

# Planning your Peace River Canoe Trip

## TRIP PLANNING GUIDE FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADVENTURE

The Peace River is a unique place that holds a variety of wilderness experiences for a variety of different groups. No matter what your group's goals and experience levels, we can help you plan the canoe trip that best fits your crew.

**Call 877-835-1277(USA and Canada) or +1 835-1271(International) and talk to Anne for:**

- Stress-free canoe trip planning
- Map and Itinerary suggestions
- Family trips into the wilderness
- **Canoe and Equipment Rentals** - *We rent gear piece by piece, depending on what you need*
- **Shuttling** – *Let us drop you and your gear, and/or pick you up. This saves time, and allows for the security of your vehicles. We use a canoe trailer & 15 passenger van.*
- **River conditions-** *Ask us about seasonal or current conditions of the river, and campsite access. Current river flow conditions at <https://rivers.alberta.ca/>*
- **Guided Canoe Trips** – *Choose a guided trip if you want to leave the river knowledge, gear, logistics, packing and cooking to us! We can provide custom trips as needed.*

## USE THIS STEP BY STEP TRIP PLANNING GUIDE TO GET STARTED:

### 1) WHO IS GOING?

Your group layout will determine which canoe route is best for you and your crew. Here are a few things to consider when thinking about your group:

- Age of crew members (No minimum age. Great for kids!)
- Outdoor experience and river knowledge
- Is this your first trip?
- Difficulty Level (Are you looking to take it easy or challenge yourself?)
- Group size
- Location preferences

### 2) DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE ANY SPECIFIC GOALS OR INTERESTS?

Below are a few items for you to consider.

- Photography
- Hiking
- Solitude
- Fishing
- Fur Trade and pioneer History
- Campfire cooking adventures/Cameraderie
- Improving paddling skills
- Teambuilding
- Difficulty Level (Are you looking to take it easy or challenge yourself?)

### 3) WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE YOUR TRIP?

- **If your dates are fixed**, great. We will help you decide the best canoe route based on your date.
- **If your dates are flexible**, we can pick the time of year and entry point that best fits the goals for your canoe trip. Each season has different things to offer on the Peace River. For example, July offers berry picking, long days and warm temperatures. If you are looking for fewer bugs and more swimming opportunities August/September would be a good time of year. September is cooler but can offer spectacular fall colors and clear water for fishing. *Call **877-835-1277** with questions.*

### 4) HOW MANY DAYS WILL YOU BE IN THE WILDERNESS?

There are many factors, but we typically recommend 5 days or more to allow time to leave the hustle bustle at home and get into rhythm with the wilderness. That said, a shorter trip might better suit your group.

### 6) WHAT TO BRING FOR YOUR CANOE TRIP

The next step is to determine what gear you have and what gear you will need to rent from us. We can help you with as much or as little gear as you need for your trip. Here is a list to get you started.

- **If you have some gear, but need to fill in a few gaps**, we may be able help to fill out your equipment needs.
- **Contact us for a recommended list of gear to bring**
- **Have all your gear, but need canoes or a canoe trailer?** We can help with that too. Go to our [Canoe Rental](#) page

### 7) TRIP LOGISTICS

- There are multiple possible entry points along the river. The upper part of the river is the most scenic, (upstream from our location) since the hills get progressively lower as you finally reach Fort Vermilion.
- The top end of the river is the Bennett Dam, you will have to enter below the dam.
- The Vermilion Chutes at Fort Vermilion at the lower end of the river are impassable and must be portaged.
- The distance from Hudson's Hope to Fort Vermilion is 812 km's, so there are lots of choices for trip duration and locations. A nice average paddling day is 40-50 km for medium exertion.
- For distances between points, see the Theresa Griffiths [distance chart](#) at the bottom of this document
- Exposure to civilization is least on the upper (above Pratt's Landing) and lower( after Peace Island) parts of the river
- [Northern Air](#) flies into Peace River and if needed, we can pick you up at the airport.
- There is excellent highway access to many put in points along the river. We can give you information about the condition of more remote accesses.
- If you need accommodation before or after your trip we can provide camping, cabin rentals or hotel recommendations

