

Muskwa-Kechika Expedition and Camps 2019

General Information

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) encompasses a vast wilderness in BC's northern Rocky Mountains. Teeming with wildlife, it is a vestige of the continental wilderness that once existed. Wayne Sawchuk has been leading expeditions into the remotest



regions of the MK for decades as part of an effort to protect this magnificent area. You have an opportunity to become one of seven participants on each expedition, where you will experience the ride of your life- a rewarding and full-on challenge for both the mind and body.

Trip Options:

In 2019 we will be offering the following options for exploring the Northern Rockies.

- 1) Horseback Expeditions** Life on the trail is rigorous, and a high level of fitness is required. Usually, the packstring will be on the trail for two or three days, followed by a camp day. Folks will bring their own tents, sleeping bags etc, and on a 12 day trip with 6 people for instance, each person will be responsible for supplying and preparing 2 suppers for the group, as well as their own breakfast and lunch.
- 2) The Mayfield Base Camp** includes all food, lodging, as well as horse, sauna, and canoe use. Cook supplied – your job is to enjoy!



Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513
email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca

2019 Dates:

Prophet River and the Eastern Slopes - Expedition I

June 17 – July 1

Mile 172 of the Alaska Highway to Prophet River

This expedition pack-trip features a traverse of the historic Caribou Range and a visit to the wildlife rich Zoo Valley. Folks will travel north up the Alaska Highway to the Sikanni Chief River and then fly back from the headwaters of the Prophet River by bushplane to Fort Nelson.



Cost: *\$4195 CAD plus 5% GST

Zoo Valley - Expedition II

July 1 - July 15

Prophet River Head Camp to Tuchodi Lake

Spectacular passes, rugged rivers, elk, caribou, grizzly bears and peak flower season will satisfy the most hardcore wilderness and wildlife lover. Folks will fly to the head of the Prophet River by bushplane and return to Fort Nelson by jetboat via the Tuchodi and Muskwa Rivers.



Cost: \$4195 CAD plus 5% GST

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Rocky Mountain Divide West- Expedition III

July 15 – July 29

Tuchodi Lakes to Mayfield Lake

This remote and rugged route will take us over the Rocky Mountain Divide past rock glaciers, alpine flower meadows, and the Big Slide, with time for unforgettable day hikes. We'll reach the Tuchodi Lakes by jet boat, and a floatplane will take us back to Muncho Lake.

Cost: \$4195 CAD plus 5% GST



Rocky Mountain Divide East - Expedition IV

August 22 - September 5

Mayfield Lake to East Tuchodi Lake

We'll cross the Rocky Mountain Divide heading east to the spectacular Tuchodi Lakes. Fall colours will be coming on strong, and there's always a chance to spot grizzly bear, mountain goats, or a bull moose in rut. We'll fly to Mayfield Lake by floatplane and take the jet boat back to Kleddo Creek and Fort Nelson.



Cost: \$4195.00 CAD plus 5% GST

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Eastern Slopes - Expedition V

September 5- September 19

East Tuchodi Lake to Alaska
Highway

This rugged trip explores the wildlife-rich Eastern Slopes of the Rockies. We'll traverse the broad alpine slopes of the Northern Caribou Range and the spectacular valleys and passes of the Chisca, Tetsa, and Henry Creeks, among others. Folks will travel to East Tuchodi by jet boat and back to Fort Nelson by vehicle.



Cost: \$4195.00 CAD plus 5% GST

A note about the Expeditions

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures specializes in unique, experiential and full-on wilderness horseback experiences. This is the real deal! Do not expect a typical "tourist" trip. Instead, you will become an expedition member. Participants share in all camp and trail activities such as saddling, fire-lighting, cooking, and horse wrangling. Horse travel in the wilderness is rigorous, and folks must be able to hike up and down steep trails, mount and dismount repeatedly, and assist with camp and horse activities according to their abilities. Experience with horses is useful, but not necessary. Fitness however is mandatory.



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Mayfield Lake Base Camp Experience

August 8 - 15, August 15 - 22.
(please contact us for available dates.)

