



INFORMATION PACKET

Sky Camp - British Columbia, Canada



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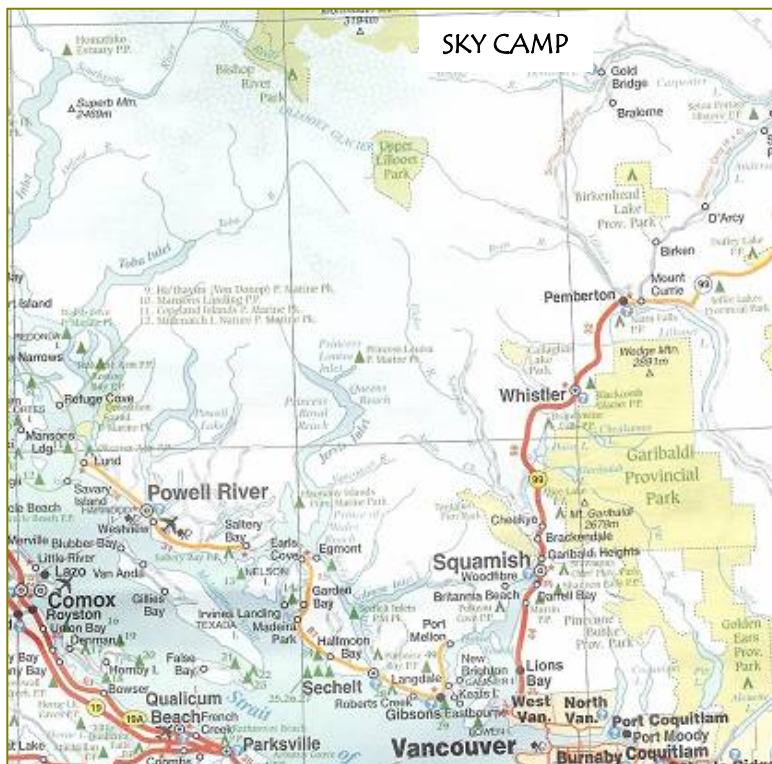
The Place....

When the fur trappers fought their way into the rugged mountains of British Columbia, they were comforted by one simple thing: the scenery was heavenly. Now it's your turn to escape to this remote wilderness, bound only by the soaring snowcapped Chilcotin and Coast Mountains. Located on a pristine alpine lake in the Lord's River Valley, Sky Camp has captured the rare combination of solitude, adventure and luxury. Imagine stepping out of the wood-fired sauna, plunging into the cool clear lake and then sitting on the patio sipping a drink as the sun falls behind immense peaks with glaciers hanging off their flanks. Each day our camp's expert guides lead you on inspiring adventures. At night, retire to your private Safari-style luxury wall tent with lake filled views and delight in the spectacular northern lights from your personal deck or snuggle into your hand hewn log bed outfitted with a cozy duvet and plump pillows.

Discovery....

For years we struggled to find a place that could match the beauty of our private site in Havasupai. Nothing matched our expectations, until one day a picture perfect alpine lake was discovered deep in the mountains of British Columbia. Countless hours were devoted to learning the wind, ways and microclimates of the shoreline, and then the most idyllic spot on the lake was determined. Logs were cut, foot and bicycle paths were created, the main cabin and tent decks were constructed - the beauty was so intoxicating, the guides would fight to be flown in and work for free.

The fruits of their labor are now yours to enjoy. The scenery is on par with the Grand Canyon, with the added bonus of enhanced creature comforts and amenities. We designed Sky Camp not to be a place just to stay while you explore, but as a unique destination worthy of its own exploration.



THIS IS NOT CAMPING... SKY CAMP AMENITIES INCLUDE

- Guest accommodations are Safari Style Wall Tents built on a wood platform with a private front deck. They are large enough to stand up in and are furnished with log beds, nightstands, reading lights and comfortable deck chairs. Each tent is secluded and has a spectacular view across the lake.

- The main cabin has a full kitchen, dining room, large deck and vaulted ceilings.

- Private bathroom and hot shower facilities

- Canoes, Kayaks, Bikes and all activity specific gear and safety equipment.

- Wood-fired, lakeside Sauna – stoked daily!

- All meals are included and our resident professional chef, a graduate of the Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute, creates our menu.



WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT SKY CAMP?



Hike to the Ponds of Youth: Hike north of Crystal Lake to a valley with amazing crystal clear ponds. Before the afternoon breeze picks up, these shallow, strange and picturesque ponds have such clear water that they appear to have no water in them at all. The water is only a few feet deep and the bottom is a bright sulfuric yellow. They are also a great place to see Moose wading in the shallow water. Adventurous group members may continue on to a long sandy beach where the glacial Lord's River enters enormous Taseko Lake, one of the longest lakes in British Columbia. It is home to traditional territories of the Xenigwet'in, or Nemiah people, of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation. One-quarter of the famous Fraser River salmon run are born here.

