You are receiving this document because your crew has chosen to paddle in the Crown Lands or you are a crew of 9 to 11 people which can only travel in the Crown Lands. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources requires a route selection well in advance of your trip. You must select your preferred route by the day your final payment is due so that we may submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) with enough notice for your trip.

Canada is comprised of 89% Crown Land. It is all un-owned land, coast to coast in Canada. Locals refer to the area we paddle simply as “the Bush.”

The routes in this document allow us to better accommodate your crew and give our Interpreters a general idea of where you want to travel so they may plan accordingly. Please review this document with your crew and make your route selection. When you arrive at the Atikokan base, your crew and Interpreter will have time to decide the specifics of your trip ranging from daily distances, where you’ll camp each night, and options to extend or shorten certain sections of your route. While the exact route may have some flexibility, assigned entry points and exit points will not change and major route edits must be pre-approved.

The day length in each section is to be used as a guideline. They do not need to be strictly adhered to. For example, if your crew wants to paddle more distance, they can select a route that suggests more days. If your crew would prefer to spend more time fishing or take a layover day, they can pick a route that would require fewer days to complete. The average Northern Tier crew covers around 10-15 miles per day.

Weather and water levels in our area are constantly changing. Winter storms, aggressive beavers, human activity, and nearby dam levels all prevent us from guaranteeing “easy”, “medium”, or “hard” rating for each route. Unforeseen early or late season environmental hazards may exist which could add to the level of difficulty. Because data for each trip was gathered from previous summers, “Difficulty” and “Distance” are approximations and may be different for your crew. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide exact number of portages. Route lines on the maps are approximations and are not to be used for navigation. Northern Tier may need to amend the following routes based on known trail conditions of the current season.

To manage and rehabilitate the Canadian Crown Lands, the Ministry of Natural Resources has limited camping in an area called the “Green Zone”. Your crew is welcome to continue fishing and travelling while in these sections, but camping is not permitted. The Green Zone has been grayed out in the following route thumbnails.

After selecting a route, the staff at Northern Tier will confirm that the itinerary you chose will work with your length of stay and will communicate with you if they feel you have chosen a route that isn’t suitable for your trip length.

Please select your first and second choices by following the instructions in the email. Sister crews cannot select the same two routes.

If your crew has chartered a float plane for you trip, please contact Northern Tier after you have selected a route as float planes can only fly into certain lakes. This may change each year and so some routes may be available or not based on the season. Float planes are not included in your Northern Tier fee and your crew must make arrangements separately.

Legend
( - Entry point
) - Pickup/End point
Donald Rogert Canoe Base (Atikokan Base) Entry Point
Pickup/End Point
Short Trip Length
Routes (6-7 Night Trip)
(5-6 Days on Water)
Keep it sweet and simple with this route. Big lakes mean your crew will be able to cover good distance each day, once they master paddling. Expect a couple of fun portages to make you work hard, but you’ll have a lovely camp site to lay your head each night. Campsites along this route are known amongst interpreters for being classy and comfortable. Plus, you’ll even get a taste of river travel and have a chance to spot a pictograph. If your crew likes the route but wants more of a challenge, talk to your interpreter upon arrival about heading east through Elsie, Mabel, and Sandford, then across the Ann Bay Portage, a 3 km portage that’ll end on a gorgeous beach on Ann Bay.
Distance: 60 miles
Difficulty: Easy
Route: (Clearwater
White
Otter Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Crowrock
Dashwa)
Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

