

# Selling Canada

2021 | TRAINING FOR THE TRAVEL TRADE

CANADA'S CLASSIC

*driving  
routes*

CANADA 

ON THE ROAD IN... ONTARIO • MARITIMES • BEST OF THE EAST  
• SUNSHINE & PACIFIC COASTS • BEST OF THE WEST • YUKON

# On the road again

Whether exploring 'gold country' in Yukon or coastal communities in New Brunswick, Canada's less travelled highways and byways can take you there

**T**here are few other countries more suited to exploring by rental vehicle than Canada.

From British Columbia out west to Prince Edward Island in the east, the well-maintained roads are easy to navigate, are often relatively empty and there's usually a jaw-dropping view to take in around every bend in the road.

The landscapes change from **city skylines** to **snow-capped mountains** to **wildflower-coloured countryside** to **wave-buffed coastlines** - and planning an itinerary is only made difficult by choosing what stops *not* to include along the way.

The following pages feature six classic Canadian driving routes to suggest to clients - whether they are first-time visitors or returning to discover more of what Canada has to offer.

The choices are bountiful. On the east coast, roads in Canada's Maritime provinces will take you to **quaint fishing villages, lighthouses, coastal vistas** and **national parks**. The driving distances are comparatively short here, but the diversions along the way will be many.

In Ontario, you will want to explore the family attractions in Toronto and **museums** and **markets** in Ottawa before taking to the country roads that lead you to Niagara Falls, **wine-growing regions**, Algonquin Provincial Park and those quintessentially Canadian **log cabins** so characteristic of the Muskoka Lakes region.

Across the provincial boundary line, Québec's Francophile roots are evident in both Montréal and Québec City as well as in less-travelled areas beyond the cities, where you will want to make a roadside pit-stop to try poutine (cheese curd with gravy).

For **wondrous scenery** writ large on the most inspiring of natural canvasses, Alberta and British Columbia in Western Canada are headline acts. Alberta is packed with must-see features such as Banff, the Athabasca Glacier and Lake Louise, which are linked by the Icefields Parkway and framed by the **snow-blanketed pinnacles** of the Rocky Mountains and **glacier-mint blue lakes**.

Over on the west coast, British Columbia's Sunshine Coast Highway provides more **ocean scenery, waterside accommodation, Indigenous cultural experiences** and the chance to **kayak on sheltered waters**. Near Tofino on Vancouver island you might even **spot a bear** foraging along the shoreline or an **Orca whale** on a boat trip out of Victoria.

And then there's Yukon and its starkly **dramatic landscape of mountains, glaciers, lakes** and **raging rivers** and **historic towns** that date from the Klondike Gold Rush.

Whatever roads your clients choose in Canada, suggest they travel at as leisurely a pace as their time allows - and recommend early starts, particularly in the summer when the more popular highways are busier. Reassure them that the roads are well maintained and well signposted and that rental cars should be fully inclusive, with unlimited mileage and a GPS system.

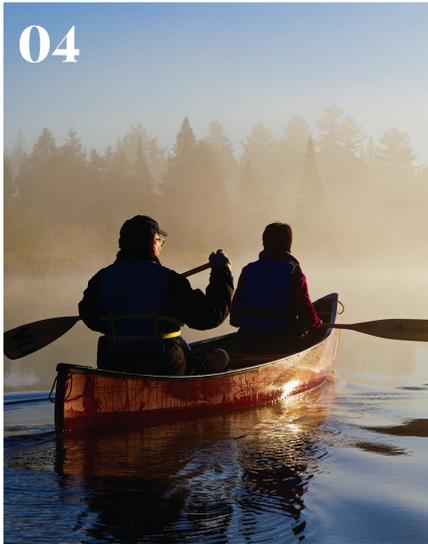
Families should consider an RV vehicle - a home from home which offers total freedom and opportunities for spending nights at stops among the great outdoors.

Finally, encourage clients to book early: tour operators are reporting plenty of pent-up demand for Canada in 2021 and 2022. It's time to hit the road and put the pedal to the metal in Canada!

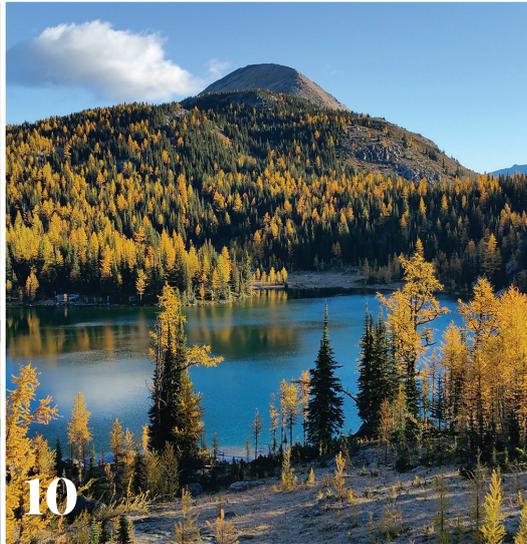


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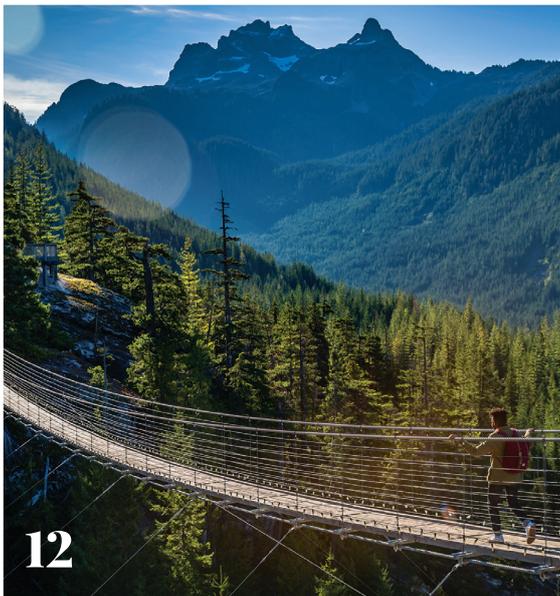
SELLING CANADA  
CANADA'S CLASSIC DRIVING ROUTES



04



10



12



08



06



14

## BEST OF THE EAST

- 04 Toronto / Kingston / Montréal / Québec City / Ottawa / Algonquin NP / Huntsville / Niagara Falls

