

Rescue Dynamics – Intermediate Rock Climbing
2007 Meeting Details & First Morning Instructions
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The meeting time and place for the course is 8:30 am on the first morning of each respective course at the Morro Slabs parking lot. This is located along Highway 16 east of Jasper where the highway crosses the Athabasca River. Look for one of three vehicles; white cargo van - CYM 044; black Toyota Forerunner - VE6 MTN; brown camper van - WJK 864. In case of emergency, you can try contacting us by cell phone on the first morning of the course at (780) 916-7951. Cell service is sporadic here. Try more than once.

Appended to this document is basic information on how to find accommodations near our climbing sites. Our climbing will be done east of Jasper between Jasper and Hinton. Common campsites that have been used by students in the past include Folding Mountain (outside of the park to the east of the park gates), Whistler (closest to Jasper) and Wapiti (next closest to Jasper) each of which have showers. More primitive camping is found at Pocahontas and Snaring Campgrounds. Motels and other accommodations can be found at the Folding Mountain Resort or in the townsite of Jasper.

Be sure when you meet the group at 08:30 that you have finished breakfast, your lunch is packed and your pack is packed with the exception of group items of equipment. You should be all ready to go. The first items of business will be a bit of paperwork. We will require that everyone sign a copy of the waiver that will be witnessed by your instructor. The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides under the advice of their legal counsel has recommended that we undertake this practice. Given that most of the waivers are sent via fax, email, etc. and are often incomplete or illegible we have decided to comply with their recommendation.

If you paid by VISA or MasterCard over the phone, by fax or electronically we will also require an imprint of your credit card together with your signature so that we have an original copy in our files. This reduces fraud but even more importantly reduces the price of your course because this practice allows the credit card company to charge us a lower rate for their services.

After the paperwork is completed the group will travel to the location for the first day of climbing. Your instructor will likely choose to hand out equipment at the parking lot near the climbing site. You will be given a selection of personal and group gear that you be responsible for during the course. It must be returned in good condition at the end of the course. You may also be required to carry a rope.

All of the climbing is done in Jasper National Park. You must have a valid Park Vehicle Group Pass or Personal Pass to attend this course, as we are traveling and climbing in National Park areas. Your Pass also entitles you to mountain rescue service should a mishap occur. Without it you may be liable for the cost of any technical rescue. Be sure to purchase one when you first enter the Park if you do not already have one. It is MANDATORY. The Park Pass does not cover ambulance, hospital or other related expenses, for which you require your own medical insurance.

The first morning will be spent reviewing knots, learning about pitons, nuts, cams, anchor building and leading at *Morro Slabs*. We will be here all day. This popular climbing area may be shared with other groups. You are in a National Park and it belongs to us all! Please share the area and treat it with respect. Don't litter and pick up any litter you may see.



To get to Morro Slabs from Hinton or Folding Mountain: Drive West along Highway 16 past Folding Mountain and enter Jasper National Park. Continue along Highway 16 for about 20 minutes until just before the highway crosses the Athabasca River. Just near the water's edge (50 to 100 meters from the river) on the south side of the road there is a small paved parking lot. You will be along a section of highway posted at 70 km/h. If you cross the Athabasca River

you have gone a little too far. The parking lot is shown in the photo. The climbing area is only five minutes away, but we meet at the cars.

To get to Morro Slabs from Jasper: Drive east on Highway 16 (toward Hinton) for about 20 km. Immediately after crossing the Athabasca River on the south side of the road is a small paved parking lot shown in the photo above. We meet here.

In the event of rain or other foul weather your instructor may decide on an alternate location or conduct knot tying and related activities in one of the picnic shelters at a campground or perhaps under a tarp or in the trees near Morro Slabs.

If the weather is good on the second of the course we will move to a new location. If the weather is poor we may stay at Morro Slabs or move another location. Your instructor will advise you of how the program will proceed at the end of the day. It is weather based so be patient.