This route contains several large lakes that connect in a big loop. Your first and last days require a haul to get to an area suitable for camping. This route allows your group to see White Otter Castle and some fantastic campsites. The lakes on this route are all large to very large so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. This is one of the more travelled routes so you may encounter a few crews and make new friends. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they are rarely a nuisance. Consider passing over the popular Ann Bay portage, a 3 km portage that will shorten your route to Sandford. If more miles are of interest, consider extending into beautiful Irene and then meander down the gamble river to continue the route from Wasp Lake.
With little of everything, this route is small, but mighty. Your crew will start your trip on two of our largest lakes, Clearwater and White Otter. There you’ll see the White Otter Castle. From there, you’ll start heading west onto smaller lakes before ending your trip on the Turtle River. Keep your eyes peeled for pictographs and expect to see some waterfalls and rapids. Is 40 miles not enough for your crew? Just talk to your interpreter upon arrival to add a loop through the mucky trails of Patricia and down an amazing, small river between Dimple and Dibble, or head further north to Bending Lake to see some extra rapids.
This is a route for river lovers that want a mental challenge as well as a physical. With the current behind you, paddling is a little bit speedier, but your crew should be ready to listen to the advice of your interpreter as river navigation means planning ahead, being on the correct side of the river when approaching portages and being willing to get out of the canoe when the going gets rough. Expect a few long portages and quite a few short ones. The rewards of this route are worth any challenge. With waterfalls and rapids moving the Turtle River through remote and beautiful woods, this route is a treat.
Spela Dunk

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 50 Miles

Route:
(Clearwater,
Hawknest,
White Otter,
Heuston,
Kingfish,
Sedgwick,
Dibble,
Smirch,
Turtle River)

Maps:
White Otter G/4,
Atikokan B/13,
Pekagoning F/1

This is a new route that manages to explore a new area while also taking time to stop by some old favorites. Begin on Clearwater Lake and proceed northward through Hawknest into White Otter. Travel up most of the length of this long lake before turning left and boldly going into Heuston Lake, though not before taking a detour up to visit the famous White Otter Castle. From Heuston, continue down to Kingfish then over to Sedgwick, home to a small cave that makes this route famous. After a brief spelunk and dunk, head north through a series of new and adventurous portages to return to the beaten path of Dibble and Smirch. Paddle down the winding Turtle River to conclude your adventure by being picked up at the designated rendezvous spot.
Begin on quintessential Atikokan Crownland lakes and visit the White Otter Castle. Travel across the Nora portages and visit a great island campsite or two. Then head off the beaten path for the finale of your trip. Cross unnamed lakes in an adventurous area that has only recently been travelled by Northern Tier crews. Cross fun portages with a variety of difficult terrain. Then come out on Hardtack and Finlayson lakes for a beautiful end to your trip. Consider passing over the popular Ann Bay portage, a 3 km portage that will shorten your route to Sandford. If the 75-miler patch is of interest, consider extending into beautiful Irene and then meander down the Gamble River to continue the route from Wasp Lake.
Begin your trip with a long paddle or a series of portages and beaver dams to take your crew out of the Green Zone. Then rest for the night in Below Bow. Now, begin your journey to base! Head south through an area that few crews have gone through. Expect some tough terrain and muck and enjoy the challenge and teamwork of conquering a less used area. Once your crew has made it to Finlayson, enjoy paddling the Seine River back to base. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm, as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Tooth and Nail

Distance: 65 miles

Difficulty:
Medium/Hard

Route: (Clearwater
    White Otter
    Sandford
    Wasp
    Crowrock
    Below Bow
    Highland
    Hardtack
    Finlayson
    Little Falls
    Seine River Diversion
    Seine River
    Perch
    Atikokan
    Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
      Atikokan B/13

Start with a lovely paddle across Clearwater and southern White Otter. You’ll have mastered paddling just in time to take on the longest portage we offer. At 3 km, Ann Bay Portage has an intimidating length, but it’s a popular trail that’s simple to follow. Relax on Sandford before beginning your journey south. Peak at the pictographs on Wasp Lake then swing around to Below Bow. Next, head south through an area that has rarely been traveled and shows its disuse. Paddle a few unnamed lakes and creeks and portage over some very difficult terrain and muck. Once you hit Finlayson, you’re nearly home free. Just follow the Seine River Diversion to the Seine River and paddle into base.
Difficulty: Medium/Hard
Distance: 60 miles
Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

