

JEMS CUSTOM 11-Day TOUR OF CANADIAN ROCKIES, WESTERN CANADA AND LEARNING ABOUT THE HERITAGE OF THE JAPANESE CANADIANS

Led By Rev. Sam Tonomura, JEMS Tour Coordinator and Canadian Tour Guide.

July 3-August 9, 2012

Day 1 – Jul 30 (Mon) – Calgary

Welcome to Calgary! Upon arrival at the airport, the group meets our Tour Director for a transfer to our hotel. Tonight, enjoy a welcome drink while your Tour Director prepares you for this upcoming adventure. Transportation will be provided to a restaurant for an 'on your own' dinner and fellowship with Canadian Japanese.

Day 2 – Jul 31 (Tues) – Calgary - Banff

The discovery of oil converted this ranching town into a sophisticated city with skyscrapers and elegant shopping centers. It is also home to the world-famous Calgary Stampede. Tour many of the city's attractions, including Canada Olympic Park, the Saddledome, and FORT CALGARY. Motor west through the foothills and into BANFF NATIONAL PARK, gateway to the majestic Canadian Rockies. Join the optional excursion to Sulphur Mountain for panoramic views of Banff's spectacular scenery. In the evening, you may take an optional excursion to the theater, featuring a Canadian show and dinner. (B)

Day 3 – Aug 1 (Wed) – Banff

Banff is one of Canada's favorite year-round resorts, with summer activities such as hiking, boating, and fishing. With a free day, your Tour Director will suggest an optional helicopter ride over the Canadian Rockies. (B) Also an optional Golf Outing available for anyone interested.

Day 4 – Aug 2 (Thurs) – Banff–Lake Louise–Yoho National Park–Nelson

A morning's visit takes us to Lake Louise. Its cold waters perfectly mirror the surrounding mountains and glaciers. The group will then enter the spectacular beauty of YOHO NATIONAL PARK, one of Canada's most popular recreational areas and the site of pre-Cambrian fossil finds. Stop at nearby EMERALD LAKE and onto GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, where the motorcoach climbs the 4,379-foot-high Rogers Pass. This is a perfect spot for photos of the impressive surrounding mountain cliffs and glaciers. Continue to Nelson. (B)

Day 5 – Aug 3 (Fri) – Nelson- Kaslo - New Denver - Kelowna

Stop at KASLO, a location of an internment site and onto the NIKKEI INTERNMENT MEMORIAL CENTRE, an interpretive site dedicated to the history of the internment of over 22,000 Canadians of Japanese heritage during the Second World War. The center, sits on one of ten Canadian internment camp sites in the interior of BC and exhibits include a typical two-family shack, a vegetable garden, traditional Japanese gardens and the Kyowakai Hall, filled with photographic displays and artifacts. Travel to the resort city of Kelowna, attractively set on the shores of Okanagan Lake. (B)

Day 6 – Aug 4 (Sat) – Kelowna

Head north to Vernon's DAVIDSON ORCHARDS for a tour and lunch. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to spend time with friends and do as you please. In the evening, transportation will be provided to a restaurant for an 'on your own' dinner and fellowship with Canadian Japanese (B,L) Optional Golf Outing available for anyone interested.

Day 7 – Aug 5 (Sun) – Kelowna–Cascade Mountains–Vancouver

En route to Vancouver, stop for a rest and enjoy a soothing soak in the public pools of the HARRISON HOT SPRINGS. After, continue to Vancouver. (B)

Day 8 – Aug 6 (Mon) – Vancouver - Excursion to Vancouver Island

Journey to Victoria. Take BC FERRIES through the Gulf Islands to Vancouver Island. First stop will be at the world famous BUTCHART GARDENS. This is followed by a scenic drive along the coast to downtown Victoria. See the Empress Hotel and maybe have afternoon tea, view the parliament buildings, Beacon Hill Park, Bastion Square, and much more. (B)

Day 9 – Aug 7 (Tues) – Vancouver

This morning in nearby Burnaby, enjoy a visit to the NATIONAL NIKKEI HERITAGE CENTRE home also to the Japanese Canadian National Museum. One of the missions of this institution is to preserve artifacts and archives relative to the history of Japanese Canadians from the 1870s through the present. After lunch, sightseeing focuses on Vancouver's Japantown, Gastown, the beautiful beaches and harbor, and lovely STANLEY PARK.(B). We will have an opportunity to lunch with Canadian Japanese who live in Vancouver.

Day 10 – Aug 8 (Wed) – Vancouver – Excursion to Whistler

Heading north to Whistler, make a stop at Shannon Falls. Then enjoy a visit and private breakfast at the SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE, dedicated to the history and culture of the First Nations people. Arrive in Whistler where you will have free time to explore this world famous resort and host of the 2010 Olympics. There are restaurants, shops, galleries and plenty of other options. (B)

Day 11– Aug 9 (Wed) – Vancouver

Tour ends today. A group transfer will be available to the airport for the homebound flight. (B). Depending upon our flight schedule back to Los Angeles, we may have time for sightseeing and shopping.