

# The Athabasca River canoe trip with Timberwolf Tours

From the glaciers in the Rocky Mountains of Jasper National Park the Athabasca runs eastwards into the endless forests of northern Alberta. Untamed and almost uninhabited it gains strength from countless creeks and rivers. Hundreds of miles later it eventually drains into the Arctic Ocean. After leaving the mountains the river runs somewhat quieter down its valley with hundreds of forested islands, wild and untouched.

Natives introduced the early traders and trappers in Canada to the use of the canoe. For the fur traders, the rivers and lakes were the only east-west roads through the northern forests of the continent. The river has a rich history of the fur trade and the exploration of the far northern reaches of the continent. During our canoe tour you follow their routes on the Athabasca River. For our guided 5-day canoe trips we paddle the younger Athabasca River where it leaves the Rocky Mountains.

We supply all necessary equipment and meals, our leaders are expert guides, who know the river, its history and importance in earlier and modern times and the wildlife you might see. The first campground is near the town of Hinton, just east of Jasper National Park. The day is reserved for a few hours of canoe training on a quiet lake in the foot hills. You learn basic paddle strokes and get a feel how a canoe reacts to your and your partner's paddle strokes. Next day, on the river, the guide shows you how to deal with the current, shallow spots, landing the canoe, or whatever situation you might encounter. After the training the guide has suggestions what to pack for the next 4 days and how to use the dry bags we supply. Whatever you don't pack for the trip, stays safely in the group's bus or trailer. It will be there where the trip ends four days later.

The canoes can carry 900 pounds safely, that means two paddlers with their personal gear, plus part of the group equipment. Our trips are fully outfitted wilderness camping tours. For 3 nights we pitch our tents on islands in the Athabasca River or wherever we find a good spot along the shores. Your guide knows how to keep a proper camp without attracting nosy animals. Primitive camping does not have to be uncomfortable. One important item is how to deal with food waste and the toilet for the group (yes, we do supply toilet paper). We are very much concerned to leave as few traces as possible. No garbage stays behind and our footprints are washed away with the next rain.

It is an unusual and stimulating feeling when one realizes that you and your few friends are the only humans for miles around.

You can join our canoe tour at our hotel in Edmonton, Jasper, or Hinton. If you have a vehicle, we have suggestions where to park it and how to get back to it after the trip. The details come with the booking confirmation.

Please do not book a flight or make firm plans for the last day of the canoe tour. We can not guarantee at what time of day we get off the river and at what time we are back at our hotel in Edmonton.