

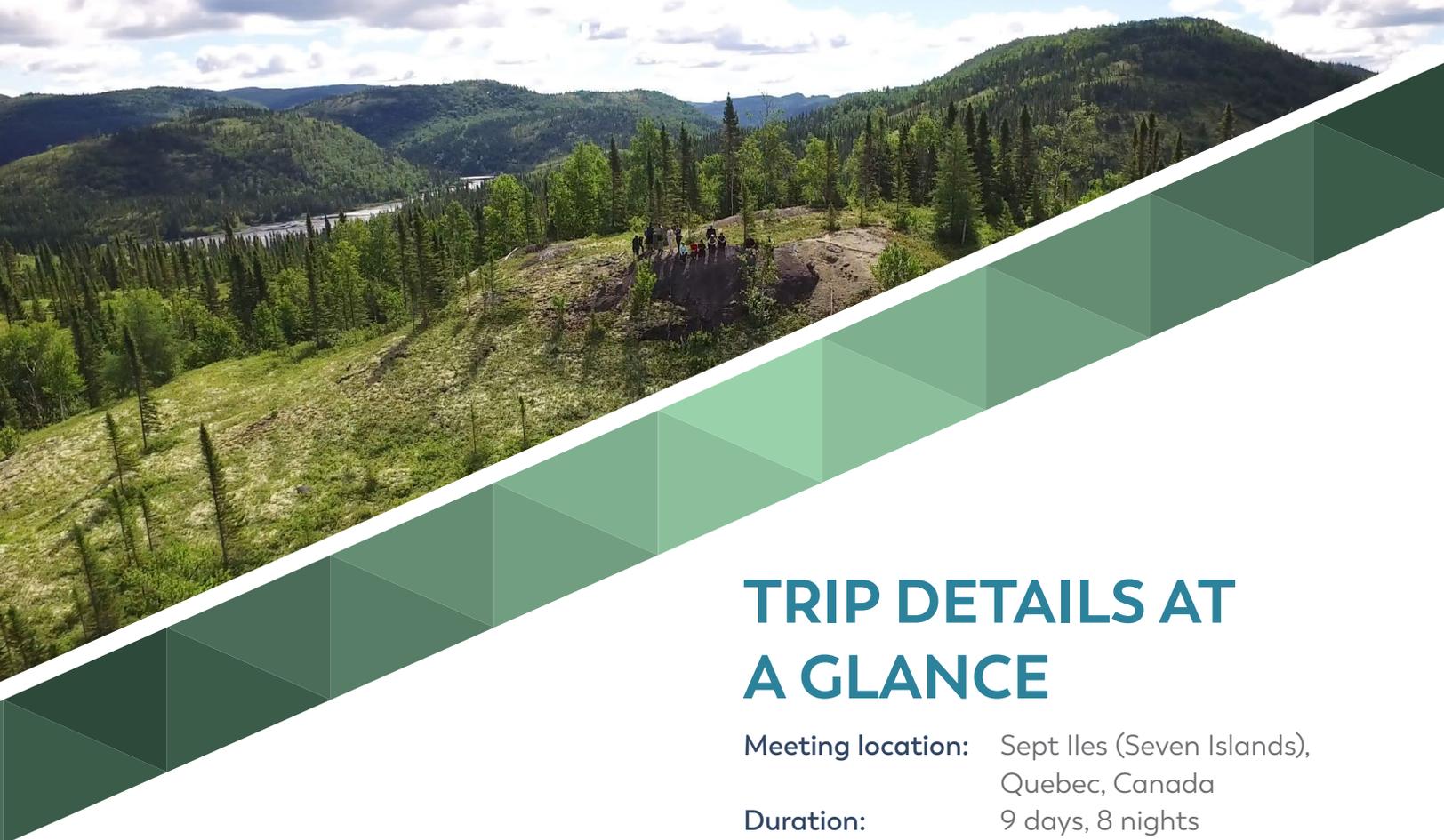


BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES



MAGPIE PACKRAFT EXPEDITION

Join a remote backcountry adventure like no other



TRIP DETAILS AT A GLANCE

Meeting location: Sept Îles (Seven Islands), Quebec, Canada

Duration: 9 days, 8 nights

Activities: Whitewater paddling, hiking, learning wilderness skills, camping, and fly fishing

Activity level: 4 out of 5 paddles



PRICE: \$4,895 USD + Tax

See departure dates and details at adventures.borealriver.com

WHY BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES?

