



Canada-US Farm Study Tour 2014

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1 Sun, Jul 6 (meals on plane)	<p>Please refer to your individual flight itineraries for international flight details.</p> <p>Depart Australia the morning of July 6; Arrive Vancouver July 6.</p> <p>Transfer to our hotel for a well-earned rest and free evening.</p>	Vancouver
DAY 2 Mon, Jul 7 (B,L,D)	<p>Morning 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 then fly to Prince Rupert. Afternoon visit to the Prince Rupert Port Grain terminal.</p>	Prince Rupert
DAY 3 Tues, Jul 8 (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
DAY 4 Wed, Jul 9 (B,L,D)	<p>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>	Prince George
DAY 5 Thurs, Jul 10 (B,L,D)	<p>Early start to continue our journey through the Rockies to Jasper. 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</p>	Jasper
DAY 6 Fri, Jul 11 (B,L,D)	<p>Today is full of unforgettable vistas as we tour some of the great sights of the Rockies. Our coach travels south 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.</p> <p>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</p>	Banff

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DAY 7 Sat, Jul 12 (B,L)	<p>Some free time to explore Banff before heading to Calgary and one of the highlights of the tour – 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.</p>	Calgary
DAY 8 Sun, Jul 13 (B)	<p>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.</p>	Calgary
DAY 9 Mon, Jul 14 (B,L,D)	<p>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.</p>	Drumheller
DAY 10 Tues, Jul 15 (B,L,D)	<p>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.</p>	Red Deer
DAY 11 Wed, Jul 16 (B,L)	<p>Continue back to Calgary for our flight to Winnipeg, 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
DAY 12 Thurs, Jul 17 (B,L,D)	<p>More touring grain farming operations around Winnipeg, then fly to Minneapolis for overnight.</p>	Minneapolis
Day 13 Fri, Jul 18 (B,L,D)	<p>Head south through some fabulous midwest farming country before a visit to a John Deere factory in the afternoon.</p>	Davenport
Day 14 Sat, Jul 19 (B)	<p>Continue east to Chicago with a visit to the TJet factory on the way.</p>	Chicago
Day 15 Sun, Jul 20 (B)	<p>Free time in Chicago</p>	Chicago

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Day 16 Mon, Jul 21 (B,L,D)	Morning flight to St Louis. Visits to Monsanto facilities	St Louis
Day 17 Tues, Jul 22 (B,L,D)	Travel down the Mississippi to Memphis.	Memphis
Day 18 Wed, Jul 23 (B,L,D)	Farm visits around Memphis, plus some spare time to visit Graceland and the famous Beale Street.	Memphis
Day 19 Thurs, Jul 24 (B,L,D)	Coach travel north to Milan to visit the no-till research station and talk about herbicide resistance problems and strategies in the US. Today is the day of the Milan No-till field day, one of the major farming events in the US. Then continue on to Nashville for a southern BBQ dinner and a night at the Grand Ole Opry.	Nashville
Day 20 Fri, Jul 25 (B,L,D)	Fly to Washington and visit with Austrade officials.	Washington
Day 21 Sat, Jul 26 (B,L)	Travel through Pennsylvania Dutch country with Amish visits then on to New York	New York
Day 22 Sun, Jul 27 (B,L,D)	Free day in New York including city tour	New York
Day 23 Mon, Jul 28 (B)	Some last minute shopping time in New York before flying to Dallas to connect with evening flight direct to Brisbane then connecting to other capitals. Or travel to Dallas a bit earlier for a short look around including the JFK site	On plane