



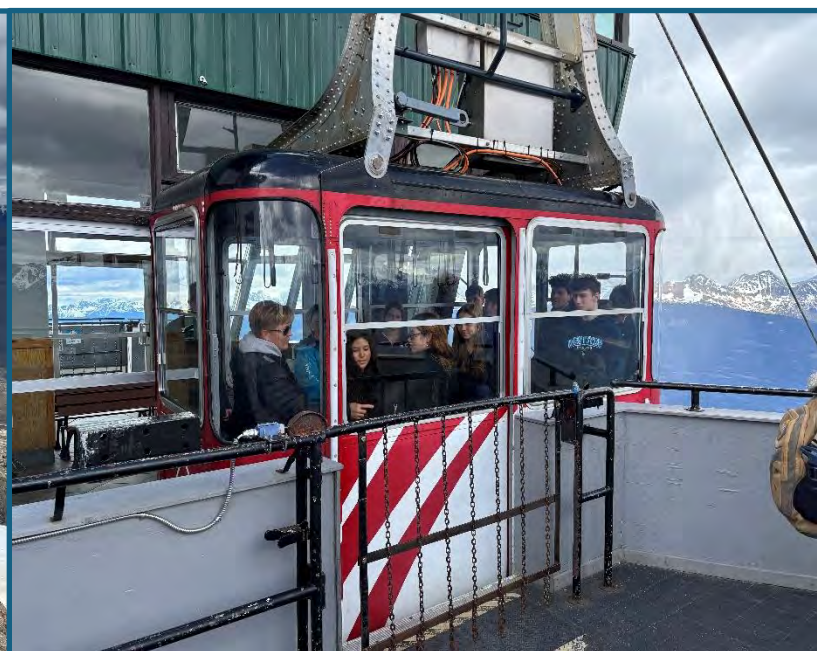
**Jasper and Banff Trip May 22-25, 2026  
SD73 International Student Program**



On May 22, 2026, 21 students and 3 chaperones left Kamloops at 7:00am and drove north up the Yellowhead Highway towards Jasper National Park. We had a short food and washroom stop in Clearwater and then an early lunch stop in Valemount before turning east and passing Mount Robson. We were delighted that there were only a few clouds in the area, so we were able to see most of this 4000m mountain, the highest in the Canadian Rockies. We stopped for the traditional sign photo on this trip. Most of Mt. Robson can be seen to the left of the sign on the photo below.



Our first stop upon arriving in Jasper was the Sky Tram. This tram takes you to the top of Whistlers Mountain which is around 2500 meters. Some students hiked around a bit at the top and others stayed around the buildings at the top enjoying the view.



There was still some snow at the top, and the temperature was much colder than down in the valley below. We stayed at the top for around an hour and then checked into our hotel and had some time for dinner before our first dusk wildlife drive.



The first wildlife drive was not that productive, with only some Elk, White-tailed and Mule Deer being seen.



The next day we left our hotel at 8:45 for our river float tour. This tour takes around 1.5 hours and allows the thrill of being on the water and enjoying the scenery from there. We were divided into 2 rafts for this activity.





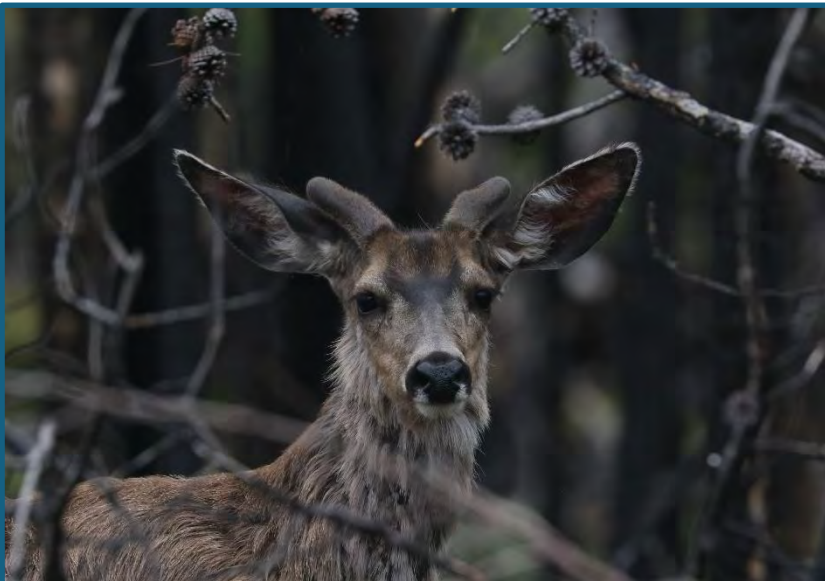
After our float tour, we had a break for lunch before meeting at 1:00pm for our hike. We did the Valley of the Five Lakes hike in Jasper and enjoyed seeing the glacial lakes along this route. The hike is around 4.5 kms and we took it easy with lots of stops.





