

Wilderness Trail Tour – 11 days

10 days with Huskies



Dates: 28th Nov 2018 to 20th March 2019

Wednesday departures only

Cost: £1865

Participants: max 6 clients per guide

Room in Whitehorse: £95

Step back in time on this Wilderness Trail Tour. This tour will take you on historic trails used by many trappers over the years. Spend the first few days learning the basics of mushing, forming a relationship with your dogs and exploring the untouched beauty of the Fish Lake area. Then imagine yourself as an old time trapper setting off into the wilderness to make your living, sleeping in our wall tent camp for two or three nights and then on to Coal Lake camp where we have an original trapper cabin. If you are lucky you may see the amazingly beautiful Aurora Borealis dancing in the skies for you. We do everything we can to ensure that this is your adventure of a lifetime and that you go home with many happy memories of your visit.

* Depending on the dynamics of the group this tour may include a 3rd tent night and the itinerary may change slightly.

* Please note that dog sledding is comparable to cross country skiing and does require you to be in relatively good physical shape.

* **We do recommend that you arrive the day before your tour.** Whether you arrive the day of your tour or days before don't worry we'll take care of you. All clients will be picked up at the airport upon arrival and taken to a hotel or straight to the ranch. Pre and Post nights can be booked for you upon request.

Day 1 Wednesday

The morning on the day of your tour you will be picked up at 10am in the hotel lobby. As a group we will do some last minute shopping and pick up any items missing from the packing list. Afterwards we drive to the lodge, 20km from Whitehorse where we outfit you with your expedition clothing. Enjoy a light lunch and then be introduced to your 4 legged companions for the week. Now you learn the basics of; dog care, checking their feet and shoulders, dog massage, sledding and parts of the sled. Harness your team, hook up and go for your very first run! After taking care of the dogs we can enjoy the sauna, have a shower, hot dinner and cosy up by the fire.(B,L)

Day 2 Thursday

While the morning sun lifts slowly over the magnificent horizon, we sit in the comfort of our lodge dining room having breakfast and plan our day. Then we say good morning to our new canine friends and ensure they are fed, watered and happy before harnessing them around 11am. Today we cover approximately 35km in distance driving towards secluded Jackson Lake. The only sound will be the runners in the snow, the working dogs, and your words of encouragement. This is the day that you begin to know each dog's personality and form a bond that only man and dog can understand. With every stop, praise and show of affection for your dogs, they will learn to trust you and you to trust them.

Overnight at lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Friday

Today your team will pull you east of the lodge. As we climb in elevation we are heading onto an old abandoned mining road on McIntyre Mountain. Enjoy the pristine landscape of the coastal mountains nestling Fish Lake in it's valley. Keep an eye out for wildlife - you never know what you might see! Return to lodge for the night. Take care of the dogs and then curl up by the fire or sit around the dinner table recounting your adventures with others. There is a gravity fed shower waiting for you in the main lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Saturday

This day takes us towards beautiful Bonneville Lakes, west of the ranch. The trails are narrower here with some challenging ups and downs. The scenery is breath-taking and the coastal mountains are always in view to the south and west. Part of the trip we are above tree line and easily cover 20-30km. In harmony with the running rhythm of your team you will enjoy nature like you have never experienced it before. There is a gravity fed shower and relax in our sod roof sauna before retiring for the night in the lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Sunday

Imagine yourself years ago when only dogsled was used for transportation. Head out into the untouched wilderness for 3 days of winter camping at our wall tent camp at Dry Creek. The silence of the area seeps into your soul as you journey farther into the amazing landscape surrounding the Fish Lake Area. The trail on this day follows the shores of Fish Lake, climbs and heads into the coastal mountain range to the south. Enjoy the crisp freshness of this day and don't forget to take photos! Curl up at night by the woodstove for a cosy sleep in our wall tents. (B,L,D)

