

Photo: JaNStudios.com

# The Mountain River by Raft – Continuous Whitewater

## Itinerary

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

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

### Day 1 (D) MOUNTAIN RIVER FLIGHT

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

## Trip Details

**Via helicopter from Willowhandle Lake to the Mountain River and then to the Mackenzie River, journey through the traditional territory of the Sahtu Dene First Nation:**

Approximately 288 km (190 miles)

**Cost:** \$7,650 + 5% GST  
(includes helicopter portage)


**Duration:** 12 River days

**Trip Type:** Raft

**Skill Level:**  
Beginner. The guides navigate with oars & paddling by participants is optional for those who want more activity

For more information, see the FAQ's at [nahanni.com](http://nahanni.com)

**Rendezvous Point:**  
Norman Wells, NWT

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

  
CANADIAN RIVER  
EXPEDITIONS

  
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River  
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### Upcoming Trip Dates

Tues July 2 - Sat July 13, 2019

Mon July 22 - Thurs Aug 1, 2019

Sun Aug 11 - Thurs Aug 22, 2019

*'The Mountain River comes close to having it all: canyons, white water, spectacular mountains, wildlife. Very difficult to be disappointed or bored up there.'* - past Mountain River guest

count on major purchases prior to the trip.

After loading the Twin Otter aircraft you will be flying westward over the dramatic Mackenzie Mountains. Be sure to keep lots of film handy! This is one of the first of many great highlights of the trip.

The Twin Otter will rendezvous with the helicopter at Willowhandle Lake. From here we will make the dramatic helicopter portage to our camp at the confluence of the creek with the Mountain River. Be sure to watch for mountain caribou and Dall sheep.

### Day 2 (B/L/D) WHITEWATER, FISHING & MORE

Embarking on the river we enjoy exciting wave trains as we navigate the braided channels. The gradient increases through the day with exciting hay stacks. This day as well as others are great 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.

### DAYS 3 (B/L/D) '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 Moonscape", 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!

### DAY 4 (B/L/D) BATTLESHIP ROCK & CANYON BEAUTY

The culinary delights for which we are famous are once again whipped up by our talented guides. Entering the first of the canyons we enjoy an exciting run and more displays of geological features. The day continues with lively



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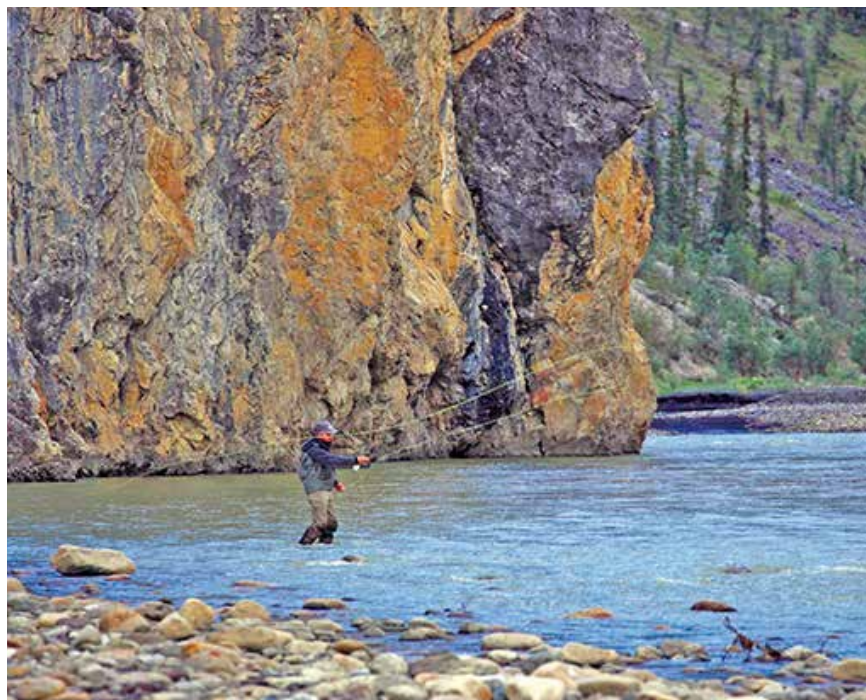


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### Suggested Reading

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 IceAge – The Return of Life to Glaciated North America** by E.C. Pielou

wave trains, more spectacular views and eventually brings us to Battleship Rock and the mouth of Second Canyon.

### DAY 5 & 6 (B/L/D) 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. Every night you will cozy up in your tent in the comforts that are the hallmark of our journeys.

### DAY 7 (B/L/D) THIRD CANYON

After negotiating the rapids of Third Canyon the river continues to wind through the mountain valley, dropping at a steep gradient. Moose, Dall sheep and grizzly inhabit the shores.

### DAY 8 (B/L/D) FOURTH & FIFTH CANYONS

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 Fifth Canyon.

### DAY 9 & 10 (B/L/D) 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 11 (B/L) MACKENZIE RIVER VALLEY

The river slows considerably and the surrounding mountains 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).

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### DAY 12 (B/L) ONWARD TO NORMAN WELLS

We will be met at our camp by a power boat to take us on the 3 – 5 hour ride 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 eating establishment (not included) to recount tales of whitewater and canyons.

### DAY 13 HOMEWARD BOUND

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.

Please note that hotel costs and meals while in Norman Wells are not included in the trip fee.

### Contact Us

#### Mailing address

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