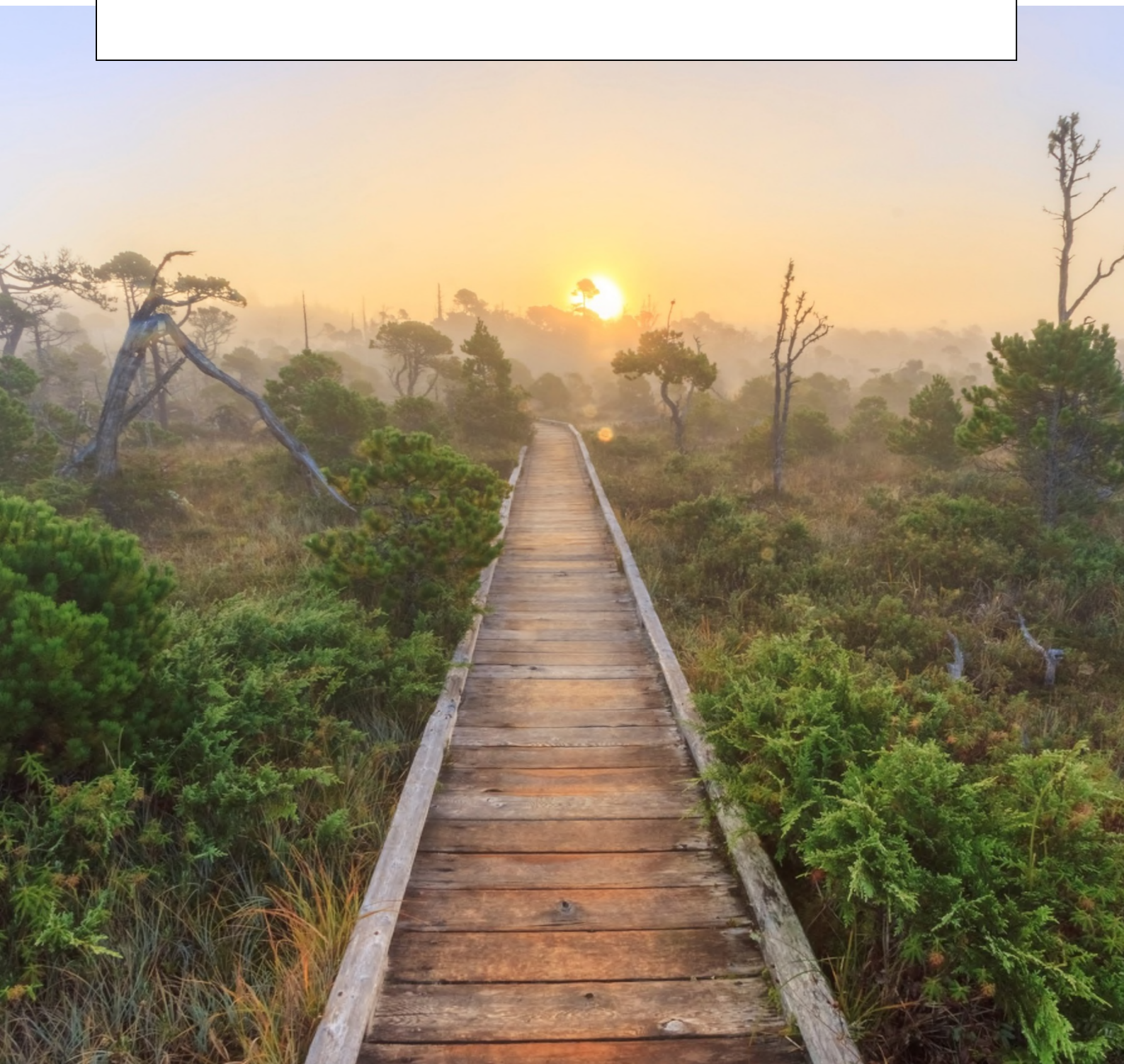




Route proposal July 6 – 25 2023

Patrick & Nicola Johanssen



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NB – this first set of route proposals consists of 31 pages. For this introduction, we've whittled it down to 14 pages. This abstracted overview gives you insight into our local expertise, personal approach and enthusiasm to help you find your way in Canada.

