



CANOEING THE NAHANNI RIVER

From
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Description

The Nahanni River is one of the world's great wilderness destinations. It is the experience of a lifetime to explore this remote, pristine alpine river valley. You will discover a mountainous wonderland with breathtaking canyons, a magnificent waterfall, diverse wildlife, and exciting paddling on this fast flowing river. The two week Nahanni Classic trip is the most popular canoe expedition on the Nahanni River. The route follows the river from the old park boundary at Rabbitkettle Lake to Virginia Falls, through the spectacular canyons section to the Mackenzie Lowlands and the confluence of the Liard River. The trip is highlighted by fun class I and 2 whitewater, interesting day hikes up tributary canyons, wildlife viewing and exploring Virginia Falls (also known as Nailicho). Although well known, the river is so remote that on average, only 200 people paddled the river in each season. The Nahanni Classic trip is suitable for paddlers with some previous canoe camping and whitewater experience but advanced whitewater skills are not required.

The surrounding mountains and glaciers are the largest in the Northwest Territories. Part of the Nahanni watershed was established in 1976 as a National Park Reserve, pending the settlement of Dene land claims. Since then, the Park has been designated a World Heritage Site of global significance by UNESCO and the South Nahanni River has been recognized as a Canadian Heritage River.

The Nahanni is a boreal environment, consisting of forests of black and

white spruce, with aspen and poplar in the valley bottoms, which give way to open alpine tundra in the mountains. In places, forest fires have created a varied vegetation allowing many stages of plant life to develop. The park has excellent moose and beaver habitats. Woodland caribou, Dall sheep, deer and black bear are often observed in the park. Grizzlies, with their large range, are not common. Over one hundred and seventy species of birds have been recorded, including trumpeter swans, bald and golden eagles, gyrfalcon and peregrine falcons. The river has several fish species, however, the river is quite silty, fishing is not great. Dolly varden, lake trout and arctic grayling can be caught in the clearer waters of tributaries.

Join us for this famous authentic Canadian paddling trip of a lifetime!

Highlights

- Paddle the Nahanni, a UNESCO world heritage site
- 260 km of canoeing on Canada's best famed river
- Abundant wildlife and amazing landscapes
- Remoteness of the North West Territories only accessible by bush plane
- Accessible to all, even with little paddling experience
- Varied activities : paddling, hiking, photography, hot springs, the great outdoors
- Luxurious backcountry camping

Itinerary

Day 1 : Welcome to Fort Simpson

Noon ! Your guides will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the base camp for a pre-trip meeting, gear check and orientation at the National Parks office. The group will board a chartered flight to Rabbitkettle Lake (weather permitting).

If there are several flights you may have to wait of several hours while aircraft returns from the river, refuels and reloads. Arriving at our first camp we set up for the night and start practicing our first canoeing strokes.

BLD

NOTICE : Flight from Edmonton Airport to Fort Simpson. (EDMONTON / FORT SIMPSON FLIGHT NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE)



Camp

Day 2 to 3 : Rabbitkettle Lake to Virginia Falls

The Rabbitkettle Lake area is famous for its limestone tuffs and hot springs that are the source of this particular relief. During these 2 days you will approach these natural beauties. First hike around Rabbitkettle Lake and canoe to get to the Nahanni River. Finally, in front of you, the river meanders between the mountains. You will reach it by a marked path of 1 km, the canoe on the back.

This time, you are comfortably seated inside your canoe. We start the descent of the river. The currents are there, but the descent is easy. In the distance, the noise roars. These are the famous Virginia Falls. Before

reaching them, we set up the camp at the shore, on a small pebble beach.



Camp

Day 4 to 5 : Virginia Falls

Departure early this morning. We put away the camp and take the road aboard the canoes. As the sun rises we distinguish in the distance the fog caused by these tons of water hitting the river 92 meters below. Near the falls, a second day of hiking awaits us to climb to Mount Sunblood and discover, on a clear day, the entire course. The 118 km route is more calm, no big rapids.

This section is located in a valley with a slope of about 0.7m / km. Nights in wild camping.



Camp

Day 6 to 11 : Nahanni Canyons – Virginia Falls to the Splits

The erosion caused by the flow of the high falls of 92 m dug the Fourth canyon and it is from there that the river reveals to you its exceptional personality. Your route imprints this section with 4 fabulous canyons that make the reputation of the Nahanni Basin. Peaceful or rumbling, the Nahanni welcomes you for 5 days in a grandiose setting with its rapids, deep canyons, Deadman Valley salty land whose Dall sheep love, its meanders and pinnacles, its walls exceeding 450 m, its door from Hell or she meanders hairpin before entering a narrow canyon.

The rapids roar and its waves will challenge the bravest. The river will also offer you beautiful moments of rest at coves Lafferty and George, where you can indulge in hiking, fishing, photography or exploration of its banks. This part of 150 km, up to the thermal springs follows a slope of 1.7m / km which will soften downstream of the sources to reach 1.1 m / km. From there, the river splits into many fast-flowing channels called “Splits”. Before riding them, we can get a peaceful evening.



Camp

Day 12 to 13 : The “Splits” to Lindberg Landing

This first day, we take the famous Splits, these channels which seems dividing the river.

The next day, after having closed the camp, you will begin the last portion of your expedition on the Nahanni. Some easy rapids to reach Nahanni Butte. Here, motorboats await you to make your way to your Lindberg Landing accommodation on the banks of the Liard River.

There you can have a good shower and enjoy a meal prepared on the BBQ.

Day 14 : Lindberg landing to Fort Simpson – Departure

Goodbye Nahanni River ! This Morning, you will take the van shuttle back to Fort Simpson, transfer to Ft Simpson airport for flights home.

Note:

B = breakfast

L = lunch
D = diner

Itinerary note:

The guide reserves the right to modify the itinerary for the group's safety depending on the weather and general operating conditions.

Dates & prices

- 9 July - 22 July 2021
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- 14 July - 27 July 2021
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- 23 July - 5 August 2021
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- 6 August - 19 August 2021
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- 18 August
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- 20 August
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All our prices are on double occupancy basis. Please contact us regarding the single, triple or quadruple rates.

Inclusive

- Accommodation D1 to D12 : 12 nights camping
- 1 night in rustic homestay In Linberg Landing on D13
- Transport : bush plane transfer from Fort Simpson to Rabbitkettle Lake on day 2

- Meals : All meals and snacks from diner day 1 to breakfast day 14.
- Experienced and extremely qualified canoeing guides
- All canoeing equipment o custom 17' ABS expedition canoes with spray decks and knee pads o paddles, pfd's, throw bags, paddling helmets
- All camping equipment : o tents - free standing custom expedition dome tents - 2 per tent o 'kitchen' - tarp, fire box, cooking stoves, utensils, dishes, etc o containers for food and group equipment
- Safety equipment : o Firrst aid, safety, river rescue, and repair kits o Communications equipment (satellite phone)
- Seaplane transfer on Day 1
- Boat transfer on D13 to Lindberg Landing
- Land transfer from Lindberg Landing to Fort Simpson on day 14
- Transfer to Fort Simpson airport on D2 et D14

Non inclusive

- Accomodation D14
- Entry fees to Nahanni National Park of 200\$/person
- Non mentioned meals in the program
- All transport to and from Edmonton
- Personal clothing and gear - a recommended clothing & equipment list will be provided
- Travel insurance - emergency evacuation
- Expenses due to canceled flights (accommodation and meals)
- Tips for guides and leader
- Personal expenses
- Taxes (GST - 5%)

1. Name

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