



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

Your Trip

Photo: Noel Hendrickson

Nahanni River - Flatwater Canoeing

Rabbitkettle Lake to Virginia Falls

About the Journey

From the moment your float plane touches down on Rabbitkettle Lake in the Nahanni National Park, you will be in the spell of this historic waterway. Relaxing in Rabbitkettle Hotsprings and peacefully canoeing the Nahanni through the Mackenzie Mountains is magical. Virginia Falls provides the crescendo for this fabulous canoeing adventure for beginners on this world renowned river! The flatwater from Rabbitkettle Lake to Virginia

Falls is considered canoeable by novices and the grand finale of this trip includes a flight home over the Nahanni's canyons!

We canoe the Nahanni River beginning our journey at Rabbitkettle Lake with a 1/2 kilometre portage to the Nahanni River. We canoe on downstream to Virginia Falls where we have the option to join our Nahanni Canyon Adventure 7 Day trip or to continue by canoe or raft from Virginia Falls, through the canyons or fly home.

Nahanni River Details

A Nahanni River experience is on every paddler's "bucket list." Limited time? You can still enjoy the iconic features of this world-renowned river.

Cost: \$5,600 + 5% GST + \$200 park fee

Duration: 8 Days

Trip Type: Canoe

Skill Level: Beginner

Rendezvous Point: South
Nahanni Airways, Fort Simpson,
Northwest Territories

Prerequisites

Canoe: None, beginners welcome! Flat, moving water skills and good fitness.



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"Best adventure travel companies on earth"



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Upcoming Trip Dates

Friday June 29 - Friday July 6, 2018

Tuesday July 24 - Tuesday July 31, 2018

Itinerary

Day 1 MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN & CANYON FLIGHT

This is the first date 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 begin to immerse yourself in the wilderness experience that is about to unfold.

Your trip leader will meet you to transfer you to the float plane base (if you arrive prior, please make your way to your accommodation). There will be a chance for last minute questions concerning clothing, gear, packing and other details. You will also have time to transfer your gear into our river bags. You can leave unrequired items at our base/warehouse.

After loading our supplies and gear into the aircraft we begin one of the major highlights of the adventure - the upriver flight. As we fly over the majestic Nahanni Range and Ram Plateau, a visually stunning panorama unfolds in front of our eyes. You want to be sure to have your camera on your lap! Past participants have stepped off the plane declaring that "if the trip finished now, I would have my money's worth!"

Winging west, to the upstream boundary of Nahanni National Park, Rabbit Kettle Lake on the edge of the Ragged Range, is our destination.

Day 2 RABBITKETTLE HOTSPRINGS (GAHNJHTAH MJE)

In the company of a knowledgeable park warden we will hike the 7 kilometers (round trip) to the tufa mounds of Rabbit

Kettle Hotsprings. Here we find unique geological features that help weave together the geological past of the Nahanni. The 1 kilometer portage from the lake to the river will be made in the late afternoon. Camp will be downstream.

Day 3 & 4 MOUNTAIN PEAKS

This portion of the river which is above Virginia Falls is a flat, meandering section that allows opportunity to learn the necessary canoeing skills from the guides or brush up on techniques. The mountains and U-shaped valley created by the glaciers will dominate the scenery. Camping will be in one of the choice spots between Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls.

Day 5 OXBOW LAKE

As the river descends the valley, it begins to meander through lush vegetation. Moose, wolves, black and grizzly bear may be spotted here. The final camp before the falls will be on a small oxbow

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lake just off the river. This is a great site for wildlife viewing or fishing or hiking in the surrounding mountains.

Day 6 VIRGINIA FALLS (NÁJLCHO)

Virginia Falls (twice the height of Niagara) will be the destination. This is the other spot within the National Park where planes may land and we may see other campers here. Once here, the day may be spent exploring and photographing the area surrounding the falls.

Day 7 CANYON FLIGHT

Those remaining to join the One Week Nahanni Canyon Adventure from Virginia Falls, may opt for a full day hike.

Those departing the Nahanni will board the Twin Otter for the down river flight back to Fort Simpson. The dramatic flight following the river downstream will include views of the upper canyons, The Gate and Pulpit Rock, before heading across the Nahanni Plateau and karst lands, providing tremendous photographic material of Nahanni's Canyons! Arriving in Fort Simpson, you will have time to explore the northern town before leaving the next day (accommodation not included).

Day 8

HOMEWARD BOUND

This is the last date listed for your trip.

After a relaxing morning and time to look around the Village of Fort Simpson, you will board your homeward plane with a load of fond memories and a relaxed and renewed spirit!

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. We adhere to the departure regulation system of the Park which works to ensure that all river travelers have the same wilderness experience. Under certain conditions (weather, forest fire, plane availability and upriver conditions), it may be necessary to make our upriver flight soon after arrival. On the other hand, we have occasionally found ourselves waiting for safe flying conditions. In any event, we will have supper and find ourselves camped in Ft. Simpson or on the shores of the Nahanni. If we are required to overnight in Fort Simpson you are welcome to camp or take a hotel room (at your own cost). Hotel costs and meals while in Fort Simpson are not included in the trip fee. 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.

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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:

Nahanni – River of Gold... River of Dreams by Neil Hartling

Nahanni – The River Guide by Peter Jowett & Neil Hartling

Nahanni by Dick Turner

Wings Over the North by Dick Turner

Dangerous River by R.M. Patterson

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



Photo: Terry Parker



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