Start on our big lakes, Clearwater and White Otter, to master your paddling skills. Then head east to take on the challenge of the Ann Bay Portage. At 3 km long, it’s our longest portage we offer. But rest assured, it may have extreme length, but it’s a trail that’s simple to follow, and that is usually clear of debris. Once across the Ann Bay Portage, head south through Sandford into Wasp. The next challenge you face is paddling through the Green Zoned lakes Dashwa and Eye in one day. Paddle around Dashwa or cut through the portages and beaver dams, then paddle through Eye and portage down a kilometer trail before taking a well-earned rest in some of the most beautiful waterways we have. Float down the Eye River in stunning beauty before arriving at base the final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
This route is nothing to scoff at. Begin as all Dashwa entries do: a 15-mile paddle out of the Green Zone and into Below Bow for your first night. Then follow the Bow Chain until you face Red Paint Portage. This portage is the hardest marked portage we offer: two kilometers long and thick with muck, it can take anywhere from and hour and a half, to four hours depending on the day. Then, head south through Serpent. Your next challenge is getting from Serpent to Hardtack. This could take some challenging bushwhacking through marshlands and thick woods. It’s even harder than Red Paint Portage. Once you make it to the chain of lakes north of Hardtack Lake, there are portages to follow, but they’re mucky and have some difficult terrain. At long last, you’ll make it into Finlayson for your pick up.
Start off with an easy journey north through Clearwater and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle. Keep heading north and begin a more difficult leg of the journey. Portage through trails that show their disuse. If you make it through that section, it’s time for the hard part to actually start. The Balmoral river is full of beaver dams, sand bars, and rapids, each which must be navigated through carefully. Watch out for your ankles and mind your interpreter - they’ll have important safety advice. Expect to build a campsite or two after long hard days on untouched shores. But if you survive the waters of the Balmoral, it will treat you with a waterfall, pictographs, and the remote quietness of the wilderness. Then, finish the Balmoral River and make your way through Dibble, Smirch, and a section of the Turtle River to the pick-up. Enjoy the pictographs and waterfalls of this area as well. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.
Want to make a trip to indulge memories for decades? Then come to the remote areas of Mud Lake and see the history of logging. Like lumber jacks, you will have to travel hard using both land and water to cross the first 20 miles. You will be traveling in equal measures on both and will be able to stand and proudly say you have completed a 3-mile portage. Along the way you will see the impact and remains of logging operations from centuries past up to a few examples of today’s impacts. You will get to some very remote places. You will then reach the Seine River and reconnect with civilization on the second leg of the route. Your journey ends when you reach Perch Lake and paddle to the base’s beach landing. Like a forester you will see that in some area nature has sought to reclaim the portages, but you and your Interpreter will be able to cross with determination, bushwhacking, and a plan. This route will challenge you but the sense of accomplishment you gain will empower you to great feats. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm, as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Medium Trip Length Routes
(8-9 Night Trip)
(7-8 Days on Water)
This route begins on Turtle River allowing your crew to see some great rapids, waterfalls, and pictographs. This route also includes the opportunity to see the famous White Otter Castle. Eventually, your crew will make it to Sandford, which has some of the clearest water in the area. The trip ends with roughly a 13-mile paddle to your pickup point. There are portions of the route that can be changed based on your crew’s ability. You could swing south and cross the 3 km Ann Bay Portage or add a loop east into Irene for some river paddling and extra miles. Your Interpreter will be able to help you with any adjustments when you arrive. This route includes some very large lakes, so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.
While this route includes a lot of river travel, there are still a good number of portages. There are a few instances of rapids around the Turtle River that will require portages. Your Interpreter will teach you how to portage around it safely to avoid damage to your gear, canoes, and yourselves. Be aware that if you choose this route, you will have to paddle into Rainy Lake. Your crew will be in a relatively small and contained bay, it is still very large, and wind may play a factor in paddling. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. This route will take you through a First Nations area. Please be respectful of the community and do not expect to camp within their bounds or use facilities. Your crew will see a large waterfall and through one of the largest lakes in western Ontario. This route has a lot of mileage but is an easy paddle. Your last day will take you into Ottertail to be transported back to base.
Distance: 75 miles
Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route:
(Clearwater,
White Otter,
Nora,
Elsie,
Mabel,
Sandford,
Wasp,
Dashwa,
Eye,
Eye River,
Seine River,
Perch,
Atikokan Base)

