



## CANADA

# THE COASTAL WAY SELF-DRIVE (TOUR CODE: 11679)

### STARTS AND ENDS

Vancouver to  
Calgary

### TRAVEL PERIODS

27 May 26 - 22 Sep 26

### EXPERIENCE

Indigenous  
Wildlife  
Self-Drive

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Explore the stunning coast and forests of Vancouver Island, cruise past fjords and coastal wilderness, then drive through Northern BC's rugged landscapes all the way to the majestic Canadian Rockies.

## Highlights

- Embark on a full day of cruising the sheltered waters of Canada's Inside Passage
- Travel through the spine of the Canadian Rockies along the amazing Icefields Parkway
- Cross the Georgia Strait through the beautiful Gulf Islands to Victoria
- Explore the fishing community of Port Hardy
- Enjoy Freedom of Choice days in Victoria, Campbell River, Jasper and Banff

Embark on an unforgettable self-drive journey through some of Canada's most breathtaking landscapes and vibrant communities. Begin your adventure with a scenic ferry crossing from Vancouver to Vancouver Island, where you'll explore the charming city of Victoria and its stunning surrounds. Enjoy the freedom to personalise your day with a choice of excursions — from the world-renowned Butchart Gardens and authentic Canadian food tours to whale watching and a classic high tea at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel.

Next, journey north along Vancouver Island's rugged coastline, passing through cultural hubs like Duncan and Chemainus, before arriving in Campbell River. Here, you can immerse yourself in Indigenous culture and marine wildlife on whale watching and cultural excursions, including an exclusive grizzly bear viewing tour in the traditional territory of the Homalco First Nation.

Continue your drive to the fishing village of Port Hardy, with optional orca-watching cruises available nearby, before boarding a full-day ferry cruise through Canada's iconic Inside Passage. This spectacular 15-hour voyage reveals snow-capped mountains, deep fjords, and dense coastal rainforests — a paradise for nature lovers and photographers alike.

After disembarking in Prince Rupert, your route follows the Yellowhead Highway through Northern BC's rugged interior. Pass through historic towns like Terrace and Smithers, and enjoy stunning river valley vistas as you travel toward the Rockies.

In Jasper National Park, choose from a variety of outdoor experiences such as a Maligne Lake cruise, gentle river rafting, or guided nature walks to soak in the spectacular scenery and wildlife.

The journey continues along the Icefields Parkway, one of the world's most scenic drives, featuring glacier explorations on the Ice Explorer and breathtaking views from the Glacier Skywalk.

Conclude your adventure in Banff with further options to customize your experience, from soaring gondola rides and serene lake cruises to canoe tours and horseback riding adventures.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Victoria at Inn at Laurel Point
- 2 nights in Campbell River at Coast Discovery Inn
- 1 night in Port Hardy at Quarterdeck Inn
- 1 night in Prince Rupert at Prestige Oceanview Hotel
- 1 night in Smithers at Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge
- 1 night in Prince George at Sandman Signature Hotel
- 2 nights in Jasper at Forest Park Hotel
- 2 nights in Banff at Banff Caribou Lodge
- 13 days intermediate size car rental
- BC Ferry between Vancouver and Vancouver Island
- BC Ferry between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert
- Ice Explorer ride onto Athabasca Glacier
- Glacier Skywalk Admission

Freedom of Choice Days

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### Freedom of Choice



Our Freedom of Choice program offers flexibility, by allowing you to choose from different options on pre-selected days.

Our per person price includes one tour on each Freedom of Choice day, as follows:

- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 2
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 4
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 10
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 12

Expand the itinerary below for more details.

Please note, if more than one room is selected during the booking process, our team will contact you afterwards to discuss options.

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## ITINERARY

Day

**1**

### Vancouver Victoria

Travel from Vancouver to the picturesque city of Victoria. Cruise across Georgia Strait through the beautiful Gulf Islands with BC Ferries to Vancouver Island. Time to explore Victoria, with its turn-of-the-century architecture, and British traditions such as high tea and shops full of woolens and china.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**



VANCOUVER | CREDIT: ALBERT NORMANDIN

Day **2**

## Victoria

Today, you can personalise your day by pre-selecting one of three **Freedom of Choice** excursions below.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**

### **Freedom of Choice Options**

- **Butchart Gardens Admission:**

On its 100th birthday in 2004, the Butchart Gardens was named a National Historic Site of Canada. Explore 22 hectares/55 acres of breathtaking gardens on the 53-hectare/130-acre estate.

**OR**

- **Eat like a Canadian Food Tour:**

Not many people can define exactly what Canadian food is. From local ingredients to historic dishes, this tour is the best way to experience Canadian culinary culture. Sip and savour local cuisine, explore the iconic Inner Harbour, and meet the chefs and owners that make Victoria such an exciting culinary hot spot.

