



The Lodge at Chilko Lake Multi-Sport **ITINERARY**

MEETING PLACE: Vancouver International Airport
MEETING TIME: 11:00 am flight to Anahim Lake
RETURN TIME: Approximately 3:30 pm
RIVER RATING: Class II-IV
AGE LIMIT: Minimum age is 8 years old
TRIP LENGTH: 5 days
ACTIVITIES: Whitewater rafting, hiking, lake kayaking, and fishing

Getting Started

Welcome to this state-of-the-art multi-sport adventure trip in some of British Columbia's most distinct and remarkable landscapes. To fully enjoy this adventure, please take the time to familiarize yourself with the information provided. We want to be with you every step of the way in your expedition preparations, so please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Why the Chilko Lake Multi-sport Adventure

Our adventure begins with a breathtaking charter flight from Vancouver over the towering mountains and massive glaciers of the Coast Range. After arriving at the beautiful wilderness of Chilko Lake, we spend our days exploring the countryside and valleys that have made this region famous. Situated at the border of Ts'yl-os Provincial Park, the north end of Chilko Lake, and the headwaters of the Chilko River system, we will indulge ourselves in a variety of adventures at our doorstep. The principal activities will be kayaking on Chilko Lake surrounded by 10,000-foot peaks in a roadless wilderness area, hiking in the alpine and wildflowers among glacier-capped peaks, mountain biking through pristine forests and river rafting the crystal clear Chilko River. The balance of the days will be filled with options like fishing for world famous rainbow trout, exploring Chilko Lake by boat and foot, horseback riding, wildlife viewing or simply soaking in a hot tub or reading a great book by the fireplace. Each day, we will return to the elegant comfort and charm of our private luxury residence to indulge in fine wine and great food.

Notes from the Region

A letter from Brian McCutcheon

We start our adventure by zooming off on one of the most spectacular plane rides on earth. It is a wake-up call for most city folk, entering this landscape of ice, freckled with towering serrated ridges and dramatic glacial lakes. The 55-mile stretch of Chilko Lake is translucent and azure-like, on a par with the waters of the South Pacific. The lake beckons exploration, as does the Chilko River flowing out of its north end. And it is exactly this combination of serenity and activity that makes this trip so incredible.

Priorities change during our time here. Most folks discard diets, fashion accessories, would-be sophistication, and poise. Dining by the lakeside while thousands of salmon and rainbow trout leap and rise in front of you takes on unprecedented decadence. Viewing grizzlies on the hillsides from the comfort of your private helicopter and hiking in the once inaccessible alpine is truly divine. Cell phones and fax machines seem a thing of the past. The sun soothes our backs by day and sets over teal waters turning blood red, then intense violet by night. The surreal hoodoo sculptures become more dreamlike amid the midnight howls of wolves.

The Chilcotin is a land of legends, steeped with gold rush heritage, million-acre homesteads, and North America's best stretch of commercially navigable whitewater. Yet, contrary to popular belief, our guests are not experienced adventurers. Our participants, who come from all walks of professional life, find it easy to check out of

civilization in Chilcotin country—it's checking back in that's so tough. This is one trip that leaves footprints with you forever.

Brian McCutcheon founded Rivers & Oceans in 1985. In 2000 the company name changed to R.O.A.M., which is an acronym for Rivers, Oceans & Mountains, as the addition of "mountains" better reflects the topography of the regions we visit. In 2002 R.O.A.M. joined forces with longtime friend and operational partner George Wendt and his company O.A.R.S. In partnership with O.A.R.S., we are now able to offer our travelers unprecedented access to some of the most pristine wilderness environments in the world. Together R.O.A.M and O.A.R.S. offer more than 75 unique adventures on over 35 rivers and coastlines of the world. When not out on the water, Brian is the Managing Director of R.O.A.M. from our field offices in Nelson, British Columbia.

