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Heli-hiking - Cariboo Lodge

ESCAPE TO A LAND OF GLACIERS

Leave the crowds behind as we heli to the Cariboo Lodge – the perfect headquarters for the escape of a lifetime. Each day, you and your guides will take off by helicopter to explore ancient glaciers, majestic peaks, canyon waterfalls, the Zillmer Canyon Via Ferrata or turquoise tarns. Whether you want to stride into adventure or hit new heights, the rugged, remote Cariboo are calling!

Hike among swirling glaciers and theatrical spires or raise your adrenaline on a thrilling via Ferrata. Your guides will plan each day's excursions according to your preferred activity types and ability. Any way you experience the Cariboo, they'll stay with you forever. Every day promises amazing new adventures you won't find anywhere else.

About the Cariboo Lodge

Perfectly perched at 1,100m (3,600 ft) in the rugged Cariboo Mountains, about 100km (62 mi) west of Mount Robson Provincial Park in east-central BC. Cradled by thick cedars, and ageless glaciers and loaded with creature comforts, it's an ideal home base in the high country.

Don't let the laid-back feel fool you – the lodge is attuned to every little detail in this incredible retreat. From the temperature of the hot tub to the contents of the well-stocked bar and wine cellar, staff goes out of their way to make sure everything about the Cariboo Lodge is warm, inviting, and unforgettable.



Adventure Details

Heli-Hiking The Cariboos
Valemount, BC – Cariboo Lodge, AB

Trip Dates: August 10-16, 2023
Length of Trip: 7 days / 6 nights

from *\$4798USD PER PERSON, double occupancy

*Price determined by which itinerary you choose, *does not include GST and Provincial tax
(Optional 5 day/4 night, heli-hike only also available for *\$4398, see details)*



This trip begins in Calgary, BC International Airport (YYC)
on August 10, 2023.

This trip ends at the Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel (YYC)
on the morning of August 16, 2023.

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Guest Itinerary

Please note that the details of this itinerary including the specific hotels subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

Three Itinerary Options To Choose

To give Walking Connection guests the most flexibility with their Heli-hike adventure, we have designed three itineraries to choose from:

Itinerary A – 6-night trip, includes one night at Fox Hotel in Banff, 4 nights at Cariboo Lodge, one night at Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel.

Itinerary B – 6-night trip, includes two nights at Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel (Day 1 & Day 6) and 4 nights at Cariboo Lodge.

Itinerary C – 4 nights at Cariboo Lodge only.

August 10 – ARRIVAL – Welcome To Canada!

Itinerary A – Arrive at your convenience and shuttle to Banff for overnight at Fox Hotel.

Itinerary B – Arrive at your convenience and overnight at Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel

Itinerary C – Make your own hotel and travel arrangements.

Evening Free – Overnight per Selection Above

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August 11 – Banff, Jasper, Valmont Heli-pad, Cariboo Lodge.

Itinerary B - 6:00 am - Calgary Marriott Hotel pick up for transfer to heli-pad.

Itinerary A - 8:00 am - Depart Banff. (Fox Hotel pick-up time TBA).

Itinerary C – Depart Banff – Pick-up time TBA, depending on your hotel. You will be notified in advance.

Itinerary A, B & C – Group Transfer To Helipad.

All Cariboo Lodge Heli-hikers will transfer together via motorcoach. Gene Taylor, co-founder of the Walking Connection will join you on the coach. Enjoy the journey on one of the most iconic drives in the world as you travel to the helipad in Valemont, BC. Travel snacks, beverages, and traveling box lunch included.

2:15 pm - Arrive at helipad for heli-transfer to Cariboo Lodge.

3:15 pm - Upon arrival, you'll be acquainted with the lodge and settle into your room.

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm - After a helicopter safety briefing enjoy your first short hike exploring the mountains and getting acquainted with the surrounding mountains. Return to the lodge to enjoy après adventure refreshments, a soak in the hot tub or a massage.

7:00 pm - Enjoy your first heli gourmet family-style dinner – Cariboo staff will join you for the meal each evening.

August 12, 13, & 14 – Itinerary A, B, & C

7:30 am - Wake up with a dynamic warm-up class.

8:00 am - Fuel Up with a hearty breakfast to start your day right. Pack your lunch for a day of adventure of hiking or Via Ferrata.

9:00 am - First hiking group will fly into the mountains.

Noon - Lunch in a field of dreams.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm - Return back to the lodge to enjoy après adventure refreshments, a soak in the hot tub or a massage.