## ONTARIO

- 06 Toronto / Blue Mountain / Tobermory / Manitoulin Island / Muskoka Lakes

## MARITIMES

- 08 Halifax / Liverpool / Digby / St Andrew's-by-the-Sea / Miramichi / Charlottetown / Baddeck / Halifax

## BEST OF THE WEST

- 10 Calgary / Banff / Jasper / Clearwater / Whistler / Victoria / Vancouver

## SUNSHINE & PACIFIC COASTS

- 12 Vancouver / Sunshine Coast / Tofino / Nanaimo / Victoria / Vancouver

## YUKON

- 14 Whitehorse / Skagway / Haines / Haines Junction / Kluane National Park / Tok / Dawson City



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# Cities, falls & rivers

**TORONTO / KINGSTON MONTRÉAL / QUÉBEC CITY / OTTAWA / ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK / HUNTSVILLE / NIAGARA FALLS**

This route takes in four of Canada's biggest cities, the country's most famous waterfall, skirts the Saint Lawrence River and passes through communities in rural Québec



**LOOK OUT!**  
Book tickets online for a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game



## DAYS 1-2 TORONTO

View Canada's most populous city from the **CN Tower's** LookOut Level, whose EdgeWalk is a thrilling experience. Take a boat tour of the harbour or the ferry over to Toronto Islands to appreciate the city's skyline. Foodies will enjoy the locally-sourced foods on offer at the **St. Lawrence Market**, while the pedestrianised **Distillery District's** red-brick Victorian industrial buildings now house restaurants, cafes, art galleries and one-off speciality shops.

The city has outstanding museums, including the Royal Ontario Museum, whose collections span natural history, world cultures and art. Nearby, the **Bata Shoe Museum** offers something a little different: it showcases over 13,000 shoes, boots and related artefacts, spanning 4,500 years of footwear history.

## DAY 3 TORONTO - KINGSTON

**162 miles.** Pick up your rental car and drive to the historic city of Kingston. It is also known as the 'Limestone City' for its grand buildings, including City Hall.

**Fort Henry National Historic Site** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that recreates British military demonstrations.

## DAYS 4-5 KINGSTON - MONTRÉAL

**180 miles.** En-route to Montréal stop at Gananoque to join a sightseeing cruise of the **Thousand Islands** region which straddles the Canada-USA border. Helicopter flights are also available from Gananoque, whose wood-built theatre offers entertainment by the waterfront.



ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK

Wander Montréal at leisure on foot or sign up for a half-day city tour that will take in highlights such as the Olympic Complex, historic **Old Montréal** and the beautiful Notre Dame Basilica. Mountain bike and scooter tours are also available.

Head to **Mount Royal Park**, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the brain behind New York's Central Park, or consider a city food tour that will explore Montréal's culinary heritage, stopping at the likes of the Jean Talon Market in **Little Italy** and Mile End's Schwartz's Deli, famed for smoked meat sandwiches.

#### DAYS 6-7-8 MONTRÉAL - QUÉBEC CITY

**157 miles.** Venture onto a scenic section of **Route des Navigateurs** (Navigators' Route) to explore the St. Lawrence's south bank. L'Anse du Port's boardwalk presents opportunities to spot birds such as red-bellied woodpeckers and eastern phoebes.

Québec City is the only walled city in North America and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include the streets of the Petit-Charlaim district, the famous hotel Le Château Frontenac and the Citadel and its fortifications.

For a full day trip, drive to Baie-Sainte-Catherine for a three-hour cruise on the **St. Lawrence River** in search of beluga and finback whales. En-route stop off at Montmorency Falls, which are higher than Niagara Falls. Here you can take an aerial tram from the base to the top of the falls or view them from a suspension bridge.

#### DAYS 9-10 QUÉBEC CITY - OTTAWA

**277 miles.** Dating from 1737, The **Chemin du Roy** (King's Road) offers a scenic alternative to Autoroute 40 along the Saint Lawrence River. Highlights include **Trois-Rivières'** Old Town and the church at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. If time allows make a detour to visit **Mount-Tremblant**, a popular year-round resort in the Laurentian Mountains which also offers hiking, kayaking and golf.

Ottawa is packed with world-class attractions including the National Gallery of Canada – see regional landscapes painted by artists known as the Group of Seven – the Rideau Canal and ByWard Market. And don't miss the evening Sound and Light Show at **Parliament Hill**. The fabulous Canadian Museum of History is directly across the Ottawa River, in Gatineau.

***Top tip:** En-route to Montréal stop at Gananoque to join a sightseeing cruise of the Thousand Islands region which straddles the Canada-USA border*

#### DAYS 11-12 OTTAWA-HUNTSVILLE

**217 miles.** Enjoy a scenic drive through **Algonquin Provincial Park**. Moose, beaver, birds and wolves are among the wild creatures that can be spotted in the park. Be sure to drop by the informative visitor centre and Algonquin Logging Museum. Then head to the beautiful **Muskoka** region to Huntsville. Resort activities in Huntsville include canoeing, horse riding and hiking.

#### DAY 13-14-15 HUNTSVILLE - NIAGARA FALLS

**205 miles.** Drive south, through the orchards and vineyards of the **Niagara** region. Hornblower Niagara Cruises and the Journey Behind the Falls reveal up close the power of **Horseshoe Falls**, while helicopter flights and the Falls Illumination provide great photo opportunities. The town has an abundance of tourist attractions. On your final day, drive the Niagara Parkway to **Niagara-on-the-Lake** to taste award-winning ice wines and a farm-to-table meal. Then head to Toronto for the flight home.

#### Book it with... Prestige Holidays

*The 15-day self-drive Best of the East tour includes flights, hotels, 13 days' car hire, GPS, city tours in Montréal and Québec City, a Thousand Islands cruise... and more. Prices from £1,998pp. [prestige holidays.co.uk](http://prestige holidays.co.uk) ; 01425 480 400.*

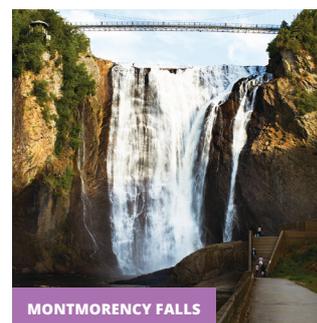


THOUSAND ISLANDS



#### LOOK OUT!

Electric scooters are a fun way to zip between vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake



MONTMORENCY FALLS



MOUNT ROYAL PARK, MONTRÉAL



# Water, views and adventures

## TORONTO / BLUE MOUNTAIN / TOBERMORY / MANITOULIN ISLAND / MUSKOKA LAKES

Hit the road in Ontario for spectacular views, lakes, orchards, Indigenous experiences and much more

### DAY 1 TORONTO

Arrive into **Toronto** and spend the afternoon and evening exploring city attractions like the CN Tower, Royal Ontario Museum, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada and St. Lawrence Market.

