

# BEST OF THE ROCKIES – 20 DAYS

## Day 1: Denver

Welcome to Denver, Colorado and the start of your Rockies adventure. Urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure in this city surrounded by greenery. It's time to get acquainted with 'The Mile High City', so strap on your walking shoes and get a feel for the city's history, transportation and neighbourhoods. If you book pre tour accommodation there's plenty to keep you entertained before you join the rest of your tour group for a welcome meeting at 18:00 hrs in your hotel on the evening of day one.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

## Day 2-3: Boulder - Rocky Mountain National Park

As you leave Denver, you head out into the beautiful wilderness of the Rockies! The next three days of your tour will take you along what has been named 'one of the best drives in the world' and as you cruise through spectacular and dramatic scenery, you'll no doubt agree. Stop at the city of Boulder with its artisan feel and laid-back vibe, before arriving at the incredible Rocky Mountain National Park. This amazing national park contains miles and miles of incredible trails, 150 lakes and a wide variety of wildlife, so a free day of hiking here is the perfect start to your trip.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2) and dinner (x2) included

## Day 4: Walden - Saratoga - Sinks Canyon State Park

Ancient trees, sagebrush and vast ranches provide picture-perfect scenery all the way to Walden, the self-proclaimed moose viewing capital of Colorado. Enjoy a brief stop in the small town of Saratoga before continuing on and spending the night in Sinks Canyon. This rugged canyon sits at the base of the southern Wind River Mountains in Wyoming. It's named for its unique geologic formations, 'The Sinks', where the Popo Agie River disappears underground near the mouth of the canyon, truly a sight to behold.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

## Day 5: Grand Teton National Park - Jackson

Famed for its iconic soaring peaks, the 64 km Grand Teton Range explodes out of the ground with its jagged fang-like mountains. Rocky spires, lakes and forests fill the park, with more than 10 pinnacles reaching over 12,000 ft. There are many self-guided hikes to choose from today, walking amidst dramatic scenery and appreciating the geology and nature of the area. Perhaps choose a hike to Inspiration Point with views of Jenny Lake (ferry not included). Why not whet your whistle at the world-famous Million Dollar Cowboy Saloon tonight?

Accommodation: Lodge included | Meals: Breakfast included

## Day 6-8: Yellowstone National Park

It's a beautiful drive today to the very first and most revered national park in America, Yellowstone National Park. Entering Yellowstone, the scenery starts to change from striking jagged peaks to colourful open meadows and rolling terrain. With the world's largest collection of geysers, this designated UNESCO World Heritage Site is a photographer's dream and perfect for nature and wildlife lovers. Famous for its geothermal activity, this protected land has become North America's most prolific wildlife sanctuary. The park offers an extreme variety of scenery including petrified forests, lush valleys, canyons, waterfalls and bubbling geysers, with steam rising from deep within the earth's crust.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x3) and dinner (x3) included

## Day 9-11: Glacier National Park

Situated on the border of America and Canada, the drive up to this stunning national park is simply breathtaking and you'll soon be dying to get out and stretch those legs. One of the largest national parks in North America, Glacier is home to around 26 glaciers and around one million acres of turquoise alpine lakes; nature really does impress in Glacier. Travel the Going-to-the-Sun Road (seasonal) for unsurpassed views or hike the 'crown jewel' of trails to Iceberg Lake and keep a look out for wildlife including Mountain Goats and Grizzly Bear that all live in the shadows of the magnificent craggy peaks.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x3), lunch (x3) and dinner (x3) included

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## Day 12-13: Banff National Park

Vast unspoilt wilderness and mountain lakes await you in the stunning mountain town of Banff. The oldest national park in Canada and situated in the very heart of the Canadian Rockies, this place will truly take your breath away. Home to an array of spectacular wildlife, around 1,600 km of walking trails and some of the most beautiful alpine lakes you'll have ever laid eyes on. Visit the famous Banff Springs Hotel, go horseback riding or take the steep hike up to Sulphur Mountain followed by a gondola ride down.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x1) and dinner (x2) included

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## Day 14: Lake Louise

With its snow-capped peaks, ancient pine forests and aquamarine waters, Lake Louise is 'the gem of the Canadian Rockies'. Lake Louise has always been a popular tourist destination, so it's no surprise that it's one of the most photographed destinations in the region! The vibrant glacial hue of Lake Louise will take your breath away. It almost doesn't look real, but believe us when we say it most certainly is!

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast & lunch included

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## Day 15-16: Jasper National Park

If you want adventure, discovery and relaxation in equal measure, then you're in the right place. With over 1,000 km of exciting hiking trails and backcountry walking, taking you through more of Canada's spectacular wilderness, it won't just be the towering peaks that impress, but the astonishing amount of wildlife you see roaming freely around the park. Jasper National Park is also home to the world-famous Columbia Icefield, one of the only icefields accessible by road and the largest in the Canadian Rockies. At the end of all that adventure, it's time for a bit of relaxation, with an included visit to the Miette Hot Springs.

Accommodation: Lodge included | Meals: Breakfast (x1) included

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## Day 17: Wells Gray Provincial Park

Don't let the fact that Wells Gray is not a 'national' park fool you, this place is stunning! The stillness, silence and isolation go up another notch, as you drive through the secluded park and experience remarkable scenes of high mountains, deep canyons, volcanic cones, brooding old-growth forests and raging white water waterfalls. The most revered waterfall has to be the famous Helmcken Falls, Canada's fourth highest waterfall. It was this very waterfall that provided Wells Gray with its provincial park status! The many smaller waterfalls around the park are equally as beautiful and we have every confidence that Wells Gray will be a highlight of your trip.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Lunch and dinner included

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## Day 18-19: Whistler

Travel the old Gold Rush Trail through Cache Creek and on to the adventure capital of Western Canada. Perhaps better known as a winter resort, Whistler has plenty of activities and walking trails as well as being an area of impressive beauty all year round. Whistler Village with its alpine village charm and all the amenities of an urban centre is a great place to enjoy a vibrant nightlife and some delicious restaurants.

Accommodation: Hotel included (triple share suite with one twin room and one single room - both with private bathrooms and communal lounge area) | Meals: Breakfast (x1) and lunch (x1) included

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## **Day 20: Whistler - Vancouver**

With most of the day free to spend as you wish, why not explore more thrilling trails and soak up the last of the Canadian air before heading back to Vancouver? Visit Stanley Park, a 4,000-hectare green wonderland to see the authentic totem poles erected in the 1920s, before it's time to say goodbye.

Meals: Lunch included