

A WALKING REPORT 13

Posted on 2020-08-10 2020-08-09 by spd_wp_admin

Dear Reader (2020-08-10),
It is time for a change of scenery.

Tuesday July 28 – Helen Lake Trail – 12.5 km – Out and Back

Inspired in part by the road trips of Byron, Steve, and Heather, I had spent time over the previous 4 / 5 days considering where to walk and camp along the Icefields Parkway. The first come first served no reservation Waterfowl Lake campground emerged as a great base for 3 days of walking. According to the very helpful woman at parks Canada, getting there at 10:00 and expecting to find a spot would be a bad bet. This morning I left the house around 5:30. When I arrived at 8:30, there were spots available. I self-register, pitch my tent and get ready for the day's hike. The campground is not only in a lovely location, it has flush toilets – truly a camping luxury. I drive back down the highway around 23 km to the Helen Lake trailhead. Already, the parking lot is nearly full.

The trail is shaped a bit like an open safety pin as it follows the base of Crystal Ridge and then ends with a vertical section coming off the top arm. Sometimes I hear water, and sometime I hear water wind as I walk the first arm, which is a relatively easy and steady incline through forest. Tens of thousands of footsteps have exposed and polished tree roots, and yet the trees continue to survive. The second arm is unusual for my mountain hikes so far, as the mostly up is interspersed with the occasional noticeable loss of elevation, which of course must then be recouped.

Once above the treeline the visual landscape is one of texture, line, and blue, with clouds for punctuation. Your first response to the images below may be Sean you cheated in post-processing. I did use a polarizing filter, that blue is real, and I did not cheat. At around 2400 m elevation, the sky is that clear and the blue so vibrant I rub my eyes in disbelief.

As always your comments are sought and welcomed. Please come back tomorrow for the second of 3 walks along the Icefields Parkway.



01



02



03



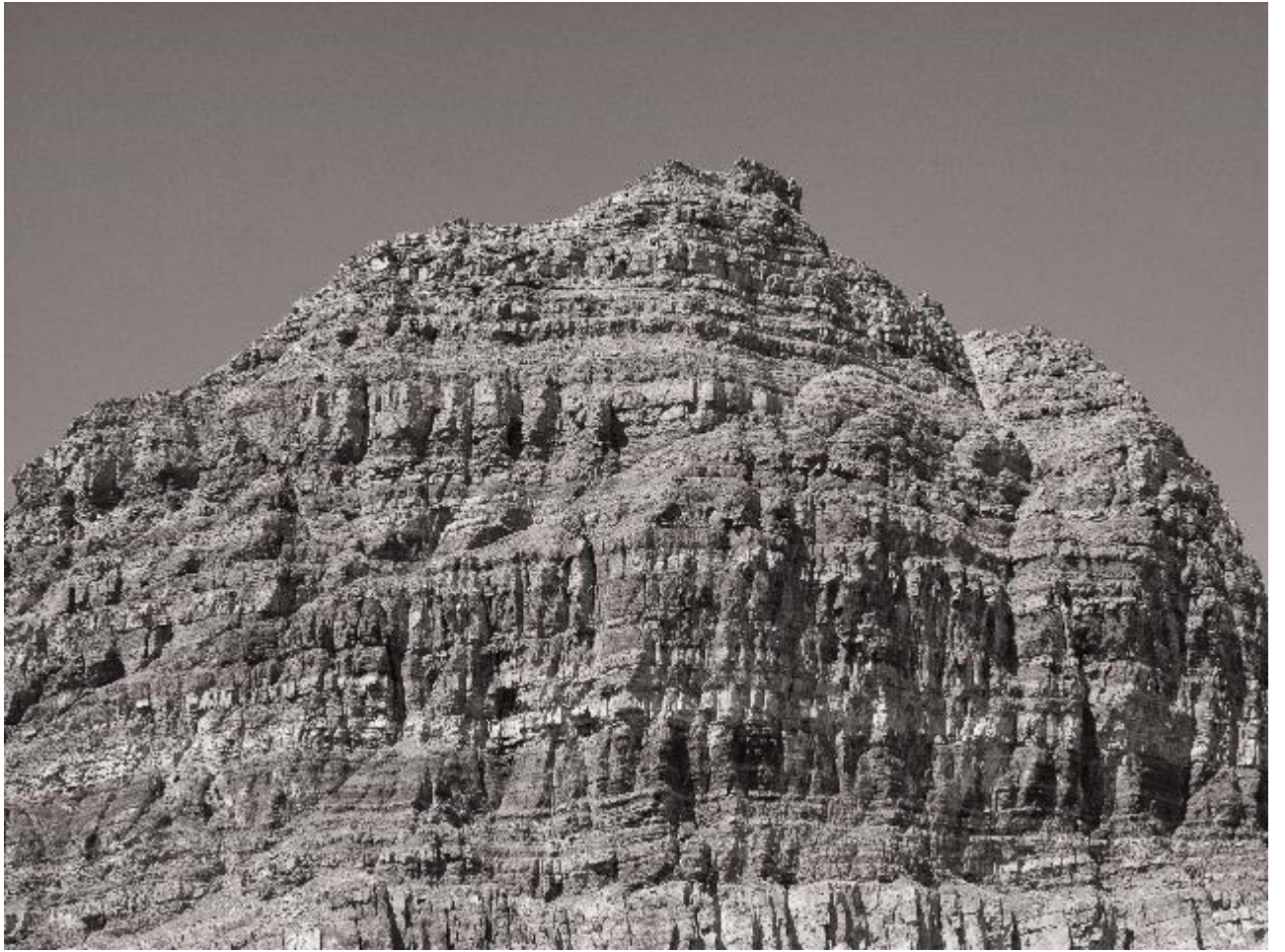
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Cheers, Sean

5 Replies to “A Walking Report 13”

1. **Richard Lang** says:

2020-08-11 at 19:49 Edit

Great wildflower image on photo #1. Wonderful green background that supports the brilliant single yellow flower. I don't know your f-stop for this photo. If you could add more depth of field such as f22, I believe it would add to this great image. You might need a tripod and/or a speed light in order to make this happen.

2. **Keith** says:

2020-08-11 at 11:01 Edit

Lets start with 3 and green, not blue. Love the almost startling green in contrast with the rocks. Plus the shutter speed is perfect for the water, not too fast or too slow.

4 is nicely composed with the stream leading me into the photo. The top left of 5 would make a wonderful abstract.

7 leaves me puzzled. I like the layers, and there's lots of texture, yet somehow it looks flat. Is it the light? 8 is less flat, but still.

9 however, loving it! The deep clear blue is wonderful, even if filters were involved. It's a very plausible colour here, so I wouldn't have suspected filter use.

The halves of the triangle in 10 intrigue me, particularly with the snow as the dividing line. Pity the lake wasn't calmer in 15!

1. **spd_wp_admin** says:

2020-08-11 at 11:31 Edit

Keith, Thank you as always for visiting and commenting. I like your idea for 5 and it takes me down a water works stream I hadn't considered – thanks for that.

3. **Susan** says:

2020-08-10 at 09:02 Edit

First, I really like the use of the polarizing filter and have been thinking of buying one myself. Your skies have such a beautiful deep blue. And second, who says post processing is cheating? IMHO Photography is an art and post processing is a part of that art.

1. **spd_wp_admin** says:

2020-08-10 at 09:51 Edit

Thank you Susan for visiting and commenting. You will get absolutely no argument from me that photography is an art form and that includes the complete cycle from envisaging through post-processing to presentation. I only bring up cheating in context of representing the reality of the blue that I saw. Cheers

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