



Journeys of Discovery Under the Midnight Sun

2024 ADVENTURE CATALOGUE

*Journeys of
Discovery
Under the
Midnight
Sun*

- 04 ABOUT US
- 05 OUR DESTINATIONS
- 17 WHY TRAVEL WITH US?
- 22 SKILL PREREQUISITES
- 23 HOW TO BOOK



Nahanni National Park Reserve
named a "Must-See Place" by
National Geographic!



Float through the Nahanni River's Canyon Kingom, Canada's deepest canyon system.

WELCOME

Rivers are the veins of our planet and by journeying upon them we are carried upon a lifegiving pulse. Each time we see a flash of silver salmon in the Tatshenshini's surging waters, watch hollow hairs of ephemeral barrens caribou floating in the eddies of the Firth River or the sight of a sow grizzly coaxing her cubs up the banks of the incomparable Nahanni, the North's beating heart is made clear!

Wild rivers are what we know. Each of our unique itineraries celebrates these rivers and their global significance as the finest intact watersheds on earth. Whether you choose to travel to connect with friends and family or to capture images you will treasure for years to come, our knowledge of the watersheds we share is unparalleled.

We know these are the trips of a lifetime which is why words like "good enough" just aren't in our vocabulary. Every step of the way you will find that a journey with Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions is "a cut above."

From your connection with our friendly and knowledgeable Expedition Planning Team, to arriving at your first sublime riverside campsite, to when your guide points out the location of a resident gyrfalcon nest, you can be confident in the value and quality of your adventure!

Our team of incredible guides are the best in the North; many having shared their passion for wild spaces and exceptional service for decades. Whether on one of our acclaimed Canadian Geographic Adventures or to create a private experience for just you and your loved ones you can be confident the memories you create will last forever.

As we look to 2024, we can't wait to welcome you to the North and to share the rivers that have captivated us since 1972.

Yours for Adventure,
Joel Hibbard
Outfitter and Guide

The perspective gained within Canada's largest wilderness areas is the start of a transformative experience. Nahanni River, Nahanni National Park Reserve.





A river journey exists for everyone.

ABOUT US

At Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions, we helped pioneer the sport of whitewater paddling expeditions in the early seventies.

From the iconic Nahanni River to the Arctic's Firth, and the coastal wonders of the Alsek and Tatshenshini, from Alaska to Nunavut, we know all of our rivers well – from their campsites to their hiking trails to their rapids to their wildlife, geology and history.

We are experts and the industry leaders in guiding multi-day wilderness trips - from contingency planning, to operational logistics, to how to bake delicious cinnamon buns for breakfast over a campfire.

With us, you have the opportunity to not only embrace a unique destination, but also to experience an adventure vacation that's truly the highest quality in every respect.

Travelling in exclusive small groups by expedition raft or canoe, our float journeys allow you to reconnect to the natural world in a rich, meaningful, and comfortable way.

We have taken over 10,000 paddlers downriver since 1972 and our guest repeat rate of over 40% speaks for itself.

Read on to find out why National Geographic Adventure Magazine rated us one of "The Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth."

*Journeys of
Discovery
Under the
Midnight
Sun*

OUR DESTINATIONS

Spectacular river journeys in the most iconic wilderness destinations in Northern Canada and Alaska. Expertly guided by raft or canoe, they fill your soul with wildlife, hiking, and stories.

Whether you enjoy the excitement and comfort of expedition rafting, a challenging canoe adventure or the solitude and relaxation of flat water, you will come home with stories that will last a lifetime.

Nahanni River
Tatshenshini River
Alsek River
Firth River

And more!

Broken Skull River, Wind River, Snake River, Coppermine River, Horton River, Mountain River, Taseko, Chilko, Chilcotin Rivers, Soper River, Thelon River, Burnside River.



The world's last great wilderness is our passion and we are unparalleled experts in exploring it.





NAHANNI RIVER

Join us on an incredible journey down the Nahanni River – truly the icon of Canadian wilderness rivers. The Nahanni flows through a mountainous landscape, over Virginia Falls (Náíjicho) – nearly twice the height of Niagara Falls – through Canada's deepest river canyons, past hot springs and geological features so unique that the Nahanni River was declared the first UNESCO World Heritage Site by the United Nations in 1978.

