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ON THE SASQUATCH'S TRAIL

Discover Banff! This world famous mountain station is located in the heart of the legendary Banff National Park and is a true paradise for the nature and adventure enthusiasts. One week of various activities for all tastes and all ages. From alpine fauna watching to snowshoeing and from dog sledding to a hike in the Johnston Canyon. You'll also take advantage of some free time to visit these fabulous territories at your own pace.

 Region	Western Canada
 Activity	Nature - Adventure
	Winter
 Duration	7 days
 Code	HIVER-09
 Price	From €746
 Level	1/5
 Comfort	4/5

ITINERARY

📍 Day 1 **Calgary**

Arrival in Calgary, an exciting Olympic city.

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 2 **Banff**

The time has come to leave the big city and to continue on towards the city of Banff which is located in the heart of the Canadian Rockies and the legendary Banff National Park. Founded in 1883, this National Park features countless valleys, mountains, glaciers, forests, meadows, lakes and rivers which cover a 6 641 km² area. No wonder Banff is one of the most looked after destinations in the world. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 3 **Banff**

To start your visit the right way, you are invited today for a fascinating guided tour (3h) of Banff and its surroundings. You'll then have the opportunity to observe the abundant and varied wildlife of this world heritage site. The highlights of this tour will certainly be the Bow Falls, the spectacular Bow Valley and Hoodoos view points, the famous Banff Spring Hotel, Surprise Corner, the Minnewanka Lake as well as the Cave and Basin National Historical Site (entrance fees included). In the afternoon, we'll head towards Johnston Canyon that you will visit during a fantastic guided icewalk (4h). Equipped with ice cleats and hiking poles, you'll travel through prime wildlife habitat on your way to the trail head and learn the clues to how the canyon was formed. This walk will lead you past the lower falls and to the breathtaking upper icefalls. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 4 **Banff**

Today you'll live the exhilarating experience of dog sledding (4h with transfer)! Friendly Alaskan Huskies are eager to pull you through the mountains on this amazing adventure! Participate at your own confidence level. Help hook the dogs up to the team, be a passenger or drive the dogsled under the careful attention of your guide. The huskies will pull you beneath the peaks of the Front Range Rocky Mountains as you sled along the Spray Lakes. To crown it all, you'll take advantage of a gourmet snack. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 5 **Banff**

Our destination this morning: the fabulous Kootenay National Park. You will then discover this outstanding environment during a guided snowshoeing excursion (4h). We'll then snowshoe up Ochre Creek Valley to the bubbling natural pools of the Paint Pots, a cultural treasure in the heart of the park. The natural source of ochre was mined by indigenous people and later by European settlers as a pigment. This is an excellent trip for beginners and those wanting a pleasant activity outdoors in the majesty of Kootenay National Park. We'll also make a pause during which you'll have the opportunity to heat yourself while drinking a good hot chocolate and enjoying a maple taffy treat. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

📍 Day 6 **Banff**

Take advantage of a free day to discover Banff and its surroundings at your own pace. Among other things, you could then stroll freely in the animated city center and take the gondola to the summit of Sulphur Mountain (2285 m) where you would have a breathtaking view over the spectacular Bow Valley. Finally, you could also relax in the hot springs of the Rockies. For more than a century, travelers have been visiting this site to take advantage of the healing power of the thermal water. The station also features a spa which offers a wide selection of body treatments. (B)

Accommodation : Hotel

 Day 7 **Calgary**

Transfer to the Calgary airport for your return flight. (B)

PERIOD & BUDGET

When to travel?

The best period for travelling is during the following months:

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Price

From C\$1,113

The budget is an indication of the price per person, subject to availability. Your local agent will send you a customized quote with the exact price. The price can vary according to availability, level of services, period of travel, number of participants, booking time frame and other items.

