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**INUKPAK**  
 OUTFITTING



# SOPER RIVER

## KATANNILIK TERRITORIAL PARK

# CANOE EXPEDITION

NUNAVUT  CANADA

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE & DAY-BY-DAY

### LEVEL

3

### DAYS

8

### NIGHTS

1

HOTEL

6

CAMPING

The Soper River is located in the middle of the Meta Incognita Peninsula, in Katannilik Territorial Park, and is designated as a Canadian Heritage River. It offers unique adventure opportunities. The river and valley's spectacular landscapes wind their way for close to 100 km (62mi), bringing you on a journey that will spark more than memories.

You will raft down the last 60 kilometres (37mi) of the Soper River in our inflatable canoes. Our experienced guides will accompany you, ensuring the safety of the trip. Throughout the trip, you will paddle down sections of white water, rapids and cascades, and sections of flat water, ending your journey in the picturesque hamlet of Kimmirut.

As headwinds often slow travel down in the afternoon, most paddling will be done in the morning. You can spend your afternoons hiking in the valley, basking in the sun with a book, or try your luck at fly fishing. There's nothing like fresh-caught fish for dinner! The Soper River is at its strongest during the spring thaw, but it can be navigated throughout the summer months due to the numerous small rivers that feed into the valley. Its rapids, normally Class I, II and III, are easily navigated on board our hybrid inflatable canoes, and the largest rapids can be easily portaged

### THE CANOE TRIP

To paddle down the Soper River you will need to be able to canoe / paddle for about 4-6 hours / day; you will be sharing your canoe with another person of our group. Depending on the water level, sections of flat water, swift water and rapid of class I, II and III will lay ahead of us. The

more technical sections of the river can easily be portaged. Being comfortable canoeing is a must, but extensive river experience is not mandatory. Be ready to spend time wet, and to sometimes wade in shallow water to help maneuver.

In addition to canoeing, you should be able to hike with a small day pack for a distance of up to 5 km (3 mi) per day (1-3 hours a day). The trails are not technical, but could present some elevation challenges.

Days will be spent in the great outdoors, while nights will be spent in tent. You should be prepared to live outside for the entire expedition and have some camping experience.

### KIMMIRUT

Our adventure will end in the small and welcoming hamlet of Kimmirut. Nestled in hills between Soper Lake, at the mouth of the Soper River, and the bay, the South Baffin community of 389 will welcome you with a large smile. The Kimmirummiutait (Kimmirut residents) have a reputation for being some of the best soap stone carvers; spend some time observing the artist working that unique green soapstone found in the area.





## DAY-BY-DAY:

### DAY 1



- **Flight from home to Iqaluit, NU** (not included)
- **Transfer from the airport to your accommodation** (by Inukpak Outfitting staff)
- **Group meeting** (preparation of equipment and briefing in the afternoon)
- **Night at your accommodation in Iqaluit**

Day one: the beginning of a great adventure! Upon your arrival in the Arctic Capital, one of your guides will meet you at the Iqaluit airport. From the airport, we will stop at your full-service hotel (B&B option) to check in, drop off your luggage and for a chance to grab a light snack at the coffee shop.

After you settle in, time to attend a group meeting at the Inukpak Outfitting office. You'll meet for the first time your guides (Inukpak Outfitting has all of their expeditions led by one of the owners: Martine or Louis-Philip and when group size requires it, co-led by a second guide). All participants will have a chance to exchange about their different experiences, their expectations and motivation for choosing that trip. Plan and itinerary will be discussed, questions about gear answered and all other aspects of the trip overview.

Back at your hotel for a last-minute repacking, we highly suggest that you visit one of our great local restaurants and ask if arctic char or caribou is on the menu.

### DAY 2



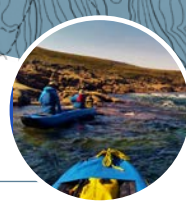
- **Transfer from your accommodation to the airport**
- **Charter flight from Iqaluit, NU. to Mount-Joy** (the Soper River)
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

With the Inukpak Outfitting van waiting for you outside the hotel, you will join your paddling team for a quick ride to the airport. The stunning 30-minute flight to Mount Joy will likely whet your appetite for more awe-inspiring landscapes. Our charter plane, a Twin Otter equipped with "tundra wheels", will land directly on an esker only a few hundred metres from the riverbank.

Once the canoes are inflated and loaded with our gear, and after one last safety briefing from your guides, you will launch your boats for an exciting six-day river trip. Depending on the amount of snowfall the previous winter, as well as the amount of rain the region received, the water level in the river can vary greatly. It is not unusual to have to walk our canoes for the first kilometre or so. As soon as the Soper River meets with the Joy River, the flow should increase, and it will be paddling time! For your Arctic river baptism, Katannilik Park will surprise you with a few unexpected ledges. Before you know it, you will be in for a splashy ride. Smile! Your guide is taking pictures!

Depending on the water level and the group's overall experience, we may reach cabin 7 (a large group cabin), for the night. Why not treat ourselves to the extra comfort of a real table and a roof for the night?

