



Canada-US Farm Study Tour 2012

DRAFT ITINERARY*

Date	Activity	Overnight
<p>DAY 1 Option 1: Depart am Mon, Jul 2 arrives New York 10.35pm Jul 2</p> <p>Option 2: Depart am Tue, Jul 3 arrives New York 11.00pm Jul 3</p> <p>(meals on plane)</p>	<p>*Essentially you have two departure dates and time options.</p> <p>By far the preferred option is flying to the US with Air New Zealand departing the morning of July 2 (Option 1) which gives you an extra night (July 2) and full day on the 3rd in New York plus very good flight connections on the homeward journey. There is no additional charge for this extra hotel night in New York. But if you can't do a July 2 departure from Australia, leaving the morning of July 3 (Option 2) gets you to New York just before midnight on the 3rd.</p> <p>Option 1: Air NZ departs Sydney (11.30am), Melbourne (11.45am) or Brisbane (12.25pm) on July 2 and arrives New York 10.35pm on July 2 (via Auckland and San Francisco brief stopovers). Adelaide passengers would need to connect in Melbourne. Perth passengers fly to either Sydney or Melbourne the night before to connect with above flights or alternatively, take the direct overnight Perth to Auckland flight on July 1 (departs Perth 7.20pm) and have the day in Auckland before boarding the US bound flight on July 2.</p> <p>Option 2: Air NZ departs Sydney (11.30am), Melbourne (11.45am) or Brisbane (6.45am) on July 3 and arrives New York 11.00pm on July 3.</p> <p>Our tour kicks off in the eastern US and there's no more exciting city to begin our adventure than New York. Our hotel is perfectly located on Manhattan Island and easy walking distance to major attractions such as Central Park, Times Square and Broadway. Free time to rest up today or check out some of the nearby sights and shopping before a welcome dinner tonight.</p>	<p>New York</p> <p>The Michelangelo 152 West 51st Street New York, NY 10019 Ph: 0011 1 212 765 1900 www.michelangelohotel.com</p>
<p>DAY 2 Wed, Jul 4 (B,L)</p>	<p>It's Independence Day in New York, a public holiday and the biggest day of celebration in the US. This morning we enjoy a guided tour of the major 'Big Apple' attractions including Central and Battery Parks and the Statue of Liberty, to get our bearings. Later in the afternoon you can do your own exploration of the city before it's time to enjoy some of the Independence Day celebrations and the famous New York nightlife. There's also an option this afternoon to take in a Broadway show.</p>	<p>New York</p> <p>The Michelangelo</p>
<p>DAY 3 Thurs, Jul 5 (B,L,D)</p>	<p>Early morning departure from New York on our deluxe coach through Connecticut, Rhode Island and on to Cape Cod. Agriculture in the region is largely based on providing horticultural products to the huge northeastern US population. Cranberry production is one of the oldest industries in the region and we will visit a farm to find out more about the growing and marketing of this fruit. We continue east to Massachusetts and the Cape Cod region before turning north and onto historic Boston.</p>	<p>Boston</p> <p>The Langham 250 Franklin Street Boston, MA 02110 Ph: 0011 1 617 422 5162 www.boston.langhamhotels.com</p>
<p>DAY 4 Fri, Jul 6 (B,L)</p>	<p>With its rich 400-year history, grand architecture and world-renowned academic and cultural institutions, Boston retains its reputation as the must-see city to visit in the US. But it was the Puritans who realised this first when, in 1630 they set out in search of religious freedom and founded Boston as their 'shining city on a hill'. In the following century, the Sons of Freedom were born in Boston, where they caroused and rabble-roused until the colonies found themselves in the midst of a War for Independence. A hundred years later, it was Boston's poets and philosophers who were leading a cultural revolution. Over the years, Boston's famous colleges and universities have attracted scholars, scientists, philosophers and writers from around the world. This morning we have a brief guided tour of downtown Boston – affectionately known as America's 'walking city'. Major sights include the Bunker Hill Monument, Paul Revere House and the Boston Common. With free time this afternoon, you can stroll the city's sidewalks, wander its many green parks, or hit the shops. There's also an option to visit Harvard, America's oldest college and the original Ivy League school. Free evening in Boston.</p>	<p>Boston</p> <p>The Langham</p>