Included

- R/T transfer between Calgary and Banff as well as between activity sites
- Services of guides for the included activities
- Guided Tour (3h) of Banff region
- Guided icewalk (4h) (equipment included : ice cleats and hiking poles)
- 1 dog-sled for 2 people for 2 hours
- Snowshoes guided hike (4h00) in the Kootnay National Park (equipment included : snowshoes and hiking poles)
- Snack (day 4)
- Hot chocolate and maple Taffy treat (days 3 and 5)
- 6 nights accommodation
- 6 meals (see abbreviations)
- Applicable taxes

Not included

- Air travel
- Personal expenses
- Drinks (other than coffee or tea with meals included)
- Tips for guides

International flights

On request, ask your advisor at canada@altaibasecamp.com

Terms and conditions

Booking conditions

By registering for one of our travel, the customer bindingly accepts the General Terms and Conditions of Sale. Each customer must complete a registration form. The booking is definitively recorded when the customer has settled the payment of a deposit of 35 % of the total travel price (subject to availability at the time of registration). In case of short term bookings – within 35 days prior to the travel departure – the full travel price is due immediately. Payments can be settled via bank transfer (SWIFT code/IBAN number) or online, directly from our website (soon available). You will receive an email with a booking confirmation as quickly as possible

Invoice procedure

Once your booking is registered, we send you an email with the invoice. Full payment is required at least 35 days before your arrival. If the customer does not settle the payment of the travel price within the period agreed upon, Altaï Canada reserves the right to cancel the booking free of charge.

Cancellation policy

If, for any reason, you need to cancel your trip, any payments already made will be refunded **subject to the following deductions:**

If cancellation occurs:

- **More than 31 days before departure:** 20% of the total booking amount (excluding insurance and fixed fees)
- **Between 30 and 21 days before departure:** 35% of the total booking amount (excluding insurance and fixed fees)

- **Between 20 and 14 days before departure:** 50% of the total booking amount (excluding insurance and fixed fees)
- **Between 13 and 7 days before departure:** 75% of the total booking amount (excluding insurance and fixed fees)
- **Less than 7 days before departure:** 100% of the total booking amount (excluding insurance and fixed fees)

Special Cases:

Regardless of the cancellation or contract modification date, the following fees **are added** to the standard cancellation terms above:

- **Airfare fees:** If your flight ticket has to be issued well in advance—often to secure the best fare—**100% of the non-refundable flight costs** will be charged in case of cancellation or change. In this case, the standard cancellation terms apply **only to the land portion** of the trip.
- **Land service fees:** Any non-refundable fees incurred early for firm bookings will be charged in case of cancellation.
- **Insurance:** Whether you purchased multi-risk or cancellation insurance, the **insurance premium is non-refundable** under any circumstances.

If you are forced to cancel your trip before departure, you must inform both **Altai Canada** and your insurance provider as soon as possible, using **written communication that provides proof of receipt**.

The **date the written notice is received** will be considered the official cancellation date and will determine the applicable cancellation fees.

If Altai Canada is required to cancel a group departure due to an insufficient number of participants, this decision will be made, and customers notified, **no later than 21 days before departure**.

Altai Canada may also cancel a trip due to **exceptional circumstances** considered force majeure (e.g., volcanic eruptions, social unrest, strikes, severe weather) that could compromise the safety of participants. In such cases, **all amounts paid will be fully refunded**, but **no additional compensation** can be claimed.

Changes to travel contract

If a change to travel contract is made at the customer's request, any fee that might arise from this change shall be paid by the customer. In any cases, every request for changes shall be notified in writing. In case of external events that could not be foreseen, Altai Canada might change some aspects of the travel contract. We will endeavour to advise you of any changes as quickly as possible.

Pricing

All group travel prices on our website have been calculated for the indicated number of participants for each trip. The price list is confirmed after the booking. If the number of participants is lower than expected, an additional payment charge might be applied. For each travel and program, we mention the price per person – valid for the minimum number of participants – and we provide you with detailed explanations about the services included or not. Any change in the exchange rates or in the price of travel services in particular regarding the cost of the fuel, might entail price revision.

Contract transfer

In case of transfer of the contract by the customer to an assignee, modification and cancellation conditions apply.

Insurance

We recommend that you get personal insurance before your departure to cover the activities undertaken by Altai Canada. If you have not purchased your insurance directly with us, we ask that you email us your insurance contract information (company, policy name, policy number, phone number) and bring this information with you on your trip.

PRACTICAL INFO

Food

Not all meals are included in your stay, especially in cities. You can prepare picnics for lunch and go to the restaurant in the evening. Enjoy all the restaurants and snacks you will come across during your stay.