Hike the Heavenly Knolls: Beginning with a short canoe/kayak ride across the lake, we will hike to the summit of Heavenly Knoll and across a series of ridges consisting of rounded exposed granite. The active trip members will have the opportunity to learn some basic rock-climbing and bouldering techniques on the granite summit, while those looking to soak in the view may relax in the sun. The goal is to reach a granite outcropping from which we can view a 250 ft. waterfall tumbling off the slopes of Monmouth Mountain.

Hike to the Lord's River: This is a full day trip and begins with a paddle to the southern tip of the lake. After tying up the boats, we will hike along the outflow of Crystal Lake where it is common to see Dolly Varden spawning in the shallow water. Eventually, we make our way to a granite outcropping above the Lord's River. Here, lunch will be served while we relax at the foot of the 10,000 ft. snow-capped peaks rising abruptly from the river's edge.

Mount McClure Summit Challenge: Those looking for an epic challenge need to look no further than the backside of camp. Beginning at camp (elevation 4500 ft.), we will climb the slopes of 8100 ft. Mount McClure. Fortunately, the summit is a rounded scree slope instead of the jagged cliffs adorning the other local mountains, but that doesn't mean this will be an easy day. The trek to the summit is long and arduous and it follows a mountain goat path most of the way. Snow lingers on the summit year-round. The thrill of accomplishment, plus the views into the Chilcotin Mountains and across the glaciers of the Coast Range, makes this monumental effort worth every moment.

Kayaking and Canoeing: Crystal Lake is an excellent place to learn or just explore by paddle power. The guides will give a paddling lesson at the beginning of your stay. After that, you are free to explore the entire lake at your leisure. Some of the best views and opportunities for photography are from the boats. Many of our hikes begin with a paddle across the lake.

Fishing: The rainbow trout fishing in Crystal Lake is world-class. Recently, a guest in July caught 27 fish in just 2-hours, 6 of which were 18-inches or larger. You may fish from our dock, belly boats, from shore or from one of our kayaks or canoes. You may bring your own rod and tackle or use some of the camp gear.

Animal Observation and Tracking: We will silently canoe into the marsh at the north end of Crystal Lake where getting an up close view of loons, bald eagle and moose is not uncommon. After beaching the canoes, we explore by foot through the forest following game trails and inspecting the signs left behind by the local residents: deer, moose, mountain goat, wolverine, cougar, bear and many others.

Bridge Glacier Expedition: Upon special request, we will fly you to the nearby Bridge Glacier (15-minutes away). Landing in the lake at the glacier's foot, you will have the chance to explore the glacier and enjoy a fascinating lesson in glaciology. *Additional plane fees apply.*

Biking: Many new mountain bike trails have been cut and cleared and are ready for exploration. Mountain bikes and helmets are available for use by guests.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: DRIVE FROM VANCOUVER TO WHISTLER

10:00am - Meet your guides in the lobby of the Granville Island Hotel in Vancouver. We will drive through scenic Stanley Park, over the Lion's Gate Bridge and through posh West Vancouver. We will then head north along the rugged coastline of Howe Sound, stopping for a short hike to the foot of 1200 ft. Shannon Falls. Shannon Falls cascades off an enormous granite dome and splashes down just a short distance from the ocean's edge. From here, we ascend into the mountains and arrive in Whistler by 3:30pm. This mountain town has developed into an outdoor enthusiast's Mecca, with miles of wilderness hiking and biking accessible from your hotel. Over 30 miles of paved pathways wind their way past lakes and rivers and circumnavigate the three signature golf courses that contrast with the rugged beauty of this world famous resort. After checking into the intimate award winning Pan Pacific Whistler, you are free to explore Whistler Village and also obtain fishing licenses. AOA will provide bicycles for those that want to explore the entire valley. This evening, attend a casual group dinner in the village. Overnight at the Pan Pacific Whistler.

DAY 2: FLY TO SKY CAMP AND HIKE TO HEAVENLY KNOLLS

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the Pan Pacific Hotel before your guide meets you in the lobby for a 5-minute drive to the floatplane dock. Here, overlooking *Green Lake*, snow-capped Wedge Mountain and Armchair Glacier, you will see our private floatplane arrive to whisk us into the most pristine backcountry in North America – Sky Camp on Crystal Lake.

Shortly after arrival, our Sky Camp host will provide a tour and orientation to learn about our home for the next few days. After we have had an opportunity to settle into our safari style tents, we will hike to the Heavenly Knolls. After a brief safety orientation and canoe operation overview, the hike begins with a short canoe/kayak ride across the lake to the beginning of today's trail. We will hike to the summit of Heavenly Knoll and across a series of ridges consisting of rounded exposed granite. This is a perfect opportunity to learn some basic rock-climbing and bouldering techniques on the granite summit, while those looking to soak in the view may relax in the sun. The goal is to reach a granite outcropping from which we can view a 250 ft. waterfall tumbling off the slopes of Monmouth Mountain.