About the Lodge

The Lodge at Chilko Lake is an upscale private residence located in BC's historic ranch country overlooking the river valley and mountains at the head of the Chilko River. The main lodge is a formidable log structure manufactured from local trees and is the focal point for meals, cocktails and most socializing. It has wireless Internet, a big screen television (if you must), as well as comfortable lounge chairs and the main dining room. The upper level is a luxurious suite with impressive king bedroom, sitting area and grand bathroom complete with double headed showers. The ground floor has a bar/lounge, games room and access to the popular fire pit area.

The surrounding cabins are a mixture of one and two bedroom log and timber frame structures carefully positioned for privacy and view. The cabins are unique but equally breathtaking featuring fine craftsmanship, comfortable furnishings and a magnificent collection of antiques and collectibles. Each unit is self-contained and has comfortable living rooms, private bathrooms and kitchenettes. The ranch is perched closely to Ts'yl-os Provincial Park, the prize jewel of the British Columbia park system. It's meticulous construction falls more into an art-form category than traditional building.

Activities

- **Bikes:** We have a fleet of "Kona" mountain bikes with disk brakes. The bikes are used for guided and un-guided mountain biking excursions on and off the property.
- **Fishing:** For the fly fisherman, the Chilko River is truly world class. This prime location where sockeye salmon and rainbow trout are found together produces some of the best fishing in British Columbia. The guides utilize deluxe flat bottom riverboats that have forward and aft fishing platforms with stanchions for stable casting. We utilize 4-stroke environmentally friendly jet engines in order to negotiate the river but you can also fish from shore or in waders. One should expect to catch 18-29 inch rainbow trout. (Fly out floatplane fishing trips is available at additional cost). Chilko Lake is also a fantastic fishery. When exploring the lake by cabin cruiser or kayak we often stop to fish many of the inlets and creek mouths where trout and dolly varden are plentiful. All guests have access to fly or spin rods, gore-tex waders and felt boots. If you have a favorite 5-6 wt. fly rod or spinning set up, we recommend you bring it along.

A Canadian fishing license is required to fish either the lake or the river. You will need an additional daily sticker to fish the river. The river is fly-fishing only (catch and release) while some fish caught in the lake may be kept. You are allowed to use spin-casting equipment on the main lake—which can also be very productive. All licenses may be purchased in Vancouver or at the Lodge.

- **Hiking:** We have numerous hiking trails into Tsylos Provincial Park. The Mount Tullin route covers almost 4000 vertical feet and would be described as challenging. The Green Lake route is a lovely meander up the lake. The Lodge also has 2 cabin cruisers that we utilize to travel down the 55-mile lake to access some incredible hikes.
- **Kayaks:** We have a fleet of double and single complete with spray decks, floats and pumps. We also have stable kayaks for self-guided paddling around our private trout pond.

- **Rafting:** We utilize 18-foot self-bailing oar boats (with paddle assist) for challenging the Lava Canyon stretch of the Chilko River. Guests will raft approximately 30 miles in one day. For the less intrepid adventurers and younger guests, we offer the upper 21 miles of the Chilko River (class II+) by raft or inflatable kayak.

Additional Activities

- **Heli-hiking** is also an optional activity. With a Bell Long Ranger (6 passenger) helicopter servicing the lodge, the heli-hiking opportunities are endless. Here you'll hike for the day at 7000-9000 feet above sea level. Surrounded by mountaintops and wildflowers. Grizzly sightings are common and the scenery is second to none.
- **Horseback riding:** The lodge does not own horses but we can organize 2-3 hour rides on short notice with a local outfitter or full-day rides with advance notice.

Chilko Multi-Sport Adventure Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, and sometimes the weather. Following is a sample of what our 5 day/4 night trip might be like.

Day One

We meet for our **11:00 AM** flight to Anahim Lake.

Important Note for Those Arriving at Vancouver International Airport on Day One: *It is essential to arrive a minimum of two hours before our 11:00AM flight.* You need to allow enough 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 1 week prior to departure.

Please make sure your gear is packed in soft luggage (NO SUITCASES), as this will allow for easy storage. As soon as everyone's gear is stowed, we will board our plane for the incredible flight over the mountains and glaciers. Arriving at Anahim Lake, we'll transfer by vehicle to the lodge at Chilko Lake. Once at Chilko Lake, we will meet our guides, check into our rooms, and enjoy the afternoon and evening at the lodge. A guided hike, canoeing or casting a line into our trout pond will be a great way to unwind. A spectacular view at dinner and an evening to go over last-minute details will help you settle into the moods and rhythms of the trip.