The South Nahanni River, lying entirely within Nahanni National Park Reserve, is one of the world's finest wild rivers. Its full 560 kilometre length is now protected. At Virginia Falls, the river cascades down an escarpment to form North America's most spectacular undeveloped waterfall! Immediately downriver from Virginia Falls lies eight kilometres of nearly continuous rapids and standing waves created as the Nahanni River flows through Fourth Canyon. Nahanni National Park is home to strikingly diverse landscapes. Four great canyons, up to 1,200 metres deep.

Each of our destinations is of global significance, Virginia Falls (Náíjicho) stands as the centre piece of UNESCO World Heritage site, Nahanni National Park Reserve, NWT Canada.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



At Rabbitkettle Hot Springs, warm water radiates outward to form an intricately terraced mound of tufa rock, more than 27 metres high.

Whether by canoe or raft, the iconic Nahanni River is perhaps Canada's most celebrated wilderness river for good reason - it is perhaps the most visually diverse landscape on earth!

Each of these itineraries will allow you to experience the power of Virginia Falls (Nailícho) at twice the height of Niagara, and the Canyon Kingdom, Canada's deepest Canyons!

As the centrepiece of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Nahanni River is full of legend and lore and your experienced guide team will share their knowledge of ecology, geology and fascinating human history.

SEVEN DAY EXPEDITION (RAFT/CANOE/KAYAK)

A Nahanni River rafting or canoeing experience is truly the "trip of a lifetime." For those with limited vacation time, this adventure allows you to experience the best of the Nahanni's "Grand Canyons," Virginia Falls and many of the iconic features for which the Nahanni River is renowned! *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$8,895 CAD + 5% GST & \$222 Park Fee

Top photo: gentle currents whisk paddlers through geological wonders.

Bottom photo: on our expertly guided journeys, each moment is a wonder.





12 DAY EXPEDITION (RAFT/CANOE/KAYAK)

Our Nahanni River 12-day trip covers the same distance as our seven day trip but allows more time for additional hiking and exploring of the canyon rim and geological wonders along the river valley. It is well worth savouring the full beauty of the river with the beautiful name. *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$9,895^{CAD} / \$10,450^{CAD} (Can Geo)
+ 5% GST & \$222 Park Fee

14 DAY EXPEDITION (CANOE)

The classic canoe quest begins at Rabbitkettle Lake and over 14 days we will journey to the confluence with the Liard River. This expedition is considered a must do for the skilled whitewater canoeist and affords an opportunity to view many of the wonders of Nahanni National Park Reserve and ample time for hiking and interpretive experiences. *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$9,395^{CAD} + 5% GST & \$222 Park Fee

Top photo: as perhaps the most visually diverse landscape on the planet, the Nahanni River is a geological wonder!

Bottom photo: a low guest to guide ratio allows your full focus to be on the view.





TATSHENSHINI RIVER

Join us for rafting expeditions on the Tatshenshini River – one of the most magnificent river systems on earth, flowing through one of the world's most pristine wilderness areas.

Part of the world's largest bio-preserve, the Tatshenshini flows through the Yukon, British Columbia, Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park, Alsek/Tatshenshini Provincial Park and out to the Gulf of Alaska.

The Tatshenshini and Alsek form a "Y" where the Tatshenshini flows into the Alsek River. The upper portion of each is dramatically different, so you want to keep both on your list.

- Part of the world's largest bio-preserve.
- Flows through the Yukon, British Columbia, Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park, Alsek/Tatshenshini Provincial Park, to its denouement at the Gulf of Alaska.
- Rafters are able to hike into the alpine and float in an iceberg filled Alsek lake.
- Bald Eagles and Grizzlies abound.

The sapphire ice of the largest non-polar icecap on the planet is a constant companion on the Alsek River. *Dry Bay National Park, Alaska.*

The Tatshenshini River begins as a trickle in the alpine meadows of the Chilkat Summit, then swells to more than half a mile (about one kilometre) in breadth.

At its confluence with the Alsek River, the two rivers rival the largest drainages on the continent. Together they form a vital green corridor, between the interior and coast, through the highly glaciated and rugged peaks of the St. Elias Range and coastal mountains.

