

GO GREEN! Rather than printing these notes, we suggest saving this PDF file on your smartphone. Not only is it more environmentally friendly, but it also means these notes are always at hand!

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ**

This document contains important information about your Moose tour. Please read the entire document carefully. However, the following are critical points to be aware of:

- 1. We need to know your pickup location! Please advise us at least 7 days prior to your departure date. See the <u>Joining Your Trip</u> section for more information.
- 2. We have a strict baggage policy, and additional fees apply if your bag is overweight/oversize. See the <u>Baggage Allowance</u> section for more information.

# **Coho Non-Accommodated**

# 5 days/4 nights

Our Coho tour really packs a punch! This 5 day oneway trip from Vancouver to Banff takes you from the Coast Mountains, through the Monashee and Selkirk Mountain Ranges into the stunning mountain town of Revelstoke, before climbing into the glacial valleys of Banff and Jasper National Parks in the Rockies. Take in some amazing sights of crashing waterfalls, turquoise lakes, and stunning mountain ranges on this unforgettable Rocky Mountain tour. You'll even get to try Indigenous cuisine. The perfect short trip if you want to get a feel for the real Canada!



Note: the Coho is the first 5 days of the 8 day Caribou tour. Some of your fellow travellers will be continuing back to Vancouver after you finish.

# **Highlights**

- Get married at Bridal Veil Falls (marriage optional)
- Marvel at the aqua blue Moraine Lake (seasonal)
- Enjoy the stunning vistas from Mistaya Canyon
- See the majestic Peyto Lake (our hands down favourite)!
- Hike to the toe of the Athabasca Glacier at the Columbia Icefield
- Walk across Canada's highest suspension bridges

# What's Included

- 1 night mixed gender, hostel dormitory style accommodation at a wilderness hostel
- Moose Bus transportation
- Services of a professional and fun tour guide/driver
- Entry to Golden Skybridge
- 1 dinner, 1 lunch including an Indigenous cuisine meal

- 2 breakfasts
- National Park fees

### Itinerary

### Day 1: Vancouver to Revelstoke

To begin our adventure, we're going east through the Fraser Valley, where we'll take a short walk through a West Coast rainforest to Bridal Veil Falls. Then, we'll traverse the Coastal Mountains, stopping at Kekuli Café in Merritt, the gateway to the BC Interior and the heart of the Nicola Valley for a lunchtime Indigenous meal. We will then pass through the majestic Shuswap Lakes and settle in for the night in the picturesque mountain town of Revelstoke.

<u>Meal inclusions</u>: Indigenous cuisine lunch in Merritt <u>Recommended Moose Accommodation</u>: Sandman Revelstoke

#### Day 2: Revelstoke to Banff

We have an action packed day ahead! Being completely spoiled with mountain ranges today, crossing not one, not two – but three of them, as we travel through four National Parks towards Banff! We'll start the morning in Revelstoke where you can go kayaking on the beautiful Lake Revelstoke. After lunch, we will then head to the Golden Skybridge for a stunning walk over the Columbia Valley, the highest suspension bridge in Canada. Then, we'll enter the Rocky Mountains and cross over the Kicking Horse Pass into Alberta and Banff National Park, spending the night in the historic town of Banff itself, right in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

<u>Note</u>: during April/May and from mid-September onwards, we will cross over the Vermillion Pass to enter Alberta and Banff National Park.

<u>Meal Inclusions</u>: Continental Breakfast Buffet at Sandman Revelstoke <u>Optional Morning Activity</u>: Kayaking on Lake Revelstoke <u>Afternoon Activity Inclusion</u>: Golden Skybridge <u>Recommended Moose Accommodation</u>: HI Banff Alpine Centre

### Day 3: Banff to Wilderness Stay

It's time to visit those famous blue lakes that you've seen in postcards! Lake Louise is calling, as is Moraine Lake (seasonal) before heading along the Icefields Parkway for breathtaking views of jagged mountain peaks, glaciers, raging rivers and more turquoise lakes. Keep your eyes peeled for iconic Canadian wildlife such as bears, moose and elk as we make stops at the Crowfoot Glacier, Peyto Lake (our favourite) and Mistaya Canyon before arriving at our rustic wilderness hostel. We invite you to immerse yourself in your beautiful surroundings with a dip and a sauna, and a campfire under the stars with your fellow travelers and a home cooked pot luck dinner.