### DAY 2 TORONTO-BLUE MOUNTAIN

**106 miles:** Pick up your rental car and drive to **Blue Mountain Resort**, a year-round soft-adventure haven on the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The village has independent shops, pubs and restaurants. Accommodation includes The Westin Trillium House and Blue Mountain Inn. Sign up for skiing on 2½ miles of skiable terrain, golf on a championship course, tennis, mountain biking, hiking and rock climbing.

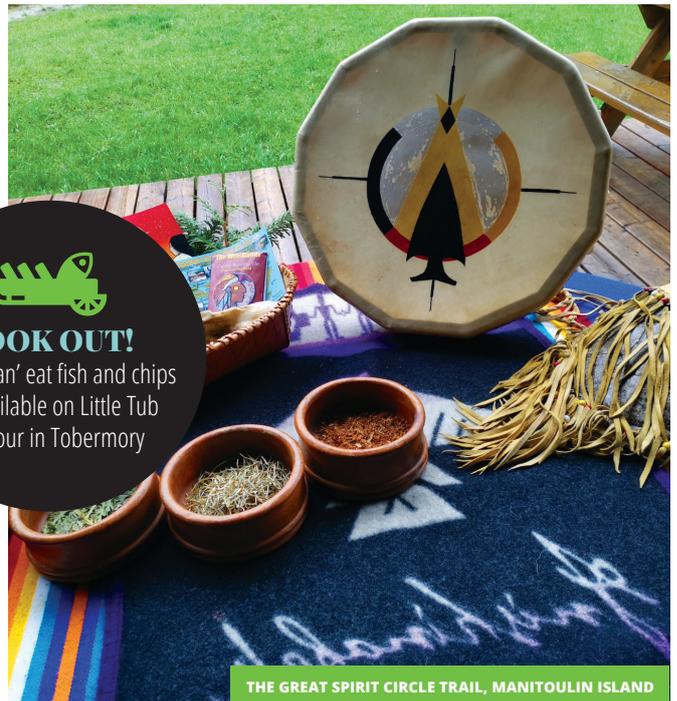
### DAY 3 BLUE MOUNTAIN

Before breakfast take the open-air gondola up to the top of the mountain, to walking trails and spectacular views of the southern shores of **Georgian Bay**. On the way up and down you'll notice the four-season Ridge Runner Mountain Coaster and a crazy golf course. Nearby attractions including Scenic Caves Nature Adventures, which has a suspension bridge from which to see the escarpment from 300 metres above Georgian Bay (the adventurous can try to squeeze through a small gap called 'Fatman's Misery') and Scandinave Spa Blue Mountain, with hot and cold pools, steam baths and saunas, hammocks and other relaxations areas set in a tranquil forest.

**Top tip:** A glass-bottom boat cruise is a popular way to experience the crystal-clear waters and rocky shorelines of **Fathom Five National Marine Park**



THERE'S WATERSIDE LIVING AND ACTIVITIES APLENTY IN MUSKOKA LAKES



THE GREAT SPIRIT CIRCLE TRAIL, MANITOULIN ISLAND

**LOOK OUT!**  
 'All you can' eat fish and chips are available on Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory



#### DAY 4 BLUE MOUNTAIN-TOBERMORY

**95 miles:** Travel across the top of the Niagara Escarpment, down into the Beaver Valley, one of Ontario's apple-growing regions and stop at a vineyard to taste cold climate wines and ice wines, and an orchard for apple cider. Arrive in **Tobermory** late afternoon and explore the restaurants, gift shops, unique stores - even a brewery - that horseshoe around the town's quaint Little Tub Harbour.

#### DAY 5 TOBERMORY

Once a lumber and fishing community, today Tobermory is the gateway to two National Parks: **Fathom Five National Marine Park** and **Bruce Peninsula National Park**. To experience the crystal-clear waters and rocky shorelines of Canada's first National Marine Park, take a glass-bottom boat tour around its several islands. The cruise stops at Flowerpot Island, where guests can get off and stroll to the flowerpot-shaped limestone formations.

If you are lucky on the cruise you might see a black bear swimming from **Cove Island** to the mainland.

#### DAY 6 TOBERMORY-MANITOULIN ISLAND

A five-minute drive out of Tobermory brings you to the visitor centre at Bruce Peninsula National Park. Walk through the gallery that explains the geology, history and wildlife of the park. Several walking trails fan out from here, all leading to majestic cliffs, rock formations with names like Grotto and Natural Arch. Head back to Tobermory's harbour and drive your car onto the *MS Chi-Cheemaun*, for the one-hour and 45-minute crossing across Georgian Bay to South Baymouth Terminal on **Manitoulin Island**.

#### DAYS 7/8 MANITOULIN-MUSKOKA REGION

**270 miles.** Sign up for a morning experience with Indigenous-owned tour company, the Great Spirit Circle Trail. Activities include a 'medicine walk, to learn all about the health-enhancing properties of the herbs and plants in the forest, hiking and paddling a canoe through the heart of Manitoulin on a labyrinth of inland lakes and rivers (a Canadian Signature Experience).

Leave the island after lunch for the long drive to **Muskoka**, a region of 1,500-plus lakes, pristine forest, jutting granite cliffs and characteristic small towns. Take a lake cruise aboard the *Royal Mail Ship Segwun*, North America's oldest operating steamship, or drop by Muskoka Lakes Farm and Winery for its Bottle, Wagon and Wine Makers tour, also a Canadian Signature Experience.

Consider a day trip or two-day add-on to close-by **Algonquin Provincial Park**, with wildlife such as bear, moose and beaver.

#### DAYS 9 MUSKOKA REGION-TORONTO

**130 miles.** You could spend several days touring the backroads of Muskoka, or alternatively build in time to drive to **Niagara Falls** before heading back to Toronto and the flight back to the UK.