Enjoy a relaxed escape to a remote, pristine lake and river valley ecosystem. Greet the sunrise from the dock on beautiful Mayfield Lake, sipping on a steaming cup of fresh coffee while moose graze in the shallows across the inlet or where a group of caribou might travel by. When the



mood strikes you, spend a few hours canoeing, fishing or hiking. Take a day ride into the alpine meadows or down along the Gataga River. At day's end, treat your body to a steam in the log sauna. Then, if you're brave, cool off with a moonlight dip in the lake. This experience is a perfect choice for singles, couples, or families.

\$1995.00 CAD per person for parties of 7 or more, plus 5% GST

\$2450.00 CAD per person for parties of 6 or less, plus 5% GST

(includes food, flights, and camp supplies)



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Flights:

The cost of your scheduled flights in and out of the mountains are included in the fee and are arranged by MK Adventures. All floatplane flights depart/return from Liard Air's facilities located at Northern Rockies Lodge at Muncho Lake. The wheeled bushplane flight to and from the head of the Prophet River leaves from the Villers hanger at the Fort Nelson Airport. Unscheduled floatplane service and/or wheel plane flights out of the M-K can also be made available, dependent on conditions (an extra charge will apply for this service).

Communication:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries a satellite phone and satellite email system for use in emergencies.

Liability Insurance:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries liability insurance, as required by the conditions of the Park Use Permit. Contact Wayne Sawchuk if you would like further details on this.

Travel Costs:

Travel costs to reach the take-off points are the responsibility of the participant. Air service to Fort Nelson is provided by Central Mountain Air. You can, of course, travel by personal vehicle. Participants have flown to Whitehorse, then rented vehicles for the trip south to Muncho Lake (712 kms)- you may wish to check this option. MK Adventures can often help with travel to Muncho Lake etc, just be in touch.

Accommodation at Muncho Lake:

The night before the floatplane departures, participants can stay at Muncho Lake either in Northern Rockies Lodge or in a tent in the provincial campsite. Hosts at Northern Rockies Lodge are Urs and Marianne Schildknecht, who also operate Liard Air service. For rates and booking at Northern Rockies Lodge, phone 1-800-663-5269.

Staff and Tips

The success of each Expedition depends on our excellent staff. Michelle and Alex are farriers and First Aiders, while Wayne has been leading Expeditions for over 30 years. If you feel you received great service on your trip, we hope you consider leaving a tip. This makes us feel appreciated and valued- it's the gas in the tank that keeps us going! (A suggestion would be \$100 per staff or of course whatever you feel is appropriate.)

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What to Bring:

First rule – be light. For details, see our Gear List below.

MK Adventures will supply all cooking equipment, dishes and dish soap etc, camp shelter, horses and horse gear. Don't bring extra dishes as you won't need them. If you are a coffee drinker, bring 1 pound per week, ground for coffee press (supplied). Clothing and other gear can be packed in light stuff sacks.

A note about weather - it can do anything in the Northern Rockies! Come prepared for hot or cold conditions. Don't forget those rubber boots!

Be sure to bring binoculars and camera if you have them. Bugs aren't usually too bad in the Northern Rockies, but do bring some bug dope if you normally use it.

Food:

Expedition participants will bring and prepare their own lunches and breakfasts, as well as two suppers for the group on a normal two-week trip. Watch for email updates to find out if your trip is "normal!" Rice, pasta, potatoes, and dried foods that keep are good for meals later in the trip, while some fresh food (ie meat) is OK for your first meal or two. Best to pack your food in cardboard boxes as it will be transferred to horse panniers when you get to camp. In general, go light, as you would with heavy backpacking or canoe trekking.

Please inform us if you have any food allergies or sensitivities, or prefer a vegetarian option etc.

In 2019 we will be offering to supply your group meals, cost will be \$250 plus GST.



Keen to ride along? Here's the Reservations and Booking form.