Upon arrival back at base camp, you can choose to relax in the wood-fired sauna or continue paddling around the lake while your guides prepare tonight's dinner.

DAY 3: ADVENTURE AND RELAXATION

Awaken to the call of the resident loons and eagles and prepare for the day's events with a freshly brewed cup of coffee or tea. Enjoy the magic of the quiet tranquility as you take a walk along the shoreline or push off in a canoe or kayak and glide through mist on the glassy morning lake surface.

After breakfast, we will hike to *The Lord's River*. This is an 8-mile, round-trip hike through newly-made trails and paths in the woods. Eventually, we make our way to a granite outcropping above the Lord's River. Here, lunch will be served while we relax at the foot of the 10,000 ft. snow-capped peaks rising abruptly from the river's edge. The return hike includes a short detour to a waterfall, plus a beautiful pond where we frequently see moose feeding in the shallows.

DAY 4: HIKE TO NO MOOSE CANYON FALLS / MOUNT MCLURE SUMMIT

Another peaceful morning begins with freshly brewed coffee awaiting in the Sky Camp Lodge. Mornings are perfect for canoeing, kayaking, or fishing when the lake is calm, quiet, and crystal clear. Fish from the dock, belly boats, from shore or from one of our kayaks or canoes. You may bring your own rod and tackle or use some of the camp gear. After breakfast, we will have an opportunity to work off our meal with a hike to *No Moose Canyon Falls and the Mount McClure Summit*. Those looking for an epic challenge need to look no further than the backside of camp. Beginning at camp (elevation 4500 ft.), we will climb the slopes of 8100 ft. Mount McClure. Those looking for a long, but relatively easy day can return to camp after lunch at No Moose Falls (the waterfall tumbles into a deep granite gorge with sheer 400-ft walls). Those looking to test their limits may continue on towards the summit. Mount McClure's top is a rounded scree slope instead of the jagged cliffs adorning the other local mountains, but that doesn't mean this will be an easy day. The trek to the summit is long and it follows a mountain goat path most of the way (well maintained trails go only to No Moose Falls). Snow lingers on the summit year-round. The thrill of accomplishment, plus the views into the Chilcotin Mountains and across the glaciers of the Coast Range, makes this monumental effort worth every moment.

DAY 5: HIKE TO PONDS OF YOUTH

After another amazing breakfast, we will hike north of Sky Camp and Crystal Lake to a valley with amazing crystal clear ponds. Before the afternoon breeze picks up, these shallow, strange and picturesque ponds have such clear water that they appear to have no water in them at all. They are a great place to see moose wading in the shallow water. We will have lunch on the trail. Adventurous group members may continue on to a long sandy beach where the glacial Lord's River enters enormous Taseko Lake, one of the longest lakes in British Columbia. It is home to traditional territories of the Xenigwet'in, or Nemiah people, of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation. One-quarter of the famous Fraser River salmon are born here.

After returning to camp, you can choose to relax in the Lodge, paddle around the lake in a canoe or kayak, or take one of the camp's mountain bikes out on the newly developed trails. These clean and newly made trails have been cleared of branches and debris for your enjoyment! There are bridges over the creeks and wet spots, plus even a trail around the north end of the lake through the marshes (long bridge). The trails are very clear and well established!

DAY 6: FLY BACK TO WHISTLER AND RETURN TO VANCOUVER

Relish in your last morning relaxing in our wood-fired sauna, enjoying a final hike or last paddle beneath the peaks. In the afternoon, it is time to return over the mountains and back to civilization. We will enjoy a celebratory lunch in the village on the patio of lively Monk's restaurant, located at the base of Blackcomb Mountain. Following lunch, we will shuttle back to Vancouver and arrive at the Granville Island Hotel between 5:00pm – 7:00pm. (*Hotel is not included this evening.*)

TRIP DETAILS

Fitness Level Rating: All Abilities
Accommodations: Eco-Lodging
Guests per Trip: 6-12 people

2009 TOUR DATES

July 19-24 & August 16-21

2009 TOUR COSTS:

\$2,698.00 pp (Single Supplement \$350)

TRIP STARTS

Day 1 – 10:00am front lobby of the Granville Island Hotel in Vancouver

TRIP ENDS

Day 6 – 6:00pm front lobby of the Granville Island Hotel in Vancouver

Please book your flights to/from Vancouver the day prior to your trip start date and no earlier than 8:00pm on the last day of your trip.

