



CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
RAINFOREST TO ROCKIES

Mt Robson Provincial Park © Destination BC / Megan McLellan

Embrace wonder in British Columbia



HIKING TRAILS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SELF-DRIVE

(Tour code: 13766)

7 days from
AUD **2,572 pp**
twin share



LAKES & LODGES SELF-DRIVE

(Tour code: 11624)

11 days from
AUD **4,646 pp**
twin share



BEST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SELF-DRIVE

(Tour code: 13767)

11 days from
AUD **3,163 pp**
twin share



ULTIMATE WESTERN CANADA SELF-DRIVE

(Tour code: 12959)

15 days from
AUD **6,068 pp**
twin share

SPEAK TO OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS TODAY!

www.entiretravel.com.au canada@entiretravel.com.au (02) 9094 3322



MTA Advisor Sandy Sirianni



Slide INTO SUCCESS

ENJOY OUR ALL-INCLUSIVE SUPPORT

mtatravel.com.au

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest industry news plus a cover wrap from **Entire Travel Group**, our **Luxury** page, as well as full pages from:

- **Infinity Holidays**
- **Uniworld**

VA sends out warning

VIRGIN Australia has warned that the second half of 2024 will represent a major financial challenge for the carrier as it combats "aggressive market pricing & strong capacity growth".

In a letter to staff, outgoing CEO, Jayne Hrdlicka (**TD** 21 Feb), indicated the airline will need to navigate strong headwinds this year despite also delivering a pleasing profit for the six months to 31 Dec 2023.

The memo contained "rough" financial figures which showed VA posted a \$236 million profit for the latest half-year period, a sizable \$100 million increase on the full-year \$129 million profit result posted for 2023.

Revenue also rose to \$2.8 billion, while the profit margin for the carrier improved by three percentage points to 8.5%.

Reflecting on the tougher financial conditions ahead, Hrdlicka said it was key for the

business "to stay focused on the execution of our plans".

VA's chief also informed staff the airline had carried almost 45 million passengers since it left administration under Bain Capital in 2020 (**TD** 07 Sep 2020).

The latest news follows an email authored by Hrdlicka to Velocity members last week, where she offered reassurance that the airline was improving and almost back to pre-COVID volumes. **AB**

DriveAway, one-way

DRIVEAWAY has enhanced its booking system with the introduction of one-way fees on car hire bookings, in a bid to simplify and streamline the booking process for travel agents.

"We understand the importance of simplicity and transparency in the travel booking process," DriveAway National Sales Manager, Nathan Baber, said.

Entire-ly wonderful

ENTIRE Travel Group is inviting travellers to experience the wonder of British Columbia with its 'Rainforest to Rockies' self-drive itineraries, such as the 11-day 'Lakes & Lodges Self-Drive', or the 'Ultimate Western Canada Self-Drive' - see the **front page**.

AATKings
A-LIST ACCESS
NEW PODCAST

El Questro, The Kimberley

with special guests including
CHRISTINE POOLE
Trade Account Manager, Tourism WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM

[Listen now](#)

The \$10,000 Cash Splash

How would you spend your share?*

\$800 \$50 \$5000

[LEARN MORE](#)

nib

T&Cs apply.

AATKings

SAVE
up to
15%
on selected tours*

*T&C's apply

[Find out more](#)



CANADA RAINFOREST TO ROCKIES [EXPLORE](#) **ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP**

SPEAK TO OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS TODAY.

Intrepid doubles down

INTREPID has revealed ambitions to double its customers to 600,000 and achieve revenues of \$1.3 billion over the next six years, as part of its newly launched '2030 Strategy'.

Unveiled at the company's flagship Global Summit, the ambitious plan will see Intrepid pursue new verticals, including in publishing and accommodation, CEO James Thornton said.

Intrepid has already signed a new deal with book publisher Hardie Grant to publish a series of travel books over the next three years (**TD 01 Mar**).

