



ADVENTURES
in good company



HIKING HUT TO HUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Being surrounded by the beauty of mountains, lakes, and wildflowers
- Hiking in the BC mountains at the height of wildflower season
- Paddling canoes for a day on a pristine wild lake
- Not seeing anyone else for 5 days and sleeping in cozy rustic huts in the middle of nowhere
- Gazing at incredibly bright stars untouched by city light pollution
- Swimming in crystal clear mountain lakes and drinking water that doesn't need to be filtered

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** Wells Gray Park, British Columbia, Canada
- Activities:** Hiking
- Arrive:** 2:00 p.m. at the Kamloops airport on Day 1
- Depart:** If you are driving from Clearwater, you can leave any time on Day 8. If flying from Kamloops Airport we will have you to the airport by 10:00 a.m.

Trip Overview

Rarely is it possible to combine hiking a wilderness that is so remote we are unlikely to see other people for the entire time, yet enjoy a warm and comfortable hut at the end of the day. But on this trip, you can have it all! If you want days full of hiking in beautiful wild Canadian mountains, experiencing all the joy of true wilderness and solitude, and love the idea of a warm place with a soft mattress to sleep at night, please join us as we spend six days roaming this remote area of lush meadows full of wildflowers, beautiful peaks, pristine lakes, and streams that are so clean you can drink directly from them. **Maximum group size:** 10.

Rating

This trip is rated as a 4 because it combines hiking in mountain terrain with a pack that will weigh 15 - 20 pounds (you will be carrying your clothes for the trip and approximately 5 pounds of group food, but no camping gear) for possibly up to 8 hours on 2 days. It requires being in very good physical condition. Please do not be misled by the apparently low mileage - our experience is that many women find the hiking more challenging than they expected. While no paddling experience is required, previous hiking experience is strongly recommended. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be engaged in aerobic conditioning for at least 40-50 minutes 4-5 times a week. Additional endurance exercise (e.g. going for a 2 hour hike once a week) and/or strength training is usually required. **Rating:** 1 2 3 **[4]** 5.

What's Included

- A local guide and an AGC guide (If there are fewer than 7 on the trip, there will not be an AGC guide)
- Three nights motel lodging and four nights in huts
- All meals from dinner Day 1 through breakfast on Day 8
- Round trip transportation from Kamloops, BC to Clearwater
- Round trip transportation from Clearwater to the trailhead

Excluded: Transportation to/from Kamloops, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities, and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Our trip begins at the Kamloops airport at 2 p.m. on Sunday or at 5 p.m. at our lodging in Clearwater, British Columbia. After introducing ourselves and starting (or continuing) to get to know each other, we'll go out for a welcome dinner. (D)

DAY 2

Today we'll go for a paddle on Clearwater Lake, one of the most pristine bodies of water in the world. We'll start with some instructions in paddling and then set off for a paddle. We'll stop for lunch and if you're so inclined, you can dip your drinking water directly from the lake. We'll for sure see a wide variety of birds and, with the abundance of wildlife around the lake, maybe even deer and moose! This is a huge lake and our paddle will give you a taste of what wilderness paddling is all about. On the way back to our lodging, we'll visit Helmcken Falls, the largest and probably the most photographed waterfall in the park. That night after dinner we'll review the plans for the trip and make a final clothing check, tossing everything that might be nice to have but that you will be happy you left behind after the first two hours of hiking. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

After breakfast we'll load up the van for the hour or so drive to the trailhead and the trekking adventure begins! Along the way we'll learn about the ecology of the area. Stepping off the road and onto the track, we leave civilization behind as we hike through mature forests and lush meadows while gaining 1,700 feet elevation. Although the mileage appears low on this hike, it is fairly continuous, at times steep, uphill hiking. But we take our time, stopping to gaze at the view, pick blueberries and huckleberries, or relax in the sun. Our destination today is Trophy Mountain Chalet at 7,000 feet, and it will take 2.5 to 3.5 hours to get there. After having lunch and settling-in to the hut we may have time for another shorter (and optional) hike to see more of the area. About 7 p.m. we'll enjoy the first of many delicious and hearty dinners, complete with a glass of wine if you choose! That night we can go outside and see a sky more filled with stars than many of us have ever seen. The stillness of the night is broken only by occasional night sounds and the peacefulness of the mountain night gradually soaks in.

