

Muskwa-Kechika Expeditions, Flycamps, and Basecamps, 2022 General Information

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) encompasses a vast wilderness in BC's northern Rocky Mountains. Teeming with wildlife, it is a vestige of the continental wilderness that once existed. MK Adventures has been guiding expeditions into the remotest



regions of the MK for decades as part of an effort to protect this magnificent area, and at the same time providing riders with what is often the ride of their lives, a rewarding and full-on challenge for both the mind and body.

Trip Options:

Our summer program for 2022 will consist of **Expeditions**, **Flycamp Expeditions**, and **Mayfield Basecamps**.

Our **Expeditions** are full on wilderness rides, 15 days in length, usually around 8 days in the saddle, 5 camp days, plus two travel days in and out of the mountains. These trips are extremely rigorous, and a high level of fitness is required. MKA recommends that if riders are at all unsure about their ability to undertake this challenge they first do a Flycamp or Basecamp. Cost is \$4795, includes flights/jetboat in and out of the mountains, breakfast, and dinners. Riders take turns assisting with cooking and camp duties.

New for this year, our 10 day **Flycamp Expeditions** cover less ground than the full-on Expeditions, meaning less travelling and camp moving, and more time to explore, photograph, hike, dayride, or whatever you may wish. Don't be fooled though, these rides are rigorous, and usually include steep climbs and descents, a few longer days in the saddle, plus optional dayrides etc. A very good level of fitness is required to do these rides. Cost is \$3995, includes flights/jetboat in and out of the mountains, breakfast, and dinners. Riders take turns assisting with cooking and camp duties.

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513
email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca

Mayfield Horse-supported Basecamps begin and end at our main base at Mayfield. Mayfield has more amenities than we enjoy on the trail, including a sauna, canoes, canvas tent frames, plus a new Pavilion over the camp. Riding is an optional activity here, but a good level of fitness is required to fully participate in the activities. Cost is \$3995, includes flights/jetboat in and out of the mountains, and meals. Wayne will be participating in the Mayfield camps.

2022 Trips:

Trip 1: June 7-21, - Eastern Slopes Expedition Ride

We will first head up the Tetsa River, with time to explore the headwaters and/or Tetsa Lake, then over to Henry Creek, the Chisca, the northern Caribou Range, down to the Tuchodi River and ending at East Tuchodi Lake. This is a full-on ride, with several big climbs and descents, 4 big alpine passes, and excellent wildlife viewing. Riders will travel up the Highway to the Tetsa River with us, and return via Jetboat from East Tuchodi Lake.

Trip 2: June 21- June 30, - Gatho Flycamp Expedition

This will be an exploration trip that will start and end at East Tuchodi. It's a two day ride to the Gatho valley where we will flycamp, exploring new valleys and passes from there. The Gatho is a wildlife hotspot, and with more time for enjoying this trip promises to be a fun and memorable event for sure. Wayne will be riding this trip. Riders will travel in and out by jetboat on the Muskwa and Tuchodi rivers via the Kledo Creek boatlaunch.

Trip 3: July 30- July 9, - Rocky Mountain Divide Flycamp Expedition

In 2022 we are trying something new on the ride over the Rocky Mountain Divide from the Tuchodis to Mayfield. For years we have lamented the fact that there isn't enough time to explore the beautiful valleys and passes on the upper Gataga and Tuchodi, and so we have decided to do a change at Peck's strip on the Gataga, and make each of the two resulting rides 10 days in length. This means more time to explore and enjoy this amazing area, while still enjoying one of our most popular Expedition routes. This route has good Stone's sheep, mountain goat, elk, and grizzly sighting opportunities. Riders will travel in to the mountains by jetboat on the Muskwa and Tuchodi rivers via the Kledo Creek boatlaunch, and on the way out will fly from Peck's strip to Fort Nelson.