12 DAY EXPEDITION (RAFT)

One of the most magnificent river systems on earth! Flowing through one of the world's most pristine wilderness areas, the Tatshenshini stands as an ecological wonder. Here the largest non-polar icecap in the world feeds salmon-filled rivers under the towering Mount Fairweather, the tallest coastal mountain in the world. *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$9,395 CAD+ 5% GST & \$170 Park Fee

Top photo: feel the joy of shared moments in a wild land. *Noel Hendrickson photo.*

Bottom photo: floating among the icebergs of Alsek Lake. The massive blocks of ice make us and our large rafts feel small. *Alsek River, Glacier Bay National Park Reserve, Alaska. Noel Hendrickson photo.*





ALSEK RIVER

Join us on an incredible rafting journey down the Alsek River, voted by guides as the wildest river in North America. The Alsek is renowned for large rapids, dramatic mountain valleys and glaciers, and is a true wilderness treasure.

The Alsek River has its origins only a short distance from the Tatshenshini, but the difference between the two rivers is dramatic. Starting in the rain shadow of some of North America's tallest peaks, the Alsek River flows through two glacial lakes with spectacular hiking opportunities. Known for grizzly bears and wildflowers, it is a must do for any naturalist.

- Flows through the Yukon, British Columbia, Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park, Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park, to its denouement at the Gulf of Alaska
- The Upper and Full Alsek include a spectacular helicopter portage over Turnback Canyon and the surging Tweedsmuir Glacier
- The Upper Alsek flows through Kluane National Park and Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and courses through a Himalaya like landscape

Lowell Glacier and Mt. Kennedy tower over The Alsek River, Kluane National Park. *Taylor Burke photo.*

The Alsek begins at the confluence of the Dezadeash and Kaskawulsh rivers and flows through a broad valley within Kluane National Park and Reserve, which leads to iceberg dotted Lowell Lake.

12 DAY EXPEDITION (RAFT)

Renowned for large rapids, dramatic mountain valleys and glaciers, the Alsek River is a wilderness treasure. A rafting expedition on the Alsek, a coveted Canadian Signature Experience, allows you to visit the world's largest biological preserve and experience genuine alpine splendour only rivalled by the Himalaya.

The Alsek, while extraordinarily different from the Tatshenshini River, is only "one valley over" and is rich with glaciers, icebergs, wildlife and deep canyons. A helicopter portage around Turnback Canyon adds to the scenic adventure on this classic rafting expedition full of glaciers and grizzlies! *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$10,440 CAD+ 5% GST & \$235 Park Fee

Top photo: drifting amongst the icebergs of Alsek Lake, Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska

Bottom photo: imagine yourself floating and hiking through the world's largest non-polar ice cap and bio-preserve. *Alsek River, Glacier Bay National Park Preserve. Tyler Garnham photo.*





FIRTH RIVER

Join us on an incredible rafting journey down the Firth River for an enchanting, scenic passage to the arctic tundra plains and the Beaufort Sea.

The Firth River connects the British Mountains to the Arctic Ocean, lies deep within the northern Yukon adjacent to Alaska, and bisects Ivvavik National Park.

- The Firth River flows through the most diversely dramatic landscape in the high arctic from the British Mountains to the Beaufort Sea
- Tremendous whitewater in shallow canyons that cut through the tundra to the Arctic Ocean
- Adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and on the migration route of the famed Porcupine caribou herd (over 200,000 strong!)
- Traditional territory of the Inuvialuit people
- Home to the most northerly herd of Dalls sheep in the world as well as muskox, caribou, wolves, fox, grizzly and raptors
- One of the oldest rivers on the continent

Heading for the Arctic Ocean - floating upon the Crystal Waters of the Firth River Canyon after a day full of hiking and wildlife viewing. *Firth River, Ivvavik National Park, Yukon. Tyler Garnham photo.*



The area surrounding the Firth is a land of contrasts—forest and tundra, craggy peaks and alpine meadows, wild coastline and ice-filled seas. Wildlife roams unimpeded here with a diversity unrivalled elsewhere in Canada. Barren-ground caribou, mountain sheep, moose, muskoxen, grizzly bears, wolves and wolverines, and a wide variety of bird species all make their home in this arctic habitat. Our knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides will help you better understand the geology and wildlife, adding to a fascinating journey through the wild and remote landscape.