3 REASONS TO JOIN BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES

Experience enlightened travel

On every trip, you'll experience a world class adventure destination and learn from experts. Whether it's skills or knowledge—expand your horizons.

Peace of mind policies

Two full-refund-weeks to sort out travel, a lifetime deposit if your schedule changes, and guaranteed departures.

Our business is safety

Your adventure guides aren't just qualified, they're wilderness and white water safety and rescue instructors.

"Best trip ever, hands down"

ADENA FRANZ, MAGPIE RIVER ADVENTURE



TO RESERVE YOUR TRIP

Book **online** or call 866-242-9383
or 613-503-4717

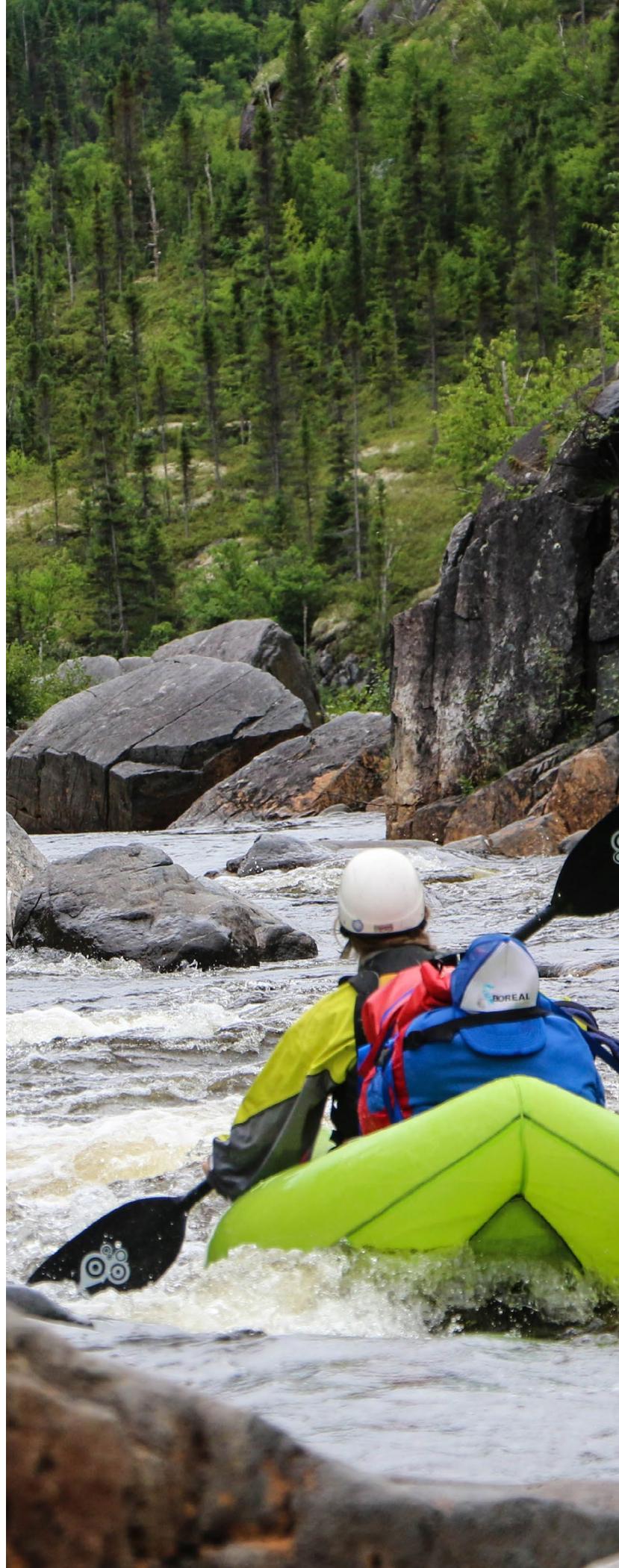


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*“Thanks again for such a great trip!
My three favourite things were:
A) The food: exceptional, delicious and always a surprise — five stars
B) Being outside in the fresh air
C) The memories — definitely worth spending time with my family.”*

ADAM MARIEN, MAGPIE RIVER ADVENTURE



TRIP DESCRIPTION

The Magpie River is one of National Geographic's top-10 multi-day rafting rivers. You'll experience some of the best white water in the world. But we understand you are looking for more than just world-class paddling.

