



## CHILKO- CHILCOTIN-FRASER RIVER RAFTING

*Itinerary*



<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Vancouver International Airport; Private charter terminal
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	11:00 am flight to the Chilcotin Country
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	Approximately 5:00 PM
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	Class IV
<b>RIVER MILES:</b>	120
<b>PUT-IN:</b>	Chilko River headwaters
<b>TAKE-OUT:</b>	Gang Ranch
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	Minimum age is 13 years old
<b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>	7 days

This journey of discovery is one of the most ecologically diverse and personally satisfying expeditions found anywhere. We'll fly over the towering mountains and massive glaciers of the Coast Range in a chartered aircraft. After an evening in the beautiful wilderness of Chilko Lake, we'll float 120 miles through the crystal clear, turquoise water of this incredible desert river, dropping over 3000 vertical feet. The Chilko-Chilcotin-Fraser is considered a Class IV river system with a number of extended drops. On the last day of our expedition we'll fly back crossing over the 2000-foot canyons of the lower Fraser and the lakes and mountains of the southern Coast Range. Experiencing such a variety of phenomenal scenery has made guests claim that this seven-day trip has been the best of their lives.

### **AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969**

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. In 2002, R.O.A.M. joined the O.A.R.S. Family of Companies to offer trips in Canada and Alaska. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

## **Sample Itinerary**

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like.

### **Day 1 (Sunday)**

- We meet for our **11:00 AM** flight to the Chicotin. **If you are arriving at Vancouver International Airport on Day 1, you must arrive a minimum of two hours before the 11:00AM flight.** You need to allow time for possible flight delays, to clear customs, and to transfer from the Vancouver International Airport terminal to a private charter plane terminal. We will be meeting at either the Landmark Terminal or the Million Air Terminal. You will be notified approximately 10 days prior to departure where to meet and to which airstrip in the area we'll be flying.
- Please make sure your gear is packed in soft luggage (NO SUITCASES), as this will allow for easy storage and transfer into the chartered aircraft. As soon as everyone's gear is stowed, we will board our chartered plane for the incredible flight over the mountains and glaciers to Anahim Lake. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our first night's camp in the Chilko Lake region and the headwaters of the Chilko River. Here we'll meet our guides to go over last-minute details and issue expedition equipment.

### **Day 2 (Monday)**

- After a hearty breakfast, we will head to the boats, go through the safety procedures for the trip and teach any "would be" paddlers the basics. The swift currents and gentle rapids will carry us more than 25 miles to our camp, located in a beautiful meadow along the riverbank and surrounded by lodge pole pines. Upon arrival we'll go through the camping procedures and then enjoy the first of many delightful meals in the wilderness. There will be plenty of time for a leisurely walk, fishing for rainbow trout and dolly varden, or to simply watch the bald eagles from the river bank.

### **Day 3 (Tuesday)**

- After breakfast, it's on to the rafts. You will quickly notice that the pace of the river has increased. Today we descend through Lava Canyon and challenge the longest, continuous rapids of the trip. Heart stopping hydraulics and towering, standing waves cascade for more than 14 miles through deep and narrow lava gorges, makes for non-stop excitement. It is no surprise Lava Canyon has become world famous among whitewater enthusiasts. We will choose a secluded riverside camp just above or below the confluence with the turquoise Taseko River where the Chilko doubles in size. At camp, a delightful evening under the stars and celebration is in order after a fun filled day of adventure.

### **Day 4 (Wednesday)**

- After a leisurely breakfast, we run the "Gap"—a 20-foot wide chute that carries us into the Chilcotin River. The river valley opens as we emerge onto the Chilcotin Plateau. Birdlife abounds and our casual float is a welcome reprieve after the previous day's excitement. This will be a great time for trying the oars and everyone will be encouraged to give it a try. Arriving relatively early into camp, there will be time for swimming or plain old loafing around. Try your hand at some fishing or sit and watch the sunset on the metamorphic rocks across the valley.

