



## Canada's Northern Rockies Lodge 8-Day Adventure Vacation

### Itinerary for 8 day/7 night Package

**Dates available: Operates Friday to Friday** from late May to early October

*Enjoy a scenic vacation in one of the most spectacular wilderness areas on the continent, in the heart of Canada's Northern Rockies. Be one with nature as you view the diversity of wildlife and scenery in the remote Muskwa-Kechika – the "Serengeti of the North". Relax at our magnificent lakeside mountain retreat, close to the land of the Midnight Sun. This memorable vacation will make you want to return!*

#### Package price includes:

- Return flights between Vancouver and Fort Nelson
  - Transfers to and from Muncho Lake along the Alaska Highway
  - First class accommodation at Northern Rockies Lodge
  - Orientation briefing and evening wildlife video presentations
  - 7 dinners and 7 breakfasts at the Lodge
  - 7 lunches (picnic or shore lunches on daytrips)
  - Non-alcoholic beverages
  - Daily guided excursions in Northern BC
  - Use of sauna, bikes, and canoes
- Taxes extra.

#### Day 1 Fort Nelson, Alaska Highway, Muskwa-Kechika, Muncho Lake

Fly from Vancouver to Fort Nelson over the picturesque Province of British Columbia. Transfer to Muncho Lake in our comfortable air-conditioned van, a two-and-a-half hour drive along the most scenic stretch of the legendary Alaska Highway. Starting at the western edge of the Great Plains we soon climb into the foothills of the Northern Rockies at Steamboat Mountain, and then see Indian Head Mountain before reaching Summit



Lake, the highest point on the Alaska Highway. Keep an eye out for wildlife! Black Bear, Moose, Caribou, Stone's Sheep and Elk are frequently seen along this route. We soon check-in at **Northern Rockies Lodge**, an impressive log building set on the shores of breathtakingly beautiful Muncho Lake, your home for the next seven nights. Enjoy a welcome drink and a special orientation briefing in the Bush Pilot Lounge, then our chef delights you

with a tasty 3-course dinner. This evening we can watch videos to further familiarize ourselves with the Northern Rockies.

## Day 2 Trout River Valley, Smith River Falls, Whirlpool Canyon, Liard River Hot Springs

Following breakfast in the dining room, we embark on a short hike to the “**Mineral Licks**”.

The trail winds through boreal forest to the rim of the old sand and gravel cliffs overlooking the Trout River valley. **Stone's Sheep** (a unique subspecies of mountain sheep) climb these steep, weathered walls, while **Elk** and **Caribou** frequent the river banks, searching for their daily dose of minerals. Labrador tea, lady slippers, horsetail and berry bushes line the path. Later we drive north on the Alaska Highway and watch out for **wild Bison**,



frequently seen feeding along the highway. We stop to take a hiking trail that leads to the bottom of the majestic two-tiered Smith River Falls. Further north, the wild Whirlpool Canyon offers picturesque scenery for a picnic in style! Back at the Liard River Hot Springs we follow the boardwalk that crosses the wetlands supporting a wide variety of boreal plants, orchids and warm water fish. Bathing in the warm, sulphurous waters of the Liard River Hot Springs, surrounded by lush vegetation is a luxurious indulgence after a day of hiking and sightseeing. This is followed by another memorable dinner at the Lodge and an opportunity to take an evening stroll along the lakeshore or relax in the Bush Pilot Lounge.

## Day 3 Old Alaska Highway, Peterson Canyon, Sentinel Range

We have breakfast at the Lodge before a short drive to the Peterson Canyon trailhead. Our hike commences along Peterson Creek on an abandoned stretch of the old Alaska Highway, where we follow the original road built in 1942 when the pioneering route was first carved out of the wilderness. We also follow the Sentinel Range with its sawtooth peaks and explore an ancient glacial outwash where fossils, many millions of years old, are exposed. Keep an eye out for tiny orchids and the many wild flowers and berry bushes growing throughout the summer season along this trail. A picturesque waterfall along Peterson Creek is the perfect spot for today's picnic lunch. This afternoon we continue our hike with opportunities to view indigenous wildlife, plants and wildflowers. Later we return to the Lodge in time to relax before enjoying another delicious dinner.

## Day 4 Canoeing on Muncho Lake, Evening Nature Walk

This morning we linger over a leisurely breakfast before setting out across the Lake by canoe. In the Kaska language of the local First Nations, Muncho means “Big Lake” and was formed during the last Ice Age. Along the lake there are remnants of ancient First Nations settlements, along with remains of buildings from an Alaska Highway construction camp of the 1940s. You may want to catch your Lunch in the clear waters of this jade green lake, where Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling and Mountain Whitefish are

among the species that can be caught. We build a campfire and enjoy a relaxing shore lunch in a secluded bay where **Beavers** and **Bald Eagles** make their home. This evening after dinner at the Lodge we embark on an interesting nature walk, watching out for **Mountain Goats**, **Stone's Sheep**, **Caribou** and **Moose** who may be leaving the shady forest to enjoy a cool evening breeze.

