



Photo: JaNStudios.com

The Mountain River by Canoe- Continuous Whitewater Itinerary

Day 1 MOUNTAIN RIVER FLIGHT

This is the first day listed for your trip.

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 plan to arrive in Norman Wells on the mid-day flight or earlier.

Norman Wells is a small community on the Mackenzie River. It is accessible by air from Yellowknife. This picturesque town is nestled between the Franklin and Mackenzie Mountains and dates back to 1919 when Imperial Oil set up a small refinery.

One of your guides will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the float plane base for final preparation before the trip. There will be a place to leave clothing not required for the trip. There will be a chance for last minute questions concerning clothing, gear, packing and other details. Weather permitting we will only be in town briefly so please do not count on major purchases prior to the trip.

Trip Details

Willow-Handle Lake to the Mackenzie River, journey through the traditional territory of the Sahtu Dene:

Approximately 288 km (190 miles)

Cost: \$7,350 + 5% GST

Duration: 13 River days

Trip Type: Canoe


Skill Level:
intermediate whitewater experience.
This is a fast and technical river.
If unsure of your ability please call with any questions:

1-800-297-6927 or 1-867-668-3180

For more information, see the FAQ's at nahanni.com

Rendezvous Point:

Norman Wells
Northwest Territories

 One of National Geographic Adventure magazine's
"Best adventure travel companies on earth"


CANADIAN RIVER
EXPEDITIONS


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River
Adventures

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After loading the Twin Otter aircraft you will be flying westward over the dramatic Mackenzie Mountains. You want to be sure to have your camera on your lap! This is one of the first of many great highlights of the trip. Camp will be on Willow-Handle Lake, an alpine gem, frequented by mountain caribou.

Day 2 PUSH-ME-PULL-YOU CREEK

The culinary delights for which we are famous are whipped up by our talented guides. The adventure begins with the portage to Push-Me-Pull-You Creek. Floating the loaded canoes in this narrow stream we will wade in the shallows, pulling the loaded canoes until the creek broadens enough to paddle. Camp will be near the junction of PMPYC and Black Feather Creek.

Day 3 BF CREEK & THE MOUNTAIN RIVER

BF Creek is a lively run with significant gradient. Class III whitewater skills are

put to use immediately avoiding rocks and on the many sharp bends in the beautiful low canyons. This is exciting whitewater that demands respect. Camp will be near the confluence of BF Creek and the Mountain River.

Day 4 WHITEWATER, FISHING & MORE

The channel triples in size at the junction with the Mountain River. Navigational skills are required constantly to negotiate the braided channels. The gradient increases through the day with exciting hay stacks to challenge your whitewater skills. This day, as on others, there are chances to fish for trout and grayling in the clear mountain water. Keep your eyes peeled as locations such as "Grizzly Meadows" will live up to their name. Every night you will cozy up in your tent in the comforts that are the hallmark of our journeys.

Upcoming Trip Dates

Monday July 22 - Thursday August 3, 2019

A Note on Canoeing

Canoe Pre-Requisites for the Mountain River:

You possess the abilities and judgment level above and have a more extensive "whitewater play" background. For the last three years or more you have paddled Grade III whitewater at least three times per year and enjoy practicing technical moves. You are committed to at least one "warm up" trip or course prior to the planned trip this season.

**Please note that wetsuits or drysuits are mandatory for this river journey. Wetsuits are available for rent for \$75 + GST.*

'What sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other. Travel 1,000 miles by train and you are a brute; pedal 500 miles on a bicycle and you remain basically a bourgeois; paddle 100 miles in a canoe and you are already a child of nature.' - Pierre Elliot Trudeau

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Day 5 'MOONSCAPES' & MINERAL SPRINGS

The spectacular mountain backdrop has dominated the scenic panorama. Now it is time to get up close and personal with the geology. Visiting "The Mooncape", mineral springs and "Fountain of Youth", reveal the dramatic and beautiful creations of geothermal springs. These spots are often frequented by Dall sheep. Stopping at Cache Creek we can enjoy a mineral spring shower! This may be the location selected for a layover day.

Day 6 BATTLESHIP ROCK & CANYON BEAUTY

Entering the first of the canyons we enjoy an exciting run and more displays of geological features. The day continues with lively wave trains, more spectacular views and eventually brings us to Battleship Rock and the mouth of Second Canyon

Day 7 & 8 CONFLUENCE AT STONE KNIFE RIVER

Second Canyon competes with First in terms of excitement. Challenging corners, holes and rebounding waves dominate all of the Mountain River canyons. At the confluence with Stone Knife River the volume doubles and the action continues. By now you will have realized that there is not a dull moment on this river and you must "have your wits about you" every minute.

Day 9 THIRD CANYON

Negotiating the rapids of Third Canyon will challenge your whitewater skills as the river continues to wind through the mountain

valley, dropping at a steep gradient. Moose, Dall sheep and grizzly inhabit the shores.

Day 10 FOURTH & FIFTH CANYON

After fourth Canyon the valley begins to broaden but the current persists. The ridges take on a new shape, providing diversity for the eye. Camp is in the vicinity of 5th Canyon.

