



Join us on the Magpie River

# Magpie River Adventure

8 Days • Pristine Wilderness • Whitewater Rafting • Kayaking • Fly-Fishing

## *Getting Started*

### **Welcome to Boreal River**

Our adventure begins with introductions and a glimpse of the land and culture of Quebec's North Shore region. Boreal River guides greet you at the airport in Sept-Îles. The hour and a half drive to the town of Riviere-au-Tonnerre takes us along rugged shoreline and over hills blanketed with black spruce Boreal forest. We settle in to our comfortable lodgings and can walk through the charming village or down to the Gulf to look for whales. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner, go over the plan for the coming days along with some packing tips, and get to know our guides for the week ahead.

The following morning we get an early start, driving to a lake about an hour further east down the coastal highway. Excitement mounting, we weigh in and board a Twin Otter, the classic Canadian float plane. For our 30 minute flight, views are of endless forest, hilltop ponds, and rivers in every direction.

Landing on Lake Magpie, we wave goodbye to our pilot and rig our boats on a small rocky beach. It is a great feeling as the plane flies away leaving us alone on a massive lake surrounded by mountains and immense wilderness with no other humans for miles around.

## **2010 Trip Dates**

Aug 8 - Aug 15, 2009  
Aug 15 - Aug 22, 2009



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## *The River and Rapids*

### **Our journey downstream begins**

Over the next six days we descend the Magpie river running numerous rapids. We switch between crafts to maximize fun, using guided six-person paddle rafts for class 3+ and class 4 drops and solo inflatable kayaks for class 1 to 3 rapids. Guides give thorough safety briefings and paddling instruction, making sure that everyone is comfortable on the river.

In the rafts we paddle as a team, improving our technique and coordination and building confidence. Towards the end of the trip we are ready for the three hardest rapids, Double Drop, Trust Falls, and Borealis.

The inflatable kayaks are stable and easy to maneuver, allowing people to confidently steer their boat through whitewater in no time at all. Guides lead the way in safety kayaks and are always nearby. Of course, all rapids are 'challenge by choice' and at anytime guests can opt to ride in the guided rafts or to walk around.

Several unrunnable rapids occur as the water travels from source to sea. We can 'line' (guide our boats with ropes from shore) or do short portages to get around these. The guides handle the rafts and equipment packs and everyone takes part in carrying drybags. Standing in the mist and blowing wind of falling water, the effort of portaging feels well worth it as we appreciate the power of these thundering falls.

The scenery is ever changing throughout our trip. Trees grow in stature as we descend the river. Calm sections allow us to gaze at giant cliffs and adjoining rivers tumbling off of the hilltops. The many beaches can be scanned for tracks of moose, wolves, lynx, and bear and the treetops searched for Osprey nests, the fishing birds of prey that circle high above.

## **Trip Snapshot**

Day 1 ~ Rendezvous, welcome dinner, overnight lodging in Coastal Village.

Day 2 ~ Float Plane fly-in to Lake Magpie. Raft to first camp.

Days 3 to 6 ~ Descend and explore the Magpie. Camp by the river, each night at unique and beautiful spots.

Day 7 ~ Paddle from spectacular Magpie Falls to the take out by the St. Lawrence Gulf. Overnight lodging in coastal village. Farewell dinner.

Day 8: ~ Breakfast and airport drop-off.



Ready to join? Call toll free (866) 242-9383

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## *Camping in Comfort*

### **A room with a view...**

Each camp has its own character and allows us different vantage points of the river valley. We set up tents on beaches and flat rock ledges and collect driftwood for a fire. Guides prepare 'happy hour' and you can change into dry clothes, relax with a book, take a swim, or go fly fishing.

Experienced anglers will rejoice in the quality of speckled (brook) trout fishing in the evenings and early mornings. We also bring along several fly fishing rods and guides will teach those interested how to flycast.



Meals are delicious, wholesome, and plentiful. We cook sauces on a stove, grill meats and vegetables over open fire, and bake desserts in a dutch oven. We use as many fresh, locally bought ingredients as possible: produce from a greenhouse near Sept-Iles, organic Quebec farmed cheeses and meats, and wild caught seafood from Matane and Havre-St-Pierre. Some imported items still make it in...we have a soft spot for wines from the world over.

Evenings are relaxed with a crackling fire and a pot of fresh picked Labrador Tea as we settle in for nights under the starry northern sky. August is the time for meteor showers and if we're lucky, dazzling displays of Northern Lights.

## *A Remarkable Send-off*

### **Waterfalls and Gorges**

On our fifth afternoon, after a fantastic day of whitewater and scenery, we arrive at Magpie Gorge. Our camp overlooks the first of five remarkable drops where the whole river gets channeled into a narrow gap. In the morning the majority of our equipment gets flown out from this point and we are able to continue 'lightweight' for a final day of exploration. We walk around the gorge on a forest path and a short paddle takes us to the stunning fifty meter Magpie falls. Another beautiful mossy trail arrives at a breathtaking lunch spot amongst giant water-sculpted boulders at the edge of the drop.

As we float away from the falls we relish in our final afternoon on the river. Before long (just a twenty minute drive from the river take-out), we've returned to the charming village of Riviere-Au-Tonnerre, the perfect spot to ease our way back to civilization with a farewell dinner and the recounting of stories from our incredible week.

## *Why Join Boreal River?*

### **1. Small Groups**

Maximum ten participants per trip. (Larger groups possible for private trips)

### **2. We take care of all the details**

Specialized equipment provided making your packing list simple.

