



TRIP DESCRIPTION NOLS ALUMNI YUKON HIKE AUGUST 12 -21, 2012

Features of This Trip:

- Self-sufficient 10-day expedition
- Backpacking travel skills
- Remote Canadian wilderness
- Hands-on learning and immediate application of new skills
- Local natural and human history
- LNT skills and ethics
- Up to 12 participants, 2 instructors

Cost: \$2395

Minimum Age: 14 years (accompanied by a parent)

Trip Description

This ten-day trip travels through one of the Yukon Territory's most beautiful and remote mountain ranges—the Tombstones. It's the North, so wildlife, stunning vistas, rich human history, long days and fall colors define this backpacking expedition. The trip provides NOLS grads, families and guests an opportunity to re-connect with NOLS in the high country of Canada's near-Arctic on a route that offers tundra and alpine hiking with an emphasis on light backpacking techniques. The route offers fly-fishing, non-technical peak ascents, photography and opportunities for learning about area ecology. During the day, this region offers world-renowned fall colours. Nights bring a chance at seeing the Northern Lights' dancing colours. Cooking will be done as instructor-lead teams in a group kitchen.

Environment

The Tombstone Mountains offer a variety of terrain—wooded trails, mountain lakes, flowery meadows and expansive boulder slopes. Moose, elk, caribou and wolves live in the area and are often seen by quiet watchers. Bears frequent the range. The majority of our hiking will be done on established trails. In addition, weather this time of year can be variable including hot sunny days or several days of wet, overcast weather. Mosquitoes are almost absent at this time of year in the north. The route, team and topography lends itself to many optional activities—spend time day hiking, fly-fishing, reading, taking photographs, baking, or learning plant identification. Sharing NOLS backcountry activities with friends and family creates fantastic lifetime memories.

Curriculum

This trip's curriculum focuses on traditional NOLS backcountry skills. The trip format provides a chance for everyone to learn new skills and share in the education. Instructors will present information and techniques for the group to comfortably travel and camp in the wilderness. Additional topics like backcountry baking, fly-fishing, flower identification, LNT techniques and leadership can also be presented to those interested.

Alumni trips are more relaxed than typical NOLS courses; however, it is not a vacation or a guided trip. Trips are self-reliant expeditions through remote wilderness areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. Throughout the trip, you live outdoors, prepare your own meals, and care for yourself and the team. The expedition format emphasizes hands-on learning and application of new skills in a variety of situations.

Planned Itinerary

August 11	Orientation meeting @ 8:30 p.m. Meet at the S.S. Klondike (a historic riverboat) on the banks of the Yukon River in downtown Whitehorse.	Plan to arrive in Whitehorse on this day. Lodging is on your own.
August 12	7:30 a.m. – A NOLS vehicle will pick you up at your lodging (as long as we know what it is!) and take you to our outfitting facility near the Whitehorse Airport.	Gear check, packing and drive out of town at mid-day. The course will camp on the way to the roadhead in the Tombstones.
August 13-19	Start hiking on 8/13. Backcountry travel from then.	Mix of hiking and layover days.
August 20	Pickup at the trailhead late in the day. Drive part way back to Whitehorse.	
August 21	Drive to Whitehorse for showers, gear deissue. Trip ends.	Lodging on your own and optional no-host dinner.
August 22	Most people fly out this day.	

Trip Logistics

There will be an informal orientation meeting at the S.S. Klondike in downtown Whitehorse at 8:30 p.m. on August 11, 2012. The trip officially begins at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 12. The morning will be spent pulling our gear together and packing our packs to hit the road that afternoon. Please review your gear before you arrive and make sure that it meets the requirements of the equipment list.

The hiking portion of the trip ends in the early afternoon of Monday, August 20. We will commence the drive back to Whitehorse and finish on August 21. On the August 21, we'll de-issue our gear, shower and formally end our trip. We will shuttle to your hotel in Whitehorse. Dinner that night is not provided as part of the trip but there will be an option to go out to dinner as a group. Because there's always a chance for logistical delays, we urge participants to not fly out until August 22.

Your trip tuition includes meals starting with lunch on August 12 through lunch on August 21, all group equipment, shuttles, and instruction.

Travel to and from Whitehorse, lodging on August 11 and August 21, any meals not indicated, and any cost incurred for evacuations are the responsibility of trip participants.

Food Considerations

NOLS courses supply a nutritious diet of assorted dried foods and some fresh supplements. Rice, pastas, beans, flour, cereal, nuts, cheese, soups and dried fruits are among the basic ingredients. You

will carry an extensive spice kit and a variety of drinks such as herb teas, cocoa, fruit crystals and broths. Locally roasted, organic coffee is available for purchase at NOLS Yukon.