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DAY 5 Sat, Jul 7 (B,L,D)	<p>This morning we board our private coach and continue north (briefly into the state of New Hampshire) and onto the coastal city of Portland, Maine. Portland is small and laid-back, with a lively waterfront and impressive late 19th century architecture. From Portland we travel north along the Old Canada Road Rd (Route 201) – also known as the ‘Arnold Trail’ as it traces Benedict Arnold’s route into Quebec during the American Revolution. In northern Maine the road winds alongside the Kennebec River, Wyman Lake and the Dead River where we encounter old-time villages, moose and other wildlife in mountain ridges, forests, and rivers. A visit this afternoon to Backyard Farms – a 24 acre, state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse in Madison providing the US New England region with fresh, locally grown tomatoes year-round – and likely encounters with moose and other wildlife along the way, makes for some great touring through the magnificent Appalachian Mountains. Tonight we enjoy dinner – and a chance to try the famous Maine lobster – plus live music at The Forks. This is quaint village at the junction of the Dead and Kennebec Rivers, an area best known as Maine’s Mecca for whitewater rafting. Overnight at The Forks.</p>	The Forks, Maine Inn By The River 2777 US Route 201 The Forks, Maine 04985 Ph: 0011 1 207 663 2181 www.innbytheriver.com
DAY 6 Sun, Jul 8 (B,L)	<p>This morning we cross the border into Canada and continue north onto Quebec City, the most historic and cosmopolitan of Canadian cities and the crown jewel of French Canada. Perched atop a cliff that swoops down to the St Lawrence River, Quebec City is the only walled city on the North American continent north of Mexico. These fortifications now protect an entire old town that’s become a living museum. Narrow cobbled streets are lined with 17th- and 18th-century houses with numerous sites marking the battles between the French and British Empires for this symbolic piece of land. We check-in to our hotel right in the middle of the old town before a guided city tour this afternoon. Free evening.</p>	Quebec City Hotel Manoir Victoria 44 Côte du Palais Old-Québec, G1R 4H8 Ph: 0011 1 418 692 1030 www.manoir-victoria.com
DAY 7 Mon, Jul 9 (B,L,D)	<p>This morning we travel southwest along the mighty St Lawrence River valley, with a farm visit along the way, to Montreal. Consistently rated as one of the world’s most livable cities, Montreal is Canada’s second biggest city and an important centre of commerce, aerospace, finance, pharmaceuticals, technology, design, culture, tourism, film and world affairs. Lured by Montreal’s mix of Gallic tradition and North American innovation and optimism, people from hundreds of nations make up the city’s diverse population. French is the official language of the city. We enjoy a guided city tour this afternoon before checking into our downtown hotel.</p>	Montreal Sofitel Montreal Golden Mile 1155 Sherbrooke West H3A 2N3 Montreal Ph: 0011 1 514 285 9000 www.sofitel.com
DAY 8 Tues, Jul 10 (B,L,D)	<p>Free time this morning before our midday flight to Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario. Toronto is the gateway to Niagara Falls. We will go direct to the Falls and ride the famous ‘Maid of the Mist’ – a powerful diesel-engined boat which takes us to the base of the American Falls, then into the basin of the magnificent Canadian Horseshoe Falls. Some free time to explore Niagara Falls and the township before returning to Mississauga (a suburb of Toronto) for overnight.</p> <p>Flight WS 601: Departs Montreal at 12.00 noon arrives Toronto 1.15 pm</p>	Toronto Delta Meadowvale Resort 6750 Mississauga Road L5N 2L3 Mississauga Ph: 0011 1 905 821 1981 www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/ontario/delta-meadowvale