#### Book it with... Audley Travel

*Audley offers tailor-made self-drive tours of Ontario and Canada's other provinces. Call a consultant for a quote on the above itinerary. [audleytravel.com](http://audleytravel.com) 1-866-887-8847*



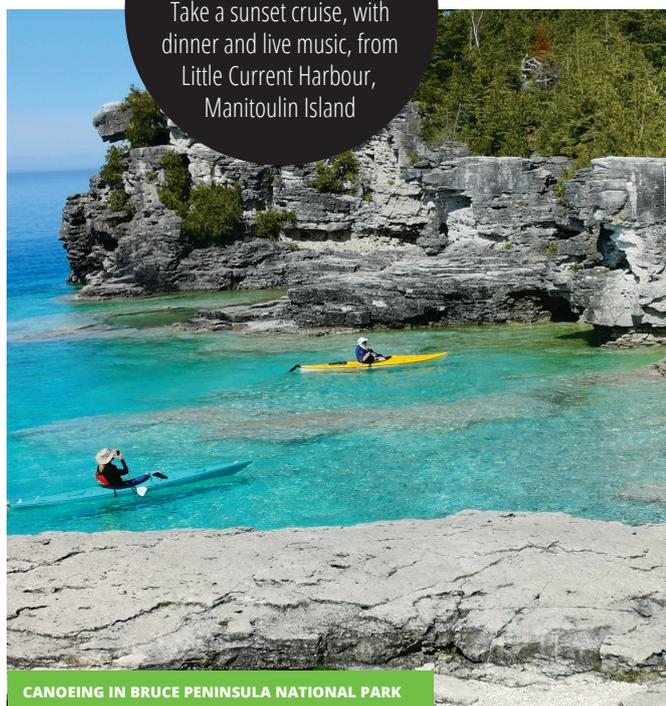
#### LOOK OUT!

The Township of Muskoka Lakes was North America's first dark sky preserve



#### LOOK OUT!

Take a sunset cruise, with dinner and live music, from Little Current Harbour, Manitoulin Island

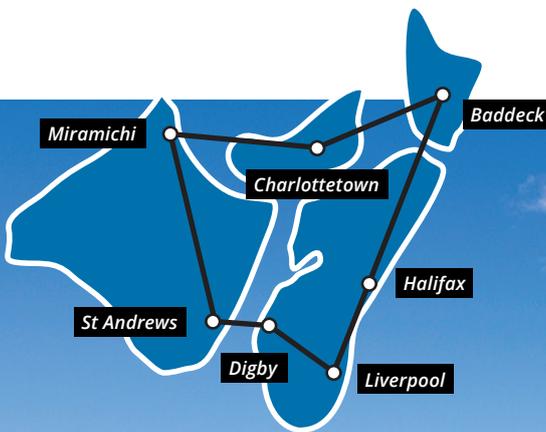


CANOEING IN BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

# The Atlantic provinces

**HALIFAX / LIVERPOOL / DIGBY / ST ANDREW'S-BY-THE-SEA / MIRAMICHI / CHARLOTTETOWN / BADDECK / HALIFAX**

See rugged coastlines, heritage sites, lighthouses, whales and other wildlife in a region known for its abundant seafood



**DAYS 1-2 HALIFAX**

The waters around Nova Scotia's provincial capital are rich in marine life, including the minke, pilot and fin whales frequently seen during whale-watching cruises. Head to **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site's** star-shaped fortress, built by the British military who founded the town in 1749, for great views and re-enactments of the 78th Highlanders and the Royal Artillery. See the **Canadian Museum of Immigration** at Pier 21 then take a short boardwalk stroll to the **Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market**.

**DAYS 3-4 HALIFAX - LIVERPOOL**

**91 miles.** Follow Nova Scotia's **Lighthouse Route** for picture-postcard fishing villages, historic lighthouses, charming coves and crashing surf. Stop at **Peggy's Cove**, a rustic fishing village. Pause near Bluenose Golf Club for a vista of historic **Lunenburg's** colourful facades and continue to **Blue Rocks** for a scenic stroll by moored fishing boats. Stop in **Liverpool** to see its colonial captains' homes and scenic seaside accommodations.

**LOOK OUT!**  
The fish shack sitting out in the water at Blue Rocks is one of the most photographed sites in Atlantic Canada



PEGGY'S COVE, NOVA SCOTIA

LOBSTER IN SHEDIAC, NEW BRUNSWICK

CABOT TRAIL, NEW BRUNSWICK



### DAYS 5-6 LIVERPOOL - DIGBY

**82 miles.** Travelling from Nova Scotia's east coast to its western edge, stop at **Kejimikujik National Park** for its wildlife and stone carvings reflecting the region's **Mi'kmaq heritage**.

Hire a canoe to explore waterways away from walking trails, and take time to notice the skies above Kejimikujik and the beautiful twinkling panorama of stars in Nova Scotia's only Dark Sky Preserve.

Stop in the pretty town of **Annapolis Royal** to explore Fort Anne National Historic Site. Then relax in Digby whilst enjoying some famous **Digby scallops**. Be sure to take a photo of colourful fishing boats in the harbour.

### DAY 7-8 ST ANDREW'S-BY-THE-SEA

**110 miles.** The best way to get from Digby to St. Andrews By-The-Sea is by taking the car ferry and driving, which takes around four hours. First, stop on the other side of the **Bay of Fundy** in Saint John, where the **New Brunswick Museum** illustrates the province's industrial heritage and natural history.

St. Andrews is an attractive town with independent stores and a blockhouse built to repel American attacks in the War of 1812.

Check the tide before crossing to **Ministers Island** to visit the grand summer home of railway magnate Sir William van Horne.

Take ferries or drive via Maine to reach U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt's summer home and Head Harbour Lightstation on **Campobello Island**.

### DAY 9-10 MIRIMACHI

**190 miles.** Pause at **Kings Landing** living history museum near Fredericton, to gain insights into bygone rural life in Atlantic Canada. Driving in this part of the world means passing charming wood-covered bridges – New Brunswick has over 50 of them. The covers protects the bridges against inclement weather.

View starry night skies at **Kouchibouguac National Park**, whose beaches and forest trails make it a great place for walks. Bears and moose count among the wild animals to look out for.



