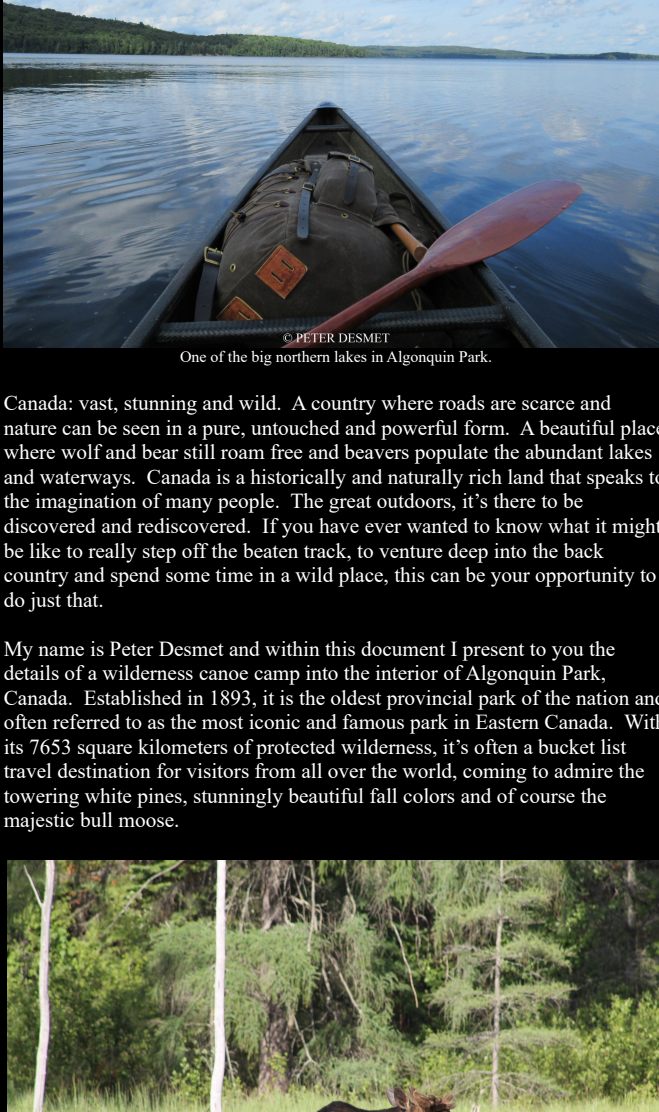


Algonquin Canoe Camp



© PETER DESMET
One of the big northern lakes in Algonquin Park.

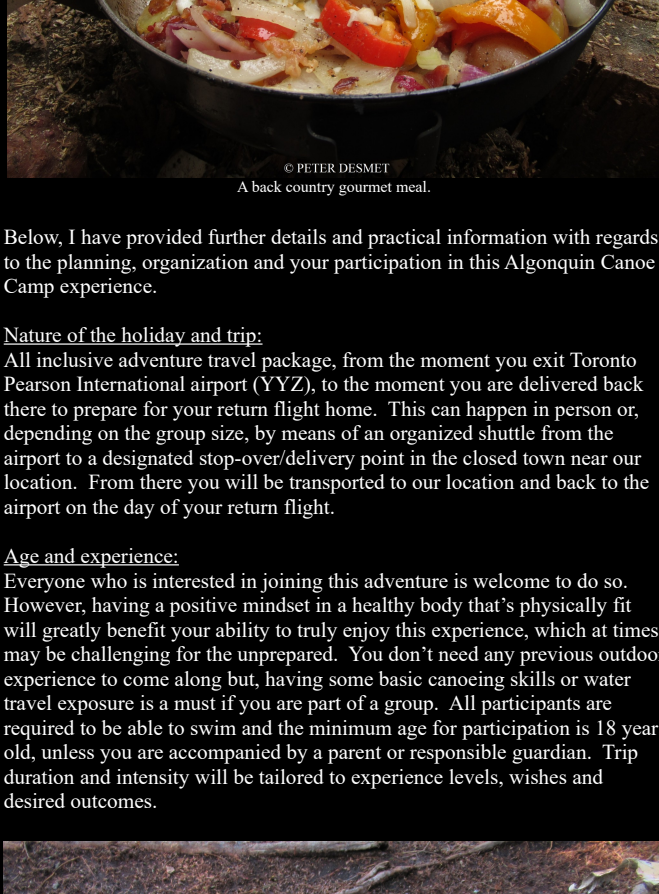
Canada's vast, stunning and wild. A country where roads are scarce and nature can be seen in a pure, untouched and unspoiled form. A beautiful place where wolf and bear still roam free and havers populate the abundant lakes and waterways. Canada is a historically and naturally rich land that speaks to the imagination of many people. The great outdoors, it's there to be discovered and rediscovered. If you have ever wanted to know what it might be like to really step off the beaten track, to venture deep into the back country and spend some time in a wild place, this can be your opportunity to do just that.

