

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

June 17-22
June 25-June 30
July 15-20
July 31- Aug 5
August 12-17

2013

June 16-21
June 24-June 29
July 14-19
July 30- Aug 4

August 11-16
Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any date. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

6 days/ 5 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Banff/Jasper

Activity Level:

Moderate-Challenging
60-100km daily
(35-60 miles)
van supported- shuttles are available to shorten these distances (or skip the climbs!)

Canadian Rockies, Biking Banff and Jasper National Parks

It's been described as a rite of passage for touring cyclists; National Geographic Traveler called it "a highway strung from the stars". Cycling from Banff to Jasper following the spectacular Icefields Parkway will be a trip you always remember. Great Explorations takes you there in style and in a way that only a local company can. Join us this summer!

Only Great Explorations:

- Small groups, extraordinary guides, and authentic experiences.
- A site you will never forget: your first view of the Rockies.
- A descent you will never forget: descending from Bow Summit all the way to Jasper.
- Order off the menu at restaurants you won't find in guidebooks.
- Distinctive, charming hotels too small for larger groups.
- We design and operate our own trips so there are only good surprises.

Itinerary



Getting there :

Banff: There is regularly scheduled air service to Calgary from across North America, with non-stop flights to Calgary from all major Canadian and many US centres. Additionally, non-stop international flights are available from London and Frankfurt. A number of companies offer an airport shuttle service to Banff from the Calgary Airport.

DAY 1:

Banff - This vibrant town is at the centre of some of the most scenic cycling routes found anywhere in the Rocky Mountain National Parks. Stroll about town searching for that perfect souvenir or visiting the excellent museums. We'll fit bikes between 2:00-4:00 and meet at 6:00 for dinner. If you arrive early enough enjoy a warm-up cycle out to The Cave and Basin - the location of the first hot mineral springs discovered in 1883.

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Terrain:

Moderately hilly

Cost

Land Cost (current year):

CAD \$2680/US \$2680
Includes all meals

Single Supplement:

CAD \$480/US \$480

Bike Rental:

CAD \$140/US \$140

DAY 2:

Lake Louise - Pedal the scenic network of roads around Banff — exploring Tunnel Mountain and the weirdly shaped Hoodoos. Add on a loop up to Lake Minnewanka, one of the largest and deepest lakes in the Rockies. Once known as Devil's Lake or Cannibal Lake, Minnewanka is the site of many ghostly occurrences in native legends. Then journey north along the Bow Valley Parkway to the staggeringly beautiful scenery of Lake Louise — the gem of Banff National Park. As you twist and climb along the Parkway take in the magnificent views of the Sawback, Sundance and the Massive mountain ranges. Upon arrival in Lake Louise, soak up the natural splendour, take a canoe onto the lake, or enjoy a short walk into the mountains.

DAY 3:

Bow Lake - Cycle up to Moraine Lake in the Valley of the Ten Peaks (considered by many to be even more beautiful than Lake Louise) and then opt for a ride along the Great Divide Road. No longer accessible to cars, this bike route will take you over the continental divide where you can check out the monument that marks this watershed divide on the summit of the Kicking Horse Pass. Continue your journey north to the splendid Num-Ti-Jah Lodge on the shores of Bow Lake.

DAY 4:

Columbia Icefield - Cycle along the splendid Icefields Parkway, soon cresting Bow Summit, the second highest point reached by a public highway in Canada. Take in the Peyto Lake viewpoint, or stop for a short hike into the Mistaya Canyon. Pedal past the braided streams of the North Saskatchewan River on your way to the Athabasca Glacier. Look out for moose grazing on the succulent water-plants in the Rampart Pond area. Relax beside the Weeping Wall of the Cirrus Mountain before you head up the challenging Big Bend and over the Sunwapta Pass. Coast down to the foot of the glacier at the Columbia Icefield, where you will spend the night. If you arrive early enough, take the time to explore the glacier on one of the guided glacier walks or 'Snocoach' buggy tours.



