

PATHWAYS CANADA TOURS

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BOWRON LAKES 2026 (WEST SIDE) INFORMATION PACKAGE

Thank you for considering a fully guided Bowron Lake West Side Canoe Tour with Pathways.

We're thrilled that you're interested in joining us for one of Canada's most iconic wilderness adventures. Enclosed you'll find our **Trip Registration Kit**, which includes:

1. **Essential trip details** – information about the Bowron Lake Circuit and the park itself, preparation tips, directions to the launch site, and answers to frequently asked questions.
2. **Booking terms and conditions** – everything you need to know about securing your place on the trip.

To confirm your seat, we require a **50% non-refundable deposit** (*deposit optional prior to May 1st*) or full payment through the "[Book Now](#)" page on our website. Once your booking is confirmed, you'll receive a **comprehensive registration package**, including:

- A detailed **clothing and equipment list**
- **Trip planning guidance** to ensure you're fully prepared for your adventure
- Any additional forms or information you'll need

When booking, please complete your **guest profile and waiver** promptly so we have all the important details we need to ensure a smooth experience.

We strongly recommend booking early to secure your preferred departure date. If you have any questions along the way, our team is just a call or email away.

Thank you once again for your interest in Pathways. We can't wait to share this incredible journey with you and look forward to being part of your adventure.

Warm regards,

The Pathways Team

BOWRON LAKE CANOE JOURNEY 2026

We can't wait to welcome you to the **Bowron Lake West Side Canoe Adventure**, a true *bucket-list journey* that we at **Pathways Canada Tours** are honored to share with you.

Planning and preparing for this trip is half the adventure, so take your time, start early, and let the anticipation build. We look forward to seeing you at the Bowron Lakes!

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Park

Bowron Lake Provincial Park spans an awe-inspiring **121,600 hectares** in the rugged Cariboo Mountain Ranges of British Columbia. Here, towering snow-capped peaks, powerful waterfalls, serene lakes, and fertile marshlands create a wilderness of breathtaking contrasts and unparalleled beauty.

The park's **world-renowned canoe circuit**—a chain of lakes connected by gentle rivers—offers paddlers an unforgettable way to explore this pristine landscape. Today, Bowron Lake Provincial Park stands as a **protected wildlife sanctuary**, home to a remarkable diversity of animals and plants.

Wildlife sightings are common and often unforgettable. **Moose** graze in the marshes, **beavers** leave signs of their handiwork along the western lakes, and **eagles** soar overhead. **Black bears** are frequently seen, while **grizzlies, caribou, and mountain goats** make rare but thrilling appearances for the watchful adventurer.

The park is also rich in **fishing opportunities**, with **Dolly Varden, lake trout, and Rocky Mountain whitefish** inhabiting its waters. In June, you may catch sight of **kokanee salmon** running in Bowron Lake, while **sockeye salmon** make their legendary upstream journey to spawn in the Bowron River each August.

TRIP DATES: BOWRON LAKES 2026 WEST SIDE

1. **Family Friendly - Kids Welcome** - June 28th - July 1st
2. September 11th - 14th
3. **Ladies Only:** Sept 17th - 20th

Please note that these dates may change slightly before January 1 2026, as we are required to book with the rest of the general public through BC Parks.

TOTAL TOUR COST: \$1489.95 CAD + GST (5 %)

What's Included

When you join a Pathways Bowron Lake Canoe Journey, we take care of all the essentials so you can simply show up and immerse yourself in the experience. Your trip includes:

- **Expert Leadership:** The services of a fully qualified lead guide and assistant guide.
- **All Group Gear:** Canoes, paddles, PFDs (lifejackets), tents, cooking gear, 110L river/portage dry bag per paddler, and a fully equipped expedition first-aid kit.
- **Park Access & Campsites:** Park fees plus access to **reserved, prime, private campsites** each night.
- **All On-Trip Meals:** Delicious, wholesome meals on the Bowron Lakes (including safe drinking water).
- **Safety Communication:** A satellite phone for emergency use.

What's Not Included

To keep our trips flexible and customizable, the following services **are not included in your trip price**:

- **Meals and accommodations** before and after the trip.
- **Guide gratuities:** In Canada, it's customary to tip your guide(s) if you feel they did an outstanding job. Tipping is always optional and deeply appreciated.

- **Transportation:** Transfers from Quesnel to Wells or Becker's Lodge are available for **\$100/person round-trip**.
 - **Pick-ups:** Day 0 (the day before your trip), mid-afternoon at a specified location (details will be provided closer to your trip date).
 - **Drop-offs:** Return to Quesnel takes place the morning after your trip ends.
- **Local Shuttles in Wells:** If you choose to stay in Wells prior to the trip, you will need to arrange your own transportation from your hotel to Becker's Lodge for the **Day 0 pre-trip meeting** and to the park for the trip's start. Guides will not be available for these short transfers.

