

Nature Walks / Birding and Beaver Tour

Brochure Information:

Retail Rate \$40 per person plus GST

Enjoy the freshness of an early morning walk or after the heat of the day, a walk through one of the best bird and beaver habitats near Jasper. On this casual walk the guides' knowledge of the birds and animal habits and habitats, the flowers and plants, fire on the landscape, add to the experience. Transportation is provided from town. We have walking sticks, binoculars and rainwear, but feel free to bring your own. Bring a camera, comfortable walking shoes and clothing suitable for the weather. We are then set to go.

Tour Director Information:

A short 5 minute drive from Jasper finds us at the trailhead for the Nature Walk. The walk takes us in the vicinity of the Cottonwood Slough (pronounced "slew") meaning pond of water. The area has evolved from a creek many years ago, to one of the best birding and beaver habitats in the Park, thanks to the beaver. The walk follows a designated "all season" trail that ascends through a poplar forest to the Douglas Fir forest skirting the Cottonwood Slough. The ridge affords a great lookout over the slough area, home to a number of birds, beaver, muskrat and the occasional moose. The walk goes out and back on the same trail. A faster group may go further, but they will generally return on the same trail. We have two starting points, so depending on the size of the group, they may see slightly different trails, although everyone ends up with the view of the slough.

The guides are locals with outdoor experience, who's knowledge spans the geology, flora and fauna, human history, fire and ecology and a number of other related topics in the Park. On returning to the Parking Lot, we have another short drive to the Lake (Pyramid or Patricia Lake depending on the wind) for a campfire with a marshmallow roast and a "fireside chat" about the various antlers on display.

On our first year of this tour including the marshmallow roast, went from mid-May to the last week of November. This year we expect to be going from late April through to November.

FAQ

Q Are we going to run into mosquitoes?

A We have mosquitoes and or flying insects from about the last week of June to the end of July. The guides generally have mosquito spray which if applied to a hat or shirt sleeves and collars will send them on their way to the next nearest unprotected donor.

Q What if it is raining?

A Generally in the mountains, the weather changes frequently. Locals say wait for 5 minutes and the weather will change. If the weather is threatening, the guide will carry rain ponchos for the group.

Q What animals are we going to see?

A There are no guarantees, but the more you get out and about the greater your chances of seeing a variety of animals.

The guide for Jasper Adventure Centre reserves the right to vary the above itinerary due to trail conditions and/or capabilities of the group.

We recommend that people use the washroom facilities at the hotels before departing on any tour. However there is an outhouse in the Parking Lot if Nature Calls!