



## LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



# The Canadian Rockies featuring Banff and Jasper National Parks and The Calgary Stampede

7 Nights – 8 Days  
July 5 – 12, 2024

### Day One, Friday, July 5, 2024 - Edmonton

Depart the **Cascades Senior Center** for Dulles Airport and your included flight to **Canada**. Welcome to **Edmonton**, the capital city of **Alberta**, with a vibrant urban center in the heart of the wilderness. In the summer Edmonton has over 18 hours of sunlight. Enjoy an included dinner this evening. **Hotel: Chateau Lacombe or similar. (Meals: D)**

### Day Two, Saturday, July 6, 2024 - Jasper

Enjoy your **included breakfast** at your hotel. This morning, we travel to **Maligne Lake**, the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rockies. We'll sail 14 kilometers along Maligne Lake, past towering peaks & glaciers, to the peaceful and remarkable **Spirit Island**. Sit back, relax, and enjoy vibrant stories from the **onboard tour guide**, including the history of the lake and its earliest explorers, along with the geology, glaciology, flora & fauna of the area. Upon arrival at Spirit Island, the boat docks and guests are able to disembark and enjoy a short nature trail leading to a viewing platform for that bucket list photo overlooking Spirit Island. Next, we'll visit **Maligne Canyon**, the deepest canyon in **Jasper National Park**, with a depth of more than 50 meters at certain points. Walkers of all abilities can explore this incredible natural landmark by crossing six bridges built across various points of the canyon. For those looking for a gentle walk, head over the First and Second bridges. This evening will be at your leisure to explore on your own. **Hotel: Chateau Jasper or similar. (Meals: B)**

### Day Three, Sunday, July 7, 2024 – Jasper – Icefields – Lake Louise

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel in the morning. Traveling through the heart of the **Canadian Rockies**, we drive along the famous **Icefields Parkway** which has been voted one of the most spectacular drives in the world. You will see for yourself why this mountain road that boasts a unique landscape rich in history and natural beauty second to none is so famous. Make sure to keep watch for wandering elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and bears. We see the powerful **Athabasca Falls** before arriving at the famous **Columbia Icefields** whose waters feed three oceans, we visit the Interpretive Centre and then have the experience of a lifetime – a ride on the **Ice Explorer vehicle** for a close-up look at the **Athabasca Glacier**. After the icefields, we stop for lunch (on our own) before continuing to our next destination, Lake Louise. Enjoy **dinner included** upon arrival. **Hotel: Lake Louise Inn or similar. (Meals: B, D)**

### Day Four, Monday, July 8, 2024 – Lake Louise - Banff

After **breakfast**, we will explore the **Lake Louise** area. We experience Lake Louise which is known for its glacier-fed lake of turquoise color and ringed high peaks. Then we will continue onto the awe-inspiring **Moraine Lake**, which gets its color from the glacier melt and rock flour combined to create vivid blue tones that defy reality. We will stop for lunch (on our own) before heading to **Banff**. Nestled high in the Canadian Rockies, the town of Banff is located within the **Banff National Park**. Once "Siding 29" on the Canadian Pacific Railway, the town of Banff was intended to be a tourist town from its very inception. The park's first superintendent, George Stewart, even oriented the town's first street so that it offered the best possible view of Cascade Mountain. With easy access to pristine wilderness, outdoor adventures, jaw-dropping landscapes, and vibrant history, there are many places to visit in Banff. Upon arrival in Banff, we will enjoy a

#### Day Four, Monday, July 8, 2024 – continued...

**City Tour** which will include tunnel mountain, hoodoos, surprise corner, bow falls, and the famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. We will end the tour with a **Gondola Ride up Sulphur Mountain**, an exciting (but smooth) gondola ride to the top of 7500-foot Sulphur Mountain where we'll enjoy a **great dinner** with a spectacular view of the townsite and **Bow Valley** below. **Hotel: Ptarmigan Inn or similar. (Meals B, D)**

#### Day Five, Tuesday, July 9, 2024 – Banff - Calgary

**Breakfast** is included at your hotel prior to checking out. Today, we make our way through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to **Calgary**, the largest city in the western Canadian province of Alberta. On arrival, we embark on a **Sightseeing Tour of Calgary**. We'll learn about the landmarks and public spaces that make Calgary an interesting blend of the old west and a vibrant and fast-growing new urban center. Enjoy the diverse stories that provide an entertaining view of the city that was once known as "rail town", "sandstone city", and finally "oil town". Highlights of this tour range from visiting **Studio Bell**, the **Public Library**, and the famous **stampede grounds**. This evening, we will have **dinner at Calgary Tower** in the 360-revolving tower, where we will experience breathtaking views of Calgary and the Rockies. **Hotel: Residence Inn Downtown or similar. (Meals: B, D)**

#### Day Six, Wednesday, July 10, 2024 - Calgary

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel along with a free morning at leisure. This afternoon, we'll head out to enjoy the world-famous **Calgary Stampede**. We'll start by heading to the Stampede ground, where we can enjoy lunch (on own) from the various food vendors. We'll then watch the rodeo which showcases the top athletes across the US and Canadian provinces. Before heading to the evening show, we will have **dinner at The Clubhouse**. After dinner, we'll head to our seats as the Calgary Stampede presents the world's most unique doubleheader, the Evening Show, featuring the **GMC Rangeland Derby** and the **Bell Grandstand Show**. As the sun sets, the **GMC Rangeland Derby** thunders around the track with 36 chuckwagons vying for more than \$1 million in prize money. Witness all the heart-pounding action, an experience like nothing else. When the last wagon thunders across the finish line, prepare yourself for the **Bell Grandstand Show**: a variety extravaganza that includes comedy, elaborate song, and dance numbers, acrobatics, and a spectacular fireworks finale. **Hotel: Residence Inn Downtown or similar. (Meals: B, D)**

#### Day Seven, Wednesday, July 10, 2024 - Calgary

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning. Today, we have a **Day at Leisure** to explore the city of Calgary's wide range of activities. A couple of examples would be **Fort Calgary**, home of the first North West Mounted Police fort having been built in 1875. It has interactive exhibits, costumes, and a virtual streetcar tour; or **The Hangar Flight Museum** which showcases the history of Western Aviation with interactive exhibits, scale models, and over 20 historic aircraft on display. These are only some of the options available for your leisure-filled day before your flight home tomorrow. **Hotel: Residence Inn Downtown or similar. (Meals: B)**

#### Day Eight, Thursday, July 11, 2024 – Depart Calgary for Home

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning prior to checking out. Afterwards, we'll transfer to **Calgary International Airport** to begin the journey home. **(Meals: B)**

**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$ 6210 Member / \$ 7932 Non-Member**

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$ 7932 Member / \$ 7977 Non-Member**

**Trip # 946629**

**Payable in 6 Installments**

#### **Tour Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare and Round-trip transportation to and from the airport,
- Round-trip Luxury Motor Coach ground transportation upon arrival in Canada,
- Services of a Professional Tour Director in Canada,
- Seven (7) Nights' Hotel Accommodation (3 Stars or higher) + baggage handling (1 bag per person),
- 7 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners,
- National Park Fees
- Admissions and guide services as stated in the Itinerary.
- Gratuities for guide service(s) and driver(s)

#### **Not Included:**

- Fees for airline baggage handling

**Fees are non-refundable, although a refund minus a 25% administrative fee may be issued if seat is resold. Purchase of Travel Insurance is recommended.**

**Contact: Terry Fleming (571) 258-3050 or Sonya Haynes (571) 258-3051**