



MOUNTAIN RIVER CANOE ADVENTURE

TOUR K5

Fun, thrills and action on this downriver trip in open Canadian canoes. You learn to "read" the water and practice minimum impact wilderness camping. A day of training on quiet water prepares you for the run down the mighty Athabasca River. The selected stretch of the river can be mastered by novice paddlers, but the current, some rapids, overhanging trees, driftwood and gravel bars demand constant vigilance. Experienced canoeists find plenty of challenge in this wilderness setting. There are no towns, no houses along the route, just the wide river, islands and forests. A truly Canadian outdoor adventure.

Demands: this guided canoe trip is suitable for novice paddlers with at least some very basic paddling skills. International classification of difficulty (1 is lowest, 5 is highest) rates this stretch of the Athabasca River as Class I overall with several Class I and II rapids and one Class III rapid.

This is a wilderness trip. Interrupting the tour is difficult once started and is only attempted in case of emergency. Guide has satellite telephone.

Included:

- ✓ transportation from and to Edmonton
- ✓ 4 nights accommodation in 2-pers. tents
- ✓ welcome gift
- ✓ all meals from lunch day 1 to lunch day 5
- ✓ eating utensils
- ✓ all camping equipment (except sleeping bag)
- ✓ hard-foam mattress
- ✓ camping fees
- ✓ 2-pers. canoes, paddles, life vest
- ✓ canoe bags in various sizes
- ✓ canoe instructions
- ✓ knowledgeable canoeing guide.

Not included: alcoholic beverages, personal equipment, gratuities, sleeping bag.

Hotel in Edmonton before or after the tour \$130.00 single or twin.



FULLY OUTFITTED GUIDED CANOE TRIP IN TWO-PERSON OPEN CANADIAN CANOES

FUN FOR BEGINNERS BUT WITH ENOUGH THRILLS AND CHALLENGES FOR ADVANCED PADDLERS

NO PORTAGES

TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS ON QUIET LAKE

WILDERNESS CAMPING WITH SMALL GROUP

BUILDING BLOCK WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Group size: maximum 12 persons

Length of Tour: 5 days

start Mondays with pick up in Edmonton, Hinton or Jasper.

Minimum age: 12 years accompanied by an adult.

All departures are guaranteed.

Dates and prices can be found in the price list and on our website.

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Day 1: EDMONTON - You meet your guide early in the morning in Edmonton. An alternate pick up point is in the town of Hinton (near Jasper). After a 3-hour drive towards the west you pitch your tent by a lake and get ready for the canoe training. You learn the basic paddle strokes, emergency procedures and signals. You receive advice regarding camping in the wilderness, personal equipment and work sharing of the crews. The selected river stretches can be mastered by novices, but the current, some rapids and gravel bars demand constant vigilance. Tomorrow, on the river, training will continue. Safety and comfort of the participants are the primary concerns of the guide. Tonight's dinner is steak from the grill.

Days 2 to 4: ON THE RIVER - Not needed luggage may stay safely with the bus. For the next three nights you pitch your tent on sandy islands or comfortable spots along the shore. Your paddling speed depends a lot on the water level. The glacier fed Athabasca River is full of power in the early season, clear and quiet in the fall when even the glaciers in the mountains stop melting. The forested river valley is uninhabited. You have excellent chances to spot wild geese, beavers, eagles, elk, bear and moose. Five or six hours daily are spent on the river, at times leisurely drifting downstream, alert to the next rapid or obstacle. Sometimes you might have to drag the boat over shallow spots. There is time for swimming, exploring, fishing and big campfires under the northern lights.

It is actually easy and satisfying to keep a clean camp. Minimum impact means that your group spends an afternoon and the night camping, cooking and playing on some island, not "improving" nature in any way, leaving no trace but footprints in the sand - which the next rain washes away.

Day 5: EDMONTON - This afternoon you come to the end of your 160 km (100 mi) canoe trip. The bus is waiting near the town of Whitecourt, the first human settlement since the start of your tour. Time for a celebration. You are back in Edmonton by evening.

BUILDING BLOCKS:

Tour P7, Best of Banff and Jasper, our popular 7-day camping trip with great day hikes in the Rocky Mountain National Parks, fits all departures.

Tour P9, Best of Banff and Jasper, Hotels (7 days)

This combination is our Tour PK, Hiking and Canoe – Hotel and Camping Mix.

Tour L, Alone on your own island in the river.

We gladly arrange reasonable hotel accommodation and stress free transfers between the programs.