Tour of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Rocky Mountains, Approximately 5200 km

From Delta to Blaine, 35 km: Peace Arch State & Provincial Park commemorates more than 100 years of harmony between Canada and the U.S.A. If you are here in the summer, slip slide and have fun at Birch Bay Waterslides. Now off to Bellingham, 33 km. Visit Whatcom Falls Park, a beautiful start, see the WPA historical stone bridge and enjoy the cascading falls and fish hatchery. Sculptures in a natural park setting, visit Big Rock Garden. Or take a detour to “Lynden which is known to be one of the largest Dutch communities in America.” There’s a windmill attached to a strip mall, you can stop for a nice breakfast there. From Bellingham to Burlington, 41 km, this city is known for its shopping centers or outlet malls.

Burlington to Everett, 61 km: A tour worth taking is the Boeing Aircraft Factory Tour, see how planes are built, truly an awesome tour if you like planes. Or go for a wine tasting at Port Gardner Bay Winery. You can go on a whale watching tour and fish for salmon and steelhead. “It’s said that Everett has some of the best salmon & steelhead fishing in the world.” From Everett to Seattle 46 km. Visit the Pike Place Market, a 9 acre market since 1907. See the popular entertaining fishmongers that throw Salmon through the air, while their banter entertains. Take a visit to the Space Needle. Built in 1962, the observation desk is 520 feet up in the air. Take a look at the spectacular works of Dale Chihuly in his Garden & Glass exhibition. Bird enthusiasts visit Black River Riparian Forest. Popular residents are bald eagles, great horned owls, warblers, krestrels, and so many more.

Seattle to Tacoma, 54 km: Visit the LeMay America’s Car Museum, which has over 500 cars to see. If history is more your style there is the Washington State History Museum or Fort Nisqually Living History Museum. “First European Settlement, a Hudson Bay outpost, established 1833.” Visit Point Defiance Park, with your children, the park has a wonderful zoo and an aquarium in it. If you are looking for what to do on that rainy day, then visit the Tacoma Museum of Glass. Would you like to try your hand at blowing glass, call ahead 253-383-3499 Tacoma Glass Blowing Studio. Tacoma to Olympia, 49 km. For avid bird watchers visit the Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve or the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. If you’d like to have some lunch in the setting of a beautiful marina, go to Percival Landing.

Olympia to Kelso, 107 km: if you would like to have a Mount St Helens Tour, Kelso Flight service can arrange for a beautiful flight. “Kelso is the smelt capital of the world” good fishing here – sturgeon and steelhead. Visit the Cowlitz Country Museum established late 1800’s. Kelso to Portland, “The City of Roses”, 78 km. The Portland Rose Festival is in early June. There’s the Portland Aerial Tram, take a tour from above. Or take a Sternwheeler down the Columbia and Willamette Rivers with Portland Spirit River Cruises. Visit the Portland Japanese Garden, a 5.5 acre garden with Tea house and views of Mount Hood. You can visit the Lan So Chinese Garden for serenity and a tranquil afternoon stroll. If you want to go for a wine tasting there are many places to try, you are in Oregon wine country. There’s Multnomah Falls a truly beautiful spot to hike. The Falls are 186 meters tall. Go a bit further and you’ll be able to go on “Benson Bridge that spans the lower part of the falls and finally visit the Multnomah Falls Lodge built in 1925.” Then there’s Drift Creek Falls, walk, a wonderful short hike and is rewarded with beauty and a great long high suspension bridge. If you are avid hikers and would like a longer hike, there’s Harts Cove.

From Portland to Otis, 132 km: If you are up for some exercise, Cascade Head Trail has all the hiking you may want. Now onto Florence, 130 km. Here you have to visit the Sand dunes. If you would like, you can even go on an adventurous thrilling Dune buggy ride with Sandland Adventures. Visit the Sea lions cave. Take a hike on Haceta Trail, it leads to a gorgeous lighthouse that is really worth the see. Florence is an area with beautiful beaches, pounding surfs and great views. Hobbit Trail, is an easy hike that leads to a gorgeous beach.