Maps:
White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12

This is another popular route. It is difficult because there is a section that requires a 23-mile paddle in a single day to avoid camping in the Green Zone. Many groups will plan to have a layover day immediately after the most strenuous day. Your Interpreter will be able to aid in this part of the planning when you arrive on base. The route begins on big lakes, which allows you to see White Otter Castle. This area has some of the best campsites before heading south to complete the hardest day of the trip. A true accomplishment! After your group has rested, you can paddle into base on your final day. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day. Consider passing over the popular Ann Bay portage, a 3 km portage that will shorten your route to Sandford. If more miles are of interest, consider extending into beautiful Irene and then meander down the gamble river to continue the route from Wasp Lake.
Indulge in this historic new route, one that is a complete loop which begins and ends at the beautiful beach landing of the Atikokan Base. No shuttle driver needed. Begin by paddling up the Eye River, portaging past a waterfall as you go, then prepare for a 23-mile paddle through the Green Zone. This can be a long, challenging, yet rewarding day of travel that many crews have successfully completed. From there, head north into the crystal blue waters of Sandford and proceed east into Irene before starting south again. Meander down the Gamble River into Little Gull, then press ever onward into Highland Creek. Cross unnamed lakes in this adventurous area that has only recently been travelled by Northern Tier crews. Emerge from the challenge triumphantly onto Finlayson. Once on Finlayson, all that is left is to paddle your way down the Seine River back to base, exactly where your adventure began. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm, as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Distance: 80 miles
Difficulty: Medium/Hard
Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Gamble
Boulder
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Below Bow
Dashwa)

Start on the big lakes of Clearwater, White Otter, and Sandford and take the time to master paddling. Portage practice will come by crossing the Ann Bay Portage, a popular 3 km long portage. Once you’ve passed through this educational area, it is time to trek into a more remote area. Cross two challenging 1 km trails - one of which has earned the name “Fun and Games”. Enjoy solitude and adventure as you traverse remote and wild lakes that have yet to be named. Finally, your crew’s grand finale will be a gentle paddle through the Green Zone, giving you a chance to reflect on the teamwork and skills gained as you paddle to your pick-up point.
Your crew will start the route by traveling through Dashwa to Below Bow. This area is great for spotting wildlife. Once through the Bow lakes, you enter the wild country and create a big loop through the “Lady Lakes”. This is a fantastic and remote area. Eventually, you will get to cross the Ann Bay Portage, a popular 3 km long portage. Then you get to set your canoes in White Otter Lake, paddle up to Nora, then back down to White Otter to visit its famous Castle. Finally, your crew enters Clearwater to be picked up and transported back to base. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they generally are just out for some good fishing too and are rarely a nuisance. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.
Distance: 80 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Turtle River
   Smirch
   Dibble
   White Otter
   Nora
   Elsie
   Mabel
   Sandford
   Irene
   Gamble River
   Little Gull
   Highland
   Hardtack
   Finlayson
   Seine River Diversion
   Little Falls
   Seine River
   Perch
   Atikokan Base)