4-Day Itinerary

Day 0:

Arrival at Becker's Lodge. Your guides will meet you at Becker's Lodge at 5:30 P.M. At this time, your guides will introduce you to the group, answer any of your questions, and help you with any last-minute gear questions. Dinner is available at Becker's Lodge for anyone who might be interested after the meeting. (Dinner is not included in the trip cost). We suggest you arrive in Wells early in the day, or stay a day after your trip, to see the local art galleries and visit the neighbouring gold rush town of Barkerville.

Day 1:

At 8:30 A.M., we officially start the trip. We all drive to the Park centre to register and head down to Bowron lake for our first leg of the journey! After loading up the canoe we paddle up Bowron lake to the winding creek through the marsh. This location teems with life. Shortly after the marsh we enter Swan lake where we find our first campsite for the adventure at Pat's Point!

Day 2:

After waking up to the beautiful sounds of nature on Swan Lake and indulging in breakfast and a hot cup of coffee we continue our journey through Swan onto Spectacle lakes to our first portage. We will then explore the Cariboo River to Unna Lake, visit Upper Cariboo Falls, pop over to Rum Lake and set up camp for the night.

Days 3:

Breakfast and hot beverages to start your day! We will then start our way back and camp in the Birches.

Day 4:

After a hot beverage and our final lake side breakfast, we will paddle leisurely down the river, watching beaver building and repairing their lodges and witnessing the marsh

awakening. We cross Bowron Lake and beach our canoes at Becker's Lodge. It is now time to relive the highlights of the trip, exchange addresses and say good-bye to our new friends and tripping partners, before we head for home.

Curious about what each day of the full 8-day circuit adventure holds?

Explore our **full circuit day-by-day itinerary** here:

[Bowron Lakes Guided Canoe Trips | Bowron Lakes, BC, Canada](#)

Preparing for Your Bowron Lake Experience

Our **4-day guided canoe tours** are thoughtfully designed for **adventurers of all ages**, including active seniors. Children (typically **10 years and older**) who are capable of completing the journey are also welcome.

You'll be accompanied by **professional, certified canoe guides** who are not only dedicated to ensuring your safety but are also passionate about teaching and helping you refine your paddling skills. **Life jackets (PFDs) are mandatory** and must be worn at all times while in the canoe.

The portages—mostly level, wide, and well maintained—you'll:

- **Carry your own backpack** (it's super important that you have a backpack-style **dry bag** for comfort and convenience).
- Load your share of group gear into the canoe.
- Pull the canoe using a **two-wheeled carrier** designed to make portages easier.

While the portages can be a workout, we maintain a **comfortable pace with frequent breaks**, ensuring everyone can manage the journey with confidence.

Fitness & Attitude

Good health, moderate fitness, and a positive attitude toward the occasional challenges of wilderness travel and changing weather conditions are the key ingredients for a successful trip.

No prior canoeing experience is required, but we encourage participants to familiarize themselves with **basic flatwater strokes** beforehand. This will boost your confidence and help you make the most of the guidance from our trip leaders.

Essential Canoe Strokes to Learn:

1. Forward stroke
2. Backward stroke
3. J-stroke
4. Bow & stern sweep strokes
5. Draw stroke
6. Pry stroke

Pre-Trip Practice

If you'd like to brush up on your paddling skills, we highly recommend taking a **flatwater canoe course** with our partners at [Ridge Wilderness Adventures](#), or checking out instructional resources such as the classic films by Bill Mason.

Contact Ridge Wilderness Adventures:

- **Email:** info@exploreridge.com
- **Phone:** 604-477-4663

Safety

Your safety is our **highest priority**. We want every guest to feel confident and secure while fully embracing the spirit of adventure.

While your guide will make decisions with **your comfort and safety in mind**, we ask that all participants **listen closely to instructions and follow guidance at all times**. This is essential for both your safety and the safety of the group.

Weather

Bowron Lake Park sits at the edge of the **Cariboo Mountains**, where weather conditions can shift quickly and dramatically. Be prepared for anything—from warm sunshine to sudden rain, wind, or cool temperatures.

Good-quality rain gear is absolutely essential, along with **rubber boots or water shoes** for wet portages and shoreline landings. Please refer to our **clothing list** carefully—being well-prepared makes all the difference in enjoying your experience.

Fishing

For those who love to fish, the Bowron Lakes offer incredible opportunities to catch a variety of species. If you plan to fish, you'll need to **purchase a valid fishing license online in advance**.

