

Canadian Rockies Trek with Reed Hoffmann

Highlight Photo Tours

Sunday May 31 to Saturday June 6, 2020

This photo trek is available to all levels of photographers, from the novice wanting to learn the basics, to the advanced amateur that needs to tweak skills.

Highlights of the trek

- Mountains
- Wildlife
- Glaciers
- Unbelievable vistas
- Photo learning with our professional photographer, Reed Hoffmann
- Here is an example. Moraine Lake; credit James Wheeler.



Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two with jobs at newspapers in the Midwest, South and East. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of Photography,

creating and teaching the classes and managing the other instructors. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include the first workshop by Highlight Photo Tours, held in Quebec City in 2018. Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/>.

Proposed Itinerary

Changes may be made to the itinerary for various reasons (weather, road closures, photo opportunities). We will make sure to cover as much, if not all of what is proposed.

Day 1: Sunday May 31

- Arrive at Calgary International Airport (YYC).
- Leave as a group to Banff at 16:00 , for the 2-hour drive.
- We will do introductions, talk about the trek, etc. while on our way to Lake Louise.
- Recommended group dinner when we arrive
- Stay at the Fairmount Banff Springs Hotel

Day 2: Monday June 1. In and around Banff

- Banff Upper Hot Springs <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/voyage-travel/promotion/sources-springs/banff>
- Sunshine Meadows trails and lift
- Review session in the evening
- Stay at the Fairmount Banff Springs Hotel

Day 3: Tuesday June 2. The Icefield Parkway to Jasper

- We will be travelling to Jasper along the world-renowned Icefield Parkway. Rated as one of the top drives in the world by Condé Nast Traveller, the Icefield Parkway is a 232 km stretch of

double-lane highway winding along the Continental Divide through soaring rocky mountain peaks, icefields and vast sweeping valleys. <https://icefieldsparkway.com/>

- Peyto Lake; elevation 160 m, 1.1 km, 15 minutes each way to Bow Summit lookout
- To Columbia Icefield Discovery Centre
- Icefield Center; lunch, and trip to the Columbia Icefield
- Skywalk
- Columbia Icefield <https://www.banffjaspercollection.com/attractions/columbia-icefield/experience/>
- To Jasper
- Stay at the Fairmount Jasper Park Lodge

Day 4: Wednesday June 3. In and around Jasper

- Maligne Canyon (10 minutes)
- Valley of the Five Lakes (easy trail)
- Skytram
- Review session in the evening
- Milky Way shoot at Pyramid Lake (south, in June 2020; shoot from Spirit Island). Note that Jasper is a Dark Sky Preserve; this should be an amazing shoot.
- Stay at the Fairmount Jasper Park Lodge

Day 5: Thursday June 4. Icefield Parkway to Lake Louise

- Athabaska Falls
- Sunwapta Falls
- Bow Lake; Bow Glacier
- To Lake Louise
- Stay at Lake Louise Inn

Day 6: Friday June 5. In and around Lake Louise

- Plain of Six Glaciers hike and Tea House (5.4 km hike, 1.5 hour each way plus stops, 500 m. elevation). <https://p6teahouse.com/>
- Rest after returning to hotel
- Moraine Lake. Rockpile trail; easy, 0.8 km loopback trail by the lake. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/alberta/moraine-lake-rockpile-trail>
- Review session in the evening
- Stay at the Lake Louise Inn

Day 7: Saturday June 6. Departure

- We will leave the hotel at 8AM.
- Travel time to Calgary International Airport (YYC): 2 hours.
- Please do not book your return flight before noon.

Requirements

The workshop will happen in a mountainous area. All participants should be able to walk unassisted for up to 6 miles per day (at a leisurely pace, mind you. We are here to take photos after all). You are thus

expected to be reasonably fit. The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great shots!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended. There might still be snow on the ground at higher elevation.

Walking sticks are not required, unless you have equilibrium issues.

What to expect

The weather changes quickly in the Canadian Rockies, as is the case in most mountain ranges. Dressing in layers is your best protection against the cold. It may also rain (hopefully not snow). Here is a reference on the weather: <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/monthly/alberta/lake-louise?year=2020&month=6&dispt=calendar-container-monthly>. Note that we will travel at different altitudes, which will mean lower temperatures as we go higher.

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Wall power outlets are the same in Canada as in the USA. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads. Our hotels have free wifi.

Alberta is in the Mountain time zone (MT), so UTC -6.

As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Canadian currency with you, as some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds at the airport.

Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure.

Please bring a flashlight if you can. We will need it for the night shoot.

Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763 and email highlightphototours@gmail.com

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444

Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US\$2,500, taxes included.
- Payment through PayPal.
- Deposit of US\$1,000 required to reserve your seat.
- 10% off if booked and fully paid by October 15, 2019.
- The deposit is non-refundable, unless the trek is cancelled.
- Full payment required 90 days before departure.
- Minimum of 4 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 12 attendees.

Reservations

To reserve seats, please send me an email at highlightphototours@gmail.com and I will send you a PayPal invoice.

Inclusions, exclusions

Included

- All guide and photo instructor services
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor
- All in-country transportation with the group
- Park fees
- Water and in-field snacks while in the vehicle

Excluded

- Flights to/from Calgary International Airport, Canada
- Visas if required
- Accommodations (we will reserve a block of rooms at the locations indicated above, and manage reservations for you, including finding a roommate if needed)
- All meals and beverages, including alcoholic beverages
- Participants are required to purchase their own travel insurance, that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary for them to cancel after payment.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary
- Gratuities

Photos from some of the locations we will visit

Peyto Lake, from Bow Summit; credit Ronnie Chua

Milky Way, Jasper National Park. Credit Jack Nichols



Columbia Icefield; credit Brewster Travel



Lake Louise; credit René Bastien



A typical Canadian Rockies scene, near Lake Louise