This route begins at our farthest drop off point and works its way back to base. On the Turtle River chain, paddle past pictographs, rapids and waterfalls. Cross the northern tip of White Otter to see an old Trapper’s cabin and White Otter Castle. Then travel further east through the lady lakes of Nora, Elsie, and Mabel. Visit Sandford and Irene before beginning your journey south. Float down the Gamble River to Little Gull. Then take on some notoriously mucky portages south of Little Gull into an unnamed lake on the Bow Chain. Next, paddle and portage through an area that is rarely used. Expect trails to be rough and muddy and waterways that are affected by seasonal water levels. Once you’ve made it to Finlayson, it’s an easy trip back to base down the Seine River Diversion and the Seine River. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
This is a strenuous trip from day one. Paddle 15 miles to get out of the Green Zone. Find yourself tucked into remote lakes as you paddle up the Bow Chain. Then tackle Red Paint Portage. This 2 km trail is mucky and hard - some crews do it in an hour and a half, others in four hours. Once you’ve survived that, prepare yourself for an even harder challenge of making it from Serpent to Hardtack. Be ready to fight through dense woods or navigate across marshland. Then take portages with difficult terrain into Finlayson. From there, relax on your paddle back to base. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Difficulty: Hard
Distance: 90 miles

Route: (Finlayson
       Hardtack
       Highland
       Little Gull
       Gamble River
       Irene
       Sandford
       Mabel
       Elsie
       Nora
       White Otter
       Sandford
       Wasp
       Dashwa
       Eye
       Little Eye
       Eye River
       Ear
       Seine River
       Perch
       Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
      White Otter G/4

Though strange to see marked on the map, this route takes your crew through a little bit of everything. Challenge yourselves by traveling from Finlayson to Little Gull: you’ll be taking on some difficult portage trails known for mucky pathways and tough terrain, but you’ll also get to see some truly beautiful waterways. Then, enjoy the big lake life paddling Irene, Sandford, Mabel, Elsie, Nora, and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle. Now that your muscles are stronger and your food pack lighter, cross Ann Bay Portage. At 3 km, it’s certainly long, but it’s also a very well-maintained trail. With the right attitude, it’s a challenge you won’t want to miss. After Ann Bay Portage, it’s time to start heading south. Use your paddling skill to cross the Green Zone in one day. Then enjoy the beautiful Eye River chain. On your last day, you can paddle into base! Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
If the route Over or Under sounds good to you, but you want to spend more time on big lakes, then consider this route. Beginning in Dashwa, this route will carry you through the beautiful Sandford with excellent island campsites, through the lady lakes of Mabel, Elsie, Nora, and Patricia. Once there, you match routes with Over or Under. Camp a night on Balmoral Lake before heading south down the Balmoral River. Lace up your boots tightly, as you’ll be getting creative with your canoes and gear through some very difficult terrain. If you make it through, you’re in for a waterfall and some pictographs in addition to the solitude that these waters offer. Before you know it, you’ll be back on trusted lakes and rivers and paddle your way past another waterfall, more pictographs, and a couple rapids. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.
Hungry for more? This route takes you across our three most famous portages: Red Paint, Fun & Games, and Ann Bay. Red Paint is a 2 km muck slog that can take anywhere from an hour and a half to four hours. Fun & Games involves some creative over-and-unders with your canoes and packs. Ann Bay hits a full 3 km, making it our longest portage. If these portages were the worst this route had to offer, then it wouldn’t earn its difficulty rating. Before even making it to Red Paint, cross muddy, difficult terrain on fresh cut portages. Hack your way into Serpent through dense woods and across marshland. Only then will you hit Red Paint. After Red Paint, head north through remote unnamed lakes. Cross a kilometer-long portage that offers its own trials and tribulations before hitting “Fun & Games” for more work. Only then will you take hike on Ann Bay Portage. At long last, you’ll paddle your way into Clearwater for your pick-up.
Long Trip Length Routes
(10-11 Night Trip)
(9-10 Days on Water)
Follow the Sunset

Distance: 120 miles
Difficulty: Medium
Maps: White Otter G/4
      Pekagoning F/1
      Manion C/16
      Mine Centre C/15

This route can really give you a taste of all we offer here. Start your trip paddling across big lakes, stay at an island campsite, enjoy the wide waters. Then visit the White Otter Castle and even swing past an old trapper’s cabin. Head west on Dibble and visit a pictograph. Then cut through Kenoshay to do some bushwhacking and really test your meddle in what might be an easy addition, or could be a hard fight through thick brush. Then ride the Turtle River south all the way to Mine Centre. Enjoy the waterfalls, rapids, and the portages around them as well as the easy current that will give you a little bit of a boost. Portage to your pick-up at Mine Centre.
Distance: 200 miles

