks the 125th anniversary of the Chateau. Fairmont Hotels are planning a number of exciting festivities to celebrate the occasion.


Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper

Set within Alberta's magnificent Jasper National Park, and surrounded by nature at its finest, Fairmont's 'Great Canadian Lodge' wraps its 700 acres around the shores of Lac Beauvert and Canada's leading resort golf course.


Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, Quebec

Enjoy a relaxing blend of rustic comfort and refined gastronomy at this delightful retreat in a forested wildlife sanctuary on the banks of the Ottawa River. For the more active there is golf, tennis and squash, as well as Canada's only 'Land Rover Off-Road Driving Experience'.

ATLANTIC CANADA

THE MAGIC OF THE MARITIMES



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse, St Margarets Bay



Four distinctly different provinces make up Atlantic Canada - Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Newfoundland & Labrador. Otherwise known as the Maritimes, they are filled with natural wonders, an eco-fest of wildlife set against a backdrop of rocky shores, national parks, fishing villages and lighthouses. Nova Scotia alone has a staggering 4,600 miles of undiscovered coast, while the wild seascapes of Newfoundland are straight out of The Shipping News. ➔



Kejimikujik National Park



“... follow the scenic Cabot Trail around Cape Breton Island, where ancient forest and ocean vistas unfold before the eye.”

Cabot Trail

Wherever you go in the Maritimes, the underlying pleasure will be the call of the sea and the opportunities to feel its changing moods, to hike beside it, stay in old sea captains' houses, watch whales and seals, feast on its lobsters or simply treat the lungs to its tangy fragrance. And they are a great deal closer to us than you may think, comparable to a flight to the Canaries or Egypt.

There is plenty to do in the four provinces for a holiday in each of them, but we recommend you either combine Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island or concentrate on Newfoundland (see overleaf).

Fly from London on Air Canada's non-stop flight to Halifax, provincial capital of Nova Scotia, and follow the 'Lighthouse Route' down to the historic fishing port of Lunenburg. Then head inland to the forests and lakes of the Kejimikujik National Park, wildly beautiful and a fantastic spot for some hiking and canoeing.

Continue across to the Bay of Fundy, which has the biggest tidal range in the world (a staggering 54 feet!), to the New Brunswick port of St John with its charming streets and intriguing French Acadian heritage. Nearby is the Fundy National Park. Here, you can kayak around the sculpted Hopewell Rocks - the 'Mount Everest of the Marine World' - and walk on the seabed for a close encounter with this extraordinary phenomenon of time and tide.

The 8-mile long Confederation Bridge links New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island, and you should make time for a day or two of downtime on the smooth warm sands of its glorious beaches fronting the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, before catching the ferry back to Nova Scotia. Disembarking in Pictou, follow the scenic Cabot Trail around Cape Breton Island, where ancient forest and ocean vistas unfold before the eye, Celtic culture still thrives and the lobster is delicious. And don't miss - well, you can't really - the French fort at Louisbourg, built to guard the entry to their New World. It will be a fitting end to your Maritime adventure.

THE MAGIC OF THE MARITIMES
14 DAYS



INCLUDES

- 2 nights at The Hollis, Halifax
- 1 night at The Mariner King Inn, Lunenburg
- 1 night at Digby Pines, Digby
- 2 nights at Falcon Ridge Inn, Bay of Fundy
- 2 nights at The Great George, Charlottetown
- 1 night at Glenora Inn & Distillery, Mabou
- 2 nights at Keltic Lodge, Ingonish Beach
- 1 night at Liscombe Lodge, Liscomb

PRICES FROM

£3,125 per person (Includes flights)

WHEN TO GO

Late spring, summer and early autumn
(for the Fall colours) from May - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Hopewell Rocks, Bay of Fundy

MORE TO SEE & DO



Fall Colours

One of Canada's 'must see' attractions. They are at their most colourful and spectacular in New Brunswick from September to October.



Tidal Bore Rafting

For an exhilarating encounter with the incoming tide, give tidal bore rafting a go on the Bay of Fundy dividing Nova Scotia from New Brunswick.



Halifax

Give yourself time in Nova Scotia's provincial capital to visit its 18th century Citadel, its fascinating Museum of Immigration and the graveyard where 100 victims of the Titanic disaster are buried.



Maritime Golf

There are umpteen golf courses in the Maritimes, from the traditional to more glitzy resort style layouts. Prince Edward Island, the smallest of the four provinces, alone has 31!