If you're a physically fit adventurer and want to push yourself, this trip is a challenging combination of exploring majestic terrain and paddling an incredible river. You'll have one of the most amazing wilderness experiences of your lifetime and gain skills for more adventures. On this trip you'll learn how to thrive in the wild:

- Fly by helicopter, skimming canyons and Boreal treetops on your way to the Labrador plateau
- You'll start your trip crossing small lakes and hilltops in the upper reaches of the Magpie river shed. This is a rarely visited land of mountains, water, and untouched Boreal forest
- After navigating to Lake Magpie, you'll get to paddle the world-class whitewater of the Magpie River in your own packraft, all the way to the sea
- Gain river running skills with the leadership of professional guides
- Catch speckled trout and learn how to fly fish

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Why choose the Magpie River for your next vacation?

One of the most 'out there' expeditions in the world—made easy for you

Get yourself to Sept Iles, Quebec with a good fitness level, a smile, and some polypro—and we'll have everything else ready for you!

Combine a guided trip with new skills

Learn fly fishing and backcountry camping. We consider this a hybrid adventure that is part guided expedition and part skills development.

Paddle a top river and get comfortable in whitewater

Paddle fun whitewater with experienced guides. By the end of the trip you'll be surging waves and running rapids in style.

Explore a land where few have been

Travel through dramatic landscapes with epic scenery and explore one of the largest untouched ecosystems in the world.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TRIP

BOREAL RIVER PROVIDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR TRIP:

- Your professional guides are always available
- We offer a maximum 5:1 guest to guide ratio. (The industry average is 8:1)
- All ground transportation and flights from Sept-Îles onwards
- Get picked up (day 1) and dropped off (day 9) at the airport by your guides
- Helicopter or float plane to starting point
- Van shuttles to the helicopter (day 2) and from the river take-out back to Sept-Îles (day 8)
- 6 nights fully guided wilderness camping—we'll provide all the necessary paddling gear, drybags, group camping equipment, safety equipment and first aid kits, your own tent and all the technical camping equipment you need (except a sleeping bag). You can rent a high quality sleeping bag from us for \$115 or bring your own.
- Two nights (first and last) at the Chateau Arnaud Hotel in Sept-Îles, double occupancy. If you are travelling alone we'll pair you with another traveler of the same gender. If you would prefer your own room, the single supplement is \$280.
- All meals and snacks from day-2 breakfast through day-9 breakfast—amazing food guaranteed! You'll get to adjust your menu for your preferences (vegan, gluten-free, etc.) by picking your meals, or, if you prefer, leave it to us.
- Basic fishing equipment

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel between your home and Sept-Îles, Quebec
- Personal clothing and some camping gear. See below for what you need to bring
- Day 1 dinner in town. Sample the local fare—you'll have options from fine dining to fast food within walking distance of the hotel, before or after our 6:30 p.m. welcome meeting
- Travel and medical insurance
- Optional - Quebec fishing permit (can be purchased at a local convenience store before your flight to the river. Ask your guide and they'll help you).



ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN SEPT-ÎLES AND WELCOME MEETING



We greet you at the airport and bring you to the seaside Chateau Arnaud Hotel. Depending on when you arrive, you'll have free time until 6:30 pm to explore Sept-Îles. At 6:30 we have a kickoff cocktail and go over how to pack your drybags. Then it's dinner on your own. Within walking distance, you can choose between 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.

DAY 2

HELICOPTER FLIGHT AND BACKCOUNTRY 101



This morning we'll get an early start to start learning systems and dialing in our gear. We'll review the menu, pack, and divvy-up food. You'll be shown how to pack your bags, double check our packrafts, tents, and personal gear, and learn how to use the stoves, water filters, and gear maintenance. By mid-morning you'll be packed and geared up like a pro.

We're then going to load up for a beautiful 90 minute drive down the coast. We'll meet our helicopter and the pilot will give us a safety

briefing. We'll strap in for one of the most incredible experiences of this whole trip: our flight upstream, into the heart of Quebec's north. Staring down at waterfalls and skimming treetops, we'll fly over a wild landscape that few have ever laid eyes on.

After some high-fives, we wave goodbye to the pilot. As the sound of the helicopter fades, you'll be overcome by how remote you are. It is an amazing feeling, realizing that we are the only humans for miles around. Besides our backpacks, everything here is much as it has been for thousands of years. It is worthwhile to take a deep breath and look around. Over the coming days we'll explore true wilderness as we paddle, hike, and discover this amazing landscape up close - and make our way back to the sea.

