

October 17, 2025 · The Journal / Travel Inspiration

# Canada's Greatest Pairings: Urban Meets Untamed

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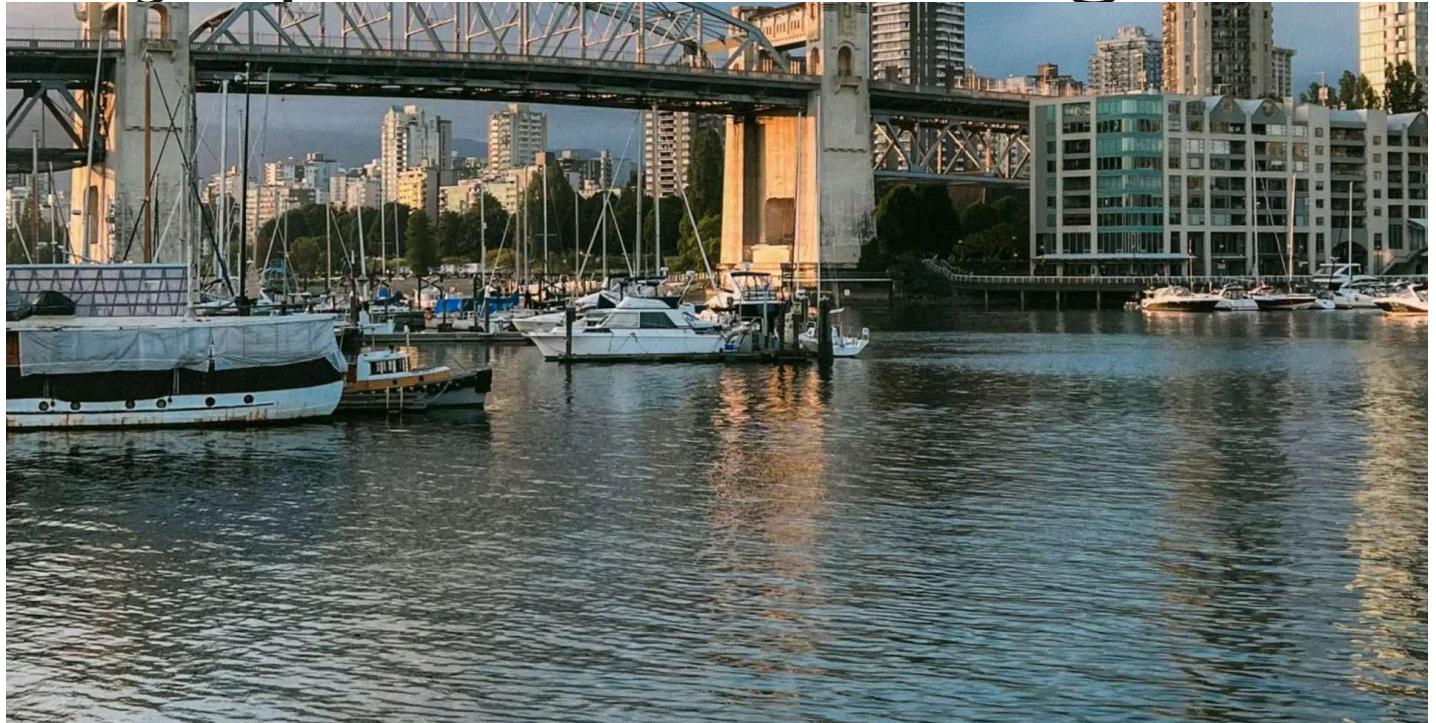
Travel Advisor

**Gregory Rhoney**[CONTACT GREGORY](#)

The best Canadian journeys mix lively cities with untamed landscapes. One moment you're exploring food scenes, galleries, and nightlife; the next, you're flying to forests, driving into the

Rockies, or sailing to the edge of the Arctic. These itineraries show how city culture and raw adventure go hand in hand.

