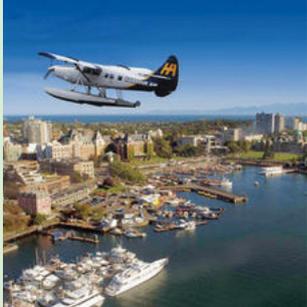


# Kropping the Klondike

## Farm Study Tour 2018

Date	Activity	Overnight
<p><b>DAY 1</b> <b>Mon, Jul 2</b></p> <p><b>Meals on plane. Then lunch and dinner in Victoria.</b></p>	<p><b>Tour leader: Lloyd O'Connell 0428 724 615</b></p> <p>PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THIS TOUR (ON FANTASTIC VANCOUVER ISLAND) ARE OPTIONAL. AROUND HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 2017 KROPPING THE KLONDIKE TOURS OPTED TO SPEND TIME ON VANCOUVER ISLAND. IT WAS SUCH A HIT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO INCLUDE IT AS AN OPTION IN THE FULL ITINERARY.</p> <p>THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDING VANCOUVER ISLAND IS \$17,950 PER PERSON.</p> <p>Flights depart various Australian capitals for same day (thanks to crossing the International Dateline) arrival into Vancouver. We clear customs and connect to our direct and short flight to the nearby and spectacular Vancouver Island – home of the very quaint capital of British Columbia, Victoria.</p> <p>After checking-in to our downtown/portside Victoria hotel, and a chance to freshen up, we stave off jet lag by enjoying a leisurely, privately guided tour of Victoria and the nearby area.</p> <p>We enjoy dinner in Victoria this evening.</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b></p> <p><b>Victoria, Vancouver Is</b></p> <p><b>Royal Scott</b></p> <p><a href="#">Website</a></p> 
<p><b>DAY 2</b> <b>Tue, Jul 3</b></p> <p><b>B,L</b></p>	<p>At around 500 km long and 100 km wide, Vancouver Island offers a wide and fantastic range of sights and activities including the world renowned Butchart Gardens. The island is also home to a thriving agricultural industry which benefits from a maritime climate of warm, dry summers, mild and wet winters and a long frost-free season.</p> <p>There is a wide range of farming including field crops, berries, tree fruits, dairy products, pigs, sheep, poultry, floriculture and ornamental crops.</p> <p>We visit the the Butchart Gardens today as well as some farms and other spectacular locations on the island before a free evening in Victoria.</p>	<p><b>Victoria, Vancouver Is</b></p> <p><b>Royal Scott</b></p> 
<p><b>DAY 3</b> <b>Wed, Jul 4</b></p> <p><b>B,L,D</b></p>	<p>A leisurely morning to take in the sights of this beautiful and unique portside capital at your own pace. We then board our chartered float plane for a spectacular flight and water-landing arrival into downtown Vancouver. We check-in to our nearby hotel before enjoying a guided city tour to help get our bearings.</p> <p>Those group members opting to arrive on July 4, are met at Vancouver airport this morning and are transferred to our hotel. They will join the rest of the group this afternoon for the city tour.</p> <p>Dinner tonight in one of Vancouver's best restaurants – The Kirin.</p>	<p><b>Vancouver</b></p> <p><b>Georgian Court Hotel</b></p> <p><a href="#">Website</a></p>
<p><b>DAY 4</b> <b>Thu, Jul 5</b></p> <p><b>B,L</b></p>	<p>More Vancouver activities before a late morning visit to the Viterra grain handling facility at Cascade Terminal. We meet with the Viterra staff and discuss the Canadian grain scene as well as grain handling/storage logistics in a country faced with vast haulage distances. We continue eastwards into the lower reaches of the Fraser River Valley and visit farms in the area before returning to Vancouver and a free evening.</p>	<p><b>Vancouver</b></p> <p><b>Georgian Court Hotel</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 5</b> <b>Fri, Jul 6</b></p> <p><b>B,L</b></p>	<p>This morning we board The Rocky Mountaineer eastbound for Kamloops. We will see dramatic changes in scenery today, from the lush green fields and farmlands of the Fraser Valley, through forests and winding river canyons surrounded by the peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains, to the desert-like environment of the British Colombia interior. Highlights include the rushing waters of Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon and the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River.</p> <p>We overnight in the historic town of Kamloops where the North and South Thompson rivers meet.</p>	<p><b>Kamloops</b></p> <p><b>Hotel arranged by Rocky Mountaineer</b></p> 