My name is Peter Desmet and within this document I present to you the details of a wilderness trip into the interior of Algonquin Park. Established in 1893, it is the oldest provincial park of the nation and often referred to as the most scenic and famous park in Eastern Canada. With its 7653 square kilometers of protected wilderness, it's often a bucket list travel destination for visitors from all over the world, coming to admire the towering white pines, stunningly beautiful fall colors and of course the majestic bull moose.



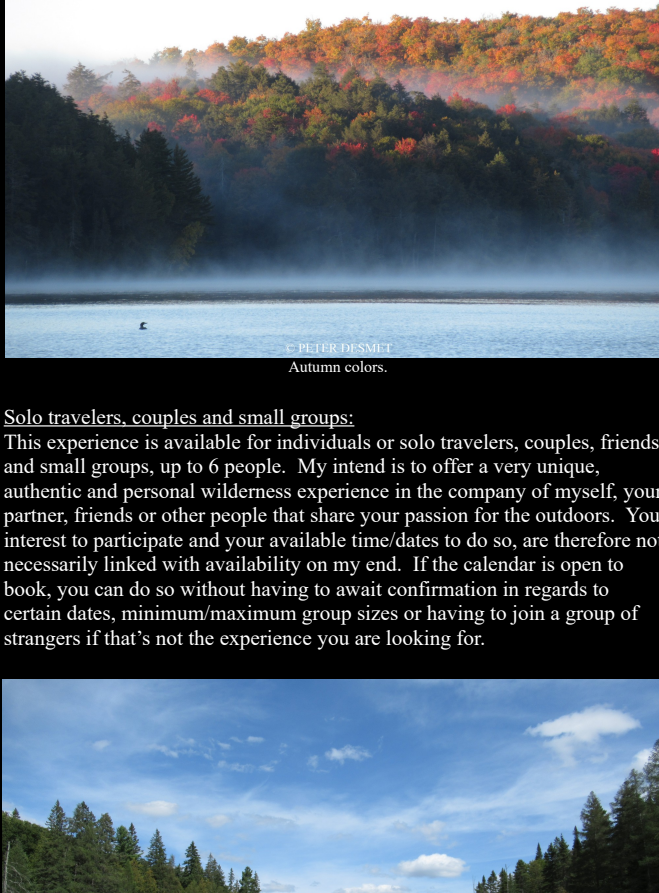
© PETER DESMET
The king of the northern forests.

Pick up a paddle and accompany me, as I guide you on this incredible adventure, exploring vast forests, deep blue lakes and beautiful winding rivers. Like the early pioneers, fur trappers and voyageurs in past, we will travel on foot and by canoe, which is often the only way of crossing this remote interior country. This base camp adventure will give you the opportunity to experience and observe the natural world from a different perspective. You yourself will be immersed in nature and for a moment in time, live and work at a different pace. Paddle your canoe across abundant lakes and pitch your tent on gorgeous campsites. You can see tracks and droppings of the forest and listen to the sounds of waves rolling onto shore while the sun is setting in the distance and your evening meal is being prepared over the flames of a warming campfire. This is the life.



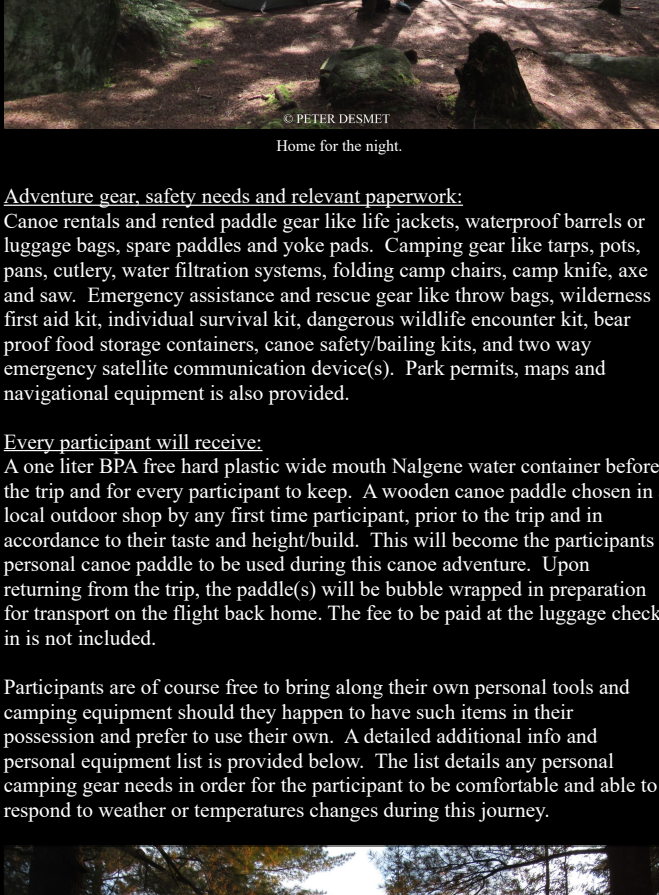
© PETER DESMET
Sausages for supper on the first evening out.