7:00 pm - Share stories of your incredible adventures in the mountains as you enjoy family style dinner with your guides and staff.

August 15

8:00 am - Enjoy a hearty lodge breakfast before your last heli-adventure.

9:00 am - First hiking group will fly into the mountains.

Noon - Lunch will be served at the lodge

2:00 pm – All guests heli to heli-pad to meet the coach for transfer to Banff or Calgary International Airport (YYC)

10.30 pm Anticipated arrival at Calgary International Airport.

Itinerary A & B - Check in to Calgary Airport Marriott Hotel.

Itinerary C – Drop off at Banff or Calgary Airport.

August 16

Itinerary A & B - Check out at your leisure for your flight onwards.

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Inclusions

This Walking Connection trip includes:

- Unique itinerary designed by Walking Connection co-founder, Jo Ann Taylor in partnership with our local team in Canada.
- Hosted by Walking Connection co-founder, Gene Taylor beginning August 11.
- **Itinerary A & B: Six nights' Accommodation:** Double occupancy room.
- **Itinerary C:** Four nights' Accommodation – Double Occupancy
- **Food & Beverage:** All meals, starting with lunch on day 2 and ending with lunch on day six. Meals at Cariboo Lodge are chef-prepared breakfast and dinner with packed lunches for the field, après hiking snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.
- **Heli-Assisted Guided Adventure:** Professionally accredited guides will accompany you on your adventure, featuring heli flights into the mountains plus return flights to your lodge
- **Equipment:** Use of hiking equipment, including boots, rain jackets, wind pants, day packs, and hiking poles. Some of our guests bring their own equipment – the choice is yours.
- **Ground Transportation:** Itinerary A & B - From Calgary International Airport to Banff, Banff to the Cariboo's heli-pad, and return to Banff or Calgary International Airport. Itinerary C: by own arrangement
- All activities and tours detailed in the itinerary.
- Detailed *Know Before You Go* information, including recommended website, current Covid-19 protocols including resource information for testing if needed for entry and departure, reading lists, packing list, and weather forecast.

This Walking Connection trip DOES NOT include:

- Local guide and driver gratuities. (Customary).
- All transfers outside of the itinerary schedule.
- Itinerary A, B & C: Airport transfer if you are not returning to Calgary with the group on August 15.
- All international and domestic airfares with tax.
- All items of a personal nature, including beverages and shopping.
- All passport and visa application fees, vaccination, and medical consulting fees.
- Covid-19 testing if required for entry into Canada or returning to country of origin.
- All international departure taxes collected at airport of departure.
- Additional hotel stay pre- or post- scheduled itinerary.
- Early check-in or late check-out of rooms.
- GST and Provincial tax
- Optional tours.
- Photographs or phone calls.
- Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour.
- Travel Insurance.
- Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list above.

Prices, Payments, Cancellations

Prices per person:

Itinerary A - *\$4998.00 USD per person, double occupancy (Including 1 Night at Banff Fox Hotel, 4-night heli-hike, 1 night Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel). *Plus \$240.00 for GST and Provincial tax

Itinerary B - *\$4798.00 USD per person, double occupancy (Including two nights at Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel and 4-night heli-hike).
*Plus \$240.00 for GST and Provincial tax

Itinerary C- *\$4398.00 USD per person, double occupancy (Including four-night heli-hike only).
*Plus \$240.00 for GST and Provincial tax

Single Occupancy: *a limited number of single rooms may be available, please ask for pricing.*

Tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation at the time of final payment.

Individual Guest Deposits:

- All deposits and payments are credited toward guest adventures, subject to the cancellation policy below.
- An initial deposit of \$1000.00 USD per person is required to reserve space. This deposit becomes nonrefundable after March 13, 2023. For sign-ups between March 13- May 1, 2023, a full non-refundable deposit is due with each reservation. Sign-ups May 2 – August 9, 2023, full (non-refundable) payment is due with reservation. [Deposits can be made securely on-line here](#)

Payments:

- All payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to cancellation and penalty policy.
- Final payment is due on or before May 1, 2023.
- 0-100 days prior to the trip, reservations are sold on a space-available basis. Full payment is due at the time of each booking.
- We request that all final payments be made by check, wire transfer, or credit card/PayPal. Credit card and PayPal payments for the final amount due are subject to a 3% surcharge of the total due. Canadian (or other non-U.S. Credit cards) are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made online, by mail, or by phone.

Price Variation:

Prices are based upon the current government fees for park, concession fees and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this information. Should the government impose any new taxes, raise the current tax or increase the entry cost to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along and charged to you. You will be notified of this increase at the time that Walking Connection is notified.

