

A scenic view of a Rocky Mountain sunrise seen through a tunnel. A train is visible on tracks leading towards the mountains.

Great Canadian

Terrain Ride

*The light at the end of your workaday tunnel
is a Rocky Mountain sunrise.*

Twists & Turns

Spiraling tunnels. Towering trestles. Wilderness, wildlife, waterfalls and other natural wonders. From desert landscapes to mountaintop glaciers, Rocky Mountain Railtours® is a great escape and a grand adventure into the Canadian West. It's famous for colorful views and commentary, fine food and first-rate service. Sample chocolate-dipped strawberries as you ride, or visit the dining room for a gourmet feast. All trains travel by daylight, so you can enjoy the scenic surroundings. Choose a two-day tour or a 10-day adventure. You'll stop at popular destinations with premium accommodations, whether it's a grand railway hotel or a charming mountain lodge.

Once you board, it won't take long to see why this was voted one of the "20 Best Rail Experiences in the World" by International Railway Traveler magazine. It earned rave reviews for both scenery and service.

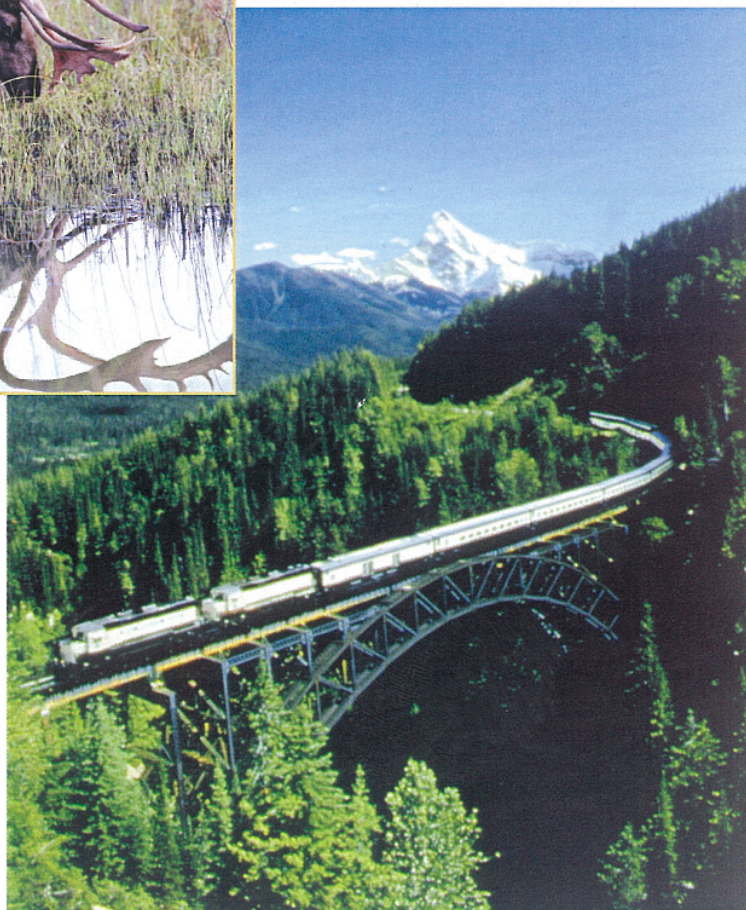
With over 20 package tours, you may find it hard to choose. Book a weeklong excursion or a two-day trek with overnight stops. You can ride in a glass-topped dome coach for the best view of eagles soaring above ponderosa pines. Step out onto the observation deck for a closer look at a majestic moose or a black bear fishing for dinner. Watch for deer, elk, rams or bighorn sheep. You may also spot adventurous river rafters who like to wave an oar as trains pass by. You'll find that tour guides and passengers are amiable, too. You just may meet a new friend from Australia, or get the inside story from a British Columbian traveler.



Hell's Gate & Heavenly Heights

The track itself is an architectural feat that amazed the world when it was completed in 1885. The next year, the first train began its transcontinental trip across beautiful, but treacherous, terrain. In later years, rail cars became longer and heavier, and the steep Kicking Horse River stretch became known for runaway trains. Engineers solved the problem by designing circular tunnels, similar to tracks in Switzerland. The new track took a maze-like route, doubling back on its path, cutting through mountains and crossing the river twice to diminish the steep grade.

For protection from heavy snow on avalanche-prone Selkirk Mountain, engineers built Connaught Tunnel, a five-mile underground passage. It climbs to summits of nearly 4,000 feet. The route's famous Spiral Tunnels include "The Pretzel" through Cathedral Mountain.



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"The Pretzel" tunnel is 3,255 feet long, turns 250 degrees and emerges 56 feet lower. You may hear tales of Iroquois fur traders as you pass by primitive huts in the shadows of *Yuh-hai-has-kun* – The Mountain of Spiral Road. At 12,972 feet, this is the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies.

As you approach Fraser Canyon, you'll see why construction of this track was so perilous. In 1914, a massive rockslide narrowed the passage of the Fraser River. Many workers lost their lives while building this section, which survivors named "Hell's Gate." Today, you can pass safely through its cliffs and canyons, where water surges at 200 million gallons a minute through a narrow, 37-foot gorge. The waters are now safer for traveling salmon, too, thanks to special "fish ladders" built by Canadian and U.S. governments in the 1940s. Two major fishways slow the river's velocity, and that helps millions of salmon navigate the raging river. Thanks to a series of pools, salmon can rest during their climb to calmer upstream waters.

Gold Dust & Whistle Stops

Travel back in time to the days of hold-ups and shakedowns.

Discover a site that was the end of the line for two legendary train robbers. Stagecoach bandit Billy Miner moved from Kentucky to British Columbia, where he met his new partner in crime, William "Shorty" Dunn. Their first train robbery netted \$6,000 in gold dust, \$1,000 in cash and \$50,000 in U.S. bonds. Their last heist was less lucrative, generating a grand total of \$15 and quick capture by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. If you stop at Two River Junction, you can enjoy a dinner buffet and musical revue that includes these and other "Tales From the Rails."

Gondolas & Gardens

The Canadian Combo tour, from Toronto to Vancouver, includes a trip to Niagara Falls – one of the natural wonders of the world. You can ride a gondola up Sulphur Mountain and take in the breathtaking 360-degree panorama of the Canadian Rockies. Other tours include photogenic Gulf Islands, oceanfront drives and world-renowned Butchart Gardens in Victoria. Watch for photo opportunities, such as the red-coated Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the multicolored totem poles of Stanley Park, Vancouver.

Winter destinations include snowshoeing, ice-skating, dogsledding or sleigh rides. In December, you can join Santa on the Christmas Express – a special holiday memory for both kids and grown-ups. You can also count on plenty of winter wildlife habitat viewing. At the end of an event-filled day, treat yourself to a luxurious spa retreat. Whatever the season, there's a lot to see and do.

Contact your local travel professional, or call 1-800-665-7245 for reservations or information. You can also visit www.rockymountaineer.com for a picture-perfect preview.

