

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

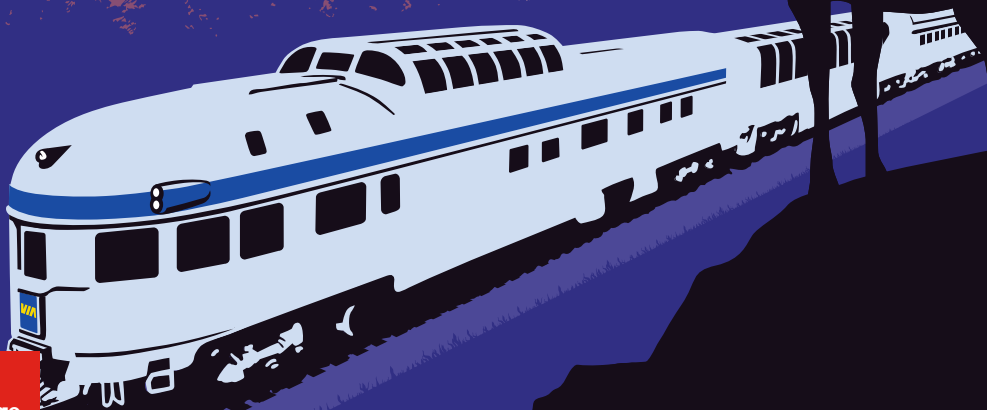
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JULY 8-14, 2025

with optional

Niagara Falls & Toronto Pre-Tour
and Victoria Post-Tour

TORONTO TO VANCOUVER BY RAIL



Orbridge

A Nostalgic Journey Aboard VIA Rail's
The Canadian in Premium Class



Thompson Rivers Confluence, Kamloops

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us as we embark upon a once-in-a-lifetime rail odyssey across Canada's five provinces, gliding through rolling prairies, rugged lake country and the snowy peaks of the magnificent Rockies. This five-star journey features hotel stays at luxurious, historic rail properties bookending four amazing days and nights in Prestige Class aboard VIA Rail's *The Canadian*. This nostalgic rail experience harkens the golden age of train travel.

Prepare to unwind and unplug. Enjoy the serenity of traveling by rail with time to truly disconnect from the outside world. Each day, the outside tapestry unfolds before you as you traverse through Canada's picturesque and diverse landscapes.

While on board, relax in comfort. Your private Prestige Class stateroom provides 50% more living space compared to other cabin categories, including an extra-large picture window, a leather couch by day that transforms into a comfortable double bed with luxury linens by night, private en suite bathroom with shower and nightly turndown service.

Take advantage of additional time to explore Niagara Falls, Toronto and Victoria during the optional pre- and post-tours—each a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty and history of our northern neighbor.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. To reserve, visit uillinois.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President

University of Illinois Alumni Association
<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

Toronto to Vancouver by Rail | Itinerary and Highlights

VIA Rail Canada operates on tracks owned by freight companies, like other passenger railways in North America. While VIA Rail strives for on-time departures and arrivals, increased freight traffic on the railway will often cause delays. These delays could result in delayed departure from Toronto, delayed arrival in to Vancouver and shortened / limited time off of the train. The majority of your time on this tour will be spent aboard the train. Simply unplug and embrace the journey. Onboard services are guaranteed. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated and updated throughout the journey.

Day 1: ARRIVE IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA Upon arrival to Toronto Pearson International Airport an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel. This iconic property is ideally situated steps away from Toronto Union Station and minutes from Toronto's main attractions. This evening relax and mingle with fellow travel companions during a special welcome reception.
Overnight: Fairmont Royal York (R)

Day 2: TORONTO | BOARD VIA RAIL'S THE CANADIAN | HORNEPAYNE After breakfast gather for the quick walk to Union Station to embark upon *The Canadian*. Venture into the Prestige Park car to marvel at the rugged beauty unfolding beyond the windows. Settle into your Prestige Class accommodations—featuring private cabins, panoramic windows and personalized service.
Overnight: *The Canadian* (B,L,D)

Day 3: WINNIPEG, MANITOBA This morning wake to boundless prairie landscape as the journey continues to Winnipeg. Spot for wildlife during breakfast and take advantage of informative discussions led by your Orbridge Travel Director and the on-board staff. Later perhaps gather for a game of cards in the Prestige Park car or admire the scenery from the Skyline car.
Overnight: *The Canadian* (B,L,D)

