



# eUSTHOMASIAN

A Publication of the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America

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## SPECIAL ISSUE - 2016 GRAND REUNION VANCOUVER

### 25<sup>th</sup> USTMAAA GRAND REUNION VANCOUVER

By Primo Andres, MD, Executive Director

It is never too early to prepare for the next Grand Reunion and Medical Convention especially if it is in a “foreign country”. The next annual gathering of Thomasian medical alumni will be in our northern neighbor, Canada, in the gorgeous city of Vancouver in British Columbia at the Sheraton Wall Centre atop the hill in the middle of downtown overlooking the entire city. It is one of those cities we have always meant to visit and spend some time in but never got around to doing it. Now here is our chance to check this in our bucket list and be pampered by USTMAAA as our host. Isn't that a dream come true? Mark your calendar now. The meeting and reunion days are July 1-5, 2017 but consider extending your stay if you are planning on exploring the beauty of the northwest by joining the various excursions that precede and follow the Grand Reunion.

There is so much to do in Vancouver that all efforts are being made to give more time for all attendees to enjoy the city. Saturday, July 1, 2017, happens to be a very special Canada Day, the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the country. It is a great opportunity for us to participate in this historic Canadian holiday. We have originally contracted for just enough rooms for the Officers and Board Members to use because of the early meeting the following morning. However, we are now negotiating for more rooms to be released to our block to accommodate those of you who may want to take advantage of this opportunity to party with the Canadians. Meetings are limited to mornings and early afternoons and evening events are started later in the evenings except on the final night, the Gala Dinner, which is slotted to start at 6 PM. Attendees are encouraged to try the excellent International Cuisine that the city has to offer. Do your homework and look up your references and make early reservations even before arriving to ensure you have a space in the restaurants. They are very busy and are almost always full all day of the week. Plan to stay longer than the convention days, and even better, join the scheduled excursions to make the most out of your trip.



The airfare is not much more expensive than going to the West Coast if you make your reservations early, especially through the discount outlets like Expedia. If you are planning to attend the reunion and go to the Canadian Rockies, be sure to book a flight to Vancouver one way, then Calgary to home the other way as the tour will end in Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 after 4 PM.

Here is the schedule of the Grand Reunion and the proposed excursions:

6/25 -7/1, 2017

**ALASKAN CRUISE** on Celebrity Infinity. USTMAAA will arrange only if there are more than 50 cabins (couples).



Saturday, 7/1/17

8A-12P Board Meeting 1  
6P Board Reception, Canada Day

Sunday, 7/2/17

8A-12P Board Meeting 2  
3P-4P Thanksgiving Mass  
4P-5P Opening Ceremony  
6P-12A INDIVIDUAL CLASS REUNIONS

Monday, 7/3/17

7:30- 12P CME1  
12P-1P Town Hall Meeting - UST Administration  
1P-9P FREE TIME  
9P-12A TALENT NIGHT after dinner

Tuesday, 7/4/17

7:30A-1P CME 2  
1P-6P FREE TIME  
6P-12A GALA DINNER

Wednesday, 7/5/17

**VICTORIA and BUTCHART GARDENS** all day excursion  
Price per person: CAD 190  
English Afternoon Tea: CAD 35



Thursday, 7/6/17

**VANCOUVER CITY TOUR**  
Price per person: CAD 75



7/7-7/11/2017

Friday:

**CANADIAN ROCKIES TOUR**  
Rocky Mountaineer Gold Leaf service scenic train ride to Kamloops for overnight stay



Saturday

Continuing train ride to Lake Louise for overnight stay at four star Fairmont Château Lake Louise or three star Lake Louise Inn



Sunday

Banff and Yoho National Park tour and Gondola ride  
Overnight stay at four star Rimrock Resort Hotel



Monday

Columbia Icefield Tour and Ice Explorer  
Overnight stay at Rimrock Resort Hotel



Tuesday

Banff to Calgary  
Visit and lunch at Heritage Park Historical Village



Drop off at Calgary Airport  
**Arrange flight for home after 4 PM**

**Cost of Rocky Mountain Train Ride and Tour in USD:**

	Occupancy	Price per person incl. tax
<b>Group A: Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise (4 star hotel)</b>		
	Double	USD 3713.26 (Adult)
	Single	USD 4563.84 (Adult)
	Triple	USD 3377.90 (Adult)
<b>Group B: Lake Louise Inn (3 star hotel)</b>		
	Double	USD 3484.58 (Adult)
	Single	USD 4109.08 (Adult)
	Triple	USD 3176.96 (Adult)