Difficulty: Hard

Maps:
Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3
White Otter G/4
Stormy F/8
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

Hungry for the 200-miler award? Then this route will make you earn it, tooth and nail. Paddle the remote waters east of the big lakes and conquer a series of unnamed lakes and a few very hard portages. Take the central lake system through some stunning big water and visit the White Otter Castle and a trapper’s cabin. Spot pictographs, waterfalls, and rapids as your crew makes its way west and south. This route will give you days where you see no other person but your own crew mates, and days you can wave to people in motor boats as they go by. You’ll be able to check off nearly every part of the Atikokan experience.

Route:
(Dashwa,
Below Bow,
Lower Bow,
Upper Bow,
Sparkle,
Adele,
Gamble,
Doan,
Irene,
Gamble River,
Little Gull,
Sanford,
Mabel,
Nora,
White Otter,
Smirch,
Bending,
Turtle River,
Jones,
Eltrut,
Robinson,
Turtle River,
Little Turtle Lake,
Otter Lake,
Turtle River,
Redgut Bay of Rainy Lake,
Ottertail)
Distance: 105 miles
Difficulty: Hard

Route:
(Clearwater, White Otter, Nora, Elsie, Mabel, Sandford, Wasp, Lower Bow, Upper Bow, Red Paint, Serpent, Hardtack, Finlayson, Seine River Diversion, Little Falls, Seine River Diversion, Seine River, Perch, Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3

If you want to see everything on the map, you’ll want to select this route. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. Beginning on Clearwater, you’ll travel through White Otter and then the Lady Lakes. Eventually, you’ll end up at the Red Paint Portage which is just over 1-mile of muddy trail and takes a few hours for even the strongest. It’s difficult, but finishing is truly a treat! After, you’ll go down Serpent, and, depending on the year, break trail into Hardtack, and then Finlayson until you get to the Seine River Diversion. While it is a river, be prepared to portage around the rapids as you make your way down the slow current. Eventually, this all leads to Perch Lake where you can have the unique opportunity to paddle into base. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Difficulty: Hard
Distance: 130 miles

Route:
(Clearwater, Hawknest, White Otter, Nora, Patricia, Dibble, Smirch, Turtle River, Jones, Turtle River, Eltrut, Turtle River, Little Turtle, Turtle River, Rainy Lake (Red Gut Bay), Ottertail)

This route comes out of Clearwater and traverses up White Otter Lake towards a long stretch of the Turtle River. Be sure to stop in and visit the historic White Otter Castle before heading west for the rest of your adventure. Expect portaging around wondrous waterfalls and see a few pictographs. This route takes you the furthest west we travel in the crown lands and provides a great time for remote adventure. Fishing along this route is rewarding to those who put in the effort. This route has river navigation that requires you to pay attention and be in the correct place so listen to your Interpreter. Additionally, this route will take you through a First Nations area. Please be respectful of the community and do not expect to camp within their bounds or use facilities. Your crew will see a large waterfall and paddle through one of the largest lakes in western Ontario. This route has a lot of mileage but is an easy paddle. Your last day will take you into Ottertail to be transported back to base.

