

## **WESTERN CANADA 15 DAYS AUGUST 9 - AUGUST 23, 2003 SHORT CHRONOLOGICAL TRAVELOGUE J** by Johan Haentjens – VTB

### **Day 1:** 2003 AUGUST 9

With a Fokker 100 from British Midland we fly from Zaventem to London in 41 minutes. With a Boeing 767-300 from Air Canada we fly in 9h15min. from London to Vancouver.  
Walk along Howe street to Canada Place, whose 5 white roofs mimic the sails of a boat.  
Accommodation at Vancouver Hotel Best Western Downtown \*\*\*

### **Day 2** 2003 AUGUST 10

Morning tour Vancouver with local Dutch-speaking guide.  
STANLEY PARK:

- ) Large totem poles
- ) Coal Harbour
- ) Bronze Mermaid
- ) 400-year-old cedar tree
- ) Lions Gate Bridge
- ) Panorama from Prospect Point overlooking Grouse Mountain across the sea
- ) 600-year-old cedar tree with hollow trunk: "Hollow Tree"
- ) Canadian geese walking on the shore Lawn
- ) Lawn for Lawn Bowling
- ) End Stanley Park

English Bay

Granville Island: "Public Market": there is a lot of fruit for sale

China Town with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park

Gastown: statue of Gassy Jack; steam clock from 1980

Former station from 1880

Canada Place: the 5 white roofs are made in teflon and fiberglass. They mimic the sails of a boat.

There are cruise ships here, which sail to Alaska for one week.

End of city tour Vancouver

Lunch at restaurant "The Boathouse" on the banks of the English Bay.

We drive from Horseshoe Bay on the Sea to Sky Highway

Photo Stop Howe Sound at Porteau Cove: divers take a splash to the artificial reef in the sea. In 1992, three ships were sunk here to form an artificial reef.

Stawamus Chief: steep granite rock, 700 meters high Shannon Falls: 335-meter-high waterfalls

Viewpoint: snow-capped peaks

Accommodation at Whistler Hotel Crystal Lodge & Suites. \*\*\*\*

### **Day 3** 2003 AUGUST 11

Due to forest fires north of Kamloops we sleep two nights in Whistler instead of one night. This was rather an advantage, because Kamloops, which was not visited, is only an ordinary provincial town and is not mentioned in the Guide Michelin. Whistler has two stars in the Guide Michelin.

In Whistler with Gondola (group: 22.14 CA-dollar / adult; 18.25 CA-dollar / senior ; senior = over 65 ; desk open at 9.30am, first gondola departs at 10am. ) to the Whistler Mountain

A black bear runs under the cable car.

After 25 minutes we arrive at the final station at 1,850 meters altitude, near Roundhouse Lodge.

The various mountain hikes are well marked with bollards.

- ) Hike No. 2 to the Glacier Lookout: 1,925 meters high Photos at the Glacier Bowl
- ) Walk No. 4: along snowmaking reservoir Harmony Lake Harmony Meadows

Lunch at the Roundhouse Lodge, near the top station of the gondola. This lodge is home to a snow goat, a grizzly bear and a black bear.

After stopping the rain 6 brave men step further

- ) Walk No. 7 up to the Little Whistler Peak, 2,115 meters high. A wonderful day trip.

In Whistler we see bear-safe garbage cans for the first time. The bear cannot stick its claw in the thin slot of the opening valve.

Accommodation in Whistler.

#### **Day 4** 2003 AUGUST 12

500 meters to LOWER JOFFRE LAKE

Photo stop Seton Lake Reservoir

We buy sandwiches at German Master Bakery in the village of Lillooet.

In Lillooet flows the Fraser River: the longest river in British Columbia.

We picnic on the banks of Crown Lake in Marble Canyon Provincial Park.

At Bridge Lake we cannot go to the toilet: there are only private homes.

Photo stop Lac Des Roche, which belongs to the Bridge Lake Provincial Park.

Accommodation in Clearwater. Hotel Ace Western Motel \*\*\*

#### **Day 5** 2003 AUGUST 13

Wells Gray Provincial Park:

- ) Spahats Creek Falls

Dawson Falls

Helmcken Falls

Bailey's Chute : by bus we drive 16 km on gravel road to Bailey's Chute : a rapid where in August and especially in September Chinook salmon jump out of the river water upstream. Unfortunately, we do not see any salmon this morning.

We drive back to the village of Clearwater, where we have sandwiches prepared at Flour Meadow Bakery. We picnic on the banks of the North Thompson River. On the other side of the river a train passes with 144 wagons!

In the Visitor Centre of Mount Robson Provincial Park we received free brochures with drawings and explanations about the animals:

J "Mount Robson Provincial Park Wildlife Viewing Guide"  
"Bears and Cougars"

We drive 10 minutes back to the Rearguard Falls, a spectacular waterfall, where we see large Chinook salmon spring up from the river water.