Day 6 Monday

At dawn enjoy a hearty camp breakfast in our wall tent kitchen. From our camp, weather permitting we will make a run to the top of the mountain above the tree line to Ptarmigan Flats. Keep your eyes open for this beautiful white bird, while sledding on miles of wind blown hill tops. Over night at Wall tent Camp.(B,L,D)



Day 7 Tuesday

On this day we wake to a hearty musher's breakfast, feed our dogs and start our journey back to base for another cosy night in the lodge. Sit by the fire and recount the adventures of your winter camping trip with others at the lodge.(B,L,D)

Day 8 Wednesday

Leave the last remnants of civilization, step back in time and become one with your team as you mush the historic trails to our trapper cabin at remote Coal Lake. Everything we need for this camp will be packed on our sleds. Here we live the simple life with just the basics; cutting firewood, cooking over the fire or on the woodstove, heating water for washing, mushing the scenic trails and sharing stories by the fire in the evening. We have a good chance of seeing Caribou or moose in this area so keep your camera handy! Overnight at Coal Lake base camp. (B,L,D)

Day 9 Thursday

Today our journey takes us across Coal Lake towards Alligator Lake. The Alpine landscape is enticing and has a northern charm all it's own. Here your driving skills will be tested, as a few trails will demand your attention. Coal Lake is a favourite spot for ice fishing and has been used as a food supply for many an old time trapper. Overnight at Coal Lake base camp. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Friday

Wake with the sun and greet the day with a hot cup of coffee and a hearty breakfast. On this last day of mushing, breathe deeply the fresh clean air and take in the rugged landscape one last time as you run your team back towards base. As you mush over the clean white snow, listen one last time to the quiet whoosh of the runners and the soft panting of the dogs. Keep those memories forever with some last photos of your return trip. Back at the lodge you will have a hot lunch. Pack your belongings and enjoy the drive winding down Fish Lake Rd. to Whitehorse for your last night in the Best Western Gold Rush Inn. Once we arrive in Whitehorse you will receive your musher diploma. (B,L)

Day 11 Saturday

The hotel van (or taxi) brings you to the airport for your flight.



Included:

Transfer from and to Whitehorse

Last night accommodations in Whitehorse (1 night double room)

Accommodation in cabins (5 or 6 nights' double room) or heated tent outpost camps (4 or 5 nights' group accommodation)

All meals including non-alcoholic beverages, except dinner day 10 and breakfast day 11 in Whitehorse

Use of personal sled and 3 to 6 Huskies

Musher Certificate after Tour
Winter Boots included, all other equipment see below*

Not Included:

Alcoholic beverages (we buy jointly before the tour)

***Rental of winter clothing – jacket, trousers, sleeping bag and mitts for around CAD\$135 payable upon arrival in cash or travellers cheques.**

Meals in restaurants (dinner days 10 and breakfast day 11)

All expenses of personal nature

Note:

*This Dog sledding adventure is a challenging but relaxed fun trip! We supply you with the best equipment possible, teach you all the important aspects of mushing and prepare the trails as good as possible.

*To participate, you must be healthy, enjoy working with dogs and have a good team spirit. Dog sledding is a comparable physical activity to cross-country skiing, so you should be in relatively good physical shape.

*We point out, that unforeseeable circumstances such as weather conditions, extreme temperatures, condition of the group or illness of the dogs and may force us to change this itinerary. The safety of our guests takes precedence and our decisions are final.

*The camps have no power or telephone, showers are of basic gravity fed nature and not available in tent camp.

*You will be required to sign a "release of claims and waiver of liability form" prior to the departure of this tour.

Packing List:

*Note: No Cotton!

Thermal Underwear- 2 long sleeve shirts and 2 pants

Fleece Pants and Sweater

Neck Warmer/Balaclava

Fleece Hat (Toque) or Fur hat

Thermal Socks - 4 pairs

Thin Fleece Gloves

Head Lamp

Goggles or Sunglasses (optional)

Camera (optional)