Day Two

Today we will explore Chilko Lake by kayak as we head into a 55-mile long wilderness waterway. Surrounded by massive glacier-capped peaks and a road-less wilderness, we will spend the day paddling the lake and picnicking on sandy beaches. There may be an opportunity for an afternoon hike and some fishing before heading back to the Lodge for cocktails and a sumptuous dinner. After dinner we'll take a tour of the night skies with resident engineer, Jaromir, and his incredible telescope.

Day Three

Today you will be transferred to our rafting put-in point. The whitewater enthusiasts will descend the long and continuous rapids of the Chilko River where you will be treated to a chorus of heart-stopping hydraulics and towering standing waves. Cascading for more than 20 miles through deep and narrow lava gorges; this non-stop excitement has made these river sections famous amongst whitewater enthusiasts. Those not seeking Class IV excitement will float the upper Chilko watching for wildlife and relaxing with a book. At the end of an exhilarating day you will be transferred back to the lodge by vehicle or perhaps, riding ATV's up the river trail (heli- options may also be available). A hot tub or short walk may be in order to watch the sunset.

Day Four

For those who are keen for a full day hiking adventure we'll ascend Mount Tullin. Hiking high up above Chilko

Lake we'll travel through endless valleys of wildflowers. Once at the summit, you will be treated with a spectacular view of the lake and Coast Ranges. The 360-degree scenery will make you feel like the gods as you wander among the mountaintops where very few mortals ever go.

Those less energetic may choose to poke along the Green Lake trail or may opt to choose a heli-hiking option, where our Bell Long Ranger chopper will lift us up to the incredible alpine area surrounding the park, high above Chilko Lake and nestled in the spectacular Coast Mountains. This rich carpeted terrain makes for easy walking and will allow us to cover great distances. There may also be time to enjoy some fishing at Chilko Lake. Our guides can teach you how to fly fish and spinning rods are also available. Set off for an afternoon horseback ride or get a massage – the choice is yours. Tonight we will feast outdoors, roast marshmallows and have a sing along around the campfire

Day Five

This morning we can mountain bike, walk, fish, hike, kayak, canoe or simply immerse oneself in a good book. Everyone can pick their own pace and get organized for flights back to Vancouver. Weather permitting you should be back around 3:30 PM.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 4 nights of accommodation
- All meals from dinner Day 1 through lunch Day 5
- All activities and equipment as outlined in the itinerary

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to and from Vancouver
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Round-trip flight package from Vancouver to Anahim Lake \$800US per person
- Airport taxes and fees
- Excess baggage charges
- Insurance of any kind, including travel and **mandatory** medical and evacuation insurance
- Optional Heli-hiking Day
- Fishing license
- Liquor or sundries at The Lodge
- Items of a personal nature and equipment outlined in personal equipment list
- Gratuities

Why visit Chilko Lake

The Terrain

Our trip begins at the north end of Ts'yl-os Provincial Park. Established in 1994, Ts'yl-os (pronounced sigh loss) is 233,240 hectares in the Chilcotin Ranges of the Coast Mountains. Although Chilko Lake is the centerpiece of the park, it is just one of many incredible natural features. Though there is much to explore in the region, it is rugged and unserved leaving its visitors up to their own devices. This is where we fit in.

The Chilcotin River flows near Nazko Lakes Provincial Park and Stum Lake Provincial Park. Both were recently expanded to protect wildlife habitat and BC's only colony of nesting white pelicans, respectively. Upstream from the confluence of the Chilcotin and Big Creek, lies the new 660 hectares of rolling grassy plateau protected in Big Creek Provincial Park.