The conference was also an opportunity for the company to announce its four new values - 'ambitious, impactful, real and together', which were developed in partnership with employee advocacy groups from across Intrepid's global business.

"At Intrepid, the problem we are solving is so much more than a



holiday," Thornton explained.

"We provide a sense of community and connectedness in an increasingly isolated and disconnected world.

"If we are successful in our '2030 Strategy', Intrepid will give back a record amount to environmental and social causes that we believe in as a business."

Part of the giving plan ethos will see the operator donate 1% of all revenue directly to its various charity initiatives.

Alongside Intrepid's co-founders Darrell Wade and Geoff Manchester, Thornton will visit each of the company's 27 country offices over the next four months, in order to directly communicate the new company strategy. *JM*

Auckland seeing RED

RADISSON Hotel Group will open Radisson RED Auckland in New Zealand in 2025, billed as offering travellers a more "playful and dynamic" guest experience than other hotel providers.

To be situated on Queen Street, the slated 322-room property, owned by Stonewood Group, will feature an all-day restaurant, a wellness facility, as well as four large meeting rooms.

"The Radisson RED brand is an ideal brand that diversifies our real estate portfolio, with a strong commercial and operational value proposition...in Queen Street's thriving arts district," Stonewood Group said.

Uniworld '24-25 brox

UNIWORLD has unveiled its 2024-2025 World Brochure, which features four new European itineraries, five new cruise and rail journeys, and more - details on the **last page**.

Infinity to Rockies

INFINITY Holidays has detailed its range of Canadian itineraries, from Vancouver on the Pacific Coast to the Canadian Rockies.

Learn more about Infinity's full suite of customisable journeys by heading to **page eight**.

Qantas drives Apollo

FOUR Aussie travellers will share in \$20,000 in travel vouchers and one million Qantas points as part of a new comp launched by Qantas and Tourism Holdings' Apollo brand.

To be in the running, Aussies will need to share where and how they would take the ultimate campervan road trip **HERE**.

Apollo is also offering 10% discounts on daily vehicle rental rates when bookings are made between 01 Mar and 14 Apr, for travel between 02 Apr & 23 Sep.

Qantas Frequent Flyer members earn points for every dollar spent on campervan hires with Apollo.



TAIWAN TOUR SPECIALIST
 ♦ Taipei ♦ Taroko Gorge ♦ Taitung ♦ Kaohsiung ♦ Alishan ♦ Chiayi ♦ Lukang

7 Days Around Taiwan Tour
 From **\$1529** /pp (land only)
 Small-group private guided tours

More tours available online . Trade welcome
 “ Explore Taiwan Like Locals ”

MY TAIWAN ESCAPE 02 9199 8755
 ✉ agent@mytaiwanescape.com.au 🌐 www.mytaiwanescape.com.au [CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

Charter routes boost

TWICE weekly nonstop services between Moranbah and Cairns have been launched by Rex Airlines in an expanded mining and resources charter operation.

The services will be operated by Rex's joint-venture National Jet Express (NJE) and flown by a De Havilland Dash 8-400NG aircraft.

MEANWHILE, Alliance Aviation has extended its FIFO contract with Golf Fields GSM Mining Company for a further two years.

SYD serves the goods

TRAVELLERS using Sydney Airport can satisfy their appetites before their flight, with several new dining options now available at the T1 International terminal.

Iconic Aussie food brand Betty's Burgers is offering its extensive menu of classic burgers, sides and drinks in the Sydney hub's casual dining precinct, along with Oporto and Mad Mex which are both joining Betty's in T1.

BA's \$13.6b transformation

BRITISH Airways will embark on a £7 billion (A\$13.6b) transformation plan, which it recently unveiled at its first 'In the Skies' showcase event in London.

The strategy will see the UK carrier roll out more than 600 modernisation initiatives as it invests in every part of its business, including customer experience, IT and sustainability.

