

Wilderness Adventures.CA / Sea to Sky Expeditions

<http://wildernessadventures.ca/bowronlakes10day.html>

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Bowron Lakes 10 Day Canoe Trip

ITINERARY

Water conditions, weather and other unforeseen circumstances may result in changes to the itinerary.

You will be traveling with our west coast sister company "Sea to Sky Expeditions".

PREPARATION

Prior canoeing experience is not necessary. Our guides will provide basic instruction with the paddling, along with safety awareness. It would be in your interest however, to take a flatwater canoe course from a local canoe club/association, or rent videos and library books detailing basic canoe instruction.

GETTING THERE

Vancouver

Many of the major North American carriers fly into Vancouver or alternately, Seattle. Check with your travel agent for details. There is a bus service, Quick Shuttle at www.quickcoach.com, from Seattle's airport to hotels in Vancouver. These run daily and are affordable. For more information, in North America, phone 1/800/665-2122 or 1/604/940-4428 – Fax 1/604/940-4429. Information regarding shuttles and other airport information is available at www.yvr.ca/

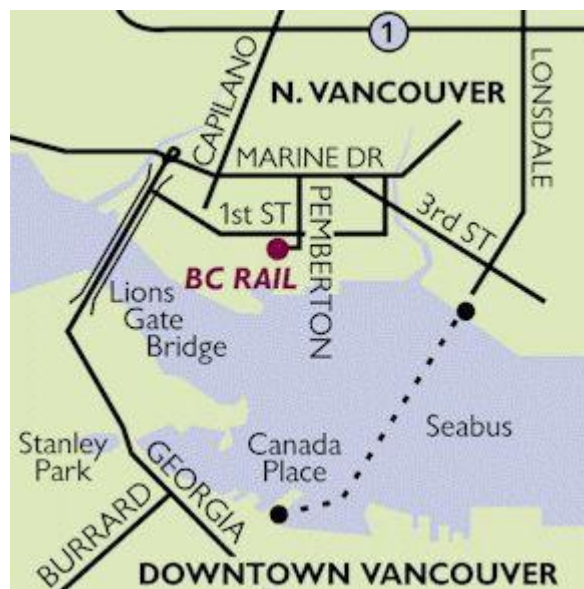
On Your Own:

We can pick up in Quesnel or meet you at Bear River Mercantile on Bowron Lake.

Air: Daily flights with Air BC at www.aircanada.ca/

Bus: Daily with Greyhound Bus at www.greyhound.ca.

Car: Take Barkerville turn off just north of Quesnel on Hwy 26. It is 89 km (53 mi) to Wells. Proceed through Wells toward Barkerville. Look for signs for Bowron Lakes. A 28 km gravel road will lead you to the Bowron Lakes.



With Us From North Vancouver, BC: Reaching North Vancouver, just 35 minutes from the airport, means flying into Vancouver [see **Vancouver**]. Public bus transit, although possible, is not a very good alternative due to distance and transfers. Taxi service another means of reaching the North Shore of Vancouver. Alternately, taking an airport shuttle into Vancouver and transferring to Skytrain www.translink.bc.ca/Transportation_Services/SkyTrain/default.asp [get off at Waterfront Station] is an option.

Please note: The only pick-up spot will be along Capilano Road (at one of the hotels listed below) in North Vancouver, if you are staying somewhere else in Vancouver you will need to find your own transportation to Capilano Road by the pick-up time your guides provide for you the night before (usually around 7am).

North Vancouver

It is difficult to recommend accommodation as needs and price considerations vary. Tourism British Columbia can help you locate the accommodation that best suits your needs. In North America phone, **1-800-HELLO BC**. Outside North America phone, 1-250-387-1642 or visit www.HELLOBC.com/

We do recommend that accommodation be selected in North Vancouver. We have suggested 3 Inns which are easy to access from downtown Vancouver and are also good pick-up points.

Comfort Inn

1748 Capilano Road,
North Vancouver, BC, CA, V7P 3B4
Phone: (604) 988-3181

http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-north_vancouver-canada-CN554

BEST WESTERN Capilano Inn & Suites

1634 Capilano Road,
North Vancouver, British Columbia V7P 3B4
Phone: (604) 987-8185

<http://bestwesternbc.com/north-vancouver-hotels>

NORTH VANCOUVER HOTEL

1800 Capilano Road,
North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3B6
Phone: 604-987-4461

<http://www.northvancouverhotel.ca/>

IMPORTANT: If you choose to stay at any other location then you must plan to be at one of these pickup points at 7 am the first morning of your trip to meet the group and guides for the drive up to the Bowron Lakes.

Meeting Us at The Bowron Lakes?

If you are planning on meeting us at the Bowron Lakes then we will be pleased to provide you with a list of hotels/motels in Quesnel upon request. If you are driving on to the Bowron Lakes, accommodation is possible at either Bowron Lake Lodge or Becker's Lodge, both of which are situated on the lake.

