

Canadian Rockies

by Diana Jacobson

How can I possibly describe the beauty of the Canadian Rockies. There was beauty in every direction – mountains, lakes, glaciers. And clean – everywhere you go it is extremely clean. We traveled through some of the most photogenic areas I have seen, took tons of photos, and (hopefully) have come away with a few that are worthwhile. I finally finished putting together my album from the trip, and it was very difficult to cut down from the 1,700+ shots that I took.

On Saturday I flew into Calgary, Alberta, checked into my room, and met the rest of the workshop participants for dinner. With one exception, we had all



been on previous workshops with our instructors, Joe and Bonnie Lange. I even had the chance to see one person I met on the Yellowstone work-

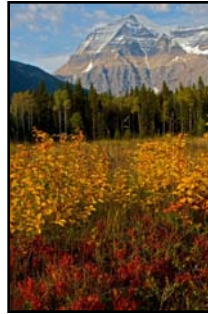
shop I had taken. There were 10 participants plus 2 instructors. We hailed from all over the U.S. – California, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Colorado, and Vermont and. Joe went over our itinerary during dinner, then back to our rooms for an early start the following morning.

During this workshop we were lucky enough to have beautiful weather the entire time we were there. This is not the norm (as we were told by Joe and numerous Canadians during our trip). Weather in this area is very changeable – but we had clear blue skies almost the entire trip – perfect for photography.

Our first day out we drove from Calgary to the town of Banff. Banff is a very pretty little town in Banff National Park. We spent the better part of the day driving around



to see where we could find the best color. While the time we were there (mid-September) is generally the peak time for color, it arrived a little late this year. Of course, that wasn't going to stop us. We would stop, scramble out of the van, grab our gear, and we were off and running to find our "spot" and make some images. We were able to get in Mount Bogart, Three Sisters, Mount Rundle, Bow Falls, Castle Mountain and Vermilion Lake the first day out.



Monday had us continuing around the Banff area – starting with Lake Louise for early morning. While we did not have any spectacular sunrise or sunset shots on this trip, the early morning light was definitely worth dealing with the cold at that time of day. After Lake Louise we drove to Moraine Lake, stopping for photos of Mount Temple and Valley of Ten Peaks along the way. After Moraine Lake we traveled to Yoho National Park, with more stops along the way, to visit Emerald Lake and Takakkaw Falls (one of the worlds highest waterfalls).



Tuesday we followed the Banff-Jasper Highway, one of the great scenic roadways, on our way to Jasper, traveling through the Columbia Icefields. We had another beautiful day, with clear blue skies – and we took full advantage of it, stopping everywhere – Herbert Lake, Crowfoot Glacier, Peyto Lake, Peyto Glacier, Waterfowl Lake, and several other spots – with our final stop for the day at Athabasca Falls. The mountains, glaciers, and lakes will leave you breathless. The color of the lakes have to be

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seen to be believed – a beautiful, soft blue unlike anything I've seen anywhere else. Very, very busy day. We ended up making more stops than normal -- Joe kept saying that since we had such good, clear skies, we should take advantage of it.

Wednesday we hiked up to Mount Edith Cavell and Angel Glacier. This was our "mountain goat" day. The hike was very steep, but what a wonderful view when we arrived. After taking



some scenic overview shots, we moved down to the lake area to photograph the glacier and icebergs. We spent quite a bit of time in this area, taking the

much flatter (and much less photogenic) path back to the parking lot. From Mount Edith Cavell we moved on to Mount Robson (the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies) for lunch and more photography.

Thursday we made our way back along the Banff/Jasper Highway with stops at Sunwapta Falls and Tangle Falls. The sky was somewhat overcast today, so we stopped for some roadside color shots on our way back to Banff. Good thing we made so many stops on the way to Jasper, many of the places we stopped on Tuesday would not have been photographed well today. We arrived back in Banff in time for dinner, then back to our rooms to pack a small overnight bag for our trip to Mount Assiniboine.

Friday we made our way to Two Jack Lake, where we found a large group of bighorn sheep ewes. We even had one very friendly ewe pose for us for quite a while. Very cooperative, and very photogenic. From Two Jack Lake we drove to

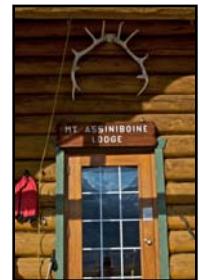


Mount Shark to catch our helicopter to Mount Assiniboine. Mount Assiniboine Lodge is in a remote area of the Provincial Park and is only accessible two ways – helicopter or a 20-mile hike (one way). Even though I do not like to fly, the helicopter seemed the better choice to me. We would spend the rest of Friday and all of Saturday at the Lodge.



After arriving at the Lodge, we grabbed our gear and overnight bags, checked into our rooms, and then took off on our own to wander around the area. What a beautiful setting. We wandered around for two days shooting some small lakes in the area, along with Lake Og, Lake Magog, Mount Assiniboine (which we were able to photograph from the front porch of our lodge), and anything else that caught our eye.

Mount Assiniboine Lodge was originally a ski lodge situated in a high alpine meadow on the shores of Lake Magog. It now caters mainly to hikers and photographers, open during the summer season and for a short time in the winter for skiers. It is very rustic, with heat and lighting coming from propane tanks. There are also a few cabins -- and no locks anywhere. Meals were family style, and delicious. It is very popular with Canadians, and difficult to get reservations. This was a beautiful way to end our workshop.



Sunday the weather started to close in. We were flying out in the morning, so we all decided to just relax and take a last walk around the area. The helicopters arrived to take us back to Mount Shark, where we got into our vans for the trip back to Calgary and our flights back home.