12 DAY EXPEDITION (RAFT)

Home to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, each year some lucky adventurers find themselves surrounded by thousands of migrating caribou. As we float upon crystal clear waters we often observe other Arctic wildlife including wolves, grizzly bears and musk ox. The Firth is a must do for any connoisseur of northern travel! *Best experienced: June through August.*

\$15,795^{CAD} / \$16,545^{CAD} (Can Geo)
+ 5% GST & \$222 Park Fee

Top photo: members of the Porcupine Caribou herd seek shelter from summer heat at the edge of the Arctic Ocean. *Ivvavik National Park, Yukon Territory.*

Bottom photo: above the treeline the hiking offers easily accessible alpine views.





OTHER ARCTIC RIVERS

Every river we travel is stunningly beautiful, with world class features, great hiking and colourful histories. Many have special protection designation or unique geological features—most have all of these qualities and more. (No matter which river you choose, bragging rights are always included in the price of the trip.) Most of our destinations require float plane or helicopter access and sometimes both! Visiting each of these rivers is truly a lifetime accomplishment for the most experienced traveller!

Many of the rivers we travel are Canadian Heritage Rivers, several are part of the largest areas of protected land in the world, and all of them are perfect for a wilderness experience you'll never forget – we guarantee you'll return home with a great story to tell!

Top photo: a mountain monarch, the Dalls Sheep ram is a magnificent presence in the Seven Sacred Rivers of the Peel Watershed.

Middle photo: the primaeval musk ox can be found on trips to the Arctic tundra.

Bottom photo: when we immerse ourselves in the wilderness sometimes the neighbours come to visit. *Wind River, Yukon.*



The other wonderful rivers we share:

Broken Skull River
Wind River
Snake River
Taseko, Chilko & Chilcotin Rivers
Horton River
Mountain River
Coppermine River
Stikine River
Burnside River
Thelon River
Soper River

Our experienced Expedition Planners would be happy to help pick the best destination for you.

Call or email us today:
Toll Free - 1(800) 297-6927
Email - info@nahanni.com

Top photo: a grizzly bear caught in a moment of repose. *Firth River, Ivvavik National Park, Yukon Territory.*

Bottom photo: discoveries about on Nuneluk Spit, bowhead whale vertebrae in Ivvavik National Park, Yukon Territory. *Tyler Garnham photo.*