Maps: White Otter G/4, Atikokan B/13, Pekagoning F/1, Manion C/16, Mine Centre C/15
This is a long, epic adventure that has the privilege of starting straight from the Atikokan Base on the beaches of lovely Perch Lake. From here, your crew will paddle up the Eye River, taking time to portage past some swift water and a waterfall, up to Dashwa. From Dashwa, you will be faced with a 23-mile paddle to get through a section of Green Zone in a single day. While difficult, countless crews have conquered the challenge this section presents. Once safely out of the Green Zone, you will continue North through Sandford Lake, then turn left and West to head though Mabel, Elsie, and Nora. Be sure to stop by the famous White Otter Castle as you skirt along the north side of the massive White Otter Lake. From here, your route will hop through a few more lakes until you begin an epic section of scenic river paddling. Expect some long days, adventurous portages, waterfalls, and fantastic fishing as you pursue this team and character-building adventure. Finally, reflect on your new-found skills and memories of adventure as you paddle across Little Turtle Lake to your pick up point in the small community of Mine Center. Be prepared to carry your gear to the pick-up point, as our vans cannot drive directly to the water’s edge.
Bon Voyage

Difficulty: Hard
Length: 150 Miles

Route:
(Dashwa, Crowrock, Wasp, Sandford, Mabel, Elsie, Nora, White Otter, Dibble, Smirch, Turtle River, Jones, Eltrut, Robinson, Turtle River, Little Turtle, Otter, Turtle River, Redgut Bay of Rainy Lake, Ottertail)

This route travels through a mix of large, popular lakes and rolling rivers which will give your crew a taste of almost all the Atikokan Crown Lands have to offer. Begin on Dashwa and work your way north out of the Green Zone. Continue North through the crystal blue waters of Sandford then West through Elsie and Mabel. Enjoy a few dynamic portages and explore the rich history of the area along the way. White Otter Castle can be a pit stop before moving onto the Turtle River, which you follow for about 90 miles. This route will have long days in order to earn all 150 miles. Expect interesting portages, waterfalls, excellent fishing, and a chance to truly hone your wilderness travel skills. Additionally, this route will take your crew through a First Nations area. Please be respectful of the community and do not expect to camp within their bounds or use facilities. Your last day will take you into Ottertail to be transported back to base.

Maps:
- White Otter G/4
- Atikokan B/13
- Pekagoning F/1
- Manion C/16
- Mine Centre C/15
Difficulty: Hard/Very Hard
Distance: 100 Miles
Route:
(Dashwa, Crowrock, Wasp, Sandford, Mabel, Elsie, Nora, Patricia, Balmoral, McNamara, Agimak, McNamara, Balmoral, Patricia, Nora, White Otter, Hawknest, Clearwater)

Begin your trip with a long paddle out of the Green Zone or take on the challenge of traversing a series of portages and a beaver dammed stream. From there, proceed through the iconic Crown Land lakes of Wasp and Sandford on your way to Nora. Once at Nora, your adventure will kick into high gear as your crew forges their way north to the small town of Ignace. Expect challenges as you paddle and portage your way through this remote area. Once at Ignace, you may go to town and enjoy cheeseburgers and ice cream before loading back into your canoes to return on the path you just took. This return will be an opportunity to use the skills gained from the first half of your trip. Once you finally return to Nora, you will portage into White Otter Lake and visit its famous White Otter Castle. This adventure will end with a paddle down the wide White Otter waters, through Hawknest, and into Clearwater Lake to rendezvous with your shuttle driver at the designated pickup point.
Are you ready to travel everywhere? Take this grand tour of the Crown Lands and travel from the East to the West, seeing lakes and rivers on this adventure. You start out with a long paddle or series of portages out of the green zone and get to head to the East into Wasp and Irene. Then come back on the Gamble River as you ready yourself for different environment. Travel westward to the beauty of Ann Bay and her pictographs and onto the main area of White Otter to see the White Otter Castle stand tall. Further on your trail you will see more rivers and water falls and make your way into the Turtle River with its rewarding fishing. After clearing that area, you will exit out on to Mine Centre. You will have to portage up to the van as they cannot make it to the water front.
Are you seeking the ability to challenge yourself and summit some of the most arduous and beautiful areas Atikokan has to offer? If so, then prepare yourselves to travel on portages made by Northern Tier in some deeply remote areas of the Crown Lands. Your crew will face four challenging areas: the work of Highland Creek, the mud of Red Paint Portage, navigating “Fun and Games”, and the wilderness of the Balmoral River. The climb will be difficult, but the memories will last a life time. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.
The Log Flume

