

Trapper Trail Tour – 11 days



Dates: 16th Nov 2011 to 13th Apr 2012
Cost: £2050
Room in Whitehorse: £90

Wednesday departures only
Participants: max 6 clients per guide

*Interested in enjoying mushing on many trails in different areas? Then this extended dog sledding tour might be the right one. One week enjoying the nice trails around the Ranch and the untouched beauty of the Fish Lake wilderness area. Extended Dog sledding can be a little bit demanding so this winter adventure is for the musher with some experience but also for daring beginners! You should be in relatively good physical shape. **We recommend you arrive the day before your tour.**

Day 1 Wednesday

You will be picked up from your hotel lobby in the morning at 10 a.m. and have the chance to do some last minute shopping. Afterwards we drive to the Ranch some 20km south of Whitehorse where we outfit you with your expedition clothing.

You move into your cozy cabin, or nice double room in the main lodge. The lodge is overlooking beautiful Fish Lake, with southern exposure. The dogs are waiting to meet you. Lunch is in the main lodge. Now you learn the basics of dog care, checking feet, shoulders and massage. We show you how to harness the dogs and give you an instruction on how to drive the sled.

Depending on the weather and time of the day we hook up the dogs and go for a short first run. Three dogs pull you on this first day. After taking care of the dogs we enjoy a hearty meal. You might want to take a shower or just relax beside the stove, and of course listen to the dogs howling outside. Overnight at Ranch. (L, D)

Day 2 Thursday

While the morning sun slowly lifts over the horizon we prepare for our daytrip after breakfast. We feed and water the dogs and harness them up at around 11 a. m. We cover about 35 km in distance, driving towards Jackson Lake and the Copper Haul Road. Just the slight sound of the working dogs and runners in the snow will be with you for that day. You get to know your dogs and start to form a personal relationship. With every stop, and praise for the dogs, they learn to trust you and you to trust them. Overnight at Ranch. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Friday

The dogs will pull us on a trail east of the Ranch. We are continuously climbing in elevation as we are heading on an abandoned mining road on McIntyre Mountain. On occasional stops we can enjoy unprecedented scenery of the Coastal Mountain with Fish Lake nestled deep in the valley. Look out for wildlife, you never know what you might see. Return to the Lodge. Nice dinner and gravity fed shower. Sit around the dinner table or snuggle up by the fire exchanging tales of the day. Overnight at Ranch (B, L, D)

Day 4 Saturday

Today we head towards beautiful Bonneville Lakes, west of the Ranch. The trails are narrower with some challenging up and downs. The Coastal Mountains are always in view to the South and West. Part of the trip we travel above tree line and easily cover between 20 and 30km. slowly, a new feeling of life will creep in. In harmony with the running rhythm of your team you will enjoy nature in a way you've never experienced before. Overnight at Ranch. There is a gravity fed indoor shower waiting for you in the main lodge. You can also relax in the sod roof sauna before retiring for the night. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Sunday

Now you leave behind the last remnants of civilization and head out to a real wilderness. The trail follows Fish Lake, climbs, and heads into the Coastal Range to the south. Enjoy the amazing landscape and don't forget to take photos! We reach our trapper's wall tent camp at dry creek. Curl up at night by the woodstove for a good night's sleep. Overnight in Wall tent (B, L, D).

Day 6 Monday

From the wall tent camp, weather permitting we will make a run to the top of the mountain above tree line to Ptarmigan flats where there is a good chance of seeing large flocks of these beautiful white birds and having some wonderful sledding on miles of wind blown snowy hill tops, before heading back to the wall tent camp (B,L,D)

Day 7 Tuesday

After a musher's breakfast, we will start for our mushing back to Ranch. The dogs pull us steady westbound with the Coastal Mountains in plain view ahead of us. Overnight at Ranch.



Day 8 Wednesday

For three days we leave behind the last remnants of civilization and again head out for an unforgettable adventure. Your team of Huskies pulls you and your loaded sled to remote Coal Lake, driving across unnamed lakes we reach our old trappers Cabin, which we still use.

Everything we need will be packed with us on the sled. We go out to cut some firewood, cook together on the woodstove and share stories. If the group decides, we might even take a few of our new four legged friends in the cabin. We have a great chance to see Moose or Caribou. Overnight in trappers cabin / wall tent (B,L,D)

Day 9 Thursday

Today we cross Coal Lake on our way to towards Alligator Lake and mush the dogs through alpine landscape with its very own charm. Your driving skills will be tested, as a few trails demand your attention. By now you and your team travel in harmony. Coal Lake is a favourite spot for fishing. Overnight at Trapper Cabin / Wall Tent. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Friday

After a hearty breakfast, you will be able to breathe deeply the fresh clean air for the last time as you run your team back to the ranch. Hooking up the dogs will have become much easier for you after working with them for more than a week. Our trip today heads up to Mount McIntyre again over the summit back on to Fish Lake and back to Ranch. This trail offers a great view high above Fish Lake. Back at the ranch we will have a hot lunch. Return to Whitehorse via the lovely winding Fish Lake Road and overnight in Hotel (B, L)

Day 11 Saturday

The hotel van (or taxi) brings you to the airport for your flight.



Included:

Transfer from and to Whitehorse

Last night accommodations in Whitehorse (2 nights' double room)

Accommodation in cabins (6 nights' double room) or heated tent outpost camps (2 nights' group accommodation)

All meals including non-alcoholic beverages, except dinner day 10 and breakfast day 11 in Whitehorse

Use of personal sled and 3 to 6 Huskies

Musher Certificate after Tour

Winter Boots included, all other equipment see below*

Not Included:

Alcoholic beverages (we buy jointly before the tour)

***Rental of winter clothing – jacket, trousers, sleeping bag and mitts for CAD\$125 payable upon arrival in cash or travellers cheques.**

Meals in restaurants (dinner days 7, 10 and breakfast days 8, 11)

All expenses of personal nature

Note:

*This Dog sledding adventure is a challenging but relaxed fun trip! We supply you with the best equipment possible, teach you all the important aspects of mushing and prepare the trails as good as possible.

*To participate, you must be healthy, enjoy working with dogs and have a good team spirit. Dog sledding is a comparable physical activity to cross-country skiing, so you should be in relatively good physical shape.

*We point out, that unforeseeable circumstances such as weather conditions, extreme temperatures, condition of the group or illness of the dogs and may force us to change this itinerary. The safety of our guests takes precedence and our decisions are final.

*The camps have no power or telephone, showers are of basic gravity fed nature and not available in tent camp.

*You will be required to sign a "release of claims and waiver of liability form" prior to the departure of this tour.

Packing List:

*Note: No Cotton!

Thermal Underwear- 2 long sleeve shirts and 2 pants

Fleece Pants and Sweater

Neck Warmer/Balaclava

Fleece Hat (Toque) or Fur hat

Thermal Socks - 4 pairs

Thin Fleece Gloves

Head Lamp

Goggles or Sunglasses (optional)

Camera (optional)