Day 4: SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN | EDMONTON, ALBERTA Ideally by this point in the journey you have reached a restful feeling of true relaxation—being able to disconnect from devices allowing for more opportunity to connect with each other.
Overnight: *The Canadian* (B,L,D)

Day 5: JASPER | KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA Embrace your final day aboard the train. Navigating through the Canadian Rockies marvel at the scenery along the Fraser River and the incredible obstacles overcome to build a railway here.
Overnight: *The Canadian* (B,L,D)

Day 6: VANCOUVER After breakfast disembark and set off on a guided city tour. The remainder of the day is at leisure. After dinner on your own, rejoin fellow travel companions for a special farewell dessert reception to celebrate this epic cross-country adventure.
Overnight: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (B,R)

Day 7: VANCOUVER | DEPART FOR U.S. Following breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to Vancouver International Airport for flights home. Guests continuing on the optional post-tour will take the ferry to Victoria. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)



What's Included

- 1 night at Fairmont Royal York in Toronto and 1 night at Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, both famous, luxury Canadian Railway hotels
- 4 nights accommodations in Prestige Class onboard VIA Rail's *The Canadian*
- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners (snacks and bar orders are included while aboard *The Canadian*)
- Special welcome and farewell receptions
- Admission to all activities and tours as described in the 7-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director
- Onboard concierge services
- Private motor coach transportation for the sightseeing tour
- Gratuities for Orbridge Travel Director, drivers, porters, VIA Rail attendants and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Activity Level: Guests should be comfortable boarding and disembarking trains without assistance, walking and moving between cars while the train is in motion, and navigating steep, narrow stairs to the upper level of the observation car. All hallways are narrow and have handrails, but train travel can be unpredictable and some unexpected movement may occur. Guests who enjoy the relaxed pace of train travel will delight in spending much of the program's time on the railway. At brief train stop locations, ground may be uneven and covered in loose gravel, with no sidewalks.

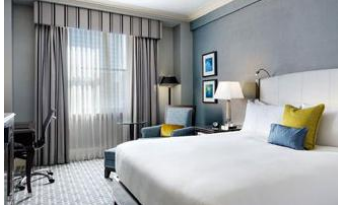


Accommodations *(subject to change)*

FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK

Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1929, it was the tallest building in Canada at the time and featured magnificent architecture and luxury, including over 1,000 en suite guest rooms, a glass-enclosed roof garden, and a concert hall with a 50-ton pipe organ. It has recently undergone a five-year, multimillion dollar renovation to combine stunning, redesigned guest rooms with carefully preserved historic elements.

Located directly across from Union Station—and conveniently connected to the depot by an underground pedestrian walkway—this elegant downtown property is minutes away from the city's best attractions and features five restaurants, four lounges, an indoor pool, gym, spa and business center.



VIA RAIL'S THE CANADIAN

The Canadian's Prestige Class provides an elegant and spacious cabin with oversized picture window with blinds, flat screen TV, modular leather L-shaped couch seating by day and comfortable double bed with luxurious bedding for two at night and private bathroom with shower and deluxe amenities. Passengers in Prestige Class also enjoy priority boarding, access to the Business Lounge at Toronto's Union Station, private concierge service with in-cabin cocktails and canapés, turndown service and privileged access to the Park Car.



FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER

Opened in 1939—just in time for a visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth—this opulent gem, known as the “Castle in the City,” quickly became a landmark in Vancouver. The newly-renovated hotel features distinguished restaurants and lounges, an indoor pool, gym and spa.



Optional Pre-Tour Niagara Falls & Toronto

Discover the wonders of Niagara Falls and Toronto. With the guidance of a skilled captain, get up-close and personal with Canadian Horseshoe Falls and breathtaking Great Gorge, experiencing the roar, power and mist they create.

Day +1: ARRIVE IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

After arriving settle into your accommodations and enjoy the remainder of the day to explore the city.