Difficulty: Very hard

Distance: 111 miles

Route:
(Atikokan Base, Perch, Seine River, Eye River, Eye, Dashwa, Wasp, Sandford, Mable, Elsie, Halfmoon, Nora, White Otter, Hawknest, Clearwater, Turtle, Mud Lake, Little Turtle River, Dovetail, Big Joe, Bootleg, Calm, Banning, Chub, Perch, Atikokan Base)

The history of this route is many fold. Be among the few who have been able to paddle out of Atikokan Base and return to it on the same trip. While you’re doing this, you will see the large White Otter Castle; the work of a woodsmen and prospector. Further along your route in Mud Lake you will see modern and traditional logging patches and be able to learn about their history. This route contains some rather challenging areas at the end of your trip, but you will have time to train. Still, be warned this route will be challenging to your body and soul, so be ready for anything on this adventure. There will be a day that is equal parts paddling and portaging. So, are you ready to embrace the culture of the north woods and ride the Log Flume? Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.
Start your journey headed south on the Seine River Diversion. Hop around a few rapids and a dam before joining in the main Seine River. Enjoy paddling with the current while you can, because next you’ll head north up the Eye River. Enjoy some peace and quiet passing through Ear Lake and Little Eye before embarking on a long paddle through the Green Zone with Eye and Dashwa. Follow the Bow Chain northeast. Meet some remote unnamed lakes and pass into Sparkle and Adele Turtle River before turning west. Tackle the Fun and Games portage - known for being a tricky trail. Then take Irene to the Gamble River and relax on a nice float. Now it’s time to test your paddling skills on large lakes from Sandford, to Mabel, to Elsie, to White Otter. See the White Otter Castle and the remains of a POW camp. Take a detour into Clearwater for a few extra miles. Head north through some strange portages and then follow a creek between Dimple and Dibble Lake. Then follow the Turtle River north into Smirch and Bending, then south again toward your pick up. Be sure to enjoy the beautiful waterfalls, rapids, and even a pictograph.
Float Plane
Routes
White Otter (Ann Bay) to Dashwa via Sandford

Distance: 56 miles

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

Route:
(White Otter, Nora, Halfmoon, Elsie, Mabel, Sandford, Wasp, Crowrock, Dashwa)

Maps:
White Otter G/4 Atikokan B/13

This route has the float plane set you down in Ann Bay, setting you up to paddle to whole of White Otter Lake. By the time your crew visits the White Otter Castle, you’ll be pro paddlers, which is good because you have more large water to paddle through. Take on Nora’s mucky portages and head east into Elsie and Mabel. Enjoy your time paddling the entirety of Sandford. It’s a lake known for its beautiful waters and great campsites. See the Wasp Lake pictographs before settling in for your final night. On your last day, cross the Green Zone either by paddling Crowrock and Dashwa lakes, or cut through a series of portages and beaver dams. Your shuttle will meet you on Dashwa’s sandy landing with a beautiful dock.
Dibble to Dashwa via Sandford

Distance: 54 miles

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

Route:
(Smirch, Dibble, White Otter, Nora, Elsie, Mabel, Sandford, Wasp, Crowrock, Dashwa)

Maps:
Pekagoning F/1
White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

Begin your trip in Smirch Lake and start heading south. Take time to enjoy the waterfall as you portage into Dibble. From Dibble begin your eastward journey. See an old trapper’s cabin just before you enter White Otter Lake. Visit White Otter Castle before portaging into Nora. It’s time to master big lake paddling as you cross from Nora into Elsie, Mabel and Sandford. Master portaging through muck and rocks. On Sandford, enjoy the vistas this large lake offers and visit an island campsite or beachy shore. Spend your last night on Wasp lake. On your last day, cross the Green Zone either by paddling Crowrock and Dashwa lakes, or cut through a series of portages and beaver dams. Your shuttle will meet you on Dashwa’s sandy landing with a beautiful dock.