### LOOK OUT!

Discover Halifax's Titanic connections at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

KINGS LANDING, NEW BRUNSWICK



### LOOK OUT!

Stay alert for whale sightings on the ferry across the Bay of Fundy between Digby and Saint John



LIGHTHOUSE ROUTE, NOVA SCOTIA

***Top tip:** Meander at leisure and make it all about the journey! Build in time for unscheduled scenic stops and photo opportunities along the way*

### DAY 11-12 CHARLOTTETOWN

**166 miles.** Stop in **Shediac**, New Brunswick, known as the 'Lobster Capital of the World'. At the western entrance to the town is a 90-ton sculpture called 'The World's Largest Lobster'.

Cross the **Northumberland Strait** on the eight-mile Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island, whose farmhouse-dotted landscape is the setting of Lucy Maud Montgomery's novel *Anne of Green Gables*. **Green Gables Heritage Place** is at Cavendish, close to the sandy beaches of Prince Edward Island National Park.

Learn how Canada became a nation at Charlottetown's **Province House National Historic Site** and neighbouring **Confederation Centre of the Arts**.

### DAY 13-14 BADDECK - HALIFAX

**218 miles.** Cross by ferry to Caribou, Nova Scotia, to experience one of Canada's top scenic drives, the **Cabot Trail** on Cape Breton Island. Have lunch overlooking the water in **Cheticamp** before heading north on the island for the circular walk at Cape Breton Highlands National Park's four-mile **Skyline Trail**.

Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site at **Baddeck** outlines the achievements of the telephone's inventor in his former summer home. Return to Halifax and overnight before the flight back to the UK the following day.

*Book it with... Prestige Holidays*

*The 15-day Wildlife of the Maritimes tour includes 14 nights' accommodation, 13 days' vehicle hire with GPS, two whale-watching tours, the Bay of Fundy ferry crossing and guided moose watching. Prices from £1,752pp. [prestige-canada.co.uk](http://prestige-canada.co.uk); 01502 576 222*



# The Rockies & British Columbia

**CALGARY / BANFF / JASPER /  
CLEARWATER / WHISTLER / VICTORIA  
/ VANCOUVER**

Spectacular landscapes, alpine towns and marine encounters await on this self-drive through the legendary Rocky Mountains

## DAYS 1-2 CALGARY - BANFF

**75 MILES.** Calgary, Alberta's largest city, is the gateway to the Rockies. Visit **Canada Olympic Park**, which hosted the 1988 Winter Olympics, and enjoy an exhilarating bobsleigh ride or take a mountain bike out on a trail. Then browse historic Inglewood's boutique shops or wander the arty urban neighbourhood of East Village.

The next day make for the Rockies resort town of Banff, nestled in Banff National Park. Enjoy a morning ride on the **Banff Gondola** for fabulous views from Sulphur Mountain. Take the Bow Valley Parkway, which runs by the Bow River, and stop at Johnston Canyon to walk along the paved footway to either the lower or upper waterfalls. In winter, enjoy snowshoeing or even ice climbing on the canyon's Upper Falls. Prefer to chill? **Banff Upper Hot Springs** offers the chance for a soothing natural dip.

## DAYS 3-4 BANFF - JASPER

**180 MILES.** The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, overlooking a turquoise lake, is the perfect spot for lunch. In the snowy months enjoy a dog sledding experience with Alaskan huskies, through deep silent woods. **The Icefields Parkway** – one of the world's most beautiful driving routes – leads to Jasper, where the fresh, alpine air will leave you ready for a hearty Rocky Mountain meal.

Look up before bedtime – Jasper National Park is one of the world's top dark sky preserves. The next morning, zoom through the forest-clad mountains in a Harley Davidson sidecar, hike **Maligne Canyon**, the deepest in the Rockies' range, cruise the glacial waters of **Maligne Lake** or try paddle-boarding on Lac Beauvert.



## DAY 5 JASPER - CLEARWATER

**197 MILES.** Crossing into British Columbia, you'll discover a land of ancient forests, pristine lakes and soaring peaks. And nowhere encapsulates the beauty and accessibility of the province's raw wilderness more than Clearwater in the North Thompson Valley. Rich in Indigenous culture and history, the town is a gateway to **Wells Gray Provincial Park**, home to over 40 waterfalls and wildlife such as grizzlies, black bears, beavers and wolves. This is an area that is a hub for skiing, whitewater rafting and paragliding.

**Top tip:** *Don't rush: you need to see the sights to enjoy them and in summer the roads can be busy. An extra couple of days will always be worth it*

## DAY 6 CLEARWATER - WHISTLER

**265 MILES** This is a drive that passes through the gold rush town of **Cache Creek**, where you can stop to visit the historic Hat Creek Ranch which takes you back to those prospecting days. Continue south to **Lillooet**, known as the Land of the Gold Rush, and along the Duffey Lake Road to Whistler, a year-round resort for families.

## DAY 7 WHISTLER

Activities at Whistler include top-class skiing, black bear watching, biking, helicopter rides, zip lining and championship golf courses. The Peak 2 Peak Gondola delivers 360-degree views of Whistler village and the mountains while the dizzying Cloudraker Skybridge connects **Whistler Peak** to the West Ridge, 7,200 ft above sea level.



**LOOK OUT!**

Enjoy stunning views of The Rockies from the Banff Gondola

MOUNTAIN VIEW ON SARRAIL RIDGE OVER RAWSON LAKE

WHALES NEAR VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND

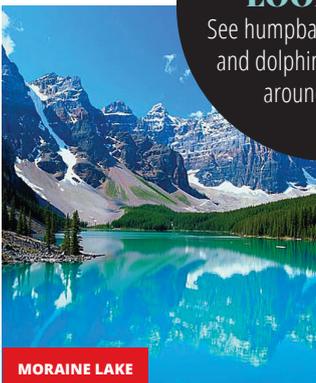


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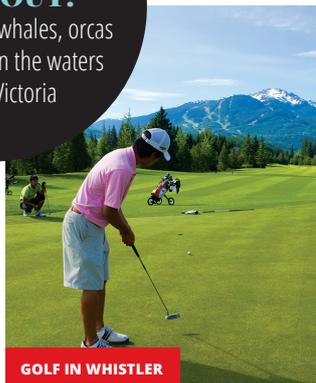


**LOOK OUT!**

See humpback whales, orcas and dolphins in the waters around Victoria



MORAINÉ LAKE



GOLF IN WHISTLER

**DAYS 8-9-10 WHISTLER - VICTORIA**

**174 miles.** Head along the **Sea to Sky Highway**, with scenic ocean vistas, mountains and waterfalls on the way to **Horseshoe Bay**, before boarding the ferry to **Vancouver Island**. Then drive the east coast of Vancouver Island, heading south to **Victoria**.

