



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

All aboard amazing



Company History

Many have likened Canada's development to that of its railways, which helped unite the burgeoning country from coast to coast. With the driving of the "last spike" in Craigellachie in 1885, the new 4,800-kilometre (3,000 mi) transcontinental railway effectively convinced British Columbians to join Canada, rather than our American neighbours to the south. Since its inception, Rocky Mountaineer has become the largest privately owned luxury tourist train company in the world and an internationally-renowned iconic travel experience.

- 1990** The Government of Canada decides to drastically cut VIA Rail's heavily subsidized operations and privatize its daylight tourist service. The Great Canadian Railtour Company (GCRC), owner of Rocky Mountaineer, is awarded the right to purchase VIA Rail's equipment and operate on the routes. Under the leadership of company founder Peter Armstrong, a select group of former railroad executives and tourism experts create a vision for Rocky Mountaineer, a two-day, all-daylight journey through Canada's West and the Canadian Rockies.
- 1995** The company launches its GoldLeaf Service, featuring bi-level custom-built glass-dome coaches with stunning panoramic views on the upper level, and the galley, dining room and observation deck on the lower level. Today, GoldLeaf Service represents more than 65 percent of all guest bookings.
- 1996** Rocky Mountaineer sets the record for longest passenger train in Canadian history (37 cars). In 1999, it breaks its own record (41 cars).
- 2005** The newly formed Armstrong Group (AG) replaces GCRC as Rocky Mountaineer's parent company.
- 2006** Rocky Mountaineer launches two new tourist train routes: Whistler Sea to Sky Climb, operating a day trip between North Vancouver and Whistler, BC; and Rainforest to Gold Rush, which winds through BC's seldom seen interior between Whistler and Jasper, AB.
- 2008** Rocky Mountaineer welcomes aboard its One Millionth Guest, from Superior, Wisconsin, USA.
- 2009** Millions of viewers tune in to watch ABC's hit reality TV series, The Bachelorette, featuring a four-day rail journey onboard Rocky Mountaineer.



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- 2010** Rocky Mountaineer celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over its first 20 years, the company has grown from a railway enthusiast's entrepreneurial dream into one of Canada's leading tourism providers.
- Rocky Mountaineer operates an exclusive train on behalf of the Province of Alberta during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, where VIPs, celebrities, athletes, and media were among the guests on this daily service between Vancouver and Whistler.
- The largest departure in Rocky Mountaineer's history departs with 1,323 guests in October.
- 2012** Rocky Mountaineer introduces its newest level of service, SilverLeaf Service on the First Passage to the West route.
- Rocky Mountaineer runs its bi-level dome cars on the Whistler Sea to Sky Climb route.
- 2013** Rocky Mountaineer launches its new Coastal Passage route, connecting Seattle, WA, to Vancouver, BC, and the Canadian Rockies to offer a three-day rail journey.
- Rocky Mountaineer adds SilverLeaf Service to its Journey through the Clouds route.
- Lake Louise, AB, is offered as a new destination on Rocky Mountaineer's First Passage to the West route.
- Rocky Mountaineer launches a new annual corporate giving program, Train for Heroes. Every year, Rocky Mountaineer selects heroes who give selflessly for the good of others and invites them on the train for a life changing experience of their own. The launch of the program celebrated wounded soldiers and veterans from around the globe.
- 2014** Rocky Mountaineer's newest route, Coastal Passage, increases to 24 departures.
- SilverLeaf Service is offered on three routes: First Passage to the West, Journey through the Clouds, and Coastal Passage.
- Train for Heroes partners with international organ transplant organizations to honour organ donors and recipients on this year's train.
- 2015** Rocky Mountaineer celebrates its 25th anniversary. Since inception, the company has grown to be the largest privately owned luxury tourist train company in the world.
- SilverLeaf Service is offered on all four routes: First Passage to the West, Journey through the Clouds, Coastal Passage, and Rainforest to Gold Rush.
- Train for Heroes partners with Starlight Children's Foundation to welcome families with a seriously ill child onboard this year's train.
- 2016** Rocky Mountaineer launches the season as an all-dome fleet.
- The second three-day rail route, Rainforest to Gold Rush, travels between Vancouver and Jasper via Whistler and Quesnel, BC.
- Train for Heroes honours unsung heroes and good samaritans from the 2016 wildfire in Fort McMurray, AB, in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross.