**UBC MERIT – 2024 VSP PROGRAM GROUP 2 OVERVIEW**

Please do **NOT** book your tours until you have secured your Canada visa or ETA.

**Booking link coming soon!**

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**GROUP 2 TOUR OVERVIEW**

Please see the table below for an overview of tours and prices.

Special Early Booking Discount – book by May 15  
Regular Price – from May 15 onwards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Name</th>
<th>Early Bird Price</th>
<th>Reg. Price</th>
<th>Departure Date</th>
<th>Guest Arrival Time</th>
<th>Departure Time</th>
<th>Approx. Return Time*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GROUP 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whistler Day Tour</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>July 20, 2024</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Approx. 8:00pm</td>
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<td>Victoria Day Tour</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Day Tour</td>
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<td>Victoria Day Tour</td>
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*We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions.*
GROUP 2 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

WHISTLER DAY TOUR DESCRIPTION

Watch video

Tour dates: July 20/ July 21/ July 27/July 28/ August 3
Price: The regular per person price including GST is $90
Special price if booked by May 15: $85

Price Includes:
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly & fun Tour Guide
- Park fees
- Enroute entertainment with music & games
- Guided tour of Whistler Village
- Great discounts on optional activities
- All taxes & tips

Itinerary:
- Depart UBC Campus from the Gage Tower Residence at 8:00am. Please arrive by 7:45am
- Visit beautiful Shannon Falls
- Arrive in Whistler at approximately 10am and enjoy a guided tour of the area.
- Option to participate in the following activities for an additional price($): Squamish Lil’Wat Cultural ($), Peak 2 Peak Sightseeing Gondola ($), or TreeTrek Canopy Walk($).
- For those not interested in any of the options, you can join your tour guide for an extended tour & walk to Lost Lake where you can spend the remainder of the afternoon swimming and sunbathing; or spend your afternoon shopping & exploring Whistler Village
- 5:30pm – Depart Whistler
- 8:00pm (approximately) – Return to UBC Campus

Optional Activity Options:
- Peak 2 Peak Sightseeing Gondola - $TBD
- TreeTrek Canopy Walk - $TBD
- Squamish Lil’Wat Cultural Centre - $TBD

**optional activities need to be added at time of booking. You can only choose 1 activity.**
VICTORIA DAY TOUR DESCRIPTION

Tour dates: July 20/ July 21/ July 27/July 28/ August 4
Price: The regular per person price including GST is $175
Special price if booked by May 15:  $165

Price Includes:
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly & fun Tour Guide
- Ferry fees
- Enroute entertainment with music & games
- Guided tour of Victoria
- Great discounts on optional activities
- All taxes & tips

Itinerary:
- Depart UBC Campus from the Gage Tower Residence at 8:30am, please arrive by 8:15am
- Ferry through the beautiful Gulf Islands
- Enjoy a scenic coastal drive.
- Stop at Beacon Hill Park and Mile 0 (the start of the Trans Canada Highway)
- Sightseeing tour of downtown Victoria - including the Inner Harbor, Government Street, China Town, Empress hotel, and Legislative Buildings
- Option to visit Butchart Gardens ($).
- Enjoy some free time in downtown Victoria.
- Take the 7:00pm return ferry.
- Return to UBC campus at approximately 9:30pm

Optional Activity Options:
- Butchart Gardens with transfers - $45

**optional activities need to be added at time of booking**
PACIFIC RIM TOUR (TOFINO & UCLUELET)

Watch video

Tour Dates: August 3-5/August 9-11
Price: The per person price including GST is $720
Special price if booked by May 15: $685

Price Includes:
- Accommodation at the waterfront Canadian Princess Resort in Ucluelet
- Deluxe transportation
- Ferry fees
- Meals: 2 continental breakfasts.
- Experienced, friendly, and fun tour guide
- Park fees