Transportation

We can offer you our services for transfers and provide you with a rental vehicle (contact us)

Budget & exchange

Visa and Mastercard are accepted almost everywhere. You can also change euros. 1 Euro = CAN \$ 1.50 to 11/04/2019

Tips

In the United States and Canada, the service is never included in the price. In bars, restaurants and all places where a service is provided, it is expected that you leave a tip between 15 and 20% of the total amount. Know that many employees in the service trades are paid only with tips. It would be very badly perceived to give nothing, or not to give enough. Even when paying by credit card, you will indicate the amount of the tip you want to leave. On this type of trip, it is customary to leave \$ 6 per person per day for the driver guide and \$ 20 per group for city guides.

Vital equipment

From head to toe

- A pair of warm shoes or a pair of padded boots
- Slippers or light sneakers for the chalet
- Pair of wool socks
- Anorak
- Warm trousers
- Warm sweaters or fleece furs
- Underwear made of fine technical fibres
- Swimsuit
- Gloves, hat, scarf (depending on the season)

Material

- Toilet bag
- Pair of sunglasses
- Sun protection cream (face and lip)
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight or front light with spare batteries
- 1.5 litre minimum flask, light and isothermal.

You can also provide a 2-litre water bag. The latter has the advantage of allowing direct consumption thanks to its pipette. So you don't have to drop the backpack to grab the flask. This way you drink more regularly and in small quantities, which is recommended for a good hydration. Tip: having two containers allows you to consume one while the other is being processed.

Helpful equipment

- Waterproof pocket for your passport and/or identity card
- Your driver's license, your vaccination record
- Your travel insurance brochure
- Your currencies
- Your credit card and personal papers
- Plastic bags to guarantee the waterproofness of your belongings
- Cameras and clothing Dirty laundry bag
- Earplugs
- Notepad and pen Book, card game....

- Walking sticks (optional). They are a precious help to save your knees during the descent (up to 30% of your weight + that of your bag are supported by the poles) and support your effort during the ascent (the arms help in addition to the legs)
- Pair of binoculars
- Camera and battery charger
- Adapter for electrical plug

Luggage

Plan:
A flexible travel bag with side zipper giving easier access to its contents than a sailor bag, it will contain the things you will not use during the day a small backpack (capacity about 40L) for your daily stuff such as sweaters, spare tee shirts, water bottles, glasses, lunch picnic etc. In case of delay in your checked baggage (toothbrush, t-shirt, walking shoes, etc.), please bring something to the cabin to "survive" the first few days.

Passport

Consular formalities for Europeans and Swiss nationals:

Upon your registration, please transmit your passport information (name, first name, passport number, date of issues and expiration). Currently, to stay as a tourist for less than six months, a visa is not mandatory and a valid passport is sufficient with a validity exceeding by one day your stay in Canada.

Travelers must imperatively have an **electronic travel authorization (eTA) to enter Canada**. You will have to fill the form online and individually (**one application per person**) on <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/ave.asp> It is essential that you have a valid email address. The 7 CAD fees are payable by Visa, Mastercard or American Express credit cards. The eTA is granted in just a few minutes but we advise you to apply for it as soon as your trip is confirmed. The eTA is an electronic document linked to your passport and **stays valid for 5 years or until the expiration of the passport**, depending on the first of these eventualities to occur. You must then travel with the passport used to apply for it.

CAREFUL: for French women, the eTA must be filled with your maiden name. Hence, to facilitate the check-in at the airport, we ask travelers in Canada to indicate their maiden name for the booking of their tickets.

You travel with children:

Children and adults are submitted to the same obligations regarding passports and visa described above. Registration of minors on parents' passports is now impossible; children must hold an individual passport. It is compulsory to apply for an eTA for each child individually.

CAREFUL, from January 15th 2017 onwards, for all French minors traveling abroad alone, an authorization to leave the country is compulsory.

The child will have to submit the three following documents:

- The minor's valid passport
- A photocopy of the signatory's identity card, valid or expired for less than 5 years and the birth certificate
- The form, signed by one of the legal guardians, available online on <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1359>

Concerning other nationalities, seek the Canadian consular authority of your country.

ARRIVAL IN CANADA VIA A TRANSIT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES :

CAREFUL, we can exceptionally use American airlines for travels bound for the American continent (North and South). They stop over in the US: **you must possess an electronic or biometric passport which is still valid 6 months after your departure from the US** (under "passport", a rectangle under a circle meaning a secure symbol).