WEATHER

Conditions in the Cariboo Mountains environment can range widely between extremes. The only fact you can bet on is that it can change instantly. This means that although we may enjoy fine weather, we must also be prepared for changes. On any given day you may experience sunny, hot, dry weather that is interrupted by periods of rain. When packing, please be prepared for heat waves, rainy weather, and cold spells.

MOSQUITOES

Mosquito populations vary according to season, temperature, rainfall, and wind. Be prepared with mosquito repellent and a head net if you have no tolerance for these suckers, especially in June and July.

FISHING

A fishing license is required if you intend to fish. Non-residents can expect to pay about \$30 Cdn for a five day permit. Permits are available from Bear River Mercantile. Please keep in mind that ours is a canoeing adventure and, as such, fishing is an aside. It will be possible to troll or fish in the evening after we have set up camp.

FOOD

We provide all meals, beverages, and snacks while canoeing on the lakes. Please use the following reference to see what meals are provided:

B - Breakfast **L** - Lunch **D** - Dinner

INCLUDED: Transportation from and to from North Vancouver, Bowron Park user fees, accommodation at Williams Lake, camping fees, cooking gear, camp stoves, tents, meal preparations, canoes, canoe carts, paddles, life jackets, canoe dry bags, meals/snacks/beverages on the expedition, tarps, major first aid supplies, emergency radio or satellite phone, and professional guides.

EXCLUDED: Transportation to point of origin, transfers, accommodation and food other than included in the itinerary, gratuities, and personal equipment.

DAILY ITINERARY

Please note that you have entered into a group dynamic. Decisions taken by our leaders are directed to the welfare of the group. Although they will strive to meet individual needs, it may not be possible under certain circumstances.

Day 0 – Arrival in Vancouver. You should be here at least one day before the start date of your trip. Your guide will contact you in the evening before the trip start date to answer last minute questions and announce a pickup time in the morning. Please remember that we can only pick up in North Vancouver for this trip.

Day 1 – All meals on this travel day are your responsibility.

Transportation from Vancouver to Bowron Lakes, by arrangement. **Expect to leave around 7 a.m.** The route to the Bowron Lakes is through the interior of B.C. and highlights various scenic landscapes and towns. The drive will take about 8 – 10 hours [includes stops]. Our campsite is at Bear River Mercantile at the Bowron Lakes that evening. We will use the evening [dependent on our arrival time] to prepare for the next morning.

Day 2 - B/L/D

We will attend an 8:00 am orientation at the registration center. This is a requirement of the park. You'll be wondering whether this is indeed a canoeing expedition as the two longest portages along the circuit are today. The portages are made easier by the use of specially designed carts that allow canoes and a some equipment to be wheeled between lakes.

Frank Kibbee wandered into the Bowron Lakes area from the U.S. at the turn of the century. A frontiersman, who claimed to have participated with Custer at the Little Big Horn, became a trapper and guide. In 1926 when Bowron Lake became a Game Reserve, he was appointed the first game warden. He eventually moved to Vancouver where he died during the 1940s.

The first portage to Kibbee Lake (2.4 km). Along the way will be evidence of a blowdown area. In 1975 a fierce storm, with winds over 100 km/h, knocked trees over like bowling pins. Kibbee Lake is a short lake, only 2.4 km long. Just the ideal length to begin to work on technique and acclimatizing muscles. As we paddle across the lake we will pass a creek which drains Thompson Lake. In the distance we will see the snowcapped mountains of the Cariboo Range.

Our second portage (2 km) will take us to Indianpoint Lake. A short paddle (2.8 km) will bring us to our campsite at Kruger Bay (#1).

Day 3 – B/L/D

About 2.5 km from Kruger Bay, Indianpoint Lake narrows and our route wanders through a small marsh. Beaver dams and lodges dot the area. The Isaac Lake portage (1.6 km) brings us to Isaac Lake, the longest (38 km) lake on the circuit. Some of the most breathtaking alpine scenery is located along Isaac and Lanezi lakes. Our campsite is Wolverine Bay (#2).

Across the lake from our campsite is Wolverine Mountain (2,056 m) and Mount Peever (2,100 m). A number of peaks have been named for servicemen killed during WWII.

Day 4 - B/L/D: Isaac Lake is notorious for its winds and sudden squalls. We will get an early start to take advantage of the morning calm. This will be a day to enjoy the surrounding grandeur and absence of any portages. We will stop to see the cabin at Moxley Creek (4 km) and take in some of the earlier “artwork” of circuit paddlers. Another cabin is located at Lynx Creek (7.6 km) near Betty Wendle Creek. Our campsite (#3) is about another 8 km.