A new website and mobile app is set to launch by the end of the year, as part of BA's efforts to overhaul its digital user experience, with a focus on enhanced personalisation.

The carrier will also pour UK\$100m (A\$195m) into machine learning, automation and AI across its operation to improve bookings, baggage handling and more, and introduce new short-haul seats and cabin interiors on its next-gen A320neo and A321neo aircraft.

"We're on a journey to a better

BA for our people and for our customers, underpinned by a transformation program...to revolutionise our business," said BA CEO Sean Doyle. *JM*

QF's \$250k penalty

QANTAS has been ordered to pay \$250,000 for standing down a worker who raised work health and safety concerns during the pandemic (**TD** 16 Nov 2023).

The sentencing comes after SafeWork NSW brought the first-of-its-kind action against the airline in Oct 2021, after it illegally fired Theo Seremetidis in Feb 2020.

Qantas dismissed Seremetidis after he directed his colleagues to stop cleaning and servicing aircraft arriving from China, due to concerns about workers being exposed to COVID-19.

The carrier has 28 days to appeal the decision.

Airbnb cleans it up

AIRBNB revealed it has removed more than 100,000 "low quality" listings from its platform since launching a new hosting quality system last year.

The listings were removed after continuing to provide a "below par" guest experience, according to the short-stay rental platform, based on a number of factors including host cancellations and subcategory ratings.

The announcement comes as Airbnb unveiled several updates for 2024, including the a new highlight to help top listings stand out from the crowd.

Those in the top 25% of ranked listings globally will soon have a unique highlight added to their page, while the top 1% will receive a special trophy icon.

Additionally, nearly 1.5 million Airbnb listings, including some in Australia as well as the UK, US, Canada, and France, are set to be verified by the end of the month and will receive a 'verified' badge.

helloworld
TRAVEL
 THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS
 SYDNEY TRAVEL GROUP

Come join our family. Home of the most successful and awarded Travel Agents in Sydney. Due to ongoing growth of our business, we need the following Experienced Consultants at our stores.

Positions Available

- **Helloworld Travel Dapto** - 2 x Full Time, 1 x Part Time
 Contact: 0409 800 491
yohan.circularquay@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Drummoyne** – 1 x Full or Part Time
 Contact: 0416 943 929
janene.drummoyne@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Eastgardens** – 2 x Full Time, 1 x Part Time
 Contact: 0409 800 491
yohan.circularquay@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Lane Cove** – 2 x Full Time
 Contact: 0419 418 666
debbi.lanecove@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Miranda** – 1 x Assistant Manager, 1 x Full or Part Time
 Contact: 0402332358
gada.miranda@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Top Ryde City** – 1 x Part Time
 Contact: 0413 815 830
Lydia.toprydecity@helloworld.com.au
- **Helloworld Travel Winston Hills** – 1 x Full Time
 Contact: 0401 158 344
davina.winstonhills@helloworld.com.au

***Some positions are open to hybrid and or working from home arrangements**



[Click here to discover](#)

Reporter extension

THE deadline for Rail Europe's search for a Travel Advisor Reporter (**TD 22 Feb**) has been extended to Sun 10 Mar.

The lucky winner will be sent on a week-long train journey through France, Switzerland, Netherlands, and Belgium, where they will document and share their experiences on social media.

The winner will be announced on 13 Mar and embark on the European adventure in Apr.

WSI tower of change

WESTERN Sydney Airport (WSI) will be the first in Australia to operate without a manned air traffic control tower when it opens in 2026.

Instead, it will use a 45-metre mast fitted with 20 high definition cameras streaming live feeds back to a data centre, which will be located 17km from the airport in the suburb of Eastern Creek.

CruiseHQ recruiting

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) new B2B cruise wholesale division, CruiseHQ, is currently on the lookout for experienced travel experts to fill several cruise advisor roles within its Sydney-based call centre.

