



UNTAMED ROCKIES – WILDERNESS BACKPACKING

Tour W

Imagine, roaming through the endless wilderness for days without seeing other humans, with everything you need in your backpack. Stunning views, wide open spaces, beautiful mountains and pristine lakes, where you can try to catch your own meal for the day, swim in or just gaze at while you disappear into your own thoughts. Relax by the campfire and sleep under billions of stars.

Demands: You must be very fit, and capable of walking with a heavy backpack through rough terrain for the full length of the trip. Previous hiking, backpacking and camping experience is therefore required.

Insurance: For this trip it is highly recommended to purchase an adventure travel insurance package which covers search and rescue and other costs related to wilderness travel emergencies.

Insurance companies in Canada require that clients sign a waiver of liability and acknowledge the risks before the start of an adventure tour.

Included:

- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ 2 nights hotels (twin)
- ✓ Transfers from and to Edmonton
- ✓ All meals from lunch day 2 to lunch day 9
- ✓ Admission to the parks
- ✓ 2-person tent
- ✓ Camping and cooking equipment
- ✓ Camping- and permit fees
- ✓ Certified wilderness guide

Not included: flights, dinners and breakfasts in the hotels, personal equipment, 70 to 90 liter backpack for personal gear plus room for some group equipment and food, sleeping bag, self inflating mattress, fishing license, travel insurance.

Schedule 2017:

August 21 – September 05

Price: in CDN\$ taxes are included
1275.00 per person in twin rooms
1515.00 per person in single rooms

Guided wilderness backpacking and trekking trip into the untamed Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Experience this feeling in this guided wilderness backpacking trip, and sense the call of the wild!

Huge parts of the Canadian Rocky Mountains are protected in several National and Provincial Parks. This trip takes you deep into the Willmore Wilderness, located north west of famous Jasper National Park. Willmore is lesser known, much less visited and therefore a true unspoiled backpacking destination. With no roads and over 4500 square km (1737 square mi) the park encompasses an enormous terrain of untamed wilderness.

For 6 days you trekk through this wilderness. During this trip you can expect rivers, valleys, mountains, forests, swamps, lakes and alpine terrain. This is bear country, and home to many other animals including deer, sheep, goats, moose, beavers, cougars and wolves. You chose your own spots, cooking is over a fire or with the use of stoves and the creeks provide fresh drinking water.

These exclusive trips never follow the same route. The small group provides maximum experience and leaves minimum impact.

Along the way you learn about edible plants and berries, campfire building, about good spots to see wildlife, how to choose your camp sites, Rocky Mountain geology and, very important, how to navigate through this vast landscape, both with and without compass and modern tools.

Wilderness backpacking requires knowledge and understanding of this very terrain, combined with the skills and experience to safely and enjoyably find your way. In an area covering thousands of square kilometers, many times there are no or only poorly maintained man made roads, trails and signs. Part of the trip is off trail, meaning you have to navigate and find your own way. The only possible trails to follow then are the ones made by animals: the game trails.

You receive instructions about wilderness etiquette, the basics of navigation, wilderness safety and other important skills that are required for trekking into the wild where help can be days away.

Prevention of hazardous situations is the start of any trip plan. It is therefore mandatory for all participants to inform Timberwolf Tours of any medical conditions, such as allergies, medicine use and physical disabilities.

Day 1: Edmonton

Arrival at Edmonton Airport and transfer to your hotel. Here you meet up with your guide and the other trip participants for a pre trip meeting.

Day 2: Grande Cache

Driving through the prairies you head for the mountains. Past the town of Hinton you take the Scenic Highway to Alaska which takes you to our campground near the gate of Willmore Wilderness Park. Here you pitch your tent, check your gear and do all other preparations for your wilderness trip. Dinner is Canadian style over a campfire.

Day 3 - 8: Willmore Wilderness Park, hiking / trekking

You start off easy on the first day of hiking, using a well travelled trail with not much elevation gain, which leads to your first backcountry campsite. This gives you the chance to get used to your backpack, the terrain and everything else.

The average daily trekking time is 5 to 6 hours, the distance is about 12 km (7 mi), depending on route and terrain conditions. Almost every day you gain and lose altitude, ranging from 200 m (656 ft) on an easier day to up to a 1000 m (3280 ft).

The trails are from well maintained to poorly maintained, meaning from wide and open to sometimes narrow and overgrown with branches and brush. The off trail part can lead through open terrain, dense willow brush, thick overgrown forest and alpine terrain. There are several creeks and rivers to cross, from ankle deep to above knee deep water.

All your equipment is carried in your backpack, all together 20 - 25 kg (44 – 55 lb). A fair amount of this weight is from the food for the total duration of the trip, plus food for 1 day reserve. The diet is well balanced and contains enough calories and essential ingredients for the hard work your body performs. And the good thing: every day your pack gets lighter! Cooking is mostly on a stove, but on some places on the open campfire. The water for drinking and cooking comes from creeks and rivers, and is purified before consumption.

You sleep either by yourself in a 1 person tent or share a 2-person tent with somebody else. If weather allows (and your sleeping bag too), sleeping under the stars is always an option.

Even though it is summer, with generally warm days (20 - 30 C, 68 – 86 F), the weather in the mountains can change rapidly. It might rain and even snow. Temperatures might drop below freezing during the night, especially at higher elevations. Thus, harsh weather can sometimes be expected.

Among the wildlife you hopefully see along the way, the summer brings out another guest in this terrain; mosquitoes. Just to let you know.

Fishing is possible along the way. A fresh catch can make a very nice supplement to your meal! Be advised that a fishing license is mandatory. If interested, please ask for details.

Last but not least: safety! Traveling through the wilderness means putting yourself in an environment where help can be days away. Therefore, safety is always priority number 1. Before your trip starts you receive instructions in the principals and skills needed for your group to safely enjoy the wilderness trip, including wildlife encounters and emergency situations.

Day 9: Edmonton

Drive back to Edmonton, to your hotel, arrival around 6:30 pm. Your tour ends when you reach the hotel for the last night.

Day 10: Transfer to the Edmonton Airport.

Important:

Please note that due to the expedition nature of this trip, changes in the itinerary could be necessary, and are left up to the discretion of the guide.