Trip price includes accommodations before and after expedition and airport pickup and drop-off.

### **3. The Most Professional**

From your first contact with us to your complimentary trip DVD, our service will exceed your expectations.

Boreal River guides, safety standards, and equipment are the best in the industry.

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## *The Details*

### Price

\$2,495 Canadian Dollars plus taxes All-Inclusive

### Who's this trip for?

This trip is for anyone ages 12 and up who is physically active. No previous whitewater or wilderness camping experience is necessary. Swimming ability is recommended.

### What's included in the trip price?

- All ground transportation and float plane flights from meeting points onwards.
- All accommodations for seven nights. (two nights shared hotel room, five nights individual tent).
- All delicious food from day one dinner through day eight breakfast.
- Some wine and spirits for evenings at camp.
- High quality camping equipment: large drybag, expedition tent, inflatable mattress, sleeping bag and sleeping bag liner, pillow with pillow case.
- River equipment including personal flotation device, helmet, and splash jacket.
- Basic fly fishing equipment and fly fishing permits.
- Professional guide staff always available.

### What's not included?

- Airfare or ground transportation to and from trip meeting points.
- Personal items. See packing list.
- Alcoholic beverages for evenings in Riviere-Au-Tonnerre (nights one and seven).
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Optional guide gratuities.

### How to Sign Up

Call our reservation specialist toll free at (866) 242-9383 to reserve your spot with your credit card. We require a 50% deposit, and a 50% balance payment when you arrive at the start of your trip in Sept-Iles.

### What you can expect from Boreal River

Our mission is to provide our guests with the most high quality, fun, and secure wilderness trips. We strive for excellence in service. Our overall success is dependent on the health, safety, and happiness of our guests, our staff, our communities, and the natural environment.

### What kind of insurance do I need?

Participants on Boreal River trips need to have appropriate Medical Evacuation insurance as any emergency evacuation costs will be billed to the injured person. Medical insurance should cover emergency air evacuation from the river to a local hospital, medical treatment within Canada, and repatriation to a medical care facility in your home region.

We also strongly recommend obtaining Trip Cancellation insurance, which will reimburse you for the unused portion of your Boreal River trip if you must cancel prior to departure or leave your trip early due to illness, accident, or family emergency.

If you have insurance coverage from a credit card or an existing plan, please make sure that it will cover you for the above mentioned emergency situations and that you are covered while participating in whitewater activities and remote wilderness travel.

If you are looking for an insurance package for Medical Evacuation, Trip Cancellation, or both, we recommend calling Master Travel at 1-888-567-3534. They are based in Alberta and can provide Canadians or travelers from any country with appropriate insurance for our trips as well as coverage for any travel that you are planning before or after your visit with Boreal River. For more information about the coverage or if you would like a price quote, give them a call and they will be happy to answer any questions.

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## *Packing List*

The Magpie typically has great weather in August with warm sunny days and cool starry nights. The river is fairly warm and full wetsuits or drysuits are not necessary. We will, however, be relatively far north and any combination of strange weather can occur. We carry a full set of 'river clothes' as well 'camp clothes'. It is best to dress in layers.

First a 'wicking layer' of thin material that sends moisture away from our body. Next, some thicker synthetic (fleece) or wool "insulating layers" and lastly an outer layer that provides a barrier from wind and water.

Cotton garments should be avoided as they dry very slowly and steal body heat when wet. Please follow the packing list closely and let us know if you have any questions.

## **Equipment that we will provide for you:**

- A giant drybag in which to keep all of your personal items.
- A smaller drybag that will be accessible during the day in which you can keep your rainwear, sunscreen, etc.
- An expedition tent. Shared for couples, individuals will get his or her own.
- An inflatable mattress
- A cozy sleeping bag
- A sleeping bag liner
- A pillow and pillow case
- Whitewater helmet and flotation device
- Wind and waterproof 'splash' jacket

## **Your Packing List**

### **River Clothing:**

- 1 pair of shoes for the river. The ideal river shoe is lightweight and draining yet supportive enough for walking on portages and scouting rapids, with a grippy sole. These can be lightweight running shoes, water shoes with a supportive sole, or sturdy sandals with toe covering.

- 1 pair of thermal socks for the river. Wool, fleece, or synthetic.
- bathing suit / surf shorts
- lightweight synthetic t-shirt
- top and bottom medium weight long underwear.
- long-sleeve neoprene 'surf' top or long-sleeve medium-weight fleece top

### **For Camp:**

- 1 pair of shoes
- 3 pairs of thermal socks
- undergarments
- lightweight t-shirt
- lightweight long-sleeve shirt
- lightweight 'quick dry' long pants
- top and bottom medium-weight synthetic or wool long underwear
- heavyweight fleece or wool sweater
- rain gear top and bottom
- toque (wool or fleece winter hat)
- sun hat
- small quick-dry towel
- small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- sunscreen, lip protection, and insect repellent-
- water bottle, 1 litre with an attachment loop
- sunglasses with strap
- prescription glasses with strap if necessary
- toiletry kit with biodegradable soap and shampoo as well as personal medications
- optional: reading material, journal, binoculars, camera (waterproof or with very waterproof case)
- optional: fly fishing rod with tackle and hard carrying case. We provide permits and basic equipment but experienced anglers will enjoy using their own specialized gear

### **General:**

- some clothes for the trip home
- travel documents (passport) and medical insurance cards or policies.