



## Canadian Transcontinental Rail Journey September 10-19, 2009

→ **To reserve your spot, please download and complete our [trip registration form](#).**

### ITINERARY

#### ***Thursday, September 10: Toronto/Via Rail Departure***

Begin your legendary rail journey at Toronto's Royal York Hotel. Meet your fellow travelers at the hotel from 2:00pm on at the MIT hospitality room and drop off your luggage. Formal activities start at 6:00pm with welcome drinks, a lecture, and dinner.

Opening lecture by MIT Senior Research Associate (retired) Carl Martland '68, CE'72, SM'72. His talk, entitled "A Helluva Way to Run a Railroad Line: Cars, Locomotives, Trains, Tracks, Terminals, Communications and Computers - what is needed in a rail system and how does it all fit together?" will be followed by dinner. Then cross the street from the Royal York to Union Station, the historic gateway to Canada. Enjoy the elegance of this monumental beaux arts inspired structure, and depart for Western Canada and two thousand miles of travel on board Via Rail's Canadian. *The Canadian* (D)



#### ***Friday, September 11: Westboard on Via Rail to Winnipeg***

Relax in your first-class cabin and lounge car while crossing over the Canadian Shield, the oldest part of the earth's crust. Enjoy one thousand miles of beautiful

protruding granite cliffs and crystal blue lakes and rivers, framed by the great boreal forests of the Canadian North.

Early this morning, travel through the Sudbury Basin. Some forty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide, the Sudbury basin was created 1.8 billion years ago by meteor impact, resulting in one of the richest areas of mineralization in the world. In 1902 J.P. Morgan created the International Nickel Company to tap the area's rich mineral resources, and by 1920 INCO was producing over 90% of the world's supply of nickel. Today, there are still nine operating mines in the basin employing over 9,000 men and women. View the Inco Smokestack. At 1,000 feet high, it is the tallest smokestack in the world.

This afternoon attend a lecture by Canadian historian Barry Lane entitled "The New Ontario," and learn of the extraordinary history of Northern Ontario and the present day revolution that this enormous area, 300,000 square miles, is undergoing. *The Canadian* (B, L, D)

#### ***Saturday, September 12: Westbound to Jasper***

This morning our train stops in the prairie railway hub of Winnipeg, historic capital of the province of Manitoba. Enjoy a short walk from the Winnipeg Train station to view the remnants of Upper Fort Gary. Located at the forks of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, Upper Fort Gary was the prairie headquarters of the fabled Hudson Bay Company. Then enter the premises of the Fort Gary Hotel to view the fine public rooms of another of Canada's historic railway hotels. (Grand Trunk Pacific 1911). This afternoon we continue on through the golden wheat fields of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the breadbasket of Canada. Enjoy a second lecture by Carl Martland.: "Heavy Haul Railroading – Big Cars & Big Trains Competing for Coal and Grain with the Waterways and the Panama Canal". *The Canadian* (B, L, D)

#### ***Sunday, September 13: Edmonton/Jasper National Park***

Early this morning, our train arrives in Edmonton, the capital of energy rich Alberta. Just north are the famous Athabasca Oil Sands, an area the size of Scotland that contains petroleum reserves nearly as large as those of Saudi Arabia. Canada is presently the United State' largest provider of energy (9% of total energy consumed), and Saudi Arabia the second (8%). Canadian energy exports to the United States are presently worth \$90 billion Canadian dollars, and make up a major segment of the close to \$375 billion dollars of Canadian exports to the United States. When all sectors are evaluated, Canada and the United States are by far the world's largest trading partners and maintain a relationship which is crucial to the well being of both countries.

This morning, enjoy the fabulous scenery of the foothills and the Front Range of the Canadian Rockies, before disembarking in the early afternoon at Jasper, located in the heart of Jasper National Park. Check in at the nearby Jasper Park Lodge and enjoy the beautiful grounds of this premier railway resort, built by Canadian National Railway in 1921. At the end of the day, enjoy a second lecture by Canadian historian, Barry Lane, entitled, "First Nations: A History of Canada's Native Peoples." Dinner in the hotel. *Jasper Park Lodge* (B, L, D)

#### ***Monday, September 14: Jasper National Park/Banff National Park***

This morning enjoy a lecture by the outstanding Canadian naturalist, Peter Duck, on the natural life of Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks. Then join Peter for a walk from the hotel. Lunch is on your own.

