

CANOESKI DISCOVERY COMPANY
Canadian Wilderness Canoeing & Skiing EcoExplorations
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Archaeologist Butch Amundson relates the story of Petite Ville. Photo: Lynn Stewart

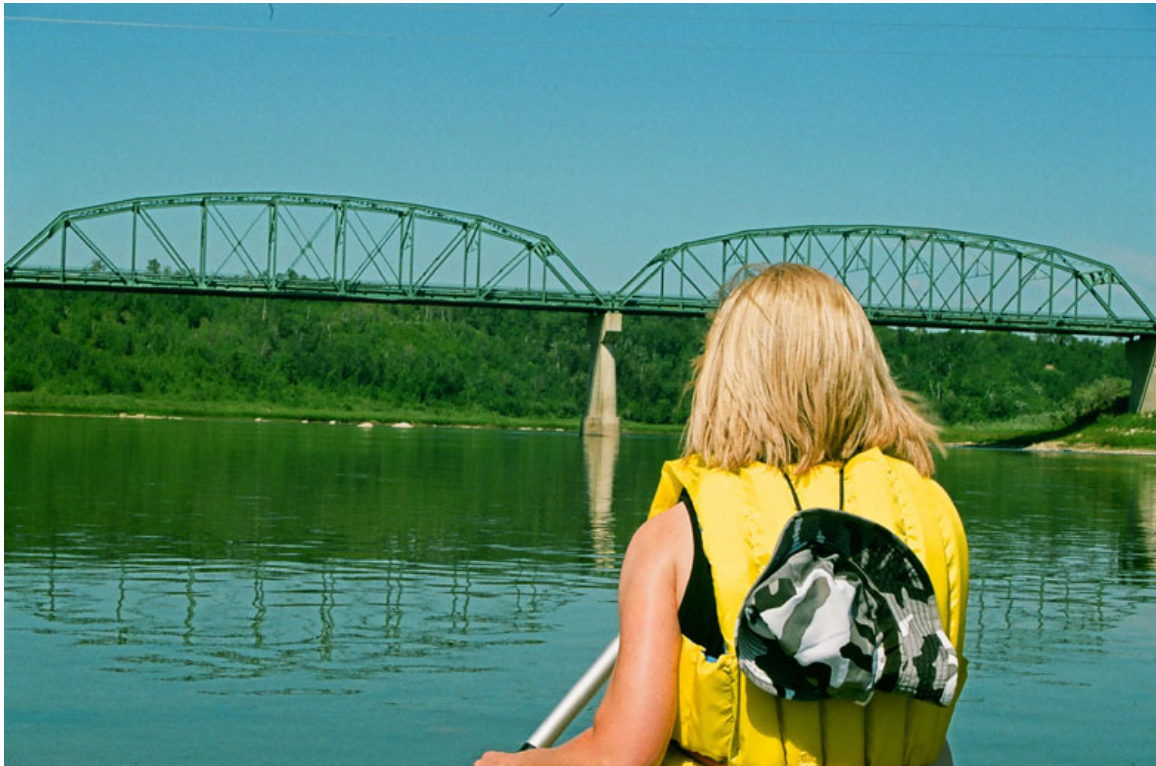
River Trails of 1885: Fish Creek & Batoche

Trip Overview

This 2-day fully outfitted and professionally guided canoe trip will explore the sites and interpret the events of the 1885 North West Resistance connected to the South Saskatchewan River north of Saskatoon.

Duration	2days, 1night
Scheduled Dates	July 3-4 Aug 21-22 Sept 4-5 Custom departure dates for groups may be arranged.
Geographic Area	South Saskatchewan River - Batoche region
Nearest Community	Rosthern
Paddling Venue	River flatwater with mild current
Adventure Rating	Novice - being reasonably fit will enhance your enjoyment of rigorous physical activities like paddling and portaging
Minimum Age	14

Total Paddling Distance	41 km (25 mi.)
Total Hiking Distance	3.5 km (2 mi.)
Accommodation	Wilderness camping in storm-proof nylon tents
Price per Person	\$390 Cdn
Booking	Registration form at www.canoeski.com/registerform.htm
Need more info?	Contact Cliff Speer, CanoeSki Discovery Company Tel: 306-653-5693 or email cliff@canoeski.com



Gabriel's Crossing and Bridge over the South Saskatchewan River. Photo: Cliff Speer

Itinerary

Day 1 will involve driving to the canoe launch point at the Hague Ferry about a half hour's drive north of Saskatoon. From there we paddle downstream past Gabriel's Crossing, site of a historic river ferry and store operated by famous Métis fighter Gabriel Dumont. Several kilometres further we encounter the National Historic Site where the Canadian militia first engaged the Métis forces at Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek. There we hike the trail up to Middleton's Camp where the general retired his soldiers to await reinforcements after suffering an ambush in the creek coulee by a small contingent of Gabriel Dumont's fighters.

We carry on paddling downstream past the former village of Fish Creek with its ancient landmark church, deteriorating with disuse. The paddling day ends at our wilderness riverbank campsite at Petite Ville, the archaeological site of an 1870's-era Métis wintering village.

Total paddling distance Day 1 - 21 km (12.5 mi). Hiking distance 1.5 km (1 mi).

Day 2 will take us downstream to the historic Batoche ferry crossing where the Northcote steamer, pressed into military service by General Middleton, was disabled by Métis fighters. Also at this river crossing the junction of the historic Carlton Trail connects Batoche with Fort Carlton on the North Saskatchewan River. We end the river trip with a hike up the trail to the National Historic Site where the Battle of Batoche took place. We will tour the site and take in the Parks Canada multimedia presentation on the 1885 Uprising.

In addition to the many historical attractions, our canoeing route has lots of natural appeal. The valley scenery is varied from low grassy terraces on the inside river bends to steeply wooded banks with deep coulees and natural springs flowing from the outside bends. The most likely encounters with wildlife will be with larger birds such as American Pelicans and Great Blue Herons. Also, Bald Eagles are occasionally observed in the river valley.

As to physical output, the paddling overall, with cooperative weather should be fairly relaxed. On a typical day you will spend 4-6 hours canoeing. Being reasonably fit will enhance your enjoyment of rigorous physical activities like paddling and portaging, but previous canoeing experience is not essential. Also, be aware that paddling involves repetitive upper body exercise and if you are unaccustomed to working those muscles, some pre-trip conditioning will make the daily paddling routine less stressful.

Total paddling distance Day 2 is 20 km (12 mi). Hiking distance is 2 km (1.2 mi).

Our return drive to Saskatoon should get us back into the City about supertime.

Package Includes:

Canoeing and safety equipment

Nylon tents

Waterproof packs for personal items & clothing

Park entry & camping fees

Nutritious meals prepared over an open fire

Certified instructor/guide

Historic & cultural interpretive activities at Fish Creek & Batoche

Return transportation by passenger van from Saskatoon



Canoeists hiking back to the junction of the Carlton Trail and the South Saskatchewan River after visiting Batoche National Historic Site. Photo: Cliff Speer