During our adventure in the park, we will be completely self-sufficient and unsupported. Living and traveling as a close-knit group and using our muscles to propel ourselves forward, deeper into the wild and further away from civilization. Everything we need, we will carry with us, with an emphasis on travelling light. Along the way you will have the opportunity to emphasize yourself with past and present day wilderness camping practices, useful and/or necessary to safely travel and explore an environment like this. The skill level is basic and most of the techniques can be mastered with relative ease. This allows plenty room for self-discovery.



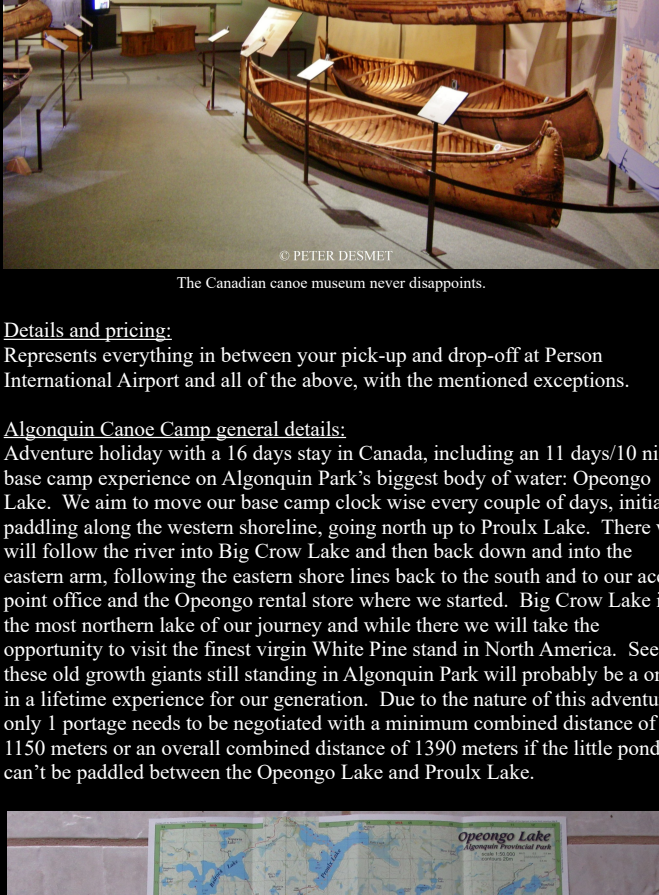
© PETER DESMET
Wolf track on a muddy portage trail.

While we navigate these woods and waterways, opportunities may arise to see and photograph the incredible wildlife that inhabits this region. These forests and lakes are home to a wide variety of wild animals which call this park and its surrounding wilderness, home. You can see tracks and droppings on portages and beaches, observe a moose feeding along shore, hear the loons call in the evening and if lucky, you may even hear a wolf pack howl in the distance. The Algonquin Canoe Camp is a wonderful mixture of wilderness skills and adventure travel. It's about relaxation in nature and the discovery and enjoyment of both the historical and natural resources of Algonquin Park and Eastern Canada.



© PETER DESMET
Early morning sunrise in late September.

As your guide I will be able to share my knowledge and experiences gained on both a professional and recreational level while having lived, traveled and worked in this general area for just over 10 years now. This allows me to provide you with a higher degree of comfort, enabling you to relax more and safely enjoy what can be, for some, an intimidating first encounter with a wilderness environment. For others with experience, having a guide along who's taking care of planning, logistics and the basic daily details in the field, may encourage them to take on a more challenging route and at the same time provide ample opportunities for hands-on learning and enhancement of their current skill level. Should all of this sound like something you want to be part of, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.



© PETER DESMET
A back country gourmet meal.