Accommodation in Jasper: hotel Mount Robson Inn

**Day 6** 2003 AUGUST 14

We first go to buy in Jasper ticket and book for the boat ride this afternoon on Maligne Lake (30 CA-dollars).

Jasper Tramway (\$16.50) : by cable car to mountain station, where two-hour walk to the top of "The Whistlers " .

Maligne lake road:

Maligne Canyon : from the large car park with cafeteria we walk from bridge 1 to bridge 2 and back to the parking lot. In this part are the most beautiful parts of the canyon. On the second bridge the canyon is the deepest: 50 meters. From bridge 1 to bridge 6 it is always downstream and therefore descending.

We are having a picnic near Medicine Lake.

Maligne Lake: 90-minute boat ride to the other end of the lake and short walk overlooking Spirit Island. By boat back. Exceptionally good. (30 CA dollars) Pleasant terrace of the cafeteria on the banks of Maligne Lake.

Along the road on the banks of the Maligne River: black bears: mother and young.

Maligne Canyon: the bus drops us off to bridge 5. We walk through the forest on an easy hiking trail near the bank of the river. The bus is waiting for us near bridge 6.

Accommodation in Jasper

**Day 7** 2003 AUGUST 15

Athabasca Falls: very beautiful

Athabasca Glacier:

In the departure hall: the gate, where our bus will depart, is the name of our group are indicated on the TV screen.

Take a shuttle bus to the transfer point and ride on the glacier with a snow coach.

Get off for 20 minutes and walk around the glacier: impressive.

Lunch in the cafeteria of the Athabasca glacier.

PEYTO LAKE: the viewpoint is located high above the lake

BOW PASS

BOW LAKE

MORAINES LAKE: a large heap of rocks dams the lake

LAKE LOUISE: on the shore "The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise"

Accommodation in **BANFF**. Hotel Dynasty Inn \*\*\*

### **Day 8** 2003 AUGUST 16

With Banff Gondola to Sulphur Mountain.

" The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel "

Bow Falls Banff

Park Museum National Historic Site (2 CA dollars/adult; 1.5 CA dollars/senior) numerous stuffed animals; Interesting.

Surprise point: panorama

The Hoodoos in Banff are not so pretty. The Hoodoos in Drumheller in the province of Alberta, which we do not visit during this trip, are more beautiful. It is these that are depicted in most books.

Lake Minnewanka : there are bighorn sheep on the street

Two Jack Lake

Three Vermilion Lakes : nest of the Bald Eagle = bald eagle

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (6 CA-dollar individual) mainly photos

Accommodation in Banff

### **Day 9** 2003 AUGUST 17

) Yoho National Park:

Spiral Tunnels: our wait is rewarded: we see the same train at the same time in three different places. The spiral tunnels were constructed to bridge a height difference.

Because the trains are exceptionally long (we counted 144 wagons) you can see the same train in three different places. When you see the train at the top of the road and hear it whistle, it takes a long time before the train passes through the spiral tunnels.

Emerald Lake: very beautiful

Natural Bridge: the natural bridge in limestone is rather small but the waterfall is impressive

Glacier National Park

Especially for Rogers Pass the time limit runs: 12.45 pm is 11.45am. Here the time limit is not on the border of the two provinces. (When driving to Jasper National Park on day 5, the time limit is on the border of the two provinces.)

Lunch at Glacier Park Lodge

Walking distance from this lodge:

Rogers Pass Visitor Centre : some stuffed animals. Normally pay 3 CA dollars entry, but everyone from the group walks in without paying. Normally, one should only purchase a day pass for the park for lunch at the Glacier Park Lodge. We did not do it.

Village Craigellachie: " Last Spike ": the last nail of the railway from East to West 1885.

O' Keefe Ranch: always closed at 5pm.

We walked along the left side up the farmyard and so could admire the buildings from outside without paying entry after closing hour (8 CA-dollars)

- ) St. Anne's Church: wooden church 1889
- ) Cemetery
- ) Agricultural tools
- ) Two large water cisterns above ground
- ) Smoke House
- ) Okanagan Store = Post Office
- ) End O' Keefe Ranch

Accommodation in Vernon.

The hotel Best Western Vernon Lodge \*\*\*\* has a small room next to the reception free Email unlimited for everyone.

### **Day 10** 2003 AUGUST 18

Along Kalamalka Lake

In Kelowna we drive through the floating bridge over Okanagan Lake.

Skaha Lake: photo stop at the Visitor Centre.

Manning Park: lunch at Manning Park Lodge

Harrison Hot Springs: pleasant boat ride from 1h 45min on Harrison lake. The boat is only for our group. In this lake giant large fish are caught sturgeon.

Walk along the shore of the lake to the little building of the " Hot Springs ". The spring water is 63°C.

Supper on the terrace overlooking the lake at the first floor of the "Charlies on the Lake" restaurant at 234 Esplanade Avenue in Harrison Hot Springs.

