

World without bounds

There's no shortage of A-list attractions to recommend to Canada-bound clients. **Stuart Forster** suggests 10 for every must-do list



GET CLOSE TO GRIZZLIES

Grizzly bears weighing as much as 1,100lbs roam the Great Bear Rainforest, the home of around half of Canada's 25,000 population, on British Columbia's coast. To coincide with the animals' busiest periods of activity, two expert-led viewing sessions are scheduled each day at Great Bear Lodge, a floating base where locally caught salmon (also a favourite snack among grizzlies) features on the wholesome menu.

greatbeartours.com; destinationbc.ca



ABORIGINAL TOURISM

The long heritage of Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples means a scattering of National Historic Sites across the country. More than 200 First Nations live in British Columbia, speaking 30 languages. Immersive experiences, such as those offered at Haida House on Haida Gwaii, are a way to learn about traditions, taste cuisine and experience the nature its people are so close to.

aboriginalcanada.ca; aboriginalbc.com; haidahouse.com



TRAVEL BETWEEN TORONTO AND VANCOUVER BY TRAIN

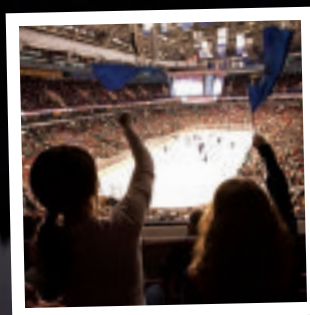
Snow-capped mountains, swaying prairies and the broad bends of the Athabasca River are just some of the scenes along the 2,755-mile-long route of *The Canadian* as it rolls between Toronto and Vancouver. There are three classes of service for the epic three-day, four-night rail journey through five provinces. Live entertainment and comfortable lounges ensure the journey is sociable as well as scenic. Viarail.ca



SUNSET AT THE RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE

Famed for the iconic red tunics and broad-brimmed Stetson hats of its dress uniform, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's history traces back to 1873. That story is told at the heritage centre in Regina, Saskatchewan, next to the base where all recruits start their careers. On summer Tuesdays visitors can view marching bands and drills during the Sunset-Retreat Ceremony.

tourismsaskatchewan.com; rcmpmc.com



HEAD TO AN ICE HOCKEY GAME

Canadians refer to their national winter sport simply as hockey. Fast, tough and skilful, the NHL is regarded as the world's best league and Nova Scotian Sidney Crosby is its current star. Visitors can experience Canadian passion for hockey at venues such as the Centre Bell — the NHL's largest arena and the 21,273-seat home of the Montreal Canadiens — or during local league encounters.

hockeycanada.ca; nhl.com; chl.ca



VIEW WILD POLAR BEARS BY THE HUDSON BAY

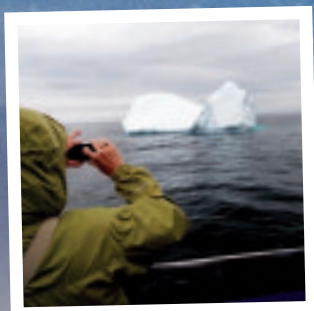
Churchill, in Manitoba, is dubbed the polar bear capital of the world. Around 1,000 of the world's 25,000 population find habitat along the Hudson Bay's western shore. The carnivores can be viewed from the heated cabin of a Tundra Buggy and even on foot, as part of a group, during autumn polar bear photo safaris at Seal River Heritage Lodge.

travelmanitoba.com; everythingchurchill.com; churchillwild.com; frontiersnorth.com



SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS DANCE IN THE SKY

Nightfall doesn't necessarily mean the end to a day's adventures. Low light pollution and high latitude make northern Canada one of the world's premier destinations for viewing the Aurora Borealis. Walled tents inspired by gold prospectors' shelters provide a cosy base at the Northern Lights Trading Post, 20 minutes' drive from Whitehorse, the Yukon's capital. travelyukon.com; whitehorse.ca; northerntales.ca



ICEBERG VIEWING

Each springtime floating mountains of ice, some the size of Manhattan, drift south from Greenland along 'Iceberg Alley', the stretch of Atlantic off Newfoundland and Labrador's coast. They can be viewed from Cabot

Tower, overlooking St John's, and the cliff-top by the lighthouse at Cape Spear. Boat tours offer opportunities to get even closer, and typically include the opportunity to get up close to wildlife such as whales and brightly-coloured Atlantic puffins.

newfoundlandlabrador.com;
icebergquest.com



WHALE WATCHING

The Atlantic coastline is the place to head if you want guaranteed encounters with whales – 20 different species migrate through Canadian territorial waters, bringing opportunities to see them rolling and breaching. During summertime, humpback, fin and minke whales are frequently spotted in the Bay of Fundy. Whale watching tours on sizable vessels and inflatable Zodiacs depart from harbours in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Head out on a larger boat and you may find yourself alongside scientists conducting research into these impressive beasts. For a wilder, wind-in-the-hair experience, don waterproofs for a Zodiac ride and get up close enough to smell the whales' fishy breath.

Either way, you're likely to enjoy dolphin and seal sightings along the way. Peak season is late June to mid-September. novascotia.com; tourismnewbrunswick.ca; oceanexplorations.ca



RIDE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

This luxury train sweeps through seven mountain ranges, including the Canadian Rockies, covering four separate routes (Seattle to the Rockies via Vancouver; Vancouver to Jasper via Whistler and Quesnel; Vancouver to Jasper via Kamloops; and Vancouver to Banff via Kamloops and Lake Louise). GoldLeaf Service means access to double-decker cars with dome windows – ideal for panoramas of the Fraser Canyon and Pyramid Falls – plus gourmet cuisine crafted from regional ingredients by onboard chefs. Trains stop each evening, with guests sleeping in top-quality hotels en route. The journey can be combined with cruises, extended stays in any of the start/finish destinations and a selection of excursions from city tours, to whale watching, helicopter rides and kayaking.

rockymountaineer.com

All the options mentioned are Canadian Signature Experiences – curated holiday experiences offered by Canadians and guaranteed for their quality. To find out more see canada.travel on the Destination Canada website.



A view to thrill

Niagara Helicopters Flightseeing Tours

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