Duncan on Cowichan Bay is home to 80 totem poles dotted around the town, which give it its 'City of Totems' nickname. Don't miss the B.C. Forest Discovery Centre before leaving for Victoria.

Named after a British monarch, traditions such as high tea and shops full of woollens and china will feel familiar. Don't miss **Butchart Gardens**, one of the world's premier floral show gardens.

**DAYS 11-12-13 VICTORIA - VANCOUVER**

**68 miles.** From Victoria, drive north to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal for a 90-minute ferry cruise through the **Gulf Islands**, across the Strait of Georgia to Tsawwassen before continuing to **Vancouver**.

Spend two days exploring this city nestled between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Cycle around the seawall in **Stanley Park**, visit the Capilano Suspension Bridge (which is surrounded by temperate rainforest), take a whale-spotting cruise, hop on an Aquabus and graze on local specialities at the Granville Island Public Market. Or try the Grouse Grind challenge – a 1.8-mile trail featuring 2,830 stairs that takes you 2,800 feet up **Grouse Mountain**. After all, a trip like this should always end on a high.

**Book it with... First Class Holidays**

The 14-day 'Best of the West' itinerary features stops and activities in Banff, Jasper, Wells Gray Provincial Park, Whistler, Parksville, Victoria and Vancouver and includes 13 nights' accommodation and 14 days' intermediate car hire. From £1,800pp (May to October). fcholidays.com 0161 888 5630



# Western coastal adventures

**Vancouver / Sunshine Coast / Tofino / Nanaimo / Victoria / Vancouver**

See coastal communities, mountain scenery, Indigenous heritage, fjord-like inlets and wildlife in a region packed with nature's best

## DAYS 1-2 VANCOUVER

Explore the historic **Gastown** district, famed for its steam clock, and neighbouring Chinatown for dim sum. Hire a bicycle to circumnavigate **Stanley Park's** seawall to view the city skyline, the park's rainforest with ferns and centuries-old cedars and totem poles representative of the region's Indigenous culture.

**Kitsilano Beach** is easily reachable from downtown Vancouver and ideal for unwinding. Then stroll chic **Robson Street** or explore funky Granville Island with its market and artists' enclave

Head to **Grouse Mountain** – the 'Peak of Vancouver' – for hiking and ziplining in summer and ice skating in winter.

## DAYS 3-4 VANCOUVER-SUNSHINE COAST

**64 miles.** After collecting your rental car, drive to one of Vancouver's outlying suburbs, **Horseshoe Bay**, to board a ferry for a 45-minute scenic sailing to Langdale on the Sechelt Peninsula.

This is the **Sunshine Coast** – and the area lives up to its name, with an annual total of between 1,400 and 2,400 hours of sunshine, an average of four to six hours per day.

Along the way the scenery includes fjord-like waters and mountains covered with forests and glaciated peaks.

At Langdale, disembark the ferry and drive past **quiet fishing villages**. Spend the next day exploring Canada's Pacific Coast, where outdoor adventures include kayaking, a rewarding way of seeing the fjord-like Sechelt Inlet – though the Skookumchuck Narrows' rapids are best left to experienced paddlers.

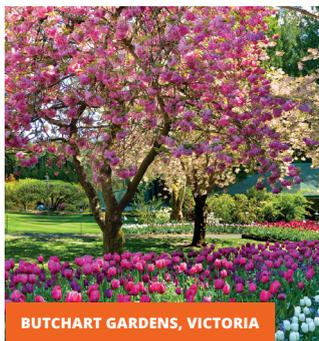
## DAY 5 SUNSHINE COAST-QUADRA ISLAND

**89 miles.** Travel north to **Earls Cove** where, just 10 minutes south of the town's ferry terminal, you can stop at the sandy swimming beach at Dan Bosch Regional Park on the eastern shore of Ruby Lake for a dip and a picnic. A 50-minute ferry ride to Saltery Bay links the Lower Sunshine Coast with the Upper Sunshine Coast. Continue following the coast to Powell River to board another ferry service across the strait of Georgia to Vancouver Island.

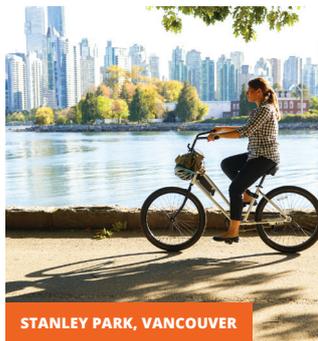
Continue north to **Campbell River** and **Quadra Island**, which is known for April Point Resort & Spa, a serene rustic sanctuary.



**Top tip:** Pre-book activities such as surf lessons or whale- and bear-watching tours to guarantee participation at busy times



BUTCHART GARDENS, VICTORIA



STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER

### DAY 6 EXPLORE FROM QUADRA ISLAND

Go in search of the wildlife that abounds in the area. Board a Zodiac boat and cruise through **Desolation Sound** and enjoy the **Toba Inlet** to seek out black bears in their natural habitat. The island's shoreline is a spectacular mix of beaches, rocky headlands and sheltered coves, while year-round local farmers, bakers, craftspeople and musicians offer their wares at **local markets**.

### DAYS 7-8 QUADRA ISLAND-TOFINO

**140 miles and ferry.** Take a short ferry ride back to Vancouver Island and head to **Tofino** on the island's west coast. Allow time for sightseeing stops while crossing the island and following the Pacific Rim Highway. Tofino is a small coastal village with an acclaimed food culture and a vibrant arts and culture scene. Enjoy a three-hour whale watching cruise through the **Clayoquot Sound**, looking for gray whales, sea lions and killer whales. Enjoy Clayoquot Plateau Provincial Park by walking on the **Wild Pacific Trail**.

### DAYS 9-10 TOFINO TO NAMAIMO

**128 miles.** Travel back to the east coast of Vancouver Island and head south to **Namaino**. Port Alberni is the gateway to outdoor adventures on Vancouver Island – like hiking, canoeing, kayaking and fishing – while other area attractions include a vintage passenger train, salmon fishing, black bear sightings and **Della Falls**, one of Canada's tallest waterfalls. Learn about the **Snuneymuxw First Nation** at Saysutshun – alternatively known as Newcastle Island Marine Provincial Park.