The following documents are also sent separately with each route proposal:

Detailed travel budget with a complete overview of all travel costs, including those that you may overlook such as meals, petrol, excursions, park passes, ferries, etc. Every modified route plan leads to a new travel budget in which we use the recent exchange rate to give you a good idea of the travel costs. Travel budgets are prepared in € (Euro), \$Can or \$US.

Background information of the different regions

A brief overview, in chronological order, of the different regions in Canada through which your trip travels. Each region is briefly shown and there are "links" to area maps and photos.

Route maps (upon request)

Prepared in Google Maps of the different routes in the first proposal.

Wildlife Excursions and Guided Opportunities

You can include many guided parts into your trip 'on the spot.' More exclusive guided opportunities will have to be booked in advance. We strive to match you with experienced local operators most of whom we know personally.

Comprehensive information about:

- Flight options
- Motorhome and car rental (all providers)

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

Hello Patrick and Nicola,

Great that Canada is on your vacation radar for next year! Thanks for letting us 'think along' with you at this stage of your travel preparations. After offering guided trips since 1992 (yes, that is 30 years.....), we soon realized that we could also share our experience on a 'one-on-one' basis with travelers like yourselves to design your own vacation in Canada! Collaborating with a local expert gets you advice, creativity and advocacy – those things are hard to come by online..... Particularly when your most valuable asset is your leisure time, and once it is lost, there's no making it back! So we take our advisory role quite serious when putting together a first route proposal for your trip. Hence a bit more information than you might have anticipated. We feel it is important to find the right balance between your travel budget, route, and 'content' (programming) as both are the main ingredients for a wonderful Canada trip. So what we did first is make an abbreviated list of your travel wishes and parameters after which we dive right into routes and programming.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

A brief introduction about the way we work is in order (more details on our website <https://www.naturetrek.ca/go-on-your-own/>). Nature Trek Canada does not offer 'standard' travel packages from which to choose. Each and every trip we put together for (and with) you is a customized vacation based on your travel preferences. The trip budget is an accurate indication of your vacation costs, but it is not the amount you pay us as each trip budget is determined by adding up the various trip components (flights, local transportation, accommodation, meals, excursions, ferries, fuel etc.). Some of the budget's components we can reserve/book for you (flights, local transport, guided excursions etc.) and some you pay for while 'en route' (meals, ferries, fuel etc.). You are always free to reserve and book your own travel components. Any bookings Nature Trek Canada makes for you from the Netherlands are covered by the Stichting Garantie Fonds (SGR) and follow ANVR conditions (see <https://www.anvr.nl/English/Traveler.aspx>). It is good to be aware of Nature Trek Canada's terms and conditions (see <https://www.naturetrek.ca/wp-content/uploads/Individual-Travel-Plan-Terms-Conditions-2021.pdf>).

If you feel we're on the right track with an initial (and complementary) trip design, we will further develop a custom Travel Plan with you. Costs are € 250/\$Can350 for which you receive our local expertise, time and Canadian connections. In many cases we save you money or provide you with greater quality. Nature Trek Canada Wilderness Expeditions Ltd. is a registered Canadian company founded in 1993 by Lo Camps and Annemarie Linders. In 2023 we will celebrate our 30th year as expedition leaders and trip organizers.



Over the years Nature Trek Canada Ltd has assisted over a 2500 travelers like yourselves with designing their own customized vacations and have also organized and guided more than 325 of our of our own 3-week wilderness expeditions throughout all of Canada.

We understand that you already have a good idea about your journey. We may suggest (a few) changes to which we will clearly explain and substantiate. Ultimately it is YOUR Canada adventure, but we are not afraid to present alternatives that, in our opinion, can make your experience even better.

YOUR TRAVELPREFERENCES ~ THE CONDENSED VERSION

Travel party: 2 adults

Travelperiod: from July 6th to 25th approximately.