The normal location for the second day is Hidden Valley. This is another fairly popular rock climbing venue but it is far more expansive than Morro Slabs. It has over 100 climbs that vary in length from 20 meters to 150 meters. It takes about 45 minutes of walking uphill to get to where we will start our climbing. The morning often has participants leading on easy bolted routes to get comfortable on the "sharp end" of the rope. Given good weather and a strong group, the intention will be to prepare participants to lead a short traditional multi-pitch climb in the afternoon involving placement of gear. This involves all of the components of a real "trad" rock climb in a setting that allows easy escape if the weather turns bad. If time allows we often do a multi-pitch rappel descent at some point during the day.

Your instructor will give you the meeting time and place for day two at the end of the first day. Given good weather, we usually meet at the Hidden Valley Parking on the morning of day two. It is located about half way between the Jasper Park east gates and Morro Slabs.

To get to Hidden Valley from Jasper: Drive east along Highway 16 (toward Hinton) for approximately 36 km. On the east side of the road is a large paved parking lot bordered by ponds on each side. Look for the instructors vehicle to show you where it is best to park. It is partway along a stretch of road marked at 70 km/h. If you get to Pocahontas Warden Station you have gone a few kilometers too far.



To get to Hidden Valley from Hinton or Folding Mountain: Follow Highway 16 into Jasper Park. Continue past the Pocahontas Warden Station and Pocahontas Bungalows. Stay on Highway 16, don't turn off anywhere. In a few minutes the imposing face of Roche Miette is on your left and the speed limit drops to 70 km/h. The next large paved parking lot on your left (East) bordered by ponds on each side is where you want to be.

Once you are there, Syncline ridge is visible in the background (see photo above). Roche Miette is no longer visible once you are at the Parking Lot. Look for your instructor!

Be sure when you meet the group that you have finished breakfast, your lunch is packed and your pack is packed with the exception of group items of equipment. You should be all ready. Have clothing for cold and windy weather and/or rain. Hidden Valley gets little rain but it can get afternoon thundershowers. It is also subject to constant cool winds any time of year. Be prepared.

If you have any further questions, please call (780) 461-5040 or email us at rescuedynamicsinfo@telusplanet.net or visit the website at www.RescueDynamics.ca

Camping and Accommodation Options for Rescue Dynamics Courses in Jasper National Park (updated April 16, 2007)

For access to listings of hotels, motels and hostels in Jasper National Park visit:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit2_e.asp#Accomodations

Jasper National Park Selected Campgrounds - 2007

Campground reservations can be made at Jasper National Park in the following campgrounds: Whistlers, Wapiti, Wabasso, Pocahontas, For details visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/visit19_E.asp

Campground	Location from Jasper town site	Open	Close	PWS	ELEC	UNS	PRIM	SHO
Whistlers	3.5 km south	May 4	Oct 8	77	100	604		X
Wapiti	5.4 km south	May 18	May 21		40	322		X
		June 15	Sep 3		40	322		X
Wapiti Winter	5.4 km south	Oct 08	May 9 2008		40	53		
Wabasso	16.5 km south	June 21	Sep 3			228		
Pocahontas	45 km east	May 18	Oct 8			140		
Snaring River	13 km east	May 18	Sep 17				66	
Columbia Icefield	106 km south	May 18	Oct 8				33	
Wilcox Creek	107.5 km south	June 08	Sep 10				46	

PWS: Power, Water, Sewer

ELEC: Electricity

UNS: no hook-ups, flush toilets

PRIM: dry toilets

SHO: showers

Folding Mountain Resort (East of Jasper Park east gates)

In addition to the above noted campgrounds and facilities in Jasper Park, many students have stayed at the Folding Mountain Resort in the past. Folding Mountain Resort has serviced and un-serviced RV and tent campsites, motel rooms and bungalows. Folding Mountain is located west of Hinton, outside of Jasper National Park, just east of the Jasper Park East gates. Reservations can be made by calling 1-866-475-3737. Basic information can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.albertadirectory.net/foldingmtn/>