



## Your Trip

Photo: Archbould.com

# Snake River, Peel Watershed - Whitewater, Wildlife & Hiking in a Mountain Landscape

## Itinerary

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

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

### Day 0

#### ARRIVE IN WHITEHORSE

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.

This is the travel day. Please be in Whitehorse in time for an orientation meeting at the High Country Inn at 8 p.m. Participants are responsible for hotel accommodation 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 Duo Lakes to the confluence of the Peel River, Yukon Territory:

Approximately 300 km (180 miles) with an elevation drop of 800 m (2400 ft)

**Cost:** \$8,470 + 5% GST

**Duration:** 12 River days

**Trip Type:** Raft or Canoe


#### Skill Level

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

Canoe: Class II Whitewater  
(see *Canoe Pre-requisites* document)

#### Rendezvous Point:

High Country Inn  
Whitehorse, Yukon

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 CANADIAN RIVER EXPEDITIONS

 Nahanni River Adventures

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Photo: Pat Morrow

## Upcoming Trip Dates

Saturday June 30 - Friday July 13, 2018

## Raft & Canoe Pre-requisites

All beginners can raft the Snake.

As a canoeist you have an extensive "whitewater play" background.

For the last 3 years or more you have paddled Grade II whitewater at least 3 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.

### Day 1 (L/D)

#### MOUNTAIN FLIGHT

We will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 am. Following breakfast (not covered), and discuss final details before our departure. Traveling by van we will make the scenic 5 hour drive to the "end of the road" at Mayo. Here we will transfer to float plane and fly the spectacular and remote 135 miles into Duo Lakes. This is truly a stunning region of the Yukon wilderness! Have your camera handy for the flight.

### Day 2 - Raft (B/L/D)

#### HELI PORTAGE

The drama continues when a helicopter descends to our location at the lake. Hovering down the valley we will make several flights. First "slinging" our gear to the "put in point" near Reptile Creek (on

raft trips) and then carrying our crew to the same spot on a panoramic heli flight.

### Day 2 - Canoe (B/L/D)

#### UPPER CANYONS

The current is swift. As we pass through the upper canyons we will encounter sharp bends and small rapids. Camp will be in the vicinity of Reptile Creek. The canoeists make the 500m portage from Duo Lakes to the river. In this region the Snake is a broad braided fan and we may have to do some lining and dragging over gravel and rocks. Neoprene booties with tough soles or combined with sneakers will pay off here.

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

#### MOUNTAIN HIKING

From our base camp at the beautiful creek confluence we will hike up the local ridges for spectacular views of the surrounding ranges and four drainage basins. Here the

red ridges and peaks offer unusual and enticing opportunities for exploration.

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

#### BONNET PLUME RANGE

Back on the river we will be treated to expanses of fireweed and mini canyons. The Bonnet Plume Range dominates the horizon with a good possibility of spotting Dall sheep, caribou and grizzlies. After an exhilarating day of continuous Class II water, we will camp in view of the limestone peaks of Mount MacDonald. Glaciers dominate these peaks, and impressive panoramas are easily obtained from short hikes in the area.

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

#### MORE WHITEWATER

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



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talented guides. The canyon and a fun day with more class II rapids await.

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

#### ALPINE VALLEYS

Today we change river valleys! The Snake cuts through the mountain range in a fast, fun slalom ride. Camp is in our "new" valley.

### Day 7 (B/L/D)

#### MIDDLE CANYON

Here the river cuts through a short narrow canyon. At most water levels this is a class II run. A short portage is an option. Every night you will cozy up in your tent in the comforts that are the hallmark of our journeys.

### Day 8 (B/L/D)

#### ALPINE HIKE

Conditions permitting we will plan another hike in the dramatic range overlooking the valley.

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

#### LOWER CANYONS

Today we bid adieu to the mountains and enter an extended braided region of "Splits" as well as the lower canyons of the Snake. Moose, bear, wolves and peregrine falcon are possible here. The current remains fast and picking our channel in the "Snake Maze" is our main challenge.

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

#### PEREGRINE FALCONS

The Splits finally come together and the Snake starts to meander. Higher cliffs cut by numerous small creeks provide numerous wildlife corridors.

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

#### PEEL RIVER

We will leave the Snake and the final big bends from which it earns its name. Here we enter the larger and faster Peel River with high clay cliffs and aspen islands. Camp will be on the Peel.

### Day 12 (B/L)

#### ANOTHER DRAMATIC FLIGHT

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 13

#### 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:

**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

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



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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