Duration: about 3 weeks

Where in Canada: west coast including Alberta and British Columbia

Local transportation: Rental car or Camper (RV)

Accommodation: camping (RV) or roofed accommodation

Additional remarks

- We are interested in Hikes, wildlife, nature.
- The less crowds the better. Crowds are a no go
- Preferably campervan or mixture camping/lodges.
- We are Norwegian, so we have plenty of mountains and would like to experience something different and the great wide open.
- My husband gets seasick easily, so we can skip cruises.
- Guides are fine for some days, but we also like to go on our own.
- We prefer basic over posh, love to hike and prefer not to drive long distances every day.
- My plan is to present him with a convincing special trip that he can't say no to ;-). What I want to show him is something like I had the privilege to experience (backroads, camping in the woods with no one around, except for the odd bear or moose ;-), being out in the fresh air with the sounds of nature, physical activity ...).

First order of business - question and answers

My reasons for choosing sept/oct was a) avoiding crowds, so arriving after the long weekend in Sept. b) lower cost due to off season, c) less mosquitos ?, c) potential fall foliage. However we are fairly flexible. A) and b) were really the main reasons.

Yes, September will avoid crowds and will definitely give you cheaper RV rental (see below). There will be NO mosquitoes but also NO (or very little) Fall Foliage. For that you are too late (Yukon and Alaska is last week of August) OR in the wrong area as Fall colours is predominantly a 'central' Canada thing. From Toronto East and it starts there around the last week of September (see photo below). I guide a 3-week trip there every year and make sure I am in the right location on September 26. Now with THAT kind of fall foliage come the crowds too. So it is a mixed blessing that the west coast does not support what is (wrongly) termed an Indian Summer.

Healthy organic fresh meals are important to us (we eat no meat and hardly any dairy) and I assume that's not so easy to get outside the cities.

You will be surprised. Particularly on Vancouver Island. Organic food is becoming mainstream in Western Canada. It is not so much of there is organic food available outside big cities as 'will there be any food at all.' Some locations have no facilities at all, and you will have to stock up prior to getting there. It is up to us of course to advise you of that.

So I still favor a camper van. Shower and toilet not mandatory, kitchen equipment would be ideal, so would be standing height and direct access from the driver cabin

All RV's have toilet and shower. Attached possibilities fitting the route plan discussed below.

First priority is nature (we love forests, but the fjords and islands on your west coast would definitely be a highlight), active, hiking. I can also imagine a few days of trekking if it's not too technical (I am a bit afraid of heights, my husband is pretty fearless if you leave out small boats; - This mixed with some cultural experiences would be awesome.

Okay. Our fjords and islands are indeed spectacular but also covered in the temperate rainforest. The westcoast has no 'wide open' spaces like the prairies. However..... we will be able to 'link' the fjords and islands with wide open spaces, no crowds and (possibly, if you are game for that) an extension into the 'badlands' east of Calgary which you must remember from your biking trip.



Let's have a look at possible modes of transportation while you are traveling – using a motorhome (RV or camper) or a rental car.

You intend to use an RV as mode of transport and accommodation.. A good choice as it gives you the opportunity to experience your surroundings better and, especially during the fall season, it is often cheaper and certainly more intimate than staying in hotels, etc. Here are a few "pros" and "cons" of the various options. Not to persuade you to change plans but to give you a more complete overview of the possibilities.

Motorhomes give you the opportunity to stay pretty much anywhere in relatively luxurious circumstances (often however this means that you stay at a campsite in either a park or commercial setting). There are advantages and disadvantages to using a motorhome. Advantage is that you always have your 'home' with you. And that includes your kitchen, toilet and even a shower. Disadvantages are the inherent 'unwieldiness' of a motorhome. They are easy to operate but it is more a certain lack of flexibility - once you have 'installed' your RV you feel less inclined to drive to that nice viewpoint to watch the sun go down (knowing that you must re-connect all cables and hoses in the dark. Large motorhomes cannot always be accommodated on ferries without reservations. Your RV has to be 'hooked up' regularly to replenish power, water and sewage discharge. With a rental car and tent you always have a place, but with a motorhome you have some places really advance reservations. Thus you lose some of your flexibility. Tenting is potentially quieter as you can choose 'wilder' spots *en route* and many park campgrounds also cater specifically to tent camping, away from larger RV sites. If you're traveling by (rental) car and are intend on spending nights in roofed accommodation (hotels etc.) then renting a camper can be significantly cheaper, especially if you party consists of more than 2 adults. Moreover, you will often need to book hotel accommodation in advance whereas campsite reservations can be limited to busier locations (like national parks) in the high season. If you're traveling by car and alternate (tent) camp with the occasional hotel or cabin then that option is by far the cheapest. In addition, there is the undeniable advantage of camping (car or camper) as in all national (and most provincial) parks in Canada, roofed accommodation is not permitted.