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Vancouver to Pacific Rim & Ucluelet
- Depart UBC from Gage Residence at 6:45am, please arrive by 6:30am
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Visit Coombs – A camera is a must item on a trip to Coombs, as on a good day, visitors might get a picture of the goats on the roof.
- Hike around Little Qualicum Falls – straddles the scenic Little Qualicum River, west of Parksville, where impressive waterfalls cascade and plummet down a rocky gorge in a beautiful forest setting
- Check into the waterfront Canadian Princess Lodge located in Ucluelet.
- Free time for dinner
- Enjoy evening games and a campfire (weather permitting)

Day 2: Tofino
- Depart for the Town of Tofino. Today you can choose to explore the town on your own or book one of the optional activities such as whale watching ($), bear watching ($), kayaking ($), or a Hot Springs Cove tour ($). We highly recommend booking in advance. You will have a full day to explore Tofino.
- Option to join your guide today on a leisure walk/hike to Tonquin Beach. Easily accessible from downtown Tofino for those who want to explore on their own.
- Stop at Long Beach on your way back to Ucluelet this afternoon.
- Free evening to relax at the resort.
- Option to join your guide at Big Beach for a campfire & marshmallow roast, a 10-minute walk from the resort (fire ban dependent)

Day 3: Ucluelet to Vancouver
- Check out of your hotel this morning and make your way to the Wild Pacific Trail: you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of the rugged coastline, and the working Lighthouse that marks the end of the trail.
- Visit Cathedral Grove, a protected old growth forest with ancient Douglas Fir trees dating back more than 800 years.
- Arrive in Nanaimo and check in for the ferry back to the Mainland.
- Return to UBC at approximately 9:30pm.
ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at the Canadian Princess Lodge which is a newly renovated 46 room lodge and 250 ft marina. It is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island in Ucluelet. The lodge consists of standard rooms, lofts, and suites. All rooms have fridges, microwaves, private balconies, and free WiFi. The from price is based on shared beds, either 4 or 6 per room depending on the room type. Guests can upgrade to have their own bed for an additional $150.

Optional Activity Options (prices include eco and park fees):
**optional activities need to be added at time of booking. You can only choose 1 activity.**
- Whale Watching (2.5 - 3 hours) - $TBD
- Bear Watching (2.5 - 3 hours) - $TBD
- Hot Springs Cove (6 hours) - $TBD
- Kayak Tour - Discover the Islands (2.5 hours) - $TBD
- Kayak Tour - Discover the Rainforest (4 hours) - $TBD
ROCKY MOUNTAIN TOUR OPTIONS

1. **ROCKIES HEMLOCK TOUR** (Vernon - Banff - Valemount)

   **Watch video**

**Tour Date: August 8-11**

**Price:** The per person price including GST is $975

**Special price if booked by May 15:** $930

**Price Includes:**
- 3 nights upscale hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy.
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly, and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts
- Enroute entertainment, games, and prizes.
- Discounts on optional activities
- All taxes

**Itinerary**

**Day 1: Vancouver to Vernon**
- Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm
- Sightseeing through the Okanagan Valley
- Free time for dinner in Kelowna
- Check in to your hotel in Vernon.
- Enjoy the resort amenities.

**Day 2: Scenic Lakes & Mountain Peaks: Lake Louise & Banff**
- Breakfast at the hotel (included)
- Explore beautiful Lake Louise
- Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more
- Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($)
- Check into your hotel.
- Free time for dinner on Banff Ave and option to join your guide for a VIP Bar night

**Day 3: The Icefields Parkway & Jasper to Blue River**
- Breakfast (included)
- Enjoy sightseeing at Bow Lake
- Travel the Icefields Parkway with a stop at the Columbia Icefields
- Option to join the world famous Icefields Explorer Tour ($)
- Check into your beautiful log cabins at Mike Weigele Heli-skiing resort
- Enjoy a group dinner tonight (included)

**Day 4: Blue River to Vancouver**
- Breakfast (included)
Visit Spahat’s Fall
Return to UBC at approximately 8:30pm. *We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at time of booking.
- Icefield Explorer Glacier Tour - $TBD
- Banff Gondola - $TBD
- Ice Explorer & Banff Gondola Combo - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at three different hotels in Vernon, Banff, and Blue River. Vernon & Banff accommodation is a regular hotel with standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/ double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed). Blue River accommodation is beautiful log cabins with 2 queen/ double beds in each cabin (4 people per room/2 people per bed).