"We are very excited to build our call centre team focused on delivering incredible value and unparalleled standards in service and support for our networks of travel agency partners," CruiseHQ GM, Caroline Hitchen, said.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

We are finally here: TK



THIS week saw history made as Turkish Airlines touched down in Melbourne for the carrier's formal debut in the city.

The decision to launch operations in Melbourne arrives as the airline, which boasts one of the largest air networks in the world, expressed an ambition last year to service a clear and growing demand in Australia.

Melbourne was selected as the first Australian hub as it has a large Turkish diaspora, but Sydney is expected to follow in the not-too-distant future, alongside options to expand to other Australian ports down the track.

"The inauguration of our Melbourne route is a testament to our growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region and underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering connections between diverse

cultures and communities across the globe," Turkish Airlines Chairman, Ahmet Bolat, said.

But the landmark moment this week did not enjoy a smooth flight, after the Federal Government initially knocked back the carrier's debut, citing an absence of regulatory paperwork from Turkish Airlines.

The delay led to a mildly embarrassing moment for the carrier as it held an extravagant launch ceremony in Melbourne last year (**TD 24 Jul 2023**) in preparation for a planned launch in Nov 2023, only for the date to be pushed back by many months.

In a testament that good things come to those who wait, the fanfare for the three times weekly flights between Melbourne and Istanbul via Singapore has been strong, with special introductory prices now in place. *AB*

Learn about Europe

ORMINA Tours is running a webinar for travel advisors to learn about the changing landscape of Europe market.

The webinar will run on 13 Mar at 4pm AEDT and last for approximately half an hour.

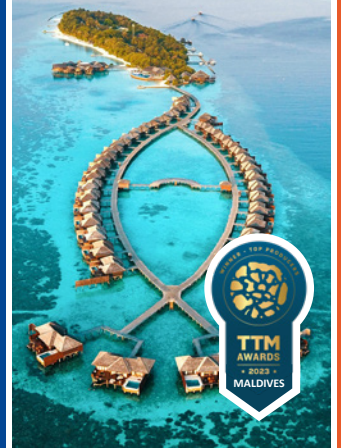
It is free to sign up - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

THO TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS®
"Creating Memories"

WHOLESALE & DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

MALDIVES

Over
70
Direct
Contracted
Resorts



Calling all Travel Professionals

Learn more about selling Jetstar at our Novice and Masterclass sessions.

[Register here](#)

Stay up to date with all that Jetstar has to advised agents. Subscribe to our Trade News today.

[Subscribe here](#)

Jetstar

Ponant in pole position on Polar cruises

FOLLOWING Tauck's 'Friday Night at the Gallery', which featured an opera singer, a fabulous band, portrait artist and wonderful food, Ponant celebrated in white, and danced last Sat night away at the Ponant Polar Party on the Gold Coast, for the Luxury Travel Collection's showcase.

The celebration continued for Philippa Enright of Davis and James Travel Associates, Beecroft, who won a polar experience to Antarctica.

Enright had a choice of 13 Antarctica departures from Nov 2024 through to Feb 2025 and has selected an incredible 19-day luxury expedition that explores the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia Island and Buenos Aires.

The prize is valued at \$56,480 for two guests, and includes a Prestige Stateroom stay with private balcony.

Sales are opening for the Nov 2025 to Mar 2026 season this week, so agents can get clients ready for the best polar adventure ever, and the earlier you book, the better the savings. Save up to 30% off brochure fares when sales open tomorrow on 07 Mar.



CONGRATULATIONS to Philippa Enright (centre) who is off to Antarctica.



Williams at LTC

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) has named Tania Williams as its new National Partnership Development Manager.

Williams brings two decades of experience in travel, retail and luxury sales, including previous roles at Flight Centre Travel Group and Travel Associates Australia.

The Qld-based sales expert said she is excited to “build partnerships to drive leisure travel to new heights”.