For the rest of this day, we might paddle a little way on our first lake, but we'll likely set up camp pretty soon. We'll find a good spot and we can show you our camp systems.

Everyone works together to make camp. We'll create a comfortable 'home' to relax and fuel up in. We'll get into a routine and your guides will teach you little tricks of the trade with everything from cooking to setting up tarps. You will have everything you need to get comfortable and recharge in the backcountry.

Once set up, we can ease into our first evening in the forest. On wilderness trips we can appreciate the little things. With a hot cup of tea (or sip of scotch) around the fire and reclining back to watch the shooting stars, we'll settle in for restful nights.

DAY 3-4

PACKRAFTING, HIKING, AND NAVIGATING



We can choose from a few route options to get to Lake Magpie. This area has no established campsites or trails. Your guides will help you find the best route to take us from the drop-off point to the river. Everyone will have a chance to learn and use map and compass-based navigation techniques and GPS.

We'll hike overland and paddle our packrafts—link headwater lakes, rivers and streams—as we explore our way through this majestic landscape, getting to know its waterways and forest along the way.

As we move across the land, we'll be rewarded as each new lake and hilltop bring discoveries: a (surprised and confused) beaver that has never seen people before, swimming by its solitary lodge, expanses of untouched moss with caribou tracks, maybe a black bear munching on berries and of course, dramatic sweeping views that few have ever seen.

By mid-day on day 4 we'll make it to Lake Magpie. This is a beautiful and huge lake (100 km / 60 miles long!). Its size and purity are awe inspiring. The Magpie watershed is 99.999% untouched, a rarity today. Luckily we'll get onto the lake really close to where the river flows out. After no much paddling at all—we'll be on the river!

We'll have an equipment raft stashed here that one of the guides rose on their own. We can all throw our backpacks into the raft. Your packraft will now be a lightweight and super maneuverable kayak—and you'll be ready to start paddling whitewater.

DAY 4-7

WHITewater ON THE MAGPIE



During the next stage of our trip, we paddle one of National Geographic's top 10 multi-day whitewater rivers. The rapids are amazing and the scenery along the way a captivating mix of tundra, gorges, waterfalls and Boreal Forest.

With a light boat you'll learn more river running skills including reading rapids, rescue techniques, and whitewater maneuvers. There will be lots of opportunities for surfing waves. We'll spend 4 full days bobbing and weaving our way downstream, picking lines (with the help of your guides) down numerous class I, II, and III rapids.

There are a number of big water class III+ and class IV rapids that we will scout from shore. Everything is 'challenge by choice' meaning you can choose your challenge level. At this point in the trip, you'll understand more about whitewater so you'll feel good about making decisions on the river. With the help of your guides you can decide to run some of those rapids with appropriate safety precautions. Others can 'sneak' down the sides; all rapids can be portaged too.

We'll have our fly fishing and spin fishing gear meet us along with the raft (we'll bring a couple of lightweight fishing kits on the headwaters section). The speckled trout (brook trout) fishing becomes incredible once we float off the lake and paddle into the first few rapids of the Magpie. If you are into fishing you will have a blast. If you are starting out, this is an amazing place to learn and your guides will help you out as you land your first 'brookies'.

There is plenty else to do if you aren't keen on fishing: side hikes (if you have more hiking left in

you) to explore the forest, or whitewater training - your guides can teach you rescue skills like whitewater swimming and throw bagging. With the current pushing us, we'll have time to play in the rapids too.

DAY 8

CANYONS, WATERFALLS, AND HOMEWARD BOUND

As we approach the sea we'll arrive at the awe-inspiring Magpie Gorge where the river thunders through a canyon and tumbles over a series of dramatic drops. We camp overlooking the gorge. This is a world-class setting and the perfect way to enjoy our last evening and morning in the wilderness. There are a couple of hikes we can do to gain different vantage points and take in the beauty and awesome power of the river.