2. ROCKIES MAPLE TOUR (Sicamous – Banff – Valemount)

Watch video

Tour Date: August 8-11
Price: The per person price including GST is $895
Special price if booked by May 15: $855

Price Includes:
- 3 nights hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy.
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly, and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts
● Enroute entertainment, games, and prizes
● Discounts on optional activities
● All taxes

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Sicamous
● Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm
● Sightseeing through the Okanagan Valley with a dinner stop on Kamloops.
● Check in to your hotel in Sicamous.
● Enjoy the hotel amenities.

Day 2: Scenic Lakes & Mountain Peaks: Lake Louise & Banff
● Breakfast in the hotel (included)
● Leisure time at Moraine Lake
● Explore beautiful Lake Louise
● Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more
● Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($) or enjoy free time for shopping.
● Check into your hotel.
● Free time for dinner on Banff Avenue and to enjoy the vibrant nightlife scene.

Day 3: The Icefields Parkway & Jasper to Valemount
● Breakfast (included)
● Enjoy sightseeing at Bow Lake
● Travel the Icefields Parkway with a stop at the Columbia Icefields
● Option to join the world famous Icefields Explorer Glacier Tour ($)
● Free time for dinner in Jasper
● Stop at Mt. Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies (weather dependent)
● Check into your hotel in Valemount and evening at leisure.

Day 4: Valemount to Vancouver
● Breakfast (included)
● Visit Spahat’s Falls in Wells Gray National Park
● Return to UBC at approximately 8:30pm *We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions.*

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at the time of booking.*
● Icefield Explorer Glacier Tour - $TBD
● Banff Gondola - $TBD
● Ice Explorer & Banff Gondola Combo - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at three different hotels in Sicamous, Canmore, and Valemount. All rooms are standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).
3. ROCKIES BIRCH TOUR (Revelstoke – Canmore – Valemount)

Watch video

Tour Date: August 8-11  
Price: The per person price including GST is $875  
Special price if booked by May 15: $835

Price Includes:  
- 3 nights hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy.
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly, and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts
- Enroute entertainment, games, and prizes
- Discounts on optional activities
- All taxes

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Revelstoke  
- Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm  
- Sightseeing through the Okanagan Valley with a dinner stop on Kamloops.  
- Check in to your hotel in Revelstoke

Day 2: Scenic Lakes & Mountain Peaks: Lake Louise & Banff  
- Breakfast in the hotel (included)  
- Leisure time at Moraine Lake  
- Explore beautiful Lake Louise  
- Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more  
- Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($) or enjoy free time for shopping.  
- Free time for dinner on Banff Avenue  
- Check into your hotel centrally located in the nearby town of Canmore.  
- Enjoy Canmore’s vibrant nightlife scene

Day 3: The Icefields Parkway & Jasper to Valemount  
- Breakfast (included)  
- Enjoy sightseeing at Bow Lake  
- Travel the Icefields Parkway with a stop at the Columbia Icefields  
- Option to join the world famous Icefields Explorer Glacier Tour ($)  
- Free time for dinner in Jasper  
- Stop at Mt. Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies (weather dependent)  
- Check into your hotel in Valemount and evening at leisure.

Day 4: Valemount to Vancouver  
- Breakfast (included)  
- Visit Spahat’s Falls in Wells Gray National Park
Return to UBC at approximately 8:30pm *We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions.

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours:
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at the time of booking.
- Icefield Explorer Glacier Tour - $TBD
- Banff Gondola - $TBD
- Ice Explorer & Banff Gondola Combo - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at three different hotels in Revelstoke, Canmore, and Valemount. All rooms are standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).

