

The Rockies, B.C. Interior and the Totems of Haida Gwaii by Trains, Ship and Plane

We offer a great opportunity to travel across the Rockies and central British Columbia by train to Prince Rupert, for onward travel by ship to the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii).

Departure Friday, May 21st, 2010 for 7 Days

Meals included in packages are shown thus: **B** = breakfast, **L** = lunch, **D** = dinner (All other meals are on your own)

Day 1 - Friday, May 21st Vancouver to the Rockies

Make your way to Vancouver's Pacific Central Station and check in by 7:00 PM to get your accommodation assignments and baggage checked. Join fellow *Canadian* travellers in the departure lounge and station platform terrace as you are entertained with a drink to some traveling music. Board the famous train at 8:00 PM and settle in for an 8:30 PM departure. Your train winds its way through Vancouver's eastern suburbs and lower Fraser Valley as you settle into your private room. By nightfall you are well into the Coastal Mountains and the Fraser Canyon. Retire for the night in your choice of sleeping accommodation.

Day 2 - Saturday, May 22nd The Rockies and Jasper

You awaken in the heart of the Rockies enjoying the fantastic scenery all day. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the dining car. By 4:00 PM a stop is made in Jasper where you disembark and cross the street to Whistler's Inn for the night. Dinner is on your own. **B, L**

Day 3 - Sunday, May 23rd Jasper to Prince George

You can sleep in and have a leisurely breakfast or brunch before making your way to the station by 12:15 PM. (Some will want to take a morning excursion in the village and area by tour bus.) Board the *Skeena* for its departure through Yellowhead Pass and northwest through the Rocky Mountain Trench. For most of the journey you follow the Fraser River before it turns south past Prince George on its way to the Pacific. You arrive in Prince George shortly after 7:00 PM and stay in a comfortable hotel near the station tonight. **D**

Day 4 - Monday, May 24th Prince George to Prince Rupert

Return to the station by 7:30 AM for the continuation of your journey west to Prince Rupert (departing at 8:00 AM.) This trip is the most scenic of rail journeys and called *VIA Rail's* best kept secret. You pass wild rivers, mountains, gorges, high bridges, native culture and the occasional small town. Arrival in Prince Rupert is planned for 8:25 PM where you stay the night in a downtown hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 5 - Tuesday, May 25th Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii

Morning is free in Prince Rupert. Leave by BC Ferries on the *Northern Explorer (or Adventure)* late morning or early afternoon and arrive in Skidegate at 6:00 PM. You are transferred to your hotel for 2 nights. **B**

Days 6 and 7 - Wednesday, May 26th and Thursday May 27th

The Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii)

You soak up the culture of this remote part of Canada on local tours. You are transferred to Masset airport on day 7 for your Pacific Coastal Airlines flight at 11:30 AM arriving in Vancouver (YVR) just before 2:00 PM. **B**

Optional returns

Ask about optional return modes. These include reversing the above itinerary by ferry and train; returning from Prince Rupert by Inside Passage ferry to Port Hardy and coach to starting point; train to Prince George and coach or flight back; or, flight from Prince Rupert. We can also arrange stays for an extra day or two.

FARE: Per person sharing: starting from \$2229. Seniors \$2189. Fare subject to type of sleeping accommodation on train and class of service taken on Skeena train.

West Coast Rail Tours

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