Lux Ha Long sailings

HERITAGE Line is now offering exclusive private charter sailings along Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay for from US\$266 (A\$409) per person per night.

The two- or three-day itineraries aboard *Heritage Line VIOLET* allows travellers to experience the Vietnamese destination’s UNESCO World Heritage-listed scenery, picnic on secluded islands, and enjoy a range of sunset cocktails.

Each trip can also be tailored to suit the occasion, including onboard activities, drinks packages and guided shore excursions.

The deal is available until 17 Mar for departures between May and Sep in 2024 and 2025 - more info [HERE](#).

UNGERER STEPS DOWN AS EXPLORA CEO

EXPLORA Journeys CEO Michael Ungerer (**pictured**) has announced his departure from the luxury cruise business after five years at the helm.

During his time at the MSC Group brand, he led the creation of Explora Journeys and successfully launched the first ship, *Explora I* (**TD** 21 Jul 2023).

“Creating a new luxury hospitality brand from scratch in today’s world has been a true, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and an incredible journey,” Ungerer shared.

“It has been a real privilege working with the visionary Pierfrancesco Vago and the entire Aponte family, which I am forever grateful for,” he added.

According to a statement from Explora, Ungerer will leave his



role for personal reasons.

“It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside Michael as we have brought to life this incredible new brand and built everything from the bottom up,” Executive Chairman of MSC Group’s Cruise Division, Pierfrancesco Vago, said.

“I would like to thank Michael for his efforts and contribution, and we wish him well for the future,” he added.

Ungerer will stay on board as an advisor for the brand through to the end of Aug 2024, while Vago will take on the CEO role until a replacement is found. *JM*

Myconian Collection unveils new Mykonos hotel

THE Greek island of Mykonos will soon be home to DEOS, the newest hotel from The Myconian Collection, which opens its doors in the northern hemisphere spring of 2024.

Positioned on a hilltop above the town of Mykonos, the property offers panoramic views of the famous windmills in the old harbour, and across the neighbouring islands of Delos, Syros, and Tinos.

With rooms that are designed to feel like a private residence with all the comforts of home,



DEOS also features dedicated wellness spaces, a fully equipped gym, and a luxurious spa with an indoor pool, sauna, and steam bath.

Guests can also enjoy fresh and seasonal Mediterranean cuisine at Epico, the hotel’s fine-dining restaurant.

Virtuoso prepares

VIRTUOSO is getting ready to host its annual Australia & New Zealand Forum in Bangkok on 12-13 Mar.

The event will bring together the best in luxury travel, featuring 90 member agency owners and managers, as well as global and regional preferred partners and the group’s senior executives.

This year’s forum will offer networking opportunities and professional development sessions to help members future-proof their businesses.

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

Looking for ready-made social media content? *Travel & Cruise Weekly* have ready made agent toolkits featuring email signatures, images, and social media tiles to inspire your clients.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel & Cruise

Weekly

The Chat

with Jenny



Travel Daily

A conversations with Jennifer Gaskin

PROUDLY SPONSORED by **Regent** SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

CLICK HERE to listen

ACCOMMODATION

Send your accommodation updates to: accmupdates@traveldaily.com.au



COMO Shambala Estate in Bali has launched a new program to help guests improve their wellness. The initiative includes five 'Wellness Paths' designed by fitness, nutrition and naturopathy experts. Each treatment will use a combination of diagnostics, diet, and breathwork throughout a multi-night experience. Guests can also benefit from a wide range of healthy dishes at the resort's revamped Glow restaurant.

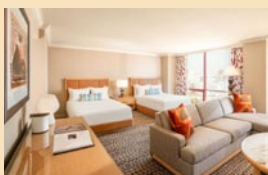


Island Shangri-La Hong Kong has launched 21 new luxury suites designed for families. Guests can choose from 10 different child-friendly themes, and enjoy family-oriented facilities, including toddler-safe beds and interactive toys.

