



THE CANADIAN

YOURS TO KEEP

ROUTE GUIDE TORONTO—VANCOUVER

This guide presents an overview of the points of interest along the route. From Toronto, the *Canadian*[®] travels 4,466 km through the boreal forests of Northern Ontario, the expansive Prairies, and the majestic Canadian Rockies before arriving in Vancouver.

01 TORONTO

Mile: 0

Population: 2,615,060

The city of Toronto is the capitol of Ontario, Canada's most populous province. Appropriately, Toronto is the Huron word for "a place of meetings." Huge office towers dominate the skyline along the shores of Lake Ontario—a spectacular view best experienced from the CN Tower's SkyPod observation deck, which stands 147 stories high. The train boards at Union Station, immediately across from the imposing Royal York Hotel. The Harbourfront, as well as Yonge and Bay streets are just a few blocks away.

02 WASHAGO

Mile: 98

Population: 600

Gateway to the Muskokas, this railway junction point at the head of Lake Couchiching is popular with cottagers, fishing enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers.

03 PARRY SOUND

Mile: 150

Population: 6,191

Parry Sound marks the eastern edge of the rugged Canadian Shield, that region of billion-year-old exposed bedrock that covers half of Canada, between the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay, and parts of the northern United States.

04 GREATER SUDBURY

Mile: 262

Population: 160,274

Whether due to a volcanic eruption or the impact of a meteor, the Sudbury area has been blessed with a rich abundance of mineral resources. The city is known as the nickel capital of Canada. At 381 metres high, the INCO smokestack pierces the skyline.

05 CAPREOL

Mile: 276

Population: 3,276

The landscape around Capreol is a combination of rugged and exposed bedrock of the Canadian Shield and “muskeg,” an Algonquian word describing deep, unstable soil with a high water content.

06 GOGAMA

Mile: 86

Population: 450

Gogama is typical of the small, relatively isolated settlements along this section of the railway that were created to service locomotives and placed at approximately 240-kilometre intervals.

07 HORNEPAYNE

Mile: 296

Population: 1,050

The community started as a railway town but the major industry today is wood, as evidenced by the piles of logs and the pulp and plywood mills that border the railway tracks.

08 LONGLAC

Mile: 100

Population: 1,750

Located at the northern tip of Long Lake, the area played an important role as part of the historic canoe route for fur traders. This is a multilingual town (52% of the population speak English, 44% speak French and 4% speak other languages).

09 ARMSTRONG

Mile: 243

Population: 1,216

This town is located at the north end of magnificent Lake Nipigon, which spans 96 kilometres from north to south and 64 kilometres at its widest point. The area offers some of the best fly-in fishing and hunting in the region.

10 SIOUX LOOKOUT

Mile: 138

Population: 5,037

Located on the English River/Lac Seul waterways, the community is a magnet for sport fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts as well as a centre for the pulp industry.

11 ONTARIO–MANITOBA BORDER

Mile: 159

A sign on the north side of the rails denotes the border. On the Manitoba side is the undeveloped forest and lakes of Whiteshell Provincial Park, well known for its canoeing and fishing. Its 200 lakes, some of which were formed by meteor craters, offer some of the best northern pike, perch and lake trout fishing in Western Canada.

12 WINNIPEG

Mile: 0

Population: 663,617

Manitoba's capital was originally the hub of the Canadian fur trade, given its strategic location at the junction of the Red, Assiniboine and Seine rivers. Today, The Forks is a downtown meeting place that includes some of Winnipeg's best restaurants, shopping and live entertainment. The Winnipeg Art Gallery houses the world's largest collection of Inuit sculpture and art. Winnipeg is home to over 50 ethnic communities. In celebration of this diversity, the city holds its annual Folklorama, spotlighting the culinary traditions and cultural activities of local communities.

13 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

Mile: 55

Population: 12,996

The city is so named because during the era of the North American fur trade, it was a resting area for voyageurs carrying canoes between the Assiniboine River and Lake Manitoba. Today, the major industry is food processing, largely due to its location, which is surrounded by some of the richest farmland in Manitoba.

14 MANITOBA–SASKATCHEWAN BORDER

Mile: 213

The *Canadian* is near the midpoint of its transcontinental journey.

15 MELVILLE

Mile: 280

Population: 4,517

The community is named for Charles Melville Hays, President of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad Company, who died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

16 WATROUS

Mile: 129

Population: 1,857

This area is famous for its mineral hot springs. The accumulated salt in adjacent Little Manitou Lake gives the water greater buoyancy than the Dead Sea.

17 SASKATOON

Mile: 191

Population: 222,189

Founded in the early 1880s as a temperance colony, this city is named after the abundance of delicious purple berries that are found along the banks of the Saskatchewan River. Saskatoon is a Canadian leader in the high technology and mining industries, and is home to the University of Saskatchewan. The Ukrainian Museum of Canada is a tribute to the province's early settlers, and the influence this community has had is evidenced in the heritage architecture of the city.

18 BIGGAR

Mile: 247

Population: 2,161

The tiny town prides itself on its sense of humour. Thus the slogan "New York is big, but this is Biggar." In fact, Biggar boasts an unusually large number of museums for a town of its size.