You can find hotels etc. in villages outside the park (such as Jasper and Banff for example), but not in the park itself. Campers (or tenting) allow you to be in closer proximity to nature, hiking and the wilderness around you. Cars (as opposed to campers) are faster, somewhat easier to drive, cheaper on ferries and in have better gas mileage. With a car you are more inclined to explore (later into the day) as uprooting your camper from all its connections is a less desirable option.

Summarizing,

- If you travel by car and are (tent) camping than that is by far the cheapest as you save on accommodation and meals, fuel and ferry costs.
- If you travel by car and combine (tent) camping with hotels/motels etc. you will (most likely) still save on your budget compared to renting a camper.
- If you travel by car and only stay in hotels/motels then renting a camper is often cheaper (depending on dates and number of people). Renting a camper also gives you more flexibility and independence.
- If a luxurious mode of accommodation is more your style then car rental and accommodation would be a better choice.
- Usually it is impossible (or expensive) to pick up or drop off campers on Sundays.

A QUICK COMPARISON

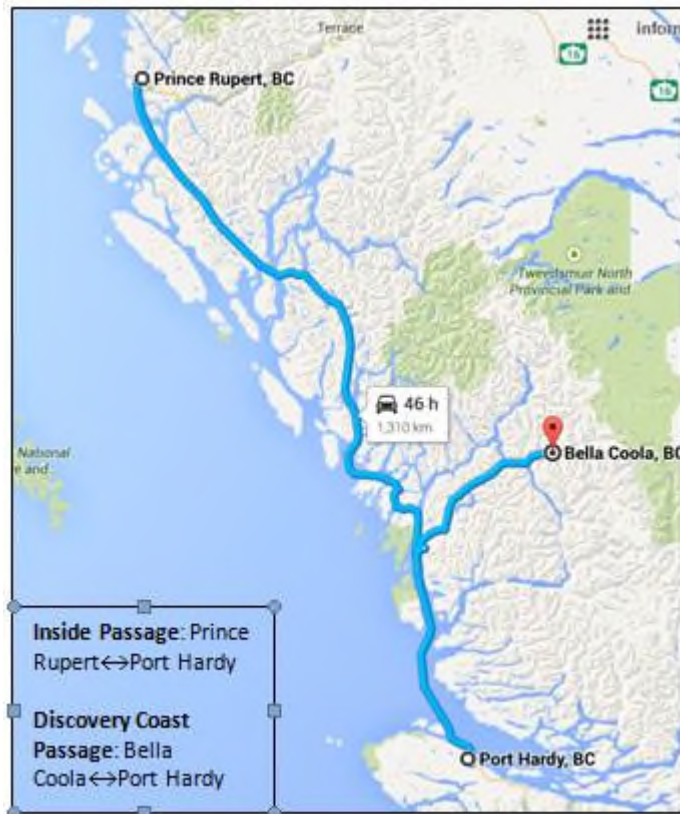
Pricing in euros. Inconvenient but the <i>comparison</i> is valid in any currency.	Camper (Fraserway MH19) and: camping		Auto (Midsize SUV) and: Hotels/BB/Lodges		Auto (Midsize SUV) and: Camping (tent) combined with hotels/BB/Lodges	
Rental fee	3279	19 nights	1179	21 days	1179	21 days
Accommodation hotels	110	1 night	2198	20 nights	1099	10 nights
Accommodation camping	336	19 nights	0	0 nights	142	10 nights
Meals self-prepared	425	15x	340	12 x	425	15 x
Meals in restaurants	248	5x	511	8x	248	5x
Fuel	511	2750 km	230	2750 km	230	2750 km
Ferry costs	225	RV incl.	225	Car incl.	225	Car incl.
Totals	5134		4683		3548	

Tent camping combined with accommodation is by far the cheapest option. As you indicated it would not be a real choice I am not using that category in the travel budget. Renting a camper is the least affordable option, but it does provide you with the vacation you want for € 451 more. Driving less will make the camper option cheaper too.

