



Nass River

Unexplored Culture; World Class Whitewater



ITINERARY

THE TRIP:

6 days / 5 nights
5 nights camping
1 night hotel prior to trip, 1
night hotel after trip additional
to cost

START / FINISH

Terrace, B.C.
(2hr flight from Vancouver)

2010 DEPARTURE DATES:

August 13th – 18th.

2010 PRICE:

\$2900 CAD + GST / HST

INCLUSIONS:

- Certified, Expert River guides
- State-of-the-art expedition equipment including an all-season tent (1 per 2 guests), sleeping bag, Thermarest air mattress, wet suit, spray jacket, rain gear, rubber boots, safety equipment and waterproof bags for your personal belongings.
- All on-trip meals and beverages, including a selection of vintage wines, spirits, local and imported beers, non-alcoholic drinks and fresh water.
- All transfers between Terrace, B.C. and the river.
- All necessary permits, tenures, etc.
- Detailed maps and a library of regional books.

DAY ZERO

Your trip begins the evening before we start rafting. Upon arrival at the Terrace airport your hotel can arrange a shuttle to bring you to the hotel. Later in the evening we will have a pre-trip meeting where you will meet the guides and all the other travelers. Waivers will be signed and any lingering paperwork will be completed. You will receive your special dry bags for packing your personal belongings into. We will also have a briefing on gear, clothing, and the river itself.

DAY ONE – 4 MILES OF RAFTING

This morning we meet after breakfast in the hotel lobby to prepare for our departure. There's time to do any last minute shopping, grab a *latté* and board the van for our transfer to the Bowser River put in. Here we meet the rest of the guides and enjoy a deli-style lunch at the river's edge. Before we launch there will be a brief river orientation and safety talk, and by early afternoon, we'll be on the river. A half hour later, we'll arrive at our first camp where we'll enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as we set camp and settle in. The first of many sumptuous dinners follows before we collect around the campfire under a star-filled sky.

DAY TWO, THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE – 120 KILOMETERS OF RAFTING

We typically begin each day with coffee and tea; followed by a hot breakfast that may feature fluffy blueberry pancakes, breakfast burritos or perhaps West Coast eggs benny. Fresh fruit salad, granola, and yoghurt are always available. In short, you will not go hungry! Once camp has been broken and the boats are packed we'll head downstream, usually between 9:30 and 10am.

Our journey continues on Day Two through deep canyons passing lots of Class III rapids and a couple Class IV rapids. The backdrop is steep cliff walls and thick Northern forest, with the rolling Omineca Mountains in the distance. Late in the day we leave the Bell-Irving River behind and join the Nass River. Tonight's camp is in the broader valley of the Nass.

We begin Day Three with an hour or so of floating followed by what could possibly be described as BC's single best section of whitewater. 30 kilometers of pool – drop rapid after rapid excitement through one of the most spectacular canyons we've ever been in leads us to an idyllic camp for an evening of comparing stories of good, clean whitewater fun.

Day Four continues with spectacular canyons and more tight squeezes as we navigate lots of Class II and III rapids. Tonight's camp provides a myriad of waterfalls and pools for a true riverside shower.

Day Five has us back in the whitewater with 2 Class IV rapids, one of which is a spectacular canyon that gives a sense of dropping steeply through the Coast Mountains as the Nass makes its final hurrah through Moose Carcass Canyon before flattening out into the historically and culturally rich Lower Nass River Valley. Tonight's camp is on a beautiful gravel bar in seclusion just outside of civilization.

DAY SIX – 23 MILES OF RAFTING & BACK TO CIVILIZATION

Our final day of rafting is a welcome change being a total float. The calm, purling waters are bordered by coastal cedars providing a mysterious ambience. We will begin our re-integration to society as we see evidence of a thriving First Nations community. The Lower Nass Valley has 4 very separate villages that are home to



WHY THE NASS?

The Nass River "River of Abundance" is perhaps the best whitewater in British Columbia and maybe even the world. There are four days straight of big volume, class 3 and 4 whitewater rapids hidden in deep, smooth black rock canyons. The area is rich in moose, grizzly and black bear populations all feeding on the lush coastal rainforest and abundant fish runs. The region is home to many First Nations including the Nisga'a people (people of the Nass), providing thousands of years of history of salmon and eulachon fish harvesting and trading along with beautiful artwork dotting the landscape. We are met at the end of our trip by Nisga'a elders who welcome us to the Nass Valley, provide a traditional First Nations Dance and a sample meal of traditional foods.