### DAY 11 NAMAIMO - VICTORIA

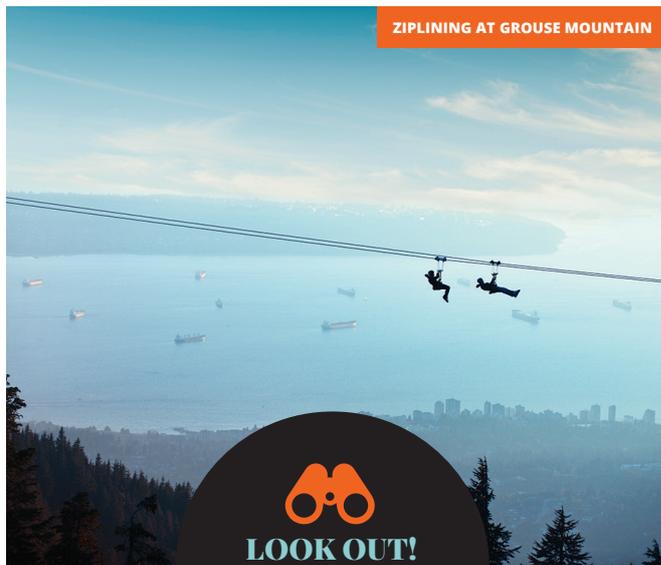
**69 miles.** Stop at the artist community of **Chemainus** to see giant murals painted on exterior walls throughout the town. In Victoria spend an afternoon at **Royal BC Museum**, which introduces the region's human and natural history with exhibitions on Indigenous heritage. Colourful flower displays in **Butchart Gardens** make it one of Vancouver Island's most popular attractions.

### DAY 12 VICTORIA-VANCOUVER

**43 miles plus ferry.** Leaving Victoria, drive north to **Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal** for a 90-minute ferry ride back to the mainland.

#### Book it with... Canadian Affair

The nine-day self-drive *Whales, Bears and Vancouver Island Holiday* includes flights, eight nights' accommodation, car hire with insurance, a whale-watching tour, water taxi transfers, guided bear-watching or an eco-tour, plus ferries from £2,619pp. [canadianaffair.com](http://canadianaffair.com); 0203 424 9785



ZIPLINING AT GROUSE MOUNTAIN



#### LOOK OUT!

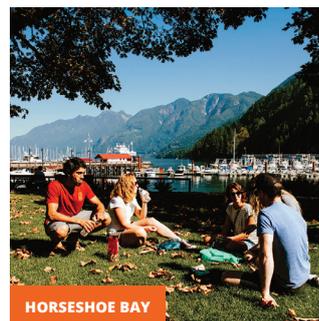
Whale-watching tours depart from Nanaimo Harbour from April into October



TOFINO



QUADRA ISLAND



HORSESHOE BAY



**LOOK OUT!**  
 Kluane National Park is home to Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan



SPACE AND TIME IN YUKON'S WILDERNESS

# Wonders of the Yukon

**WHITEHORSE / SKAGWAY / HAINES / HAINES JUNCTION / KLUANE NATIONAL PARK / TOK / DAWSON CITY**

Feeling the call of the wild? The Yukon's larger-than-life landscapes, unique native wildlife and historic Gold Rush towns make for a thrilling self-drive adventure

## DAYS 1-2 WHITEHORSE

The gateway for a Yukon adventure, the **'Wilderness City'** of Whitehorse is the first taste of the Yukon for visitors arriving by air. On the banks of the Yukon River, Whitehorse is the territory's capital and its only city and combines the historic charm of a frontier town with contemporary accommodation, a thriving arts scene and a vibrant main street.

Steeped in rich **Indigenous** culture, the region boomed after gold was discovered in the Klondike in 1896, attracting over 100,000 'Stampederers' to follow the challenging 'Chilkoot Trail' to seek their fortunes.

The S.S. *Klondike* sternwheeler – which once carried freight along the river – and MacBride Museum of Yukon History offer a fascinating introduction to this Land of the Midnight Sun.

Nearby **Miles Canyon** offers a first taste of Yukon's adventure options, its 15-kilometre loop providing stunning photo-worthy stops of lakes, wilderness and the suspension bridge at the start. Canoeing, biking and hiking trails are available in the summer.



**Top tip:** *The best chance of seeing the aurora borealis (northern lights) in the skies over the Yukon is from mid-August to mid-April. Suggest a trip in the milder, colourful autumn months*

#### DAYS 3-4 WHITEHORSE - SKAGWAY - HAINES

**110 miles - five miles plus ferry.** The perfect road trip destination, 80% of the Yukon remains wild, while 3,000 miles of well-maintained highway allow low-impact exploration of this pristine wilderness.

Leaving Whitehorse, travel the **South Klondike Highway**, which delivers awe-inspiring scenery on its journey across the White Pass to Skagway in neighbouring Alaska.

After a night in the historic town, board the ferry along the **Lynn Canal**, where the vertiginous walls of the fjord rise to 7,000 feet above crystal-clear waters that are home to **humpbacks, orcas and seals** and disembark in the wildlife haven of Haines.

#### DAY 5-6 HAINES - HAINES JUNCTION - KLUANE NP

**147 miles and 155 miles.** More breathtaking scenery awaits as you leave Haines and follow the ancient trail of **Chilkat** and **Tlingit** Indigenous traders to Haines Junction, stopping to look for bald eagles soaring overhead in the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve along the way.

The following day, explore **Kluane National Park**. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kluane offers spectacular mountain vistas and the chance to spot some of Canada's wildlife species, including moose, caribou, timber wolves, lynx and the indomitable grizzly bear.

#### DAY 7-8 HAINES JUNCTION - TOK - DAWSON CITY

**290 miles and 185 miles.** The Yukon's mountains and icefields feed spectacular glacial rivers and lakes and today you'll travel north alongside the territory's shimmering **Kluane Lake** before



DAWSON CITY

#### LOOK OUT!

The mighty Yukon River links Whitehorse and Dawson City and is perfect for canoe and kayak adventures



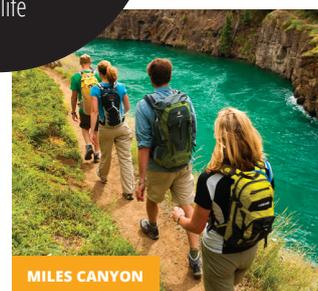
#### LOOK OUT!