Following some free time for dinner, we decided to focus more on wildlife. The previous evening's wildlife drive was not that productive, so we lengthened the drive that evening to try to see more. This paid off with 2 Black Bear, 2 Moose, lots of Elk, and many smaller mammals being seen.



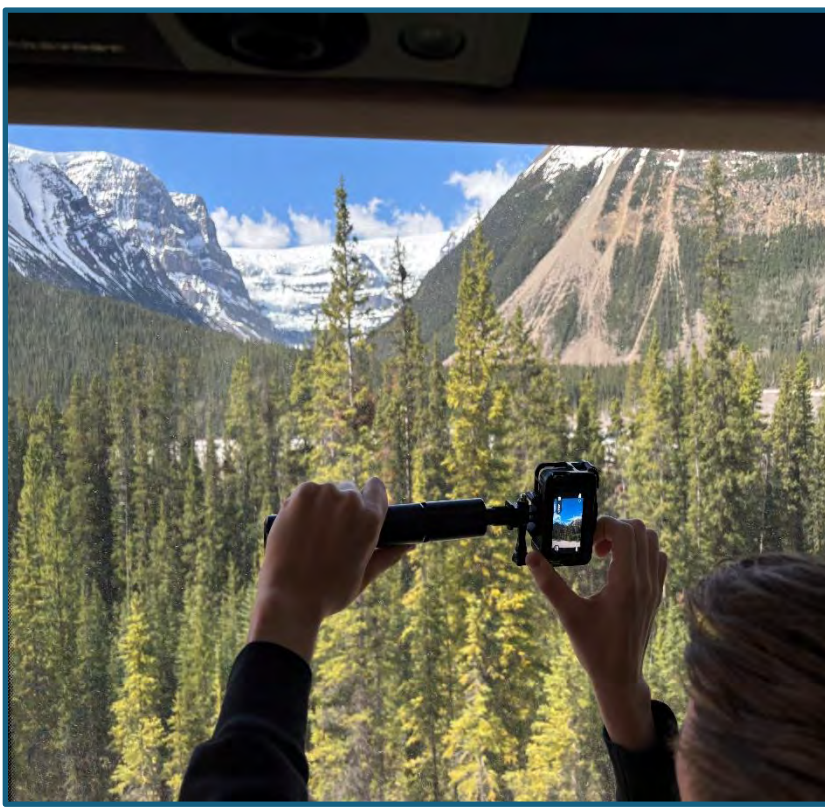


The next morning, we checked out and left by 8:45 and turned south of the Icefields Parkway towards Banff. We had time for a stop at Athabasca Falls so stopped there for 45 minutes.





Some scenery along the ice Fields Parkway



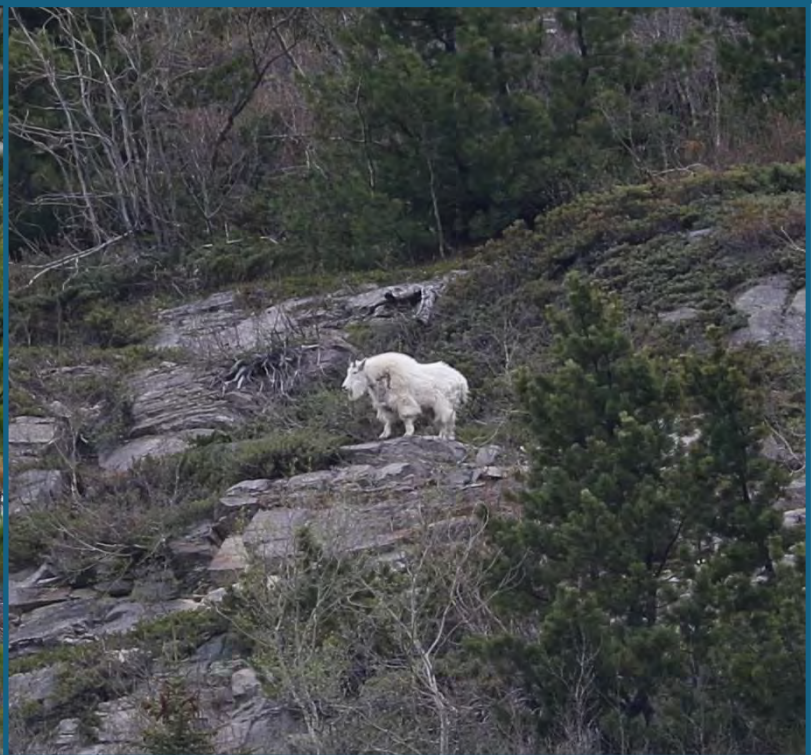
We stopped at the Columbia Icefields for our glacier experience on Athabasca Glacier and our time on the Skywalk. The glacier experience takes you right onto the Athabasca Glacier via ice explorer vehicles designed for such an adventure. The Skywalk is a glass bridge 300 meters above the valley floor below. Both tours take 2.5 hours total and then we also had lunch there. There are not many places in the world where getting onto a glacier is so accessible.