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:

- Round-trip transportation from Vancouver
- Professional, knowledgeable and safety certified guides and camp hosts
- Crown land entry and overnight permits
- Awe-inspiring round trip floatplane flight to Sky Camp in our specially designed DeHavilland Beaver floatplane.
- A scenic tour of the local glaciers, plus the Coast and Chilcotin Mountain ranges
- Use of our private and deluxe Sky Camp facilities
- All gourmet meals & snacks
- Lunch Day 1 thru Lunch Day 6
- One night lodging at the Pan Pacific Whistler Double occupancy
- All luxury Sky Camp amenities
Double occupancy eco-lodging
- All activities and related equipment
- Bottled water
- Permits and Insurance

NOT INCLUDED IN COST:

- Airfare to and from Vancouver
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Airport Transfers in Vancouver
- Fishing Licenses
- Optional Gratuities to WOA Guides



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Airfare is not included in the cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. We recommend your airline flights be scheduled to arrive the day prior to your trip start date and depart the day after your last trip date. Flights can be booked to arrive and depart from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Before purchasing your ticket(s), please check with our office first to insure that your trip has the necessary minimum number of participants required to operate.** AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures cannot be responsible for penalty fees or additional airfare costs as a result of trip cancellations or changes to tour itineraries.

All itineraries depart from the Granville Island Hotel - 1253 Johnston Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6H 3R9 – Toll Free Phone: 800-663-1840 - www.granvilleislandhotel.com

We will depart from the hotel lobby at 10:00am – We will be hiking this day so please have your gear on or easily accessible.

You will return to Vancouver between 5:00pm and 7:00pm on the last day of your trip. Please do not schedule return flights before 9:00pm, as we can always be delayed driving down the Sea to Sky Highway. If you must schedule a flight out earlier than specified, please notify our office and we will do what we can to accommodate and assist you in getting to the airport on time.

Can I meet the group some place other than Vancouver?

YES. Depending on your trip itinerary, you could meet us either in Squamish or Whistler. You can also choose to extend your stay in Whistler after the end of the trip and arrange an alternate form of transportation back to Vancouver. Options include the bus service, train service and float plane service into Vancouver harbour.

Please ALWAYS notify our office of your travel plans in advance and we can provide a map and directions.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY PRE & POST TRIP?

Pre and post-trip lodging is not included in the cost of the trip and we recommend you reserve rooms well in advance at the Granville Island Hotel. The Granville Island Hotel is an Island retreat in the heart of the action, but not overwhelmed by it. It has impeccable service and friendly Canadian hospitality. There is no such thing as a typical guest room. Some rooms have water views and wooden shutters, others have beamed ceilings and marble floors with Persian rugs and soaker tubs. Easy to get to, but hard to leave, it is Vancouver's best-kept secret. We highly recommend this hotel as it is where we will be departing from on Day 1 of the itinerary. We have negotiated special rates for guests traveling with AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures at this hotel.

2009 Rates

Single \$159 per room, per night + 16% tax

Double \$169 per room, per night + 16% tax

Triple \$179 per room, per night + 16% tax

Quad \$189 per room, per night + 16% tax

If you would like to book a room at the Granville Island Hotel and receive these rates, please follow these directions:

PHONE: Call 1-800-663-1840 or email reservations@granvilleislandhotel.com and inform your reservations agent you will be traveling with "Whistler Outback Adventures" and you would like to receive the above discounted rates. You will need to specify if you would like (1) King bed or (2) Double beds.

ONLINE: These rates cannot be reserved online.

If you have any challenges making reservations, please contact Jill Penner-Butterworth at the Granville Island Hotel direct at 604-683-7373 or Hansi Sexauer in the AOA corporate office at hansi@aoa-adventures.com or call 480-945-2881.

A few things to note about the hotel are:

- Near to theaters, restaurants, artist studios and more...
- One mile from downtown Vancouver, 3 miles from Stanley Park and steps from the lively Granville Public Market
- Several on property dining options
- Check in is 2:00pm and Check out is 12:00pm
- Parking is \$7.00 per night

ALTERNATIVE LODGING IN VANCOUVER

We highly recommend staying at the Granville Island Hotel, as this is a great rate compared to the other hotels in the area. If you wish to look for less expensive accommodations, visit www.tourismvancouver.com. Following are some hotels that are comparable to the Granville Island Hotel. Please keep in mind we do not provide pick-ups from these hotels, so you will have to make your way to the Granville Island Hotel on the morning of the departures.

These options include: *(all below hotels are about 10-15 minutes from Granville Island)*

Blue Horizon Hotel: 1225 Robson Street, 800-663-1333

The Empire Landmark: 1400 Robson Street, (800) 830-6144

Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre: 711 Broadway Street West, (800) HOLIDAY

WHAT WILL OUR ACCOMMODATIONS BE?



LODGING DAY 1

Legends Lodge, Whistler – Phone: 604-935-7013

www.lodgingovations.com

LODGING DAY 2, 3, 4 & 5

Sky Camp

www.whistleroutbackadventures.com

LODGING DAY 6

On Own

AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures will pay for room, tax and provided meals on the itinerary when staying at hotels. You are responsible for any additional charges (i.e. room service, telephone, snacks, laundry...), when you check out of the hotel.