# SOPER RIVER - KATANNILIK TERRITORIAL PARK CANOE EXPEDITION



## DAY 3



B L S D

- **Canoeing & Hiking**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

On the first real morning of the trip, you'll wake up in a truly awe-inspiring place. Your guide will already be up, coffee should be ready; all that's left is for you is to sit down and enjoy! Mosquitoes might also be up, but your guides have a plan: Breakfast will be served in the rain/bug shelter. Rest assured, as soon as the wind picks up - and it will - the bugs will be swept aside. As you repack camp for the first time, your guide will give you pointers on how to do it efficiently.

The kilometres ahead of us are not technical: there are no difficult rapids or sections that require scouting. This is the perfect ground to practise your paddle strokes and learn a few tricks from your experienced guides.

Our goal for the day is to camp on a large grassy plateau just past the Livingstone River. Inuksuit, tent rings and caribou antlers found in that area are only a few of the artefacts bearing witness to the history of the nomadic families that travelled through the valley for centuries.

The nearby Livingstone falls are a must! Why not hike to their base after dinner? For those who still have the energy, a detour could bring us to a secondary landing strip and a large yurt set up by Nunavut Parks.

## DAY 4



B L S D

- **Canoeing & Hiking**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

After a healthy breakfast, with the waterproof barrels loaded into the canoes, your guides will go over river canoeing techniques and safety procedures, as well as look at maps with you to figure out what challenges the river will offer us today: a few fun class II+ and III rapids lie ahead of us.

As we approach today's camp, if you look downstream, you will see a dark ridge forming two rock towers silhouetted against the skyline. The Inuit call the larger rock Arnanguaq, which roughly translates to "woman looking out". Arnanguaq is guarding the willow forest. Protected in this valley is the largest forest on Baffin Island with willows growing to almost 3 meters high (10ft). Impressive, when you know that this forest is located 645 kilometres (400mi) north of the tree line!

## DAY 5



B L S D

- **Canoeing & Hiking**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

Wake up, coffee, breakfast, pack gear, repeat. This is our new morning mantra! As the mornings go, our group gets more efficient at hitting the flow.

The sight of the roof of the 8<sup>th</sup> emergency cabin announces lunch. The Big Bend, a 3km (1.9mi) long loop in the river, plays a trick on your eyes. As you get closer, the hut disappears behind a low ridge. Keep left of the gravel island for a deserved stop at the cabin.



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Decisions time for the group: do we attack the Soper's longest section of class II before setting camp or do we start fresh tomorrow morning? The area is gorgeous for side hikes: from the plateau above, our group will have an eagle's point of view to scout the river ahead.

## DAY 6



- **Canoeing & Hiking**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

The semi-precious rock day! Roughly at kilometre 44 of the river is one of the only known Canadian Lapis Lazuli (blue gemstone) deposits. While most of this semi-precious blue stone can be found in mines located in northeast Afghanistan, as well as west of Lake Baikal in Russia, Nunavut has its own little secret stash. Such a feature deserves a stop. The mesmerizing blue stone has been used locally by carvers and jewellers: the Mace of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, unveiled to the public on March 30, 1999, showcases the artwork possibilities.

Back in our watercraft, the last few kilometres of the river lay ahead. Our target for tonight is the Soper Falls group campground. The area has seen its share of bears, so Nunavut Parks has set a fencing system around the campground, for the safety of visitors.

A quick hike along the river will readily show why we will portage the waterfall. Two large holes to negotiate, followed by a spill that would carry paddlers over to very abrasive ledges: not the most inviting section of rapids!

## DAY 7



OR



- **Canoeing to Kimmirut**
- **Gear transportation to the airport**
- **Night at the hamlet campground** (included) **or at the hotel** (not included)

Our group will set alarms to wake up early. After a short hike with all our equipment (portage) leads us to the bottom of the falls, we will set off on the waters of Soper Lake.

It is best to paddle across the lake early in the morning, before the headwinds kick up whitecaps. With a mixture of sandbars, beaches and rocky islands as a backdrop, we will paddle across the lake to reach our final destination.

One of Inukpak Outfitting's Kimmirummiutaq old friends (Kimmirut resident) will be awaiting our arrival. The landing is few kilometres from the hamlet campground, but fortunately we won't have to portage all our gear. A short pick-up ride will bring us up to the welcoming community of Kimmirut. Let's go and grab a well-deserved snack at the community-run grocery store!

## DAY 8

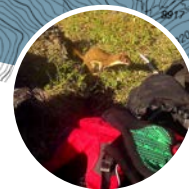


OR



- **Free morning in Kimmirut**
- **Flight\* Kimmirut, NU to Iqaluit, NU**  
\*May be possible to connect flight to your home destination
- **Transfer from the airport to your accommodation in Iqaluit if you decide to leave the next day**
- **Night at your accommodation (hotel or B&B option), in Iqaluit if you decide to leave the next day** (not included)

## SOPER RIVER - KATANNILIK TERRITORIAL PARK CANOE EXPEDITION



While we wait for our flight back to the capital, why not visit the Nunavut Parks office while your guides deregister and file their report from the park; spend a moment visiting the location that also serves as the Soper River interpretation centre.