We'll leave our raft at the top of the gorge (to be slung out by helicopter at a later date), while we take a forest path around the gorge and continue with our packrafts and personal packs. A short paddle across a lake takes us to another spectacular location: the stunning 100-foot Magpie Falls. A beautiful mossy trail

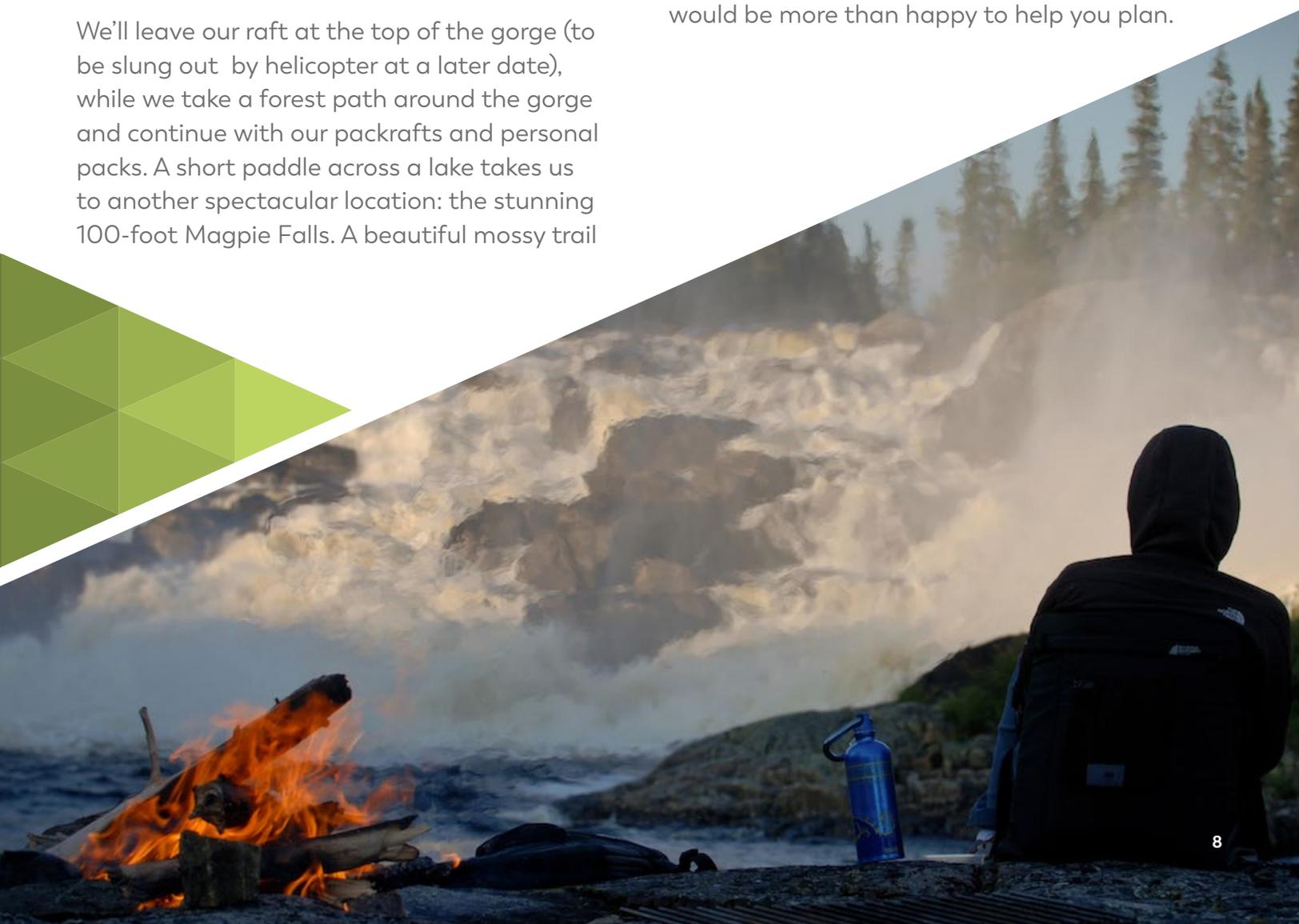
takes us to a breathtaking lunch spot amongst giant water-sculpted boulders at the edge of the drop.

From the falls it's a short paddle to the coastal highway. The van will meet us and take us the 80 minutes back to the hotel. With a stop in a small coastal village for souvenirs, we arrive back at the hotel in time for a hot shower before dinner.

DAY 9

FLIGHTS

After breakfast, we'll drive you to the airport for your flight home. Alternatively, you can stay in the region to continue your adventure, which we would be more than happy to help you plan.



GETTING TO SEPT-ÎLES

Our trip starts and ends in Sept-Îles, Quebec. Your Boreal River guides will pick you up and drop you off at the airport. If you are driving to the region or arriving on an earlier day, we'll meet you at Hotel St. Arnaud on Day 1.