If you have special dietary needs, contact the NOLS Alumni Department (800-332.4280) at NOLS Headquarters.

Canadian Currency

Although businesses in Canada may accept American currency, the best exchange rate is available through banks or cash machines. Money can easily be changed at any Canadian airport and at banks in Whitehorse. Some banks in your home country may be able to sell you Canadian dollars with advance notice.

Getting To Whitehorse

Whitehorse is located in the southern part of the Yukon Territory in Canada. If you would like a free map and vacation guide from Tourism Yukon write to: Tourism Yukon, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6, Canada. Phone: 867-667-5340. Fax: 867-667-3546.

Most flights to Whitehorse originate in Vancouver, British Columbia. Both Air North and Air Canada fly into Whitehorse. There are also flights out of Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta. Make your reservations early to get the best price and schedule!

Canadian Immigrations

To enter Canada you must have a **valid passport** and you must meet Canadian requirements for admissibility. Involvement in even **minor** criminal activity will likely make you inadmissible. Check the Canadian Immigration website for admissibility requirements.

(<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-who.asp>)

- 1) Visas are not required for **US citizens** entering Canada from the US.
- 2) Many **nationalities other than US** will need a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to enter Canada. A single entry TRV costs \$75. This must be obtained at a Canadian Consulate or Embassy before entering Canada. It can take several weeks to process TRV applications. Check the Canadian Embassy website to see if you need a TRV. (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>). You must have your TRV in hand before starting your NOLS course.
- 3) Anyone **under 18 years of age** will also need written notice from parents or guardian stating "their knowledge and consent for their dependent to take part in this NOLS expedition to Canada and to receive first aid treatment in case of medical need." Please bring this with you to NOLS Yukon at the beginning of your course.

If you are driving into Canada, bring your vehicle registration and proof of ownership.

For current information contact the U.S. State Department's web site at: <http://travel.state.gov/>

If you are flying into Canada, you will clear Immigration and Customs at the first Canadian airport where you land. Even if your luggage is checked through to Whitehorse, **you must collect your luggage, proceed through Customs and then return your luggage to the baggage handling system.** Just past Customs there is a conveyor belt to accept bags already checked through to other destinations.

If Delayed

If you will be delayed in reaching Whitehorse, please contact NOLS immediately at 800-332.4280 or NOLS Yukon 867-668-3578. Once your course leaves for the bush, it will be impossible for you to join your expedition. If you think your method of transport to Whitehorse is at all unreliable, plan to arrive a day or two early.

Lodging

Whitehorse has many lodging alternatives. Many of the hotels have airport shuttles. Be sure to ask for "the NOLS student rate." Here are a few suggestions:

Hotels

River View Hotel
102 Wood St
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2E3
867-667-7801
www.riverviewhotel.ca

High Country Inn
4051 4th Ave
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1H1
1-800-554-4471
www.highcountryinn.yk.ca

Gold Rush Inn (Best Western)
411 Main Street
Whitehorse, YT
867-668-4500
www.goldrushinn.com

Edgewater Hotel
101 Main Street
Whitehorse, YT
877-484-3334
www.edgewaterhotelwhitehorse.com

Westmark Klondike Inn
2288 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, YT
800-544-0970
www.westmarkhotels.com

Meeting Place and Time

Your course begins in Whitehorse, with an orientation meeting at 8:30 p.m. on the evening of **August 11**. Meet your instructors and fellow students in front of the S.S. Klondike (a historic Yukon River boat dry-docked on the banks of the Yukon). It is located in a park area at the corner of Robert Service Way and Second Avenue in Whitehorse. The orientation is ~90-minutes. On August 12, we'll pick you up at your Whitehorse lodging at 7:30 a.m. Please be ready on time with all errands and personal business completed.

Expectations of you as a participant

We expect that all participants have read all of the pre-trip information and that you are prepared mentally and physically for the challenges and adventure that are in store for you. The Yukon can be cold and wet in August, or it can be quite mild and dry—be prepared for anything. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us in the alumni department: 800-332-4280; we look forward to hearing from you.

Registration and Payment: To reserve a space on this trip, please submit a non-refundable deposit of \$200 to the NOLS Alumni Department. We can take a Mastercard or Visa over the phone at (800) 332-4280 or mail a check to: NOLS Alumni Department, 284 Lincoln St., Lander, WY 82520. The remainder of the tuition and all application forms are **due on July 12, 2012**.