From Florence on to Reedsport, 36 km: Visit the Umpqua Discovery center. Reedsport is a popular fishing destination. You can go clam digging, beach combing, hiking and crabbing. Visit the Odra Visitor center to buy local collectibles. Check out some elk at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. From Reedsport to Roseburg, 117 km. There are 6 covered bridges in Roseburg. Stop at the Discovery center to learn about the natural and local history of the area. Go on a wildlife Safari in Winston. You can visit some of the many wineries and go for a tour. Or go for a small hike at Clear Water Falls or Watson Falls, both are nearby. Visit the Umpqua lighthouse museum.
Now to Crater Lake Park, 141 km. Crater Lake is brilliantly blue colored and popular because of its color and clarity, a great place to fish and hike. “Crater Lake is the deepest lake in United States.” There is some good bird watching or you can go river rafting. Visit Rogue River for wildlife viewing or fishing. From Crater Lake Park off to Chemult, 41 km. You can visit a couple different falls one of them is Whitehorse falls, known as thundering waters, a punchbowl type of water fall.

From Chemult to Bend, 105 km: Visit High Desert Museum and get a close up on wildlife, experience butterflies and humming birds all around you, or see the otters in the outdoor exhibit, a beautiful museum that has so much for everyone to see. Visit Sparks Lake for some beautiful views. Now off to John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, 85 km the sights are spectacular, see fossils, painted geology, explore and step back into time. There’s the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge a great place to bird watch. From John Day to Ontario, 276 km, you’ll travel along Snake River, where there are many great spots for fishing and hunting. Ontario is a great place to see color painted sandstone cliffs, deep gorges, and geological formations call vertical towers. This area is popular with gem lovers; the area is perfect for rock hounding. You might get lucky and find a thunder egg, oblong rock that has beautiful crystals inside. If you are here on May 5th you can catch the excitement of the Festival of Cinco De Mayo, parades, food, music and costumes.

Time to move on to Boise, Idaho, 88 km: You can visit the Old Idaho Penitentiary if you dare or the World Center for Birds of Prey to see an assortment of Raptors. The Idaho Botanical Garden has a number of different gardens to view, check out the carnivorous plant collection that could be a feast for your eyes. You can take a hot air balloon ride if you’d like or set up a sunrise balloon ride with BalloonIdaho.com

On to Idaho City, 69 km: Take a tour through Warm Springs Museum, then a dip into the hot springs at Warm Springs Resort. The average heat at the springs range between 107 and 104 degrees F. Idaho City is great for hunting, or fishing, river rafting or horseback riding. If you are here when snows around, it’s great for skiing, snow mobiling, sleigh rides, tubing, ice skating, and skiing. It’s said that Idaho City is a living ghost town. From Idaho City to Lowman, 54 km. On the way to Stanley, stop at Redfish Lake. The sockeye salmon spawned so much that the river looked red at one time, a great place for all water sports. Visit Sawtooth Fish Hatchery and catch a rainbow trout to barbeque tonight.

From Stanley to Ketchum, here you will find many galleries to browse. Visit the Sawtooth Botanical Garden if the sun is shining - you’ll be rewarded with such beauty. In the spring catch the bug zoo if you have children. Off to Bellevue, 98 km. If you are here in the hot summer take a tour of the Shoshone Ice Cave. If the temperature is 100 degrees F outside, it is only 30 degrees F inside. Bird watchers may have the excitement of spotting a Brambling (a beautiful black white orange bird from Eurasia). You can do a little beach combing, biking, or boating, whatever suits your fancy. Drive to Carey 44 km and make sure you stop at Craters of the Moon National Monument. It is 1,100 square feet which can be seen from Space. The Landscape has been formed by a volcano that erupted around 15, 000 years ago. Now to Idaho Falls. Visit the Museum of Idaho or the Tautphaus Park Zoo. You can go golfing or fishing, a great place to go on a nature walk and view some wildlife.

