



National Parks: Canadian Rockies, Glacier & Yellowstone with Lamar Bank

11 days | Jul 24 2025—Aug 03 2025

You don't have to cross an ocean to see a world of wonder—just join us on this tour through North America's most alluring national parks on this multi-country journey. Encounter roaming wildlife in its natural habitat and gaze at geological marvels (geysers, canyons, and hot springs galore!) as you make your way from Banff and the Canadian Rockies to Yellowstone. Scenic drives, jewel-colored lakes, geothermal eruptions, snowy summits—this tour's extraordinary landscapes and natural wonders are sure to leave you in awe.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Banff National Park
- Cave and Basin National Historic Site
- Lake Louise
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Glacier National Park
- Old Faithful
- The Grand Tetons

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and ice, with some steep inclines and high altitudes.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/canada-and-national-parks-with-lamar-bank> | 1-800-438-7672

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11 days

Calgary, Alberta → 1 night

Day 1: Arrival in Calgary

Welcome to Canada! Transfer to your hotel this evening and get settled in; you'll enjoy a welcome dinner with your group tomorrow.

Banff Region → 3 nights

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Calgary & Banff National Park

Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner

With your Tour Director leading the way, head out on a guided sightseeing tour of Calgary. While this part of Alberta turns into a winter wonderland for large swaths of the year—Calgary hosted the 1988 Winter Olympics—it's warm and mild in the summer.

- Drive by Calgary City Hall, the seat of the Calgary City Council. Built in 1911 in the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, it sits next to the newer Calgary Municipal Building—whose mirrored glass facade was dubbed “a monstrosity” by rivaling members of the Toronto City Council.
- Pass the Canada Olympic Park (many of the nation's top athletes still train there) and the winding Bow River, a popular recreation spot for locals.
- Pass by the Confluence Historic Site & Parkland—formerly Fort Calgary—and make a photo stop at the vast Calgary Stampede grounds, home to the largest outdoor rodeo event in the world. (No wonder Calgary is known as “Cowtown”!)

Afterward, travel to Banff. Sitting inside a national park of the same name, this glamorous resort town is known for its mix of outdoor activities, art galleries, and take-your-breath-away sights. The park itself is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, so expect a postcard-perfect slice of the Canadian Rockies.

- Pass the roaring churn and spray of Bow Falls, the castle-like grounds of the Fairmont Banff Springs hotel, and the 13-mile-long Lake Minnewanka.
- Enter the Cave and Basin National Historic Site, the birthplace of Canada's first national

park at the foot of Sulphur Mountain. Home to hot springs and spectacular wildlife, the area was inhabited by indigenous First Nations peoples for more than 10,000 years and remains a sacred place to this day.

Get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers during tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lake Louise

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way to one of Canada's most beloved, and most photographed, landmarks: Lake Louise. From November to late-June, this glacial lake lies frozen—but come the thaw, visitors are treated to shimmering, electric blue water.

- Keep an eye out for the grizzly bears, moose, lynx, and mountain goats that roam the alpine landscape.
- Stroll along the glittering shores of Lake Louise and take in staggering vistas of the towering Victoria Glacier.
- View the historic, 19th-century Chateau Lake Louise resort, framed by the Victoria Glacier and an emerald-hued lake.

Spend your free time this afternoon canoeing or walking around the lake—or add an excursion and join us on a gondola ride 2,000 feet up Sulphur Mountain to see Bow Valley and Banff National Park stretched out before you. + Sulphur Mountain Gondola Ride

Day 4: Free day in the Banff Region

Included meals: breakfast

There are countless ways to enjoy the great outdoors in the Banff region. Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation or take us up on an optional scenic drive along the Icefields Parkway. You'll board a snow coach—a special passenger vehicle designed to traverse icy expanses—to travel up the Athabasca Glacier and take a short walk on the ice. This glacier is a remnant of the mass that once covered most of the Canadian Rockies and has rapidly retreated over the last century due to climate change.

+ Icefields Parkway & Glacier Experience

Glacier Region, Montana → 1 night

Day 5: Glacier Region via Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump & Waterton Lakes National Park

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Transfer into the United States today—and make sure you have your passport handy. Before crossing the border to Montana, stop to admire some of Alberta's scenic gems.

- Drive south to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, a UNESCO-listed site that preserves the legacy of more than 6,000 years of the indigenous Blackfoot culture.
- Continue to Waterton Lakes National Park, a picturesque area dotted with snow-capped peaks, pristine lakes, and outstretched meadows.
- Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to your hotel in the Glacier region.

Missoula, Montana → 1 night

Day 6: Missoula via Glacier National Park

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel along Going-to-the-Sun Road, a national landmark considered one of the world's most scenic drives. Then, board smaller vans and ford the high alpine region of the park. The road itself is a feat of engineering: Built between 1921–32, it winds through steep cliffs and narrow ledges and cuts through the Continental Divide at an elevation of 6,600 feet.

- Marvel at mountain ranges dotted with wildflowers and crashing waterfalls as you wind your way through Glacier National Park, half of the UNESCO-listed Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Lose yourself in this soul-stirring expanse of cedar forests and rocky cliffs and ponder tranquil lakes reflecting the surrounding peaks.
- Bear witness to the poignant spectacle of melting glaciers, silent sentinels of the changing climate and our planet's fragile balance.

Continue to Kalispell to enjoy free time for lunch. Then, take in views of the changing landscape as you continue on to Missoula.

Later this evening, gather together with your group for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

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Please note: Activities in Glacier National Park may vary depending on the season and weather conditions. Early June and September departures may overnight in Kalispell instead of Missoula.

Yellowstone Region, Montana → 2 nights

Day 7: Yellowstone Region via Butte & Virginia City

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Learn about the Yellowstone area's mining history and Old West heritage as you head to the Yellowstone region today, making a pair of scenic stops along the way.

- Visit Butte, once known as the "Richest Hill on Earth" for its booming copper industry in the latter part of the 19th century. The town's preserved Victorian architecture and miner's cottages are yours to explore on your own.
- Step into the "living" ghost town of Virginia City. Frozen in time from its heyday in the 1860s gold rush, it offers a taste of the Old West.
- Stroll the wooden boardwalks, view antique automobiles, and play penny arcade games before returning to your bus.

Continue to the Yellowstone region and sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Yellowstone National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Drive into Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, designated the world's first national park in 1872, to discover its unique landscape and vast array of animal life. With your Tour Director leading the way, you'll visit highlights like the overlook at Artist Point and the roaring Upper and Lower Falls, with plenty of time to stop for photos—and oohs and aahs—along the way.

- Pause at the Fountain Paint Pot, a colorful geothermal mudpot located in the Lower Geyser Basin.
- Experience the thrill of witnessing Old Faithful erupt, its towering plume of steam reaching skyward in a breathtaking crescendo. As you explore the park's hydrothermal areas, you'll see and hear—and smell—bubbling mudpots and hot springs.

- Head to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, which was created by the erosive forces of water thousands of years ago.
 - Listen for the echoing, haunting howls of Yellowstone's resident gray wolves and look for bison grazing on swaying grasslands, agile mountain goats springing between rocks, and moose wading in tranquil streams.
 - Drive further north to spend free time at the ethereal, terraced Mammoth Hot Springs before making your way back to West Yellowstone.
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Jackson, Wyoming → 2 nights

Day 9: Jackson via Grand Teton National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a scenic drive to the rustic resort town of Jackson, nestled amid the scenery of the Teton Range. Then, set out to explore Grand Teton National Park, home to the youngest mountain range in the Rockies. The Teton Range began forming during the Miocene Epoch, making it about 9 million years young. (In contrast, some of the older mountain ranges in the Rockies began sprouting 40-to-70 million years ago.) You'll tour Grand Teton National Park by bus and on foot, taking in the pristine wilderness. With luck, you may encounter elk, black bears, moose, and bison. Then, continue to Jackson and rest up for tomorrow's activities—a float down the Snake River, perhaps?

Day 10: Free day in Jackson

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

If you choose to add it to your itinerary, board a raft and drift down the Snake River to add more postcard-worthy moments to your memories. Should an eagle soar overhead, consider this day an even greater success.

If you'd prefer more time in town, Jackson's Town Square beckons with wooden boardwalks and famous elk antler arches that adorn each corner. You can also take part in the 100-year-old tradition of the Jackson Hole Rodeo (as a spectator) and check out barrel racing, roping, and live music.

Then, celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

+ Snake River Float

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Flight Home

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/canada-and-national-parks-with-lamar-bank> | 1-800-438-7672

Day 3: Sulphur Mountain Gondola Ride

From \$85.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Step inside a glass-enclosed gondola and ascend over 2,000 feet up Sulphur Mountain, which is named for the hot springs located on its slopes. Spend time exploring the mountain's main observation deck, where you can enjoy a wide variety of food options, interactive exhibits, a multi-sensory theater, and more. Then, take a stroll along the boardwalk to admire panoramic vistas of snow-capped mountains, the Bow Valley and Banff National Park below, and the Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station, which is a national historic site of Canada. Please note: Warm clothing including a sweater or jacket is recommended.

Day 4: Icefields Parkway & Glacier Experience

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Soak in the beauty of one of the most scenic drives in North America as you journey along the Icefields Parkway. Keep your eyes open for a variety of wildlife such as bears, elk, and moose as you drive along this highway, which stretches for almost 150 miles past stunning lakes, soaring mountains, and picturesque valleys. Continue on to the Columbia Icefield Centre, where you'll learn more about Jasper National Park. Enjoy free time for lunch before boarding a snow coach and traveling up to the Athabasca Glacier for a short walk on the ice. Please note: We recommend wearing extra layers and walking shoes or sneakers, as walking may involve steep inclines. This excursion is seasonal and runs from May through mid-October. It is also weather-dependent through late spring and early summer.

Day 10: Snake River Float

From \$149.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

One of the best ways to see the Grand Tetons—the glorious peaks that surround Jackson—is from the Snake River. On a raft ride, you'll have a great chance of glimpsing some of Wyoming's wildlife, including soaring eagles and graceful elk. You'll also get a firsthand view of the site of Ansel Adams' famous photo. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent and runs seasonally from mid-May through mid-September. Layered clothing and waterproof shoes are recommended.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.