George Isaac was drawn to the area around 1864 by the promise of gold. Along with two other partners, he sought gold in the creeks, rivers and bedrock of the Cariboo region. He must have been a well recognized figure in the area as an 1887 map shows that Big Lake was renamed Isaac Lake. He continued to be involved in the region until his death in 1912.

Joe Wendle arrived in the Cariboo in the mid 1890s. He married Betty Wendle in 1910 and they took up residency in Barkerville. Shortly afterwards they opened a lodge and guiding business on Bowron Lake, which today is the Bowron Lake Lodge. They operated the business until 1935. Their contribution to the area is recognized in Wendle Provincial Park and Betty Wendle Creek.

Day 5 - B/L/D: Once again we will get an early start to take advantage of the calm. Our paddle continues amidst the surrounding peaks and ridges to our destination at the end of Isaac Lake (#4). This will be a short day. Weather and conditions cooperating, we will have time to play in the fast water of Isaac River.

Day 6 - B/L/D: Guess what? Its portage time again. The Isaac River connects Isaac Lake with McLeary Lake. Although part of the river can be run, we won't take any chances. After about a 1.6 km portage we will put in on Isaac River and cross over to the other side and continue portaging (1.2 km) to McLeary Lake. Along this stretch we will hike off the path to view Isaac Falls (11 m).

McLeary Lake (1.2 km) is but a backwater formed by the confluence of the Isaac and Cariboo rivers. Having paddled McLeary we will enter the Cariboo River for a winding (5.2 km) ride into Lanezi Lake. A review of response to various scenarios and paddling technique, with attention to stumps and sweepers in the river, will result in a safe experience. Our campsite is at Turner Creek (#5).

Day 7 - B/L/D: Our paddle on Lanezi Lake takes us past imposing Ishpa Mountain (2530 m). Ishpa is Takulli for *My Father*. We enter a short section of the Cariboo River at the end of Lanezi. This 1.2 km stretch of river brings us to Sandy Lake. Just before Sandy Lake are mineral deposits which attract animals. Keep your eyes peeled! Sandy Lake is as the name implies. Shallow water and sandy beaches make it an ideal spot to take a dip. At the end of Sandy Lake (4.8 km) we once again enter the Cariboo River for 4 km. Our campsite is Unna Lake (#6), a beautiful spot.

The vegetation is unique here, as it lies in a rain-shadow area, and as a result, is much drier than surrounding areas. After setting up camp, we will paddle to the south end of the lake and then hike 1.5 km to spectacular Cariboo Falls (26 m).

Day 8 - B/L/D: You will have become aware of the change from the high mountains and ridges of Isaac and Lanezi to a more undulating topography. We will backtrack to Babcock Creek. The creek (1.2 km) empties into Babcock Lake. We have to portage our canoes to Babcock Lake. Babcock Lake (2.8 km) is an ideal location to observe moose, who enjoy the lush vegetation along its shoreline. A short (very) portage (400 m) will bring us to Skoi (pronounced squaw) Lake (0.6 km). No sooner do we put in, than we begin another short (very) and final portage (400 m) to Spectacle Lakes. Our campsite is Pat Point (#7), 5.2 km from our Spectacle Lakes put in point.

Day 9 – B: This is our last day on the circuit. We will leave early in the morning in the hopes of completing our paddle by mid-afternoon. It is 3.2 km from Pat Point to Swan Lake. Swan Lake (5 km) is an extension of Spectacle Lakes. Our paddle will take us past Pavich Island, once named Deadman's Island, as it was believed that many Takullis died here from small pox. At the end of Swan Lake we will enter the Bowron River for 4 km. The Bowron River estuary is a prime bird area. There is an immense variety of bird life found here.

John Bowron, like many others, arrived in the Cariboo from eastern Canada in search of gold in the 1860s. During his years in Barkerville and surrounding regions he held a number of responsibilities including librarian, constable, mining recorder, postmaster and gold commissioner. After the death of his first wife in Barkerville in 1895, he moved to Victoria, where at the age of 60, he married a woman half his age. He died (probably with a smile on his face) in 1906.

Our hope is that we will have sufficient time to visit Barkerville if the group is interested, restored historical center of the Cariboo Gold Rush. *Barkerville entry fee cost is your responsibility.* (about \$10 per person) We will drive to Williams Lake for the evening. This makes our return to Vancouver on Day 10 a shorter day. Accommodations are included for this night.

Day 10 - We will return you to Vancouver, arriving in the afternoon.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Davidson, James West & Ruge, John . *The Complete Wilderness Paddler*. Random House, Elliot, Gordon. *Barkerville, Quesnel, and the Cariboo*. Douglas, 1978.

Wright, Richard. *The Bowron Lakes: A Year Round Guide*. Special Interest Publications, 1985.

Mason, Bill. *Path of the Paddle*. Key Porter Books,

Wright, Richard. *Discover Barkerville*. Special Interest Publications, 1984.

Bowron Lakes 10 Day Canoe Trip Map