Camper pricing includes (all km, prep cost, inventory, taxes, drop off, insurance (\$Can 750 residual risk per accident). If a camper will be your mode of transportation I will present you with a ranked overview. For this table I choose the cheapest possibility out of 39 campers. Adding a week would drop the price by € 350. For more information about this camper <http://www.fraserway.com/rentals/vehicles/c-small-motorhome>



ROUTES & PROGRAMME



Let's move on to the various route and program options

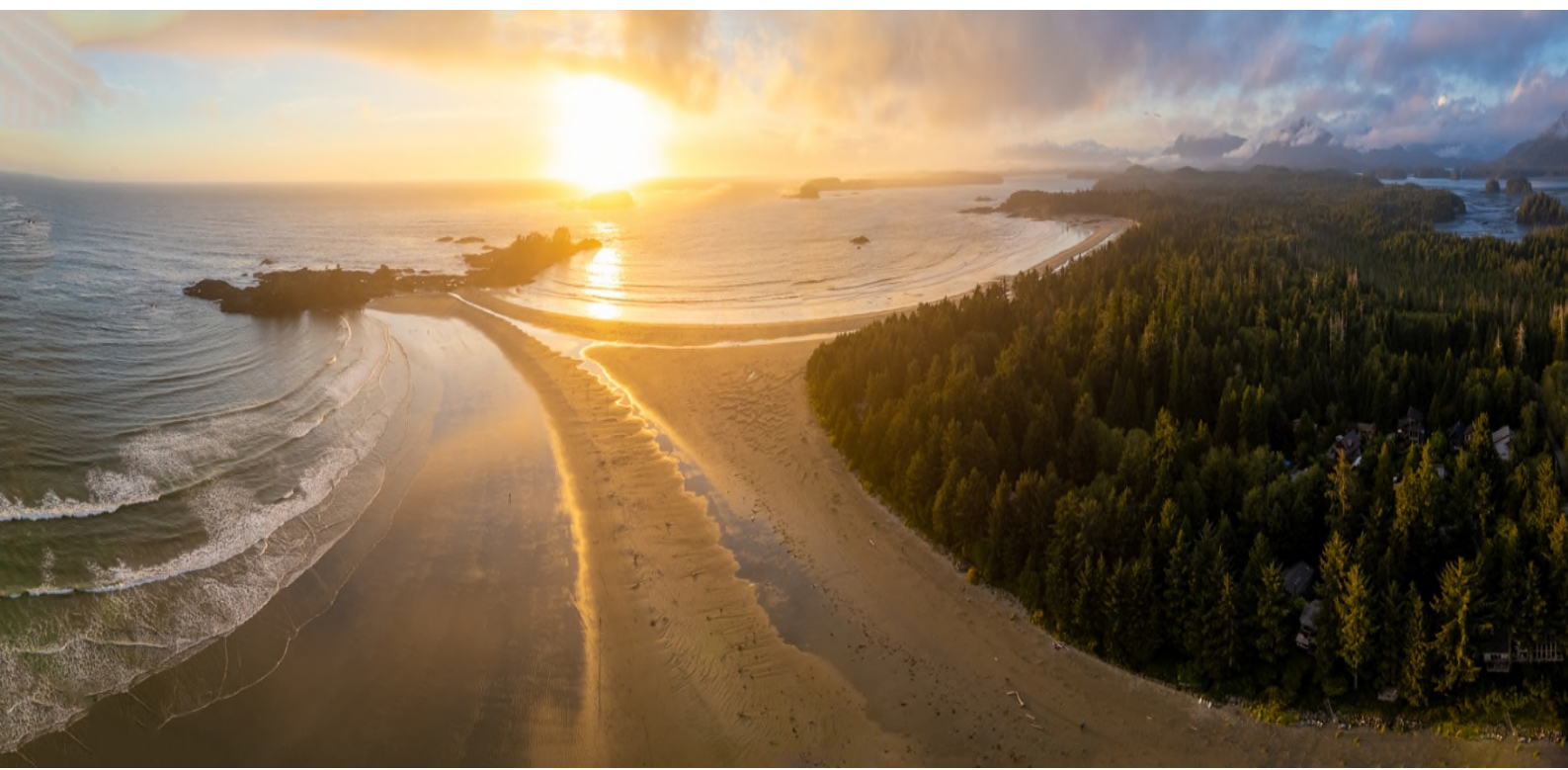
Let's start with evaluating the 'season' in which you will travel. From early September onward is past 'peak' season and that'll determine an overall layout of the trip. It is our experience that Vancouver Island will be experienced as quite the highlight in any west coast journey. **Etc. 1½ pages.**