WHAT ARE THE BATHROOM FACILITIES LIKE AT THE TRAILHEADS?

There are composting toilets that are housed in a separate structure on the edge of camp. Hot, private showers are available also in our shower house. You may even bathe right in front of your porch in the refreshing lake if you prefer. Please bring biodegradable soap, which can be purchased at any outdoor-oriented store such as REI or MEC. Leave in conditioners are also recommended.

...and here's one for the ladies ... feminine hygiene products should be brought in plastic zip-lock bags. Please bring extra zip-locks for disposal after use. Please remember, your guides, whether female or male, have spent many days with groups in the backcountry. They have certainly heard your question before and will always be helpful and mindful of your privacy.

WHAT IF I'M A SINGLE TRAVELER?

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and specifically request single accommodations, you will be asked to pay the full single supplement of \$350.00. If you wish to share accommodations, we will assign you a roommate of the same sex if one is available. Please be advised that there are a limited number of single rooms and tents available on most departures.

WHAT IF I HAVE MEDICAL NEEDS?

If you have any physical or psychological medical conditions, it is very important you let us know well before departure by filling in the appropriate spaces in the medical information portion on your personal information form. Trip leaders have the right to deny participation to anyone at any time during the trip if they feel the trip member is mentally or physically incapable of continuing and/or if a trip member's continued participation jeopardizes the group's or his/her own safety. Under either of these circumstances, refunds are not given.

All guides carry a *basic* first aid kit for emergencies. Please be aware that hospital facilities for serious medical problems may at times be a long way away, that a doctor may not always be available, and that evacuation can be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. *Your guides do not carry prescription medications, and no refunds are given if you have to leave the trip.*

WHAT IF I HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS OR SPECIAL REQUESTS?

Please let us know if you have any specific dietary needs or requests (i.e. vegetarian, gluten free, allergic to nuts, love hot chocolate, etc.) This information should be included on your Personal Information Form you will receive in your confirmation packet. We encourage you to be specific to what you can eat and what you prefer to eat. In addition, we would love to know if you are having a birthday or anniversary on the trip. We make every effort possible to accommodate these requests.

DOES AOA PROVIDE DRINKING WATER?

Yes. We provide bottled water for all activities and vehicle transfers.

WHAT ARE THE TRAILS LIKE & HOW DO I TRAIN FOR THE TRIP?



While you do not need to be exceptionally fit, you should feel confident in your ability to walk up to 10 miles and cycle for up to 20 miles. The hikes are moderate and we recommend doing some training before you join us, as your trip will be far more enjoyable if you do not have sore muscles or blisters. The best way to prepare for the trip is to start moderate training with hiking and walking a few months before departure. Hiking and cycling uses specific muscles that are utilized differently than when running. We recommend that you take long, swift walks wearing the boots or shoes that you will wear during the trip. As always, *you should consult with your physician before commencing with any new workout program.*

Do I really need hiking boots?

Certain sections of the trails are quite rocky and rooty and high top hiking boots help prevent sprained ankles. The easiest way to ruin your vacation is to injure yourself. Because hiking boots help prevent this, we strongly recommend, but do not require them. Comfortable athletic shoes can work also if you prefer them. Whichever you choose, please make sure you break them in prior to your trip.

WILL I SEE BEARS OR BUGS?

We are venturing into very remote territory that is home to a variety of wildlife including Grizzly Bears and Black Bears. Even though there will be an abundance of wildlife and some are potentially dangerous, it can be rare to spot them. With proper precautions, it is unlikely any will bother us on our travels. Throughout the summer there are some mosquitoes and other bugs on the trails, but they are very rare in camp. We recommend you bring bug spray or light long sleeve shirts if you have a tendency to attract them.

WHAT KIND OF MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

Cash, Credit and ATM Cards are accepted at the establishments we will be visiting. You will also have access to bank machines once we arrive in Whistler. You will not need any money during your stay at Sky Camp.

Tipping

Guests often ask us for guidelines on tipping their guides. The guides appreciate gratuities and divide them equally. AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures prides itself on our outstanding crew and they are there to meet all your expectations. If you feel the service provided has been outstanding, the standard gratuity is 10-15% of the trip price. Tipping is at your discretion and this information is provided **only** as a suggestion.



WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Although daytime temperatures are normally in the 70's and 80's, the mornings and evenings can be brisk. Lightweight, quick-drying fabrics such as nylon, fleece and other synthetic materials are preferred. Cotton, especially denim, is not recommended as it retains heat and moisture. Of course, comfy cotton is great for nighttime and sleeping apparel. All meals are casual dress, so you may leave your fancy clothes behind for this trip!

Please keep in mind when choosing your luggage that there is limited space in the Van should we have a full trip. Try to pack as light as possible and take only the essentials. Excess baggage can be a burden to you and to your guides. We recommend packing in a soft sided bag as they are more flexible with the space they require.