Trip 4: July 9- 18, Churchill Flycamp Expedition

This is the second half of our Rocky Mountain Divide Ride, up Peck's Creek, over remote Twin Glacier Pass and the Churchill valley, then to the north Gataga and Thistle camp, and down the Gataga to Mayfield Lake. Riders will fly by Islander wheel plane from Fort

Nelson into the Gataga, and out of Mayfield to Muncho Lake by Liard Air's Turbo Otter floatplane. Good moose, mountain goat, caribou, and grizzly sighting opportunities.

Trip 5: July 18- 25, Mayfield Basecamp Set-up

This time frame will be used as prep and setup time for our Mayfield Camps. Contact us if you would like to participate in a working holiday during this time, for a 50% reduction in the \$3995 fee! Guests will fly in and out via Liard Air and Muncho Lake.

Trip 6: July 25- August 3, Mayfield Horse-supported Hiking Experience.

This year the Alpine of Club of Canada, BC Chapter, will be hosting a Hiking camp with the packstring carrying the gear. All the fun, and a lot less work! Guests will fly in and out via Liard Air and Muncho Lake.

Trip 7: August 3- 12, Mayfield Horse-supported Basecamp Experience #1

The new Pavilion at Mafield at the Mayfield Basecamps helps to make these Basecamps perfect for a families or groups wanting to do a horse-supported hiking trip or Flycamp Experience, besides enjoying the sauna, canoes, dayrides, hiking, fishing, and of course the surrounding wilderness. Guests will fly in and out with Liard Air via Muncho Lake.

Trip 8: August 12-21, Mayfield Horse-supported Basecamp Experience #2

The second of our Mayfield Basecamps. Guests will fly in and out with Liard Air via Muncho Lake.

Trip 9: August 21- Sept 4, Heaven's Pass Expedition Ride

This full-on ride will take the string up and over 4 high and rugged passes, including the Rocky Mountain Divide at remote Heaven's Pass, as it is known by local First Nations, before heading down the West Toad to the Alaska Highway at mile 442. This ride is spectacular, and includes three high passes in three days- an unforgettable experience. Caribou, moose, Stone's sheep, and grizzly are often sited on this ride. Guests will fly via Liard Air and Muncho Lake, and meet the stock truck for the ride home from Mile 442 on the Alaska Highway.

A note about the Expeditions and Flycamps

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures specializes in unique, experiential and full-on wilderness horseback experiences. This is the real deal! Do not expect a typical “tourist” trip. Instead, you will become an expedition member. Participants share in all camp and trail activities such as cooking, fire-lighting, and saddling. Flights, dinners and breakfasts are included, and folks bring their own lunches, drinks, and snacks. Horse travel in the wilderness is rigorous, and folks must be able to hike up and down steep trails, mount and dismount repeatedly, and assist with camp and horse activities according to their abilities. Experience with horses is a huge asset! Fitness however is mandatory.



Mayfield Base Camp Experiences

Greet the sunrise from the dock on beautiful Mayfield Lake, sipping on a steaming cup of fresh coffee while moose graze in the shallows across the inlet or where a group of caribou might travel by. When the mood strikes you, spend a few hours canoeing, fishing or hiking. Take a day ride into the alpine meadows or down along the Gataga River. At day's end, treat your body to a steam in the log sauna. Then, if you're brave, cool off with a moonlight dip in the lake. This experience is a perfect choice for singles, couples, or families.



Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513

email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca



Flights:

The cost of your scheduled flights and/or jetboat trips in and out of the mountains are included in the fee and are arranged by MK Adventures. All floatplane flights depart/return from Liard Air's facilities located at Northern Rockies Lodge at Muncho Lake. The wheeled bushplane flights base out of the Villers hanger at the Fort Nelson Airport. Unscheduled floatplane service and/or wheel plane flights out of the M-K can also be made available, dependent on conditions (an extra charge will apply for this service).

Communication:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries a satellite phone and satellite email system for use in emergencies.

Liability Insurance:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries liability insurance, as required by the conditions of the Park Use Permit.

