



**Jasper and Banff Trip Report May 24-27, 2024**  
**SD73 International Student Program**



At 7:00am, 25 students and 4 chaperones left Kamloops toward Jasper. We had a brief stop at the Tim Hortons in Clearwater before stopping for lunch at Valemount. We then headed east and had a brief stop at Mt. Robson where we enjoyed the views and had a group photo at the sign. At 4000m, Mt. Robson was partially obscured by clouds. We then finished the rest of the trip to Jasper and pulled into the Jasper Sky Tram parking lot at around 2:30pm. We saw a bull Elk on the way in.



Sky Tram photos below







After the sky tram, we checked into our hostel, ate dinner, and then were on the bus again at 8:00pm for our dusk wildlife drive. On the drive we encountered a Pileated Woodpecker, some White-tailed and Mule Deer, A Bald Eagle Nest, and a Black Bear. The drive lasted until 10pm and then we had a campfire to roast smores before bed.



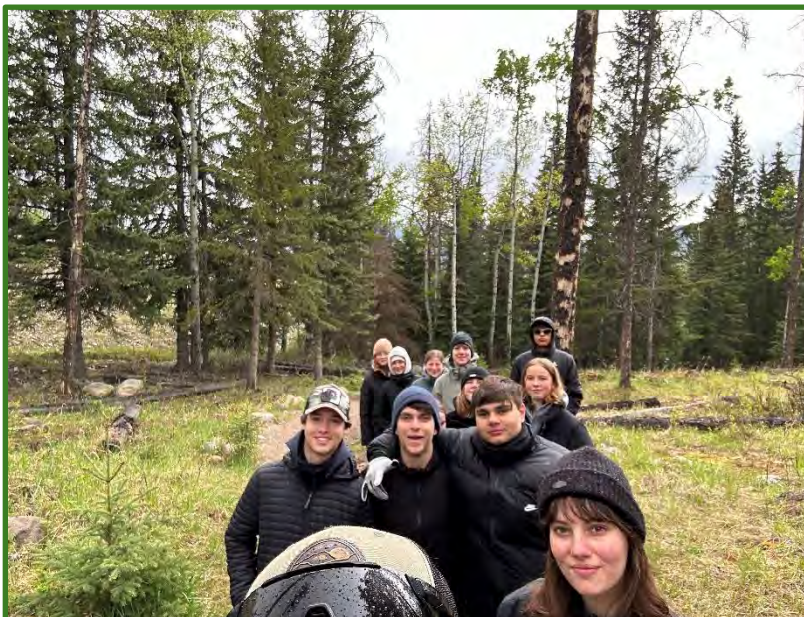


The next morning some of the group left the hostel at 6:15am and went on a dawn wildlife drive until 8:00am. We found some Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, more Elk, another Black Bear, and more Mule and White-tailed Deer.





At 9:00, we had our float tour on the Athabasca River. We floated through some gorgeous scenery for a little over an hour. Afterwards, some of the group decided to walk back to our hostel in lieu of the planned hike for the afternoon when heavy rain was predicted. We then had some time to grocery shop, prepare food, and check out Jasper. At 5:00pm we met at the hostel fire pit and had a hot dog roast with the group.





We left the hostel at 7:00pm for our second dusk wildlife drive. This was to be a very productive drive with no less than 4 Moose seen. One encounter was a mother and her very new calf crossing a river. The other was a mother and her 1-year-old calf walking across the same river. We also added another Black Bear, Elk, and both White-tailed and Mule Deer.





Back at the hostel at 10:00pm, we had some smores quickly over the fire before bed. A mother Elk and her very new calf walked into the area where we were at and began to eat grass very near to us. We kept an eye on that, knowing how dangerous that could be if the mother felt threatened by us at all.



We departed our hostel at 9:00 the next morning and drove south on the Ice Fields Parkway towards Banff. We had a brief 45 minute stop at Athabasca Falls and then stopped again at the Columbia Icefields that this road is famous for. At the icefields, we had noon reservations for the Glacier Experience and Sky Bridge. Photos of Athabasca Falls and both tours below.





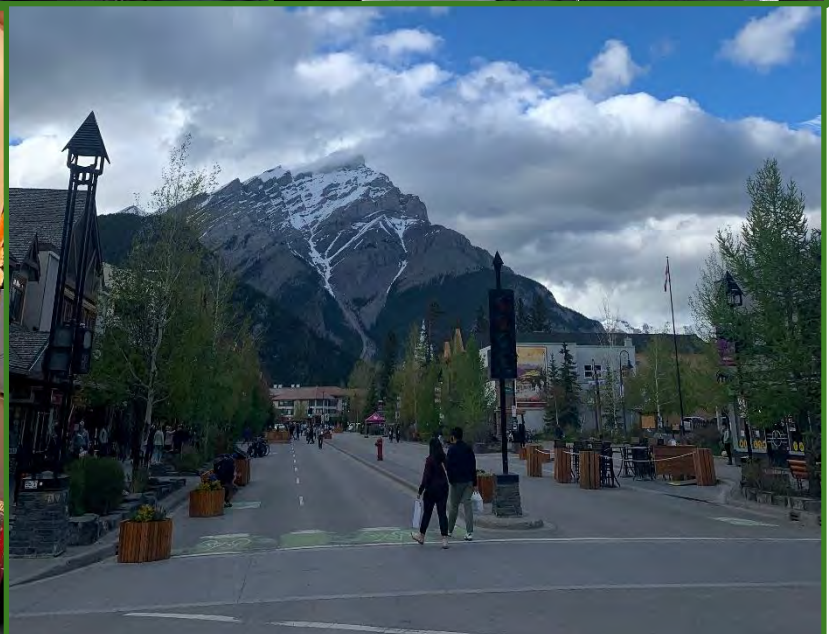


We left the Columbia Ice Fields at 3:30pm and drove the 2 hours to Lake Louise. We saw several Black Bears along the road and all of the Mountain Goats seen on the trip were seen along this stretch. One of the Black Bears was cinnamon coloured. We also enjoyed the incredible scenery along this route.





