



8-day Wildlife Viewing Safari in Canada's Northern Rockies

Itinerary for 8 day/7 night Package incl. 4 fly outs

All-inclusive Price from Vancouver: \$6,700 per person (based on double occupancy)

All-inclusive Price from Muncho Lake: \$5,700 per person (based on double occupancy)

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

Enjoy wildlife-viewing 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. Enjoy a once in a lifetime experience, accessing remote mountain wilderness by floatplane, boat or on foot.

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 wildlife viewing excursions in Northern BC
- Float plane flightseeing excursions
- Use of sauna, bikes, and canoes

Taxes extra

Day 1 Vancouver to 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, Mountain Goat, 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 mountain retreat 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 wildlife videos to familiarize ourselves with the species we will see in their natural habitat during our Wildlife-Viewing Safari.

Day 2 Northwest Territories, Mackenzie Mountains, Nahanni National Park, Virginia Falls

After a hearty breakfast at the Lodge, we board one of our floatplanes, our main mode of travel for today, and take off from the turquoise waters of Muncho Lake. Our northbound flight takes us over BC's remote

Northern Rockies into the Yukon and over the rugged Mackenzie Mountains as we enter Canada's Northwest Territories. We land above **Virginia Falls** on South Nahanni River in Nahanni National Park. In 1981 this spectacularly scenic region was the first natural area on earth to be designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Frequently a Parks Canada interpreter is on hand to provide information about Nahanni. We enjoy an easy stroll to the

viewpoint for a breathtaking view of the Falls, twice as high as Niagara Falls. The roaring falls are an unforgettable backdrop, as we enjoy a picnic lunch. On our return flight we follow the 3000 feet high sheer rock walls of the canyon system of the South Nahanni River to the legendary Headless Valley. Interestingly, this area was not glaciated during the last ice age. We return to the Lodge in time for a sumptuous dinner and time to relax by the fireside to reflect on today's great adventures.



Day 3 Trout River Valley, Smith River Falls, Whirlpool Canyon, Liard River Hot Springs

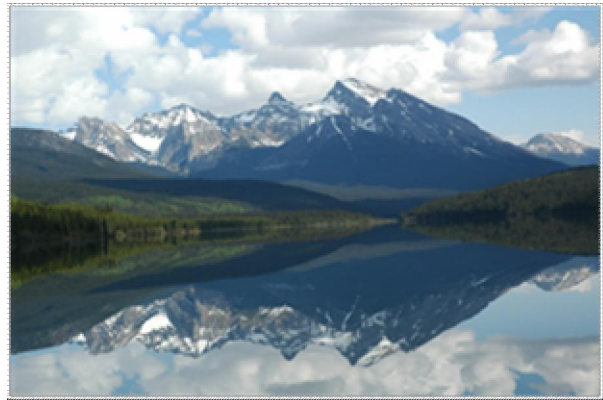
Following breakfast in the dining room, we embark on a short hike to the "**Mineral Licks**". The trail winds through boreal forest to the rim of the old sand and gravel cliffs overlooking the Trout River valley. **Stone's Sheep** (a unique sub-species of mountain sheep) climb these steep, weathered 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 4 Flightseeing and Wildlife Viewing in the Muskwa-Kechika, “Serengeti of the North”

Breakfast at the Lodge prepares us for today's floatplane tour that takes us into the heart of the Muskwa-Kechika. This spectacular wilderness is one of the largest protected areas on the continent with an intact ecosystem that continues to function as it has for millennia – as a result of the abundance and diversity of wildlife, the region is also known as the “Serengeti of the North”. It encompasses the northernmost reaches of Canada's Rocky Mountains and a land area larger than all of Switzerland. We touch down on the picturesque Tuchodi Lakes, where we stroll along the sandy beaches with our guide. An afternoon flight from Tuchodi Lakes over the Rocky Mountain Foothills provides a bird's eye view to see **Elk, Mountain Goat, Stone's Sheep** and **Caribou**. Winging our way north along the spine of Canada's Northern Rocky Mountains we marvel at the countless glaciers and picturesque valleys of Northern British Columbia. Back at the Lodge we relax before another fine dinner prepared by our Chef.

Day 5 Mountain Lakes, Outpost Cabin Excursion, Moose Viewing, and Birding

After enjoying a delicious breakfast we board our floatplane for another flight into the spectacular mountain wilderness of the Muskwa-Kechika. Soon we land in the turquoise waters of scenic Netson Lake or Gataga Lake, favorite feeding grounds for **Moose**. We spend the day boating or canoeing the scenic lake, observing those majestic animals in their natural habitat, feeding on the aquatic plants in the shallow bays. We are also likely to see Trumpeter Swans, Loons, Water Fowl and other bird species. If you wish, you can join your guide and bush pilot catching Arctic Grayling and Lake Trout for a tasty shore lunch. Our lakeside Outpost Cabin offers comfortable wildlife viewing through the picture window looking across this remarkable untouched wilderness lake. We return to the Lodge for dinner and another evening to enjoy the long daylight hours of this northern mountain retreat.



Day 6 Sentinel Range, Peterson Canyon, Toad River Valley

Following breakfast at the Lodge we depart from the Lodge in our comfortable touring van, following the Muncho Creek Valley with views of the Sentinel Range to our first stop at the Peterson Canyon viewpoint. Continuing our drive, 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. We will explore a secret side road leading to one of the countless unnamed peaks. A short hike brings us to the top of the mountain where we enjoy the splendid view over the vast Mountain Ranges. **Caribou**, countless small mammals, **Ptarmigan, Golden Eagle** and the resourceful **Beaver** make their home in this pristine alpine environment. We enjoy more bird-watching and wildlife-viewing before returning to the Lodge in time for a short canoe paddle in Muncho Lake before dinner.

Day 7 Wokkpash Valley, Wokkpash Gorge, Alpine Wildflowers

A hearty breakfast prepares us for today's hiking expedition. Our destination is the wondrous canyon of the Wokkpash Gorge, a virtually unknown natural highlight of Canada's Northern Rocky Mountains. The Wokkpash Valley is lined with hundreds of spectacular hoodoos (sand pillar formations). BC Parks built a hiking trail along the Gorge itself to enable us to admire nature's incredible artistry. We explore this unspoiled area which was formed over the millennia by water, wind and glaciers. Watch for the wide variety of wild flowers such as woolly lousewort, yellow lady slippers, wild orchids, prickly rose, labrador tea and colorful lichens, while hiking through the lodge pole pine forest. Back at the Lodge this evening we enjoy a farewell dinner and a final chance to enjoy the breathtaking views across Muncho Lake.

**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 wildlife viewing 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. Prices shown are in Canadian dollars – check current exchange rates for U.S. dollars or other currencies.

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.