The following is a list of items you must include in your packing:

CLOTHING

- 2-3 pair of shorts
- 2-3 pair of pants
- 3 or more pairs of socks
- 3 or more Shirts
- Fleece
- Dry quick/water resistant clothes
- Undergarments
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Hat – wide brim suggested
- Warm Underwear
- Bathing suit
- Padded cycling shorts
- Hiking Boots
- Casual Shoes for non-hiking times
- Indoor (tent) shoes or slippers

PERSONAL

- Personal toiletries
- Tissue and toilet paper
- Personal first aid or medications
- Extra zip-locks for trail trash
- Wet-wipes (optional)

GEAR

- Sunglasses
- Day-pack (to carry with you)
- Suitcase or duffel bag (preferably soft sided)
- Camera, film, batteries, memory cards & chargers
- Watch and/or travel clock
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Towel
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Lip Balm
- Hiking Poles (if preferred)
- Fishing Gear (if desired)

- Book or reading material
- Photo ID or Passport
- Cash for souvenirs
- Cash for gratuities

Do I really need a daypack?

YES. Bring a daypack for our afternoon hikes so that you can carry your camera, water and any other gear that you might want to have with you. You can pack this small pack inside your duffel bag to keep everything together and minimize luggage.

Should I bring my own snacks?

Plenty of food and snacks will be available to you at all times during the trip. However, you are welcome to bring snacks that you prefer. Should you bring your own, remember to **never** leave them in your backpack unattended. Animals will chew through it to get to your food. Losing your food will bother you far less than the big hole chewed through your backpack.

Can we bring alcohol on the trip?

Alcohol is NOT provided by AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures. You can however purchase alcohol at meals or along the way if you prefer. Alcohol can not be consumed during tour transportation or activities at any time.



WHAT TEMPERATURES SHOULD I EXPECT?

Listed below are the average air temperatures at Sky Camp. You can check up-to-date weather conditions prior to departing for your trip at www.weathernetwork.com and enter "Lillooet" for the city.



<u>Month</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
January	41	13
February	43	15
March	46	19
April	54	23
May	59	33
June	77	41
July	82	46
August	86	50
September	77	41
October	59	32
November	44	15
December	40	10

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell phones do not always have service on the trip as we are in and out of canyons. If there is an emergency and you need to be reached, please give your friends and family the following information: Between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday – Saturday, they can call our Whistler office at 604-935-7566 and ask to speak with Matt Delany. Before 9:00am or after 5:00pm Monday – Saturday and all day Sunday, they can call Matt direct on his cell phone at 604-932-7990. The AOA/Whistler Outback Adventures Trip Leader will check in once a day by satellite phone and at that time, Matt will relay the message. Because of the spotty satellite phone service, it may take up to 24 hours to get the message to you.

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passports and Visas

If you require a passport, begin the application process now, as it can be lengthy. If you already have a passport, please verify the expiration date will be valid for at least six months beyond your trip completion date. Many countries will not allow you to re-enter unless the passport is valid up to this time.

Visa regulations differ depending upon the country you are traveling from. A citizen of a foreign country, wishing to enter the U.S., generally must first obtain a visa, either a nonimmigrant visa for temporary stay, or an immigrant visa for permanent residence. The type of visa you must have is defined by immigration law, and relates to the purpose of your travel. Visa information can be located at The U.S. State Department web site

http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html

CREATING THE PERFECT VACATION

Our guides don't take *clients*, they lead our *guests*. Good guides love to share these spectacular places with others – that is why they chose their profession. Ask lots of questions. This will indicate to the guide that you are interested and they will share their knowledge. This adds tremendously to the quality of your experience. Always be respectful of the place you are in, your fellow travelers and your guides. Never be afraid to express your concerns or ideas – after all, it is your trip!!



TOP 13 REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH AOA...

By Lynne and friends - Washington

1. If you have an inquiring mind, they can help fill it with great geological, historical, biological and anthropological stories.
2. You get to eat gourmet meals and THEY wash the dishes!
3. You don't have to pack in any food, tents, water, sleeping bags or great air mattresses, but you can enjoy all of these.
4. You get to explore places you would never find yourself.
5. You can visit the Garden of Eden and be blessed by a Medicine Woman – and the Guides aren't bad to look at either!
6. You can rediscover muscles you forgot you had.
7. You can share camaraderie with adventurous souls from around the World, who also may have feminine hygiene products in case you forgot yours.
8. You can share a rare privilege that only a few are brave enough to try.
9. You can have near-death experiences that don't end in death.
10. You can get frozen, frightened, frazzled, frizzled, fatigued... and then fed fabulously!
11. You can experience true humility and the magic of being inside one of Mother Nature's most beautiful creations.
12. They make you feel invincible.
13. You can live your dreams of adventure.

