Train takes guests on awesome journey through Rockies

"Bear on the left!" belted a man's voice from the front of the train car. Passengers bolted from their seats, scrambled to the left-side windows and poised their cam-

sure enough, a black bear ambled along the grassy floor or the majestic Canadian Rockles, creating an ideal photo-op for travelers aboard the Rocky Mountaineer, a passenger rail

"Western Canada is full of varying types of wildlife, such as, black bears, moose, grizzly bears, cilk coyotes, eagles and opprey, said Michelle Dunn, manager of communications for Rocky Mountainer Railbuom. There is no guarantee that animals will be sighted during the excursion. However, and Dunn, depending on the time of travel, more often than not wildlife are seen. Passenger Jerry Goetz of Bloomfield Hills was surprised to see so much game close to the train tracks.

People tend to get on a plane travel, has said, and they miss a lot. Riding the rails furnishes an opportunity to experience nature's best. "We saw bears, mountain sheep, a llama and eagles, sometimes in their nests near water, said Goetz, who enjoyed the train ride in June 2002 with his wife, Kinney. The couple opted for the GoldLaaf Service, one of two-choices of travel. The couple opted for the object of a glass-domed coach that provided panoramic views of the ever-changing scenery. Within minutes of settling into their reclining dome-level seats, passengers in the GoldLaaf coach are offered champagne and orange juice to "toost" the trials are completed and the coach that provided panoramic views of the ever-changing scenery. Within minutes of settling into their reclining dome-level seats, passengers in the GoldLaaf coach are offered champagne and orange juice to "toost" the trials in the coach are offered champagne and orange juice to "toost" the trials of the coach are offered champagne and orange juice to "toost" the trials of the coach are offered champagne and orange juice to "toost" the trial in the seats.

The RedLeaf Service, one of two choices of travel of the grown and large picture windows. "Upscale childed entrees" are served at the seats.

The proposed personnel in both classes provide commentary about the landscape, Canadian history, geography and the rail-way.

history, geography and the rail-way.

All passengers have access to vestibule areas located at the end of the coaches.

It's a train journey with some of the most incredible scenery in the world, where you are not only sitting back and relaxed, you are being pam-pered and catered to by the onboard staff, who become like family by the end of the trip," Dunn said.

A variety of packages are

Dunn said.

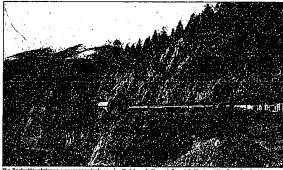
A variety of packages are offered, running the gamut from a two-day rail journey and combo mil-and-rental car excursions to a twelve day Trans Canada Rail Adventure.

One option is the Yellowhead Route.

One opnorman.
Route.
Passengers board at
Vancouver's Pricific Central
Station in the province of
British Columbia for their twoday luxury ride.



gourmet lunch is served in the oldLeaf dome coach aboard the



The train weaves through fertile fields of the Fraser River Valley, passes near towering crowns of the Coastal

vality, passes near owering crowns of the Coastal Mountains and then snakes along the Thompson River to historic Kamloops for an overnight stay at a hotel.

Day two features stunning snapshots of rolling plateaus and snow-covered tips of the Monashee Mountains. Waterfalls, expansive glaciers and breathtaking views of the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, Mount Robson (12,972 feet), supply awesome vistas. The journey redis in Jasper, the largest mountain park in

Canada.

Last summer, Kathryn
Dingeman booked a two-day,
all-daylight tour on the train.
She traveled with her mom,
Gertrude Dingeman of
Redford, and two friends,
Nadine Debusk of Redford and
Doria Chase of Rochester.
'It was a wonderful trip allaround,' said Dingeman of
Farmington, who, with her traveling companions, chose the
Gold Leaf service. It's the only
way to go and worth every
penny, she said.

Mary Quinley is a Livonia resident who writes about food and travel.

IF YOU GO

■ The cost of the Classic Rail Journey with GoldLeaf Service from June through October is \$927 (double) and \$977 (single), one-way, from Vancouver to Banff/Jasper or Banff/Jasper to Vancouver.

For more information, call Rocky Mountaineer Railtours (800) 665-7245 or www.rockymountaineer.com.





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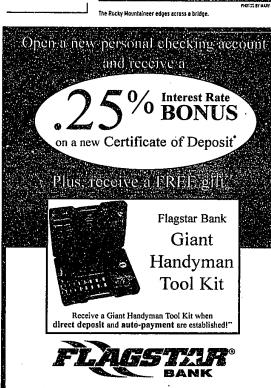
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