DAY 9 Wed, Jul 11 (B,L,D)	<p>Full day of farm and technical visits around this highly productive grain growing region where winter wheat harvest should be underway. We will also visit the Canadian headquarters of Alltech, just south of Guelph. Alltech is one of the world’s leading animal-feed supplement manufacturers and has a very extensive R&D department. The company is currently exploring various means of introducing biotechnology into feed manufacturing, with a particular emphasis on algae as a protein source. We continue south to nearby Hamilton airport for our flight to Winnipeg.</p> <p>Flight WS 247: Departs Hamilton at 6.35 pm, arrives Winnipeg 8.04 pm</p>	Winnipeg Inn at the Forks 75 Forks Market Road Winnipeg R3C 0A2 Ph: 0011 1 204 942 6555 www.innforks.com
DAY 10 Thurs, Jul 12 (B,L)	<p>Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba and home to more than half of the state’s population. The city is located near the longitudinal centre of North America and at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers – a point commonly known as ‘The Forks’. This morning we visit ICE Futures Canada (formerly known as the Winnipeg Commodities Exchange) – a key player in global agricultural commodity trading. Established in 1887, ICE has been facilitating agricultural futures contracts trading since 1904 and was the first fully-electronic exchange in North America. Mirroring what has happened in Australia with the AWB, the Canadian government signed into law in 2011 a bill to dismantle the Canadian Wheat Board’s monopoly over the marketing of Canadian wheat. As a result, wheat, as well as canola and barley futures, are now traded at ICE. We will be meeting with ICE personnel at the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI), in downtown Winnipeg. After discussing the global and Canadian grain marketing scene, we will tour the CIGI’s research facilities for baking and brewing. Then, after lunch, we enjoy a brief city tour to get our bearings before free time this afternoon and evening.</p>	Winnipeg Inn at the Forks

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DAY 11 Fri, Jul 13 (B,L,D)	Full day touring grain farming operations in Manitoba Province around Winnipeg. Return to Winnipeg for dinner and overnight.	Winnipeg Inn at the Forks
Day 12 Sat, Jul 14 (B,L)	This morning we fly to Calgary and one of the highlights of the tour – the 100th anniversary of one of the biggest agricultural shows in Canada and the biggest rodeo in the world – the Calgary Stampede. We settle in to our hotel then it's a leisurely stroll to Stampede Park to visit some of the farming exhibits. We also meet with Emily Kay from Alltech Canada, who will introduce us to the International Room where we can enjoy some western hospitality and learn about Alberta's diverse agricultural economy. We have some of the best seats in the house this evening to take in the exhilarating action of the final of the chuckwagon races as well as the breathtaking night show. Return to our hotel after the show. Flight WS 659: Departs Winnipeg at 11.00 am, arrives Calgary 12.05 pm .	Calgary Delta Bow Valley 209 4th Avenue SE Calgary T2G 0C6 Ph: 0011 1 403 205 5410 www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/alberta/delta-bow-valley/
Day 13 Sun, Jul 15 (B)	Morning free to explore Calgary then it's back to Stampede Park to take in more of the attractions before taking our grandstand seats for the afternoon final of the Stampede rodeo.	Calgary Delta Bow Valley