From Idaho Falls to Swan Valley, 68 km: On the way if you’d like to take a day trip for some fly fishing, or soak in a hot spring, or zip down a zipline, you can take a detour to Heise Expeditions and Hot Springs. The hot springs get up to 107 degrees F hot. Swan Lake is a wonderful place for canoeing, fishing, and horseback riding. Would you like a dinner around a campfire, visit Granite Creek Guest Ranch.

Alpine, 46 km: If you like horseback riding and want to be rewarded with beautiful mountain scenery, waterfalls, and wildlife, Jackson Hole Outfitters in Alpine will set you up with the horses and the guide, good for all ages. You can go for some fishing for kokanee trout or rainbow trout. Off to Hoback Jct 33 km then Jackson 21 km. You can go on a guided horseback ride to views up to 2000 feet up, or visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art, a must see. Or go on a canoe ride in a national park with spectacular views and wildlife with Rendezvous River Sports. Mad River boat trips have raving revues to try your hand at whitewater rafting, or go on a scenic boat tour so see all sorts of wildlife. Visit the Million Dollar cowboy bar if you want to sit on bar stools made out of real saddles. You can have a true country experience with Bar T’s covered wagon cookout, a dinner and a show which is very
entertaining. Check your local tourist info if you’d like to be part of a Pow Wow. On to Jackson Lake 67 km for some hiking, canoeing or time to fill your camera.

West Thumb Gyser Basin, Yellowstone Park, 77.4 km: A place like no other in the world. “You’ll be able to see the highest concentration of active geysers in the world”. There’s wildlife galore and hot springs, caldera, geological wonders to see. The West Thumb Gyser Basin Trail is a boardwalk trail that will take you past hot springs and pools. Now to Old Faithful Geyser where you can count on seeing a spout - they do happen regularly. If you can get to White Dome Geyser, it erupts at intervals of up to 2 minutes with very high bursts. Now to Mammoth Hot Springs, 83 km. You’ll see lots of travertine formations because of the limestone and hot water. Travel a bit further and you’ll come upon 45th Parallel Bridge and Boiling River. Watch for wild life and you can go into the Mammoth Hot Springs in the daytime.

From Mammoth Hot Springs to Emigrant, Montana, 60 km: Stop at Howlin Hounds Café for breakfast or lunch. Then have a day of fishing, backpack riding, hiking and sight seeing. Off to Livingston, 23 km, the town that was known for Calamity Jane and the wild west. Now the town is one of the top ten best outdoor towns. With four amazing mountain ranges and Yellowstone there are incredible opportunities for hunting, hiking, museums and art galleries. You can visit Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County, where you’ll see stage coaches and exhibits on Buffalo Bill Cody and the Texas Rangers. You can go for a hike at Gallatin National Forest. Or visit Moose Horn Gallery. Before you head to Bozeman, you can get a close up experience with a grizzly bear, at Montana Grizzly Encouter, Montana Grizzly Bear Sanctuary.

Now to Bozeman, 44 km: Call Montana Alpine Guides to set up a hiking climbing trip. Or Campbells Guided Fishing trips 406-587-0822. For a whitewater adventure stop at Montana Whitewater. Next head to the Museum of the Rockies for a dinosaur and fossil experience. You can call Bozeman Angler to set up a guided fishing trip 1-406-587-9111. Take a break in one of the Hot Springs at Bozeman, Norris or Chico Hot Springs. Now to Manhattan, 32 km. If you feel like having a steak, better make reservations at one of these two places, Sir Scotts Oasis or Land of Magic Steakhouse.

