

ASK THE operator

Where should families head to in Canada? **Natalie Marsh** finds out

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PICTURES: Canadian Affair; Tourism Whistler; Mike Crane; Alex Wilson

DESTINATIONS

CANADA | FAMILY HOLIDAYS

1 CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

A family is looking for a Canadian holiday where they can stay in a city but also explore the rural surroundings. They'd like there to be something for everyone, with a variety of activities and time to relax.



Canadian Affair
Stuart Rogers, product and commercial manager



WE SUGGEST

We'd recommend Toronto and turn that into not just a city break but also sightseeing around Niagara. From there it's just under a three-hour road trip to the Blue Mountains, which is a resort tailor-made for families.

Toronto is fantastic. You've got shopping, an array of restaurants and different food styles in the downtown area. And there's a lot to see and do in terms of sightseeing beyond the city itself; Niagara-on-the-Lake, for example, is a really pretty town that has an old-time feel to it.

If families have a car, they can go to Niagara based on driving out to the Blue Mountains. They'll pass through the southern Ontario landscape, which is absolutely beautiful.

Then they have the opportunity to relax as well as get involved in adventure. There's a whole array of activities: you can lie by the pool or go trekking and enjoy nature. This is a family holiday that encompasses everyone.

Book it: Canadian Affair offers a 10-day Ontario Adrenaline Holiday from £955 per person, based on two adults and two children sharing. The price includes return flights from Gatwick, departing on April 8, 2020, nine nights' accommodation, seven days' car hire, transfers and selected activities.
canadianaffair.com

2 WILDERNESS

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

A family with three children is seeking a trip with plenty of adventure. They want to take in a few locations but have ample time in each place, while spotting plenty of wildlife along the way.



Prestige Holidays
Denise Hunn, director of Canada tour operations



WE SUGGEST

The areas we've picked for a western Canada family self-drive have so much to see and do. Whistler is an outdoor lovers' paradise. Here they can ride the Peak 2 Peak gondola, go mountain biking and even try some of the Winter Olympic activities in the summer. It's very comfortable and very safe for a family, and all the accommodation is in two-bedroom suites, so the family can stay together.

Moving on to the Rockies, it's all about the scenery. We've put in a couple of wildlife viewing activities, and there's canoeing, hiking and gondolas – a real mix of pursuits suitable for the whole family. The bear-viewing excursion is a highlight; Canada offers some of the best viewing in the world. Summer is a lovely time to visit, with the sun not setting until after 10pm.

Book it: Prestige Holidays has a self-drive holiday for a family of five, including stops in Whistler, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff, for a total of £16,021 based on a July 23, 2020, departure. The price includes Air Canada flights from Heathrow to Vancouver and back from Calgary, plus accommodation and car hire.

prestigecanada.co.uk

3 SKI RESORT

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

A family is looking to spend the school holidays at a ski resort, with slopes suitable for beginner and intermediate skiers, and other activities for all ages. They're seeking quality, family-friendly accommodation in a convenient location.



Inghams
Harvey Gähl, head of purchasing



WE SUGGEST

Whistler, which is consistently voted the number one ski resort in North America, is ideal for a family break. There's plenty of good skiing – there are just over 8,000 ski-able acres. One of the best things about the area is that beginners can enjoy the higher alpine spots. The younger kids have the Tree Fort on Whistler and the Magic Castle on Blackcomb, which are outdoor adventure play lands that children can access either on their own or with a ski instructor. The teaching is excellent and you can have whole family tuition.

The accommodation, Blackcomb Spring Suites, sleeps up to six, either in a one or two-bedroom apartment. You've got all the mod cons in open-plan kitchens, plus fireplaces, and breakfast is included. There's a complimentary shuttle to and from the hotel to the resort centre.

There's also an amazing range of activities, from ziplining to snowmobiling, dog sledding to snowshoeing, and an outdoor skating rink.

Book it: Inghams offers 10 nights' B&B in Whistler at the four-star Blackcomb Spring Suites, from £1,365 per person, based on two adults and two children sharing. The price includes flights from Heathrow to Vancouver and airport transfers, departing on April 8, 2020.

ingham.co.uk/ski-holidays