SVE is the only company allowed to run trips through this very special wilderness area.

the Nisga'a people. They have lived here for centuries and have passed some impressive milestones regarding First Nations independence. The Nisga'a people were the first in Canada to complete a land claim settlement with the Government of Canada effectively giving them an entire valley to govern as an independent country. SVE has developed a relationship with the Nisga'a and have been invited to develop this trip which terminates on their land. Additionally, we have been offered an introduction to some of the rich cultural history existing there including the possibility of a tour of an abandoned village by an elder or a traditional dance to meet us at our takeout. Our takeout point is near the First Nations town of New Aiyansh, which is an area steeped in Native history with a recent boom and bust in the logging industry. Our evening is spent back in the relative luxury of Terrace where, after well-deserved hot showers, we'll get together for a final dinner. Stories can be practiced and embellished with your new friends before taking them home to family and friends.

DEPARTURE DAY – HOMEWARD BOUND

Flights from Terrace to Vancouver leave Terrace 6 times / day. There is a hotel shuttle to the airport to get you to whichever flight you've booked. If you're on an earlier flight, you'll be back in Vancouver before noon, so connections home can be made that afternoon.

THE RIVER

The Bowser flows into the Bell-Irving which then empties into the Nass, which is one of the major rivers in the North and cuts through a wild and remote section of the Coast Mountain Range. It is a large volume river that has dramatic volcanic ledges and canyon walls.

An easy and constant class I and II current carries us for the first day followed by a day along the Bell-Irving, interspersed with exciting class III and IV rapids. The course broadens when we reach the Nass, one of North America's largest undammed rivers. Similar in size to the Skeena river with large fun, splashy and deep Class III and IV rapids for the next 3 days. The last day is a beautiful float out into the coastal plateau of the Lower Nass Valley.

Make no mistake; this is a major whitewater trip!

RAPID FACTS

Total Rafting Distance	Approx. 140 Km	River Class	30% Class 2
Elevation at Put-In	1500 Feet		50% Class 3
Elevation at Take-Out	100 Feet		20% Class 4
Elevation Change	1400 Feet		

ALONG THE SHORE

In addition to the river's natural beauty, the area is overflowing with native lore and history mixed in the recent years with fur trading and logging industries. There are old volcanic lava beds that at one point damned the entire river off, flooding a native town that had to be relocated to its present day's location. The



fishing along the river and its multitude of tributaries is thriving and many spots are “secret” to the local casters. The lower river was and is traveled by First Nations and locals while the upper reaches are almost untouched, never before commercially rafted.

THE WILDLIFE

The Bell-Irving River flows out of the heavily glaciated areas northward through tight, tall and towering canyons that we wind our way through in the last lower section before our confluence with the Nass. The Nass River is famous for its fish stocks of all five species of Salmon and the majestic steelhead. Also the hard to find but abundant Eulachon “grease” fish, which when dried, with a wick inserted in its mouth, can be burnt like a candle. Black bear and Grizzly roam the uninhabited wilderness that is part of the coastal mountain temperate rainforest that encompasses the Nass River valley. While flowing past the towering western red cedars we will find evidence of moose, deer, wolf, wolverine, lynx, and mountain lion, among others. Birdlife is thick and at all times of the day one can hear the symphony of birdsong overhead and inside the forest cover.

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

Rafting

We generally raft for 4 - 5 hours a day. Some days will have larger rapids with longer busy water sections and others with longer continuous rapids.

Hiking

There is limited opportunity for long hikes on this trip. Shorter interpretative walks can be incorporated into most days,

WEATHER

The weather in the last half of August and early September is some of the best of the year. Temperatures can reach the high 80s (°F) during the day and drop to the mid-40s at night. Please note that daily highs will cool significantly as the season progresses, but the wildlife and fish populations increase proportionately. Generally, late summer and early autumn are the driest times of the year, but we need to be prepared for anything. Mountain weather can be highly variable.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

Skeena Valley Expeditions is committed to the preservation of wilderness habitats in the Pacific Northwest. Our trips are therefore designed to promote an understanding of this unique region’s delicate ecosystems while preserving their natural integrity. We take a low-impact, self-contained, leave-no-traces approach, carrying in what we need and carrying out all garbage and human waste. After enjoying such incredible natural beauty, we want to know that we’ve left the environment unspoiled for a future generation of explorers.

TERRACE BC

If you have any extra time, Terrace BC, your staging city, is well worth an extra day or two. We will be happy to help you create a fantastic vacation here and will be including more information with your trip planner that will be mailed upon booking.

A few sites to check out include:

- Coast Inn of the West – Our meeting place and recommended hotel for the pre and post nights
http://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/terrace/coast_innwest/overview
- Northwest Regional Airport – Where you will need to arrive and depart from
<http://www.yxt.ca>
- Kermodei Tourism – The association that promotes the Terrace region and can offer many ideas for pre and post trip activities
<http://www.kermodeitourism.ca>