

10 Day Cascadia and the Pacific Northwest

10 days

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Price Day 1: Arrive in Vancouver, BC

Arrive in the cosmopolitan city of Vancouver. Check into your downtown hotel, then enjoy a get acquainted dinner this evening with fellow travellers. A vibrant metropolitan city on the west coast, Vancouver is nestled between majestic mountains, sparkling ocean, rainforests and beautiful foliage. All four seasons make Vancouver one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Vancouver is also a very walkable city; the locals take great pride in welcoming visitors with clean, safe and vibrant streets, day or night.

Overnight: Vancouver

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 2: Vancouver, BC

Vancouver is one of the most captivating cities in Canada, with its multicultural fusion amidst a spectacular mountain and ocean setting. Our city tour today includes Stanley Park, Chinatown, English Bay as well as some prestigious residential areas of Vancouver. We visit Capilano Park and experience the suspension bridge, the tree top adventure and the cliff walk, plus see Salish First Nations culture. The evening is free to explore the city's bustling and attractive core.

Overnight: Vancouver

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3: Vancouver - Victoria, BC

Vancouver's rugged wilderness and the wild coast where the mountains meet the Pacific Ocean is literally right around the corner. We do a scenic tour along the Sea to Sky corridor today. Driving past the ocean-side town of Horseshoe Bay, we feel the spray from British Columbia's 3rd highest waterfall at Shannon Falls, rise almost 850 metres to the top of the Sea to Sky Gondola, cross the Sky Pilot Suspension Bridge and travel to the depths on the underground train at the historic Britannia Mine Museum. Returning, we head to the ferry terminal to take a late afternoon ferry ride crossing the Straits of Georgia to Vancouver Island. The route takes us past some of the Gulf Islands scattered over this part of Pacific. As we sail past, we can see the sleepy charm and the slow pace of life on these small islands that make them so attractive to the residents in their ocean front homes.

Overnight: Victoria, BC

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4: Victoria, BC

As an island destination, Vancouver Island boasts the mildest climate in Canada; it is green and beautiful year-round. Victoria the capital of British Columbia, has a colonial heritage, architecture, colourful gardens and traditions like afternoon tea blending with a plethora of outdoor adventure, world-class culinary experiences and a vibrant arts and culture scene. Highlights include the Parliament Buildings, Royal BC Museum and seeing the Fairmont & Empress hotels surrounding the picturesque Inner Harbour. We visit the renowned Butchart Gardens, with over 55 acres of spectacular flora displays and have time to wander, before returning to the city and touring some of the other highlights.

Overnight: Victoria, BC

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Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5: Victoria - Seattle, WA

We have most of the day free in Victoria to browse the pedestrian friendly lanes of the city centre area. Being the oldest city in the Pacific Northwest has major advantages. Victoria's rich and fascinating history is rooted in the indigenous people's culture stretching back thousands of years and British and Asian traditions since the mid 1800's. You can visit beautiful Craigdarroch Castle, or feel the pulse of Canada's oldest Chinatown, truly a hidden gem, or else you can easily escape to the water on a world-class whale watching tour. Later that afternoon, we board the Norwegian built catamaran ferry to Seattle weaving through the San Juan Islands in the waters of Puget Sound. The fast boats reach speeds of up to 30 knots, making them amongst the fastest passenger vessels in the Western Hemisphere. Passengers aboard the vessels will find comfortable, roomy seats, tables for playing cards and open deck space for getting a breath of fresh air or taking in the sights.

Overnight: Seattle

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Seattle, WA

Open year-round, the Pike Place Market is Seattle's most iconic attraction - and it's filled with tasty treats. Aisles of gleaming fruits and vegetables, tables overflowing with fresh floral bouquets, and booth after booth selling all manner of locally made jewellery, clothing and gifts. It's also a great place to enjoy many fantastic eateries serving prepared dishes. Most definitely a bucket list item for most travellers, the Space Needle is certainly Seattle's most iconic structure. At a height of 605 feet, the Space Needle boasts fabulous 360 degree views that include Mt. Rainier, Puget Sound, the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, the beautiful city of Seattle and beyond. The highlight of the day will be our visit to one of Seattle's favourite aviation attractions, the Future of Flight Aviation Center and the Boeing factory. The centre offers the only publicly available opportunity to tour a commercial jet assembly plant in North America where you can actually watch Boeing 747, 777 and 787 Dreamliner jets being assembled.

Overnight: Seattle

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7: Seattle - Portland, OR

An early morning 3.5 hour long train ride on the Amtrak Cascades service takes us south along a scenic route to the city of Portland, Oregon. What distinguishes Portland from the rest of America's cityscapes? In a Northwest nutshell, everything. Rich cultural offerings, historic and modern architecture, endless recreational activities, and a friendly feel make Portland attractive for everyone. Voted "The Best Big City", we will enjoy a local city highlights tour including the Pearl District, Bridges of Portland, Washington Park, Alberta Street, Old Town Chinatown, Lownsdale Square, Riverplace and the Chinese Garden.

Overnight: Portland

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: Portland - Lincoln City, OR

Lots of places have a beach. If you want to go to the "Coast", you have to come to Oregon. It is no secret that the Oregon Coast is stunningly beautiful and makes for one of America's top most scenic drives. We drive through various ecosystems, from rocky coastal shoreline with sea stacks and long expanses of sandy beach, to inland bays, rivers and estuaries, forested coastal mountains and

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temperate old-growth rainforest. Imagine spending the day exploring the quaint seaside towns and iconic lighthouses. We end the day in Lincoln City where every winter, volunteers place 2,000 glass floats along the towns 7.5 miles of beaches and lucky beachcombers get to keep these small pieces of art.

Overnight: Lincoln City

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 9: Lincoln City - Portland, OR

A leisurely drive through rural Oregon and the heart of the Oregon Wine Country takes us back to Portland. The Willamette Valley, Oregon's leading wine region, has over two-thirds of the state's wineries and vineyards, and is home to nearly 500 wineries. We will stop at one of the leading wineries for sampling and our farewell vineyard lunch. The region is recognized as one of the premier Pinot noir producing areas in the world. Other cool-climate varieties such as Pinot gris, Pinot blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling and Gewürztraminer are equally at home in the Willamette Valley. While the number of wineries continues to grow, Willamette Valley winemakers have not lost their handcrafted approach to making wine and are now recognized worldwide for their efforts. The Willamette Valley won the 2016 Wine Region of the Year award by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. This afternoon, we will travel a section of the famous Columbia River Gorge Highway and visit the scenic Womens Forum viewpoint, Crown Point and the Vista House all with incredible views of the Columbia River Gorge.

Overnight: Portland

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10: Depart Portland, OR

This morning we will transfer separately to the airport or train station for our journey home.

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast