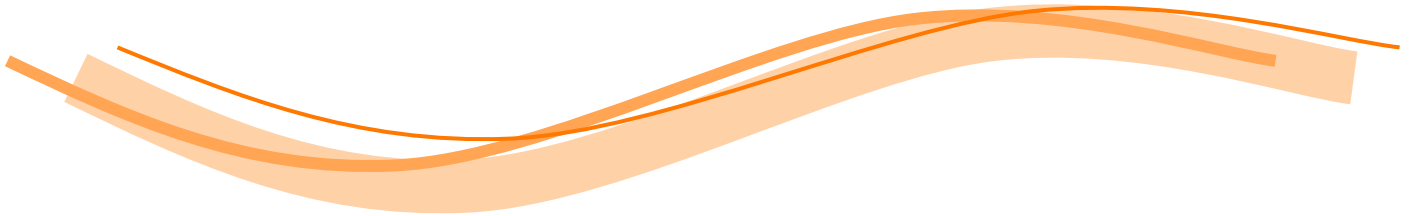




**VIA RAIL**





<p><b>VIA RAIL</b></p>	<p>VIA say the train is “<b>a more human way to travel</b>” - and, if you believe that the journey is just as important as the destination, then riding the rails is definitely the right choice. VIA Rail is environmentally friendly. VIA Rail is sociable. VIA Rail is less stressful. VIA Rail takes you to some of the most beautiful parts of Canada. What could be better than that?</p> <p>If you live in Ontario or Quebec then the trains in the Windsor - Québec City Corridor are probably most familiar. Travel in comfort with VIA Rail's delicious meals, great service - and enjoy more daily departures and free WIFI onboard. Plus VIA Rail has been investing in refurbishing its trains and coaches to make your journey as smooth and comfortable as possible.</p> <p>But did you know that VIA Rail also offer <b>packages</b> that include not just your train fare but your hotel, activities and tours as well? Take that long-deserved weekend away with VIA Rail's all-inclusive packages for short urban Getaways of 1 - 4 days in length in Ontario and Quebec. Shop in Toronto, take a gallery tour of Ottawa, enjoy a Spa experience in Montréal – and more – all as part of your package.</p> <p>And as VIA Rail reaches the most beautiful parts of Canada they also offer special Holiday Packages with travel, accommodations and activities for longer stays of 5 days or more.</p> <p>VIA is also great value! Book at <a href="http://www.viarail.ca">www.viarail.ca</a> for unbeatable “Escape” fares that you can only book online - and check the website for special offers.</p>
<p><b>VIA Rail Routes</b></p>	<p>To cross this great land by train is truly one of the iconic Canadian experiences and Via Rail has many different routes. VIA Rail can take you to some of the most beautiful parts of Canada – from Prince Rupert BC in the West to Halifax in the East. Relax and discover our stunning country in comfort while enjoying welcoming, friendly service and world-class food.</p>
<p><b>Who is VIA?</b></p>	<p>VIA Rail Canada is an independent Crown corporation established in 1978. VIA operates trains in all regions of Canada over a network spanning the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay.</p> <p>As Canada's national rail passenger service, VIA Rail Canada's mandate is to provide safe, efficient and cost-effective passenger transportation in the country's two official languages. The Company operates intercity, regional and transcontinental trains linking 450 communities across its 12,500-kilometre network. Recipient of the RAC's Safety Award, and of the Agent's Choice Award voted on by</p>

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	Canadian travel agents and presented by Baxter Travel Media, VIA safely transports nearly four million passengers annually. Since 2007, the Government of Canada has provided VIA Rail with over one billion dollars in capital investment funding.
<b>The Numbers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VIA serves 4.1 million passengers annually</li> <li>- They employ over 3,000 staff</li> <li>- They deploy 480 trains per week, including 300 in southern Quebec and southern Ontario</li> <li>- Their trains run over 12,500 km of track serving some 450 Canadian communities</li> <li>- % of all greenhouse gas emissions produced in Canada comes from the Transportation Industry: 26%</li> <li>- % of Greenhouse gas emissions produced in Canada comes from motorists: 13%</li> <li>- % of all greenhouse gas emissions produced in Canada come from VIA Rail: Just 0.03%</li> </ul>
<b>Vision</b>	VIA will be the Canadian leader of service excellence in passenger transportation.
<b>Mission</b>	VIA Rail will work together to efficiently provide travel experiences that anticipate the needs and exceed the expectations of their customers. Follow the evolution of current projects at <a href="http://www.viarail.ca/transformingVIA">www.viarail.ca/transformingVIA</a>
<b>Corporate Values</b>	<p><b>Customer Focus</b> VIA appreciate and listen to their customers and innovate to provide the best passenger transportation experience at the best value for money.</p> <p><b>Respect</b> VIA are human - people who respond with integrity to the needs of their customers, to each other and to the people and communities they serve.</p> <p><b>Passion</b> VIA are dedicated to and passionate about their business, as well as the role they play in Canada's development, and we will go the extra mile to ensure that VIA Rail continues to be successful.</p>
<b>Families</b>	<p>VIA has some great deals for families:</p> <p><b>Students</b> Check out the VIA 6 Pak and Unlimited Student Passes with special rates for students.</p>

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	<p><b>Infants (under 24 months)</b> Children under 24 months travel free provided that they do not occupy a seat. They must, however, be seated on an adult's lap throughout the trip</p> <p><b>Kids 2 – 11</b> In Economy class, children between 2 and 11 years of age always travel at half the adult fare, provided the child's ticket meets the conditions of the adult fare plan. Kids travelling in Business class or Sleeper, Touring and Sleeper Touring classes will be quoted a discounted fare.</p> <p>Your children will delight in the <b>VIA Rail Kids Activity Book</b> which contains a variety of cut and paste, and colouring activities. It's guaranteed to set their imagination free and it's available on the following trains : the Canadian, the Ocean, the Chaleur, the Skeena and most trains in southern Québec and southern Ontario.</p> <p><b>Special activities in the Skyline car</b> Exclusively in Silver &amp; Blue class aboard the Canadian, games, activities and video showings for children are organized in the Skyline car every morning from 7:30 to 10:00. A start to the day that kids - and their parents - greatly appreciate. Aboard the Ocean, videos for children are shown during the day and evening. And any time of the day (or night, if the moon is visible), the scenery that can be viewed from this car's panoramic dome fascinates young and old alike. The Canadian, the Ocean and the Chaleur all have a Skyline car.</p> <p><b>Guides to entertain children</b> In summer, guides provide tourist information for passengers and entertain children aboard the Abitibi and the Saguenay in northern Québec.</p> <p><b>Menus for children</b> When it's time to eat, excellent menus for children are available aboard the Canadian, the Ocean, the Hudson Bay and most trains in southern Québec and southern Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Zoomers</b></p>	<p>As a traveller 60 years of age or over, you can save year-round on the adult regular fare in Economy class. Simply choose the 60+ fare when booking online with VIA's booking engine, by calling 1 888 VIA-RAIL (1 888 842-7245) or TTY 1 800 268-9503 (hearing impaired), at one of VIA's ticket counters or through a travel agent.</p>

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<p><b>Groups</b></p>	<p>If you are organizing a trip for 10 or more individuals, you'll find train travel doubly rewarding:</p> <p><b>Discounts for all</b> When travelling in Economy class, group members are eligible for a discount on the regular adult fare on most routes.</p> <p><b>Free tickets for the group leader</b> Group leaders receive one free ticket for each block of 20 tickets purchased for travel in Economy class. To find out if your group is eligible, call 1 888 VIA-RAIL (1 888 842-7245).</p>
<p><b>VIA Getaways</b></p>	<p><b>Short urban stays in Ontario and Québec of 4 days and less:</b> take that long-deserved weekend away. Simply enter your travel dates and destination at <a href="http://www.trainpackages.ca/home">http://www.trainpackages.ca/home</a> to browse all-inclusive packages offering train travel, accommodations and activities. Whether you want to shop in Toronto, take a gallery tour of Ottawa or spice things up in Québec City, VIA has the Getaway for you. Here are some 2015 examples:</p> <p><b>Quebec City 3-night getaway</b> Package includes: 3 nights' accommodations roundtrip rail 2 -hour Guided City Tour.</p> <p><b>Montreal from Toronto</b> Enjoy a two-day getaway Montreal. Travel aboard VIA Rail's Corridor trains in Business Class and experience top quality service and dining. Your visit to Montreal includes a half day sightseeing tour to visit an assortment of attractions including Notre-Dame Basilica and the Old Port.</p>
<p><b>VIA Train Packages</b></p>	<p><b>Theme excursions across Canada for 5 days or more.</b> Are you looking for a golfing holiday or a spa vacation? A fishing trip in the great outdoors or a musical extravaganza? Maybe even see Canada from coast to coast? There's likely a VIA Rail train package that's perfectly suited to your wishes. For example:</p> <p><b>Circle the Bay of Fundy by Rail</b> Begin your journey in Toronto or Montreal and travel to Halifax aboard VIA Rail's Touring Class Service, exploring the rolling landscape of Canada's Eastern Provinces. Arrive in Halifax and explore Nova Scotia and New Brunswick via motor coach, visiting top attractions and</p>

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	<p>numerous historical landmarks. Upon completion of the tour, return home again with VIA Rail.</p> <p><b>Trans-Canada Experience: Toronto to Vancouver</b> (With Jasper, Lake Louise + Banff)</p> <p>Tour the country in luxurious comfort about The Canadian, one of VIA Rail's proudest services, offering the ultimate Canada train trip. Relax and take in the most spectacular scenery in Canada as you travel between Toronto and Vancouver, alongside Georgian Bay as well as the hundreds of smaller lakes of northern Ontario, tour the western plains of the Prairies and the splendid Canadian Rockies, stopping at three of the most famous mountain top tourist destinations, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff, then continue on to complete your journey in Vancouver on the Pacific Coast of British Columbia. This is the absolute best way to see the country; you'll be astounded by the beauty as you cross from one coast to the other. Four nights in a cabin, 2 nights in the Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver and flights back to Toronto.</p>
<p><b>Business Class</b></p>	<p>Get all the perks you expect from Business class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Privileged access to in-station Panorama lounges (where available). The <b>Panorama Lounge in Toronto</b> has recently been renovated</li> <li>- Priority boarding and complimentary newspapers.</li> <li>- Spacious seating on board with room to move, stretch, rest or work. <b>Facing seats</b>, at-your-seat power outlets for your portable computer and premium lighting create a fine ambience before and after your vacation</li> <li>- A delicious meal included in the price of your ticket.</li> <li>- Free wireless Internet service available in most stations and on board trains.</li> </ul>
<p><b>VIA Préférence Reward Program</b></p>	<p>Whether you're a frequent traveller, or an occasional one, becoming a member of the VIA Préférence program is your quickest way to earning free train travel.</p> <p>Earn 1 point for every dollar you spend and take advantage of exclusive offers and eBoutique offers</p> <p>With free travel starting at only 550 VIA Préférence points, earning reward travel is quick as points add up fast — especially when VIA Préférence offers its new members 500 welcome bonus points.</p> <p>Your membership rewards you with exciting travel opportunities to any of their great Canadian destinations, or you can even travel for free in France with the SNCF for as low as 2,500 points.</p> <p>In addition to rewarding you with free travel in no time at all, you can take advantage of exclusive promotional offers for VIA Préférence</p>

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	<p>members, whether it is on trips taken with VIA or on purchases made online at the VIA Préférence eBoutique.</p> <p>Learn more about the program at <a href="http://www.viarail.ca/en/via-preference">http://www.viarail.ca/en/via-preference</a></p>
<p><b>History</b></p>	<p>Throughout the colonial period, Canada's vast and far-reaching territory was largely uninhabited. Living conditions were difficult. Harsh winters made travelling almost impossible and many villages were left isolated for months at a time. Automobiles were not yet invented, bicycles still decades away. To allow this country to thrive (as opposed to merely survive), to ensure that travel, commerce and development would flourish, a railway had to be built, one that would alter the course of Canadian and North American history.</p> <p><b>In 1867</b>, the year of Canadian Confederation, a commitment was made by the newly-born country to build a transcontinental railway linking both coasts across 6,000 kilometres. The rest, as they say, is history. This railway would go on to play a fundamental role in shaping Canada's social and economic development.</p> <p>In the century that followed the launch of Canada's first public railway, thousands of kilometres of track were laid across the new country, acting as a binding force and playing a steadily expanding social and economic role. But the invention of the automobile, and shortly thereafter the airplane, reshaped an already rapidly changing society.</p> <p><b>The 1950's.</b> In the postwar era, automobiles became more affordable and therefore more attractive to consumers, who enjoyed the freedom it gave them. This led to the construction of new highways and improvements to road networks throughout North America. Meanwhile airlines responded to growing demand by introducing more flights and new destinations across the country - all the while cutting fares. Little by little, governments abandoned passenger rail and instead invested huge sums in transportation by road and air.</p> <p><b>The 1960's.</b> In 1967, Canada's two railway companies, Canadian Pacific and Canadian National, wanted to drop passenger services and only carry freight. Since the federal government considered passenger trains an essential service, it agreed that same year to cover 80% of the losses the two companies incurred with their passenger services. This funding, however, did not lead CP and CN to invest more in passenger trains. Service continued to deteriorate and ridership shrank. In fact, in 1967 - the centennial of a nation the railway built -</p>

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	<p>Canada's passenger railway seemed to be on the verge of becoming a thing of the past.</p> <p><b>The 1970's.</b> In 1977, the federal government led by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau took an unprecedented step in Canada. Inspired by the 1971 creation of Amtrak in the United States, it created VIA Rail Canada on the grounds that a Crown corporation with an exclusive mission to organize and provide all intercity passenger train services in Canada could really reduce costs and improve service.</p> <p><b>The 21st century.</b> At the dawn of the third millennium, VIA Rail is clearly an essential entity: in addition to being a viable business, it continuously innovates. And above all, it has convinced millions of people that trains are "the more human way to travel".</p>
<p><b>Wi-Fi</b></p>	<p>VIA Rail provides complimentary Wi-Fi service on board most of its trains, in its Business station lounges and in select stations in the Québec City – Windsor corridor.</p> <p>Travellers on the Ocean train (Montréal – Halifax) are now also able to enjoy free Wi-Fi in the service cars adjacent to the dining car.</p>
<p><b>Responsible Travel</b></p>	<p>Protecting the environment is everyone's business - VIA Rail Canada takes this responsibility seriously and acts on it every day. While many already view passenger trains as an environmentally friendly transportation choice, VIA nonetheless works continually to improve the environmental performance of its operations.</p> <p>For this reason, an Environmental Policy guides VIA's commitment and daily business decisions. Major issues such as regulatory compliance or reducing fuel consumption and waste are managed using VIA's Environmental Management System (EMS), which establishes a working framework for tracking, evaluating, and communicating environmental performance.</p> <p>All employees are invited to become involved in VIA's efforts to protect the environment. The company's Environmental Planning Committee (EPC) is made up of representatives from every function in the organization, while volunteer-led Green Teams are spread out across the network, providing opportunities for employees to generate ideas, locally and nationally.</p> <p>Beyond policies and procedures, VIA's commitment to the environment expresses itself through concrete action. For some years now, VIA Rail has worked to substantially reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions even while expanding its operations. This commitment lives on today, as the company continues to look for more effective and creative means of further reducing fuel consumption.</p> <p>Gains were first achieved in the 1990s by modifying existing equipment, followed in 2001 by the purchase of 21 locomotives with</p>

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	<p>increased fuel efficiency. In recent years, initiatives like the installation of new wayside electrical power systems have allowed for fuel-saving programs, like an engine shutdown program that eliminates idling time. VIA's latest pilot project has enormous potential to reduce the company's environmental footprint. A prototype for modernizing an existing fleet of 20-year-old locomotives (General Motors F-40) was completed in 2006. It is anticipated that extending this project to the entire fleet would result in fuel savings of 5 million litres yearly and an annual reduction in GHG emissions by 15 million kilograms.</p> <p>The program would extend these locomotives' useful life by 20 years and reuse 120 tonnes of steel from the basic structure. Moreover, the rebuild could be done at half the cost of buying new locomotives. These and similar programs are currently under review for possible implementation.</p> <p>Rebuilding VIA's older locomotives and passenger cars under the capital investment plan will reduce fleet emissions further. New technologies included in rebuilding the F-40 locomotives will ensure that they meet current environmental standards for locomotive emissions. The rebuilt LRC cars will also incorporate environmental enhancements, including new, more efficient heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and lay-over systems. Together, these modifications will result in an additional nine per cent reduction in fuel consumption and GHG emissions.</p>
<p><b>Accessible Travel</b></p>	<p>VIA Rail Canada prides and promotes itself as “The More Human Way to Travel.” Nowhere is this commitment more critical than in the provision of service to passengers with reduced mobility or other special needs.</p> <p>VIA has been recognised for the leadership role it has played over the past 25 years in advancing the cause of accessible public transportation for all Canadians. Over that period, VIA has established a constructive working relationship with a number of organisations representing disabled travellers. This has permitted VIA to make substantial and continuing improvements to its trains, stations and front-line services – ensuring best possible accessible transportation for travellers with mobility or other restrictions.</p> <p>VIA understands that some passengers' travel needs may differ from those of travellers in general. The range of special services (and adapted services) may vary from one region to another, depending particularly on station facilities and train cars. If VIA know about special needs in advance their staff will have time to do everything necessary to make the trip as comfortable and pleasant as possible. In order to do this, VIA asks that passengers with special needs purchase their tickets by telephone or at one of the ticket offices 48 hours or more in advance</p>

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	<p>of departure, taking care to specify the special services required. These may include arrangements for wheelchair access, guide dogs, priority boarding, special meals, or an escort.</p> <p>Information and reservations: call toll-free: 1 888 VIA RAIL (1 888 842-7245)          People with speech or hearing problems may communicate through telecommunication devices for the hearing-impaired (TTY) by calling toll-free: 1 800 268 9503.          The full range of special services is outlined on their website at <a href="http://www.viarail.ca/planner/en_plan_beso.html">www.viarail.ca/planner/en_plan_beso.html</a></p> <p>Enabling people to travel with dignity: a well-trained staff is the reason VIA is at the forefront in providing superior customer service for the elderly, disabled and special needs passengers. Each year, almost one third of VIA's employees receive introductory or refresher training on how to assist passengers with disabilities. Training has taught staff to treat individuals with respect, to empathize as much as possible, and to ask the right questions. The best is often, "Tell me how we can best help you."</p> <p>VIA has for some time recognized the benefit of allowing travellers with specific disabilities to bring an escort of their choice, at no cost to them or their escort. This policy is designed for travellers who cannot tend to their own personal needs such as requiring assistance with eating, personal hygiene or medical care. This Free Escort Policy is unique in the industry.</p> <p>Similarly, a person may also be accompanied on trains by a service animal that is certified trained to increase the autonomy of the person with the disability. The service animal would have free access to an additional seat and not be restricted to the limited space under a seat. This is a policy that encourages people with special needs to travel.</p>
<p><b>VIA Gift Cards</b></p>	<p>Give the gift of travel by purchasing VIA Rail gift cards at train stations and select, participating retailers. Choose from fixed-amount cards of \$25 or \$100 available in train stations and these select retailers and more: Longo's, Sears, Avondale Foods, Mac's/Couche Tard, International News, Home Hardware, and Pharmasave.</p> <p>Or, choose a Flex option gift card (available in VIA train stations only), which allows you to predefine the purchase amount. Gift cards can be redeemed for tickets, rail passes, or put towards spoiling yourself or someone special with an upgrade.</p> <p>Many programs, such as Air Miles, also offer the VIA gift card as a redemption item to their members.</p>

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<b>Testimonials</b>	<b>From Travel Show listeners:</b>  “The train ride on Via Rail is always pleasurable and a restful way to travel.” George from Montreal  “Everything went smoothly on our Via Rail train ride.” Beverly from Laprairie  “From the start, taking the VIA Rail train to Ottawa, was a really relaxing way to get to Ottawa.” Barb from Markham  “I went down with my hubby, Carl, travelled on Via Rail, we just loved it, sat back and relaxed, truthfully a wonder trip, good service and by the time we knew it, we had reached our destination! Our future trips to Ottawa will surely be by Via Rail.” Linda from Montreal  “Via Rail was our mode of transportation and it was more than comfortable.” Norm from Toronto  “Taking the Via Rail Train is such a relaxing way to travel.” Patricia from Lasalle  “The trip on the VIA 1 was so much fun and I grew fond of goat cheese on the way.” Valerie from Montreal  “Our travel in VIA's first class accommodations was a huge highlight” Michelle from Oakville  “Our trip began with a luxurious ride on VIA 1. We had travelled with VIA before but never with VIA 1. The service was excellent, and my son says that one of the highlights of the trip for him were the meals which were served on VIA 1 as we travelled through Quebec and Ontario.” Rosie from Lavalle  “The only thing that lifted our spirits going home was Via Rail conductor Francois Belisle, a very pleasant and quietly engaging man who exuded professionalism, style, humour and panache. He's the kind of guy who comes to mind when you read business writer Tom Peters' book, In Search of Excellence. Here's a front-line guy who couldn't represent Via any better.” Peter from Montreal
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### **From VIA's traveller letters:**

- “Recently I travelled with a handicapped friend from Toronto to Vancouver and return. While en route, the employees were exemplary in their attentiveness, friendliness, and professionalism; however, we wish to commend especially the “above and beyond” care we received from David Streit (senior service attendant) from Winnipeg to Vancouver. Reflecting back on all of the wonderful events and happenings of our trip to Vancouver, David Streit stands out as one of our highlights. One instance of this thoughtfulness was his recognition that my handicapped friend was unable to socialize on the train, so he offered his own iPod and speaker so that he might have his favourite music to listen to. I hope that VIA will take note of this young man’s qualities and commend him as we do.”
- Excited about the start of the trip! We all know that we’re not just using a method of transport; we’re here for an experience. This is a special atmosphere... it’s timeless. Explorers, travelers, we’ve agreed to stop time ... and time has stopped. ... A strange mixture of the past, of dreams, of tradition ... We’ve discovered that we simply don’t ‘live’ an experience – we are part of it, each with our story. Here people talk, they exchange ... We’re beyond the limits of time...
- I am writing to compliment you on a member of your staff, Sue McCarthy. My parents are traveling through Canada trying to relax and eat well so my father may get as healthy as possible before starting severe treatment for his cancer. I was attempting to find a local shop that could provide a nice basket to their rail compartment for this leg of the trip and was put through to Sue. She made recommendations which I contacted but because of his diabetes and lack of interest in simply flowers, nothing seemed appropriate. Sue called me back on the morning they were to board the train to make sure I was able to find a proper service. After telling her of my failed efforts she said she would call me back. After making calls on my behalf, she was able to get their Hotel, the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, to agree to provide a diabetic based basket of treats for their journey with a card wishing them a healthy journey. My mother told me they both cried and were very appreciative of the gesture which would not have been possible without Sue.
- Thank you to the staff of Train 66 en Route to Montreal August 25, 2013- you saved my life. Brings tears to my eyes at the level of human kindness. I suffered an asthma attack and your collective skills and preparedness was the difference between life and death. You stopped

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	<p>in Cornwall where I was rushed to emergency and am doing well. If you were a person I would give you the biggest hug. Let me know when you have transatlantic train service, I will never fly again. I love you VIA!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just wanted to say a big thank you to the staff at the VIA Rail station in Moncton, NB. On Sept. 3, my older daughter and her boyfriend were heading back to Montreal, and we brought our 3 1/2 year son to see the train as he had never seen one up close before. From the ticket agent to the staff on the train, they were all so kind to him, offering him a coloring book, a train pin, a quick tour of a train car...he was in heaven. We are definitely considering taking the train for our next trip to Montreal. It was refreshing to see how much they enjoyed their work, how well they treated us and more importantly, how happy they made a little boy feel.</li> <li>• Today I took my daughter to the VIA Rail station in Windsor to see the trains. I usually take her at least once per week, and she absolutely LOVES to see and hear the trains. Well, today was an extra special day because of YOUR employees. As we walked outside of the building along the train, almost every employee either smiled or waved to my daughter. Madalyn kept asking "where da driver, Mommy?", so we asked the first lady we saw. She wasn't the driver, but showed her the special walkie-talkie she used to talk to the driver, AND allowed us to go up the steps and look inside the train. As we kept walking, Madalyn asked a couple men if they were the driver, and they were! They were so sweet and kind to her, talking and asking her questions. The driver promised to honk the horn. This may not seem like a big deal, but to a toddler who lives and breathes trains, this was incredible! From this point on, I will be sure to share with my friends via social media and in my personal circles, how incredible Via Rail is. Thank you, THANK YOU!</li> </ul>
<b>DEALS</b>	<p>VIA have special deals available on their website, so check <a href="http://www.viarail.ca">www.viarail.ca</a> regularly to see what's new – there's always a "Hot" section on their home page...plus lots of other interesting features such as 360 degree pictures and videos.</p>
<b>Other Deals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Offers: Discount Tuesdays</li> <li>- Discounted fares: Under 2 FREE Children 2-11 are 50% off Student passes</li> </ul> <p>And there are also discounts for those over 60 years old.</p>

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<p><b>CanRailPass 2018</b></p>	<p>If you want to go a long way on a limited budget, there's no better choice than the Canrailpass – System, which allows you to travel literally anywhere on the VIA network. The Canrailpass – System is valid for 60 consecutive days from your first date of travel. Choose the pass that best suits your travel needs.</p> <p><b>Base:</b> Big savings, starting at \$761 Choice of a pass valid for 7 or 10 one-way trips Limited seat availability (seats must be booked in Escape or Economy fare)</p> <p><b>Extra:</b> Savings, more flexibility and extra perks—starting at \$846 Choice of a pass valid for 7 or 10 one-way trips Seats must be booked in Escape or Economy fare Full seat availability the day prior to departure**: seats can then also be booked in Economy Plus fare Access to the VIA Business lounges and priority boarding where applicable Upgrades to higher classes of service are permitted.</p> <p><b>Unlimited:</b> Travel anywhere on the VIA network as often as you want for \$1,429</p>
<p><b>Connect with VIA</b></p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.viarail.ca">www.viarail.ca</a> Phone: 1 888 VIA-RAIL Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/viarailcanada">http://www.facebook.com/viarailcanada</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/VIA_Rail">https://twitter.com/VIA_Rail</a> Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/viarailcanada/">https://www.instagram.com/viarailcanada/</a> YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/VIARailCanadaInc?feature=watch">https://www.youtube.com/user/VIARailCanadaInc?feature=watch</a></p>

<p><b>The Canadian</b></p>	<p>To cross this great land by train is truly one of the iconic Canadian experiences and Via Rail has 19 different routes in total. VIA Rail can take you to some of the most beautiful parts of Canada – from Churchill, Manitoba in the North to Halifax in the East. Relax and discover our stunning country in comfort while enjoying welcoming, friendly service and world-class food.</p> <p>Probably the most iconic route of all is the Canadian - it is even on the back of Canada's \$10 bill! It takes you from Toronto to Vancouver in a little under 4 days – beauty takes no shortcuts. One of the most renowned long-distance railway journeys in the world, the Canadian maximize daylight viewing of Rocky Mountain vistas that are only</p>
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	<p>accessible by train. You'll get to see the lush boreal forest, the lakes in Northern Ontario, the western Prairies, and the magnificent Rocky Mountains.</p> <p>Travel in Sleeper Plus class and by day you have armchairs and a large picture window in your cabin. At night the cabin converts to provide an upper and lower bed with comforters. Your train is like an all-inclusive hotel on wheels! You even get the little toiletries in your bathroom...</p> <p>It starts with a "Welcome aboard!" reception with canapés and sparkling wine. In addition, with Sleeper Plus you get exclusive access to the Park car, with Mural lounge and bar service, where continental breakfast is served. Coffee and tea is available all day and there is also an Activity car for games and fun. The dining car is elegant but not pretentious – and the ambiance and gourmet cuisine truly complement the spectacular views of the Canadian landscape.</p>
<p><b>Recognition for The Canadian</b></p>	<p>VIA Rail's flagship train, The Canadian, has been recognized by The Society of International Railway Travelers in their list of the "World's Top 25 Trains".</p> <p>The list recognized top train journeys from North and South America, Africa, Asia/Indian Subcontinent, Europe and Australia. VIA's Canadian was the only regularly-scheduled train in North America to be included in the list. The train's cross-country odyssey was cited for a number of attributes including excellent service, efficient, polite staff, diverse scenery and a memorable cross-country experience.</p> <p>For 25 years, The Society of International Railway Travelers has been recognized as the leading authority on international railway travel. The nomination is the result of experiences shared by writers, editors, society members, staff and rail enthusiasts.</p> <p>VIA's Canadian is a legendary and remarkable three-day, four-night journey from Toronto to Vancouver. No matter the time of year, the images are unforgettable: mountain sheep grazing in the Rockies, elk loitering outside Jasper, the skyline of Toronto looming on the horizon. Add a touch of elegance to your journey with VIA's first-class Silver &amp; Blue service, which begins with a bon voyage reception and continues with award-winning service that includes fine dining, accommodations and attention par excellence. Passengers can enjoy the scenery from the large picture windows of their seats or from the 360° scenic dome.</p>
<p><b>The Canadian Experience</b></p>	<p>The Prestige Sleeper class provides simple elegance and premium comfort thanks to the completely revamped cars and accommodations,</p>

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	<p>all delivered with personalized attention throughout this unparalleled experience.</p> <p>A high-end <b>Prestige Sleeper</b> cabin offers stylish and modern decor. This elegant, comfortable cabin with private bathroom and shower offers a modular leather L-shaped couch by day and a Murphy bed for two by night facing a large window to admire the breathtaking sights of Canada's diverse scenic beauty.</p> <p><b>Sleeper Plus</b> class offers several accommodation options: a berth, a cabin for one, two, three or four people, or a suite - all with in-car shower access. Your train is like an all-inclusive hotel on wheels as both Sleeper Classes include your meals! Prestige Sleeper Class even includes all alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages.</p> <p>During the summer, activities are offered on board the <b>Skyline car</b>. It also features a Scenic dome in which you can unwind, a coffee area for taking breaks, and a lounge where you can make new acquaintances.</p> <p>Available in the summer on the trip between Edmonton and Vancouver, the <b>Panorama car</b> is a must if you want to feast your eyes on the scenery.</p> <p>In addition, with Prestige Sleeper Class you get exclusive access to the <b>Prestige Park Car</b> located at the back of the train. With Mural and Bullet lounges the Park car allows you to take in the sweeping landscape as you read a book. During the off-season, activities are offered on board this car.</p> <p>The <b>Dining Car</b> is elegant but not pretentious – and the ambiance and gourmet cuisine truly complement the spectacular views of the Canadian landscape. Prestige Sleeper Class passengers also receive priority reservations in the Dining Car.</p>
<b>Park Car</b>	<p>The Park car is located at the back of the train. Its Bullet lounge allows you to take in the sweeping landscape as you read a book. During the off-season, activities are offered on board this car.</p> <p>A scenic top-floor view - combine pleasure with practicality while getting a feast for your eyes.</p> <p>With its Scenic dome section, and its Mural and Bullet lounges, the Park car is a wonderful place where time appears to stand still.</p>
<b>The Canadian Route</b>	<p>1 Toronto Mile: 0 Toronto is Ontario's capital and the heart of business activity in Canada's most populous province. Appropriately, Toronto is the</p>

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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 SkypPod observation level of the CN Tower at 147 stories high. The train boards at Union Station, immediately across from the imposing Royal York Hotel. Harbourfront, Yonge and Bay streets are just a few blocks away.

## 2 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 lovers.

## 3 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 northern United States.

## 4 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 dominates the skyline.

## 5 Capreol

Mile: 276 Population: 3,276

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

## 6 Gogama

Mile: 86

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

## 7 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 pulp and plywood plants that border the railway tracks.

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	<p>8 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).</p> <p>9 Armstrong Mile: 243 Population: 1,216 This town is located at the north end of magnificent Lake Nipigon, which reaches 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.</p> <p>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 in addition to its vocation as a centre for the pulp industry.</p> <p>11 ONTARIO-MANITOBA BORDER Mile: 159 A sign on the north side of the steel 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 them formed by meteor craters, offer some of the best northern pike, perch and lake trout fishing in Western Canada</p> <p>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 better 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, which features the food and cultural activities of the many communities that choose to make Winnipeg theirs.</p> <p>13 Portage La Prairie Mile: 55 Population: 12,996 The city is so named because during the era of the North American</p>
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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, surrounded by some of the richest farmland in Manitoba.

#### 14 MANITOBA-SASKATCHEWAN BORDER

Mile: 213

The Canadian is near the mid-point 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 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 early settlers of the province 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 this size.