Our travel specialists will be happy to help you plan your trip to Sept-Îles but here is some general info to get you started.

TRAVELLING BY AIR

Air Canada, Provincial Airlines, and Air Labrador offer daily flights to Sept-Îles connecting through Montreal and Quebec City. There is almost always a seat sale starting in late April—so we recommend waiting until then to buy your tickets.

TRAVELLING BY CAR

Driving to Quebec's Cote Nord (North Shore) makes for a great road trip. We highly recommend allowing ample time to rest and enjoy the many sights en route. Expect about 8.5 hours of driving time from Quebec City to Sept Îles.

From Quebec City there are two route options.

Option 1: Via Tadoussac – This route is the more scenic route and fastest, but does include lots of hills, bends, and undivided highway.

Follow Hwy 40 East to St. Anne-de-Beaupre. Continue on Hwy 138 East all the way to our rendezvous point. There is a short free ferry

that crosses the Saguenay River from Baie-St-Catherine to Tadoussac. It runs hourly 24 hours a day. The historic village of Tadoussac, perched on the Saguenay fjord, is an excellent choice for an overnight stay.

Option 2: Via Rimouski or Matane – This route includes a ferry crossing that has to be timed and reserved in advance, but involves bigger highways and less hills.

From Quebec City, follow Hwy 20 East and take either the Rimouski – Forestville, Matane – Godbout, or Matane – Baie-Comeau ferry. Once you have crossed the St. Lawrence, follow Hwy 138 East to Sept Îles.

Rimouski Ferry Reservations

Phone: 1-800-973-2725, 418-725-2725

Matane Ferry Reservations

Phone: 1-877-562-6560

TRAVELLING BY TRAIN/BOAT

For those with extra time available, an adventurous route is to take a passenger train to the town of Rimouski followed by the weekly boat Relais Nordik* to Sept Îles. Reservations for the boat must be made well in advance, as it is a weekly boat you will need to plan for extra days in the region before and after your trip.

** This ship then continues to the remote lower North Shore, for a six night round trip voyage, carrying supplies to some of the most isolated villages in Quebec as well as providing sleeping berths and meals for passengers.*

Relais Nordik Boat

Phone: 1-800-463-0680, (418) 723-8787



INSURANCE

Guests on Boreal River trips need to have appropriate Medical insurance. Any evacuation costs will be billed to the person that is leaving the trip. Insurance should cover emergency air evacuation from the river to a local hospital, medical treatment within Canada, and repatriation.

We also strongly recommend obtaining Trip Cancellation insurance, which will reimburse you for the unused portion of your Boreal River trip if you must cancel prior to departure or leave your trip early. If you have insurance coverage from a credit card or an existing plan, please make sure that it will cover you for the above mentioned

emergency situations and that you are covered while participating in whitewater activities and remote wilderness travel.

For an insurance package that will cover you for the specific situations encountered on our trips, we recommended something similar to what **World Nomads** offers.

WHAT TO PACK

See the **online packing list** for links with suggested items. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call or send us an email. We're here to help.

PACKING LIST FOR CAMP

- Three-season sleeping bag, rated to 0°C or below — you can rent from us for \$115
- Several small stuff sacs, mesh bags, or lightweight drybags to organize your gear inside your backpack
- 1 pair of shoes (old running shoes or closed toe clogs—something to keep your feet safe and dry.)
- 2 or 3 pairs of thermal socks (1 or 2 different weights is a good idea)
- Undergarments (synthetic anti-microbial is best; it dries quickly and keeps you clean.)
- Lightweight t-shirt
- Lightweight long-sleeve shirt
- Lightweight 'quick dry' long pants
- Thick fleece or wool sweater
- Thick fleece pants
- Top and bottom medium-weight synthetic or wool long underwear
- Rain gear top and bottom
- Mesh bug jacket and/or head net
- Toque (wool or fleece winter hat)
- Sun hat
- Small quick-dry towel
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Sunscreen, lip protection, and insect repellent
- Water bottle, 1 litre
- Sunglasses with strap
- Prescription glasses with strap if necessary

- Toiletry kit with biodegradable soap and shampoo as well as personal medications
- Optional: reading material, journal, binoculars, camera (waterproof or with waterproof case)
- Optional: fishing rod with tackle and hard carrying case. We provide basic equipment but experienced anglers will enjoy using their own specialized gear.

