

# **Rocky Mountain Wildlife Safari**

## Daily itinerary

A 6 day/5 night, all inclusive, package from Cranbrook, B.C. to Edmonton, Alberta

*\*Alternate tours begin in Edmonton and end in Cranbrook*

Your ***Rocky Mountain Wildlife Safari*** will begin on Sunday morning and end on Friday evening.

### **Daily itinerary:**

#### **Sunday**

**Day 1.** Your guide will pick you up at your hotel in Cranbrook at 9:00am, and you will begin your safari by travelling north through the renowned Rocky Mountain Trench. This premium winter range sustains herds of large ungulates and is internationally recognized for its important resting and breeding habitat for migrating birds. Countless osprey nests line the highway as we carry on towards Kootenay National Park through to Banff National Park. We will stop often to photograph bighorn rams, mountain goats and spot grizzly and black bears on the avalanche chutes above the Kootenay and Vermillion rivers. Kootenay is fast becoming our number one location for sighting wild wolves and we can often get within range of medium to longer range lenses. After checking into our log house style lodgings we will still have time to photograph the sun setting behind classic mountain scenery.

#### **Monday**

**Day 2:** Taking full advantage of the morning light we set out early through Banff and Yoho National Parks to the site for our wolf models shoot. You will capture intimate images of true Canadian wolves as they freely forage and explore their own natural habitat with absolutely no fences or hotwires. This is the only shoot of its kind anywhere, with completely free running, healthy, captive reared wolves in their own native habitat. This shoot consistently produces high quality images in just a few hours that would otherwise take years, and even be completely impossible, to achieve in the wild. Our return trip through Yoho and Banff will include impromptu stops to shoot mountain goats, bears, bighorn sheep and moose along the way.

## **Tuesday**

**Day 3:** After an early morning tour for local wildlife we travel north through Banff and Jasper National Parks to our log cabin accommodations for the next two nights. Highlights of the day include alpine lakes and landscapes, waterfalls and some top sites to photograph mountain goats. Our day ends with various wildlife opportunities and fully utilizing the sweet evening light.

## **Wednesday**

**Day 4:** Jasper National Park is truly a wildlife photographer's paradise and home to multitudes of elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, deer, caribou, bears, wolves, cougars and coyotes. Often heavily habituated and conditioned to human presence, many of these animals can be easily approached to within range of standard long lenses. For the last several years many predator species, two wolf packs in particular, have become more visible around Jasper's concentrated herds of large herbivores. Besides fabulous wildlife opportunities, Jasper's outstanding alpine scenery, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and flora are guaranteed to substantially pad your portfolio.

## **Thursday**

**Day 5:** Following an early morning wildlife shoot around Jasper we set out for Cadomin mines, home to huge herds of bighorn sheep and many of the largest horned rams in the world. Carrying on, we head for the prairie flatlands and Elk Islands National Park. Great herds of American plains and wood bison (buffalo) reside here at the only fully enclosed National Park in North America. For years, Elk Islands has been the nursery for bison and elk reintroduction programs all over the continent. We'll enjoy photographing these giant beasts, including huge bulls and cows with their little calves, from the safety of our vehicle. It is not uncommon to see other species such as coyotes and cowbirds also interacting with them. As a major migratory flyway stopover point, this shoot may include photo ops for any number of birds including American pelicans, avocets, grebes, arctic turns, herons and owls. Elk Islands is also one of our favorite locations to shoot beavers, muskrats, porcupines and moose.

## **Friday**

**Day 6:** Our final day of shooting starts with the early morning light and focuses more intently on the highlights from the previous day. Any new opportunities will be taken full advantage of as they present themselves.

Drop off at your hotel in Leduc, near Edmonton International airport this evening.

*\*This itinerary is presented to you as a guide only, and will often be adjusted according to changing weather and animal behavior. Every safari is unique and species availability varies according to the seasons. For a more detailed outline of the best times to view and photograph a particular species, please refer to our [wildlife calendar](#).*

**Flight and travel information:**

USA customers can fly direct to Cranbrook International Airport (YXC) from Salt Lake City, on Delta airlines. Flight 4370 arrives on Saturday afternoons at 1:10pm.

A shuttle service can be arranged to take you to your hotel. *\*Go to the airport help desk, or pre-arrange by calling 250-426-6988. (There is a small charge for this service.)*

There are also a variety of flights available into and out of Cranbrook daily, from most major Canadian cities. Please contact our [Director of Expeditions](#) personally to discuss arrival times for day 1 and direct pick up at the airport.

There are a variety of flights into and out of Edmonton International Airport (YEG) daily. Hotels should be booked in Leduc for the last night of your safari, or the night before on alternate tours. If you wish to book your flight home for the evening of the last day, departure times must be after 5:30pm for international flights and after 4:30pm for domestic flights.

Free shuttle services to and from the airport are available at most hotels.