Extra luggage spaces and in-room babysitting services are also on offer. Meanwhile, guests can take advantage of 'The Hangout', a living-dining-play room, & 'The Pantry', offering child-friendly utensils.



Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort has recently unveiled its US\$26 million property-wide renovation. The urban getaway now houses a refreshed front entrance, an enhanced lobby, 323 upgraded guestrooms with revitalised balconies, and an expanded courtyard. Guests are also invited to enjoy the new pool complex, which includes two family pools and an adults-only area, while the existing kids' splash pad has also received a refresh.



The first phase of **Rio Hotel & Casino's** two-phase renovation will be completed later this year, transitioning to Hyatt's Independent Collection under the Destination by Hyatt brand. Upon completion of the revamp, the Las Vegas

hotel will boast extensive upgrades to its rooms, public and meeting spaces, and a redesign of its Masquerade Tower guestrooms.



Cleveland Estate in Victoria's Macedon Ranges has reopened, unveiling a new look across its 50 guestrooms and suites, which are set against the backdrop of native forests and picturesque countryside. The multi-million dollar refurbishment pays

homage to the property's heritage with a "daring" colour palette and a compelling collection of antique and modern pieces.

Tastier Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH International Airport has partnered with food and beverage company SSP Group, which will run five outlets as part of an eight-year deal.

Both the airport and SSP Group will develop concepts showcasing strong local brands, including a bespoke cafe, a bar and casual dining option, a fast food outlet and two bespoke concepts to celebrate Christchurch culture.

Digital touchscreens and order-at-table options will be on offer.

"This is an important part of our wider refresh of our food and beverage offering, to give us a suite of offerings to meet our customer needs," CHC CEO Justin Watson said.

CX revamps meals

CATHAY Pacific is now offering Cantonese and regional Chinese cuisine as part of a new tie-up with Michelin-starred Hong Kong restaurant, Duddell's.

Think Sichuan-style poached chicken with sesame sauce; crystal pork terrine from Zhenjiang in China's Jiangsu province; slow-cooked beef ribs and plenty more.

The new Hong Kong Flavours menu is available on business and first class long-haul flights.

BA slow to rebound

BRITISH Airways parent company IAG has revealed a slower than expected rebound in the APAC region has hampered its overall post-COVID recovery.

In a full-year trading update, IAG said overall capacity for 2023 closed at 90.1% of 2019 levels, with long-haul capacity to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2025.



DARING visitors can indulge in spooky spirits with a side of scones at Shangri-La Sydney's 'Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire High Tea', which is taking place from 16 Mar to 07 Apr.

The hotel's Lobby Lounge will undergo a 'chilling' transformation inspired by the upcoming *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* film release, with a three-tiered array of supernatural sweets and savoury delights on offer.

Guests can tuck into classic New York City-style cheeseburgers, cheesecake and apple pie macaroons, paired with exclusive themed cocktails like the 'Slimer Sour' and 'The Death Chill'.

Prices for the enticingly eerie experience start from \$79pp - book **HERE** if you dare.

Bonville's hole-in-one

BONVILLE Golf Resort on the Coffs Coast of NSW has been welcomed into the Great Golf Courses of Australia (GGCA) collective as a member of the elite Signature Tier.

Located at the foot of the Great Dividing Range, the resort offers comfortable accommodation, award-winning dining, and a golf course flanked by rainforest and manicured gardens.

The GGCA is a partnership between Tourism Australia, state tourism bodies and the golf industry, and is designed to showcase the best of Australia's golf offerings to int'l markets.



Explore one of the world's most iconic journeys, from sea to the sky, by road or trail – from Vancouver on the Pacific Coast, to the Canadian Rockies.

Discover bookable, customisable itineraries in Helio today.