PACKING LIST FOR THE RIVER

- 1 pair of shoes for the river. The ideal river shoe is lightweight and draining yet supportive enough for walking on portages and scouting rapids, with a grippy sole. These can be lightweight running shoes, water shoes with a supportive sole, or sturdy sandals with toe covering.
- 2 pairs of thermal socks for the river: wool, fleece, or synthetic.
- Bathing suit / surf shorts
- Lightweight synthetic t-shirt
- Top and bottom medium-weight synthetic or wool long underwear
- Long-sleeved neoprene 'surf' top or long-sleeved medium-weight fleece top
- Thick fleece or wool sweater
- Thick fleece pants

GENERAL PACKING

- Clothes for the trip home
- Travel documents (passport) and medical insurance cards or policies.

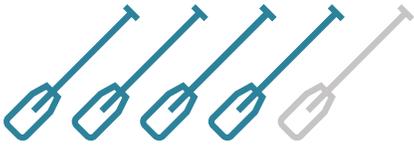
EQUIPMENT THAT WE WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU

If you have any of these items and prefer to bring your own, you can do that. Just let us know and we will make sure it is right for this trip. Remember everything for this remote adventure needs to be expedition-worthy and lightweight.

- ☑ Expedition packraft and break-down paddle
- ☑ Whitewater helmet and flotation device
- ☑ Hiking backpack (65L to 85L)
- ☑ 50L Drybag for you to line your backpack
- ☑ Inflatable lightweight camping mattress
- ☑ 3-season expedition tent—you get a 1 person tent to yourself—or Hennessy Hammock. You decide!

- ☑ Small drybag to have accessible in your packraft (never 100% waterproof so not good for cameras)
- ☑ Wetsuit, 'Farmer John' style
- ☑ Wind and waterproof paddling jacket
- ☑ All group camping equipment such as cooking and eating utensils, dishes, group shelters, etc.
- ☑ All group safety equipment including first aid kits, satellite phone, and InReach device
- ☑ Fly fishing and reel-cast fishing equipment

ACTIVITY LEVEL



4.0

The Magpie Packraft Expedition is 4.0 out of 5 on our activity level scale.

The demands of the trip mean we're careful about guests' fitness levels. Hiking with all of your gear requires endurance, strength, and energy. As a result, we require that if you're joining this adventure you should be fit enough to jog 6.5 km / 4 miles and be comfortable hiking with a full backpack for a full day.

If you're used to backcountry canoeing and hiking in parks and comfortable carrying heavy loads, you'll be great.

CONDITIONING TIPS

If you're an outdoor enthusiast who regularly spends long days on the water or trails you should be fine, but it won't hurt to do more. And your enjoyment will only improve the more fit you are. To get in shape for this trip we suggest:

- Do some cardio work, such as jogging or cycling for at least an hour, 3 or more times a week
- Lift weights 2 or 3 times a week. Alternatively, cross train with activities such as swimming, hiking, climbing or paddling 2 or 3 times per week

If you'd like a more detailed program you can ask us, or even join a gym and tell the trainer what you're conditioning for.

RESOURCES

Please visit our website for additional resources as you prepare for your trip.

You'll find additional information on:

- **our safety and camping systems**
- how you can **help protect the Magpie**
- **your guides**
- and more!

PLANNING CHECKLIST

PLAN YOUR TRIP

- Reserve** your adventure.

Rest assured with our **Peace of Mind Policies**

- Two full-refund-weeks to sort out travel
- A lifetime deposit if your schedule changes
- Guaranteed departures

- Plan your travel to and from Sept Iles
- Check your passport expiry date (if you'll be travelling from abroad)
- Purchase Medical and Trip Cancellation Insurance

90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE

- Send us your menu choices, medical, and emergency contact info (we'll send you links to submit this info once you join)
- Book travel if you haven't done so already
- Start **getting ready**

6 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE

- Join the optional Q&A video conference with your guides (we'll send you details)
- Review your **packing list**, let us know if you have any questions.

1 OR 2 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Get packing!
- Give family, work, or friends our toll-free number 1-866-242-9383 and email **info@borealriver.com** in case they need to reach you during the expedition — our guides will check messages by satellite each day.

TRAVEL DAY

- Let us know** if you run into any delays
- Meet your Boreal River Adventures guide at the airport. They'll be waiting for you wearing a Boreal River shirt and hat
- You made it—enjoy your adventure!

Contact us anytime if you have any questions at all.