**OR**

- **High Tea at the Empress hotel:**

Enjoy High tea at the Fairmont Empress Hotel is a delightful, traditional experience. Indulge in a lavish array of tea, finger sandwiches, pastries, and scones, served in an elegant setting, enhancing the allure of this historic Victoria, British Columbia landmark.

**OR**

- **Whale Watch Cruise:**

Get up close with the killer whales on the Salish Sea with this guided, 3.5-hour whale-watching cruise from Victoria. Climb aboard a covered or open boat equipped with hydrophones to hear the whales and bring the underwater experience to light.





CREDIT: BUTCHART GARDENS

Day **3**

## Victoria Campbell River

Travelling north on the Island Highway, pass through Duncan, the “City of Totems”. If time permits, visit the Quw’utsun’ Heritage Village which provides you with an insight into the lives of the North West Coast People (seasonal hours - admission not included). Further north is the artist community of Chemainus, where you can admire giant murals which adorn the exterior walls throughout the town. By late afternoon, arrive in Campbell River.

Overnight in Campbell River at **Coast Discovery Inn**



CAMPBELL RIVER

Day **4**

## Campbell River

The diversity of wildlife and awe inspiring scenery that exists so close to Campbell River is unparalleled! Today, you can personalise your day by pre-selecting one of two **Freedom of Choice** excursions below.

Overnight in Campbell River at **Coast Discovery Inn**

## Freedom of Choice Options

- **People Water Land:**

Experience an authentic cultural and whale watching excursion through the Salish Sea to the historic Homalco First Nation village site of Aupe (Church House). Humpback and killer whales are abundant in the scenic waters along with other iconic marine wildlife. Walk onto the shores of Aupe with a Homalco guide to uncover its rich, complex history.

OR

- **Salish Sea Whale Watching Cruise:**

Enjoy an unforgettable small group marine adventure to see whales (Q<sup>w</sup>ənes) with an experienced marine wildlife guide. These modern and comfortable boats ensure that you can safely explore the Salish Sea in search of humpbacks, orcas, dolphins, sea lions, other marine mammals, and a variety of sea birds in their natural habitat.



Day **5**

## Campbell River Port Hardy

Today, continue your journey north. Near Port McNeil you may wish to take an optional Orca-watching cruise into the waters of Johnstone Strait. Your day ends in the fishing community of Port Hardy.

Overnight in Port Hardy at **Quarterdeck Inn**





PORT HARDY WATERFRONT | CREDIT: TOURISM VANCOUVER ISLAND

## Day 6 Port Hardy Prince Rupert

Embark on a full day of cruising the sheltered waters of Canada's Inside Passage with BC Ferries . During the length of the 15-hour crossing, a wonderful array of snow-capped mountains combined with rich forests provides a background for a series of dramatic fjords.

Overnight in Prince Rupert at **Prestige Oceanview Hotel**



COW BAY HARBOUR PRINCE RUPERT | CREDIT: DESTINATION BC

## Day 7 Prince Rupert Smithers

Today, follow the Yellowhead Highway, hugging the Skeena River for most of the way. Pass through the mining town of Terrace and into Smithers.

Overnight in Smithers at **Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge**



TERRACE | CREDIT: DESTINATION BC

Day 8

## Smithers Prince George

Depart Smithers today, continuing along the Yellowhead Highway. Pass through Houston - known as the Steelhead Capital and home to the world's biggest fly rod - over 18 metres in length! Next, you will travel through Burns Lake and Vanderhoof into Prince George.

Overnight in Prince George at **Sandman Signature Prince George Hotel**



SMITHERS

Day 9

## Prince George Jasper

Today is another unforgettable day of scenery. Follow mountain passes and raging rivers as you wind your way to an overnight stop in Jasper.

Overnight in Jasper at **Forest Park Hotel**





## Day 10 Jasper

Time to explore all that Jasper has to offer! Today, you can personalise your day by pre-selecting one of three **Freedom of Choice** excursions below.

Overnight in Jasper at **Forest Park Hotel**

### **Freedom of Choice Options**

- **Maligne Lake Cruise:**

Cruise Maligne Lake, where you can marvel at the magnificent shoreline and Spirit Island.

**OR**

- **Jasper River Float:**

Enjoy a gentle rafting tour on the Athabasca River for a unique perspective of Jasper National Park.

**OR**

- **Jasper Nature Walk:**

A guided nature walk featuring a spectacular array of rolling hills, jagged peaks, forests, meadows, marshes, streams, and stunning glacial lakes.



MALIGNE LAKE | CREDIT: PURSUIT MIKE SEEHAGEL

## Day 11 Jasper Banff

Today, travel through the spine of the Canadian Rockies along the amazing Icefields Parkway and encompass the ultimate glacier exploration. From walking on ancient ice with the Ice Explorer Ride, to standing on a glass platform almost one thousand feet in the air at the Glacier Skywalk, today's experiences will leave you with a special appreciation for this treasured region of the Rockies.

