

# YUKON - GO WILD

## EXPLORE CANADA FROM ALBERTA THROUGH BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

**During your 21-day camping tour from Calgary to the Arctic Circle in Yukon, you travel in wild, rugged country with stretches where you are more likely to meet wild animals than people. The Arctic Circle, with its vast tundra landscape, is the most northern point of your tour. Travelling and hiking in these areas as well as in the famous Banff and Jasper National Parks you visit the most outstanding places in a variety of landscapes of the Canadian Northwest.**

### **21 days/20 nights in the wilderness of the Yukon – small groups**

**Day 1: Calgary** - Arrival in Calgary, transfer to the hotel and pre trip information with the guide.

**Day 2: Banff National Park** - After breakfast in the hotel you board the bus for the drive into Banff National Park. On the forested campground you pitch your tent for the next two nights. This afternoon your guide takes you for a hike on one of the many trails near Banff. Walking time 2 – 3 hours.

**Day 3: Banff National Park** - A longer hike on one of the many trails in this national park is on today's menu. Maximum height at 2300 m with 655 m gain. Later you might want to relax in the warm sulphur pool and browse the many stores and boutiques of the little town. Walking up to 7 hours.

**Day 4: Jasper National Park** - Lake Louise in picture postcard alpine scenery and the Icefields Parkway, among the world's most spectacular roads, to the glaciers of the immense Columbia Icefields. Now you are in Jasper National Park with your campground for the next two nights near the holiday town of Jasper.

**Day 5: Jasper National Park** - Along Maligne Canyon the river is roaring up to 50 m below you. Half hour uphill drive to picturesque Maligne Lake for a hike into the flower covered hills at 2300 m. You can follow the open ridge for many more miles, always with stunning views of the surrounding peaks. Walking time 4 hours.

**Day 6: Fort St. James** - West of the Rockies you reach the Cariboo Mountains dominated by densely forested valleys and high serrated peaks and glaciers, featuring attractive lakes and lush wetlands. You follow the Fraser River to the logging town of Prince George and do a side trip to Fort St. James, a

former fur trading post and now an open air museum. Camping on the shores of Stuart Lake.

**Day 7: Fort St. James** - Unless you prefer to relax by the lake you can join the guide on a 12 km loop hike with 790 m gain for a grandiose panorama view of the lake and into the distant plateau. Walking time 4 – 6 hours.

**Day 8: New Hazelton** - Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers and a few smaller towns on your north-west route through this vast country of forests and mountains. Moricetown Falls is a narrow canyon where migrating salmon can be seen during the summer months. Campground at Ksan where Native guides explain totem poles and longhouses of an ancient culture.

**Day 9: Stewart** - The oldest standing totem poles can be found near Kitwanga and Kitwancool. Stewart and Hyder are reached via the spectacular Bear Pass which cuts through the coastal mountain range with over twenty fantastic blue tinted hanging glaciers visible from the road. After setting up camp by a lake, there is time this evening for an excursion into Bear Pass. Walking time 3 hours.

**Day 10: Stewart** - A short visit of Alaska. Only 3 km and an international border apart but what contrasts. Tidy, typical Canadian Stewart has the school and the bank, end-of-the-road Hyder is purely Alaskan. The plan here is an excursion past old silver and gold mines and a hike to Salmon Glacier. Walking time 3 hours.

**Day 11: Cassiar Highway** - Only a few hundred souls live along this rarely travelled northern route. The scenery of the high plateau, framed by rugged peaks of the Coastal and Cassiar Ranges leaves a powerful impression of vastness and solitude.

Camping by a lake.

**Day 12: Cassiar Highway** - Continuing your journey north you reach a lake where you can rent a canoe to go fishing, find a beaver house, bring your journal up to date, or follow the guide to the summit of one of the surrounding mountains. Walking time 3 – 5 hours

**Day 13: Lake Laberge** - At Watson Lake with its curious "Sign Forest" you meet the much romanticised lifeline to the north, the Alaska Highway. Along the way you visit historic settlements which still today accommodate and assist travellers on their way to the Yukon and Alaska. Campground at Lake Laberge.