Just fill out the following and mail to the address below, or email to wsawchuk@pris.ca.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency contact number: _____

Email: _____

Physical condition (1 is low, 10 is super-athlete:) _____

Dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian): _____

Allergies: _____

Medical or other conditions that may affect your mobility or ability to undertake rigorous physical activity: _____ Age _____

Anything else we should know: _____

Dates of trip requested: _____

Method of Payment _____

(The most convenient methods of payment are E-transfer to wsawchuk@pris.ca, or cheques made payable to Muskwa-Kechika Adventures sent to the address below.)

Deposit and Cancellation Policy

We require a 50% deposit to confirm a booking. The balance is due on May 1. Prior to that date, reservations can be cancelled and your deposit refunded, minus a \$250 deposit to cover costs. After May 1, monies paid or due are not refundable. If for any reason we must cancel a trip, a full refund will be given.

Unforeseen Costs

If we encounter unexpected logistical arrangements such as additional lodging or flights due to weather or accidents, the cost shall be divided equitably among the participants.

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Recommended Clothing and Gear List

CLOTHING

Tops

- ____/____ Fleece/pile/wool sweater or pullover
- ____/____ Down Jacket or equivalent
- ____/____ Long underwear top
- ____/____ T-shirts (2 or up to you)
- ____/____ 1 Short sleeved shirt
- ____/____ 3 Long sleeved shirts (1 wool, 1 synthetic material like polyester or polypropylene, 1 cotton, is a good mix)

Bottoms

- ____/____ 1 Long underwear bottom
- ____/____ 1 Durable wool or synthetic long pants suitable for use as an outer layer
- ____/____ 1 Jeans or equivalent
- ____/____ 1 Light pants
- ____/____ 1 Pair of Shorts (nylon or cotton)
- ____/____ Underwear as required

Raingear

- ____/____ 1 Fully waterproof rubber rain jacket and pants (not a poncho as these are inadequate for riding)
- ____/____ 1 Fully waterproof Rain hat (cowboy hat @ raincover works well)
- ____/____ 1 pair waterproof gloves/mitts (Gander Brand makes good ones)
- ____/____ 1 pair Rubber Boots eg Muck Boots (these are important.)

Footwear

- ____/____ Hiking boots, waterproofed and broken in, preferably without large lugs that could easily catch in a stirrup
- ____/____ Camp shoes
- ____/____ Lighter liner socks (min. 3 pairs)
- ____/____ Wool socks, thick (min. 3 pairs)

Head and Hands

- ____/____ Sun hat or baseball cap
- ____/____ Wool/fleece stocking hat
- ____/____ Neckerchief or neckwarmer
- ____/____ Wool/fleece mittens or warm wool/fleece gloves
- ____/____ Leather riding gloves

EQUIPMENT

- ____/____ Light backpack for day hikes
- ____/____ Tent
- ____/____ Sleeping bag (rated to -10 to -15 C for June-July and -20C for fall trips, remember the official rating temperature is that point at which you become a victim of hypothermia. Zip-together bags are a cozy option for couples!)
- ____/____ Insulating pad (Therma-rest or closed-cell foam)
- ____/____ Headlamp (not needed on June/early July trips due to lack of darkness)
- ____/____ ½ litre waterbottle (not a large one as it won't fit in the saddle bag)
- ____/____ Small thermos for those coffee or tea lovers out there
- ____/____ Binoculars
- ____/____ Camera and additional batteries.
- ____/____ A leatherman or pliers multi-tool is not essential, but can be Very handy
- ____/____ Lighter for starting fire

PERSONAL

- ____/____ Glasses or contacts as needed
- ____/____ Personal hygiene products
- ____/____ Lip balm with sunscreen
- ____/____ Emergency whistle
- ____/____ Insect repellent if you use it
- ____/____ Snacks/Munchies you can't do without
- ____/____ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ____/____ Any necessary medication
- ____/____ Toilet paper, 1 roll per week
- ____/____ Wet-naps

MK Adventures will supply all cooking equipment, mugs, dishes, camp shelter, first aid supplies, horses and horse gear. No need to bring extra dishes or silverware.