With 80% of pure wilderness, the Yukon is a haven for wildlife

KLONDIKE HIGHWAY



GRIZZLY BEAR



MILES CANYON

driving the **Alaska Highway** to the 'Dog Mushing Capital of Alaska', Tok. After a night in a cosy cabin or lodge, the partly gravel Top of the World Highway (open May to mid-September) will reveal epic views across the famed **Klondike** gold fields, with some still being mined today. Then the George Black Ferry will carry you across the Yukon River for your short roll into iconic Dawson City.

#### DAYS 9-10 DAWSON CITY

It might well feel like you are but, no, you're not on a film set - you're in Dawson City! This still-high-kicking historic Gold Rush town is characterised by its wooden boardwalks, old-style saloons and Canada's first casino - the legendary **Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall** - where dancers still perform the 'Can-Can'. Visit the Jack London Museum, which tells the story of the **Call of the Wild** author's Yukon adventure when he arrived here as a prospector hoping to strike gold in 1897.

Hop on a Fishwheel Charter with a First Nations tour guide for a two-hour ride down the Yukon river to Moosehide, or join a gold fields tour to search for some treasures of your own.

#### DAYS 11-12 DAWSON CITY-WHITEHORSE

**333 miles.** Leaving the bright lights of Dawson behind, today you'll drive back through the Yukon's wonderful wilderness to Whitehorse. Fresh air and big skies abound, so be sure to stop and take in your remaining hours of freedom on the open road.

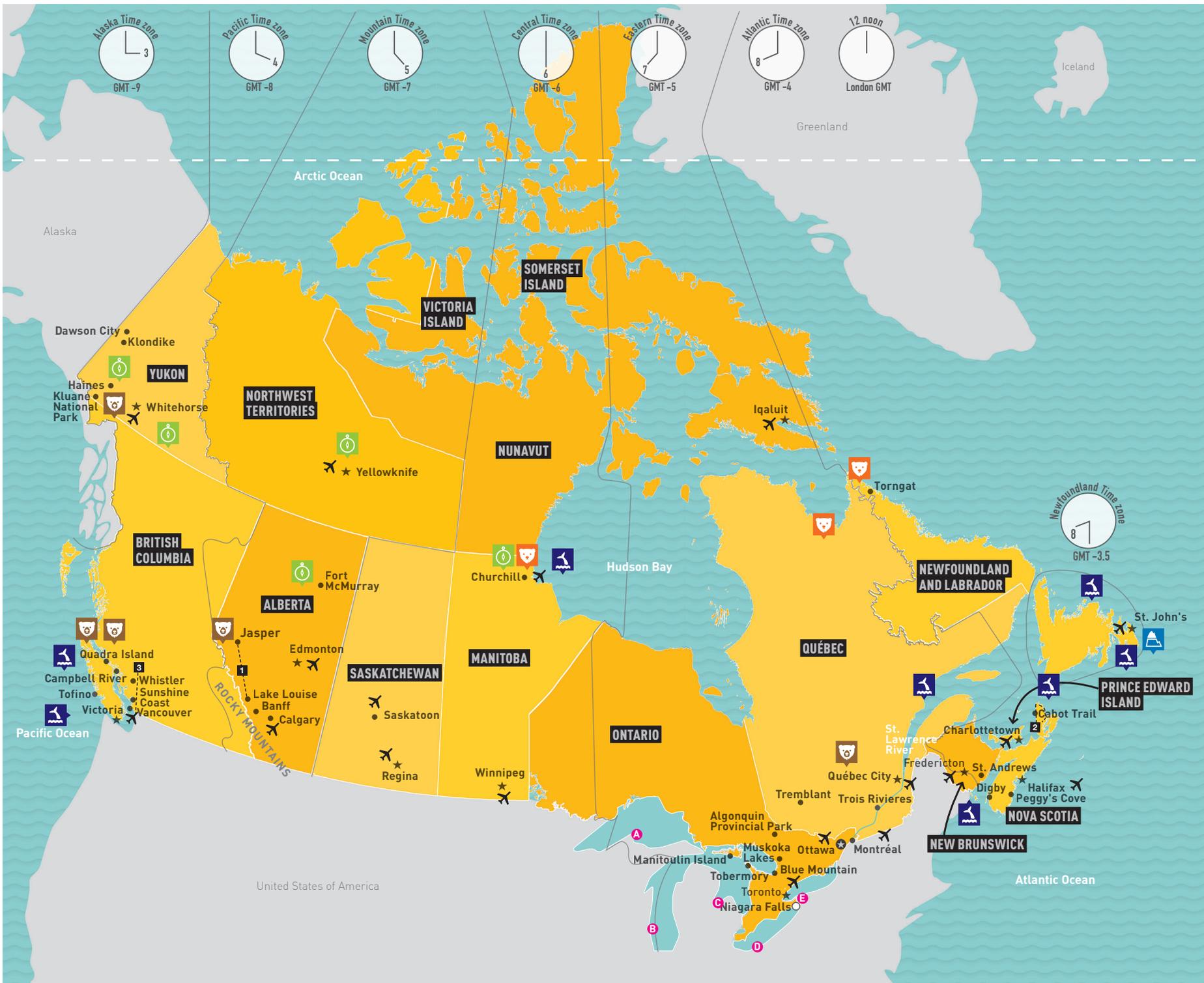
Watch out for wildlife en route, and stop for a hike down to the banks of the Yukon where you might see canoers braving the white-water of the river's famous **Five Finger Rapids**. Then drive on to enjoy your last night in Whitehorse, with a well-earned drink at local favourite, the Dirty Northern, on Main Street. Cheers!

#### Book it with... Premier Holidays

The 'In The Footsteps of Yukon Pioneers' itinerary includes nine nights' accommodation, 10 days' compact two-door car hire, a gold-panning tour, fees for the Yukon River Ferry and international flights to and from Whitehorse. From £1,979pp, May to September. [premierholidays.co.uk](http://premierholidays.co.uk); 08444 937 531.

# Selling **Canada**

CANADA'S CLASSIC DRIVING ROUTES



## MAP KEY

- National Capital City
- Provincial Capitals
- Airports
- Bear-watching
- Icebergs
- Northern lights
- Polar Bears
- Whale-watching
- 1 Icefields Parkway
- 2 Cabot Trail
- 3 Sea to Sky Highway
- Lake Superior
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Huron
- Lake Erie
- Lake Ontario

This map was designed to provide a general illustration of the provinces and places mentioned inside this guide. BMI Publishing cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies of scale or omissions.