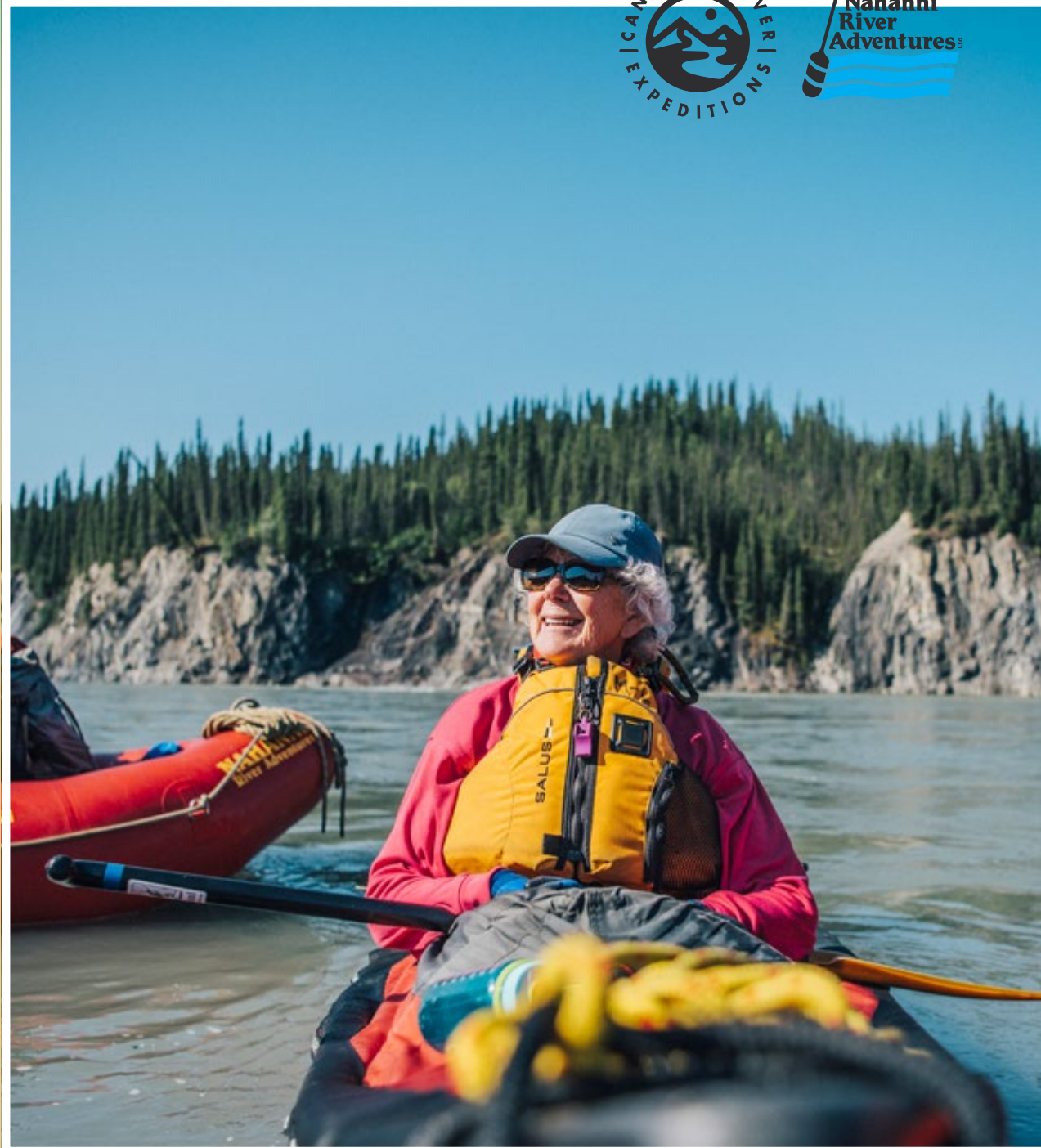


*Journeys of
Discovery
Under the
Midnight
Sun*

WHY TRAVEL WITH CRE?

Most companies will have good gear, good food, and a reasonable itinerary on paper. How do you pick the one that's right for you?

We understand our guests are looking for a once in a lifetime experience, with a treasure trove of great stories to take home. They often won't be back to the same river a second time. So it's our job to make that happen, and we take that responsibility seriously – without cutting corners. Words like average and good enough just aren't in our vocabulary. We are the most consistent at delivering on this promise. We know you want to "do it right" and all of our efforts add up to the best experience and greatest value.



Whether by canoe or raft, experience the uplifting wonder of a wilderness river journey.



Fresh baking and a great cup of coffee to start the day...

OUR GUIDES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Considered leaders in their field, our guides are passionate, knowledgeable and highly trained. Each guide completes rigorous training and we ensure each one has fully up-to-date instructor, wilderness first aid, and swift water rescue certifications.

Most of our guides have been with us for years (many more than 20!) and they truly set the standard for river experience and knowledge. Because of our successful reputation and the iconic status of the rivers we travel, we're able to attract the best guides from across the country. These men and women are mature, friendly leaders who have a passion for these places, extensive knowledge and love sharing it.

RATIO OF STAFF TO GUESTS

Experience has taught us that one of the most important factors for a high-quality and safe adventure is the ratio of staff to guests – we operate with one guide per four guests maximum.

Even the best guides can only be in one place at one time, so a low ratio of guests to guides is crucial – for both the safety and comfort of everyone on the trip.

You're making an important investment – you deserve the best from your guides and they can only provide this if they aren't spread too thin.

FOOD: THE WOW FACTOR

At the end of an active day in the fresh mountain air, you deserve to be rewarded by the aroma and taste of a great meal with fresh ingredients, perhaps with a wine you selected. Or how about freshly baked cinnamon buns with your morning tea or coffee? Got the idea? On our river journeys you can expect to eat as well or better than you do at home—and we do the cooking!

Over twenty years of practice has allowed us to fine tune our menu to the highest standards – we call it the “wow factor.” Our menu includes plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit, as well as exciting local delicacies served as appetisers. Local dishes are served separately from the main meal so the choice is yours to sample or not. However, few say no to fresh Arctic char, wild Taku River salmon, caribou and other local delicacies.

SAFETY

We maintain the highest standards for river safety and we are proud to have a reputation for excellence in this area. Our guides are certified in Wilderness First Aid and Swiftwater Rescue. We employ comprehensive and well-rehearsed emergency procedures and trip contingency planning in line with wilderness camping experiences. Satellite communication is also a fixture on all of our trips and our office team is standing by to tackle any details that need attention in the field.

WHO TRAVELS WITH US?