### **Day 5 (Thursday)**

- An early departure will set the stage for an action packed day. In the morning, we will enjoy some friendly Class II and III rapids before arriving at our lunch site at an ancient Indian fishing spot deep in the 1500 ft. canyons. This stop offers outstanding hiking, swimming and for the more adventurous, cliff jumping into the refreshing waters of the Chilcotin. After lunch we can ride the Goose Neck Rapids while golden eagles soar high above us. Tonight, we'll camp at the confluence of Big Creek. Here there will be plenty of time to hike up Dome Mountain for an incredible view or fish for rainbow in Big Creek. If you feel less active, you'll be able to wander with your camera through this beautiful valley or simply relax with a good book.

### **Day 6 (Friday)**

- After a leisurely morning enjoying this spectacular camping area, we will break camp and immediately enter the Big Creek rapids. Lots of fun splashy rapids and accelerating current keep the pace up as we whirl past towering hoodoos and dramatic canyons. Today adventures are capped with a wild ride through Farwell Canyon as we eventually enter California bighorn sheep country. Tonight's camp features

a sandy beach and plenty of space to spread out in the Chilcotin grasslands. Aptly named Sheep Camp, we can spot California Big Horns from the river's edge.

### **Day 7 (Saturday)**

- After another delicious breakfast, we drift further down the Chilcotin and in short time challenge Big John Canyon. This stretch of the Chilcotin features countless massive wave trains that roller coaster for miles in a rushing chorus down deep desert canyons only to dissipate into the mighty volume of the Fraser River. In this country, there will be plenty of photo opportunities for the camera buff. The rolling badlands, the towering waves and the massive granite canyons provide a dramatic backdrop to the whitewater experience. After a peaceful float down the mighty Fraser, we'll arrive at the take-out point, historic Gang Ranch. Here we'll board our vehicles for the shuttle to meet up with our chartered plane for the spectacular ride back. The flight is incredible as we negotiate desert canyons and cut through the glacier capped mountains of the Coast Range, past Whistler Mountain, eventually reaching the Pacific. Weather permitting, we plan to arrive back at the air terminal by 5:00 PM, and recommend participants overnight in Vancouver.

### **What's Included?**

- Skilled professional guide service
- 6 nights catered camping
- All meals from dinner day 1 through lunch day 7
- Round trip air charter from Vancouver to the Chilcotin Country
- Quality beer, wine, and some liqueurs in camp
- Expedition equipment, including 2-person shared tent, sleeping bag and sleeping pad, personal flotation device, wetsuit, spray jacket and dry bags
- All park fees and necessary permits

### **What's Not Included?**

- Transportation to and from Vancouver
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Airport taxes and fees
- Excess baggage charges
- Single supplement tent (\$30 plus tax)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel and **mandatory** medical and evacuation insurance
- Fishing gear and license
- Items of a personal nature and equipment outlined in personal equipment list
- Gratuities

### **Something Voluntary**

- In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to the BC Creek Protection Society, a member of the BC Rivers Alliance, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of free-flowing natural watercourses in Canada, and particularly in British Columbia. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to river stewardship and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance.
- The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit [www.oarsfoundation.org](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

### **A Few Important Details**

#### **Reservations and Deposits**

- An \$800/person non-refundable deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

#### **Cancellations and Refunds**

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. All payments are non-refundable and we regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip insurance (see Insurance).
- If you transfer from one trip to another within the same season, there is a \$50/person charge up until 90 days before the trip. Transfers made after this time will be treated as cancellations.

#### Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying this trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

#### Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, **we require that you purchase medical evacuation insurance to participate in this expedition.** Call Travel Insurance Services at 800-937-1387 or visit their website at [www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635](http://www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635) for inexpensive options that cover this requirement. We also strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury, as well as including the coverage required above. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on a river trip, evacuation could be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or stolen property.

#### Acknowledgement of Risk

- Everyone is required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with R.O.A.M. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

#### Responsibility – An Important Notice

- R.O.A.M., Inc./R.O.A.M. Adventures, Inc. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings, (this trip requires a minimum of 4 guests), and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" and "float-it-out" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices subject to change without notice.

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