19 UNITY

Mile: 57

Population: 2,389

The community is known for its local production of salt mined 1,127 metres below ground.

20 SASKATCHEWAN–ALBERTA BORDER

Mile: 101

This provincial boundary also marks the division between the Central and Mountain time zones.

21 WAINWRIGHT

Mile: 140

Population: 5,925

Home to a Canadian Forces training base that is also the site of the Canadian Wildlife Service Peregrine Falcon Breeding Facility, Wainwright is characterized by the bobbing pumpjacks that tell you this is oil country.

22 VIKING

Mile: 184

Population: 1,041

Named for the many Scandinavians who settled the area in the early 1900s, Viking and its surrounding area was significant for the Plains tribes that hunted buffalo before the arrival of Europeans.

Points of interest:

Mile 147: The immense Battle River Valley can be seen on the north side of the train.

Mile 149: The *Canadian* crosses the Battle River on a steel trestle that is 61 metres high and 884 metres long.

23 EDMONTON

Mile: 0

Population: 812,201

Edmonton, Alberta's capital, is regarded as the gateway to the north, given its role as the staging point for explorers and adventurers, from the early days of fur trading to the Yukon goldrush and the Alberta oil discoveries of 1947. The city is located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, which form a 27-kilometre greenbelt of parks, bicycle paths and other open spaces. Located just a few minutes from downtown, the gigantic West Edmonton Mall offers an amazing array of shopping, dining and entertainment possibilities, including an "indoor ocean."

24 EDSON

Mile: 129

Population: 8,475

This community is midway between Edmonton and Jasper National Park. From Edson, westbound passengers can glimpse their first view of the Rockies.

25 HINTON

Mile: 184

Population: 9,640

Established as a mining town at the turn of the 20th century, Hinton is a centre for winter sports and is well known for its cross-country skiing in addition to a complete range of summer adventure activities, such as canoeing.

26 JASPER

Mile: 0

Population: 4,051

World-famous for skiing, hiking and other outdoor sports, Jasper attracts tourists from around the world and is said to be among the country's most photographed places. Because Jasper National Park is a wildlife sanctuary, it is common to see all sorts of wild animals in their natural habitat. Elk and mule deer often wander the main street of the town.

27 YELLOWHEAD PASS

Mile: 17.6

The crest of the Yellowhead Pass is the border between Alberta and British Columbia, and the division between Mountain and Pacific time zones. The Pass is one of the lowest points in the entire

North American Continental Divide, from which all water systems flow either east or west.

28 MOUNT ROBSON

Mile: 52

As the highest peak (3,954 metres) in the Rockies, Mount Robson is easily recognizable and is often referred to as the “Monarch of the Canadian Rockies.”

29 VALEMOUNT

Mile: 74

Population: 1,020

Located at the junction of the Rockies and the Caribou, Monashee and Selkirk mountain ranges, Valemount is a small lumber town on a long stretch of water created by the huge Mica Dam almost 100 kilometres to the south.

30 BLUE RIVER

Mile: 132

The town is home to one of the province’s many heli-skiing outfitters and is a popular centre for fishing and outdoor adventure.

Points of interest:

Mile 113: Pyramid Creek Falls comes briefly into view on the east side of the tracks and resembles a partially collapsed rock staircase.

31 KAMLOOPS

Mile: 0

Population: 85,678

The town began as a trading post in 1812 and became a boomtown during the Caribou Gold Rush of 1862. The area is a study in contrasts. Here, the lush forests give way to the rolling hills of the arid high country scored by deep river canyons, which are fed by the many high-altitude lakes.

32 ASHCROFT

Mile: 48

Population: 1,628

Very little precipitation makes it the “driest town in Canada.” Here, you can see cactus, sagebrush and the trademark hoodoos—isolated pinnacles of rock that remain after a hill is worn away.

33 BOSTON BAR

Mile: 125

This is the location of Hell’s Gate, the most famous stretch of rapids in the province, where the current is so swift that a fish ladder was built to help salmon swim upstream to spawn.

34 VANCOUVER

Mile: 131

Population: 2,313,328

This city is home to half the population of British Columbia. And rightly so, given the fantastic setting between the Pacific Coast and the dark green forests of the Coast Mountains. Here, land is at a premium and the city skyline of Vancouver's West End seems to rise right out of the Strait of Georgia. A city of rich cultural diversity where North America and Asia meet, Vancouver is home to the second-largest Chinatown in North America. The market area of Granville Island and spectacular Stanley Park give Vancouver a relaxed vibe all of its own.

RAILWAY SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

One of the many railway traditions—the milepost—provides the key to locating a train’s current position. Mileposts may be on either side of a track, and are usually rectangular white signs with black numbers. Though Canada now uses the metric system, the original markers for railroads were in miles—and they still are today. Each line is subdivided at railway division points; these subdivisions are not a standard length, as they were based on the distance a steam locomotive could travel in a day.

MILEPOSTS

Milepost numbers increase as you travel from east to west and reset to zero at the start of each subdivision. Subdivisions are 43 to 146 miles (69 to 235 km) long.

SIDING AND STATION NAME BOARDS

Newer siding and station name boards are white with the name in black. Older station name boards are also white with the name in black, but the lettering is all uppercase and the signs are mounted on buildings.

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