

## Western Canada

### An unforgettable road-trip in the heart of Canada

Canada, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, offers an infinite variety of landscapes. We would like to suggest some 'must-see' places in Canada to ensure that you can make the most of your motorhome road trip.

Canada is a country full of exceptional sites, excursions and visits. From national parks to Canadian cities and splendid natural sites, there is so much to see and do that it is difficult to list them all. This page suggests some of the landmarks of western Canada and you can explore the great Canadian territories in your motorhome from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Whitehorse.

#### Vancouver and Vancouver Island

This modern, multicultural city has grown and developed in the middle of an extremely rich natural setting. About 70 different nationalities are represented in the city and it is a young, energetic and lively place to visit. Victoria is situated in the southern part of Vancouver Island. The north has been left wild and natural with a dense flora and unique fauna including bears inland and whales along the coast. The orca reserve in Johnson Strait is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Yoho, Kootenay and Banff National Parks

Situated in the Rocky Mountains, these three parks are close to each other. They have recently been classified as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and offer fascinating mountain setting where hiking is ideal.

#### Jasper National Park

This is the largest national park in Canada. It is home to many animals such as black bears, elk and deer, bighorn sheep and coyotes. **Maligne Lake** is the largest lake in the Rocky Mountains and has many splendid view points of the surrounding glaciers.

#### Alaska Highway

The road to Alaska is yet another Canadian passage worth exploring. The wild landscape includes forests, mountains, lakes with magical reflections and animals such as bears and elk.

#### Lake Louise

This lake, associated with Mount Victoria, is the ideal place for climbers and hikers. With the village near the lake, many activities are possible. Kayak rentals are available and mountain lifts will carry you upwards to enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding blue-green lakes, forests, mountains and wildlife.

#### Butchart Gardens

This is a historic garden with wonderful diversity and colours. It is made up of five areas: the Sunken Garden, the Rose Garden, the Japanese Garden and the Mediterranean Garden. Take a colourful walk through the gardens and enjoy the other activities on offer with family or friends.

#### Icefields Parkway

This mountain road between Banff and Jasper is breathtaking. All along the way, without interruption, is a magnificent scenery of massive mountains and clear lakes set in the wild and natural environment, that is so typical of Canada.

## **Jasper National Park**

In the heart of the Rocky Mountains is Jasper, a small, very pleasant, mountain town. Mountain animals come to graze and wonder around freely amongst the historic town buildings. The area offers a stunning landscape that seems to stretch to infinity with the soaring peaks of the surrounding, high mountains. Several activities are available such as hiking, rafting, kayaking and horseback riding.

## **Howe Sound**

This bay, northwest of Vancouver, is one of the most beautiful sites in Canada. Not far from the sea you will find waterfalls and huge snow-capped mountains, a typical fjord landscape. Near the turquoise waters of the most beautiful lakes, you can immerse yourself in the wild Canadian scenery taking long hikes along the trails of the Garibaldi National Park.

## **Royal Tyrrell Museum**

This museum is located in the Drumheller region and is one of the most important paleontological museum in the world. You can see Hoodos, gigantic rock pillars of 5 to 7 meters high, formed over millions of years by erosion. You can also visit the Atlas Coal Mine.

## **Whistler**

This is one of the most renowned ski resorts in the country. It hosted the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010. The resort has a unique and beautiful setting and offers many activities in addition to the spectacular ski slopes.