4. ROCKIES OAK TOUR (Vernon – Banff National Park (Sunshine Mountain) - Golden

Watch video

Tour Date: August 8-11

Price: The per person price including GST is $995
Special price if booked by May 15: $950

Price Includes:
- 3 nights hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy including 1 night in upscale Sunshine Mountain Resort!
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts
- Sunshine Mountain Sightseeing Chairlift
- Enroute entertainment, games and prizes
- Discounts on optional activities
- All taxes

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Vernon
- Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm
- Sightseeing through the Okanagan Valley
- Free time for dinner in Kelowna
- Check in to your hotel in Vernon
- Enjoy the resort amenities

Day 2: Scenic Lakes & Mountain Peaks: Lake Louise & Banff
- Breakfast in the hotel (included)
- Explore beautiful Lake Louise
- Check-in to your deluxe accommodation at Sunshine Mountain Resort
- Enjoy amazing stargazing in your mountain resort while on a walk or from the outdoor hot tub

Day 3: Mountain Peaks: Banff
- Breakfast (included)
- Enjoy the Sunshine Mountain Chairlift for amazing views (included)
- Leisure time at Moraine Lake
- Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more
- Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($)
- Enjoy free time for shopping & dinner on Banff Avenue
- Drive to Golden after dinner and option to go to the local pub for end of tour party

Day 4: Golden to Vancouver
- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Stop at Rogers Pass
- Visit the last Spike
- Return to UBC at approximately 8:30 *We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours:
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at the time of booking
- Banff Gondola - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at three different hotels in Vernon, Sunshine Mountain Resort, and Golden. Vernon and Golden rooms are standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed). Sunshine Mountain Resort is a very high-end mid-mountain hotel. The rooms either hold 4 people with 1 regular queen and 1 Murphy bed queen; or 2 people with 1 queen bed and 1 twin bed.
5. ROCKIES LARCH TOUR (Vernon – Banff National Park (Sunshine Mountain 2 N)

Watch video

Tour Date: August 8-11

Price: The per person price including GST is $1,195

Special price if booked by May 15: $1,140

Price Includes:
- 3 nights hotel accommodation based on quad occupancy including 2 nights in upscale Sunshine Mountain Resort!
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts & 1 Dinner
- Sunshine Mountain Sightseeing Chairlift
- Enroute entertainment, games and prizes
- Discounts on optional activities
- All taxes

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Vernon
- Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm
- Sightseeing through the Okanagan Valley
- Free time for dinner in Kelowna
- Check in to your hotel in Vernon
- Enjoy the resort amenities

Day 2: Scenic Lakes & Mountain Peaks: Lake Louise & Banff National Park
- Breakfast in the hotel (included)
- Explore beautiful Lake Louise
- Check-in to your deluxe accommodation at Sunshine Mountain Resort
- Dinner (included)
- Enjoy amazing stargazing in your mountain resort while on a walk or from the outdoor hot tub

Day 3: Mountain Peaks: Banff
- Breakfast (included)
- Enjoy the Sunshine Mountain Chairlift for amazing views (included)
- Leisure time at Moraine Lake
- Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more
- Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($)
- Enjoy free time for shopping & dinner on Banff Avenue
- Return to Sunshine Mountain Resort in the evening
- Enjoy the outdoor hot tubs with beautiful mountain views
Day 4: Sunshine to Vancouver

- Breakfast (included)
- Stop at Rogers Pass
- Visit the last Spike
- Return to UBC at approximately 9:00

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours:
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at the time of booking
- Banff Gondola - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays at two different hotels in Vernon, and Sunshine Mountain Resort. Vernon rooms are standard hotel rooms with 2 queen/double beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed). Sunshine Mountain Resort is a very high-end mid-mountain hotel. The rooms either hold 4 people with 1 regular queen and 1 Murphy bed queen; or 2 people with 1 queen bed and 1 twin bed.

6. ROCKIES PINE TOUR (Kamloops - Golden (2-nights))

Watch video

Tour Date: August 8-11

Price: The per person price including GST is $795
Special price if booked by May 15: $780
Price Includes:

- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Experienced, friendly and fun Tour Guides
- 3 breakfasts
- Enroute entertainment, games and prizes
- Discounts on optional activities
- All taxes

Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Kamloops
- Depart UBC from the Gage Tower Residence at 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:45pm
- Stop at Bridal Falls
- Check into your hotel in Kamloops
- Free time for dinner and to enjoy the hotel amenities or explore the city of Kamloops

Day 2: Kamloops to Lake Louise & Golden
- Breakfast in the hotel (included)
- Stop in Rogers Pass
- Leisure time at Moraine Lake
- Explore beautiful Lake Louise
- Check into your hotel in Golden
- Free time for dinner this evening and to enjoy the hotel amenities.