Routing and programming.

In short there are **four main routes** departing Vancouver (Island) to Calgary (or vice versa of course):

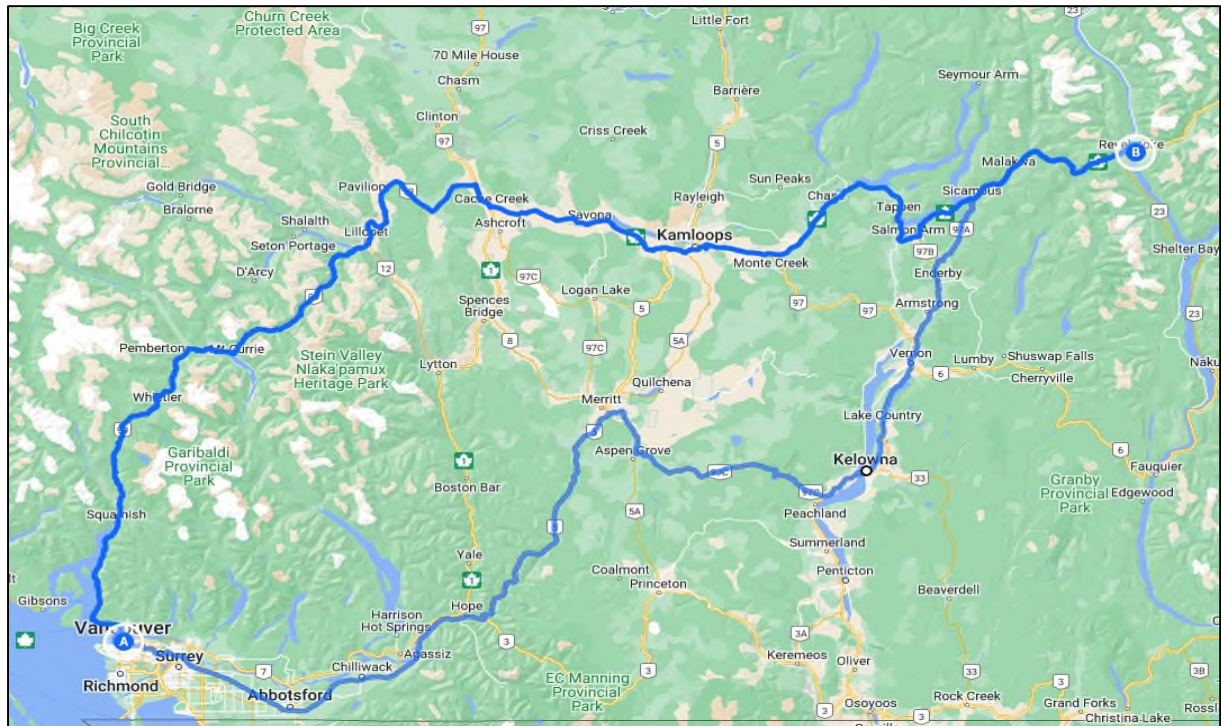
- Two routes will carry you further north via BC Ferry connections (1) **Inside Passage** route or (2) **Discovery Coast Passage**. Both sailings last about 14-16 hours to complete.
- Two routes 'circle' more to the south, foregoing long ferry routes through (1) the **Coastal Mountains** (Whistler) or (2) the **Okanagan** (Kamloops and Kelowna).