Date	Activity	Overnight
<b>DAY 6</b> <b>Sat, Jul 7</b> <b>B,L</b>	<p>This morning we board our train to continue our journey eastward bound for Canada's stunning Rocky Mountains. Once again we will see a spectacular array of scenery as we travel across ranchlands, along rocky lakeshores, over high mountain passes into Alberta Province and through the remarkable tunnels that form part of the rich rail history of the Canadian Rockies.</p> <p>Today's highlights include Craigellachie, where the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven, the climb over Rogers Pass, Kicking Horse Canyon, the Spiral Tunnels and, of course, the glaciers and snow-capped peaks of the Canadian Rockies. Our rail journey ends this evening in Banff.</p> <p>We are met at the train station and transferred to our hotel.</p>	<b>Banff</b> <b>The Banff Centre Hotel</b> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>DAY 7</b> <b>Sun, Jul 8</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>This morning we visit the nearby and majestic Moraine Lake and afterwards, the equally majestic Lake Louise to drink in its incomparable beauty. We also enjoy a very special high tea in the luxurious Fairview room of the Fairmont Chateau. There's time for a paddle on Lake Louise, or whatever else floats your boat, before returning to Banff for some free time.</p> <p>An option this afternoon is an unforgettable 30 minutes chopper flight over the Mt Assiniboine Glacier region. The flights depart from Canmore, around 15 minutes east of Banff. Dubbed the 'Matterhorn of the Canadian Rockies' Mt Assiniboine rises majestically to 3611 metres along the Great Divide. The surrounding valleys, glaciers and icefalls are astounding.</p> <p>This evening we take a spectacular gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain, overlooking Banff, where we will enjoy dinner.</p>	<b>Banff</b> <b>The Banff Centre Hotel</b> 
<b>DAY 8</b> <b>Mon, Jul 9</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>Today we board our charter coach and travel north. We are travelling the Icefields Parkway – one of the most spectacular drives in the world. This is a wilderness habitat for elk, big horn sheep, moose, mountain goats and bear. Waterfalls, emerald lakes, alpine meadows and snow-capped peaks complete the scene as we wind along the shoulder of the Continental Divide. The Columbia Icefield covers nearly 325 square km. Melt water from the icefield feeds rivers emptying into three different oceans: North to the Arctic; East to the Atlantic; and, West to the Pacific.</p> <p>We visit the Colombia Icefield Discovery Centre and travel by specially adapted vehicles onto the glacier.</p> <p>We continue onto Rocky Mountain House – nestled on the eastern foothills of the Rockies and the edge of the Great Plains – for overnight.</p>	<b>Rocky Mountain House</b> <b>Best Western Rocky Mountain House</b> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>DAY 9</b> <b>Tue, Jul 10</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>With our Canadian farm specialist on board we set out from Rocky Mountain House this morning to meet with farmers and ranchers typical of the region. Over the next few days we will visit highly successful farming operations. We will also visit a Hutterite colony where very traditional lifestyles belie the sophistication of their large scale farming operations.</p> <p>Our general route takes us from Rocky Mountain House, through to Red Deer and onto Drumheller.</p> <p>Nearing Drumheller, we enter an area of amazing landscapes dubbed the "badlands". We will discover that this moniker does an injustice to the very good farms, and farmers, in the area.</p> <p>The unique soils and geology around Drumheller also create a unique window into the world of fossils, particularly dinosaurs. We visit The Royal Tyrrell Museum – a world-famous centre of palaeontological research – located on the outskirts of town. We also enjoy a BBQ tonight at a unique country pub – the Last Chance Saloon – located a short distance out of Drumheller.</p>	<b>Drumheller</b> <b>Quality Hotel Drumheller</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 
<b>DAY 10</b> <b>Wed, Jul 11</b> <b>B</b>	<p>Some more farm visits this morning as we head towards Calgary – and it's Stampede time! Our hotel is in downtown Calgary. You can head out to the nearby Stampede Park (about a 5 minute light rail ride or a 20 min walk) to visit the many farming, livestock and handicraft exhibits or take in some of the live music on offer. This evening we have tickets for the spectacular chuck-wagon races and variety show.</p>	<b>Calgary</b> <b>Calgary Marriott Downtown</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 