Travel Costs:

Travel costs to reach the take-off points are the responsibility of the participant. Air service to Fort Nelson is provided by Central Mountain Air. We have found that the most economical airfare includes flights from Vancouver to Prince George with a major carrier like Air Canada or Westjet, and then a flight from Prince George to Fort Nelson with Central Mountain Air. Folks also fly to Fort St. John and join ground transportation to the take-off point, or travel by personal vehicle etc. MK Adventures can often help with travel to Muncho Lake etc, just be in touch.

Accommodation at Muncho Lake:

The night before the floatplane departures, participants can stay at Muncho Lake either in Northern Rockies Lodge or in a tent in the provincial campsite. Hosts at Northern Rockies Lodge are Urs and Marianne Schildknecht, who also operate Liard Air service. For rates and booking at Northern Rockies Lodge, phone 1-800-663-5269.

Staff and Tips

The success of each Expedition depends on our excellent staff. Michelle and Alex are farriers and First Aiders, while Wayne has been leading Expeditions for over 30 years. If you feel you received great service on your trip, we hope you consider leaving a tip. This makes us feel appreciated and valued- it's the gas in the tank that keeps us going! (A suggestion would be \$100 per staff or of course whatever you feel is appropriate.)

What to Bring:

First rule – be light. For details, see our Gear List below.

MK Adventures will supply all cooking equipment, dishes and dish soap etc, camp shelter, horses and horse gear. Don't bring extra dishes as you won't need them. If you are a coffee drinker, bring 1 pound per week, ground for coffee press (supplied). Clothing and other gear can be packed in light stuff sacks. Be sure to bring binoculars and camera if you have them. Bugs aren't usually too bad in the Northern Rockies, but do bring some bug dope if you normally use it.

A note about weather - it can do anything in the Northern Rockies! Come prepared for hot or cold conditions. Don't forget those rubber boots!

Food:

All dinners and breakfasts are provided, along with lunches only at the Mayfield Camps. Expedition and Flycamp participants will bring and prepare their own lunches, and all riders will bring their own snacks and drinks.

Michelle will be in touch to discuss food preferences etc., Please let us know if you have any food allergies or sensitivities, or prefer a vegetarian option etc. If you prefer Vegan there will be a \$250 “altered menu” charge.



Logistics in Detail:

Where do we meet the plane or jet boat, our guides, and the pack string?

MK Adventures arranges all of the necessary bush plane, float plane, and jet boat trips, and the cost is included in our fee. Riders are responsible for getting themselves and their gear to and from the trailheads or jump-off points. Now, here are the logistical details you will need.

Note: “**Outbound**” means you are heading out into the mountains at the beginning of your ride, and “**Inbound**” means you are heading back into so-called civilization at the end:)

Trip 1- June 7-21, - Eastern Slopes Expedition Ride

Outbound: Riders will travel north from Fort St. John with us, the horses, and gear to the trailhead on the Alaska Highway at the Tetsa River. Riders should arrive FSJ the day before the Expedition begins in order to allow time to purchase food, last minute supplies, etc. MK Adventures recommends the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel.

Inbound: Riders will meet the jetboat at East Tuchodi Lake for the trip into Fort Nelson via the Kleodo Creek boatlaunch. MK Adventures suggests that riders should book their flight home for the day after arriving Fort Nelson to allow for delays, and recommends the Woodlands Inn in Fort Nelson. Tell them you are with MK Adventures and they will give you their “Friends and Family” rate- a considerable saving.

Trip 2- June 21- June 30, - Gatho Flycamp Expedition

Outbound: Riders will meet the jetboat at the Woodlands parking lot, usually around 7am, for the 45 minute trip to the jetboat launch at Kleodo Creek. We recommend overnighiting at the Woodlands Inn, they give Great service at a great price if you tell them you are traveling with MK Adventures.



Inbound. Riders will meet the jet boat at East Tuchodi Lake for the 3 hour trip down the Tuchodi and Muskwa Rivers to the Kleodo Creek boat launch. There, riders will catch a one hour ride with Riverjet Adventures back to Fort Nelson via the Alaska Highway. MK Adventures suggests that riders should book their flight home for the day after arriving Fort Nelson, and recommends the Woodlands Inn in Fort Nelson. Tell them you are with MK Adventures and they will give you their “Friends and Family” rate- a considerable saving. Riders will meet the jetboat at East Tuchodi Lake for the 3.5 hour ride to Kleodo Creek. They will then drive the 50 km or so into Fort Nelson.

