



14 Day Husky Wilderness Adventure

This tour is an amazing wilderness adventure that will take you back to the early days of transportation by dog sled. You will spend your days mushing on the training grounds of many a quest musher and it will take you winding through some of the most spectacular wilderness in the Yukon. You will spend the first few days learning the basics of mushing and each day the trails will advance slightly in difficulty. Relax in the evenings with a shower, a sauna or in our cozy lodge by the wood stove. Then step back in time and camp in our wall tent camp at Dry Creek. Master these amazing trails then move on to our camp at Coal Lake. Imagine life as a trapper as you live and work in an original working Trappers Cabin. We do everything we can to ensure that this is your adventure of a lifetime and that you go home with many happy memories of your visit at Sky High!

Depending on the dynamics of the group, this tour may include an extra tent night and the itinerary may change slightly. All meals are in the main lodge with other guests on tours at Sky High. Meals are informal, family style and follow a set menu each day.

Day 1 | Saturday

The morning on the day of your tour you will be picked up at 10AM in the hotel lobby. As a group we will do some last minute shopping and pick up any items missing from the packing list. Afterwards we drive to the Sky High Wilderness Ranch, 20km South of Whitehorse where we outfit you with your expedition clothing. Enjoy a light lunch and then be introduced to your 4 legged companions for the week. Now you learn the basics of; dog care, checking their feet and shoulders, dog massage, sledding and parts of the sled. Harness your team, hook up and go for your very first run! After taking care of the dogs we

Overview

- Dates: Departs Saturdays (Dec 2019 to March 2020)
- Rates in CAD: (retail) \$4098 + GST per person
- Room in Whitehorse: \$127 + GST
- Max. 6 guests per guide
- Min. age 12 years

Highlights

- Learn to mush trails with increasing difficulty
- Drive your own team of Huskies
- Off-grid living
- Lodge stay with sauna
- Wall Tent Camping
- Visit an old Trapper's cabin

can enjoy the sauna, have a shower, hot dinner and cozy up by the fire. Overnight at Sky High Wilderness Ranch. (Lunch, Dinner)

Day 2 | *Sunday*

While the morning sun lifts slowly over the magnificent horizon, we say good morning to our new canine friends and ensure they are fed, watered and happy. Then we sit in the comfort of our lodge dining room having breakfast and plan our day. Today we cover approx 35km in distance driving towards secluded Jackson Lake. The only sound will be the runners in the snow, the working dogs, and your words of encouragement. This is the day that you begin to know each dog's personality and form a bond that only man and dog can understand. With every stop, praise and show of affection for your dogs, they will learn to trust you and you to trust them. Relax in our sod roof sauna before retiring for the night. Overnight at Sky High Wilderness Ranch. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 3 | *Monday*



The dogs will pull us on a trail east of the Ranch. We are continuously climbing in elevation as we are heading on an abandoned mining road on McIntyre Mountain. On occasional stops we can enjoy unprecedented scenery of the Coastal Mountains with Fish Lake nestled deep in the valley. Keep an eye out for wildlife - you never know what you might see! Return to Sky High lodge for the night. Take care of the dogs then curl up by the fire or sit around the dinner table recounting your adventures with others. There is a gravity fed shower waiting for you in the main lodge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 | *Tuesday*

Today we head towards beautiful Bonneville Lakes, west of the Ranch, part of the Kwan in Dunn first Nation Traditional Land. The trails are narrower with some challenging up and downs. The Coastal Mountains are always in view to the South and West. Part of the trip we travel above tree line and easily cover between 20 and 30 km. In harmony with the running rhythm of your team you will enjoy nature in a way you've never experienced before. Overnight at Sky High Wilderness Ranch. There is a gravity fed indoor shower waiting for you in the main lodge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 5 | *Wednesday*

Imagine yourself years ago when only dogsled was used for transportation. Head out into the untouched wilderness for 3 days of winter camping at our wall tent camp at Dry Creek. A surge of new life creeps into your soul as you journey farther into the amazing landscape surrounding the Fish Lake Area. The trail on this day follows the shores of Fish Lake, climbs and heads into the coastal mountain range to the south. Enjoy the crisp freshness of this day and don't forget to take photos! Curl up at night by the woodstove for a cozy sleep in our wall tents. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 6 | *Thursday*

At dawn enjoy a hearty camp breakfast in our wall tent kitchen. From our camp, weather permitting we will make a run to the top of the mountain above the tree line to Ptarmigan Flats. Keep your eyes open for this beautiful white bird, while sledding on miles of wind blown hill tops. There have been frequent sightings of

Caribou & moose in this area. Over night at Wall tent Camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 | Friday

Wake with the sun, say good morning to your team as they enjoy their morning meal. Greet the day with a hot cup of coffee and a hearty breakfast. On this last day of mushing breathe deeply the fresh clean air and take in the rugged landscape one last time as you run your team west towards the Ranch. As you mush over the clean white snow listen one last time to the quiet whoosh of the runners and the soft panting of the dogs. Return to Sky High Wilderness Ranch for a hot lunch. Now you must pack your belongings and enjoy the drive winding down Fish Lake Rd. to Whitehorse for one night at the Best Western Gold Rush Inn. (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 8 | Saturday

After one night in town, you will be happy to meet your trusty Huskies again. In the morning you are picked up by our van at 10AM in the hotel lobby and once more we stop for supplies. This is a well deserved day off for you and your team .This is a good opportunity to spend some time with your dogs, enjoy the wilderness on foot, take photos or cozy up in the lodge and read a good book. Over night at Sky High Lodge. (Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 | Sunday