Day 3: Mountain Peaks: Banff
- Breakfast (included)
- Drive to the town of Banff
- Guided tour of the town of Banff including Bow Falls, Banff Springs Hotel, Hoodoos and more
- Option to take the sightseeing Sulphur Mountain Gondola to see magnificent views of the Rockies ($)
- Enjoy free time for shopping & dinner on Banff Avenue
- Drive to Golden after dinner.

Day 4: Golden to Vancouver
- Breakfast (included)
- Stop at the Last Spike
- Return to UBC at approximately 8:30. *We can not guarantee the actual return time. It is subject to change based on traffic and road conditions

Optional Activity Options for Rocky Mountain Tours:
*Optional activities must be booked in advance at the time of booking

- Banff Gondola - $TBD

ACCOMMODATION NOTES:
This tour stays in Kamloops for 1-night & Golden for 2-nights. Accommodation is standard hotel rooms with 2 queen beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).
IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ALL TOURS

- All tours require a minimum number of passengers to run. If the minimum number is not met the tour may be cancelled. In this case guests will receive a full refund and assistance in booking another tour option.
- Due to the volume of passengers traveling the actual timing of the sightseeing stops will vary so that we don't have too many people at one attraction at the same time.
- Itinerary and some inclusions (i.e. campfire and marshmallow roast) is subject to change and may not be available based on weather, fire restrictions, and road conditions.
- The price for overnight tours is based on shared beds, which means that 2 people of the same gender will be sharing a bed with another 2-6 people of the same gender in the same unit. In order to accommodate the high number of travellers we use many different accommodation properties with a variety of room types. The majority of accommodation properties have standard hotel rooms with 2 queen beds (4 people per room/2 people per bed).
- Other room types may include:
  - 1 regular queen/Double bed with a pull-out couch
  - 1 regular queen/Double bed with a pull-out Murphy bed
  - 1 regular queen/Double bed with two twin beds
  - 1 regular queen/Double bed with bunk beds
  - Condo style units with 2 up to 4 beds (sleep either 4 or 8 people) with a shared kitchen
- Itineraries are subject to minor changes between now and when the booking link will be live to accept bookings.

Merit Travel Responsibility:
Merit Travel acts as an agent for hotels and transportation companies as such Merit Travel cannot accept responsibility for any damage, loss, injury, or other irregularities in connection with any transportation, accommodation or service provided.

Limits on Responsibility:
Participants agree not to hold Merit Travel and any of its representatives responsible for but not limited to any loss, injury or damage to any person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodation or transportation, due to 'Acts of God', any incident at sea, fire, breakdowns in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or authorities, de jure or de facto, wars declared or threatened, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage epidemics, pandemics, travel quarantines, force majeure, medical or customs regulations, defaults, delays, cancellations or any causes beyond which Merit Travel can control. Merit Travel cannot be named responsible for any loss of damage resulting from improperly issued visas or other documents. Merit Travel transacts and secures transportation, hotels, lodging accommodations, restaurants, ground handling and other services from various independent suppliers. As a result, Merit Travel is not liable for any negligent or willful act of any such person or entity or of any third person.

Merit Travel makes every effort to plan your trip so that it is seamless and worry free. It is the sole responsibility for each traveller and group coordinator to ensure that everyone has the
proper travel documents, including parental consent forms in the case of minors. Additionally, if the participant is a minor, you agree to assume all liability and release Merit Travel of any indemnification.

Travel restrictions, provincial closures and flight suspensions/airline schedule changes may occur during these extraordinary times. Travellers are responsible for any problems/costs if you are not able to enter a province/country, quarantining upon arrival or during your journey.

Please ensure you have sufficient travel insurance for your trip.

While we are dedicated to assisting you through your travel arrangements, Merit Travel will not be held responsible for any additional charges you may encounter related, but not limited to, the above or any COVID-19 risks, and the risk to travel is solely at the traveler's discretion.