Trip 3- June 30- July 9, - Rocky Mountain Divide West Flycamp Expedition

Outbound: Riders will meet the jetboat at the Woodlands parking lot, usually at 7am, for the 45 minute trip to the jetboat launch at Kleodo Creek. We recommend overnighiting at the Woodlands Inn, they give Great service at a Great price if you tell them you are traveling with MK Adventures!

Outbound: Riders will meet the Villers Air Islander on a remote airstrip on the Gataga for



email v

the one hour flight back to Fort Nelson.

Trip 4- July 9- 18, Churchill Flycamp Expedition

Outbound:

Riders board the Islander bush plane at the Villers Air hanger located just east of the Fort Nelson Airport terminal, usually at 7am, for the one hour flight into the Northern Rockies where you will meet your guides and pack string.

Inbound:

Riders will be picked up by Liard Air floatplane at Mayfield Lake for the one hour floatplane flight to Muncho Lake. To allow for weather related delays MK Adventures recommends booking a room at Northern Rockies Lodge, where the float planes land, for the night after your flight, or at the Woodlands Inn in Fort Nelson. Wayne usually travels south at this time and riders can often catch a ride south to Fort Nelson with him, or another rider etc. If no ride is available there is a Shuttle service out of Fort Nelson provided by Rob Neville of RNN. His shuttle service offers roughly a 6-7 hour return trip between Fort Nelson and Muncho Lake, his rate is \$100 CAD/hr and can take 7 folks plus gear. Costs are normally shared amongst the riders using the service.

Trip 5, 6, 7, 8:

Trip 5- July 18- 25, Mayfield Basecamp Set-up

Trip 6- July 25- August 3, Mayfield Horse-supported Hiking Experience.

Trip 7- August 3- 12, Mayfield Horse-supported Basecamp Experience #1

Trip 8- August 12-21, Mayfield Horse-supported Basecamp Experience #2

Outbound:

Riders will meet the Liard Air floatplane at the Northern Rockies Lodge in Muncho Lake for the one hour trip to Mayfield Lake.

Inbound:

Riders will meet the Liard Air floatplane on the dock at Mayfield Lake for the one hour flight to Muncho Lake.

Trip 9- August 21- Sept 4, Heaven's Pass Expedition Ride

Outbound:

Riders will meet the Liard Air floatplane at the Northern Rockies Lodge in Muncho Lake for the one hour trip to Mayfield Lake.

Inbound:

The pack string will arrive at the Alaska Highway near Mile 442 later in the day (as below) and folks usually camp at the Highway where we will meet the stock truck. Starting at 6 am in the morning we will load up and be on our way south for the 2 hour ride back to Fort Nelson. Riders will catch a ride with MK Adventures, their personal vehicle (we help arrange shuttles) or the stock truck. Flights can be booked south after 3 pm say on that day or later.

**Logistics Contacts:**

Villers Air: Peter Villers, c/o Villers Air Services Ltd. phone/text (250) 500-2072, email fly@villersair.com.

Riverjet Adventures: Jason Palfy phone/text (250) 262-1290, email riverjetadventures@gmail.com

RNN shuttle: Rob Neville, 250-775-1700, email rnn@northwestel.net

Liard Air: Urs or Marianne Schildknecht, phone (250) 776-3482, email info@nrlodge.com.

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513
email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca

Woodlands Inn, Fort Nelson: (250) 774-6669

Northern Grand Hotel, Fort St. John: (250) 787-0521

MK Adventures, for Wayne Sawchuk, phone/text (250) 261-1513 and for Donna Kane, phone/text (250) 719-9225



Keen to ride along? Here's the Reservations and Booking form.