Please note: While fishing can be a rewarding part of the experience, this is **not a fishing-focused expedition**, and the time available for fishing will vary depending on daily conditions and trip logistics.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Why travel with Pathways?

The answer is simple – **our guides**.

Pathways was the **first guiding company** to operate in Bowron Lakes Provincial Park. For over 40 years, it was owned and operated by the original Bowron Lakes canoe guides and their family, who began guiding in the park in the 1970s. Their deep knowledge of the area and dedication to sharing wilderness skills and experiences set the foundation for what Pathways is today.

In recent years, the family passed the torch to **Dave Wooldridge**. After partnering with Dean (one of the original guides) for several years, Dave was the clear choice to continue the Pathways legacy. With a lifelong passion for canoeing and the Bowron Lakes, Dave is proud to uphold the same tradition of excellence.

Dave and his team believe canoeing is an essential part of Canadian heritage and are eager to share this truly unique experience with every guest. **Our guides are fun, approachable, and always go the extra mile to ensure your trip is safe, comfortable, and unforgettable.**

Do most people come as singles or couples?

Groups are usually a mix—often two couples, a few singles, and a couple of friends traveling together. People of all ages, including families, join our trips.

What kind of food do you serve?

After serving thousands of meals over the past 30+ years, one thing is clear—**our guests love our food!** We offer healthy, hearty, and wholesome meals, carefully planned with the backcountry in mind and skillfully prepared by your guides. We are happy to accommodate special diets whenever possible. We will always do our best to accommodate special diets whenever possible, ie: vegetarian, dairy free etc. We are unable to accommodate vegan diets or those with a celiac diagnosis at this time. If you have a preference of gluten free, there will be an additional \$200 charge for this accommodation. Please contact our office to discuss this prior to booking!

Does one need previous canoeing experience?

No prior experience is necessary. On **Day 1**, your guides will teach you all the essential paddling techniques and safe canoeing practices. By **Day 5**, most guests feel confident paddling moving water and will leave the trip with skills and confidence to paddle independently—or even join us for a Yukon River adventure.

What about bears or serious accidents?

Research shows that groups naturally deter bears, and over the years, our team has successfully handled bear encounters without incident. Your guides will share the latest best practices for bear safety and always carry **bear repellent** as a precaution.

There has **never been a recorded bear attack** on a group of **more than five people**—another great reason to travel with a guided group.

For emergencies, all guides carry a **satellite phone** and can call for help if needed.

How Do You Get to the Bowron Lakes?

By Air:

- **Central Mountain Air:**
 - 1-888-865-8585
 - www.flycma.com
 - Operates **daily flights between Vancouver and Quesnel**. (Please confirm current flight schedule - in 2025 they did not fly into Quesnel on Saturdays or long weekends. This may change for 2026)

- **Pacific Coastal:**
 - 1-800-663-2872
 - <https://www.pacificcoastal.com/>
 - PC will also be offering flights between Vancouver and Quesnel. Six days a week - Sunday through Friday, in a 19-seat Beechcraft 1900.
- If you opt to fly into Prince George, you will need to rent a car!

By Road:

- From Quesnel, take the **Barkerville turnoff** (Highway 26/Barkerville Highway) just north of town.
- Travel east approximately **74 km** to the historic town of **Wells**.
 - Wells offers **gas, galleries, restaurants, and two small supply stores**—a perfect spot for last-minute stops or exploring local charm.
- From Wells, continue about **4 km** past town and turn **left onto Bowron Lake Road**.
- At the **very next junction**, turn **left again** to stay on the road to Bowron Lake.
- It is approximately **32 km from Wells to Bowron Lake**.
- **Becker's Lodge** is located just before you reach the lake and is well-marked by a large sign.

Accommodations in the Area

Becker's Lodge

<https://beckerslodge.ca/>

- **Phone:** 250-992-8864
- **Toll-Free:** 1-800-808-4761

- **Email:** info@beckerslodge.ca
 - **Address:** 4480 Bowron Lake Park Rd, Wells, BC V0K 2R0
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The Wells Hotel

www.wellshotel.com

- **Phone:** 250-994-3427
- **Toll-Free:** 1-800-860-2299
- **Email:** info@wellshotel.com
- **Address:** 2341 Pooley Street, Wells, BC

Important Note: If you stay at the Wells Hotel, you'll need to **arrange your own transportation to and from Becker's Lodge** for the Day 0 information meeting and the start of the trip.

Important Meeting Details

- **Day 0 (Pre-Trip Meeting):** We gather at **Becker's Lodge at 5:30 PM** for a group information session.
- **Day 1 (Trip Start):** The adventure officially begins at **8:30 AM**, when we depart together for the Bowron Lakes entrance.

