



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CANADA & ALASKA TOUR

A holiday to Canada and Alaska is a journey into a sensory wonderland – from the amazing Rocky Mountains to the pristine Alaskan wilderness. We encourage you to plan ahead and compare the alternatives. At first glance many brochures seem to offer the same things but you need to look more closely. This check-list provides a guide to what you should look out for.

What is included in the price

We encourage you to consider what the holiday is likely to cost you at the end – not the beginning. People usually get what they pay for, so if one product is significantly less than another, try to understand why. It's unlikely to be generosity but rather things like the quality and location of hotels (hence their cost) plus the number and quality of inclusions such as meals, sightseeing, special events, entrance fees, local guides and tipping. Check which, and how many of these are actually included in the price. All the "little extras" that you have to pay for can add up to a sizeable amount by the end of the holiday.

Remember, "It's not so much what you pay that's important, it's what you get for your money that counts!"

Hotels

On a holiday such as this the quality of your hotels is critically important. Check the standard of the hotels being offered, their location and the level of service. Inadequate or poorly located hotels can be a real dampener and not worth the savings. Through a special relationship with Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Scenic Tours is able to offer luxurious hotels, many of which are historic and scenic icons in their own right. Some of them, including the Fairmont Empress in Victoria and the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, are Exclusive to Scenic Tours clients and not available to other Australian tour companies.

Cruising

One of the great highlights of any Canada and Alaska holiday is cruising the famous Inside Passage. Check which ship you will be sailing on and the quality of accommodation you are

being offered on board. Scenic Tours provides a choice between two of the world's leading cruise lines, Holland America Line and Princess Cruises. Moreover, you are guaranteed an upgrade to a Verandah Stateroom* on all 7 night Alaskan cruises.

Rail Travel

Another highlight of your holiday is the rail journey from the Pacific coast to the Canadian Rockies. This is often acclaimed as the most spectacular rail journey in the world so don't be disappointed.

Check which train service your tour operator is using and what your seating arrangements will be. Scenic Tours uses the famous Rocky Mountaineer for the 2 day all daylight trip. Here you are guaranteed an upgrade to the luxurious GoldLeaf service for uninterrupted viewing through the amazing glass dome carriages. On some tours Scenic guests can rediscover the romance of rail by travelling first class in an overnight sleeper aboard 'The Canadian', operated by VIA Rail. During the day you will enjoy Exclusive interpretive commentary as you view the amazing Rocky Mountains through their new glass domed carriage.

Support on Tour

Because most holidays to Canada and Alaska involve a variety of transport services – flights, coach, cruising and rail, you should check when you will have a tour director and when you won't. Scenic Tours are not only fully escorted from start to finish, including the cruise*, but we also have our own team in Canada conveniently located at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. They are on hand to assist our guests with everything from local sightseeing to tour arrangements while in Canada.

Airport Transfers

Will your tour representative meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel or do you have to make your own way – with or without some sort of voucher? What about at the end of the journey?

Sightseeing

A brochure will often talk about "included sightseeing" – ask what that means. Do they simply take you to the venue then leave you to queue and pay your own entrance fees, or do they include the entry fees and escort you in ahead of the queue?

Dining

The cost of meals can be a significant part of your holiday. Always be clear about which meals are included and which are not. Scenic Tours provides Scenic FreeChoice Dining on selected itineraries where you will often have a choice of several dining options that are all included in the price.

City visits

Your Canada and Alaska holiday is so varied that the time actually spent in cities is somewhat limited. However, when you are in cities like Vancouver, Victoria or resort towns like Whistler, check to see what activities and excursions are included and what you have to pay extra for.

Beware of "optional" tours

Often these are portrayed as a means of providing flexibility for guests but what do they cost? Has the price been inflated so that the tour operator or tour director can be paid a commission?

AGENT RESERVATIONS

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