



as the days got longer, they headed east to the Rockies and Banff and Jasper National Parks. "These were probably the most photogenic places in Canada—blue lakes and waterfalls, high peaks, and breathtaking landscapes," say the pair.

They spent the final month in "places that seemed unreal," heli-skiing, bathing in natural springs, camping, and hiking in Whistler and Vancouver. When spring arrived, they headed to Vancouver Island, one of the largest temperate rainforests on the planet, where they looked for uncrowded surf and camping spots at Sombrio Beach, the Juan de Fuca Trail, Tofino, and Ucluelet. Looking back, they reflect on the wonder of the experience: "How is it possible to find so much diversity and beauty in one place, one country? This trip was a great opportunity to really get deep into nature, deep into the unknown. Maybe the journey isn't about becoming anything, but about unbecoming everything that isn't really you, so you can be who you were meant to be." ■



HONDA ELEMENT

Blending an easy-to-clean light-duty truck with a versatile sport utility vehicle, the 2003–2011 Honda Element (only available in the United States) was a huge success among the outdoor crowd. Outward-opening front and rear doors omitted the B-pillar side entry, which allows for unobstructed packing of loads up to 675 pounds (300 kg). Inside, seats made of stainless fabric are entirely removable, and the floor is coated in resilient urethane for easy cleaning. 160 horsepower is provided by Honda's venerable 2.4-liter K motor, and this Element has automatic transmission. Alexandre and Francis added insulation to prepare for below freezing temperatures across Canada, and also attached a trailer for carrying excess gear.

MANUFACTURER: Honda
MODEL: Element
YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2003
ENGINE: 2.4 L, 166 hp
TRANSMISSION: Automatic
VISITED COUNTRIES:
 Canada, United States

MILES IN TOTAL: 18,000 miles
TRAVEL TIME: 4 months
REBUILD—YEAR: 2016
REBUILD—BODYWORK MODIFICATIONS:
 Original factory condition
REBUILD—CHASSIS MODIFICATIONS:
 Original factory condition

REBUILD—INTERIOR MODIFICATIONS:
 Added insulation, bed frame and bed, deep-cycle battery, power inverter
REBUILD—OTHER MODIFICATIONS:
 Additional trailer for all the gear
REBUILD—SUPPORT BY:
 Friends