<u>Moose Accommodation</u>: HI Mosquito Creek, HI Rampart Creek or HI Athabasca Falls <u>Optional Meal Inclusion</u>: Home style group meal <u>Please note</u>: there are no alternative accommodation options at this location, but we know you'll love having a true taste of Canada at one of our wilderness hostel stays.

#### Day 4: Icefields Parkway to Jasper

Jasper National Park today! First, we'll stop at Big Bend lookout for a stunning view of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. Get your legs ready because next up is the Columbia Icefield, the largest ice field in the Rocky Mountains at 325 square kilometres, where we'll hike to the toe of the Athabasca Glacier (conditions permitting). We will then head on to Maligne Canyon, the deepest canyon in Jasper National Park, for a short hike that crosses several bridges over the canyon with jaw-dropping views. Jasper townsite is our destination, and if you're seeking an adrenaline rush, there is an option to take a guided mountain bike tour on arrival.

<u>Optional Afternoon Activity</u>: Mountain Biking in Jasper <u>Recommended Moose Accommodation</u>: HI Jasper

#### Day 5: Jasper to Banff

Our first stop: Athabasca Falls, one of the most powerful and picturesque in the Rockies! This is followed by a bit of mountain goat spotting (we're still amazed at how they hold on) at the Goats and Glaciers viewpoint. Next, we head to Waterfowl Lakes to soak in the backdrop of Mount Chephren, which was named after the 4th Dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh. After this, we'll return to Banff for a group dinner, and once our bellies are full, the night is yours! See what Banff nightlife has to offer or take a relaxing dip in the Banff Upper Hot Springs.

<u>Morning Meal Inclusion</u>: Breakfast at HI Jasper <u>Evening Meal Inclusion</u>: Dinner at Cougar Pete's Restaurant & Lookout

Moose Accommodation: None

# **Joining Your Trip**

#### Vancouver

We pick up from the following hostel locations in Vancouver on Day 1 of this tour. Please be ready and waiting in the hostel lobby 15 minutes prior to your scheduled pick up time.

Hostel Name	Pick Up Time	Hostel Address	
HI Vancouver - Jericho Beach	07:30	1515 Discovery St, Vancouver	
HI Vancouver - Downtown	07:50	1114 Burnaby St, Vancouver	
Cambie Hostel on Seymour	08:00	515 Seymour St, Vancouver	
Outside the Hotel Belmont	08:10	Corner Nelson and Granville Streets	

**NOTE:** if you are staying anywhere else in Vancouver, you will need to make your own way to one of these locations.

#### WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO PICK YOU UP!

Please advise us of your chosen pick up location from the above lists at least one week prior to your departure date. Failure to advise us of your pickup location in advance may result in you missing the departure.

Please advise your travel agent, or send us an email (include your Moose Confirmation Number): <u>info@moosebus.travel</u>

#### **Check-In Procedures**

If your Moose guide feels that your main bag is oversize/overweight, it may be weighed/measured at check-in to confirm it meets our <u>baggage allowance</u>. Please read and comply with this policy to avoid missing the tour departure or facing additional charges.

#### Day 2 - Special Items to Pack in Your Carry-On Bag

You'll optionally go kayaking on Lake Revelstoke in the morning on Day 2 of this tour! So, in case you didn't think of it yourself, please pack your swimsuit and a towel in your carry-on bag on the first day of this tour. This will save you and your Moose guide the hassle of trying to pull your main bag out of the rear luggage storage compartment when you arrive at the lake. And don't worry, there are washrooms/change rooms at the beach!

### **Finishing Your Trip**

#### Banff

On the final day of the tour, we drop off at all of the hostel locations in Banff listed below. If you are staying elsewhere, you will need to make your own way there from one of the below locations. Under normal circumstances, expect to arrive in Banff by 5pm. But remember, dinner is included tonight!

Hostel Name	Hostel Address	
HI Banff Alpine Centre	801 Hidden Ridge Way, Banff	
YWCA - Y Mountain Lodge	102 Spray Ave, Banff	
Samesun Banff	433 Banff Ave, Banff	

**NOTE:** we strongly recommend that you DO NOT book onward travel on the final day of the tour, since traffic or other unexpected circumstances may cause delays.

### Accommodation

You have purchased the non-accommodated tour package, and must therefore book ALL your accommodation yourself (except at our wilderness stays - see below). Moose does NOT include nor hold any accommodation reservations on your behalf in the overnight

locations on this package. The non-accommodated package is designed for travellers who wish to stay in private rooms or in alternative properties.