You must also **apply for an electronic travel authorization (ESTA)** on the official website <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Valid for a duration of two years or until the expiration of the passport, this authorization must be requested at the latest 72h before your departure: we advise you to apply to it as soon as your trip is confirmed. It has to be paid for (14 USD online by credit card). The name you put on the form must be the same as the one that figures on your plane tickets and must of course appears on your passport. If the name used on the ESTA form is different from the one on your tickets, the airline can deny your boarding. Minors

must also fill out an ESTA authorization.

The Visa Waiver Program allows French nationals to enter the American territory without a visa, either via transit or for a stay of 90 days to the maximum. A visa is nevertheless necessary if you only have an emergency passport. Furthermore, travelers who went to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen or Soudan since March 11th 2011 and people who are national of Iran, Iraq, Syria or Soudan cannot benefit from the Visa Waiver program anymore: more information on <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays/etats-unis/>

ARRIVAL IN THE US OR TRANSIT THROUGH THE US :

Upon your arrival, the immigration service will take your photo and fingerprints. You'll have to wait behind the yellow line and not cross it unless you're told to, it can take some time. Customs controls will take place at the first access point to the territory (in case of a transit through a Canadian airport, it will be considered as a first access point to the US and the following process must be applied). Once you've been through the immigration service, you'll get your luggage back from the conveyer belt and go to the customs. In case of a continuation of your trip, you'll have to get your luggage back and bring them the baggage conveyer which serves.

Health information & recommendations

Pharmacy :

It is suggested that participants bring their own medication:

- Aspirin
- Intestinal antiseptic
- Small scissors
- Tricosteril
- Sun protection cream for face and lips
- Mosquito repellent cream or lotion

Also think of your feet : elastoplast, eosin etc.

Recommendations : No vaccination required.

Hygiene : Tap water is safe to drink.

Weather

In Quebec, in summer, weather conditions are very changing and unpredictable and have a considerable influence on the level of the circuits. On average, in winter, the temperature is -10 degrees and -19 degrees at night. A trip indicated as easy will therefore require more effort if the appropriate weather conditions are not met. You must be ready to face the snow, the wind and even the blazing sun... Some activity may change due to conditions and lack of snow. Spirit of the trip: This trip is participatory: your help will be requested to load and unload the equipment necessary for the smooth running of the trip as well as for its cleaning; on itinerant tours, you must regularly set up and dismantle the camp. All this will not take much time on your entire journey, your guide knows the circuit well, but your involvement helps to create a climate of mutual support and establish links between you and your guide, for a friendly and peaceful atmosphere.

For more information: <https://www.meteomedia.com/ca>

Electricity

As everywhere in the US, voltage runs at 110 Volts/60 cycles. New electric devices can be adapted to the current. It's preferable to check whether or not your device is equipped with a current transformer. In general, it is a black box located between the electric plug and your device. If your device isn't compatible with the 110-volt current, you'll need to get a current transformer sold separately. As electrical plugs are flat, you'll also need an adaptor to plug your device in. you'll find it easily on the spot or before departure in a shop specialized in travels. A waterproof Zip Lock bag is a good way to keep your equipment in a dry place.

Sustainable tourism

Since the outset, Altai works for an eco-tourism and an organization of trips that respects equitable and sustainable principles.

The harmonization of practices assures:

- A fair economical repartition
- The improvement of local teams' working conditions and their awareness of the protection of the environment
- The information of travelers about respecting the local population and environment and the collection of their feelings at their return.

You can also act in favor of an eco-tourism by adopting simple green gestures during your trips:

- Avoid letting waste out, throw it in the trash can or bring it with you
- Use potable water sparingly (take a shower instead of a bath and report any leaks) and avoid wasting it (use biodegradable soap to wash yourself)
- Avoid damaging cultural sites: don't touch the statues, don't move the stones and objects
- Exchange instead of giving (too Important gifts can destabilize the local economic stability of the country depending on their living standards)
- When taking a walk, especially in some fragile ecosystems, observe the fauna from afar, do not go beyond beaten roads, limit stamping and do not bring any souvenirs: give up picking rare flowers picking fossils...
- In some hotels, you can have individual air conditioning. It is advised to systematically switching it off when you're out of the room to avoid energetical overconsumption and greenhouse gas emission.