RAINFOREST TO ROCKIES

SUPER. NATURAL
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA

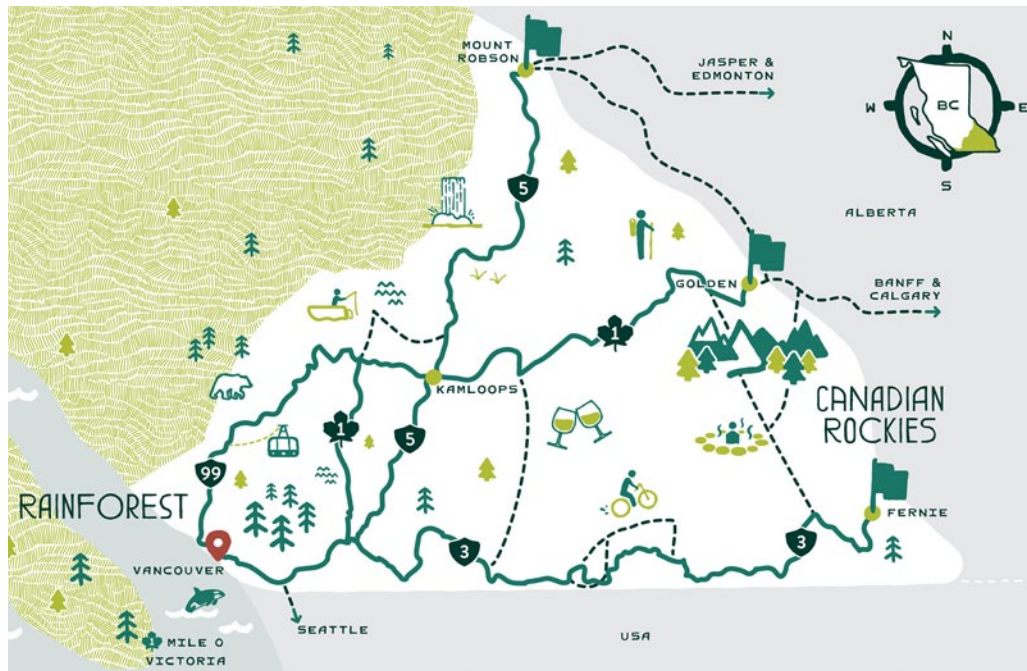
Explore in Helio



Crowsnest to the Rockies

Venture down this gem of a route to connect with Indigenous cultures, sample farm-to-table cuisine, and get a glimpse of fascinating BC history—all set against an incredible naturescape that changes with every turn.

8 NIGHTS FROM
\$1,299*
per person, including car hire.



The Signature Circle Route

Embark on an expansive Rainforest to Rockies circle route from the Pacific Ocean to the Canadian Rockies and back again. Witness British Columbia's highlights and highest peaks on this unforgettable journey.

8 NIGHTS FROM
\$1,449*
per person, including car hire.



North to Mount Robson

Travel the Sea-to-Sky Highway from Vancouver and beyond, exploring shifting landscapes that take you from sea level to summit, and from canyons to cactus before rising again toward Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies.

9 NIGHTS FROM
\$1,799*
per person, including car hire.



Valleys and Vineyards

Travel through landscapes that transform from waterfront to valley floor, mountain passes to desert, and back again. Along the way, toast to your journey with a glass of something local and the very freshest fare.

8 NIGHTS FROM
\$1,299*
per person, including car hire.

2024-2025 WORLD BROCHURE



Now
Available!

View online or order free printed copies now on [TIFS!](#)

NEW FOR 2025

- 10% Early Payment Discount on all cruises in 2025
- 2 new beautiful Super Ships S.S. Victoria and S.S. Elisabeth
- 4 brand new itineraries in Europe
- 5 new Cruise & Rail itineraries
- and much more...

ORDER NOW

**CENTRAL EUROPE • FRANCE • ITALY • SPAIN & PORTUGAL
PERU • EGYPT • VIETNAM & CAMBODIA • INDIA**

For more information please call reservations on 1300 780 231 or e-mail reservations@uniworldcruises.com.au