### Day 5 Day at Leisure or Optional Sightseeing Tours

Start with a full breakfast at the Lodge and then enjoy a leisurely day at Muncho Lake or take an optional tour or excursion.

**Package participants will receive a 10% discount off the regular price of any optional tours they purchase<sup>1</sup>.** At the Lodge you can hike along the lakeshore, canoe or boat on the Lake, or cycle on nearby trails and backroads. You may wish to book an all day flightseeing tour to visit the majestic **Virginia Falls** in **Nahanni National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage



Site, or take a flying and hiking excursion to the **Wokpash Gorge** where the forces of nature have carved hundreds of hoodoos (erosion pillars) along the 5 km long scenic canyon. Dinner is included again this evening at the Lodge.

### Day 6 Toad River Valley, Summit Pass, Hike to Flower Springs Lake<sup>2</sup>

A nourishing breakfast prepares us for today's excursion. Starting out by road we travel to the Toad River Valley, where the unusually contorted folded mountains, beautifully displayed in the morning light along Toad River are a "must stop" for the photographer. These rugged mountains were formed 50-60 million years ago and are characteristic of the Northern Rockies. Our goal for today is the **Flower Springs Lake**. The trail, starting at **Summit Pass**, takes us above the tree line, through alpine meadows, offering an abundance of wildflower species. We keep an eye out for Mountain Caribou, roaming the valley. Awesome view of the striking panorama with Mt. St. Paul, Mt. St. George,

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<sup>1</sup> Optional tours can be booked in advance or after arrival at Muncho Lake.

<sup>2</sup> Early and late season substitute for Flower Springs Trail on Day 6:

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Stone Range and the glacier carved hanging valleys. We return to the Lodge in time for another fine dinner.

### Day 7 Hiking in the Red Rock Canyon

Today after breakfast we hike up **Red Rock Canyon**. After 3 km (2 miles), crossing from one side of the creek to the other and balancing around huge boulders, we reach the canyon with its lovely waterfall where American Dippers nest. We climb around the fall; erosion has cut down to the reddish rock, the same formation as seen on the Terminal Range on the west side of Muncho Lake. The valley widens and a sub-alpine meadow looks inviting for our lunch break. The hardy hiker can follow the creek bed up to the top of the pass to explore a collection of unusual looking erosion pillars. Good hiking boots are essential on this day as we hike mainly in the rocky valley, carved over the centuries by the small creek. Our Chef has prepared a wonderful farewell Buffet Dinner to conclude this unforgettable week in Canada's Northern Rocky Mountains.



### Day 8 Scenic Return Drive to Fort Nelson Airport and Flight to Vancouver

A delicious breakfast brings our stay at beautiful Northern Rockies Lodge to a conclusion. We say farewell to new-found friends before embarking on our southbound drive to Fort Nelson along the Alaska Highway. We marvel at the scenery and the views in all directions, taking time to stop for some final pictures of Canada's great Northern Rockies. At Fort Nelson Airport we board our southbound flight over the mountains to Vancouver, Canada's gateway to the Pacific Rim.

***Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints!***

*Daily activities in Northern British Columbia are guided. Travel is by comfortable air-conditioned van, floatplane, boat or on foot. Day trips, length and difficulty of hikes, and other activities are tailored to the interests and hiking experience of our guests.*

#### **Please Note:**

To ensure the safety, comfort and enjoyment of our guests we may be required to make suitable program changes as a result of unfavorable weather or trail conditions.

#### **When to visit:**

- During May and June enjoy the beautiful spring in the Northern Rocky Mountains.
- During the summer (late June to mid-August) enjoy the warmest weather and almost 24 hours of daylight as we are near the "land of the Midnight Sun".
- From mid-August to early October enjoy fall colors in the mountains and great opportunities to view the Northern Lights.

**What to bring:**

- Hiking Boots (sneakers or tennis shoes are not recommended for hikes).
- Suitable clothing. Summer weather can be warm during the day and cooler at night. We recommend layered clothing, material retaining heat when wet and drying quickly, such as fleece, wool; a waterproof jacket. Cotton is not recommended. Cap for sunny days, toque for colder weather.
- Bathing suit
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Camera or sketch book, binoculars.



**Enquiries and Bookings:**

- Phone our toll-free number 1-800-663-5269 or click on the Reservation page of our website: [www.northern-rockies-lodge.com](http://www.northern-rockies-lodge.com)
- Our e-mail is [info@northern-rockies-lodge.com](mailto:info@northern-rockies-lodge.com) or fax us at 250-776-3482

