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## **GEEO ITINERARY**

CANADIAN ROCKIES- Summer

### **Day 1: Vancouver Arrive at any time.**

Arrive at any time today, but we highly recommend coming in at least a day early so you have time to see the sites of Vancouver. We typically have a group meeting at the hotel around 6:00 p.m. Upon arrival at the hotel, please check the notice board for information about the group meeting. During the group meeting, the leader will outline the trip itinerary and answer questions.

### **Day 2: Vancouver/Victoria (B) Catch a ferry to Vancouver Island, and travel to the city of Victoria. Opt to visit a museum, Butchart Gardens, or explore the city.**

Catch a ferry to Vancouver island, and travel to the city of Victoria. Opt to visit a museum, Butchart Gardens, or explore the city. See optional activities further below for more info. Approximate travel time: 1.5-2 hrs by ferry, 1-2 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 3: Victoria/Port Hardy Enjoy free time in Victoria this morning. In the afternoon, take in the scenery while traveling to Port Hardy at the northern tip of Vancouver Island.**

Enjoy free time in Victoria this morning. In the afternoon, take in the scenery while traveling to Port Hardy at the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Approximate travel time: 6-7 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 4: Port Hardy/Prince Rupert (B) Embark on a ferry through the famous Inside Passage. The glacial fjords provide spectacular scenery along the route and a safe haven for all types of wildlife, including orcas and porpoises.**

Embark on a ferry through the famous Inside Passage. The glacial fjords provide spectacular scenery along the route and a safe haven for all types of wildlife, including orcas and porpoises. The ride is long, but spectacular. With a full day to relax, enjoy the scenery, read a book, or dine at the onboard restaurants. Due to ferry schedules, there may be layovers at certain stops along the route. If this occurs, your tour leader will arrange to visit nearby local towns (time permitting). Reach Prince Rupert late in the evening. Approximate travel time: 16-17 hrs by ferry

### **Day 5: Prince Rupert/Smithers (B) Learn about the First Nations cultures of Northern BC on a day tour around Smithers. Stay overnight in a remote lodge surrounded by nature.**

Learn about the First Nations culture of Northern BC. Start by visiting the Hazeltons, an area with one of the highest concentrations of totem poles in the world, with over 50 standing poles. After, stop at Gitwankak National Historic Site and learn about the fort and battles fought by the warrior Nekt on Battle Hill. Wrap up the day with a tour of the Ksan museum and historical village. Stay overnight in a remote lodge surrounded by nature. Approximate travel time: 4-5 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 6: Smithers (B) Enjoy a free day to explore the wilderness around Smithers. Opt to visit Babine Mountains Provincial Park, Moricetown Canyon, Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park, or hike one of many trails in the area.**

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**Day 7: Smithers/Prince George (B) Enjoy a free morning for activities around Smithers before traveling to Prince George, the largest city in Northern British Columbia.**

Enjoy a free morning for activities around Smithers before traveling to Prince George, the largest city in Northern British Columbia. Approximate travel time: 5-6 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 8: Prince George/Jasper (B) Travel to Jasper National Park. En route, stop at the tallest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, Mount Robson. Visit the Interpretation Center, and go for a short hike to take in the views.**

Travel to Jasper National Park. En route, stop at the visitor center, and, if it's a clear day, see the top of the Mount Robson, the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies. We go for a short hike to take in the views. Approximate travel time: 4.5-5.5 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 9: Jasper (B) Enjoy a free day to explore Jasper National Park. Opt to hike at Maligne Canyon, go for a boat cruise, or get the adrenaline pumping with whitewater rafting. In the evening, visit the Miette Hot Springs.**

Enjoy a free day to explore Jasper National Park. As the largest park in the Canadian Rockies, Jasper is wild in every sense of the word. Experience mountain landscapes complete with waterfalls, canyons, glacier lakes, and the Columbia Icefield. Get out and explore on rugged backcountry trails chock-full of wildlife and take part in outdoor activities like mountain biking, skiing, or kayaking to experience the true essence and beauty of this impressive park. In the evening, enjoy the stunning landscape of lakes and mountains as you drive to the Miette Hot Springs. Soak in one of the four pools as you take in the peaceful panoramic views.

**Day 10: Jasper/Canmore (B) Travel to Canmore via one of the most scenic drives in the world.**

Travel to Canmore via one of the most scenic drives in the world. The Icefields Parkway is a breathtaking drive situated between Banff and Jasper National Parks in Alberta, Canada. Experience the wild beauty of the Canadian Rockies on a winding drive through jagged mountain peaks and past glaciers feeding into brilliant blue lakes. Along the way expect to see postcard mountain vistas, huge valleys, and loads of hiking trails that will get you out and about in this truly incredible area. En route we will stop at the Columbia Icefield to view one of the Rockies' largest and most accessible active glaciers. The Athabasca Glacier recedes at a rate of nearly 5m (16.4 ft) a year. See this natural beauty while you still can. Along the 300km (186.4 mi) ride, a spectacle unfolds before our eyes: lush coniferous forests, immense mountains, turquoise lakes, high-falling cascades, and humbling glaciers. We stop a number of times along the way to take in the scenery and search for wildlife. Approximate travel time: 8-10 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 11: Canmore/Calgary (B) Travel to Calgary, a modern city that honors its cowboy roots. Tour ends on arrival to Calgary. Your flight must depart no earlier than 3 PM.**

Travel to Calgary, a modern city that honors its cowboy roots. Tour ends on arrival to Calgary. Your flight must depart no earlier than 3 PM. Approximate travel time: 8-10 hrs by private vehicle Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can offer still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!