



# Canoe Trips in Quebec

# CANOE TRIPS IN QUEBEC



Poling up a Rapid.

Department of the Interior  
CANADA

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## TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CANOEISTS

Build your camp fires small, close to the water's edge on a spot from which the leaves and moss have been scraped away. Drown it with water when leaving, and stir the ashes with a stick to make sure no live coals are left.

Leave your campsite clean. Bury all rubbish, bottles and cans. Never throw glass or tins in the water where others may bathe.

Learn how to swim, and first aid methods.

Do not sit or lie on bare ground.

Never run a rapid without first making sure that it can be done with safety. Examine it carefully for logs, boulders and other obstructions. Two canoes should not run a rapid at the same time.

Do not make your packs too heavy; about 40 pounds is a good average.

Avoid crossing large lakes or rivers in rough weather.

Make camp before dark. Erecting a tent, or preparing a meal by firelight is not easy.

Learn how to prepare simple meals over a campfire.

Unless familiar with wilderness travel never attempt a trip through uninhabited country without competent guides. Charts of the route, and good maps of the surrounding country are essentials.



## CANOE TRIPS IN QUEBEC

Ranging from cruises along streams flowing through well populated districts, and trips through the many lakes cradled in the Laurentian hills, to the wilderness routes through the vast, barely explored regions of the far north, the canoeist in the province of Quebec has a wide variety of trips from which to choose.

Some of these routes have been charted and are briefly described on the following pages. The time needed to complete each route is given approximately as it is seldom that two parties travel at the same speed.

Detailed descriptions with accompanying charts have been prepared, or are in course of preparation by the National Development Bureau for the convenience of the tourist. *Those for which detailed descriptions have been issued at date of publication are marked with an asterisk, thus \**.

The descriptions have been compiled from information secured from various sources and are believed to be correct. Rapids and the condition of portages change decidedly in the various seasons of the year. Development operations, fires and other causes contribute their share to alter the conditions of a route from season to season. Taking these factors into consideration, it is impossible to guarantee these descriptions as correct beyond the essential details.



Speckled Trout for Breakfast  
Almost Too Beautiful to Eat.

For the canoeist wishing to cruise on uncharted waters there are innumerable routes not included in this list. There are also trips of short distances leading to beautiful lakes, abounding in fish, and well studded with islands providing excellent sites for camps beneath the pines, where one's allotted time may be spent cruising in the immediate vicinity.

#### **WYKES TO MONT LAURIER\***

**One hundred and thirty-five miles—Twelve days**

For the canoeing expert accustomed to an outdoor life with its mixture of pleasures and discomforts, from Wykes station on the Canadian National Railway Transcontinental line, through lake Menjobagus and over the height of land by a short portage, then down the Lievre river to Mont Laurier, is a trip that will appeal. The wild, mountainous country, with its several rough portages along a winding stream that calls for all of the skill at one's command, will give thrills similar to those experienced by the voyageurs of old. Anyone attempting to make this trip should secure the services of experienced guides.

#### **BOURMONT TO MANIWAKI\***

**One hundred and ninety-five miles—Twenty days**

This route, a familiar one to the employees of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Indians dealing with them, is now accessible to the man looking for new territory. Leaving the railway at Bourmont in northern Quebec, a run of nearly two hundred miles through a beautiful wilderness is made before again connecting with a railway. Winding streams and placid lakes take one over the first part of the journey, and then the rushing currents of the Gens de Terre and Gatineau rivers provide plenty of white water requiring strenuous work with the paddle. The services of an experienced guide are indispensable for the complete enjoyment of the trip.

#### **MANIWAKI TO OTTAWA\***

**One hundred and twenty-eight miles—Ten days**

Although the jumping-off place is only about eighty miles from the Capital city, the trip is typical of the many throughout the Dominion in its quick transformation from civilization to wilderness. From Maniwaki the route leads a short distance down the Gatineau river, then swings eastward and down through

Thirty-One Mile, Whitefish and many other beautiful lakes for which the Gatineau district is famous. Excellent fishing and inviting camp sites intrigue the canoeist into tarrying along the way. After leaving the lakeland portion of the route the Lievre river is entered, a stream with a slow easy current for long stretches and broken at intervals by heavy rapids or falls. Below Buckingham numerous rapids and falls necessitate arrangements for transporting the outfit a distance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Masson's Bay on the Ottawa river, which is then crossed and the southern shore followed up-stream for seventeen miles when the towers and spires of Ottawa appear.