#### 19 Unity

Mile: 57 Population: 2,389

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

#### 20 SASKATCHEWAN-ALBERTA BORDER

Mile: 101

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	<p>This provincial boundary also marks the division between Central and Mountain time zones.</p> <p><b>21 Wainwright</b> Mile: 140 Population: 5,925 Home to a Canadian Forces Training base that is also the site of the Canadian Wildlife Service Peregrine Falcon Hatchery, Wainwright is characterized by the bobbing pumpjacks that tell you this is oil country.</p> <p><b>22 Viking</b> Mile: 184 Population: 1,041 Named for the many Scandinavians who settled the area in the early 1900s, the area around Viking was significant for the Plains tribes that hunted buffalo before the arrival of Europeans. Points of interest: (mile 149): The Canadian makes an airy crossing 61 metres above the Battle River on a steel trestle 884 metres long. (mile 147): The immense Battle River Valley can be seen on the northern side of the train.</p> <p><b>23 Edmonton</b> Mile: 0 Population: 812,201 Alberta's capital, Edmonton 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 gold rush 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 green spaces. A few minutes from downtown, the gigantic West Edmonton Mall offers an amazing array of shopping, dining and entertainment possibilities, including an "indoor ocean".</p> <p><b>24 Edson</b> Mile: 129 Population: 8,475 This community is midway between Edmonton and Jasper National Park. From Edson, westbound passengers have their first view of the Rockies.</p> <p><b>25 Hinton</b> Mile: 184 Population: 9,640 A coal mining town at the turn of the century, Hinton is a centre for winter sports and is well known for Nordic skiing in addition to a complete range of summer adventure activities such as canoeing.</p>
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	<p><b>26 Jasper</b> Mile: 0 Population: 4,051 World-famous for skiing, hiking and 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.</p> <p><b>27 Yellowhead Pass</b> 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 and all water systems flow either east or west from the Divide.</p> <p><b>28 Mount Robson</b> 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" or "The Dome."</p> <p><b>29 Valemount</b> 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 arm of water that was created by the huge Mica Dam almost 100 kilometres to the south.</p> <p><b>30 Blue River</b> 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: Pyramid Falls (mile 113) is briefly visible close to the tracks on the east side, like a partly collapsed set of rock shelves.</p> <p><b>31 Kamloops</b> 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 turn to the rolling hills of the arid high country scored by deep river canyons, which are fed by the many high-altitude lakes.</p>
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	<p>32 Ashcroft  Mile: 48 Population: 1,628  Very little precipitation annually 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 cachet all of its own.</p>
<p><b>The Canadian Schedule</b></p>	<p>This is the current schedule for the east to west running of the Canadian as of March 2018:</p> <p>Duration: 3 days 11 hours  Distance: 4466 km</p> <p>Toronto, ON 22:00 (ET)  Washago 0:40 Stops on request.  Parry Sound 2:42 Stops on request.  Sudbury Jct 5:13 Stops on request.  Capreol 5:38 - 6:08 30 minutes stop  Laforest 7:08  McKee's Camp 7:11  Felix 7:30  Ruel 7:48  Westree 8:16  Gogama 8:53  Foleyet 10:59  Elsas 11:53</p>

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	<p>           Oba 13:51            Hornepayne 14:40 - 15:20 40 minutes stop            Hillsport 16:28            Caramat 17:18            Longlac 17:49            Nakina 18:29            Auden 19:41            Ferland 20:32            Mud River 20:42            Armstrong 21:31            Collins 22:10            Allanwater Bridge 21:48 (CT)            Flindt Landing 22:05            Savant Lake 22:18            Sioux Lookout 23:39 - 0:09 30 minutes stop            Richan 1:28            Red Lake Road 2:09            Canyon 2:40            Farlane 3:19            Redditt 3:37            Minaki 4:03            Ottermere 4:27            Malachi 4:32            Copelands Landing 4:36            Rice Lake 4:46            Winnitoba 4:51            Ophir 4:57            Brereton Lake 5:18            Elma 5:49            Winnipeg 7:00 - 11:45 4 hours 45 minutes stop            Portage la Prairie 13:09            Rivers 14:58            Melville 17:17 - 17:27 (MT) 10 minutes stop            Watrous 20:33            Saskatoon 22:07 - 22:32 25 minutes stop            Biggar 23:49 - 23:59 10 minutes stop            Unity 1:14            Wainwright 3:00            Viking 4:04            Edmonton 6:22 - 7:37 1 hour 15 minutes stop            Evansburg 8:55            Edson 10:13            Hinton 11:24            Jasper 13:00 - 14:30 1 hour 30 minutes stop         </p>
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	<p>Valemount 16:07 (PT)          Blue River 18:27          Clearwater 20:44          Kamloops North 23:09 - 23:44 35 minutes stop          Ashcroft 1:27          Boston Bar 4:14          Hope 5:43          Chilliwack 6:40          Abbotsford 7:08          Vancouver, BC 9:42 (PT) ARRIVAL</p>
<p><b>Railway Signs</b></p>	<p>One of the 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, and still are, in miles. Each line is subdivided at Railway Division Points; these subdivisions are not a standard length, they were based on the distance a steam locomotive could travel in a day.</p> <p>Mileposts          Milepost numbers rise 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.</p> <p>Siding and Station Name Boards          Newer siding and station name boards are white with a black name. Older station name boards are also white with a black name but the lettering is all capitals and the sign is mounted on a building.</p>
<p><b>Personal Experience</b></p>	<p>I travelled on The Canadian to record an on-location Travel Show in May 2015 which you can listen to on this free podcast:  <a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/RadioShows/PodcastPastShows.aspx?ID=118">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/RadioShows/PodcastPastShows.aspx?ID=118</a>          You can also see some images from my trip on the Travel Show Pinterest board here: <a href="https://www.pinterest.ca/TravelShow/the-canadian/">https://www.pinterest.ca/TravelShow/the-canadian/</a></p>

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