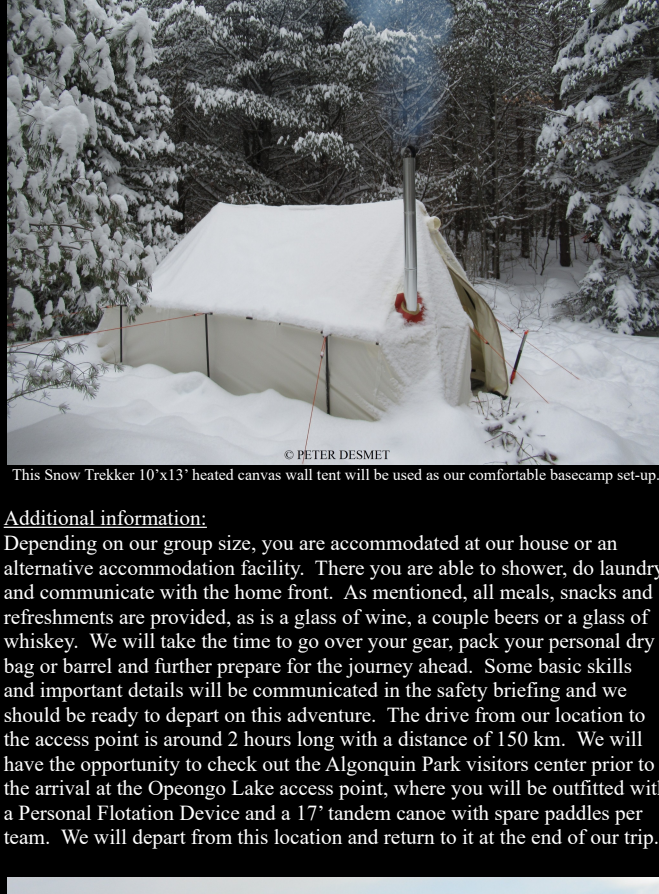
Below, I have provided further details and practical information with regards to the planning, organization and your participation in this Algonquin Canoe Camp experience.

Nature of the holiday and trip:

All inclusive adventure travel package, from the moment you exit Toronto Pearson International airport (YYZ), to the moment you exit Toronto to prepare for your return flight home. This can happen in person or, depending on the group size, by means of an organized vehicle. The airport to designated departure and arrival points will be arranged for our trip. From there you will be transported to our location and back to the airport on the day of your return flight.

Age and experience:

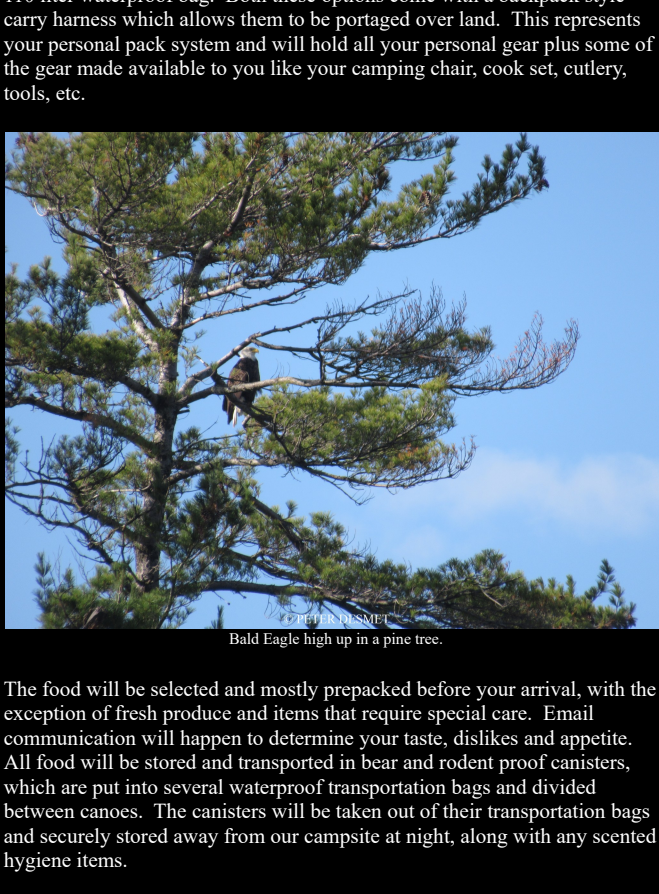
Everyone who is interested in joining this adventure is welcome to do so. However, having a positive mindset in a healthy body that's physically fit will greatly benefit your ability to truly enjoy this experience, which may be challenging for the unprepared. You don't need any previous outdoor experience to come along but, having some basic canoeing skills or water travel exposure is a must if you are part of a group. All participants are requested to be able to swim their own. A signed additional information is 18 years old, unless you are accompanied by a parent or responsible guardian. Trip duration and intensity will be tailored to experience levels, wishes and desired outcomes.



© PETER DESMET
Fire skills education with a 17" century style flint and steel kit.