Overnight: Fairmont Royal York

Day +2: TORONTO | NIAGARA FALLS Embark upon what many consider to be Canada's most memorable experience: a cruise around majestic Niagara Falls on a thrilling Hornblower boat tour led by passionate guides who entertain with legendary stories, history and fascinating facts about the Niagara region. Next, enjoy lunch overlooking the falls followed by leisure time in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Overnight: Fairmont Royal York (B,L)

Day +3: TORONTO | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS After breakfast set off on a half-day guided city tour. Marvel at the grandeur and elegance of a bygone era as you explore the exterior and grounds of Casa Loma, a historic castle built atop Davenport Hill overlooking downtown Toronto. Next prepare your tastebuds for lunch at St. Lawrence Market—hailed by National Geographic as one of the top food markets in the world. Afterward visit the CN Tower—a celebrated icon of Toronto's skyline at more than 1,815 feet high and one of the "Seven Modern Wonders of the World." This evening join fellow travelers to begin the main program. (B)

What's Included

- 2 nights at the Fairmont Royal York (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Guided city tour of Toronto
- Access to all stops included on the city tour
- Private transportation to/from Niagara Falls
- Niagara Falls boat tour
- Gratuities to local guide and driver





Optional Post-Tour Victoria

Enjoy two nights in delightful Victoria—a colorful pedestrian-friendly city is an ideal spot for whale watching, biking, shopping, and sampling from the wide variety of cafés and restaurants that line bustling Government Street.

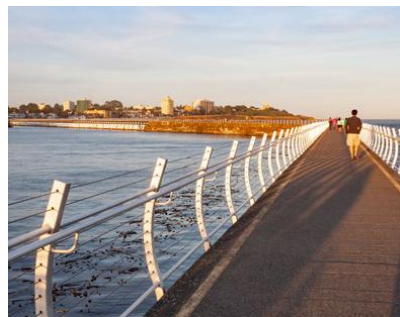
Day 7: VANCOUVER | VICTORIA This morning take an included transfer to the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal. Aboard a BC Ferry, cruise the Strait of Georgia from Vancouver to Victoria. After arriving explore world-famous Butchart Gardens—a national historic site of Canada replete with lush greens and colorful blooms. Afterward stop for lunch on your own before joining a local guide for a panoramic tour of Victoria through Chinatown, past the Parliament buildings, along Dallas Road and through Beacon Hill. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. Explore some of Victoria's most beautiful downtown sites, including: Christ Church Cathedral, with its gothic stone architecture, magnificent stained glass windows and Helmuth Wolff organ; Craigdarroch Castle, a stunning Victorian mansion; Bastion Square, site of the original Fort Victoria, with its spectacular views of the local harbor; or the renowned Royal British Columbia. Overnight: Fairmont Empress

Day 8: VICTORIA Today features additional opportunities to explore more of this charming city. Enjoy a walking tour of the downtown to appreciate its history and culture or a whale-watching cruise to see the wildlife-filled waters off the coast. Take time for a carriage ride, English-style high tea, or a stroll through some of Beacon Hill Park's 200 acres. Your local guide or hotel concierge can help set up a day perfect for you. Overnight: Fairmont Empress (B)

Day 9: VICTORIA | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to Victoria International Airport for flights home. (B)

What's Included

- A 1.5 hour ferry cruise from Vancouver to Victoria across the Strait of Georgia
- 2 nights at the Fairmont Empress (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- Guided panoramic city tour
- Admission to Butchart Gardens
- Gratuities to local guide
- Airport transfer for guests departing during the suggested times



TORONTO TO VANCOUVER BY RAIL

JULY 8-14, 2025

Niagara Falls & Toronto Pre-Tour: July 6-8, 2025

Victoria Post-Tour: July 14-16, 2025

Standard
Rate:

~~\$13,499~~
\$7,999

\$13,499 Single

Special
Rate:

~~\$12,995~~
\$7,495*

\$12,995 Single

Niagara Falls & Toronto Pre-Tour*

Double: \$1,295 | Single: \$1,795

Victoria Post-Tour*

Double: \$1,295 | Single: \$1,795

Rates are per person based on double occupancy
except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: uillinois.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DEPOSIT:


_____ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

*Special group rate; limited offer. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Travel Program
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

TORONTO TO VANCOUVER BY RAIL

JULY 8-14, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

30-day refund guarantee

What Guests Are Saying...

You can always count on U of I EXPLORERS trips for interesting sites, quality tours, and fun companions!

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

I always enjoy being with fellow alumni and making new friends when visiting a new location.

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

Orbridge is an amazing company, I really appreciate and enjoy their approach to the details and comfort of our trip

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by

January 17, 2025**

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