Cancellation Policy, Penalties & Refund:

Should you cancel your adventure the following terms will apply:

- Initial deposits are non-refundable after March 8, 2023.
- For cancellations and no shows 0-100 prior to the trip, all payments are nonrefundable.
- No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to the Walking Connection via e-mail and/or US Postal Service. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date of postmark.

The Walking Connection strongly recommends Travel Insurance. * Generali Global Assistance (Previously CSA Travel Insurance) has been a trusted partner with Walking Connection for more than two decades. As our preferred partner, we work closely with them to assure that our guests are fully protected and receive the services you require. Recommended Travel Insurance provided by: Generali Global Assistance Please follow this link: <https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509>.

Travel Arrangements

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

There is limited availability, and a supplement will apply. Please contact us for details. If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Trip Minimum and Maximum:

Minimum of 10 guests. Walking Connection specializes in traveling in small groups, many times we stay in boutique hotel properties, historical inns, private homes and bed & breakfasts. For this and contractual related reasons, some trips may require a minimum number of guests traveling together to go. This trip will be guaranteed to be conducted either when we have reached the minimum number of guests or evaluated 90 days prior to departure. Also, should the minimum not be met, Walking Connection may elect to operate the trip without a Walking Connection. **Please do not make your international or domestic air arrangements until the trip is confirmed.**

Canada Passports/Visas:

Valid passports must have one blank page and a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are NOT required for all US citizens.

For passport applications and renewals:*

<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affid=992183579f5e584ff2a965b511618cc9>

Airport Arrival and Departures:

Arrival airport: Calgary International Airport (YYC)

Departure airport: Itinerary A & B- Calgary International Airport (YYC) on August 16. Your last night's stay is at the Calgary Marriott Airport Hotel on August 15. Departing flights can be made at whatever time is convenient for you.

BEFORE you make your international airline arrangements, please contact Walking Connection by phone – 623 561 0846 (800)-295-9255 to reconfirm the details of the trip. Walking Connection will provide you with recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need **BEFORE** you book your flights.

Travel Insurance*

WE HAVE BEEN TRAVELING WITH GENERALI (CSA) GLOBAL PROTECTION FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS!

Recommended Travel Insurance provided by: [Generali Global Assistance.*](https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509) Please use this url:

<https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509>

More Details

Trip Grading – Easy to Extreme: Each day, the choice is yours.

- Each day usually consists of 3-6 hours of activities, most centered around walking over various terrains depending on the ability of your group.
- Most days have a range of hiking levels available. Guests are placed in small groups according to their abilities, interest, and desire, and accompanied by one or two professional certified mountain guides.
- Terrain includes flower-filled meadows, ridge walks, glaciers, rocky traverses, and uphill and downhill components. Each day is determined by the weather and the ability of the group that you are hiking with.
- Via Ferrata will also be available to those that are interested.
- Your day pack will include water, snacks, mountain all-weather gear, lunch, sunscreen, personal items, and phone/camera.

Gear & Personal Items:

We will provide a detailed list of personal items you will need that will make your journey safe and convenient. Our host property provides excellent high-end hiking boots, rain jackets, and pants, gators, and hiking poles, at no extra charge. The lodge has an excellent drying room so each day your gear is dry and warm. We will publish a recommended personal gear list and packing list in the Know Before You Go prior to your adventure. We can help with information on types, brands, and what to look for if you are purchasing new gear items for the trip.

Special Supplier Gifts & Items:

As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants, and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages that may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may only be offered for sale. This is a local custom beyond the control of Walking Connection.

Your Local Guides and Trip Host/Escort:

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local legends. We work with a small number of trained and trusted travel partners to deliver the best experiences in the safest way possible. During this trip, you and your small group will be accompanied and led by highly trained professional guides. Walking Connection Co-Founder, Gene Taylor will be hosting this trip beginning August 11. **PLEASE NOTE that another host and guide may be substituted should Gene be unable to lead this adventure for any reason.

CONTACT:

Jo Ann Taylor - +1 602.561.7240 (Text, Voice, WhatsApp). Email: ja@WalkingConnection.com

Walking Connection – Person-to-Person Guest Hotlines: Info@WalkingConnection.com is your best way to ask and receive information about all departures. To chat directly, please call +1 623.561.0846.

Thank you for choosing the Walking Connection.

“We Know The Way!”

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**Please note that The Walking Connection may receive a commission or service fee paid by the companies we recommend.*