Time of the year:

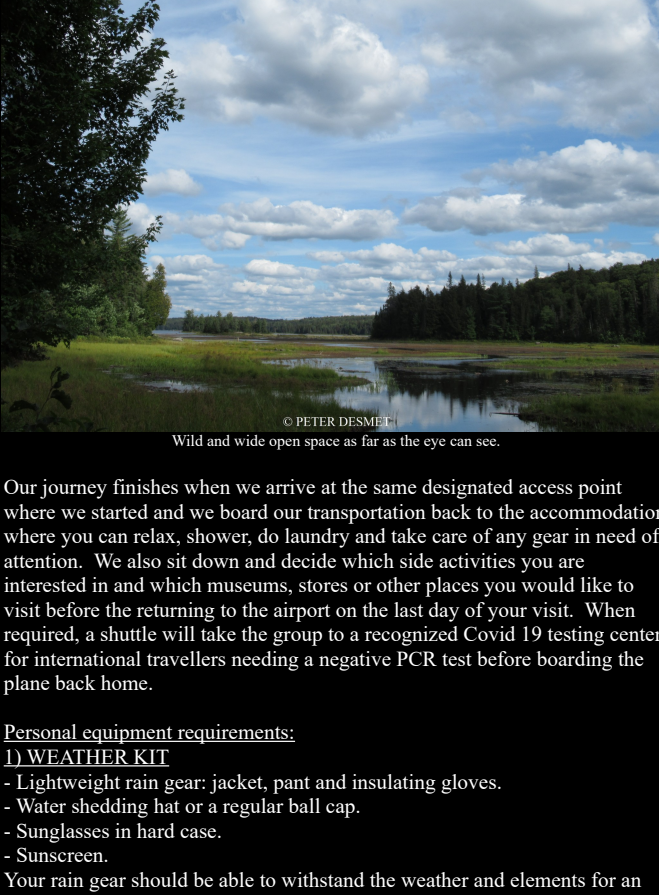
You can basically plan and book your participation from ice out to the beginning of the freeze. However, the most optimal time to undertake this adventure is from mid August to Mid October if you're looking for the best possible weather and water temperature windows, with the least amount of biting insects. Other windows of opportunity are available in spring and early summer but do require an extra degree of planning and preparation to make your stay both safe and enjoyable.



© PETER DESMET
Autumn colors.

Solo travelers, couples and small groups:

This experience is available for individuals or solo travelers, couples, friends and small groups, up to 6 people. My intent is to offer a very unique, authentic and personal wilderness experience in the company of myself, your partner, friends or other people that share your passion for the outdoors. Your intent to participate and your available time/dates to do so, are therefore not necessarily linked with availability on my end. If the calendar is open to book, you can do so without having to await confirmation in regards to certain dates, minimum/maximum group sizes or having to join a group of strangers if that's not the experience you are looking for.



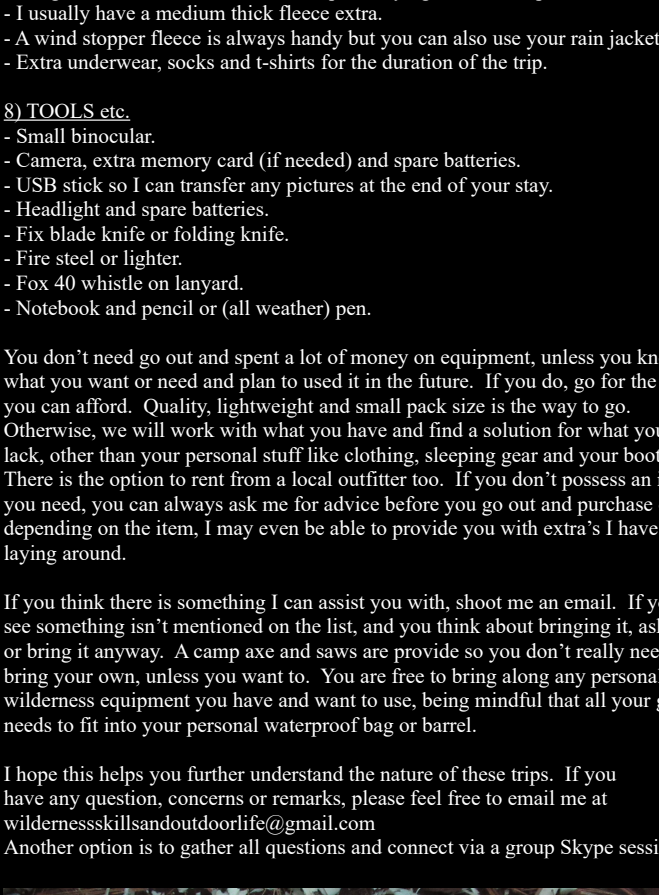
© PETER DESMET
Paddling into a wild place.

All transportation is included:

- from and to the airport
- from and to designated shuttle pick up points
- to and from our location
- to and from other predetermined accommodation facilities
- to and from the park
- to and from any locations of interest we visit during your stay
- to and from COVID 19 testing facilities for international travelers if required

All meals, refreshments and snacks are included:

- while at our location
- while at other predetermined accommodation facilities
- while in the park
- while traveling to and from any places of interest we visit during your stay



© PETER DESMET
Home for the night.