The River

Participants are continually overwhelmed by the excitement and beauty of this natural corridor. The Chilko River drains Chilko Lake making this free flowing waterway perfect to raft from May through October. When compared to busy rivers south of the border, this circuitous system is considered a wilderness waterway. The Chilko is one of North America's best rafting rivers and boasts miles of roller coaster rapids that will keep you grinning from start to finish. Obviously the Province of British Columbia agrees with us, as it has established more than 17 new parks in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

Cultural Notes

To aboriginal people of the Nemaiah Valley, Ts'yl-os is much more than a provincial park. Ts'yl-os was a man, or at least he used to be long ago, and like any man he had his moods. Given his towering height of 3,061 meters (Mount Tatlow on a map), it is wise to respect him and especially not to point at him. His presence can be so dominating that when occasional bad weather hits the valley, the 250 native residents wonder if it is a message from their spiritual protector.

For the isolated Nemaiah First Nation, their agreement on the park represents an important, but tentative first step toward reconciliation with the outside world. It is this world that led to the so-called Chilcotin Indian War of 1864 and the subsequent deaths of many. Today, that historic uprising against the white intrusion on Chilcotin Lands continues to color the native's psyche and the park's future.

The silty confluence of the Chilcotin and Fraser was also a major territorial boundary. The Ts'ilhqot'in people of the Athapaskan language group held a territory on the northwest side of the confluence where the Junction Sheep Range is located. Small bands of natives traveled the Chilcotin watershed, hunting and gathering food. During salmon runs, these bands would come together at the mouth of the Chilcotin.

Wildlife and Flora

The Chilcotin is home to the largest herd of California bighorn sheep in the world. During the rut, the big spiral-horned rams will charge at combined speeds of 50 miles per hour and butt heads 30-40 times a day, an exhausting, and often fatal fight for sexual supremacy. Another fleet-footed hunter in the region is the cougar. Like other predators, cougars will prey on the weak or young. But in the Chilcotin, three quarters of all the sheep killed are adult rams. Biologists believe the large horns used in the rut, impede the rams' peripheral and rear vision. More times than not, however, cougars are harassed to leave their kill because of the persistent coyotes. Some coyotes become the cougar's lunch, but the big cats are more likely to look to other sheep, moose, or deer. Fortunately for the cougars, all are in abundance.

This area is also the home of black bear, grizzly, and wolf. Bear populations slurp down the abundant rose hips and berries in the aspen groves. August and September departures are virtually guaranteed sightings because the bears are feeding on the plentiful salmon runs. Beaver, river otter, and mink can also be seen along the riverbank. We have counted over 30 species of birds on this trip. They include bald and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and many species of hawks. Canada geese, great blue herons, sage grouse, Lewis woodpeckers, and many varieties of songbirds are also present. This diverse environment is also home to seven different bat species such as the western-footed Myotis and Townsend's big-eared bats.

The upper Chilko is covered with lodge pole pine and Douglas fir. As we drop in elevation the trees become sparse. Large open grasslands interspersed with cottonwood and ponderosa pine is dominant in this dry climate. Sagebrush and prickly pear cactus cover parts of the desert on the lower Chilcotin and the canyons of the Fraser. In the desert, insects are comparatively rare. A few mosquitoes may be present, but they will be of little concern. The largest airborne bugs are butterflies, more than 40 species. Each is associated with a specific plant, and many have exotic names like painted lady, aster checkerspot, woodland skipper, and white admiral.

Why O.A.R.S.?

O.A.R.S. has been in business since 1969 and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers, coastlines and mountains are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is

our genuine—if not biased—belief that river trips and wilderness vacations are extremely valuable life experiences. That said, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement. Here are a few things we believe set our trips apart:

EXPERIENCE

- In 1969, O.A.R.S. became the first exclusively oar-powered rafting outfitter to offer river trips through the Grand Canyon. The immediate success of these trips inspired founder and president George Wendt to expand his business into the largest and most geographically diverse rafting, sea kayaking, and multi-sport company in North America.

Over the last 40 years, the family-owned and operated company has shared in the world's waterways with more than 450,000 guests. With more than 75 itineraries on over 35 rivers and coastlines worldwide, four decades of experience in the industry, and some staff members who have been with the company since nearly the beginning, O.A.R.S. is routinely recognized for serving up some of the “Best Trips on the Planet,” and for setting the standard for top-notch guides, expertise and superior customer service.