Date	Activity	Overnight
<b>DAY 11</b> <b>Thu, Jul 12</b> <b>B</b>	<p>It's free time in Calgary this morning – or out at Stampede Park. We have grandstand seats booked for this afternoon's rodeo events contested by the best cowboys and cowgirls in the world – and for the biggest rodeo prize money in the world. Then it's a free evening.</p>	<b>Calgary</b> <b>Calgary Marriott Downtown</b>
<b>DAY 12</b> <b>Fri, Jul 13</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>Time to saddle up and head south this morning into even more magnificent farming and grazing country. We visit a farm and feedlot in the area as well as call into a unique exhibit – one of the world's oldest, largest and best preserved buffalo jumps. The World Heritage listed (and quaintly named) Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump bears witness to a method of hunting practiced by native people of the North American plains for nearly 6000 years.</p> <p>This archaeological site preserves the remarkable history of the Plains People. Because of their excellent understanding of the regional topography and bison behaviour, the native people were able to hunt bison by stampeding them over a cliff. Overnight Pincher Creek.</p>	<b>Pincher Creek</b> <b>Ramada</b> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Day 13</b> <b>Sat, Jul 14</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>This morning we cross into the US and Montana's Glacier National Park. The Park features pristine forests, alpine meadows, rugged mountains and spectacular lakes. Evidence of human use in this area dates back to over 10,000 years. The Blackfoot Indians controlled the vast prairies east of the mountains, while the Salish and Kootenai Indians lived in the western valleys, travelling over the mountains in search of game and to hunt the great herds of buffalo on the eastern plains.</p> <p>The first European explorers came into this region in search of beaver and other pelts. They were soon followed by miners and, eventually, settlers and homesteaders looking for land. By 1891, the completion of the Great Northern Railway sealed the area's fate, allowing a greater number of people to enter into the heart of northwest Montana. In 1910, US President Taft signed the bill establishing Glacier as the country's 10th national park. Over 1 million acres of this beautiful region is now preserved. Our visit to Glacier will include travel along the Going-To-The-Sun Road – as the name suggests, it is about the most spectacular 80 km of road imaginable.</p>	<b>UNITED STATES</b> <b>Glacier National Park</b> <b>Grouse Mountain Lodge</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 
<b>Day 14</b> <b>Sun, Jul 15</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>Continue to the southwest today, crossing the Continental Divide (again) and into Idaho. Rich farmlands open up as we enter the region called the Palouse prairie – or simply the Palouse – noteworthy for its fertile rolling hills where winter and spring wheat, barley, lentils, and peas are grown.</p> <p>Overnight in the agricultural/university town of Pullman. We enjoy dinner tonight at the South Fork Public House – a locally owned and operated business with enduring connections to the Palouse region.</p>	<b>Pullman</b> <b>The Hilltop Hotel</b> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Day 15</b> <b>Mon, Jul 16</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>Along with our local farm specialist/advisor Frank Young, we board our charter coach early this morning and travel west into the spectacular scenery and farmlands of the Pacific North West (PNW – Oregon, Washington and a part of western Idaho). Nearly a quarter of the land area in this region is grain, hay, fruit and dairy farming.</p> <p>The PNW is flourishing due to access to water, strong demand for agricultural land and a favourable farming environment. The Columbia Basin Irrigated region in central Washington is widely considered one of the best places to farm in the entire US. The Columbia River is the largest US river emptying into the Pacific.</p> <p>We visit farms in the Columbia River valley as we travel west. Late afternoon arrival into the beautiful seaport city of Seattle, one of the most liveable cities in the US.</p>	<b>Seattle</b> <b>The Maxwell</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 
<b>Day 16</b> <b>Tue, Jul 17</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>This morning we visit the nearby and world-famous Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit/museum. We then board the Seattle monorail – which opened in 1962 as part of the Seattle World Fair – and travel downtown to Pike Place Market for brunch. Our cafe overlooks the historic Elliott Bay waterfront. The Pike Place Market opened in 1907 and is one of the oldest continuously operated public farmers' markets in the US.</p> <p>We then board our bus for a guided city tour before continuing north to Everett and the famous Boeing factory tour and Future of Flight Aviation Center. Here we will enter the world's largest (by volume) building to see where the 747, 777 and 787 Dreamliner aircraft are built.</p> <p>On return to Seattle, the evening is yours to relax or do your own sightseeing.</p>	<b>Seattle</b> <b>The Maxwell</b> 