Just fill out the following and mail to the address below, or email to wsawchuk@pris.ca.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency contact number: _____

Email: _____

Physical condition (1 is low, 10 is super-athlete): _____

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513
email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca

Dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian): _____

Allergies: _____

Medical or other conditions that may affect your mobility or ability to undertake rigorous physical activity: _____ Age _____

Anything else we should know: _____

Dates of trip requested: _____

Method of Payment _____

(The most convenient methods of payment are E-transfer to wsawchuk@pris.ca, or cheques made payable to Muskwa-Kechika Adventures sent to the address below.)

I understand that horse travel in the wilderness carries inherent risk, and I accept that risk. Please check this box if you agree.

Deposit and Cancellation Policy

We require a 50% deposit to confirm a booking. The balance is due on May 1. Prior to that date, reservations can be cancelled and your deposit refunded, minus a \$250 deposit to cover costs. After May 1, monies paid or due are not refundable. If for any reason we must cancel a trip, a full refund will be given.

Unforeseen Costs

If we encounter unexpected logistical arrangements such as additional lodging or flights due to weather or accidents, the cost shall be divided equitably among the participants.

Recommended Clothing and Gear List

CLOTHING

Tops

- ____/____ Fleece/pile/wool sweater or pullover
- ____/____ Down Jacket or equivalent
- ____/____ Long underwear top
- ____/____ T-shirts (2 or up to you)
- ____/____ 1 Short sleeved shirt

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0
(250) 261-1513
email wsawchuk@pris.ca, Hit www.go2mk.ca

____/____ 3 Long sleeved shirts (1 wool, 1 synthetic material like polyester or polypropylene, 1 cotton, is a good mix)

Bottoms

____/____ 1 Long underwear bottom

____/____ 1 Durable wool or synthetic long pants suitable for use as an outer layer

____/____ 1 Jeans or equivalent

____/____ 1 Light pants

____/____ 1 Pair of Shorts (nylon or cotton)

____/____ Underwear as required

Raingear

____/____ 1 Fully waterproof rubber rain jacket and pants (not a poncho as these are inadequate for mountain riding)

____/____ 1 Fully waterproof Rain hat (cowboy hat @ raincover works well)

____/____ 1 pair waterproof gloves/mitts (Gander Brand makes good ones)

____/____ 1 pair Rubber Boots eg Muck Boots (these are important.)

Footwear

____/____ Hiking boots, waterproofed and broken in, preferably without large lugs that could easily catch in a stirrup

____/____ Camp shoes

____/____ Lighter liner socks (min. 3 pairs)

____/____ Wool socks, thick (min. 3 pairs)

Head and Hands

- / Sun hat or baseball cap
- / Wool/fleece stocking hat
- / Neckerchief or neckwarmer
- / Wool/fleece mittens or warm wool/fleece gloves
- / Leather riding gloves

EQUIPMENT

- / Light backpack for day hikes
- / Tent
- / Sleeping bag (rated to -10 to -15 C for June-July and -20C for fall trips, remember the official rating temperature is that point at which you become a victim of hypothermia. Zip-together bags are a cozy option for couples!)
- / Sleeping bag liner
- / Insulating pad (Therma-rest or closed-cell foam)
- / Headlamp (not needed on June/early July trips due to lack of darkness)
- / ½ litre waterbottle (not a large one as it won't fit in the saddle bag)
- / Small thermos for those coffee or tea lovers out there
- / Binoculars
- / Camera and additional batteries.
- / A leatherman or pliers multi-tool is not essential, but can be Very handy
- / Lighter for starting fire

PERSONAL

- / Glasses or contacts as needed
- / Personal hygiene products
- / Lip balm with sunscreen
- / Emergency whistle
- / Insect repellent if you use it
- / Snacks/Munchies you can't do without
- / Toothbrush and toothpaste
- / Any necessary medication
- / Toilet paper, 1 roll per week
- / Wet-naps

MK Adventures will supply all cooking equipment, mugs, dishes, camp shelter, first aid supplies, horses and horse gear. No need to bring extra dishes or silverware.