



MAGPIE RIVER EXPEDITION

Canada

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Magpie River Adventure

9 DAYS • 8 NIGHTS

Sept-îles – Lake Magpie – Sept-îles

This trip can be tailored to suit your requirements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the most accessible multi-day rafting trip in the world after a beautiful road trip from the North East and a helicopter flight to Lake Magpie.
- Explore local indigenous culture and history from an Innu guide who will teach you how to bake bannock, a traditional bread. You will also experience the charming coastal fishing villages and culture of Quebec's Cote Nord region.
- Learn about the Boreal Forest including its eco-systems, animals and edible plants from a scientist.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	White water Rafting Adventure
Tour Start	Sept-îles
Tour End	Sept-îles
Accommodation	Hotel, Camping
Included Meals	8 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium
Group Size	Max. 8 people

EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE WATER



Join us as we paddle, play and float our way down the majestic Magpie River. We fly in by float plane and camp at the water's edge, exploring virgin Boreal forest and whitewater canyons. Magpie River is listed as one of National Geographic's top multi-day rafting rivers. You'll experience some of the best white water in the world as well as exploring cultures including local indigenous stories and history from an Innu guide, learn about the eco-systems, animals and edible plants of the region from a scientist and even have the opportunity to help out with water sampling and other field research. We relax after the action filled days and enjoy a good nights sleep with the Boreal River deep sleep system ready for the next days adventures.

CANADA *an overview*

Located in the northern part of north America, Canada is, a truly remarkable destination. Its ten provinces and three territories cover approximately 10 million square kilometres and extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific and northward into the Arctic Ocean. Canada has a diverse ecosystem ranging from eight forest regions, including the Boreal Forest, glaciers, active volcanoes and is the country with the most fresh water lakes. The Magpie River flows through the heart of the expansive 'Cote-Nord' or North Shore region of Quebec. This zone follows the St Lawrence from the Saguenay Fjord to Labrador. Along the rugged coastline, river after river – all wild Atlantic Salmon runs – bring fresh water to sea. These rich estuaries are feeding grounds for whales, seals, dolphins and colonies of puffins. Inland, on the glaciated rock shield, vast stretches of Boreal forest extend into Quebec's central mountains and to the tundra. This is one of the three biggest areas of intact forest in the world. It is home to common Canadian animals – black bear, moose, beaver, loons and the rare and endangered ones such as lynx and woodland caribou.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

ITINERARY



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DAY 1: Arrival in Sept-Îles and Welcome Meeting

You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the seaside town of Sept-Îles where you will then be able to check into your hotel, Chateau Arnaud Hotel. You will then have free time until 6:30pm where we will then kickoff with a cocktail and go over how to pack your dry bags.

Dinner is on your own this evening, and you will have the choice between; an awesome pub fare with Quebec microbrew beers, high-end steaks and seafood (lobster, crab, scallops, shrimp, are all fished locally), or the Quebec chip stand classic; poutine and milkshakes.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
Nil



Approx. Distance
N/A



Activity:
Personal Preference

Day 2: Fly to Lake Magpie Where We Will Start Our Adventure



This morning we'll get an early start before driving along the coast for 90 minutes to our aircraft. Most trips use helicopters but small groups may fly on float planes. Both are amazing experiences. You'll get a true sense of the immense wilderness you're about to experience as you fly over lakes, rivers, steep cliffs, forested valleys and barren hill-tops.

We start at the southern tip of the 100-kilometre Lake Magpie, just metres from the river's start. Before getting on the water you'll learn about river safety, practice strokes and raft manoeuvres and then the white-water fun begins!

We make camp only a few rapids to ease you into the experience. The scenery changes several times throughout the trip and this first section is both spectacular and unique for its steep hills and mix of Boreal Forest and tundra-like open areas.



As we set up camp for the first time, we'll show you how everything works, from your tent and sleep system, to the toilet and hand washing system, and the kitchen.

Once settled in, there's time to get to know the river. Whether you want to try to swim through one of the rapids, or go for a 15 minute hike to a nearby hilltop with amazing views of the river, or both, Day 2 is designed to introduce you to river life.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Approx. Distance:
Approx. 90min drive



Activity:
Transfer & Personal Preference



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DAY 3-6: The River Life: Running the river and wilderness camping

Each morning the guides rise early to get coffee, tea, and fruit ready before preparing breakfast. After breakfast, we take down camp and pack up.

On the river, you'll be delighted by how the continuous current tugs us along and how the scenery changes. Trees grow in stature as we descend the river and out of the highlands. Calm sections allow us to gaze at giant cliffs and we always scan the river banks for signs of moose, wolves, lynx, bear and osprey.