Overnight in Banff at **Banff Caribou Lodge**



GLACIER SKYWALK | CREDIT: PURSUIT

## Day 12 Banff

With easy access to pristine wilderness and endless outdoor adventures, in Banff National Park you feel truly immersed in nature. Today, you can personalise your day by pre-selecting one of four **Freedom of Choice** excursions below.

Overnight in Banff at **Banff Caribou Lodge**

### Freedom of Choice Options

- **Banff Gondola:**

Maximise your views of Banff National Park with minimal exertion on a round-trip gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain.

OR

- **Lake Minnewanka Cruise:**

Admire views of the Canadian Rockies by boat as you cruise across the turquoise-hued Lake Minnewanka and over to Devil's Gap.

OR

- **River Explorer Canoe Tour:**

Enjoy the serenity of the Bow River and marvel at the surroundings. A fun and interactive way with your guide to explore the waterways of Banff National Park. Perfect for families. No paddling experience necessary.

OR

- **Bow River Horseback Adventure:**

Saddle up for a journey through the celebrated landscape of Banff National Park on this guided horseback riding adventure.



## Day 13 Banff Calgary

Today, you will leave behind the fresh mountain air and colourful sights of the Rockies. Drop off your rental car at Calgary airport and start your journey home.

## ACCOMMODATION

Inn at Laurel Point



## Victoria

Overlooking Laurel Point Park, this waterfront hotel is a 5-minute walk from the Black Ball Ferry Line and a 10-minute walk from the Royal BC Museum. Featuring private balconies with water views, the airy rooms include flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi, plus minifridges, and tea and coffeemaking equipment. There's a heated indoor pool, an exercise room and a Japanese garden, plus a Pacific Rim-inspired restaurant with a patio and harbour views.



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## Coast Discovery Inn

### Campbell River

Located right across the street from the ocean, Coast Discovery Inn is a storied landmark within the downtown Campbell River cityscape. The hotel is affectionately referred to as “the D.I.” by locals. Unwind in clean, comfy rooms and suites offering free wi-fi, flat-screen TVs and triple-sheeted beds – or splurge on a suite with a jetted tub for the ultimate in relaxation. Pets are welcome here, too!



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## Quarterdeck Inn

### Port Hardy

The Quarterdeck Inn & Marina Resort offers full-service comfort and hospitality to ensure a relaxing stay. Surrounded by nature and just a short walk from downtown Port Hardy, each room offers beautiful ocean views and is equipped with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen televisions with cable, and mini fridges.



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## Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge

### Smithers

Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge is located minutes from downtown shops and restaurants, historic walking tours, picturesque hiking trails, outstanding mountain biking, scenic golfing and all the amazing attractions of the Bulkley Valley. Be sure to visit our two on-site restaurants, Noir Kitchen and Bar and Don Cherry's Sports Grill. Guests are encouraged to borrow complimentary bikes, sporting equipment, board games and beach toys for added enjoyment.



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## Sandman Signature Prince George Hotel

### Prince George

An 8-minute walk from Prince George Golf & Curling Club, this modern lodging is 15 minutes' walk from the banks of Fraser River. Forests for the World, a park with lakes and hiking trails, is 10 km away. Streamlined rooms have modern decor and muted tones. They offer free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and sitting areas.





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## Forest Park Hotel

### Jasper

Set amidst the breathtaking Canadian Rockies, the Forest Park Hotel (formerly the Sawridge Inn) is a resort style hotel that offers the rustic charm you'd expect in Jasper National Park. Beautiful guest rooms, on-site spa, decadent dining and heated pool with jacuzzi and steam room add to the luxury you want in your mountain getaway.



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## Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa

### Banff

Located in Banff National Park, the Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa offers a mountain lodge hotel, a great steakhouse restaurant and a full-service spa, all in one outstanding location. This ideal vacation spot is located on Banff Avenue, the main street in the town of Banff. Surrounded by mountains, there are plenty of activities to keep you busy.





## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>OFFICIAL LANGUAGE</b> French & English	<b>LOCAL CURRENCY</b> Canadian Dollars
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Please note that the package price is inclusive of the one-way car rental fee between Vancouver and Calgary. The one-way car rental fee will be a local payment paid direct to the car rental provider upon return of the vehicle. The one-way fee between Vancouver and Calgary is approximately CA\$300-CA\$400 plus local taxes (subject to change).

### Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package
- Car rental rates exclude optional coverage such as Personal Accident Insurance Plus (PAI Plus) and Personal Effects Protection (PEP)
- GPS rental is not included and can be requested (at an additional supplement paid locally) if required