We describe our guests as “salt of the earth people”, interesting people who enjoy wilderness, adventure, respect the environment and fellow travellers – and usually come with some great stories of their own. They come alone, in couples, as a family, or in groups. They range in age from 8 to 80 years (most are surprised to hear the average age is 57). They love natural beauty. Some love the camaraderie, others seek a quiet experience, and our guides are able to ensure that all are satisfied.

On our regular trips we keep our guide to guest ratio 1:4, to provide the best value for the optimum quality of experience. This is the best for our category in the Canadian north.

The only problem is that the hardest part of most trips is saying goodbye...

YOUR EXPERIENCE

Imagine the “Land of the Midnight Sun”, a country of diverse landforms, wild flowers, and new delights to the eye every day. Imagine rivers that flow through these lands in a sinuous manner, serving as a conveyor to move you from one delightful experience to the next. Imagine rewarding hikes, with a range of distances to choose, to pick the one that’s right for you.

You will be accompanied by your knowledgeable guides who share their love for the area, and with them you will unfold the mysteries and experience the beauty of the north. You will wake up each morning in your well equipped camp, not knowing specifically what will happen but knowing it will be memorable and will inspire stories to tell your friends for years to come.



Shared moments create the memories that last forever.



A river journey is comfortable, approachable and rejuvenating!

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

After meeting your guides and fellow travellers at the rendezvous point, you will make your way to the river. This usually requires a charter aircraft to fly in, out, or both. The flights take you over truly spectacular wilderness. Have your camera handy for the flight! Past participants have stepped off the plane declaring that "if the trip finished now, I would have my money's worth!"

DAILY ROUTINE

While on a river journey your days will be filled with wonder! Start your day with locally roasted coffee, fresh fruits and baked wonders from our river galley, float past towering icebergs or stare up canyon walls over 1000 metres high. Revel in intact ecology and take a deep dive into natural history with your guides, or stretch your legs on hikes for all levels! End your day with a glass of your favourite wine and a delicious home cooked meal and settle into our comfortable camp chairs alongside the evening fire.



The North is a vibrant land full of life.

RIVER CAMPING

Camping on the river is one of the great joys of expedition rafting and canoeing.

Late afternoon finds you at camp for the evening. As your crew sets up the camp kitchen, everyone finds their ideal camping spot and sets up their home for the night. You'll relax with a cool drink and hors d'oeuvres and get better acquainted with your fellow river companions as dinner sizzles on the grill.

You might spend your free time around camp reading a book, fishing, or taking photos of the breathtaking scenery. After a mouthwatering dinner you'll relax around the campfire and join in the conversation of the group. If it's early in the season you may get to experience the midnight sun. Later in the season you may be treated to a spectacular display of the northern lights dancing in the sky above your campsite.

Finally, it will be time to settle into your tent for the night. Perhaps it's the soothing sound of the river flowing by, the active river lifestyle, or the carefree head space afforded by wilderness, but having a good night sleep is amazingly common. This was the case even before the advent of luxury sleeping pads, and now these thick welcoming mattresses seem to embrace and lull you into slumberland, with a level of comfort that one would never associate with camping!

NORTHERN WILDLIFE & PLANTS

The North is rich with some of the most abundant and diverse plants and wildlife anywhere in the world. Each of our river adventures is scheduled to allow for maximum opportunities to see the plants & wildlife of that particular area.

The north is rich in wildlife even if it is not readily seen. Our guides will do their best to point out animal "signs" such as tracks, scat, bear scratching posts, etc. as they come across them.

The interpretation of natural history is a significant focus on our trips. We do our best to impart our knowledge of the geology, wildlife, and prehistory of the area.

SKILLS REQUIRED FOR RAFT BASED EXPEDITIONS

Our raft expeditions are designed for people of any skill level, including novices. Some raft trips offer canoeing as an option. In this case, the canoeing prerequisites apply and must be met.

SKILLS REQUIRED FOR TANDEM CANOE TRIPS

You have river canoed previously and know the rudimentary strokes: bow, reverse, “j”, draw, pry and sweep. You are comfortable paddling in the bow and working with another partner or you have river reading skills and can control the canoe from the stern while working with another partner.

It is important that you are able to read Grade III water and quickly formulate strategies while working with a partner to navigate. Unless you opt for the canyon rig strategy for the main rapids you match the following description: At least once a year for the two previous seasons or more, you paddle Grade II/III whitewater with friends or a canoe club and have “swam” with a canoe in class II/III whitewater . You are committed to at least one “warm up” trip or course prior to the planned trip this season.