To ensure you get the challenge you're looking for we bring multiple types of boats for you to try. From our guided rafts, to stand up paddle boards and inflatable kayaks, there's the perfect boat for you. In the rafts, we paddle as a team and work on technique and coordination. For those who want more for more of a challenge, you can use the inflatable kayaks; your guide will teach you how to charge down rapids and surf waves.



There are a few rapids that are too big to paddle. Your guide will teach you how to 'line' (guide with ropes from shore) the rafts and/or do short portages to get around these.

Each camp on the Magpie has its own character and provides different vantage points of the river valley. We make our temporary home on beaches, flat rock ledges and on the edge of the Boreal Forest. When we arrive in camp you change into dry clothes, relax with a book, take a swim, fish, practice your photography or help collect driftwood for a fire while our guides prepare a 'happy hour'.

Our meals are delicious, wholesome and plentiful. We cook sauces on a stove, grill meats and vegetables over open fire, and bake desserts in a Dutch oven. We use as many fresh, locally sourced ingredients as possible: produces from a greenhouse near Sept-îles, organic Quebec farmed cheeses and meats, and wild caught seafood from local waters.

One of the greatest things about a river trip is how the group comes together. By day we work as a team to paddle the rapids and safely work as a team to paddle the rapids and safety work through the obstacles along the way. At camp, with the leadership of the guides, everybody plays a part in making for a great trip. Every group is different because of the variety of people and experiences that come together. We always share highs and challenges, moments of laughter and calm, and adventures that make for lasting memories and shared bonds.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Approx. Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Kayaking and Stand Up Paddle Boarding



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DAY 7 & 8: Big whitewater and stunning falls



All of the whitewater practice and teamwork get up to use on Day 7 as we get to the biggest rapids on the river including 'Chute des Femmes', 'Trust Falls' and 'Borealis'; big but super fun rapids that our team will guide you through. Once we are through this section, our trip shifts from paddling whitewater to witnessing awe-inspiring falls and campsites. At Magpie Gorge, the river thunders through a canyon and tumbles over a series of dramatic drops.

We camp overlooking the gorge – this is undoubtedly a world class setting and the perfect way to enjoy our last evening and morning in the wilderness.

There are a couple of hikes that we can do to gain different vantage points to take in the beauty and awesome power of the river.

Here we leave behind our rafts and extra equipment, while we take a forest path around the gorge and go for a short canoe paddle across a lake takes us to another spectacular location: the stunning 100-foot Magpie Falls. A beautiful mossy trail takes us to a breathtaking lunch spot amongst giant water-sculpted boulders at the edge of the drop.



From the falls it's a short paddle to the coastal highway where we're met with a van that will take us the 80 minutes back to the hotel. On the way we'll make a quick in a seaside village for souvenirs (cloudberry jam is a big hit).

Back in Sept-Îles you'll have time to shower and get adjust back to 'civilisation' before we meet for our farewell dinner at a nearby restaurant.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Approx. Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Whitewater Rafting

DAY 9: End of our adventure

After breakfast, we will drive you to the airport for your flight home.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Approx. Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Airport Transfer



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All meals as described ■ All ground transportation and float plane flights from meeting points onwards. ■ Accommodations as described. ■ Some wine and spirits for evenings at camp. ■ High quality camping equipment: large drybag, expedition tent, inflatable mattress, sleeping bag and sleeping bag liner, pillow with pillow case. ■ River equipment including personal flotation device, helmet, and splash jacket. ■ Basic fishing equipment. ■ Professional guide staff always available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International flights ➤ Meals other than mentioned ➤ Tips ➤ Personal expenses ➤ Airfare or ground transportation to and from trip meeting points. ➤ Alcoholic beverages for evenings in Sept Îles ➤ Quebec fishing permit (can be purchased at local convenience store before float plane flight) ➤ Travel and medical insurance ➤ Optional guide gratuities ➤ Sleeping bag

ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Nights 1 & 8	Sept-Îles	Hotel	<i>Chateau Arnaud Hotel</i>
Nights 2-7	Lake Magpie	Camping	<i>Seaside Camping Grounds</i>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activity Duration	Approx. 6 hours per day
Group Size	2- 8 pax
Best Time to go	All Year
Group Departures	Group departures take place in August – please see website or contact us for dates. Alternatively we are able to arrange tailor-made or private departures to suit.
Difficulty Level	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity your are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'medium' level (there is approx. 6 hours of activities per day – this includes breaks, side treks etc.with a distance of 8-18Km being traveled per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