### LAKE KIPAWA TO MANIWAKI

Two hundred and sixty miles—Twenty-five days

Leaving lake Kipawa the country is mostly high hills, timbered with hardwood and many stands of virgin pine, but when Grand lake is reached the land is lower, rising again when the Gatineau country is reached. The names of the lakes en route take one back to the days when the moccasined feet of the Indian and the courier du bois marked the hunting trails. The canoeist today can tread these trails without fear of losing his scalp, but wariness is still called for, as the rapids are as savage as in bygone days. Where portages are necessary they will be found well cut out, plainly marked, and mostly short, averaging 100 to 200 yards in length.

### KIAMIKA LAKE\*

One hundred miles—Twelve days

In the Laurentian hills, one mile east of Mont Laurier lies lac au Ecores, the starting point for an interesting trip through many charming lakes and streams well supplied with trout, pickerel and other fish. On the banks of the Kiamika a scattered farming settlement extends for a few miles, but, once passed, the remainder of the journey is through wilderness. Portages are numerous but not difficult. The route follows the winding Kiamika river to Grand Kiamika lake, with its fine sandy beaches, and then on in a northeasterly direction until Brule lake is reached. Here the course swings to the northwest and crosses Iroquois lake and then on to the Lievre river, which is followed back to the starting point. The scenery varies from mountains and rocky cliffs to low sandy beaches curving along the edges of virgin forests.

## LAC NOMINING TO OTTAWA RIVER

Eighty miles—Six days

An ideal trip is the one through the chain of lakes dropping southward through the Laurentian hills from magnificent lake Nominig, whose shore is skirted by the Laurentian line of the Canadian Pacific railway. The shores of these lakes are mostly wooded to the water's edge, and excellent camping spots can be found all along the route. The scenic splendours of this trip will long be remembered by one who views these entrancing tree-girt lakes with their wooded islands apparently floating on the placid waters as lightly as a flock of ducks. Red and grey trout, pickerel and whitefish are plentiful. The connecting streams and portages are mostly short, and a similar parallel chain of lakes may be used in travelling back to the starting point.



Through the Laurentians

## AMOS TO HAILEYBURY\*

One hundred and fifty-six miles—Twelve days

One of the many excellent routes leading from the enchanted north is the one up the Harricanaw river and through various forest-fringed lakes to lake Temiskaming. Pike and pickerel may be caught along the way, and in some of the lakes lie the gamey bass. Partridges are plentiful in season as well as such large game as moose, deer and bear.

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### LA SARRE TO ANGLIERS

One hundred and ten miles—Ten days

The trip down the Duparaquet river and connecting lakes to lac des Quinze necessitates few portages and even these are short. With the exception of ten miles at each end the route lies through an enchanting wilderness, inhabited only by woodland denizens, and in much the same condition as when travelled by the woodsmen of the French regime.

### VILMONTEL TO ANGLIERS

One hundred and fifty miles—Twelve days

Following the Kinojevis river from Vilmontel, this route parallels the preceding one through a district well stocked with fur, fin and feather. Good camping spots are available all along the way, and a minimum of portages are among its charms. Before the journey's end at Angliers the scenery will have varied from towering cliffs to tree-girt shores and the many entrancing vistas which the wilderness alone can display.

### MANUAN AND VERMILION RIVERS\*

One hundred and twelve miles—Fourteen days

The district around La Tuque in northern Quebec is famous as a sporting centre, and the canoeist deciding to cruise through a portion of this game region will have no cause for regret. Winding rivers, rushing rapids, roaring falls and by contrast, quiet lakes mirroring the serrated shore lines, are some of the features that make this trip enjoyable, while superb fishing and hunting are not lacking. Lordly pike, huge lake trout and beautiful speckled trout are all plentiful and are fit subjects for displaying one's culinary skill over the open camp fire. Moose, deer, bear and other game abound and afford wonderful opportunities for the hunter with gun or camera. This route covers an interesting region, as the Manuan river, Sassawatisi lake, the Mandonak lakes and Vermilion river all contribute from their store of pleasures. A few years ago this district was "back of beyond" but railway construction has made it possible to reach this wonderful hunting ground in a few hours from Montreal.