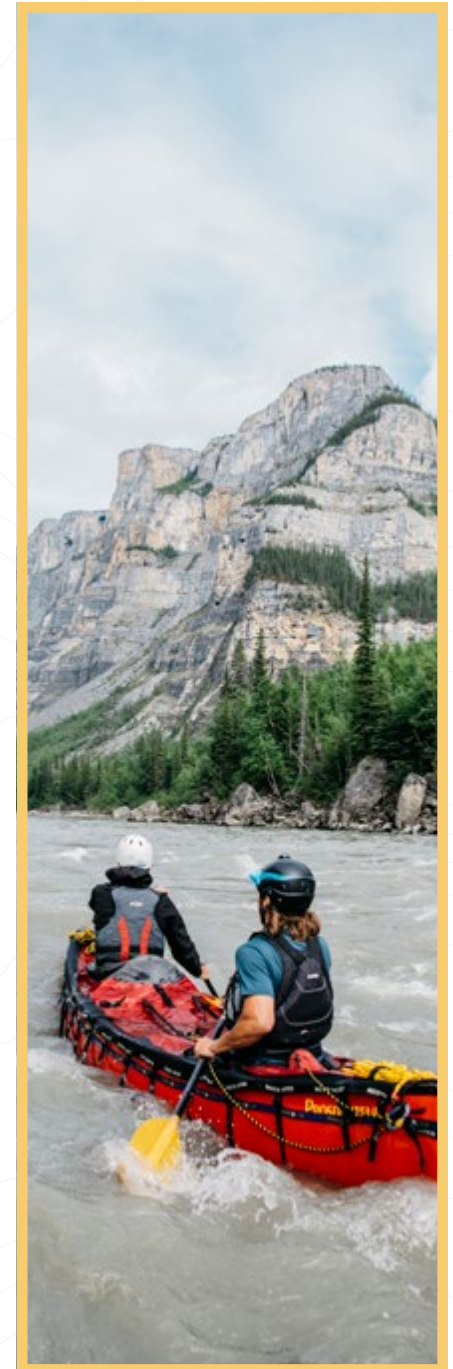
We can modify these requirements by the use of “canyon rigs” for the rapids but this must be discussed with us before booking.

CANYON RIGS

We have an alternative approach that can modify these requirements with the use of our “canyon rig” strategy. Above the rapids, we can catamaran the canoes together in pairs, which means you can enjoy greater stability while going for the biggest waves. In the flatter sections we disassemble the rigs.



We take our responsibility to provide the safest experience seriously. We recognize that choice to travel is a personal one and have accommodating cancellation policies to ensure that our guests can book with confidence.



Be transported by the currents of the North.

*Journeys of
Discovery
Under the
Midnight
Sun*

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

We accept reservations on a first come, first served basis. The first step is to reserve your spot on one of our trips.

You can do that using our online booking request form, by calling us at 1-800-297-6927 or emailing us at info@nahanni.com.

Once we receive your booking request, we will contact you to confirm your trip dates and we'll request that you read and sign our waiver and release form prior to making a deposit. We require a signed waiver and a deposit to reserve your spot. Then we'll send you a detailed pre-trip package that will help you prepare for your adventure.

More important details you should know about making reservations can be found on our website.



Packrafts offer a chance to explore on your own terms.



FLIGHT PLAN

It has never been easier or more convenient to fly to the Yukon or NWT! Air North, Air Canada, Canadian North, and WestJet serve The North from southern hubs. Air Canada and Condor serve The North from Europe.



We can help you find the easiest and most economical route to your meeting point. We recommend contacting Karin at Uniglobe specialty travel:

karin@uniglobespecialtytravel.com

Or our office:

info@nahanni.com

1-800-297-6927

Tel: (867) 668-3180

Fax: (867) 668-3056

P.O. Box 31203 Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada
Y1A 5P7

Service from any of these U.S. hubs to the Canadian gateway cities is available with the major carriers. We would be pleased to help you make the arrangements if you wish.



Our experienced Expedition Planners would be happy to help pick the best destination for you.

Call or email us today:

Toll Free - 1(800) 297-6927 Email - info@nahanni.com

Slow down and settle in, this is the journey of a lifetime.