



Photo: Peter Mather

## Your Trip

# Wind River – An Arctic Mountain River for Tremendous Hiking & Friendly Whitewater

## Itinerary

*The following initials indicate the meals included each day:*

*Breakfast=B, Lunch=L, Dinner=D*

### Day 0

#### WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Your journey north from your home will be a refreshing departure. You will fly over the largest expanse of wilderness in the world with stunning views on cloudless days. Passing through quieter and friendlier airports, you will meet friendlier and

less harried service personnel and begin to immerse yourself in the wilderness experience that is about to unfold.

Please be in Whitehorse in time for an orientation meeting at the High Country Inn at 8 pm. Participants are responsible for hotels and meals while in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse is a great place to spend a few extra days. We will send you a visitor's booklet.

## Trip Details

### **From McClusky Lake to the confluence with the Peel River, Yukon Territory:**

Approximately 380 km (165 miles) with an elevation drop of x800m (2400 ft)

**Cost:** \$7,400+ 5% GST

**Duration:** 13 River days


**Trip Type:** Canoe

**Skill Level:** Class II whitewater  
(see *Canoe Pre-requisites document*)

### **Rendezvous Point:**

High Country Inn  
Whitehorse, Yukon.

You will need either a wetsuit or drysuit for this river adventure. We have wetsuits available for rent, or feel free to bring your own.

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CANADIAN RIVER  
EXPEDITIONS

  
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River  
Adventures

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Photo: Joel Luet

## Upcoming Trip Dates

Tuesday July 24 - Tuesday August 7, 2018

The following additional dates will be opened after the first dates (above) fill.

Wednesday August 8 -  
Wednesday August 22, 2018

### Day 1 (L/D)

#### MOUNTAIN FLIGHT

We will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 a.m. following breakfast (not included) discuss final details before our departure. Travelling by van we will make the scenic 5-hour drive to the "end of the road" at Mayo. Here we will transfer to a float plane and fly the spectacular and remote 135 miles into McClusky Lake. This is truly a spectacular and remote part of the Yukon wilderness! Have your cameras handy for the flight.

### DAY 2 (B/L/D)

#### MCCLUSKY CREEK

Unwinding from the days of travel, we will review paddling skills on the beautiful lake bordered on all sides by majestic peaks and arctic grayling breaking the surface. After a short portage, afternoon will find us lining, wading and paddling McClusky Creek to the junction with the Wind River. Neoprene booties with tough soles or

combined with sneakers will payoff here. Camp will be in the vicinity of Nash Creek.

### DAY 3 (B/L/D)

#### FLOOD RIVER

Tight bends in the river with lots of sweepers will test your river skills. The Wind is a relatively wide mountain valley allowing "big sky" views along with the burnished grey mountain peaks unique to the range. Today's paddle will feature mountain views with a good chance of seeing caribou, sheep and grizzlies. Camp will be downstream of Bond Creek.

### DAY 4 (B/L/D)

#### HIKING

Once again the easy ridges in the area will lure us off on a day hike with tremendous views, wildlife viewing and alpine flowers.

### DAY 5 (B/L/D)

#### BEAR CREEK

The culinary delights for which we are famous will again be whipped up by

our talented guides. This stretch is one of the visual highlights. Continuing downstream past Bear Creek we will enjoy majestic views of Royal Mountain.

### DAY 6 (B/L/D)


#### ROYAL MOUNTAIN

Our paddling is rewarded by another day of ridge tops and alpine skylines that stretch across the horizon overlooking Royal Mountain and Royal Creek. Keen eyes will spot Dall sheep among the crags.

### DAYS 7 & 8 (B/L/D)

#### ILLTYD RANGE

Back on the river the swift moving river will sweep us past the tail of the chain of mountains through which we have been paddling. Individual peaks will continue to dominate the horizon. Moose sightings are possible and camp will be upstream of Prongs Creek with views of the Illtyd Range.

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### DAY 9 (B/L/D)

#### LOST PATROL

Paddling towards Mount Deslauriers we will pass Little Wind River of the Lost Patrol Fame (a definite campfire story!) Camp will be in view of Mount Deception near Hungry Creek (let's hope there is nothing to the name!).

### DAY 10 (B/L/D)

#### MOUNT DECEPTION

A spectacular Ridge walk on Mount Deception will reward us with views north to the Richardson Mountains (weather permitting).

### DAY 11 (B/L/D)

#### WIND CITY HISTORY

The strong current will accompany us to our camp on the Lower Wind. Higher cliffs cut by numerous small creeks provide numerous wildlife corridors. Here we will be in the vicinity of Wind City. No

longer in existence it was the wintering place of an ill fated group of gold seekers on route to the Klondike in '98. In your tent, you will cozy up in the comforts that is the hallmark of our journeys.

### DAY 12 (B/L/D)

#### PEEL & BONNET PLUME RIVERS

Arriving at the Peel River we will pass the confluence with the Bonnet Plume. The Peel River Canyon will be a highlight with spectacular vertical walls and standing waves of class II -III. Camp will be approx. 70 km downstream of the canyon at Taco bar.

### DAY 13 (B/L)

#### PEEL & BONNET PLUME RIVERS

In the morning we will be met by the aircraft that will ferry us back to Mayo. There we will be met by our van and travel the Klondike Highway back to Whitehorse. Depending on timing the group may decide to stop for supper at a diner along the way or upon arrival

in Whitehorse (supper and hotel not included). Camp will be in your hotel room in Whitehorse. If you have not eaten on the road, the group will likely want to gather at a local eatery to celebrate the return and recount tales of the adventure!

### DAY 14

#### HOMeward BOUND

After goodbyes and a last look around Whitehorse we will head home with a cargo of fond and spectacular memories.

**Please note:** The above is a tentative agenda and has been designed with much thought to capitalize on the most scenic and exciting parts of the river, while making time on other sections. Your guides will adjust the schedule to make the best use of river and weather conditions.

## Suggested Reading

Your guides will carry a small reference library that will include field reference books. Following are some books for winter reading:

**The Wind, The Snake and the Bonnet Plume-Three Wild Northern Rivers** by Friends of Yukon Rivers

**After the IceAge - The Return of Life to Glaciated North America** by E.C. Pielou

**A Naturalist's Guide to the Arctic** by E.C. Pielou

Photo: Terry Parker



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### In the Heart of the Peel Watershed

Paralleling the border of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Snake River sits in the Peel River Watershed and is one of the most remote northern rivers that offers superb mountain hiking.

Located at the northern end of the Rocky and Mackenzie Mountain Chain, the Peel River Watershed is a spectacularly rugged region defined by the Peel, Ogilvie, Blackstone, Hart, Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume rivers. One of Canada's most striking and pristine mountain river watersheds, the Peel is the heart of a great mountain ecosystem with a long

cultural history, free-ranging wildlife and a rugged northern beauty. Encompassing over 67,500 square kilometres, the Peel Watershed dwarfs more famous landscapes, such as Banff and Yellowstone national parks—in size, unspoiled splendor and ecological integrity.

The Peel Watershed is one of North America's largest intact ecosystems—a region of mountains, deep canyons, plateaus, wetlands and rolling hills laced by rivers. The watershed is the northern anchor of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, a broad-based international project to protect ecosystem connections for wildlife.

*For more information visit [www.cpawsyukon.org](http://www.cpawsyukon.org)*

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