Glenora Distillery

Stop off at Glenora on Cape Breton Island. It's North America's only single malt whisky distillery and there's a delightful inn here should you wish to sample a dram or more of the Glen Breton Rare.



Whale Watching

Digby Neck, a narrow and stunningly beautiful finger of land jutting out into the Bay of Fundy, is the place to go if you want so see whales (from July to October).

WHERE TO STAY

OUR SIX OF THE BEST

Cabot Links



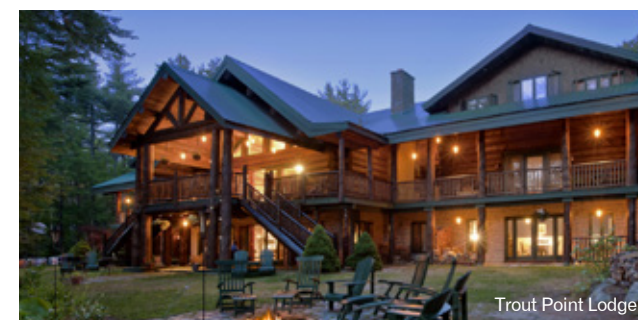
Trinity



Fogo Island Inn



The Great George



Trout Point Lodge



Kingsbrae Arms

1 ARTISAN INN, TRINITY

Old world charm aplenty at this delightful little hotel in the historic coastal town of Trinity on Newfoundland's Bonavista Peninsula. Close to the town's famous Rising Tide theatre and an ideal base for exploring Bonavista's Discovery Trail and also spotting icebergs.

2 CABOT LINKS, CAPE BRETON ISLAND

Canadian links golf at its best; thirty six exquisite holes strung out along the sandy shores and ocean bluffs of Cape Breton Island. The lodging here is stylish and contemporary, with floor to ceiling sea views from all 72 rooms.

3 FOGO ISLAND INN, NEWFOUNDLAND

A remarkable, iconic work of architecture: huge, pale grey and built on stilts above the pink granite rocky shores of Newfoundland's northeast coast. Step inside and you enter a Scandi cool world where every item looks as if it has been sourced from an exclusive gallery of contemporary art.

4 THE GREAT GEORGE, CHARLOTTETOWN

Genuine island hospitality awaits you at this historic boutique hotel in Charlottetown, provincial capital of Prince Edward Island. The Great George has been in business since the mid 19th century and extends across 17 lovingly restored heritage buildings.

5 KINGSBRAE ARMS, ST ANDREWS

The best little inn you've never heard of. Artworks, antiques and delightful gardens, as well as oodles of peace and privacy, are yours to enjoy at this signature New Brunswick address in the 19th century, once hugely fashionable, seaside village of St Andrews by-the-Sea.

6 TROUT POINT LODGE, NOVA SCOTIA

A delightful riverside lodge tucked away in the backwoods of southwest Nova Scotia with no mobile phone signal and an 'activity menu' that includes hiking on its 10-acre estate, canoeing, stargazing and meditative 'forest bathing'.

ATLANTIC CANADA

EXPLORE NEWFOUNDLAND



Puffins, Trinity Bay

EXPLORE NEWFOUNDLAND 12 DAYS



INCLUDES

3 nights at Murray Premises Hotel, St John's
2 nights at Fishers' Loft, Trinity
2 nights at Fogo Island Inn
3 nights at Neddies Harbour Inn, Gros Morne

PRICES FROM

£4,645 per person (Includes flights)

WHEN TO GO

Newfoundland weather is highly unpredictable, but best to travel from Jun - Sep

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Canada's most easterly province (and the first place in North America to see the sunrise) is roughly the size of England but with 1% of the population. It's a wild place, a seemingly endless expanse of highland forest, rocky bluffs, lakes, inlets called 'tickles' and 'guts', and more imposing Atlantic 'sounds' that bite deep into the land. Apart from its provincial capital St John's, communities are tiny with names like Jerry's Nose, Blow Me Down, Heart's Delight and Come By Chance.

There's also an overwhelming abundance of nature. Humpback whales pass close to the shore, where huge colonies of puffins and other seabirds gather. Herds of caribou roam the highlands. Massive icebergs calved from the glaciers of Greenland and funnelled south by the Labrador Current can be seen beached on the seabed or floating offshore like ghostly white galleons.

