

SKETCHBOOK ADVENTURES

Prompt 3: Field trip - Documenting a voyage to appreciate natural beauty

When my husband and I went to Montreal on our honeymoon, I was looking forward to eating new types of food (hello Poutine and smoked meats galore), walking down cobblestone streets, checking out the amazing farmer's markets and practicing saying bonjour! My husband was also looking forward to the food aspects of the trip since he's a chef, but he couldn't stop talking about going to the Jardin Botanique, Montreal's gigantic botanical garden. Despite the fact that spending all day looking at flowers and plants wasn't how I'd imagined my honeymoon and it was in the high 80s with over 90% humidity, in the spirit of compromise (which I knew there'd be a lot of in marriage), I went.

I'm so glad I did. I had no idea how entertaining plants and flowers could be. We spent ALL DAY there and honestly when it was time to go I was a bit sad. I remember going to places like that on field trips when I was a kid. It was fun back then because it was one of the few days during the school year when I wasn't trapped in a classroom. Then I grew up and spent all of my time in my studio working. I'd totally forgotten how fun a field trip could be. Getting out of your usual space (especially to a spot you wouldn't normally go to) stimulates your mind. At the botanical gardens, I found myself fascinated by the plants and flowers that inspired the second example in the exercise. I was so gung ho on field trips that I made a detour on a work trip a few months later to an aquarium and created the first example.

For this prompt, take yourself on a field trip. Ideally you'll go alone or with people who won't mind if you want to stop in front of the tide pool exhibit and spend some time sketching. Below are a few suggestions for nature-inspired field trip destinations.

- Natural history museums
- Aquariums
- Botanical gardens
- Parks
- Garden nursery

dive
in



Make
more
beauty