Off to Three Forks, 19 km: Visit the Headwater Heritage Museum. Then head over to the Lewis and Clark Caverns State park, an electrically lit up cave with beautifully colored limestone formations, but be prepared to do 500 stairs down and 100 stairs up. There is a paradise tour that is for the time limited persons or persons that need to take it a bit easier. There’s the Madison Buffalo Jump State Historic Site. You’ll learn about local history and culture how the Indians hunted buffalo, a great place to picnic and take a nice stroll on the well maintained trails.

From Three Forks to Butte, 90 km: The Butte Trolley Tour is a must do. A great way to learn about the history of Butte and mining, entertaining and informative. Then you can visit the World Museum of Mining and 1899 Mining Camp. Take the underground tour, you may need a jacket. Then see the 90 foot statue “Our Lady of the Rockies” on top of the hill, a beautiful view and inspiring story of people coming together. You can visit the Copper King Mansion, a 32 room Victorian House. You need to make a stop at the Mineral Museum, a free Museum to visit, with wonderful displays of minerals, gems and meteorites, some stones even glow.

Helena, 110 km: If you want a coffee and a pastry that is very delicious, go to the Park Avenue Bakery. Or if dinner is more your thing call ahead make a reservation at Lucca’s 406-457-8311. While you are waiting visit the St. Helena Cathedral, it’s comparable to Cathedrals in Europe, with beautiful stained glass windows. If you’re lucky you’ll catch the organist playing the pipe organ. You can visit the Montana State Capital, great architecture and art work inside. Near by is the Montana Historical Society Museum. If you’d like to catch a Tour Train or Trolley tour, leaving from the Museum, you can book it through Last Chance Gulch Tour. If you have children, take them for a ride at Great Northern Carousel, beautifully crafted animals and stained glass to see also. Now to Great Falls, 145 km. Go on a great nature walk and see some Pelicans at Giant Springs Heritage State Park and Fish Hatchery. There’s also the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Interpretive center. Or visit the Benton Lake Wildlife Refuge, for all you avid bird watchers.
Northern States and Mountains Tour

Now to Shelby, 140 km. Then to Coutts, Alberta 57 km and off to Milk River 20 km. Visit the Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park and you’ll get to see such history, native pictographs and petroglyphs. It’s a wonderful place for canoeing and wildlife viewing.

Taber, 76 km and then to Brooks 103 km: Visit the Brooks Aqueduct or visit Dinosaur Park which is right close to the field station of the Royal Tyrell Museum. You’ll see canyons and cliffs, it’s a place rich with Dinosaur remains and fossils, a wonderful place to explore history. For bird watchers visit the Kinbrook Island Park and Marsh. You’ll see many aquatic birds, you can go swimming, hiking, have a picnic or go on a boating excursion. Off to Bassano, 50 km. Take a tour at Bassano Dam.

Bassano to Drumheller, 94 km: Visit the Royal Tyrell Museum, more than 35 complete skeletons and lifelike models on display. After the Museum, the road is very steep you can take a left at the first access road and it leads to Horsethief Canyon Lookout. You’ll see wonderful views of the badlands. Take a ride on the Bierot Cable Ferry, there are not many left in Alberta. There’s a ghost town called Wayne that you may want to check out. It crosses Rosebud Creek 11 times. Last Chance saloon has it’s wall’s lined with all sorts of wonderful memorabilia to look at. Then visit the Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site and go on an underground tunnel tour.

Now to Beiseker, 64 km and on to Airdrie, 44 km: Visit the Korean Totem Poles or Iron Horse Park for train lovers among you; go on a wonderful miniature train ride. If you are in Airdrie July 13 and 14 catch the Airdrie Regional Airshow.

From Airdrie to Cochrane, 50 km: Would you like to try hand gliding, you can with Muller Windsports Ltd. Buy a cowboy hat at one of the local shops, or go visit the Cochrane Ranchie Historic site, there’s displays and interpretive trails. Ghost Lake has good fishing and nice hikes. Dead Man’s Flats the Junction House Café & Market is a great place to stop for some lunch on the way to Canmore, a coal mining town. Take a guided tour at Rat’s Nest Cave or go for a hike at Grassi Lakes. If your fitness level is good (good knees) take a hike up Ha Ling Peak, the views are incredible. You’ll not be disappointed if you are a dog lover and visit Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary or go on a hike at Ribbon Creek Trail or visit the Canmore Museum and Geoscience Center.