Booking Terms & Conditions

Tour Cost: \$1489.95 Canadian + GST

Reservations

Your reservation is confirmed once we receive your **50% deposit** or **full payment** through our Reservations page.

- If you choose to pay a deposit, the **remaining balance is due by May 1 of your trip year.**

- If payment is not received by this date, **Pathways reserves the right to treat your reservation as cancelled.**
- All required documents—including your **guest profile** and **signed liability/waiver forms**—must be submitted prior to departure.
- **A current tetanus shot is mandatory** for all participants.

Single Occupancy Tent Option

All Bowron trip prices are based on **double occupancy tenting**.

For participants who **prefer or require a tent of their own**, we offer a limited number of single-occupancy tents, available by request and subject to availability:

- **Single Tent Upgrade:** \$100 + GST per person

Single-occupancy tents are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you'd like to secure this option, please let us know early to ensure availability.

Deposits & Payments

A **non-refundable deposit of \$744.98 per person** is required to secure your booking.

To confirm your reservation, Pathways must receive your deposit/payment along with your completed guest profile and waiver form.

The **balance of your payment is due by May 1st** of your trip year. If not received by this date, Pathways reserves the right to cancel your reservation.

All payments should be made payable to **Pathways Canada Tour Co. Ltd.**

Trip Cancellation & Insurance

Unexpected events—such as forest fires, flooding, or even global pandemics—can sometimes force a trip cancellation. For this reason, we **require all guests to purchase comprehensive travel insurance**.

Because we operate in remote wilderness areas, **Pathways reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure** for reasons including (but not limited to):

- Insufficient registration
- Park closures due to fire hazards
- Unsafe river or weather conditions
- Other unforeseen emergencies

In the unlikely event that we must cancel a trip for operational reasons, we will provide a **full refund of all payments, including deposits (see full details below)**. However, **Pathways is not responsible for any expenses incurred in preparation for your trip** (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets, visa fees, or personal equipment purchases).

Why Travel Insurance Is Required

We must strictly enforce our cancellation and evacuation policies due to the nature of our operations. To protect your trip investment, **comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory**.

Key Points About Insurance:

- Travel insurance typically reimburses **non-refundable land and air costs** if you must cancel due to personal or family illness, or other covered events.
- If you are **not a Canadian resident**, consider **extended medical coverage** for the duration of your visit to Canada.
- **Evacuation costs**—should they arise—are your responsibility. In remote areas, these costs can be significant, so confirm your insurance will cover this.
- Look for policies that include a **“cancel for any reason” upgrade** to ensure your investment is protected under all circumstances.

Before purchasing additional coverage, check with your current insurance provider to see if you already have suitable protection. Once purchased, please send **confirmation of your travel insurance coverage** along with your other required trip paperwork.

Cancellation, Interruption & Refund Policy

At Pathways, we understand that circumstances can change. However, due to the unique logistics of operating in remote wilderness environments, we maintain a clear and firm cancellation and refund policy to ensure fairness and the viability of our trips.

If We Cancel Your Trip

While rare, we reserve the right to cancel or reschedule a trip at any time due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, such as:

- Hazardous weather or environmental conditions
- Park or river closures
- Emergency situations (e.g. wildfires, floods, epidemics)
- Guide availability
- Minimum participant numbers not being met
- Other logistical or regulatory issues

If Pathways cancels your trip for any of these reasons, you will receive a full refund of all payments made, including the deposit.

If a trip has not reached minimum participant numbers 60 days prior to departure, it may be cancelled at that time and all funds, including your deposit, will be fully refunded.

If a trip is confirmed 60 days prior to departure, it is guaranteed to run. If cancellations after this point bring the group below the minimum threshold, the trip will still go ahead.

If You Cancel Your Trip

We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation and interruption insurance, as we are unable to provide refunds for client cancellations once a trip is confirmed.

- **60 days or more before departure:** Full refund **minus the non-refundable deposit**
- **31–59 days before departure:** 25% refund **minus the non-refundable deposit**
- **30 days or less before departure:** No refund available

All cancellations must be submitted **in writing via email** to our office at pathwayscanoe@gmail.com.

Please note that we are not responsible for any costs incurred outside of the trip itself, such as flights, travel insurance, equipment purchases, visa fees, or accommodation.

**Once again, thank you for considering Pathways Canada Tours. We would be honored to be part of your wilderness adventure and look forward to providing you with an unforgettable experience in the beautiful Bowron Lakes. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.
Safe travels and we hope to see you on the water!**