

## Wind River Physical Geography Expedition

Thanks for your interest in the Wind River Physical geography expedition. We are hoping to paddle for 14 days on the Wind and Peel Rivers from McCluskey Lake to Fort McPherson a total of 520 km. The wind is known for its clear waters, spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. It is an intermediate canoeists river with the most challenging rapids ranking class 2.

The Wind River valley makes for a unique classroom and an up close and personal look at the forces that shape our land. Students will have the opportunity to learn about mountain building processes by hiking in the alpine, river carving processes by paddling the river. We will be covering other topics such as navigation, weather, climate and atmospheric conditions and glacial processes. All in addition to the skills needed to travel as a group on a remote wilderness river.

Some notable features along the river include:

- Hot springs
- Crystal clear water
- Easily accessible alpine
- Mount Royal
- Abundant Wildlife
- Arctic Grayling Fishing
- Natural Coal deposits in the smoking hills
- The First Nations Community of Fort McPherson

More detailed information about the Wind River can be found on the following websites.

<http://www.myccr.com/canoedb/routeDetails.php?routeid=523>

<http://nahanni.com/river/wind-river/>

<http://www.rubyrange.com/en/tour/heart-yukon-hiking-canoe-tour-wind-river.html>

### **Flights to Whitehorse**

Air North <http://www.flyairnorth.com/Reservations/FlightBooking.aspx> is typically the cheapest with round trips to and from Vancouver for under \$500 they also offer flights to and from Ottawa for approximately \$800-900.

## Wind River Physical Geography Expedition Itinerary

### Orientation Weekend on Lower Cowichan River (May)

Aug 8 Arrive in Whitehorse  
Aug 9 Drive to Mayo and Fly to McClusky Lake  
Aug 10 Wind River and McClusky Creek  
Aug 11 Before Bond Ck  
Aug 12 Moonscape  
Aug 13 Bear River  
Aug 14 Royal Mtn  
Aug 15 Little Wind R  
Aug 16 Deception Mtn  
Aug 17 Red Cliffs  
Aug 18 Peel Canyon  
Aug 19 Shrinking Island  
Aug 20 Trail River  
Aug 21 Boat pickup and ride to Fort McPherson  
Aug 22 Day in McPherson  
Aug 23 McPherson to Dawson City  
Aug 24 Dawson to Whitehorse  
Aug 25 Depart Whitehorse

### Information about the guides/teachers

#### Jamie Pope

Works at SMUS as an outdoor education specialist. He has a teaching degree in outdoor experiential education and geography. He has been guiding remote wilderness canoe trips for over a decade and has paddled through the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

#### Emily Cameron

Has been conducting fieldwork as an ecologist in the North for the past five years. She has guided numerous trips on Rivers in the NWT, Yukon, Ontario and Quebec. When she isn't working as an ecologist for the B.C. government she also guides on numerous SMUS out trips.