Banff National Park use permit is required for all activities involving an overnight stay. The park is a wildlife refuge for elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose, bear, wolves, coyote, lynx and other animals. Such beautiful scenery, hiking possibilities, skiing if you are here in the winter.

Lake Louise: 61 km: Take the Lake Louise Sightseeing Gondola, (Gondola runs June-September) you’ll have a chance to see some grizzlies. Visit one of the numerous spectacularly beautiful lakes in the area; Moraine Lake, Peyto Lake or Lake Agne

Now to Jasper, 236 km: Visit the Jasper Yellowhead Museum, a historical gallery that features many unique artifacts, that you’ll find interesting. There’s the Jasper Tramway that gives you a breathtaking 360 view of the wonderful landscape around or explore Mount Edith Cavell where in a short walk you can view Angel Glacier. Visit Maligne Canyon for walking trails that will take you through Limestone canyons. See some spectacularly beautiful waterfalls at Athabasca Falls. The falls are not very high but the power behind them can be astounding. A popular spot for hiking is found at Pyramid and Patricia Lakes. Rental facilities have horseback riding, canoeing, sailing, fishing and wind surfing.

From Jasper to Tete Jeune Cache, 105 km and then to Valemount, 20 km: You can get in a game of golf at Valemount Pines Golf Course, or go for a swim at Little Lost Lake, a nice place to hike too. At Kinbasket Lake you can go on a canoeing trip. If there’s snow on the ground you can go heli skiing, on a guided snow mobile tour, cross country skiing or skating. If you are an avid bird watcher Robert W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary is a great spot to visit. There’s 7 km of walking trails with a few viewing platforms. Mount Robson provides trails that are easy and those that are challenging. Robson Helimagic can take you on a heli hiking tour.
Now to Blue River, 91.4 km: If you’d like to take a helicopter tour of the area, Mike Wiegele Helicopter skiing and LRH helicopters offers tours. Clearwater, 105 km: Wells Gray Park is a must see. If you like waterfalls, there are 4 that aren’t too far of a walk from the car park. There’s Dawson Falls, then a little further Spahal Creek Falls, then Moul Falls 3 km from car park. Finally there’s Helmecken Falls, each one has fantastic views and sites to see. In Wells gray park there are extinct volcanoes and lava beds.

From Clearwater to Kamloops, 126 km: Try an Off Road Segway (it’s like a scooter but it’s motorized and the wheels are to the side of you). You can go rock hounded guided or not at Painted Bluffs Provincial Park. Or try zip lining at Treetop Flyers at Chase Canyon zip line. Check out Balancing Rock or have a picture with Kamloops Mounted Royal Patrol. Have a fun day going to the BC Wildlife Park which has 65 species, cougars, coyotes and more. Visit Peterson Creek Park and see a beautiful waterfall.

From Kamloops to Hope, 204 km: You might like a relaxing day visiting various Aboriginal Art galleries. To name a few there is Muskwa Gallery and Ruby Creek. You can rent a canoe, or mountain bike, hike, swim or fish at Lightening Lake. Good fishing can be found at Silverhope Creek and Kawkawa Lake. You might like to visit the Hell’s Gate Airtram, especially if it’s a nice sunny day. There’s a nice trail at Coquilhalla Canyon walk “the historic Hope Nicola Cattle Trail and Othello Tunnels were cut through granite for past railway access.”

Hope to Chilliwack, 84 km and then to Abbotsford, 33 km: Visit Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery and Trethewey House on Mill Lake heritage site. Then off to Fraserway 747 Cliveden Place, Delta, 38 km.