### MANUAN AND NEMIKACHI LAKE\*

One hundred and fifty-four miles—Ten days

One hundred and sixty miles due north of Montreal the St. Maurice river from the north, the Ribbon river from the west, and the Manuan river from the south meet near Manouan

station on the Transcontinental line of the Canadian National Railway. This is the starting point for an interesting route which first ascends the Manuan and Mondonak rivers then turns westward by a series of typical northern lakes to Nemikachi lake. The return journey is made by leaving Nemikachi at its northern end and portaging to Dore lake then to Tobacco bay, one of the many arms of sprawling Kempt lake, or as formerly called Wabaskontyunk lake. A marine railway solves the problem of the mile and a half portage to Manuan lake, then the Snake portage is crossed to Sassawatisi lake and the starting point reached by paddling downstream on the Manuan river.



High Falls on Lievre River  
Back Grounded by Typical Laurentian Scenery

The Hudson Bay Company have a trading store at Manuan and also accommodation for parties up to ten in number. At convenient points along the route the Company have erected excellent camps and shelters.

Fishermen are warned to use their largest troll and strongest line as the pike in the rivers, and the trout in the lakes run quite large. The hunter should have good sport in the fall as this route is through a section especially good for moose.

## PERIBONKA RIVER

One hundred and twelve miles—Seven days

The Peribonka river is famous for the monster ouananiche and trout that are found in its upper lakes, and for the enormous pike that roam its waters. With good guides the trip may be comfortably made, and it is one of deepest interest to the woodsman and paddler. Many chutes and falls are encountered before Lake Tschotagama is reached. Lofty mountains almost entirely enclose that beautiful body of water which hides in its depths ouananiche, trout and pike. There are many noted fishing waters in the vicinity that may be easily reached.

## LAKE EDWARD AND BOSTONNAIS RIVER

Seventy-five miles—Six days

Lake Edward is the hub from which many canoe trips radiate through virgin forest dotted with enchanting lakes, whose waters hide speckled trout and other species of game fish. Many guides' camps are scattered throughout the district, consequently the portages are well marked and clear.

## LAKE ST. JOHN TO LAKE MISTASSINI\*

Three hundred miles—Forty-two days

This route is well known to the Cree Indians who come down annually for their winter supplies, and is also familiar to many trappers and prospectors, but the outsider would be well advised in securing competent and experienced guides. The trip makes a never-to-be-forgotten holiday, as it traverses the Ashuapmouchuan river, whose waters are as difficult as its name, and many charming mountain lakes and streams before the height of land is crossed. After threading the maze of islands in lake Obatogamau and on into lake Chibougamau, the range of hills appear behind which lies lake Mistassini. The return may be made by Fileax lake and the riviere du Chef.

## LAKE MISTASSINI TO HUDSON BAY\*

Three hundred and eighty miles—Forty-five days

A continuation of the preceding route offers the ne plus ultra so far as adventurous canoeing is concerned. From lake Mistassini the course of the Marten river is followed through a chain of lakes connected by stretches of river. Many a portage and rapid will test the brawn of the traveller before the junction with the Rupert river is made. From here onward the current is faster and the route then crosses Nemiskau lake and follows on down river to Rupert House.

## RICHELIEU RIVER—SOREL TO LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Seventy-five miles—Four days

Three hundred years have elapsed since the Richelieu river entered into the making of Canadian history. In 1609 Champlain ascended the river with a party of Montagnais and its current since that has borne the birch barks of Indian war parties and the batteaux of French and English contenders. Fortresses were built and at Chambly the canoeist may see the imposing ruins of Fort St. Louis. On Ile aux Noix, ten miles from the International border, is the equally interesting Fort Lennox.