# Vancouver + Nimmo Bay or Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge



Granville Island & Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge

*This itinerary is perfect for: travelers who want to pair a Pacific city break with a truly remote wilderness escape.*

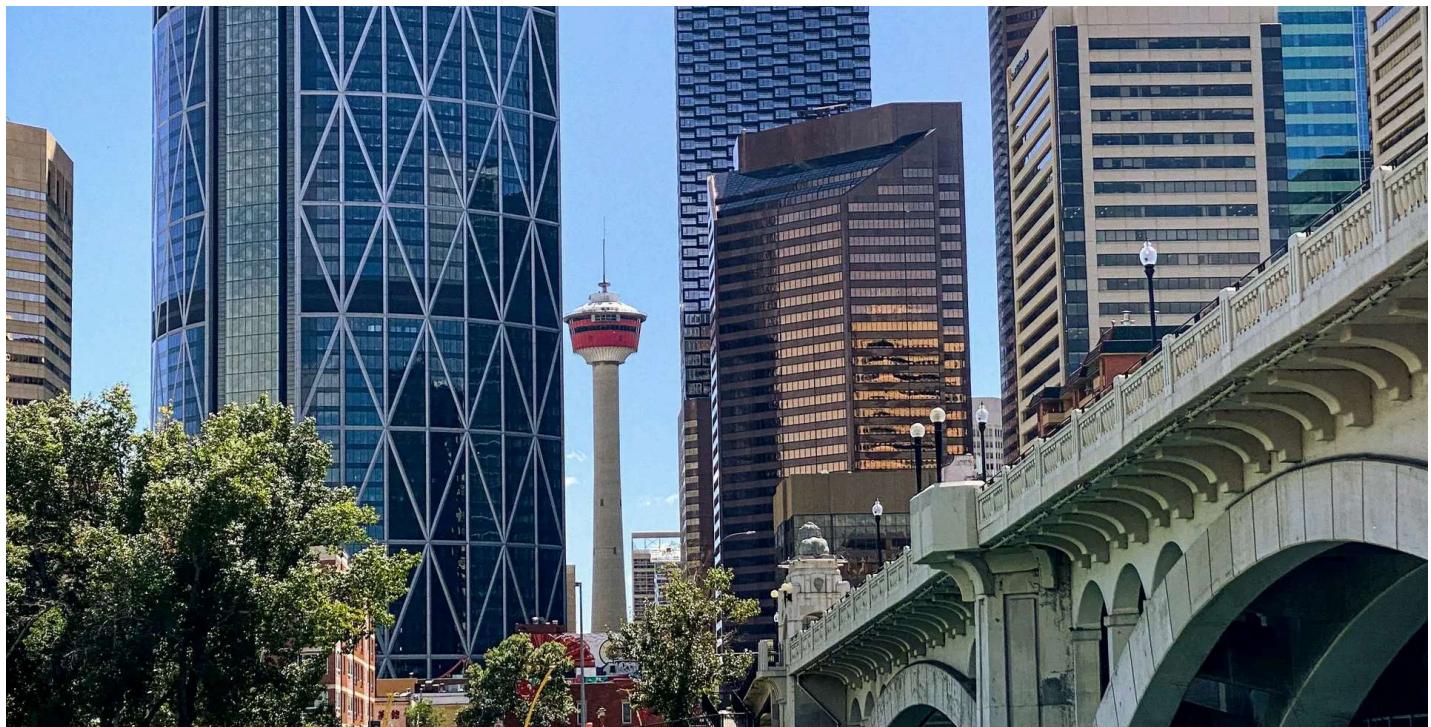
Begin in Vancouver, a city where you can spend mornings cycling the seawall, afternoons browsing Gastown's indie boutiques, and evenings hopping between sushi counters, breweries, and cocktail bars. Granville Island's food market and East Van's craft beer scene are also worth a detour before heading into the wild. Stay at **Fairmont Pacific Rim** or **Rosewood Hotel Georgia** for the ultimate indulgent city break.

From here, hop on a floatplane into the Great Bear Rainforest to **Nimmo Bay**, a remote lodge that feels like a world away. The flight itself is cinematic, skimming islands and fjords before touching down at the dock. Spend your days heli-fishing untouched rivers, kayaking through

glacier-carved fjords, and spotting grizzly bears. Evenings are for cedar hot tubs and multi-course dinners showcasing local ingredients like wild salmon, Dungeness crab, and foraged mushrooms. With only nine cabins and no cell service, the experience is both intimate and unplugged.