## 8) MAPS AND GUIDES

- The Backroads Map Book for Northern Alberta is a good basic river guide for short trips, available in many stores including drug stores. Topographical maps are also an option.
- For more detailed information on points of interest, takeout points, GPS coordinates and campsites, we recommend the Theresa Griffiths Guides. We can provide these on request for no charge by email.
- Mark's Guide for Alberta Paddlers 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is another one that is available, with less detail.
- If you need transportation to/from your entry/exit points, we can shuttle you. ([Shuttle Service](#))

## 9) OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- If you are interested in challenging some rapids the nearby **Smoky River** has some Class III rapids. There is more jet boat and recreational activity on this route. Contact us for trip planning information.
- **Communication Devices:** For some there is peace of mind gained by carrying some kind of communication device on your trip. Cell phone reception is possible sporadically along the length of the river. Or you can rent or buy satellite communication devices. Let us add to your peace of mind by being part of your emergency plan.
- **Call 877-835-1277 (USA & Canada TOLL FREE) or +1 780 835-1271 (International) to get started.**

### TERESA GRIFFITHS DISTANCE GUIDE

Guide #	Starts at	Ends at	Places along the way	Road access at the starting point?	km paddled	km from Hudson's Hope	km from Peace River
1	Hudson's Hope	Hudson's Hope	W.A.C Bennett dam, Peace Canyon Dam	yes	0	0	
2	Hudson's Hope	Halfway River	Lynx Creek, Gates, Farrell Creek	yes	38	38	
3	Halfway River	Island's End	Bear Flat, Waterfall, Cache Creek	yes	32	70	
4	Island's End	101-km Campsite	Site C dam, Old Fort St. John, Taylor, 3 bridges	no	31	101	
5	101-km Campsite	Driftwood Campsite	Beatton River, Raspberry Island, PR Corridor Prov. Park	no	32	133	
6	Driftwood Campsite	Cotillion Rec Area	Clayhurst Bridge, Pouce Coupe River, Clear River	no	32	165	
7	Cotillion Rec Area	Many Islands Park	Beverly (Deadman's) Island	yes	40	205	

8	Many Islands Park	Pratt's Landing	Montagneuse River, Carter Camp	yes	41	246	
9	Pratt's Landing	Fort Dunvegan	Ksituan River, Dunvegan Suspension Bridge	yes	28	274	
10	Fort Dunvegan	Camp Island	Green Island, Long Island	yes	42	316	
11	Camp Island	Tangent Park	Kieyho Park, Peace Valley Guest Ranch	yes	36	352	
12	Tangent Park	Town of Peace River	Mackenzie Cairn, Strong Creek Park, several historic sites	yes	24	376	0
13	Town of Peace River	Graham's Flat	Rail, highway and DMI bridge	yes	32	408	32
14	Graham's Flat	Peace Island	Encampment Island, 30-mile well	no	25	433	57
15	Peace Island	Sunny Valley	Whitemud River, Cadotte River	yes*	34	467	91
16	Sunny Valley	McCracken's Flat	Kulyna's Flats	yes	38	505	129
17	McCracken's Flat	Notikewin Provincial Park	Horseshoe Bend	yes	42	547	171
18	Notikewin Provincial Park	Beaver Campsite	pipeline crossing, nice beach	yes	33	580	204
19	Beaver Campsite	Cigar Island	Big Bend	no	32	612	236
20	Cigar Island	Old Carcajou	Howard's Landing, Carcajou, Wolverine River	no	33	645	269
21	Old Carcajou	La Crete Ferry Campground	Armstrong Flat, Buffalo River, Keg River	yes*	31	676	300
22	La Crete Ferry Campground	Horse Point	Le Fleur's Post, rockhounding, Horse Island	yes	32	708	332
23	Horse Point	Aspin House Area	Moose Island, La Crete Landing, Etna's Landing	no	36	744	368
24	Aspin House Area	Wieler's Landing	Hungry Bend, Gooseneck Point, Prairie Point	no	40	784	408
25	Wieler's Landing	Fort Vermilion	Big Island, Lawrence Island, Highway bridge, Buttertown	yes	28	812	436