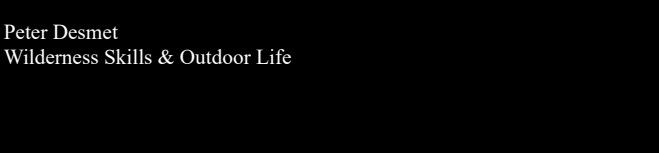
Adventure gear, safety needs and relevant paperwork:

Canoe rentals and rented paddle gear like life jackets, waterproof barrels or luggage bags, spare paddles and yoke pads. Camping gear like tarps, pots, pans, cutlery, water filtration systems, folding camp chairs, camp knife, axe and saw. Emergency assistance and rescue gear like throw bags, wilderness first aid kit, individual survival kit, dangerous wildlife encounter kit, bear proof food storage containers, canoe safety/bailing kits, and two way emergency satellite communication device(s). Park permits, maps and navigational equipment is also provided.

Every participant will receive:

A one liter BPA free hard plastic wide mouth Nalgene water container before the trip and for every participant to keep. A wooden canoe paddle chosen in a local outdoor shop by any first time participant, prior to the trip and in accordance to their taste and height/build. This will become the participants personal canoe paddle to be used during this canoe adventure. Upon returning from the trip, the paddle(s) will be bubble wrapped in preparation for transport home. The fee to be paid at the luggage check in is not included.

Participants are of course free to bring along their own personal tools and camping equipment should they happen to have such items in their possession and prefer to use their own. A detailed additional information and personal equipment list is provided below. The list details any personal camping gear needs in order for the participant to be comfortable and able to respond to weather or temperatures changes during this journey.



© PETER DESMET
Tents are up, canoes are secured, bellies are full, fire is burning and the sun is setting.

Side activities:

Depending on the length of your stay here in Ontario, and the actual duration of the canoe trip within that time frame, a range of side activities can be arranged. Any admission fees or permits, if applicable, are included in the pricing. This could consist of a 3D archery practice session at our location or visiting the West and East gates along Algonquin Park's highway 60 corridor. This also includes the Algonquin logging museum and visitor center, both located along the famous stretch of highway. There are also several outdoor shops located along the highway between Huntsville, Toronto and Mississauga, and the national historic site of Saint-Marie among the Hurons in Midland, the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough or the Aspen valley wildlife center. Participants communicate their preferred option beforehand so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate this.

© PETER DESMET
The Canadian canoe museum never disappoints.

Details and pricing:

Represents everything in between your pick-up and drop-off at Person International Airport and all of the above, with the mentioned exceptions.

Algonquin Canoe Camp general details:

Adventure holiday with a 16 days stay in Canada, including an 11 days/10 nights base camp experience on Algonquin Park's biggest body of water: Opeongo Lake. We aim to move our base camp clock wise every couple of days, initially paddling along the western shoreline, going north up to Proulx Lake. There we will follow the river into Big Crow Lake and then back down and into the eastern arm. Following the eastern shore line back to the south and to our access point office and the Opeongo rental store where we started. Big Crow Lake is the most northern lake of our journey and while there we will take the opportunity to visit the finest virgin White Pine stand in North America. Seeing these old growth giants still standing in Algonquin Park will probably be a once in a lifetime experience for our generation. Due to the nature of this adventure, only 1 portage needs to be negotiated with a minimum combined distance of 1150 meters or an overall combined distance of 1390 meters if the little pond can't be paddled between the Opeongo Lake and Proulx Lake.

© PETER DESMET
Opeongo Lake in Algonquin Park in 1:50000 scale. Ontario, Canada.

© PETER DESMET
From Proulx Lake to Big Crow Lake, to go visit the old growth White Pines stand. 1:60000 scale.

Algonquin Canoe Camp specific planning details:

Programming and time scheduling of day 1 and day 16 are subjected to change and determined by actual arrival and departure times. Subsequent travel times to and from our location and actual adventure departure and return times may also be influenced and adjusted accordingly if needed. An uninfluenced planning will be as follows:

- Day 1: arrival in country, shuttle to accommodation, welcome dinner.
- Day 2: acclimatize, kit check and packing, gear familiarization, safety briefings.
- Day 3: load-up, shuttle to visitors museum, access point, journey starts, trip day 1.
- Day 4: trip day 2
- Day 5: trip day 3
- Day 6: trip day 4
- Day 7: trip day 5
- Day 8: trip day 6
- Day 9: trip day 7
- Day 10: trip day 8
- Day 11: trip day 9
- Day 12: trip day 10
- Day 13: trip day 11, journey ends, shuttle to accommodation, shower, laundry.
- Day 14: R&R, shuttle to Covid 19 testing center for international travel in Barrie.
- Day 15: R&R, finish personal gear maintenance, side activities, prep for departure.
- Day 16: departure day, shuttle to side activities, airport drop-off and flight back.