**NOTE 1:** The only exception is at our wilderness stay where one (1) night in a mixed gender, hostel dormitory bed is included with this package. There are no alternative accommodation properties nearby and no private rooms available, hence why this hostel overnight is included.

**NOTE 2:** if you wish to switch to the accommodated tour package, which includes mixedgender, hostel dormitory style accommodation for ALL nights of the tour, please contact your travel agent immediately.

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Address	Phone Number
Day 1: Revelstoke	Sandman Hotel Revelstoke	1901 Laforme Blvd, Revelstoke	+1 250 837 5271
Day 2: Banff	HI Banff Alpine Centre	801 Hidden Ridge Way, Banff	+1 403 762 4123
Day 3: Icefields Parkway	HI Mosquito Creek HI Rampart Creek, or HI Athabasca Falls <sup>1</sup>	Highway 93 N, Banff National Park Highway AB-93, Banff National Park Highway AB-93, Jasper National Park	+1 866 762 4122 +1 778 328 2220 +1 866 762 4122
Day 4: Jasper	HI Jasper	708 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Jasper	+1 587 870 2395
Day 5: Banff	none		

#### **Recommended Accommodation Locations**

#### Notes:

1. Our wilderness stays are in rustic, wilderness hostels with no running water, and solar and propane generated power. They feature a cozy fireplace, outdoor fire pit, and a wood-burning sauna! Please note there are no alternative accommodation options nearby, but we think you're going to love this truly Canadian experience!

# **Daily Departure Times**

We depart from the included accommodation at the following times on each day of the tour:

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Departure Time	
Day 1: Vancouver	See Joining Your Trip section above		
Day 2: Revelstoke	Sandman Hotel Revelstoke	08:00	
Day 3: Banff	HI Banff Alpine Centre	08:00	
Day 4: Icefields Parkway	HI Mosquito Creek HI Rampart Creek, or HI Athabasca Falls	08:30	
Day 5: Jasper	HI Jasper	08:30	

# Meals

Your included meals are listed in the **What's Included** section above. Meals do not include beverages, except for free tap water, and as such, you will need to purchase your own drinks.

Speaking of tap water, it's clean and safe to drink almost everywhere in Canada, unless specifically noted at the water facility. We strongly encourage you to bring a reusable water bottle that you can refill from a tap, rather than purchasing disposable plastic water bottles that contribute to pollution. A reusable coffee or tea mug is also a great idea!

To help you save money, we make grocery stops almost every day so you can self-cater, and all of the hostels we stay at have kitchens that are available for Moose use (that rhymes!). You can prepare your own breakfast or dinner at the hostel if it's not already included. On occasion, your Moose guide may organize an optional group dinner, where you can choose to pitch in a few dollars, and then help with cooking or clean up. It's fun and inexpensive! They may suggest an optional group dinner at a good value local restaurant. On travel days, lunch will typically occur en route. Your Moose guide will either stop in a town where you'll have several options for lunch, or you will stop in the morning to pick up lunch supplies for a picnic in the wilderness later in the day. Remember, don't feed the wildlife!

We recommend budgeting approximately CAD\$20 to \$40 per day for non-included meals. Restaurants will be more expensive, and remember to account for Canadian tax (5%) and tip (15-20%). Note that alcohol in the Province of BC is also subject to an additional 10% tax.

### HAVE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS?

Please advise us if you have any dietary restrictions. We can cater to most.

Please advise your travel agent, or send us an email (include your Moose Confirmation Number): <u>info@moosebus.travel</u>

# Transportation

Our buses are safe and comfortable mini-coaches, seating anywhere from 13 to 24 people. They have extra large windows for catching all the great views, air-conditioning and heating to keep cool or warm, and a sound system to keep the tunes rolling!

# **Optional Activities**

Why not enhance your trip by participating in one of the below adventure activities during your tour? No need to book ahead. Your Moose guide will give you more information during the tour and please budget for them if you are interested!

The optional activities listed below are not operated by Moose, except for the free hiking, swimming and wildlife spotting activities. Moose arranges the activity as an agent of the local supplier. If you choose to participate in an optional activity, your contract will be with the activity provider and their conditions will apply. Some activities are seasonal, weather dependent, or require minimum numbers to participate.

