

# Alberta – Banff Winter



## Trip Summary

Discover Banff at a time of year when the locals play and the tourists stay away! Banff National Park is truly at the height of its beauty mid-winter when snow-crested peaks serve as a backdrop for powdery adventures like cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and dog sledding. When you arrive “home” to your accommodation each night, you can expect toasty mugs of hot chocolate, crackling fires and delectable meals to warm yourself after a day of exploring a winter-lover’s paradise.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Calgary / Kananaskis / Canmore / Banff

Pick-ups in Calgary • After a drive out of the city and into the mountains, sit down to a quick welcome meeting with your guides • Today’s exciting adventure is dog sledding! • You’ll first get an introduction to dog sledding and your huskie companions and instruction on how to safely drive a dog team • Afterwards you’ll glide through mounds of delicate, fresh snow on your journey along trails of alluring hills, tranquil valleys, quaint bridges and breathtaking ice-covered lakes • Once your dog sledding experience is done, we make our way to Banff where we check into our accommodation for the next three nights, Banff Royal Canadian Lodge • *Overnight at Banff Royal Canadian Lodge (L, D)*

### Day 2: Chester Lake / Banff

Embark on a full-day snowshoe to Chester Lake, a very scenic trail nestled among Kananaskis Country’s towering peaks • If you’ve never snowshoed before, no problem! • As the saying goes, “If you can walk, you can snowshoe” as the learning curve is much shorter than that of skiing or snowboarding • Your guides will set the pace, provide some on-the-go techniques and allow you to enjoy snowshoeing through the Canadian Rockies with plenty of time to stop for photo opportunities (which there are many!) • After an exhilarating day on the trails, you’ll be ready to sit down to a tasty dinner back in Banff this evening • *Overnight at Banff Royal Canadian Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Canmore / Rat’s Nest Cave / Banff

Today’s adventure involves caving in “Rat’s Nest Cave” (but don’t let the name spook you away!) • The wonderful thing about caving in the winter is that no matter what is happening with the weather outside, Rat’s Nest Cave is a constant 41°F (5°C) all year, which is quite pleasant for exploring • This cave is wild and undeveloped, meaning there is no interior lighting, no handrails and no walkways • You’ll discover the rich history of the cave, including how animals and humans have used it in the past, by touring the cave by headlamp and examining stalactites, stalagmites, animal bones and fossils along the way • Take the afternoon off to explore the neat town of Banff or check out Banff Hot Springs • Tonight is on your own to dine in one of the many restaurants Banff has to offer • *Overnight at Banff Royal Canadian Lodge (B, L)*

### Day 4: Lake Louise / Johnston Canyon

After a hearty breakfast, we depart for Lake Louise • Lacing up your ice skates on a frozen lake is likely the most iconic Canadian thing you will ever do! • Named as one of the “10 most beautiful ice skating rinks in the world” by CNN Travel, Lake Louise is cleared and maintained daily by The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise for ice skating\*\* • This afternoon, we head out on a snowy hike to Johnston Canyon’s lower and upper frozen waterfalls via suspended catwalks, keeping an eye out



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for ice climbers taking things to the next level! • Transfer a short distance to our next accommodation, Baker Creek Chalet • *Overnight at Baker Creek Chalet (B, L, D)*

*\*\* If conditions are unfavorable for ice skating, guests will snowshoe around Lake Louise.*

## Day 5: Emerald Lake

Yet another new activity awaits us today when we try out cross country skiing at Emerald Lake • Cross country skiing is truly a spectacular way to experience the gorgeous mountains, fresh air and wildlife of the Rockies • Your guides will give you a quick lesson and then the group is off to glide along the groomed trails of Emerald Lake, surrounded by the peace, quiet and majesty of the Rockies • Tonight, enjoy one last dinner as a group at one of our favorite restaurants • *Overnight at Baker Creek Chalet (B, L, D)*

## Day 6: Calgary

This morning, head out on one last snowy adventure with your guides before returning to Calgary for drop-offs at the airport or your post-trip hotel • *No overnight (B)*

*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

## Activities

**Dog Sledding:** No experience necessary. Professional mushers will provide instruction and a safety talk as well as accompany guests throughout the morning tour.

**Snow Shoeing:** Up to 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain

**Cross Country Skiing:** Up to 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain

**Ice Skating:** No experience necessary

**Discovery:** Snowshoe with a bird's eye view through Kananaskis Country. Expand your mind as you learn about how the mountains were carved and shaped by glaciers. Spot as many different types of wildlife as you can while cross country skiing to Emerald Lake; deer, elk and moose are just some of the animals that frequent the area mid-winter. In your cozy bed at your home away from home, recognize why Baker Creek Chalet received the Banff Heritage Tourism Award for authentic mountain lodging. Take in the views from Lake Louise as you ice skate across the lake's frozen surface. Learn the ins and outs of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing as your knowledgeable guides pass off a few of their expert tips. Crawl past prehistoric bones, investigate ancient cave formations and try squeezing through a human-sized cave hole. Gee! Haw! Whoa! Mush! Learn the commands of the dog sledding world with a professional musher. Come discover for yourself this wonderful winter paradise.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

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## Distinctive Accommodations

### **Nights 1 – 3: Delta Banff Royal Canadian Lodge**

Located in the heart of the mountain town, Delta Banff Royal Canadian Lodge is the quintessential Canadian lodge, with a distinctive Rundle Rock fireplace and walls covered in Canadian artwork. The rooms are elegantly appointed with custom-made Canadian furnishings and Canadian artwork. The oversized bathrooms have an Alberta granite topped vanity and full bathtub and shower. Considered one of Canada's premiere national parks, Banff National Park has been designated a World Heritage Site, renowned for its majestic mountain ranges, and pristine mountain lakes and forests. The Town of Banff is a sophisticated mountain resort featuring excellent shopping opportunities, diverse dining, and fun nightlife spots.

### **Nights 4 & 5: Baker Creek Chalets**

Nestled in a peaceful wooded setting, beside Baker Creek, this lodge and cabins blend magically into their surroundings, far from the bustle of Lake Louise. Baker Creek is an intimate casual mountain resort consisting of log chalets, lodge suites, Bistro restaurant and a Heritage Executive Conference Centre. It is family owned and operated year round. Baker Creek is the perfect central location to explore mountain lakes, drive, hike, bike, snowshoe, cross-country ski, downhill ski or just relax surrounded by some of the most famous scenery in the world.

### **Meals**

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions – except one dinner on your own – are included as indicated by the itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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## Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving at least one day prior to your trip departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 8:00 or 8:20 am, depending on your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Calgary airport (1:00 pm) or your Calgary hotel (1:30 pm).

## Trip Price

\$3,298 (\$680 single supplement)  
Children: \$2,968

## Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

## 2019 Dates

February 10 – 15 (Adult)  
February 17 – 22 (Family)  
February 24 – March 1 (Adult)

## Host City

Calgary, Alberta Airport code: YYC

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Discover Banff National Park  
at the time of year that the  
locals play and the tourists stay away!*

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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner on your own.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. *\*some restrictions may apply*

## Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (six years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.