**Day 14: Dawson City** - Infamous Five Finger Rapids of the Yukon River. A short descend to the spot where years ago many a paddle wheeler met its doom. Tonight you reach Dawson City and the campground on the banks of the Yukon. Don't miss the town's nightlife with gambling casinos and Can-Can girls. Walking time 1 hour.

**Day 15: Dawson City/Dempster** - After a visit of Bonanza Creek, in 1896 the site of the biggest gold rush of all times, you leave the Klondike gold fields. One of the world's unique driving routes, the Dempster is famous for its colourful alpine tundra landscapes, wildlife, scenic vistas and memorable driving adventures. With 730 km of gravel, it is the only road connection to the arctic ocean. Camp for two nights at the base of the Tombstone Mountains.

**Day 16: Tombstone Mountains** - Choose between easy to very demanding trails in this incredible mountain range. The black basalt mountains have a moonscape appearance but are the home of caribous which can be spotted in small groups down in the valleys. Each season has its own rewards but the burst of the tundra's colours with dwarf birch and willow in late summer are an extraordinary sight. Walking time 5 – 7 hours.

**Day 17: Rock River / Arctic Circle** - The road takes you along more spectacular ridges, reminiscent of the Great Wall of China and you go through the Ogilvie Mountains into Beringia, a region untouched by ice age glaciations. At 66° 33' north latitude you have reached the Arctic Circle. Walking time 1 – 3 hours.

**Day 18: Rock River / Arctic Circle** - Since ancient times the Porcupine Caribou herd, numbering in the thousands, migrates through this treeless tundra and provides a subsistence lifestyle that has

endured, as the Gwich'in say, "forever". The north-central Yukon was able to support a larger human population than the much warmer south because the caribou supplied food, clothing, shelter and tools. Walking time 1 – 4 hours.

**Day 19: Moose Creek** - On the way back south you visit places out of the northern gold-rush history. Did you hear about the Mad Trapper? In the depth of winter of 1932 he was the target of one of the most desperate manhunts in the history of the north. His true identity has remained a mystery.

**Day 20: Whitehorse** - The capital of the Yukon. Recommended visits in Whitehorse are Miles Canyon and the world's longest fish ladder. You should also make time for the McBride- and the Beringia Museum as well as the S.S.Klondike paddle wheeler. Hotel and final get-together for tonight.

**Day 21: Transfer to the airport.** If you are really gripped by the spirit of adventure you might want to consider a 7-day guided Yukon River canoe trip. Please ask for details.

#### **Schedule 2013:**

03.06. – 23.06.	Calgary - Whitehorse
23.06. – 13.07.	Whitehorse - Calgary
22.07. – 11.08.	Calgary - Whitehorse
11.08. – 31.08.	Whitehorse - Calgary

#### **Prices per person:**

Double occupancy: **CAD 3,070** + 5% GST tax  
Single occupancy: **CAD 3,310** + 5% GST tax

#### **Included:**

- Airport transfers
- 2 hotel nights (twin with breakfasts)
- Other nights in spacious tents (2 person tent)
- Transportation in minibus
- Admission to the national parks and Fort St. James Historic Site
- Guided tour of Ksan Native Village
- Admission to Diamond Tooth Gerties in Dawson
- Camping fees
- Camping equipment (except sleeping bag)
- Hard foam mattress
- Services of an experienced guide

#### **Not included:**

- Personal equipment and sleeping bag
- Meals : food kitty app \$12.00/day
- Gratuities
- 5% GST tax



## **CREATIVE WESTERN ADVENTURES LTD.**

P.O. Box 74068 Strathcona RPO SW, Calgary AB T3H 3B6, Canada

Tel. 001-403-571-2380; Fax. 001-403-571-2382

Email: [info@creativewestern.com](mailto:info@creativewestern.com); Web: [www.creativewestern.com](http://www.creativewestern.com)