This afternoon enjoy opportunities to use the hotel's extensive sporting and spa facilities, visit the town of Jasper, or other scenic sites within Jasper National Park. At the end of the day join Carl Martland for his third lecture, "If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them: Competition and Cooperation Among Railroads, Trucking Companies and Container Shipping Lines." Dinner in the hotel. *Jasper Park Lodge* (B, D)

***Tuesday, September 15: Glacier Parkway/Banff Springs Hotel***

Today, join naturalist Peter Duck on a drive through Jasper and Banff National Parks, along the famous Glacier Parkway and enjoy some of the finest scenery in the world. This afternoon, stop for coffee at world famous Chateau Lake Louise, and then continue on to Banff and the Banff Springs Hotel. *Banff Springs Hotel* (B, L, D)

***Wednesday, September 16: Banff National Park***

Begin this morning with a lecture by Canadian historian Barry Lane, entitled, "Lords of the Line: A History of Canadian Pacific's Great Transportation Empire," followed by a tour of the historic Banff Springs Hotel.

Then learn about the region's art and indigenous culture at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, located in the picturesque town of Banff. Your afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the town site and the hotel.

At the end of the day enjoy a lecture by Carl Martland "Productivity, Pricing and Profitability in the North American Rail Industry – Less Track, Fewer Cars, Relaxed Regulation, More Traffic, and (sometimes) More Money: Changes in the Rail Industry, Rail Technology, and Rail Regulations since WWII". *Banff Springs Hotel* (B, D)

***Thursday, September 17: Banff/Rocky Mountaineer/Kamloops***

Board the Rocky Mountaineer for one of the world's most scenic and historic train rides. Initially the train follows along the beautiful Bow River Valley before crossing the continental divide into British Columbia and the towering mountains that surround the Kicking Horse Pass. Travel through the pass via the famous Spiral Tunnels, constructed by Canadian Pacific to offset some of the highest railway grades in world history, and then drop down into the Rocky Mountain Trench to travel along the banks of the mighty Columbia River as it heads north from its headwaters in south eastern British Columbia.

Climb again through the three spectacular mountain chains that make up the remote Columbia Mountains, crossing some of the most extraordinary railroad bridges in the world, and pass through Roger's Pass served by the 9.2 mile long Connaught Tunnel, one of the world's longest railway tunnels. At Revelstoke re-cross the Columbia River as it now heads south towards the United States. Then view Craigellachie where Canada's "Last Spike" was driven, before heading into Canada's northern extension of the American Desert, and beautiful Shuswap Lake with its numerous nesting Osprey and Bald Eagles. This evening disembark in Kamloops, the transportation hub of British Columbia and the third largest city in the Province. *Kamloops Motel* (B, L, D)

***Friday, September 18: Kamloops to Vancouver***

Today, your rail journey on the Rocky Mountaineer takes you through the desert like ranch lands of the Thompson River Valley as the train follows along the canyon walls above the rushing river below. Then enter the precipitous valley of the mighty Fraser River, with tracks hanging from the canyon walls where the original Caribou Gold Rush road was built by British "sappers" Royal Engineers between 1862 - 1865. Both Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway have fought for track

space along the cliffs of this narrow river valley, with their lines crisscrossing back and forth over the roaring waters below, via numerous impressive railway bridges. This afternoon the train finally breaks out of the mountainous wilderness and continues into the lush garden lands of the Fraser River delta.

Later arrive in Vancouver, Canada's Pacific Rim city, presently undergoing massive construction for the Winter Olympics of 2010. We check in at the majestic Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, the last of your four great railway hotels. Enjoy a drink and a final lecture by Barry Lane, "The West Beyond The West: A History of Vancouver and British Columbia," followed by a festive farewell dinner in the hotel. *Fairmont Hotel Vancouver* (B, L, D)

***Saturday, September 19: Vancouver***

Individual departures.