

The St. John River Canoe Trip

Available in May



St. John River: One of Maine's finest remote canoe trips, the Saint John River flows 105 miles from its headwaters (Saint John Ponds) and meets up with the Allagash River just below the town of Dickey. The river itself is now less a center of activity than it used to be when logs were driven down in the spring and farms along the way helped supply the logging operations. We'll explore historical logging artifacts near Seven Islands and Nine Mile Bridge. The St. John flows through a forest of balsam fir and spruce. Our trip begins at the outlet of Baker Lake there are several miles of easy class I-II rapids, the river has an unusually even gradient for days 2-5, later in the trip, we'll take on Big Black Rapids and Big Rapids (class II-III), there are no portages. We'll be sure to brush up on canoeing skills and commands on the calmer parts of the trip to get you ready for these rapids. Trip meets and ends in Medway.

Skill Level: Having done previous canoe trips and good basic paddling skills is helpful. We can teach those that don't, the basics of paddling and keeping a canoe straight. The bigger rapids are later in the trip and you'll have time to brush up on paddling strokes required to maneuver these with confidence. Must be good on your feet and be prepared for 3-season camping and paddling.

Meet Location and lodging the Night Prior Options: we'll meet up at the Ashland One Stop in Ashland off Route 11 at 8AM on day one where we'll transition your personal gear onto our vehicle. You'll leave your vehicle in a secure location on main street while on the trip. At trip's end, we'll bring you back to your vehicle, approximately 3-4PM on day six. Options for staying the night prior sent upon signing up.

What is Provided:

Logistics: We take care of all pre-trip planning, packing of group gear, menu, shopping for food and packing meals. With years of experience and many outings on Maine and Canadian rivers, we've become quite efficient with the whole process including best place to start and end your trip, where to camp, what rapids to scout, river distances and time needed to travel, points of interest, camp setup & takedown, providing quick shelter, proper fire wood selection and building the campfire, the knowledge & experience of your canoe route so you can have a safe and enjoyable time.

Gear We Provide: We provide all necessary camping equipment including river bags to keep your clothing dry, compact sleeping pad, quality and spacious outfitter tents, type III life jacket, paddle, spare paddle, durable Old Town canoes, compact camp chairs to relax around the campsite, group tarp, cooking & eating utensils, well stocked First Aid kit and for a little added peace of mind, a Garmin InReach two-way satellite communicator. Note: if you have some of your own gear you prefer to bring, be sure to indicate that on the online application. Bringing your own boat? Call Dave to discuss.

Meals Served on the Trip: Breakfasts include the best organic coffee, assortment of regular & herbal teas, & hot chocolate, oatmeal with fruit, buttermilk pancakes, served with real Maine blueberries & syrup, and the traditional Maine guide breakfast of local farm fresh eggs, meat, potatoes. Lunches are on the fly and may include make your own wraps with assorted breads, variety of meats and cheeses, tuna, lettuce, pickles and tomatoes. Snack foods may include trail mix, bars, fruit. Suppers may include the best cuts of locally raised filet mignon steaks, wild caught Alaska salmon, vegetables & rice, fresh cooked biscuits, spaghetti with homemade sauce and Garlic bread, Taco soup, Chicken, rice, vegetables & dumplings, fresh salads and freshly baked desserts including brownies & strawberry shortcake. We can accommodate vegetarian diets. Note for the gluten free folks, please

contact us to discuss what you can bring to substitute as needed. Vegan diets require bringing substitutes that require no extra cooking or use of pots as space over the fire and pots are limited.

What is Not Included: All meals prior and after the river portion of your trip, transportation from the Bangor airport (if needed), gratuities, although not required, it is customary to tip your guides, suggested amount 10-15% for exceptional service, fishing license, trip insurance (if you choose to) including, medical, evacuation, and trip cancellation. To view multiple providers and policies, Visit: Squaremouth.com

You Provide: Personal clothing & sleeping bag (see packing list)

Fishing: For those who like to fish, The St. John River has an abundance of Muskie. These can be very large so bring appropriate tackle. I once caught a 32" muskie on the St. John while trolling a repala behind the canoe. I recommend long handled pliers to remove fish hooks as Muskie have sharp teeth. Lighter tackle can be brought and tried on tributaries for brook trout and be sure to keep an eye out for fiddleheads to bring back to cook up with those trout! You will need a fishing license, cost for a nonresident 7 day fishing license is \$43.00 and can be purchased on line at http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/fishing.htm

New to canoeing? Be sure to view our instructional videos made in collaboration with Old Town Canoe. This short 3-part series covers: Basic Canoe Strokes, Canoe Paddling Maneuvers, Running Rapids. You can view them on our website by clicking on the gallery tab then click on the video tab.

Common Q & A

- Fishing for Muskie is possible but you'll want at least a medium action pole with heavy pound test, steel leaders and long nosed pliers for removing hooks! Brook trout fishing is possible in tributaries above beaver dams where muskie can't reach.
- NO pets allowed
- Outhouses and Thunder boxes or outhouse at all campsites and are not maintained very well due to the short season.
- Toilet paper is supplied but most bring a secret stash of their own
- Bringing boxed wine is fine, Responsible drinking only please. It is against the law to drink while canoeing.
- NO marijuana or Cannabis (CBD) Products. If this is a must, then please use a different guide service.
- We'll often mix and match canoeing partners based on what works best.
- Solo paddlers welcome (call and discuss)
- Camp chairs are provided
- Campsites are primitive and are on a first come first serve basis. Each site has a fire pit, picnic table and areas to pitch a tent.
- We provide outfitter style tents that are easy to set up and take down. Outfitter tents come with a heavy #10 zipper and heavy-duty floor.
- There is no cell phone coverage on the St John River.

Please contact us with additional questions you may have and we look forward to having you on the trip!

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