Etc. 1 ½ pages



In putting together a first trip itinerary we let the following be our guidelines:

- The best possible diversity in natural landscapes.
- Not having to move every day to another location. Let's not introduce the '*see all of Canada-in-10-days*' syndrome into the package.....
- Guided components **can** be a part of your program if they add significantly to your vacation experience.
- Active exploration (hiking) fitting your individual levels of experience and fitness
- A high wilderness component
- Somewhat primitive - Back to Basics



Etc. 2 pages followed by

1) Flight options

We work with travel consolidators in Europe to provide you with competitive pricing while adhering to consumer protection regulations common in most countries. Note – you are encouraged to compare our pricing with your own research. Booking tickets etc. is only **one** aspect of an Individual arrangement. Important? Yes. Very. But so are your travel preferences. Every travel agent can arrange bookings for you, only a few can provide you with in depth information ~ you see more when you know the right people!

2) Overview

3) Questions

Patrick & Nicola Johanssen

Canada Adventure 2023 ~ Start Vancouver and finish Calgary

Totale travel distance about 2750 km (2300 km point-to-point)

Date	Day	Day	Programme	Km
Sep 8	SUN	1	Arrival Vancouver. Pick up car. Depending on arrival time cross over to Vancouver Island (1 ferry, close to airport)	50
9 *	MON	2	Hike day 1 Juan de Fuca coastline. Magnificent hiking, wild coastal scenery. Camping near the coast (this could be day 1 of a guided mini trek)	70
10	TUE	3	Juan de Fuca day hike (2). Rocky coastline and rainforest.	0
11	WED	4	Via Port Renfrew to Parksville. Great back country route. Good chance of wildlife (elk/black bear if you start early enough). Short stops, hikes along the way (Cathedral grove).	225
12	THU	5	Via Cathedral Grove and Strathcona's forbidden plateau to Campbell River.	120
13	FRI	6	On to Cormorant Island. Short ferry ride across. Great camping. Authentic native atmosphere. Great hikes too. Friendly, off the beaten track. Quiet.	200
14	SAT	7	Cormorant Island – whale tour (4 hours). Visit Cultural centre. Coastal and rainforest hikes.	5
15	SUN	8	Knight Inlet grizzly bear excursion (full day).	5
16	MON	9	Then to Port Hardy, possible stop Telegraph Cove. Great (and little known) coastal hike east of Port Hardy. Ferry departs 1800.	60
17 **	TUE	10	Arrive Bella Bella 0100. Leave Bella Bella 0245. Arrive Bella Coola 1200. Drive to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. Stop at bearviewing site.	70
18	WED	11	Tweedsmuir Hike. Very wild, very beautiful, very nobody....	5
19	THU	12	Via Nimpo Lake (possibility for a floatplane tour over the Monarch Icefields) towards the Chilcotin Plateau. Camping en route. Open spaces. Plateau	300
20	FRI	13	Great day hike Sheep Junction Provincial Park. Immense vistas. And very, very few people (if any). Camp Riske Creek	60
21	SAT	14	Chilcotin day off.....	50
22 ***	SUN	15	Via Williams Lake to Clearwater and Wells Gray provincial Park. A lesser-known provincial park of great beauty.	275
23	MON	16	Well Gray alpine hike.	10
24 ****	TUE	17	Drive to Jasper – long but worth it! Changing scenery along the route. Mount Robson and serious mountains.	350
25	WED	18	Jasper day hike. Many options which we will of course discuss with you in detail	20
26	THU	19	Jasper Daghike.	20
27	FRI	20	Icefield Parkway. Arrive Banff National Park	275
28	SAT	21	to Calgary and departure	130
29	SUN	22	Arrival Norway	2300

Blue –can be replaced by Pacific Rim National Park (see region information).

Brown – can be replaced by the Inside Passage route

- * this can be replaced by a Nootka wilderness trip. Private guide. See attached information
- ** from here you can take a floatplane into the alpine and hike back out in 2-3 days (or spend days on the alpine plateau and hike down 600 meters where the floatplane can pick you up again.
- *** This is the 'day' where you could turn west again and end in Vancouver. I would choose the Okanagan as a return region then. Much quieter in september but still very reasonable weather. Semi-dessert, open landscape with huge lakes.
- **** you CAN bypass the Rocky mountains here and drive through the Badlands to Calgary instead.