Date	Activity	Overnight
<p><b>Day 17</b> <b>Wed, Jul 18</b> Breakfast is by your own arrangement at the airport then Lunch is included on board our cruise.</p>	<p>This morning we transfer to the airport for our 2 hr 20 min flight north to Juneau, the gateway to the famed Alaskan Inside Passage. On arrival we are transferred to the nearby marina where we board our 65 foot catamaran and cruise north to enjoy some of the incredible sights of the spectacular Lynn Canal waterway – including a good chance of up close encounters with whales, seals, bears and other wildlife. Our destination is at the head of the Lynn Canal and the town of Skagway. Historically, Skagway was the stepping-off point for thousands of prospectors during the late 1890s who were seeking their fortunes in the Klondike. The nearby Chilkoot Pass was an important milestone which the very hardy – and invariably ill-equipped – prospectors had to conquer in order to reach the Klondike. Free evening in Skagway.</p>	<p><b>Skagway</b></p> 
<p><b>Day 18</b> <b>Thu, Jul 19</b> B,L,D</p>	<p>Along with our local guide, we board our coach this morning and not far north of Skagway, we cross into Canada (again) and the vast Yukon Territory. Around two hours to the north, along the Klondike Hwy, is Whitehorse. Straddling the Yukon River, Whitehorse is the capital and largest city (28,000 pop'n) of Yukon Territory. Successful farming in this region takes passion and hard work to produce high quality products. Cooperative equipment, new farming techniques and funding have helped improve the viability of farms. The Yukon has a sub-arctic continental climate, with temperatures reaching as high as 30°C in the summer and as low as -50°C in the winter. The average frost-free period ranges from 93 to 21 days which varies substantially from year to year at any location. Long hours of daylight during the summer promote rapid growth and compensate, to some extent, for the cooler summer temperatures. Adequate heat units are the largest environmental/agricultural constraint. Rainfall ranges from about 200 mm to more than 400 mm. On arrival at Whitehorse we visit the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Center – a great introduction to the region. We also get to meet some canine friends with a visit to a working sled dog team. We learn how the team operates and how the dogs are worked. Overnight Whitehorse.</p>	<p><b>CANADA (Yukon)</b> <b>Whitehorse</b> <b>Best Western Gold Rush</b> <a href="#">Website</a></p>  
<p><b>Day 19</b> <b>Fri, Jul 20</b> B,L,D</p>	<p>We board our coach this morning to continue north along the Klondike Hwy towards Dawson City. Not far out of Whitehorse we visit some very intrepid grain and hay growers supplying produce for the local livestock and horse farms. The Klondike Hwy loosely follows the original winter overland route to the Klondike goldfields, centred around Dawson City, and was first used in 1902. This scenic drive offers views of the Tintina Trench (geological fault) which extends from the Northern Rocky Mountain Trench in British Columbia, Five Finger Rapids and many spectacular lakes. Keep an eye out for moose, black bear, elk, caribou, fox and other wildlife. Late afternoon arrival into Dawson City, our home for the next two nights.</p>	<p><b>Dawson City</b> <b>Eldorado Hotel</b> <a href="#">Website</a></p> 
<p><b>Day 20</b> <b>Sat, Jul 21</b> B</p>	<p>Dawson City was the centre of the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1896 it was a quiet First Nations camp – two years later it was a thriving city of 40,000 people. By 1899, the gold rush had ended and the town's population plummeted. The population dropped again after World War II when the Alaska Hwy bypassed it 480 km to the south. The current official population is around 1400 but it is a well-serviced community with modern facilities. The history of the town is well preserved with its original architecture and 'olde world' businesses, including Diamond Toothed Gerties Gambling Hall! Today we visit some of the local attractions including a chance to try your luck at panning for gold. Then it's a free afternoon and evening.</p>	<p><b>Dawson City</b> <b>Eldorado Hotel</b></p>
<p><b>Day 21</b> <b>Sun, Jul 22</b> B,L,D</p>	<p>The Yukon has a grandeur and beauty only appreciated by experience. Few places on the planet have been so unchanged over the course of time. This morning we cross the Yukon River (by ferry) and travel the famous 'Top of the World Highway' where we again cross into Alaska. We travel through magnificent valleys and open taiga forests and join the historic Taylor Hwy. This is a route through gold mining history. Prospectors searched for gold in this region well before the Klondike stampede. Communities such as Jack Wade, Chicken (originally named after Alaska's state bird, the Ptarmigan, but early residents couldn't spell it!), Franklin, and Steele Creek established almost overnight. Miners quickly wore a series of trails which later became wagon roads that, in turn, became parts of the Taylor Hwy. We pick up the route of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as we continue on to Delta Junction.</p>	<p><b>UNITED STATES (Alaska)</b> <b>Delta Junction</b></p> 