Hiking: 3 miles to cabin, 1.5-2 miles optional after reaching cabin. Elevation gain: 1,700 feet (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Today is a layover day, meaning no packing up and carrying only what we need for the day in our packs. After a hearty breakfast we will set out on a longer day hike, possibly climbing two or three peaks, walking along open ridges, and, for the brave and the foolish, maybe even taking a refreshing dip in the numerous alpine lakes. We return to our hut for another relaxing evening of laughing, talking, eating, and hot drinks and popcorn.

Hiking: 6 miles. Elevation gain: 1,200 feet (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Leaving the hut after breakfast, we hike about 7 miles through alpine meadows, dropping down to the Valley of the Lakes for a lunch break and perhaps another refreshing dip in a crystal-clear lake, before crossing Eagle Pass at 6,700 feet. The 6 to 8-hour hike includes crossing a field of boulders and some steep up and downhill trail. While 7 miles doesn't sound far, the terrain is guaranteed to make it seem farther. But our destination, Discovery Cabin, makes all the effort worth it. Set in a remote and wild valley surrounded by mountains, there is even a greater feeling of being in the middle of nowhere.

Hiking: 8 miles. Elevation gain: 2000 feet (B, L, D)

DAY 6

We are delighted to have our second layover day; a leisurely breakfast being much appreciated after the length of yesterday's hike. Our option today is hiking into remote lakes and to the top of Table Mountain. Or you might choose just to stay at the cabin and relax, it is such a beautiful setting and a lovely place to hang out. And after all, this is your vacation! More exercise, more rest - whichever you need more, you can choose it.

Hiking: 5 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet (B, L, D)

DAY 7

Our final hiking day includes travel off-trail down a ridge of Table Mountain, with spectacular views of Moul Lake and the Phillip Lakes. We descend into the forest and follow a steep downhill trail for our final 3-hour hike back to the van. The entire hike will take anywhere from 6 to 8 hours and although largely downhill, will leave everyone feeling accomplished. In late afternoon we return to our lodging in Clearwater and revel in the feeling of hot showers. With clean bodies and clothes, we rejoin the group for our farewell dinner.

Hiking: 6 miles. Elevation gain: 1,500 feet (B, L, D)

DAY 8

It's hard to leave this quiet place and return to the land of cell phones and noise, but at least we are relaxed, refreshed, and, hopefully, recharged. If you drove on your own, you are welcome to leave anytime this morning. If you flew into Kamloops, we'll have you back to the airport by 10:00 a.m. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

- The closest airport to Clearwater is Kamloops (YAK).
 - AGC will organize a group transfer from the Kamloops airport on the first day of the trip to Clearwater.
 - More detailed information will be sent with the Pre-Departure document and will depend on flight schedules at that time into Kamloops.
- You can fly into Vancouver, Seattle, Edmonton or Calgary, rent a car and drive to Clearwater. Driving distances are below:
 - Vancouver via the Coquihalla Highway (#5) is approximately 5.5 hours.
 - From Seattle, Edmonton or Calgary it's approximately 8 hours.
- Busing: Greyhound Bus Lines provides service to Clearwater, with two departures daily from Vancouver.
 - The trip is about 7 hours, and costs about \$190 round-trip.
 - For schedule information, contact Greyhound at 1-800-661-8747 or check the web site www.greyhound.ca.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

We'll spend the first two nights and the last night in a basic and clean motel, with an attached restaurant, in a remote area. In between we'll spend four nights in two different rustic huts. The huts are comfortable, well heated, fully equipped, and we will have each hut all to ourselves. Both are two stories with the lower story for cooking and eating, and the second story for sleeping. The first hut has individual sleeping compartments; the second hut has mattresses in a loft. There is no running water or indoor plumbing; there are composting toilets and a room for washing yourself off.

Please note: Food options at the huts are limited (since all the food is packed in) and women with specific dietary preferences or issues may need to supplement their food.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)