Starting in St John's, a city full of history, colourful houses and quaint pubs, you'll need ten days or so to drive around the island and take in its major attractions. Whale and bird watching on the Avalon Peninsula are a must, as is a stay at the astonishing Fogo Island Inn, but make time too for the magical landscapes of Gros Morne National Park and Trinity Bay, where you can explore rugged coastal trails and watch for icebergs drifting silently past.



Gros Morne National Park

FOGO ISLAND INN

AN ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE ON
NEWFOUNDLAND'S WILD ATLANTIC SHORES

First time visitors to Fogo Island cannot help but be transfixed by the rugged beauty of its coastline and by the architectural splendour of this astonishing hotel.

Everywhere, nature abounds. Jagged rocks defy the irresistible force of the sea. Rugged coastal trails snake seductively up grassy hills. Placid, inland lakes invite exploration aboard boats hand-built by local craftsmen. The mighty sea promises whale watching and fresh cod for supper. A rich diversity of fauna, flora and birdlife awaits discovery.

And in the midst of this wilderness - standing proud on stilts and defying the elements - is Fogo Island Inn. Where you will be welcomed heartily, encouraged to explore, fed generously and given space to relax.



SOME KEY FACTS:

- You can either drive from St John's or fly into Gander and cross to the island on the passenger ferry.
- 29 guest suites are designed to reflect the culture of the island with hand painted furniture and anarchic colour themes.
- Facilities include an award winning restaurant serving fresh local food, library, rooftop sauna, hot tubs and exercise room.
- Indoor activities include bread making and cookery classes, arts and crafts programmes, storytelling evenings and stargazing.
- Outdoor activities include hiking on the island's 200kms of coastal walks and nature trails, whale watching and cod fishing in the summer months, and excursions to such landmarks as Change Islands and Oliver's Cove.
- Visit Fogo in the winter months and you can cross country ski, ocean skate, skidoo, and roam the island and its shores in search of caribou, bald eagles, snow buntings and harlequin ducks.
- Fogo is at the southern end of 'Iceberg Alley' which runs from Greenland to Newfoundland. Best time to see these silent, migrating monoliths drifting past the island is from May to June. You can even visit www.icebergfinder.com for live updates!

MEET THE TEAM

AND SHARE THEIR
'ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES'



GINA MURRAY

“Marking the eastern entrance to St Margarets Bay on Nova Scotia's famous Lighthouse Route, 'Peggy' is one of Canada's most enduring and iconic images.”



DAVID MARRIOTT

“When you're next in Whitehorse, rent a snowmobile and take off into the sub-Arctic wilderness of the Yukon. It's an adrenalin-fuelled way to enjoy the 'great outdoors'!”



JEREMY WEBSTER

“Riding the unique *snocoach* onto the Athabasca Glacier, one of the Columbia Icefield's six principal 'toes', and stepping out onto frozen snow that fell 400 years ago.”



GEMMA WILLIAMS

“It may be one of the most photographed views in the world, but the amphitheatre of rock and ice framing the emerald waters of Alberta's Lake Louise is truly a sight to behold.”

ESTABLISHED. TRUSTED. AT YOUR SERVICE.



WE ARE THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL COMPANY
FOR A REASON

For more than 25 years we've been creating holidays and tours that are as unique as you. And, as ever, our team of well travelled and highly experienced specialists look forward to helping you plan your next Ultimate Experience.

TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

We are an award-winning luxury travel company, with a team of highly knowledgeable destination experts. We offer made-to-measure itineraries that cover the world.

ESCORTED TOURS

We have tours to suit all needs.
We source expert guides and lecturers.
We want you to see the world differently.

UNIQUE ESCAPES

We work with the best partners worldwide.
We want you to pick a destination,
tell us what you want and let us take care of the rest.

CORPORATE TRAVEL

We provide expert, round the clock consultancy.
We offer a professionally tailored service.
We take the hard work out of a busy schedule.

CHARITY CHALLENGES & GROUP EXPEDITIONS

We work with major charities and leading businesses.
We offer a dedicated planning, support and advice service.
We want you to challenge yourself and change lives.

START YOUR
JOURNEY TODAY

CALL AN EXPERT
+44 (0)20 7386 4646





EXPLORE OUR WORLD



AFRICA



AUSTRALIA
&
NEW ZEALAND



SOUTH EAST ASIA
&
THE ORIENT



LATIN AMERICA
&
THE POLES



INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT



CANADA
&
ALASKA



EUROPE & BEYOND