Alberta

The boundary between Alberta and British Columbia is formed by the great divide in the Canadian Rockies, undoubtedly one of the most scenic mountain ranges in the world.

The transition from rolling prairie to the forested ridges and valleys of the foothills, to the cloud-high mountains, offers a variety of terrain and scenery unique to Alberta. This is trail riding country second to none.

There is a wide choice of trail rides, and each and every one would quicken the pulse of a first time dude or a veteran rider.

British Columbia

British Columbia's majestic mountains and alpine rivers are best enjoyed from the deck of a rollicking river raft, or on a carefully planned bicycle tour by road.

Although decidedly different, both are enjoyable and exciting thanks to the overpowering scenery in British Columbia, which is second to none in all of Canada.

Yukon Territory

It is not surprising, especially to a writer, that such poets and celebrated novelists as Robert Service and Jack London were moved to create their famous works here. . . . it's that kind of land.

The main centres in the Yukon Territory are Whitehorse, the capital, and Dawson City the legendary boom town of the Klondike gold rush of '98. In between are 740 km of the historic Yukon River. The cruise from Dawson to Whitehorse against the current takes seven days and six nights.

Northwest Territories

Canada's seemingly endless Northwest Territories are frequently referred to as the world's last frontier.

Technology has made a relatively minimal mark on the high Arctic to date as this demanding environment sets the same rules for the southern visitor as it has done for the native Inuit.

There are now new and unprecedentedly easy ways to experience and enjoy this remote Arctic world. If adventure travel to exotic places is your scene then this is the place for you.

De Havilland gets 55 Dash 8 orders

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd., Toronto, has received formal commitments from purchasers for 55 of its new mid-sized Dash 8 commuter aircraft representing a sales value of $400-million, the company has announced.

The commitments, in the form of letters of intent to buy the aircraft and accompanied by deposits, firmly establish the Dash 8 program, which will create an additional 3,000 jobs and bring about plant expansion. The purchasers include four Canadian airlines and two Canadian oil companies.

John Sandford, president, said there has been unprecedented response to the 32-passenger twin-engine Dash 8, which is scheduled to go into service by mid-1984. De Havilland expects to sell 600 of the aircraft by the early 1990s. It is aimed at the growing commuter airline market, particularly in the United States.

The go-ahead on the $150-million development program was announced in November and the first approach was made to customers two months ago. Included in the total are two Dash 8s ordered by the Ontario Government in April for use by the provincially owned airline, Norontair, operating in the northern part of the province.

Mr. Sandford said expansion will include a new final assembly and testing plant to be located at a second site. This expansion will be in addition to that already under way for the production of the 50-passenger Dash 7, a big brother to the Dash 8, and the smaller 19-seat Twin Otter, of which 800 have now been sold. Sales of the Dash 7 now total 95.

U.S. commuter carriers have taken 36 of the 55 orders for the $4.5-million airplane, with the largest single order—12 aircraft—placed by Golden Gate Airlines Inc., followed by Pennsylvania Commuter Airlines Inc. with six. Other U.S. purchasers are Southern Jersey Airways, four, Golden West Airlines Inc., Henson Airlines Inc., Ransome Airlines Inc., and Rio Airlines Inc., three each, and Air Oregon, two.

International purchasers are Aerolineas Centrales de Colombia, Brymon Airways of Britain, and South Pacific Island Airways of Samoa with two each.

Low fuel consumption, lower operating costs and the "right size for the growing commuter market" are listed as the key reasons for the interest in the aircraft.

Canadair Aircraft Sales

Canadair Ltd. of Montreal, with advance orders already in hand, is going ahead with production of a stretched version of its successful standard *Challenger* business jet. The company has firm orders and deposits for 40 of the stretched aircraft, known as the *Challenger E,* at $8.25 million (U.S.) each for a total value of $330 million. This is in addition to the 126 orders it has received for the standard *Challenger.* Most of the orders on both aircraft are for export markets, with first deliveries of the stretched aircraft scheduled for 1983.

Computers in China

Scintrex Ltd., Downsview, Ontario, which designs and manufactures mineral exploration instruments, has signed a $1.1-million contract to supply China's ministry of geology with a computer system that will interpret geophysical data obtained by a *DHC-6* Twin Otter aircraft. The aircraft was recently deliverd to China under an earlier contract with de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. and Scintrex, which provided special equipment.

System reduces radiation risk

A revolutionary X-ray system that cuts the amount of radiation to the patient by up to 90 per cent has been developed at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto.

Dr. David Hynes, radiologist-in-chief, said the hospital has the first working, low-dose fluoroscopic unit anywhere in the world. He said the present system, which also promises to cut costs substantially, is a prototype "but it works, it is a reality". Dr. Hynes is using it routinely on patients every day.

The cost saving comes primarily through using less X-ray film. The film has become 40 percent more expensive over the past few months because of rising silver prices, increasing costs for a hospital the size of St. Joseph's by some $80,000 a year.

Dr. Hynes estimated the new system can halve the cost of film used for fluoroscopy, which probably accounts for about one-quarter of all X-ray film used in a big general hospital. When the new system can also be applied to ordinary X-rays the cost saving will be even greater.