



YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

NAME: Jackie Hampson

CLUB: Uttoxeter JNFU

DESTINATION: Canada

TYPE OF TRIP: Group Tour

DURATION: 2 weeks

DATES OF TRAVEL: September 2001



DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

On 10th September 2001, thirteen Young Farmers left Heathrow, destination the Canadian Rockies (via America). What a time to go! Our first experience in Seattle (USA) was to wake up to the news of the terrorist attack in New York. We were beginning to wonder at this point if we would even make it into Canada, but luckily our border crossing was open.

We were now in Canada and beginning our whistle-stop tour of the Rockies, via five national parks. We travelled up through the Okanagan Valley to the Yoho National Park, Banff and Jasper before our return journey to Vancouver and Seattle.

The trip was not just about seeing as much as possible in as short a time as possible. We all worked together as a team to take down the tents, load the van, cook the food, clean up etc. It has to be said that all the food that we cooked tasted unbelievable after a hard day of activities. The activities that we undertook were numerous with long mountain hikes to places that no vehicles could get to, horse riding, white water rafting, canoeing, mountain biking etc. Some of the braver members of the group also went cliff jumping into a glacial river. We also had the chance to see numerous lakes and places of interest with some of the best being Lake Louise, the Sulphur Mountain Gondola and a snowcoach ride onto the Athabasca Glacier.

Not everything was out in the wilderness as we cheated by staying in a chalet in Banff, rather than a tent. This gave us the chance to sample the nightlife and shops of Banff, the main skiing resort of the Rockies. We also spent time in downtown Vancouver and went up the "Look Out" where you can see out across the entire city.

All that is left to say is that I had a fantastic time and would definitely go on another cultural tour. I have made many good friends through it (if there are any lads out there who are thinking of going, there were 11 girls on our trip)! So check out what is available this year, as you will have lots of fun. If you are unsure about whether or not to go on a trip, just remember that although it may be your first trip there are usually others who have been on cultural tours before and are always willing to help you out.

Jackie Hampson