Day 11 EAST & WEST MOUNTAINS

Paddling into the Mackenzie Valley, the landforms continue to change. The secret of the river's name becomes clear. Early travelers on the Mackenzie River would have recognized the mouth of this tributary by the presence of East and West Mountains that overlook the junction

Day 12 MACKENZIE RIVER VALLEY

Paddling is easy and the surrounding mountains slowly meld into the Mackenzie River Valley. The surrounding environment changes dramatically as the confluence with the Mackenzie nears. Paddling a short distance "up" the Mackenzie brings us to a beautiful river beach. A beach combers paradise with large driftwood logs (certainly not from around here)

Day 13 ONWARD TO NORMAN WELLS

We will be picked up by a float plane for the flight back to Norman Wells. Late in the afternoon you can settle into your hotel room (not included) for that long awaited shower and prepare for the evening. The group may want to gather at a local

Suggested Reading

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

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

After the Ice Age – The Return of Life to Glaciated North America by E.C. Pielou



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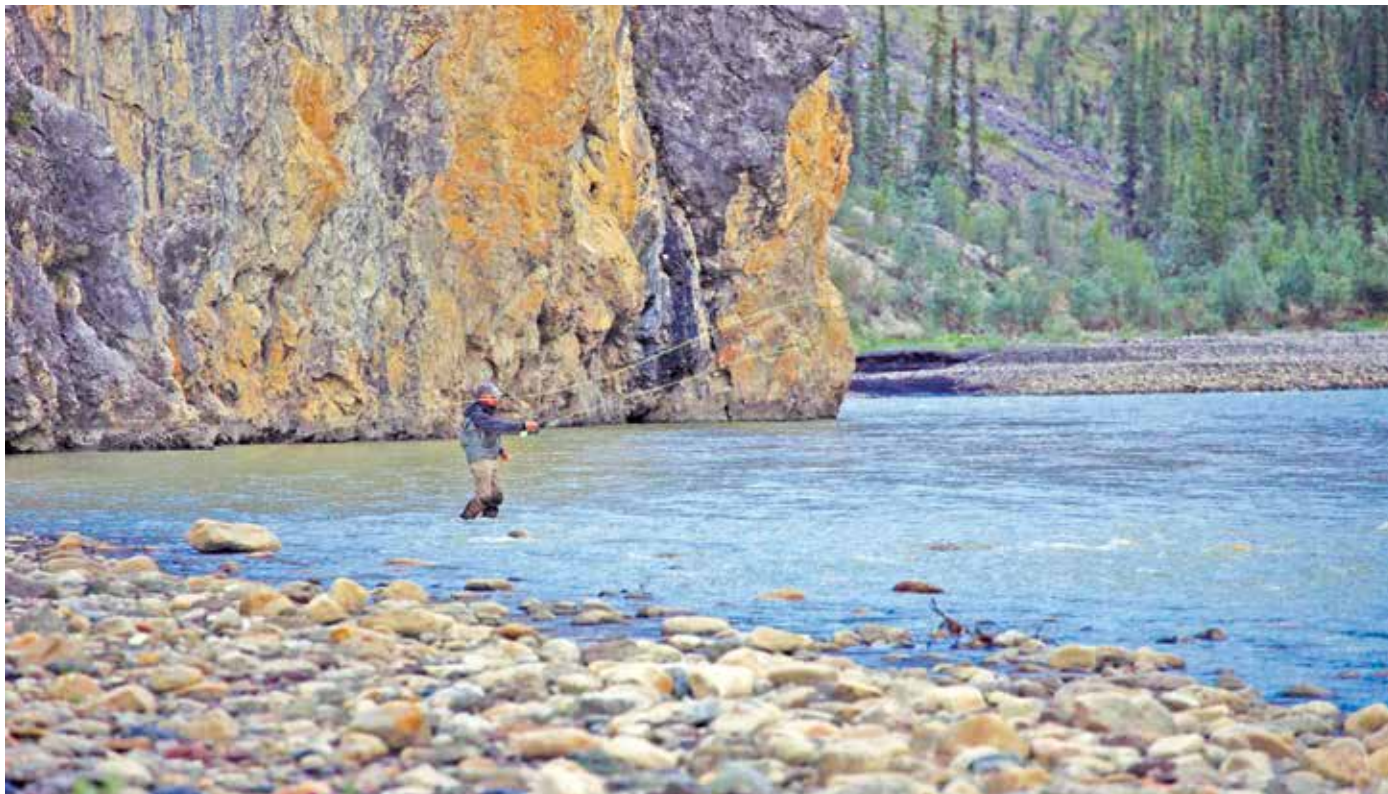


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eating establishment (not included) to recount tales of whitewater and canyons.

Day 14 HOMEWARD BOUND

This is the last date listed for your trip.

After goodbyes and a last look around Norman Wells, we will head for home with a cargo of fond and spectacular memories.

Please note: The above is a tentative agenda and has been designed to allow for exploration of this northern alpine river. Your guides will adjust the schedule to make the best use of river and weather conditions. The fast draining basin can cause water levels to change rapidly with rain events.

Wet suits or dry suits and helmets are mandatory for this trip. Plan to err on the side of extra warm clothing. If you wish, the guides can help decide if anything should be left behind.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are included from the pre-trip meeting until the final river meal. Any other meals off the river are your responsibility.

Hotel costs and meals while in Norman Wells are not included in the trip fee.

Contact Us

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