For those who prefer to arrive by car, **Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge** offers another spectacular off-the-grid option, reached by a scenic drive and boat ride from Vancouver Island. The lodge blends safari-style canvas tents with luxury comforts like heated floors, king beds, and private decks overlooking the rainforest. **Fora Perks** include a \$100 hotel credit, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

## Calgary + Baker Creek by Basecamp



Calgary & Baker Creek by Basecamp

**This itinerary is perfect for:** travelers who want a polished city break paired with a cabin-in-the-woods Rockies retreat.

Calgary is more than a gateway to Banff—it's a city with its own confident energy. Dine at sky-high restaurants like Major Tom, wander through Contemporary Calgary's art exhibits, or catch live music in a buzzing local bar. During summer, outdoor patios and festivals fill the

streets, while in July, the legendary Calgary Stampede takes over the city. For a stylish downstay stay, check in to **The Dorian, Autograph Collection** or **Hyatt Regency Calgary**.

From Calgary, it's about a two-hour scenic drive into Banff National Park to reach **Baker Creek by Basecamp**, a cozy collection of timber-clad cabins and suites tucked beside a glacier-fed creek. The location is ideal for exploring Lake Louise and the Bow Valley Parkway, one of the Rockies' most scenic drives. Days here are for alpine hikes, biking through forest trails, or skiing nearby in winter. Families love the spacious multi-room cabins, outdoor fire pits for marshmallow roasting, and the seasonal skating rink right on the property.

## Halifax + Fogo Island Inn



Muir, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Halifax & Fogo Island Inn

*This itinerary is perfect for: travelers drawn to maritime history, design-forward stays, and raw coastal landscapes.*

Halifax offers salty air, historic streets, and a lively cultural scene. Stroll the harbor-front boardwalk lined with shops and galleries, explore the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, or climb up to the Halifax Citadel for gorgeous views. The city also boasts one of Canada's best craft beer scenes, and the seafood—from lobster rolls to Digby scallops—is worth

the trip alone. Music spills out of neighbourhood pubs most nights, making it easy to tap into Nova Scotia's famously warm hospitality. Stay at **Muir, a Luxury Collection Hotel** for a prime waterfront location and contemporary design that nods to Nova Scotia's maritime roots.

From here, continue on your Atlantic adventure by flying to Newfoundland, then boarding the ferry to Fogo Island, home to the striking **Fogo Island Inn**. Perched on stilts above the North Atlantic, the inn's floor-to-ceiling windows blur the line between indoors and out, while bespoke furniture crafted by local artisans brings the island's heritage into each room. Guests are invited to connect with "community hosts," locals who share stories of traditional fishing culture and outport life. Depending on the season, you might watch icebergs drift by, spot breaching whales, or catch the Northern Lights. Meals spotlight Newfoundland's bounty, from cod and crab to berries gathered on the island's bogs. **Fora Perks** include a locally crafted seasonal amenity, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

## Montreal + Ponant cruise



Four Seasons Montreal & Le Commandant Charcot

*This itinerary is perfect for: travelers who want to pair a cosmopolitan city break with a polar expedition.*

Montreal is equal parts European charm and Canadian creativity. Start your day with coffee and pastries at a corner café in the Plateau, then wander into Mile End for bagels locals swear by. Old Montreal's cobblestone streets hold chic boutiques and galleries, while colorful murals and the Musée des beaux-arts de Montreal highlight the city's thriving art scene. By night, it's all about cocktail bars, chef-driven restaurants, and live music. For a chic city stay, check in to **Four Seasons Hotel Montreal** or **Hotel William Gray**.

From here, board Ponant's ***Le Commandant Charcot***, the world's first luxury hybrid-electric polar exploration ship, for a once-in-a-lifetime Arctic voyage. Departing via the St. Lawrence River, the ship pushes into ice-bound fjords and onward to Greenland, where dramatic coastlines, drifting icebergs, and remote communities set the stage for adventure. Days are filled with guided zodiac outings and expert-led talks on polar ecology, while evenings bring French-inspired dining, refined suites, and the chance to stargaze from one of the most remote places on Earth.

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\*Email Address\*First Name\*Last Name

Please provide some details about your trip.

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