Day 14 Mon, Jul 16 (B,L,D)	This morning we travel northeast out of Calgary and into a region ominously termed the Canadian Badlands. But these rich rolling farmlands support a vast and bouyant agricultural industry. Here we meet with farmers in the area including a Hutterite community. The Hutterites are a communal branch of Anabaptists who, like the Amish and Mennonites, trace their roots to the Radical Reformation of the 16th century. Their beliefs centre on living in a tightknit community and in absolute pacifism. Nearly extinct by the 19th century, the Hutterites found a new home in North America. In the past 125 years their population has grown from 400 to around 42,000 members. Today, the Hutterites are some of western Canada's most progressive farmers. We continue onto Drumheller, the major service centre for agriculture in the region and home to the world-famous Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. The township is located along a twisting, turning canyon, walled with multi-colored layers of sandstone, mudstone and coal alternating with shale sequences. The rock layers date back to the Late Cretaceous Period, just before the demise of the dinosaurs. It is one of the few areas in the world where a rich cache of fossils and even complete dinosaur skeletons are exposed by natural erosion. We visit the museum late this afternoon before checking into our hotel and dinner.	Drumheller Newcastle Country Inn 1130 Newcastle Trail Drumheller, Alberta, T0J 0Y2 Ph: 0011 1 403 823 8356 www.newcastlecountryinn.net
Day 15 Tues, Jul 17 (B,L,D)	This morning we set off to the northwest for a busy day of farm visits on the way to Red Deer – Alberta's third-most-populous city (after Calgary and Edmonton). This is also a region of rolling hills where grain, cattle and oil production are the economic drivers. It is also a major centre for petrochemical production.	Red Deer Hampton Inn & Suites 130, 37400 Hwy 2, Red Deer Ph: 0011 1 403 346 6688 www.hamptonbyhilton.com
Day 16 Wed, Jul 18 (B,L,D)	An early start this morning as we travel south to visit a farm on our way to Canmore in the foothills of the majestic Rocky Mountains. We have lunch at Canmore. We also have the option to take a 40 minute helicopter flight over the Mt Assinboine Glacier. This sensational flight takes you to 'The Matterhorn of the Canadian Rockies', which rises majestically to 3,611 metres (11,870 feet) along the Great Divide. The surrounding glaciers and icefalls are a photographer's dream come true. Then it's on to beautiful Banff to check into our hotel. Some free time this afternoon to rest up or explore the nearby shops before taking a spectacular gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain (overlooking Banff) to make sure we fully appreciate the majesty of this region. We enjoy dinner at Panorama Restaurant at the summit of Sulphur Mountain before returning to our hotel via gondola and bus.	Banff Banff International Hotel 333 Banff Avenue, Banff, Alberta T1L 1B1 Ph: 0011 1 403 760 3280 www.banffinternational.com
Day 17 Thurs, Jul 19 (B,L,D)	Today is full of unforgettable vistas as we tour some of the great sights of the Rockies. Our coach travels north along the Icefields Parkway – one of the most spectacular drives in the world. Waterfalls, emerald lakes, alpine meadows and snow-capped peaks complete the scene as we wind along the shoulder of the Great Divide. Just some of the sights include the incomparable beauty of Lake Louise and Moraine Lake, Bow Lake, Peyto and Crowfoot Glaciers, Mistaya Canyon and the Weeping Wall. This is a wilderness habitat for elk, big horn sheep, moose, mountain goats and bear. We arrive at the Columbia Icefield covering nearly 325 square km. Snowfalls continuously feed eight major glaciers including the Athabasca, Dome and Stutfield. 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. We have a guided tour of the icefield and glaciers in purpose-built buggies. We then continue north for 50 km to our accommodation – a lodge nestled in the awe-inspiring Catacomb Mountains in the heart of Jasper National Park. Dinner at the Lodge.	Jasper Sunwapta Falls Lodge Icefields Parkway, Hwy 93 Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0 Ph: 0011 1780 852 4852 www.sunwapta.com