ACTIVITY	APPROX. COST (CAD)	LOCATION		
Hiking, swimming, wildlife spotting	Free	Various locations		
Golden Skybridge	Included	Golden (en route to Banff)		
Guided mountain biking (1.5 hrs)	from \$95	Jasper		
Lake kayaking (2 hrs)	\$90	Revelstoke (en route to Banff)		
ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AFTER YOUR TOUR FINISHES IN BANFF				
Whitewater rafting (4 hrs)	from \$125	Banff		
Horseback riding (from 1 - 3 hrs)	from \$92	Banff		
Banff Gondola	\$66	Banff		
Banff Upper Hot Springs Pool	from \$17.50	Banff		
Bike rentals	from \$50	Banff		
Helicopter flight - Rockies (from 20 - 40 min)	from \$305	Banff		
Big Canoe tour (1.5 hrs)	from \$67	Banff		
Via Ferrata (from 2.5 - 4 hrs)	from \$190	Banff		

#### NOTE: the prices and activities listed below are approximate and subject to change.

### **Finances**

### Currency

The currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar (CAD ). For a currency conversion tool, we recommend <u>xe.com</u>.

#### **Changing Money**

ATMs/cash points are widely available in North America and are the safest and easiest way to access cash. Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in North America (there may be a minimum spend required) except at some street retailers (like food carts) and in very small shops. Some of our optional activity providers may only accept cash, but your Moose guide will advise you of this advance. We recommend having multiple options available for payment or accessing cash.

#### **Spending Money**

See the sections on Accommodation, Meals, and Optional Activities for estimated costs during your Moose trip. You will also need to budget for entertainment/nightlife, and

shopping/souvenirs, but those costs can vary widely depending on your personal preferences.

### Tipping

In North America, tipping is customary in bars and restaurants, and in the hospitality industry in general. We recognize that this may not be the norm in your home country, but just consider it to be part of your cultural experience! We recommend tipping 15-20% of the bill in restaurants, and \$0.50 to \$1 per drink at the bar. If travelling by taxi or Uber/Lyft, we recommend tipping 10%.

During your Moose tour, if you participate in and really enjoy one of the optional activities, it's also customary to tip your local guide to show your appreciation. We recommend about 10%, or a maximum of \$5 for more costly activities. Please note that while your Moose guide does not expect a tip, if you feel they have done an amazing job, a tip will be greatly appreciated at the end of the tour! If you're not sure how much to tip, we suggest \$5-10 per day on tour.

### What To Bring

We recommend packing as lightly as possible! Note that almost all hostels we use have guest laundry facilities, so you will be able to wash your clothes while on tour.

### **Packing Lists**

The following is a suggested clothing list only, based on our experience:

- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for trail walking. Hiking shoes/boots are not required, unless you plan on doing more challenging hikes on your own. If you are travelling in the spring/autumn when conditions may be wet/snowy/muddy, you might want to consider hiking shoes.
- 1 pair of smart-casual shoes
- 1 pair of flip-flops/thongs/jandals
- 2 pairs of jeans/long pants
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/t-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers (layers!)
- Smart casual evening wear
- Underwear and socks
- Swimsuit and towel
- 1 rain/windproof jacket
- Hat for sun and rain protection
- Beanie (called a toque in Canada) and light gloves it can get cold in the Rockies and in the Coastal Mountains at higher altitudes and/or on/near the glaciers, even in the middle of summer!

Other general items to pack:

- Reusable water bottle (also consider bringing a coffee/tea mug)
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen

- Insect repellent
- Electrical plug adapter
- Camera, batteries, chargers
- Flashlight/torch (or use an app on your smartphone)

**NOTE:** a sleeping bag is NOT required, and in fact, many hostels will NOT allow them due to potential bed bug issues. All hostels we use provide pillows and bed linen.

#### **Baggage Allowance**

Each traveller is allowed to bring one reasonably sized main backpack, bag, or suitcase to be stored in the rear luggage compartment of the bus on travel days, with a maximum allowable weight of 23kg (50lbs) and maximum linear dimensions (Height + Width + Depth) of 158cm (62in). Backpacks are better than suitcases for optimizing storage space in the luggage compartment. It also makes it easier for you to carry upstairs in the hostels we use, none of which have elevators/lifts. In addition, each passenger may bring one "carry-on" item like a day pack or small bag, that will be carried in the passenger compartment of the bus.