STAFF

- Our employees are the single most complimented component of our organization and the number one reason over 60% of O.A.R.S. travelers return for additional trips or are referred by past guests each year. Our reliable, responsible and experienced guides are some of the best anywhere. All are qualified in CPR and First Aid; many have earned credentials in Wilderness First Responder, swift water rescue and Leave No Trace. They are friendly, open, and approachable, and they want to share and learn along with you. Their vast experience and knowledge of not just the river, but also the entire region, virtually guarantees an in-depth adventure and that your questions will be answered. So that our guests can take the best advantage of our guides' skills and personalities, we maintain the best guide-to-guest ratio in the business: only four guests for every guide.

The heart and soul of O.A.R.S. – from the president and founder to the more than 300 dedicated guides and employees on our team – is that we are all genuinely invested in every passenger, every trip and every lifetime memory.

MEALS

- Our chef carefully prepares delicious meals by utilizing fresh vegetables, meats, and seafood. The ranch has its own greenhouse for herbs and vegetables. Local and regional organic and whole foods are sourced out as well. Special dietary considerations may be accommodated with advance notice. Throughout your stay and in part because we only deal with 12 guests at a time, you will have the thoughtful attention and service that you deserve.

EQUIPMENT

- Our kayaks are manufactured in B.C. and are ideally suited for the waters we are paddling. On the river we utilize state-of-the-art self-bailing rafts. They have been designed with center-mount oar rigs and allow participants the option of paddling or just soaking up the views. For those unfamiliar with self-bailing boats, the benefits are revolutionary. As water enters the boat, it collects on the inflated floor then drains out through grommet holes along each side.

Our fishing boats are the finest of Koffler Boats designs and are equipped with environmentally - friendly 4-stroke outboard jets to minimize noise and pollution. We have a state of the art drift boat for fishing and floating the upper 21 miles of river, as well as inflatable kayaks for those wanting a little more excitement and challenge.

ECOTOURISM

- For nearly four decades O.A.R.S. has been a leader in eco-tourism. Our goal isn't simply to be one of the most environmentally responsible tour operators in the world, but to continually raise the bar and

challenge other companies to raise their standards as well. From escorting congressional staffers, eco-celebrities, and politicians on the waterways of the Western U.S. to establishing a model business for ecotourism operators in Fiji, O.A.R.S. is professionally committed to the cultural and environmental well-being of the places we visit. Our main office operations in Angels Camp, California, and our warehouse and office in Flagstaff, Arizona, run on 100% solar energy, and we offset all of our carbon emissions with *NativeEnergy* Travel Offsets. Through partnerships with environmental organizations such as the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund, Idaho Rivers United, Alaska Wilderness League, American Whitewater, The International Ecotourism Society and Leave No Trace, O.A.R.S. is committed to reducing our impact on the natural world. We actively support awareness, deeper appreciation and the preservation of rivers and wild places.

How do I get to the Lodge at Chilko Lake?

- Vancouver International Airport, Canada is the meeting location for the Lodge at Chilko Lake Multi-Sport adventure. Consult your travel agent for flight arrangements.
- We meet at **11:00 AM** for our flight to Anahim Lake. **Important Note for Those Arriving at Vancouver International Airport on Day One: It is essential to arrive a minimum of two hours before our 11:00AM flight.** You need to allow enough time for possible flight delays, time to clear customs, and time 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 2 weeks prior to departure.

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 cancellations are not refundable.*** We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, **we strongly urge you to investigate trip insurance** (see Insurance).
- If you transfer from one trip to another, 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 <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 our cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

Responsibility – An Important Notice

- R.O.A.M., Inc./ROAM 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 2 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.

Contact Information:

- For more information on this or any of our over 75 rafting, sea kayaking or multi-sport adventures, please call us at **1-800-346-6277** or email us at info@oars.com and one of our knowledgeable Adventure Consultants will be happy to help you.

Did you know that travel related activities account for about 1/3 of the greenhouse gas emissions worldwide? Visit www.oars.com/CarbonNeutral.html to join O.A.R.S. in making your entire travel experience environmentally friendly and 100% carbon neutral.

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