On the Matapedia River

Sentinel Hills Silently Guard its Course

The river in great part flows through a beautiful pastoral country, where quaint scenes and old customs remain, and the inhabitants till their fertile fields in peace and safety. Even the few rapids in its course have been tamed by the construction of canals.

The cruiser continuing his trip beyond the border may reach New York by this route.

## OTTAWA RIVER—HAILEYBURY TO MATTAWA

Ninety miles—Six days

The canoeist looking for adventure will find that this route calls for brawny arms and sturdy legs. The Long Sault rapids extend about six miles below the foot of Lake Timiskaming, and as the railway is convenient, this method of travel should be utilized to avoid the dangers of the river. Fourteen miles of paddling down Seven League lake is followed by river travel broken at three places by dangerous rapids.

## OTTAWA RIVER—MATTAWA TO PEMBROKE

Ninety-five miles—Eight days

For fifty miles below Mattawa the Ottawa river is a series of quiet stretches broken at intervals by heavy rapids which are passed by more or less lengthy portages. The Des Joachims are the final obstruction and below this the steamer channel is followed for the remaining forty miles to Pembroke. For the greater part of the route the river flows between steep slopes of the Laurentian mountains, and the scenery partakes of the ruggedness of these hills.

## OTTAWA RIVER—PEMBROKE TO OTTAWA\*

One hundred and ten miles—Ten days

From Pembroke the route leads through the Culbute Channel and down along the northern channel past Calumet Island to Portage du Fort. This portion of the route necessitates many portages past rapids and is in distinct contrast with the remainder of the trip. Lac des Chats is an expansion of the river and as one proceeds down stream numerous towns and summer resorts are passed. Below Arnprior the Chats falls spread fanwise across the river and a portage or detour via the Mississippi river and a small stream is necessary before the canoeist reaches lake Deschenes at Fitzroy Harbour. Leaving the many chutes of the falls the run down the lake is a delightful one as many picturesque points and bays afford excellent camp sites. The Laurentian hills parallel the route on the north for a considerable distance before the Deschene rapids, about five miles above Ottawa, bar further progress.

## OTTAWA RIVER—OTTAWA TO MONTREAL\*

One hundred and twenty miles—Eight days

To the canoeist whose fancy demands a trip with long stretches of clear paddling between camps and a minimum of portaging, this portion of the Ottawa river provides just such a route. Winding amongst islands and through expanses of the

river forming charming lakes, the route offers little difficulty to the average paddler. The rapids about midway on the journey are the only obstruction, and these are easily overcome by the Grenville canal. Many historic spots and charming scenes lie along the way, while prosperous towns and farms conveniently situated close to the river provide all necessities that may be required.

### McGREGOR LAKE AND BLANCHE RIVER

Sixty miles—Four days

In the foothills of the Laurentian mountains, not more than twenty miles in a straight line northeast of Ottawa, lies McGregor lake and a cluster of other beautiful lakes threaded



On the Lower Ottawa  
Once a Highway for Explorers and Fur-Traders

together by alluring waterways. The scenery is wonderful although the hills are not high. In the region are many lakes offering exceptional opportunities for small mouth black bass fishing, while in others speckled trout lie ready to take the fly. In the pools of a number of streams are brook trout which add variety to the piscatorial offerings of the region.

The trip is usually made by ascending the Lievre, turning westward through the lakes, then south down the Blanche to the Ottawa river.

## CANOE CRUISE OUTFIT

The ideal canoe outfit is light and compact, and these features are usually attained by avoiding duplicate articles and non-essentials when selecting its various parts. The following suggested outfit, an adaptation of ones used by canoeists who have covered many miles of Canadian water trails, may be altered to suit the needs of each party and the character of the trip undertaken. The outfit as listed is seemingly a large one, but by making a careful selection of each article the whole can be packed in a surprisingly small space and should not be excessive in weight.

Dunnage bags and pack sacks are best for packing and make for easier portaging. Boxes and loose bundles are troublesome on a long carry.