Date	Activity	Overnight
<b>Day 22</b> <b>Mon, Jul 23</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>While in the Delta Junction area we will visit Wrigley Farms, a 1700 acre operation with the only commercial wheat and barley flour mill in Alaska. We also visit Delta Meat and Sausage – a family owned processing and farming business priding themselves on using only Alaskan grown produce.</p> <p>We then continue south, along the Richardson Highway, to the Wasila/Palmer region - the salad and vegetable bowl of Alaska. This is a place where world record monster size vegetables grow in the 24-hour daylight and grass and grain crops grow through to harvest in less than 100 days.</p> <p>Time permitting, we also visit a musk ox operation where we are introduced to these unique paleolithic ruminants.</p>	<b>Wasilla</b> <b>Grandview Inn &amp; Suites</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 
<b>Day 23</b> <b>Tue, Jul 24</b> <b>B,L,D</b>	<p>This morning we continue south – with our route meandering from sea to mountains along the Kenai Peninsula – ending in the harbour town of Homer. Located in the shadows of the Kenai Mountains and on the shores of Kachemak Bay near the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, Homer has a population of around 4000 and was originally settled in the early 1800s by homesteaders and coal miners.</p> <p>Today commercial fishing and tourism is the main focus while the large artisan community have many galleries and shops featuring local works.</p>	<b>Homer</b> <b>Best Western Bidarka Inn</b> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Day 24</b> <b>Wed, Jul 25</b> <b>B,D</b>	<p>Homer is often described as a nature lover's nirvana where common sights can include moose grazing, a black bear crossing the road or porpoises playing in the surf. It is also one of Alaska's premier starting points for bear viewing and flight-seeing. Today is full of many optional and/or included activities in and around Homer. We have an evening flight (but still daylight remember) from Homer north to Anchorage for overnight.</p>	<b>Anchorage</b> <b>Sheraton</b> <a href="#">Website</a> 
<b>Day 25</b> <b>Thu, Jul 26</b> <b>B,D</b>	<p>With a population of over 300,000, Anchorage is home to around 40% of all Alaskans. We have a guided tour of the city this morning before some free time for last minute shopping or your own exploration of town.</p> <p>We enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.</p>	<b>Anchorage</b> <b>Sheraton</b>
<b>Day 26</b> <b>Fri, Jul 27</b> <b>B</b>	<p>Transfer to airport for homeward flights today – arriving Australia Sunday, July 29. Or you might want to continue your adventures with some independent travel plans. Alaskan wilderness lodges, flightseeing etc are all very accessible from Anchorage. Regular direct and connecting flights to anywhere in the 'Lower 48' of the US are also available.</p> <p>We will make sure your international air tickets mesh in well with any before or after the main tour travel plans you might have.</p>	
<b>PLEASE NOTE: Day to day activities subject to minor changes.</b>		

**TOUR COST: \$16,950 pp twin share. Add \$1000 per person to include Victoria Island at the start. Single supplement (room to yourself) – add \$2200**

### TOUR INCLUSIONS...

- All international and internal flights (economy class) including taxes and airport charges that can be included on the pre-purchased air ticket. International flights are based on departure from any east coast of Australia capital. Tour costs for Perth departures can vary slightly up or down depending on destination. We can also offer a range of premium economy and business class flight options. If you book your own international flights using FF points or other arrangements, the economy class flight cost built into the Farm Study Tour is deducted from the final tour price;
- First class, centrally located city accommodation (best available in regional areas) with full buffet breakfast;
- Farm and other technical visits;
- Most lunch and evening meals are included and are of the highest standard. Meals are designed to showcase the best of the regional food and wines. Some evenings will be left free to sample some of the great local restaurants at your leisure;
- Local, as well as our own, experienced *Greenmount Travel* guides/translators accompany the group to ensure any problems that may arise are quickly fixed;
- Private first class charter coach and experienced drivers; and,
- Park and site entries, transfers, etc mentioned on the itineraries.

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