Algonquin Canoe Camp Pricing in Canadian dollars with tax included:

- 2 participants: \$2450 pp
- 3 participants: \$2975 pp
- 4 participants: \$2850 pp

© PETER DESMET
This Snow Trekker 10'x13' heated canvas wall tent will be used as our comfortable basecamp set-up.

Additional Information:

Depending on our group size, you are accommodated at our house or an alternative accommodation facility. There you are able to shower, do laundry and communicate with the home front. As mentioned, all meals, snacks and refreshments are provided, as is a glass of wine, a couple beers or a glass of whiskey. We will take the time to go over your gear, pack your personal dry bag or barrel and further prepare for the journey ahead. Some basic skills and important details will be communicated in the safety briefing and we should be ready to depart on this adventure. The drive from our location to the access point is around 2 hours long with a distance of 150 km. We will have the opportunity to check out the Algonquin Park visitors center prior to the arrival at the Opeongo Lake access point, where you will be outfitted with a Personal Flotation Device and a 17' tandem canoe with spare paddles per team. We will depart from this location and return to it at the end of our trip.

© PETER DESMET
Witness and photograph the incredible wildlife that calls Algonquin Park home.

The first trip day is usually filled with lots of small details to learn and remember so we keep that day short and camp early. Our first evening meal consist of fresh produce, prepared on our first campfire of the trip. Progress and campsite selection during our trip depends on travel conditions resulting from weather or wind. If we happen to get wind bound or the weather is not suitable for travel, planning and route selection may have to be adjusted.

We will be traveling self-supported, with two paddlers per tandem canoe. Each participant will get to use two 60 liter waterproof canoe barrels or, one 110 liter waterproof bag. Both these options come with a backpack style carry harness which allows them to be portaged over land. This represents your personal pack system and will hold all your personal gear plus some of the gear made available to you like your camping chair, cook set, cutlery, tools, etc.

© PETER DESMET
Bald Eagle high up in a pine tree.

The food will be selected and mostly prepacked before your arrival, with the exception of fresh produce and items that require special care. Email communication will happen to determine your taste, dislikes and appetite. All food will be stored and transported in bear and rodent proof canisters, which are put into several waterproof transportation bags and divided between canoes. The canisters will be taken out of their transportation bags and securely stored away from our campsite at night, along with any scented hygiene items.

© PETER DESMET
Delicious meals and tasty desserts made in cast iron basecamp cookware.

After a day's travel, camp will be made late afternoon or early evening and chores will be divided among some of the members of our group. Some can take the opportunity to rest and enjoy the area, others can gather firewood and start the fire, put camp stoves or fire cooking. As things in the evening and have some rest days are excellent opportunities to relax, enjoy nature and relax or, learn particular wilderness skills like fire starting, knots, navigation, first aid, emergency survival, knife, axe and saw safety, plant and tree identification and uses, tracking, leather work, spoon and canoe paddle carving projects (milled cherry planks are provided) and more. Short day trips in the vicinity of our base camp are organized to go explore historical sites, promising area's to photograph wildlife or just to go and explore this vast and beautiful lake.

© PETER DESMET
Wild and wide open space as far as the eye can see.

Our journey finishes when we arrive at the same designated access point where we started and we board our transportation back to the accommodation where you can relax, shower, do laundry and take care of any gear in need of attention. We also sit down and decide which side activities you are interested in and which museums, stores or other places you would like to visit before the returning to the airport on the last day of your visit. When required, a shuttle will take the group to a recognized Covid 19 testing center for international travellers needing a negative PCR test before boarding the plane back home.

Personal equipment requirements:

1) WEATHER KIT

- Lightweight rain gear: jacket, pant and insulating gloves.
- Water shedding hat or a regular ball cap.
- Sunglasses in hard case.
- Sunscreen.

* You must be able to withstand the weather and elements for an extended period. It should be possible to paddle a portage for a couple of hours if rainfall persists, so breathability and ventilation are good qualities to look for. Keep your rain gear in a dry bag so other equipment in your barrel or pack does not get wet after use.

2) SLEEPING KIT

- Tent recommendations: 2 persons size tent for a single camper or, a 3 persons size tent for couples.
- Sleeping bag, appropriate for the time of year.
- Sleeping bag liner.
- Inflatable pillow if desired.
- Sleeping pad with puncture repair kit.

Opt for a lightweight bag with comfort range of 0 degrees Celsius. I have a lightweight liner for extra warmth and to extend the life of my bag. When I get to warm I can use my bag as a blanket and sleep in the liner or just use the liner in warmer weather. My sleeping pad is lightweight, compact and manually inflated. All should be packed in dry bags.