DAY 5:

Jasper - Today you will encounter a variety of ecological niches on your way to Sunwapta Falls Resort. Cycle past an ancient forest (more than 700 years old) along the lower slopes of Mount Wilcox. Watch for mountain goats grazing on the precarious slopes of the Sunwapta Canyon gorge. Enjoy some time off your bike as you walk a short distance to the impressive Stanley Falls. In keeping with the rest of this

tour, many magnificent viewpoints await your discovery—Mount Christie, Athabasca River and Whirlpool Valley. A short detour will take you to the thundering Athabasca Falls, set against the pink-purple cliffs of Mt. Kerkeslin. Arrive in Jasper — a burgeoning little town and the site of the earliest fur trade outpost in the central Rockies. Shopping opportunities abound.

DAY 6: Depart at your leisure (shuttle option back to Banff available).

Accommodations



Brewster's Mountain Lodge, Banff

This western-inspired inn is located in the heart of downtown Banff and is surrounded by the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Relax in an authentic Western atmosphere, with each guest room featuring historic photographs and artwork and hand-crafted custom log furnishings. Many of these romantic rooms feature Jacuzzi tubs and unyielding magnificent views.

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Mountaineer Lodge, Lake Louise

Nestled in a forest with tremendous views of Mt. Temple and its summit glacier, this charming lodge offers a relaxing atmosphere for your Rocky Mountain adventure. Unwind in the whirlpool and steam room area after your day in the fresh mountain air. Though the property feels secluded, it is a scenic 5 minute walk from a variety of services and shopping in the Village of Lake Louise.



Num-ti-jah Lodge, Bow Lake

This lodge boasts one of the most dramatic views in the Canadian Rockies - the blue ice of Crowfoot Glacier hangs suspended over the turquoise Bow Lake complimented by the craggy peaks of the Great Divide. The rustic and simple rooms are very comfortable, complete with thick duvets. Unwind in the *Nashan-esen Lounge* and warm by the *Elkhorn* dining room stone fireplace.



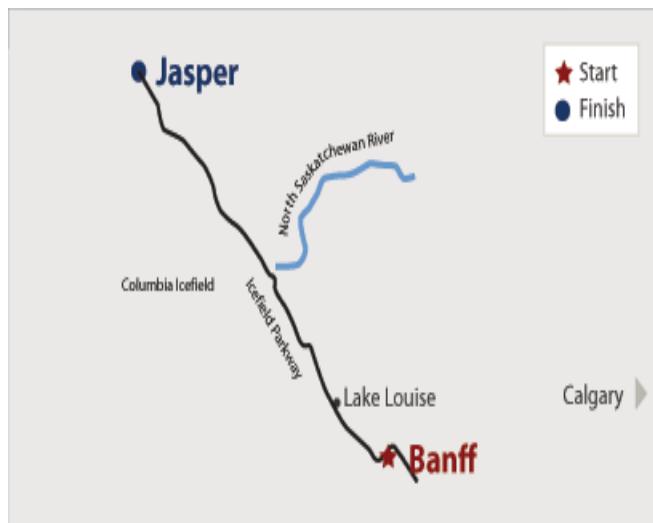
Columbia Icefield Chalet, Jasper National Park

With spectacular views of surrounding mountains and glaciers, the rooms here are modest, but comfortable. The setting is sublime and the added benefit of being located with the Icefield Center means you don't have to walk far to learn about this awesome natural wonder.



Chateau Jasper, Jasper

Located on the shore of Lake Beauvert, the luxurious Chateau Jasper is pleasantly furnished with mountain decor in mind. This intimate and exceptional hotel offers tennis, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and an award-winning, fine dining room.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 5 nights lodging
- all meals
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 12% must be charged on trips in Canada.

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

E-mail: info@great-explorations.com—Website: <http://www.great-explorations.com>
Tel: 604.730.1247 • 1.800.242.1845