**NOTE:** Moose reserves the right to refuse to accept luggage that exceeds our weight and/or size restrictions. If we choose to accept overweight or oversize luggage, we will charge a fee of \$50 per bag for overweight/oversize pieces. Note that the decision to accept an overweight/oversize piece can only be made at departure because it depends on the combined weight and size of all travellers' luggage. If your luggage is refused, you will need to make (and pay for) your own arrangements to ship or store your luggage, which may result in your missing departure that morning. You would then also need to make (and pay for) your own arrangements to catch up with the tour that afternoon or evening.

# **Passports and Visas**

You will need a valid passport to enter Canada. Furthermore, you may require up to 6 months of remaining validity on your passport to be granted entry (or even to be able to board your flight to Canada). You are responsible for checking with your nearest Canadian Embassy or Consulate to determine the validity requirements for your passport country.

In addition to requiring a passport, you will also need either a Canadian entry visa or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to enter Canada (unless you hold a valid USA passport). Please visit the following website to determine your entry requirements: Canadian entry requirements by country/territory

The above website has links to apply for an ETA. If you require a visa to enter Canada, please visit your nearest Canadian Embassy or Consulate. Regardless of your entry requirements, please submit your application well in advance to ensure you receive your entry authority prior to your scheduled flight to Canada.

**NOTE:** Moose has no control or influence over the entry requirements for Canada, and these requirements could change at any time. As the traveller, you are solely responsible for

ensuring you meet Canadian entry requirements in advance of departing for Canada. Moose cannot provide you with any official advice, beyond pointing you to where you can find this official advice, as we have done above.

# **Travel Insurance**

Travel Insurance. Our thoughts? Don't leave home without it, but we sincerely hope you never have to use it!

We strongly recommend that all Moose travellers purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy that covers you for the entire duration of your trip. The policy should include emergency medical coverage, trip cancellation/interruption/delay, baggage and personal effects theft/damage, as well as coverage for any adventure sports that you may participate in. Travel insurance is very affordable, and most providers offer a variety of different packages depending on your needs. **Please ask us about Moose recommended travel insurance or speak with your travel agent.** 

If you choose NOT to purchase travel insurance, please know that the financial consequences of that decision could be quite costly, whether that's an excessive hospital bill due to an accident, or no refund for your Moose tour if you cancel last minute because a significant family member has fallen severely ill. None of these events can be predicted, but unfortunately, we can assure you they have happened to other Moose travellers! **Our Cancellation Terms and Conditions apply in full regardless of how terrible the circumstances that led to you having to cancel your trip.** Travel insurance covers you when the unexpected occurs!

# Health and Safety

Please advise us in advance of any medical conditions (including food allergies) you have. Please also remind your Moose guide of this on Day 1. If you require regular medication, please ensure you have a sufficient supply before your trip departs, as it may be difficult to obtain while travelling. You (or a travel partner) must be able to administer your own medication, as your Moose guide will not be able to administer it.

### HAVE ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT?

Please advise your travel agent, or send us an email (include your Moose Confirmation Number): <u>info@moosebus.travel</u>

For further information on safety at Moose, please visit the Safety page on our website.

# **Contact Details**

**Moose Vancouver Office** 

Our office is temporarily located remotely until our new office is rebuilt. All mail can be directed to 1018 Granville Street, Vancouver, and our staff are available to meet in downtown Vancouver with prior notice.

#### Telephone

Our phone number if calling locally or from overseas: **+1 604 297 0255** If calling from within North America, you can call our Toll Free line: **1 888 244 6673** 

Please check our website to find out our telephone inquiry hours.

#### Email

Please include your Moose Confirmation Number whenever you email us: info@moosebus.travel

#### **Emergency Contact Number**

In the event of an emergency involving a Moose bus or Moose passengers in Western Canada, please call the Moose Travel Network emergency phone number:

+1 778 760 9294. This number is monitored 24 hours per day.

We take safety very seriously, and as such, it is important that our emergency phone line is used only for actual emergencies occurring on our tours. Calling this phone for nonemergencies blocks the line unnecessarily and prevents others from contacting us about a real emergency. Here are just a few examples of NON-emergencies for which you should NOT call our emergency line:

- you missed your flight and will not make the scheduled departure time for your Moose tour
- your daughter/son/brother/sister/friend is on a Moose tour, and you haven't heard from them in a few days

For non-emergencies, please refer to our regular contact details in the sections above.

# WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ON BOARD THE MOOSE BUS SOON!