3) FIRST AID KIT

- Small personal first aid items, medications and personal needs.
- Pack it in a small dry bag. I will provide a wilderness first aid bag and emergency supplies, including a two way emergency satellite communication device(s).

4) WARMTH KIT

- Thick woolen socks.
 - Liner gloves.
 - Buff or regular scarf.
 - Woolen hat.
 - Long underwear (merino wool or synthetic pants & long sleeve T-shirt).
 - Insulating jacket and pants (down or synthetic).
- I use this kit and its content on chilly mornings or evenings in camp, around the fire or as sleeping outfit if needed. It also functions as an emergency clothing kit in case I get immersed in water. Packed in a dry bag.

5) HYGIENE KIT

- Toothbrush, paste and dental floss.
 - Deodorant stick.
 - Pocket towel.
 - Small non-breakable camp mirror (or use compass mirror).
 - Other personal hygiene items you desire or camp.
- Toilet paper, hand sanitizer and bio degradable camp soap are provided for you. Packed in a little dry bag.

6) FOOTWEAR

- Sturdy and waterproof boots, above ankle is preferred.
- Lightweight pair of shoes/sandals for in camp.
- A good waterproof (and breathable) pair of boots is a must. You will be stepping in and out of water, may cross creeks and muddy portage trails so above ankle height is an advantage. If you have GORE-TEX boots, bring along a set of GORE-TEX socks in case your boots get wet on the inside. My camp shoes are lightweight sandals with a protective toe box and can also be used to cross a river if needed. Keep in a dry bag when not in use.

7) CLOTHING

- Long sleeve shirts and trousers of a quick drying fabric and spares.
- I usually have a medium thick fleece extra.
- A wind stopper fleece is always handy but you can also use your rain jacket.
- Extra underwear, socks and t-shirts for the duration of the trip.

8) TOOLS Etc.

- Small binocular.
- Camera, extra memory card (if needed) and spare batteries.
- USB stick so I can transfer any pictures at the end of your stay.
- Headlight and spare batteries.
- Fix blade knife or folding knife.
- Fire steel or lighter.
- Fox 10 whistler on lanyard.
- Notebook and pencil (or all weather) pen.

You don't need to go out and spend a lot of money on equipment, unless you know what you want or need and plan to use it in the future. If you do, go for the best you can afford. Quality, lightweight and small pack size is the way to go. Otherwise, we will work with what you have and find a solution for what you lack, other than your personal stuff like clothing, sleeping gear and your boots. There is the option to rent from a local outfitter too. If you don't possess an item you need, you can always ask me for advice before you go out and purchase an item, depending on the item, I may even be able to provide you with extra's I have laying around.

If you think there is something I can assist you with, shoot me an email. If you see something isn't mentioned on the list, and you think about bringing it, ask me or bring it anyway. A camp axe and saws are provided so you don't really need to bring your own, unless you want to. You are free to bring along any personal wilderness equipment you have and want to use, being mindful that all your gear needs to fit into your personal waterproof bag or barrel.

I hope this helps you further understand the nature of these trips. If you have any question, concerns or remarks, please feel free to email me at wildernessskillsandoutdoorlife@gmail.com. Another option is to gather all questions and connect via a group Skype session.

© PETER DESMET
A base camp set up provides ample time to practice camp crafts and learn new skills.

Additional Info:

* For safety reasons, participants with food allergies are required to be completely self-sufficient in regards to food and its preparation and need to make prior arrangements. Contact me for further details. Any allergies and personal medications need to be present. Within reason, some special or specific dietary request can be arranged. Depending on the nature of the request, the cost may be for the participant.

* Included at our location or other predetermined accommodation facilities is alcohol within acceptable limitations. Any alcohol you wish to bring along on the trip, falls within the same guidelines but is not included in the pricing and can only be brought along using plastic containers, which is in compliance with the park's metal can and glass bottle ban.

* Participants are requested to bring personal camping gear in addition to the camping gear provided in order for the participant to be comfortable and able to respond to weather or temperatures changes during this journey.

* Any Covid 19 testing certificates and their related costs are not included in the event such requirements are made mandatory for travel.

* A "release of liability waiver" has to be completed upon entering private property and before starting the journey.

Cancellation & re-booking:

- Upon expressing interest and prior to booking, any questions or further inquiries can be discussed by email, phone or during a Skype call.
- Deposits equaling \$1500 CAD, which is tax included, are to be transferred upon confirmation of participation and with the reservation of dates.
- Deposits are non-refundable but can be transferred to new reservation dates if the participant's initially selected dates become inconvenient and they are confirmed.

- Total program fee or final balance is to be transferred not later than 4 months prior to the participant's arrival in Canada.

- Cancellations for any reason within 4 month of the scheduled trip dates are subjected to a 25% non-refundable fee, or the trip can be re-booked.

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The world needs more Canada.

Wilderness Skills & Outdoor Life