You have a few options for your flight back home: the flight from Kimmirut to Iqaluit may connect with your flight back to your home destination. For those who decide to stay in Iqaluit for an extra night, you will be invited to share dinner with the group. It is a great chance to share photos, remember great stories and exchange contacts.

**\* Please note that this is a suggested itinerary and schedule,  
depending on good weather and flight availability**

### PROGRAM DETAILS:

Due to potential reasons out of our control, please note that prices, dates and inclusions/exclusions may vary without notice. Website information always prevail.

#### Price:

#### Program: Soper River - Katannilik Territorial Park Canoe Expedition

Please refer to the [Program's section](#) of our website.

#### Dates:

Please refer to the [Program's section](#) of our website.

**Day 1:** Participants need to be in Iqaluit on or before Day One at 1500 to attend the group / pre-expedition mandatory meeting.

**Day 8:** It may be possible to connect flight directly from Kimmirut (short layover in Iqaluit) to your home destination on the last day.

### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS:

#### Included:

- Group charter between Iqaluit, NU. and Mount-Joy (the Soper River)
- Flight between Kimmirut, NU. to Iqaluit, NU. (one way)
- Full-service hotel accommodation in Iqaluit
  - B&B option
  - double occupancy
  - day #1

- Guided Expedition for the duration of the trip
  - bilingual guide (English / French)
- Meals, trail snacks and hot drinks while in Kimmirut and expedition
- Specialized equipment, safety and communication gear
- Nautical specialized apparel and footwear
- Ground transportation to/from Iqaluit airport. Kimmirut is by foot.
- Admission fees to the Territorial Park

#### Not included:

- Airfare from home to Iqaluit, NU (return)
- Accommodation in Iqaluit day #8
- Hotel accommodation in Kimmirut day #7 (if not camping)
- Camping, clothing and personal equipment (tent\*\*, sleeping bag\*\*, mattress\*\*, personal clothing, personal hygiene kit, medication)
- Meals in Iqaluit
- Personal travel insurance (mandatory)
- Bad weather / out of our control, cancellation related fees
- Gratuities

\*\* Can be rented at no additional cost. Please notify 30 days in advance.

#### Payment:

Please refer to the [Terms & Conditions](#) section of our website.

#### Cancellation:

Please refer to the [Terms & Conditions](#) section of our website.

# SOPER RIVER - KATANNILIK TERRITORIAL PARK CANOE EXPEDITION



## Group:

Min. 4 / Max. 6 participants

## Ratio:

2 guides – 6 participants

## Custom Add-Ons:

Inukpak Outfitting is dedicated to ensuring your Nunavut trip exceeds expectations. Please contact us to inquire about our flights at preferential rates between home and Iqaluit, additional nights, customizations add-ons and/or activities to this program.

## Difficulty level:

To paddle down the Soper River you will need to be able to canoe /paddle for about 4-6 hours / day. Depending on the water level, section of flat water, swift water and rapid of class I – II and III will lay ahead of us. The more technical sections of the river can easily be portaged. Being comfortable canoeing is a must but extended river experience is not mandatory. Be ready to spend time wet, and at some time wading to help maneuvering in shallow water.

In addition to canoeing, you should be able to hike with a small day pack for up to 5 km (3mi) per day (1-3 hours a day) on an uneven terrain. Trails are not technical but could present some elevation challenge.

Days will be spent in the great outdoor while nights will be spent in tent. You should be prepared to live outside for the entire expedition and have some camping experience.

## Flights:

Group charter between Iqaluit, NU. and Mount Joy (the Soper River) is included.

Flight between Kimmirut, NU. to Iqaluit, NU. (one way) is included.

Airfare from home to Iqaluit, NU (return) is NOT included.

\* Inukpak Outfitting has a great working relationship with the airline company that serves the Arctic. If you would like to take advantage of our preferential rates between home and Iqaluit, it will be a pleasure for us to help you book your flights at that reduced rate.

## Accommodation:

Full-service hotel accommodation (or B&B option) in Iqaluit (double occupancy) is included in the price. Convenient in-town restaurant options range from take-out, to pub fare, to fine dining.

During the expedition part of the trip, nights will be spent in camping. Participants will share tents with the person of their choice when possible or will be partnering with a person of same gender.

## Traveling in Nunavut:

Traveling in Nunavut can be one of your lifetime adventures. Scenery, people and wildlife are only few of a million things giving such a unique taste to the Canadian arctic. But traveling in Nunavut, also mean, traveling following permitting weather, and so, bad weather cancellations are not impossible. Also, "out of our control" situation can happen even with the best preparation. Replacement pieces for aircrafts and specialised workers to fix engines often need to be brought from South and are not always available the next morning.

To enjoy your next experience up North it is important to be ready to face those situations and to be ready to play with your schedule. Following those comments, we highly recommend that everybody traveling to the Arctic take few days off at the end of their trip to accommodate delay, with a smile.

**B** = Breakfast   **L** = Lunch   **S** = Snack   **D** = Dinner   **N/A** = Not Applicable

**FOR MORE DETAILS,  
CONTACT US AT:**



### **Inukpak Outfitting**

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