After arriving in Lake Louise at 5:30, we had 45 minutes to check in at our hostel and drop our bags before driving to Banff for the evening. We had dinner, bought groceries, and enjoyed the town of Banff from 7-9pm. Some students bought Beaver Tails.





That night we drove the Bow Valley Parkway back to Lake Louise at dusk and saw several more Black Bears and another Moose. The next morning we drove the short distance to Lake Louise and enjoyed just under an hour at this famous lake. It was still mostly frozen but the near shore was thawed.





We then left Lake Louise and turned west towards Kamloops. We had a lunch stop in Revelstoke.....

### **Students on this trip were from:**

**Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Brazil, Mexico, and Taiwan.**

### **Mammal List From the Trip:**

**Elk – 28**

**Mule Deer – 20**

**Black Bear – 13**

**American Pika – 1**

**Red Squirrel – 4**

**Mountain Goat – 18**

**White-tailed Deer – 13**

**Moose – 5**

**Beaver – 1**

**Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel – 1**

**Columbian Ground Squirrel – 10**

**California Bighorn Sheep – 15**

### **My Favourite Moment on the Trip:**

Beatrice B – The first morning wildlife drive because it was sunny and we saw a lot of animals.

Fanny – The bus drives with my besties because they are such sweet people.

Aurora – Moments spent with my roommates before going to sleep because we became even closer.

Sophie – Laughing with friends about dumb things that make no sense.

Beatrice S – The dusk wildlife drives because we saw a lot of different animals such as bears, deer, and moose that we didn't see in Tofino.

Nicolas – When we saw the moose and the bears because I always dreamed about seeing moose and bears in the wild.

Hikari – Downtown in Jasper because it looked so nice.

Henry – When we saw the beaver because it looked cool.

Anna – The Sunday night wildlife because we saw so many bears and a moose.

Sebastian – Lake Louise because it was pretty.

Lilly – The drive from Jasper to Banff because I've never seen mountains like that.

Nele – the Saturday night wildlife drive because we saw a moose with a baby and it was so fun the entire time.

Valentin – When I spotted the moose behind Mr. Beeke when he was taking a group picture.

Lotta – When we were on the glacier because it was really nice to see it and I've never walked on a glacier before. I also like driving on the Ice Explorer vehicle.

Jette – Enjoying the Rocky Mountains with nature and animals because it was always my dream to see the Rocky Mountains.

Fenja – The evening wildlife drives because it was fun looking for wildlife.

Marco – Seeing Athabasca Falls because it was really pretty.

Oga – Watching wild bears and moose because it was my first time seeing wild animals.

Joao – The Jasper Sky Tram because we could see all the Rocky Mountains and we don't have those in Brazil.

Jumo – The Jasper Sky Tram because I liked the magnificent view there.

Louis – Lake Louise because it was so pretty. I think it was prettier in real life than in pictures.

Guilherme – The Jasper Sky Tram because it was really pretty and we don't have big mountains in Brazil.

Ryoka – The Sky Walk because the view was beautiful.

Moa – The sky walk because I felt like a bird and the view was beautiful and totally different from Japan and Kamloops.

Camilla – The dawn and dusk wildlife drives because I've never seen wild animals in their natural habitat so close to me.

### **One Thing I Learned on the Trip:**

Beatrice B – That I'm not good at seeing animals from the bus.

Fanny – How a glacier is made.

Aurora – That female Moose do not have antlers.

Sophie – An elk can be more dangerous than a bear when she has a baby with her.

Beatrice S – How to recognize animals such as Moose.

Nicolas – That Black Bears can be brown and that Elk and Moose are not the same thing.

Hikari – Canada is so big. Japan is small.

Henry – The extent of the pine beetle infestation.

Anna – That wild bears can have different colours.

Sebastian – Male Moose have a dewlap on their neck.

Lilly – That wildlife is so used to people in Jasper and Banff.

Nele – That you can't drink the water once it is green because of the rock flour that could be dangerous.

Velentin – That when moose put their ears down they are angry or upset.

Lotta – That Black Bears can also be blue (Glacier Bears).

Jette – How important it is to respect animal boundaries although they are nice and cute and you want to be as close as possible.

Fenja – That there are bridges for the wildlife in Banff with cameras.

Marco – Moose are huge.

Oga – The fatigue of a hike is worth the view.

Joao – About moose and Black Bears. I think it is incredible to know how they live even though it is super cold.

Jumo – We have to be respectful to wildlife if we are going to coexist with them.

Louis – Canada has lots of wildlife.

Guilherme – We shouldn't be stupid like going too close to the animals.

Ryoka – Canada has so many beautiful places.

Moa – I learned how to look for Moose.

Camilla – The Ice Explorers can go up to 20km/h and they can climb road that are almost 40% incline.