TRAVELBUDGET

A travel budget must be complete and transparent.

Below you will find an example of **all** travel costs, including meals, gas, excursions, park passes, ferries, etc. That number may compare less favourably with Fly&Drive packages for example. But the budget below takes the (financial) surprises out of your trip. The table is a summary, on the next page you will find all the details. **Note** – this is a 2023 travel budget not related to the Johanssen's plans.

Central Canada route	Travelcost pp (€)	Sum	Explanation
1 Flights, transportation in Canada & accommodation	1788	1788	1
2 Booking fees, Arrangement (incl postage), ferries, Parkpass, meals and fuel	1176	2964	Sum of 1 & 2
3 Guided excursions	94	3059	Sum of 1, 2 & 3

Important – this is not a quote

You will not pay the trip price per person to Nature Trek Canada. We mention this explicitly because many travelers think that proceeding with arrangements for your trip is tied to the charges that appear in the budget. We charge a one-time fee of \$Can 350/€ 250 (plus postage and printing costs of \$Can 45/€35 per travel guide). Any additional bookings (flights, transport, excursions, accommodation, etc.) will be added in consultation with you. The budget is an overview of the costs that you have to take into account for your itinerary - if the itinerary is adjusted, so will the travel budget.

Also keep in mind that exchange rates change along with (for instance) fuel prices etc. There can therefore be differences between the amount in this budget and the amount that applies at the time a reservation is made in Canada. Reservations made from the Netherlands such as flights, motorhome and car rental are usually not dependent on currency fluctuations.

What can make your trip less costly ?

Less excursions - € ?
Reducing travel days - € 152 pppd

Route Montreal-Montreal	2023 Travelbudget in euros			1 € = \$C 1.35
€ 1788 pp vluchten, vervoer & accommodatie			Travelers	3
€ 2692 pp inclusief overige kosten & maaltijden			Traveldays	20
€ 3815 pp inclusief begeleide onderdelen			1 € = \$US	0
	Number	Flights & local transportation	To be reserved trip components	Extra costs while in Canada
Flights from * POINTA		0		
Bookings fee & SGR, calamiteitenfonds °		50		
Car rental Midsize 2 chauffeurs (all in, AVIS)		0		
Camper Rental Canadream TC-A (all in)		4944		
Individueel Arrangement °		250		
Postage & printing of travelguide °		35		
Accommodation **				
@ \$250 pn (1 room, <i>average</i> rate)	2		370	
Camping camper **				
@ \$45 per night (<i>average</i> rate between \$30-75)	16		533	
Tent camping **				
@ \$35 per night (<i>average</i> rate)	0		0	
Ferries				
Tadoussac (vehicle included €)				
Baie Comeau (vehicle included € 94.77)			95	
			0	
Excursion Whale excursion €100 pp			200	
Excursion Whale & Bird Excursion 83			83	
Excursion			0	
Excursion			0	
Excursion			0	
Excursion			0	
Dining out (breakfastt and dinner) ***				
@ \$Can 50 per day (average, excl drinks)	5			500
Meals home made ***				
@ \$Can 35 pppd (average, excl drinks)	13			1011
Fuel rental car °				
Fuel camper °	3000			1044
National Park Pass °				60
Flights and Transportation total		5279		
Accommodation and ferries total			999	
Guided components total			283	
Meals, fuel etc. total				2616
Grand total		9176		
Per person		3058		
Per person per day		152		
Travelcost per person		* results based on airlines' websites. We can access touroperator fares which can be cheaper and have better terms.		
Flights & Transportation	1648	** Average cost. We can make reservations for you or you make your own.		
Accommodation	301			
Ferries	32			
Miscellaneous (entries marked °)	480	*** Costs vary with the number of time you dine out.		
Meals	504			
Subtotal Transportation and accommodation	1981	° Misscellaneous costs.		
Subtotal Miscellaneous and meals	984			
Subtotal Guided trips	94			
Final total	3059			



NATURE TREK CANADA

Just Go Wild!