"Arizona Outback Adventures LLC provided an amazing tour for my fast WEB corporate board meeting. Your staff was professional and the trip was perfect-exhilarating without being excessive. We also learned a great deal..." - Mark - Ohio

OUR MISSION...



ON EVERY TRIP WE PROMISE TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS IN 5 KEY AREAS

1. **SAFETY** - It is our foremost priority. All guides are First Aid and CPR certified and equipped with extensive first aid kits, additional water and a cell phone or two-way radio. Many have advanced certifications such as Wilderness First Responder, Swift Water Rescue and National Outdoor Leadership degrees.
2. **COMFORT** - Backcountry luxury - we will provide everything you need from spacious tents with luxuriously thick sleeping pads to a private wash/shower station. Also, personal hygiene can be challenging for inexperienced backcountry travelers, therefore, our guides take care to provide the tips and tools to keep you clean and comfortable.
3. **FOOD** - Backcountry gourmet - A professional chef plans our menu and trains our guides on how to prepare and present his culinary creations. Expect hearty, healthy meals with fresh vegetables, fruits and proteins every day. If you have any special dietary needs or restrictions, they can easily be accommodated.
4. **EDUCATION** - Learning the natural and cultural history of these magnificent landscapes adds tremendously to your experience. Veteran Adventure Travelers know that fulfilling and memorable vacations go far beyond gorgeous vistas.
5. **EXCEPTIONAL GUIDES** - Our guide teams are carefully chosen for their ability to work together and use their individual expertise to ensure your every need is cared for. They are professional, knowledgeable, sensitive, humorous, great leaders and skilled teachers. If you came to our office, the bulging files of "Thank You" letters would explain this one.

TAKE IT FROM OUR GUESTS...

*"I cannot say enough about the high quality service provided on the trip. The scenery was spectacular, but (the guides) made the trip even more enjoyable. Outstanding service!"
Robert - Maryland*

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, for an amazing week. We felt cared for (spoiled even), protected, and adventurous. (The guides) made very strong, lasting impressions on us. Their dedication, playful spirit and laid back nature made for a perfect combination. What an incredible feeling to be awe-inspired every day."
- Tammi - North Carolina

*"I have just returned from the most exciting, incredible, adrenaline outdoor adventure. Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to experience the greatness and beauty of the Grand Canyon. You do a super job of giving your clients a feeling of safety while challenging them to do the extra mile."
Marjory - Canada*

Thank you. (The Guides), most fearless of all leaders, gave me a gift that was totally unexpected. It has been a long time since I felt adventuresome and wild the way I did on my trip. Their encouragement and support challenged me, and I found myself doing things and going places I never thought I would have dreamed of. I loved it all..."
-Megan - Vermont

*"Thanks for a great trip! I did far more than I ever thought I could or have done before. Your guides are Arizona Outback Adventures' greatest asset. I am sure you are not short of outstanding references but if you ever need one from a senior, feel free!"
Joyce - Arizona, Age 65*



MULTI-DAY TRIP RESERVATION FORM

16447 N. 91st St. #101 - Scottsdale, AZ 85260 - Toll Free 1-866-455-1601 - Phone: 480-945-2881
Fax: 480-970-1825 - www.aoa-adventures.com email: info@aoa-adventures.com

You may reserve your trip by mailing or faxing this form (number above) or calling our office (toll free 1-866-455-1601). If calling by phone, please allow at least 10 minutes for completion of your reservation. Mailed or faxed reservations are not guaranteed a spot until our office confirms them via phone or email. Once you have made your reservation and have signed and returned our Multi-day Trip Policies form, a confirmation packet containing detailed pre-trip planning information will be mailed to you. You will need to fill out and return several forms in your packet and return them to our office no later than 60 days prior to your trip departure date. The final balance is due 60 days prior to your trip and will be automatically charged to your credit card on file unless we are notified otherwise. Approximately 2 weeks prior to your trip, you will receive a Departure Packet that will contain your final trip information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Day Phone: (_____) _____

Email address: _____ How did you hear about us? _____

Why did you choose AOA? _____

Title of Trip: _____ Dates of Trip: _____

Number of guests I am reserving space for: _____

Names of Additional Guests: _____

Price of the chosen trip: _____ Date reservation was made: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO FOR EACH:

I would like a Single Room and will pay the additional fee: YES NO

I am a single traveler and would like a roommate assigned to me: YES NO

I will be providing my own transportation: YES NO

I need to rent a sleeping bag or backpack: YES NO

I would like to be sent information on Travel Insurance: YES NO

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Credit Card Security Code: _____ Automatically charge this card for the balance 60 days out

For Office
Use Only

ACT: _____ QB: _____ POLICIES: _____ CONF PACKET: _____ DEP PACKET: _____

PAYMENT: We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, personal checks and cash. A \$500.00 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation on any trip. The balance is due 60 days prior to your trip departure date and will be automatically charged to your card on file. If you would like to pay the balance on a different credit card, please fill out the credit card authorization form in your Trip Confirmation Packet and mail it back with your other required forms.

MULTI-DAY TRIP POLICIES

Please read carefully before signing and return to our office no later than 60 days prior to your trip departure date with your other required trip documents.



NAME: _____

TRIP TITLE: _____ TRIP DATES: _____

RESERVATIONS

These tours are very popular and advanced planning is often necessary. We recommend making your reservations at least 3-5 months in advance. We can accommodate last-minute bookings provided space is available, so please call our office to check. You may reserve your trip by mailing or faxing a trip reservation form or by calling our office (toll free 866-455-1601). Please allow at least 10 minutes to complete your application by phone. Mailed or faxed applications are not guaranteed until our office has confirmed them and we have received the required deposit.

TRIP INFORMATION

Once you have made your reservation, a confirmation packet containing detailed pre-trip planning information will be mailed to you. You will need to fill out and return the Personal Information form(s), Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnification Agreement (s), Multi-Day Trip Policies form, Appearance Release form and Credit Card Authorization form no later than 60 days prior to your trip departure date. The final balance is due 60 days prior to your trip and will be automatically charged to your credit card on file unless we are notified otherwise. Approximately 2 weeks prior to your trip, you will receive a Departure Packet that contains your final trip information, paid receipt and an AOA t-shirt.

PAYMENTS

DEPOSITS: All prices are quoted in US dollars and are subject to change. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, personal checks and cash. A \$500.00 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation on any trip. For your protection, it is always better to pay for all your travel arrangements by credit card.

BALANCE DUE: The balance is due 60 days prior to your trip departure date. The balance will be automatically charged to your credit card on file. If you would like to pay the balance on a different credit card, please fill out the credit card authorization form in your trip confirmation packet and mail it back with your other required forms.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms / tents are available for an additional charge and a limited number are available on each trip. Please see the itinerary sheet of your specific trip for the single supplement price. If you are traveling alone, we can often pair you up with another single traveler.

DISCOUNTS

Please call our office for special group discounts. If you do not use our transportation on a Havasupai trip, your trip will be discounted \$25.00 per person.

CANCELLATION FEES

All cancellations must be made in writing via email or fax.

91 or more days prior	Full refund
61 to 90 days prior	\$500.00 per traveler
31 to 60 days prior	50% of trip cost per traveler
0 to 30 days prior	100% of trip cost per traveler (no refund)

TRANSFERRING TRIPS

If you want to transfer your trip to another date, the above cancellation fees will apply.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Every attempt will be made to adhere to each trip's published routes and itinerary; however, safety issues, weather or other extenuating circumstances beyond our control may result in unexpected changes. Should these changes affect a guest's travel plans, Arizona Outback Adventures is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by guests (e.g., non-refundable air tickets, rental cars, hotel reservations, visa fees if applicable, gear, medical expenses, etc.).

TRIP CANCELLATION

TRIP MINIMUMS: Each trip requires a minimum number of participants for departure. Arizona Outback Adventures (AOA) reserves the right to cancel scheduled trips that do not meet minimum sign-up requirements (usually 6 guests). If a cancellation is necessary, AOA will notify guests no less than 45 days prior to the departure date of their trip. In the event of a trip cancellation, the options are:

Guests may select another departure date for an equivalent trip at no additional charge;

AOA will operate the trip for an additional charge per guest based on the number of guests signed up 30 days prior to the departure date of the trip; or,

AOA will provide a full-refund of any monies paid to AOA.

FORCE MAJEURE: AOA reserves the right to revise or cancel all or a portion of a trip for force majeure (e.g., terrorism, war, fire, flood or other natural disaster) or any other circumstances beyond our control. If a trip is cancelled due to force majeure, AOA will make every effort to offer an alternative trip for the same departure and return dates with an itinerary that offers experiences similar to the original trip. If AOA offers an alternative trip in place of the original trip, guests may choose to join the alternative trip or select another departure date for the original trip at no additional charge.

If a guest chooses to cancel altogether, cancellation fees will apply as outlined above. In the event of AOA's cancellation and AOA does not offer an alternative trip, full or partial refunds, if any, will be at AOA's sole discretion.

In the event of cancellation by AOA, AOA is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by guests in preparing for the trip (e.g., non-refundable air tickets, rental cars, hotel reservations, visa fees if applicable, gear, medical expenses, etc.).

Due to the possibility of itinerary changes or trip cancellations, we strongly recommend that our guests purchase travel insurance that includes the cost of their airline tickets, many of which are completely nonrefundable and nontransferable.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE _____

Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Name of Other Members in you Party (please print):

If you are signing up multiple participants, you are responsible for relaying these Multi-Day Trip Policies to them. By signing above, you are accepting the responsibility to do so.