After the ice fields, we drove the 1.5 hours to Lake Louise, checked into our hostel, and drove the 40 minutes to the town of Banff. Here, we had roughly two hours for dinner and looking around the town. We then drove the Bow Valley Parkway from Castle Junction to Lake Louise as our wildlife drive from 8:30-9:30pm but didn't see much. We did see another Black Bear just before the icefields and some Mountain Goat just after.





The last morning, we left our hostel at 9:30 and drove the short ways to Lake Louise. It was mostly still frozen but there were some open areas. We stayed there for more than an hour taking in the views and doing a short hike along the edge of the lake. After this we headed west and arrived back in Kamloops around 5:30pm without any issues on the road.



## My Favourite Moment

1. Laura – The free time in Banff because the town was really pretty.
2. Luana – Being at the glacier with my friends because we had a lot of fun there and it was super beautiful.
3. Ricardo – In the room with all my friends because we joked a lot and cooked delicious Italian pasta.
4. Doda – In Banff town because it reminded me of Switzerland.
5. JP – When we went to the glacier because it was a really nice and unique view.
6. Lola – Lake Louise because the water was so unbelievably beautiful.
7. Breno – The float tour because it was entertaining when we went through some rapids.
8. Pedro – Seeing lakes in the mountains because I enjoyed time with my friends there.
9. Davi – When we saw the beautiful views on the first day in Jasper because I like beautiful scenery.
10. Betina – At Lake Louise because it was the prettiest place on the trip and that I've seen in Canada.
11. Claudio – The float tour because I've never done that before and Lake Louise because I've never seen a landscape so beautiful.
12. Gabriela – Banff town because the view of the mountains was so pretty.
13. Lorena – Lake Louise because it was such a beautiful place and I was so excited to go there.
14. Miguel – The float tour because it was the most different thing that we did on the trip.
15. Matteo – The second wildlife drive because it was very relaxing and nice to see some animals.
16. Jordi – The second wildlife drive because the atmosphere was good on the bus and we came very close to some moose.
17. Lucia – Walking into the water on the hike because I can now say that I've been in a lake in Jasper and it was fun. Also, the wildlife drives because we saw different kinds of animals.
18. Jonah – Lake Louise because the colour of the lake was amazing and there were glaciers behind it.
19. Kian – Walking into the water on the hike because it was my first time being in a glacial lake.
20. Fabian – The hiking and walking into the water because it was my first time to be in such cold water and the view was beautiful there.
21. Frederik – Seeing the bear right beside the road and that it didn't care about cars.

### One Thing I Learned on the Trip

1. Laura – I learned there was a big fire in Jasper two years ago.
2. Luana – How to manage my time and enjoy the most that I can.
3. Ricardo – That Black Bears can have 3 colours of fur. White, black, and a little brown.
4. Doda – How to survive in one room with a lot of people and how to be responsible.
5. JP – That Banff National Park is one of the oldest in Canada.
6. Lola – That glaciers helped to form the landscape in Jasper and Banff.
7. Breno – To try to keep a good environment in our room.
8. Pedro – Spending time with friends in a beautiful place is a good thing to do.
9. Davi – in order to see wildlife, you have to be quiet.
10. Betina – That wildfires happen frequently in Jasper.
11. Claudio – how to organize a room with lots of people inside and how to respect the curfews.
12. Gabriela – That the world is so much bigger than I thought before and that I still have many places to go around the world.
13. Lorena – How to react when you see a bear. You have to be quiet for it to stay there.
14. Miguel – I didn't know how wildfires affected the city of Jasper before.
15. Matteo – How fast a glacier can melt in one decade.
16. Jordi – To come prepared by buying groceries in Kamloops. They were more expensive in Jasper and Banff.
17. Lucia – That the Athabasca Glacier is 150 meters thick.
18. Jonah – That it took many years to build the highway through the Rockies.
19. Kian – How the Rocky Mountains were formed by two plates moving together.
20. Fabian – That the things you see in social media are way more beautiful than when you see them with your own eyes.
21. Frederik – That almost every Ice Explorer (vehicle) ever made are at the Columbia Icefields.

### Mammal List From The Trip:

**Black Bear – 5, Moose – 2 Mule Deer – 17, White-tailed Deer – 7, Elk – 35, Pika – 1, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel – 1, Red Squirrel – 4, Columbian Ground Squirrel – 15, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – 12, Mountain Goat – 15,**

**Students on This Trip Were From: Germany, Brazil, and Italy**