Today we cross over the Fish Lake from north to south with majestic coastal mountains looming in all directions. At the south end of the lake we jump onto a trappers trail leading towards Ibex Lake. We will have a fire and a light lunch before we return to the lodge and overnight at Sky high Wilderness Ranch. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 10 | Monday

Hooking up the dogs will have become much easier for you after working with them for a week. Our trip today heads up to Mt McIntyre again to the north. At this point you will have a higher skill level and conditions permitting the trip could go down to the north side along the old Copper Haul Road and back to Sky high through Jackson Lake. This trail offers a great view high above the city of Whitehorse. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Packing List

- Thermal Underwear- 2 long sleeve shirts and 2 pants
- Fleece Pants and Sweater
- Neck Warmer and Balaclava
- Fleece Hat (Toque) or Fur hat
- Thermal Socks - 4 pairs
- Gloves
- Head Lamp, With lithium batteries
- Camera
- Indoor shoes or slippers

NOTE: No cotton!

The above items can be purchased in Whitehorse but make note that near the end of the season some items may be hard to find.

The Lodge:



Day 11 | Tuesday

Today we hook up the dogs again and head out for a day trip along Jackson Creek and Franklin Lake. Return to the lodge and overnight at Sky High Wilderness Ranch. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 12 | Wednesday

Leave the last remnants of civilization, step back in time and become one with your team as you mush the historic trails to our trapper cabin at remote Coal Lake. Everything we need for this camp will be packed on our sleds. Here we live the simple life with just the basics; cutting firewood, cooking over the fire or on the woodstove, heating water for washing, mushing the scenic trails and sharing stories by the fire in the evening. We have a good chance of seeing Caribou or moose in this area so keep your camera handy! Over night at Coal Lake base camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 13 | Thursday

Today our journey takes us across Coal Lake towards Alligator Lake. The Alpine landscape is enticing and has a northern charm all its own. Here your driving skills will be tested, as a few trails will demand your attention. Coal Lake is a favorite spot for ice fishing and has been used as a food supply for many an old time trapper. Over night at Coal Lake base camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 14 | Friday

Wake with the sun and greet the day with a hot cup of coffee and a hearty breakfast. On this last day of mushing breath deeply the fresh clean air and take in the rugged landscape one last time as you run your team back towards Sky High Wilderness Ranch. As you mush over the clean white snow, listen one last time to the quiet whoosh of the runners and the soft panting of the dogs. Keep those memories forever with some last photos of your return trip. Back at Sky High we will have a hot lunch. Pack your belongings and enjoy the drive winding down Fish Lake Rd. to Whitehorse for your last night at the Best Western Gold Rush Inn. Once we arrive in Whitehorse you will receive your musher diploma. (Breakfast, Lunch)



INCLUDED

- Transfer from and to Whitehorse
- Accommodation in cabins (6/7 nights, double room) or wood-heated tent outpost camps (5/6 nights, group accommodation)
- Accommodations in Whitehorse hotel (2 nights, double room)
- All meals including non-alcoholic beverages, except: Breakfast Day 1 and 8; Dinner Day 7 and 14 in Whitehorse
- Use of personal sled and 3-6 Huskies
- Winter boots included
- Musher Diploma

NOT INCLUDED

- Alcoholic beverages (we buy jointly before the tour)
- Meals in hotel/restaurants: Breakfast Day 1 and 8; Dinner Day 7 and 14
- Winter clothing rentals: Northern Outfitters Jacket, Pants (\$35/item); sleeping bag (\$45 each); mitts (\$20/pair)
- Hats, neck warmers/scarf
- All expenses of personal nature
- Gratuity

Please note:

* To participate, you must be healthy, enjoy working with dogs and have a good team spirit. Dog sledding is a physical activity so you should be in relatively good physical shape. You don't just stand on the back of a sled and wait for the adventure to happen like in the movies. YOU have to work, YOU have to be fit. YOU are running with your sled to help the dogs up the hills or pushing it along with your legs. YOU do have to use your body to go on the trails to slow down and go round corners. YOU do help feed the dogs after they work hard all day, YOU do clear up dog poo at camp and set them up with straw for the night. YOU do ensure your kit is ready and checked every morning before YOU harness the dogs.

* We point out, that unforeseeable circumstances such as weather conditions, wind chill factor, extreme temperatures (-30 or lower), condition of the group or illness of the dogs may force us to change this itinerary. The safety of our guests takes precedence and our decisions are final.

* You will be required to sign a "release of claims and waiver of liability form" prior to the departure of this tour. We strongly suggest that all of our guests consider the purchase of travel insurance for protection against cancellation penalties and many other unforeseeable circumstances such as emergency medical evacuation.

* We offer hearty home cooked meals prepared by our guides in our cozy lodge kitchen We do not charge for special diets however we do require a Doctor's note in order for us to cater to any special diet. Space for cooking and food storage is limited and therefore ask that you send Doctor's note with all dietary issues/allergies at least 2 weeks in advance of your arrival so that we can be organized and prepared for your stay.

* Sky High Wilderness Ranch is a true Yukon experience! This "off the grid" lifestyle ranch is serviced by quaint outhouses, has limited cell service, no WiFi and water is hauled up from downtown. Our buildings are warmed by a wood stove, making for a cozy stay, we have gravity fed showers and our lights & appliances are all powered by propane (no electricity). We also have a wood-heated sauna!