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Day 18 Fri, Jul 20 (B,L,D)	<p>This morning we have a leisurely start to the day to arrive in Jasper in time to board the Skeena Train for one of the most spectacular train journeys in the world. We travel in glass-domed luxury through magnificent mountain scenery. The Skeena travels 1160 km between the Rockies and the north Pacific coast through remarkable and varied landscapes. Great stretches of wilderness, lakes and rivers punctuated by settlements, farms and sawmills span this section of Canada's northern transcontinental rail line, completed in 1914. The ancient traditions of the native peoples, the not-too-distant pioneer days of sternwheelers, steam trains and panning for gold and modern history have all left their mark alongside the tracks. Important industries along our route include forestry, agriculture, mining, tourism and commercial fishing. Keep your eyes open for wildlife such as bear, moose, elk, deer, wolves, coyotes, eagles, hawks, and seals.</p> <p>The train stops in Prince George for overnight.</p> <p>Train departs Jasper at 12.45 pm, arrives Prince George 7.08 pm</p>	Prince George Ramada Prince George 444 George St Prince George, BC V2L 1R6 CA Ph: 0011 1 250 563 0055 www.ramadaprincegeorge.com
Day 19 Sat, Jul 21 (B,L,D)	<p>Early start to continue our train journey west through to Prince Rupert and the fertile farming valleys of the Skeena River. Vibrant farming communities etch out a living in these extreme conditions. Our journey ends at Prince Rupert on the Pacific coast. We disembark the Skeena and transfer to our hotel overlooking the harbour. With the deepest harbour in North America, year-round ice-free access and being the closest North American port to Asia, the Port of Prince Rupert is a hive of activity and one of the most important freight links with Asia. With capacity to ship in excess of seven million tonnes of bulk grain a year, the Port's modern terminal has the highest throughput of any grain-cleaning elevator in Canada. Its eight shipping bins and three tower-mounted loading spouts can load up to 4000 tonnes of wheat or barley an hour. Using state-of-the-art technology, wheat and barley can be cleaned to export standard as fast as it is unloaded from rail cars. Dinner tonight in Prince Rupert.</p> <p>Train departs Prince George at 8.00 am, arrives Prince Rupert 8.25 pm</p>	Prince Rupert Inn on the Harbour 720 - 1st Ave. West, Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3V6 Ph: 0011 1 250 624 9107 www.innontheharbour.com
Day 20 Sun, Jul 22 (B,L)	<p>Full day tour to the Khutzeymateen Valley of the grizzly bears. Visit native villages and view grizzlies in this protected area as well as sea lions, humpback whales and a variety of other wildlife. Return to Prince Rupert for a free evening and overnight.</p>	Prince Rupert Inn on the Harbour
Day 21 Mon, Jul 23 (B,L,D)	<p>Early morning visit to the Prince Rupert Port Grain terminal before we fly to Vancouver. We are transferred to our hotel for check-in and lunch. We then enjoy a guided tour of Vancouver, a city of many characters and a city that is unique in the world. At any one time, Vancouver can be majestic and intimate or sophisticated and completely laid-back. It is a bustling, prosperous city that has managed to combine its contemporary, urban character with the splendour of the surrounding landscape. Farewell dinner this evening in downtown Vancouver.</p> <p>Flight AC 8279: Departs Prince Rupert at 10.25 am, arrives Vancouver 12.17 pm</p>	Vancouver The Sutton Place Hotel 845 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2K6 Ph: 0011 1 604 642 2740 www.suttonplace.com
Day 22 Tues, Jul 24 (B)	<p>Some free time today in Vancouver to do some of your own sightseeing and last minute shopping before a 2 pm transfer to the airport.</p> <p>For those wanting to visit historic and nearby Victoria Island, there are half-day tours available utilising floatplanes to and from the Island. You can even arrange to be dropped off at Vancouver Airport (by floatplane) this afternoon to connect with your flight home.</p> <p>For those staying on, there are Alaskan cruise departures on July 25 and any number of other options in Canada or the US. Please call us to discuss your plans.</p> <p>Flight NZ4769 departs Vancouver 5.00 pm, arriving Auckland (via San Francisco) at 5.40 am, July 26 (crossing the dateline).</p> <p>There are then direct flight connections from Auckland to your home capital to arrive the morning of July 26 (For Perth passengers, you arrive home at 6.10 pm the afternoon of the 26th)</p>	On plane