Accommodation at Harrison Hot Springs. Hotel Executive \*\*\*

### **Day 11** 2003 AUGUST 19

After 2 hours of driving we reach Tsawwassen, south of Vancouver. 1h35min boat ride to Swartz Bay, near the town of Sidney on Vancouver Island:

The Butchart Gardens: 2h30min. for visit and lunch. Dutch leaflet with plan of the gardens for every one of the group. We had our hotel on the phone on Day 10 to change the hour of the boat from 12pm to 10am. Thus Day 12 is completely free for museum visit and boat tour orcas. In addition, The Butchart Gardens are located 22 km north of Victoria and according to the program you have to drive an extra 44 km on Day 12 while passing near the gardens on Day 11.

Victoria as Scenic Marine Drive

- ) Uplands Park
- ) Oak Bay,
- ) New Golf terrain
- ) Photo stop by the sea with a view of the mountains, which lie in United States.
- ) Beacon Hill Park: 2photo stops:
- ) Extremely high totem pole
- ) Mile 0 = the beginning of the Trans-Canada Highway
- )

Victoria downtown: China town, Inner Harbour, Empress Hotel, Parliament Buildings.

Accommodation in Victoria. Hotel Harbour Towers \*\*\*\*

## **Day 12** 2003 AUGUST 20

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM: entrance group: CA \$ 10.50 / adult; \$ 8.50 / senior

1st floor (= ground floor): here is only cafeteria and shop

2nd floor (= first floor): temporary exhibition of dinosaurs. Living Land, Living Sea

3rd floor (= second floor): First Peoples: aboriginal cultures. Modern History Gallery: 18th and 19th Centuries

Outside the museum we walk to Thunderbird Park: two longhouses and totem poles in the open air.

End of the museum

Three-hour BOAT TRIP from VICTORIA harbor to the ORCAS.

We saw some Dall's Porpoises (Dolphins) and numerous Orcas = Killer Whales up close. Some orcas passed a few meters from our boat!

We sailed on a zodiac-type boat from Cuda-Marine, whose office is located at the bottom of the Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville Street Victoria, close to our hotel Harbor Towers.

With this fast and safe boat, we sailed with thirteen people far out to sea to the place where the orcas normally stay. The chance of seeing orcas is 90%.

This spectacular tour is highly recommended, completely safe, and well worth the money. Everyone wears an isolation overall, which is at the same time a life jacket.

We did not get a splash of water inside the boat and were able to take good pictures.

The zodiac-type boat is preferable to a regular 40-passenger boat because the small boat is much closer to the water and the orcas.

Normal price: \$ 79 + tax

Group price: 69 CA dollar + tax; 73.83 CA dollar tax included

The months of June, July, August and September are great for "Whale Watching"

In the evening we went in for dinner with a few people in THE FAIRMONT EMPRESS HOTEL.

The best of the three restaurants in this hotel is "Empress Dining Room".

The food is very tasty, the service superb and the bill not overly expensive.

A main course costs between \$ 34 and \$ 40; a dessert 10 CA dollars, each time to be increased with tax and service.

While we dine, a lady plays the harp. We feel in seventh heaven for a moment.

The afternoon tea (until 5 pm) at the Empress Hotel must be reserved and costs 49 CA dollars / person.

Lodging in VICTORIA.

### **Day 13** 2003 AUGUST 21

Photo stop inlet sea

Duncan as Cowichan Native Village

An artist is cutting out a ceremonial face mask in red cedar. Totem pole

Chemainus : on the Heritage Square we see the two most beautiful murals.

Nanaimo : due to technical problems our boat in Nanaimo does not leave until 14:35. After two hours of sailing arrive at Horse Shoe Bay north of Vancouver. Due to the late arrival it is no longer possible to drive our own bus to the UBC Museum of Anthropology, as we originally planned.

The sunset at English Bay is beautiful. The supper at restaurant "The Boathouse" in 1795 English Bay Beach Avenue in Vancouver is not good. It is remarkably busy and noisy, the tables are too close together, the food is not tasty and the service could be better. In addition, one glass of regular table wine of moderate quality is 9.60 CA dollars! To avoid.

Accommodation in Vancouver. Hotel Best Western Downtown \*\*\*

### **Day 14** 2003 AUGUST 22

Near the hotel we take bus 4 or bus 10. We pay 2 CA dollars cash to the bus driver and drive along to the terminus = UBC = University of British Columbia. The bus ride takes 30 minutes. From the terminus it is still 20 minutes steps to UBC Museum of Anthropology

Entry Group: 5 CA dollars. At 11am there was a free 1 hour guided tour. Excellent explanation. Image in yellow cedar wood: "The Raven and The First Men" by artist Bill Reid. Outside the museum building there are two longhouses and totem poles in the open air.

In Vancouver Airport there is a beautiful, green statue by artist Bill Reid : "Spirit of Haida Gwaii" The Jade Canoe bronze with green jade patina.

We take off in Vancouver with a Boeing 767-300 from Air Canada.

**Day 15** 2003 AUGUST 23

After a flight of 8.20min. stopover in London. After a flight of 40 min. with a Fokker 100 of British Midland landing in Zaventem.

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