## CAMP OUTFIT

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Canoe—Not under 16 feet. | 1 Tent—7' by 7', preferably silk,<br>water and mosquito proof.                                  |
| 3 Paddles.                 | 1 Ground Cloth.   |
| 2 Kneeling Cushions.       | 1 Camera and Films.   |
| 2 Tracking Ropes.          | Mosquito netting and dope.  |
| 1 Axe.                     | Map of route (keep in section of<br>auto or bicycle inner tube,<br>tied securely at both ends). |
| 1 Candle Lantern.          |   |
| 4-6 Blankets.              |   |
| 2 Flannelette Sheets.      |   |

## COOK OUTFIT

(For two persons)

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 Coffee Pot.                              | 2 Knives.               |
| 3 Saucepans or Pails and covers to<br>fit. | 2 Forks.                |
| 1 Frying Pan.                              | 1 Large Knife and Fork. |
| 1 Can Opener.                              | 2 Tins of Matches.      |
| 3 Plates.                                  | 2 Candles.              |
| 2 Cups (Granite).                          | 1 Bar Laundry Soap.     |
| 2 Deep Saucers or Small Bowls.             | 1 Dish Cloth.           |
| 3 Tea Spoons.                              | 1 Dish Towel.           |
| 2 Dessert Spoons.                          | 1 Large Cooking Spoon.  |

## FIRST AID KIT

Bandages, Adhesive, Ointment, Quinine Capsules or other personal remedies.

## REPAIR KIT

Can Marine Glue.  
Canvas Patches.  
Few Tacks and Nails.

Coil Fine Wire.  
Twine.

## SEWING KIT

Needles—Large and Small.  
Thread and Yarn.

Buttons, Safety Pins.  
Small Scissors.

## FOOD SUPPLIES

(Two persons for five days)

This list will bear modification according to the locality selected for the trip, and individual tastes. For a longer trip increase the quantities accordingly and add dry beans, cured meats, etc.

5 Loaves Bread.	1 lb. Cornmeal.
1 lb. Butter.	2 lbs. Flour.
1 lb. Lard or Cooking Oil.	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Baking Powder.
1 lb. Oatmeal or Rolled Oats.	1 Jar Honey or Jam.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Coffee.	1 pkge. Pancake Flour.
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Tea.	1 tin Maple Syrup.
3 lbs. Sugar.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Salt.
5 Small Cans Condensed Milk.	1 Small Tin of Pepper.
1 Bottle Pickles.	6 Soup Tablets.
1 lb. Rice.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Peck Potatoes.
1 lb. Dried Apples, Peaches or Apricots.	2 Tins Sardines.
1 lb. Prunes.	2 Small Cans Beans.
2 lbs. Bacon.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Raisins.

Waterproof provision bags should be used for all foods and these safely packed in waterproof dunnage bags as an added precaution.

## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

1 Felt Hat.	3 Handkerchiefs.
1 Sweater or Mackinaw.	1 Pocket Knife.
1 Rubber Sheet or Poncho.	1 Waterproof Match Safe.
1 Pair Duck Trousers.	1 Compass.
1 Pair Wool Trousers.	Shaving Brush and Soap, Razor,
1 Wool Army Shirt.	Comb and Brush, Talcum, Mir-
1 Khaki Shirt.	ror, etc.
1 Suit Light Underwear.	1 Bar Toilet Soap (floating).
1 Suit Wool Underwear.	2 Towels.
2 Pairs Heavy Socks.	Fishing Rod and Tackle.
1 Pair Leather Boots.	Tobacco, Pipe and Cigars.
1 Pair Canvas Shoes, rubber soles.	

The above outfit should be duplicated by every member of the party—part to be worn and the balance packed in waterproof dunnage bags.

All dunnage bags should be packed so that the most used articles are on top, and in loading the canoe the cook outfit and provisions should be easy of access without disturbing the rest of the duffle when stopping for lunch.

\* \* \* \*

This booklet is one of a series of four which have been issued by the National Development Bureau, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Should you not find on the preceding pages a trip to suit your choice or convenience a copy of any of the other booklets will be sent on request. The titles of the booklets in the complete series are as follows:—

- Canoe Trips in the Maritime Provinces.
- Canoe Trips in Quebec.
- Canoe Trips in Ontario.
- Canoe Trips in Western Canada.

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