2021 Atikokan Crown Land Route Book

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 your 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)
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.
Call of the Loon

Distance: 60 miles

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

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

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

This is the reverse option for Child’s Play. This route is a little bit harder, because you’ll have a long stretch to paddle day one, when you are still mastering paddling and portaging. Other than that, these two routes are very similar and take you across large lakes with beautiful campsites. See White Otter Castle. Motor boats can access these lakes, but they are rarely a nuisance.
Start your trip in a more remote area, seeking waterfalls and pictographs along the Turtle River. Then head east to the bigger lakes. Visit an old trapper’s cabin before stopping at the White Otter Castle. This route has it all: great campsites, beautiful scenes, moving water and steady lakes. It offers you glimpses of First Nation history and settlers’ past. Looking for more miles? Add on a loop through Nora, to the north of White Otter, ride the Turtle River south into Ann Bay and paddle back to Clearwater for your pick up.
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.
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.
From big water to rivers running, this trip gives you a sample of all that we offer. Start on Clearwater and White Otter and head east. 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. Then skip across Sandford and into Irene where the Gamble River will float you gently into Little Gull. Hop back on the river where it’s a straightforward yet scenic paddle down Dashwa to your pick-up point.
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 on Finlayson, a lake well loved by locals and visitors alike for its beautiful waters. Then, head north through an area that has just recently been connected by Northern Tier staff. Expect some tough terrain and muck on portages but know that you’ll be paddling through some gorgeous small lakes that rarely see humans. Pass through a series of unnamed lakes and come out on Little Gull. From there, ride the Gamble River to Wasp Lake. Then, be prepared for a long paddle south. Cross the Green Zone of Dashwa and Eye in one day - plan to be on water for the whole day, as this is a large distance to cover. Then, enjoy the beautiful, remote river system of the Eye River. At last, paddle into base on your 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.
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.
Start your trip with a long paddle out of the Green Zone or take on the challenge of taking a series of portages and a beaver dammed stream. Then keep heading north into the beautiful waters of Sandford. Next, head east into Irene before following a portion of the Gamble River on its lazy float into Little Gull. Be sure you’ve gotten good at paddling at portaging during the first part of this trip because now comes the adventurous part. Take the muddy portages south out of Little Gull to the Bow Chain. Then, keep heading south to cross unnamed lakes in a remote area that has only recently been travelled by Northern Tier crews. Expect some steep hills, some mucky trail, some strange landings, and a very rewarding wilderness adventure. Then finish your trip on 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.
Begin on the big lakes of Clearwater and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle, then head north. Take the challenging portages into Patricia and float the Jac Saga River through tall grass. Paddle across Dibble and Smirch. Keep your eyes out for pictographs near a waterfall and a rapid. Then begin your journey south into a more remote area. Follow the Turtle River south and portage around waterfalls and rapids in this beautiful, remote area. Finish the trip on Little Turtle Lake near Mine Centre. Be prepared to carry your gear to the pick-up point, as our vans cannot drive directly to the water. There are motor boats on White Otter and Little Turtle Lake, but they are usually friendly and polite, just looking to enjoy the water and the fish. This trip is great for seeing major sights of the area as well as some waterfalls and rapids.
This is a fantastic route that takes you through the sights and the sites to see in our area of the Crownlands. Visit White Otter Castle. Head East through the lady lakes of Nora, Elsie, Mabel and Irene. These lakes are beautiful paddling experiences, giving you plenty of time on water. Head south then west by riding the Gamble River through a section of lazy stream then into a well-paced river. Visit Sandford Lake, a favorite of Interpreters for its clean water and fantastic island campsites. Take on the challenge of the 3 km Ann Bay Portage, our longest portage. It certainly takes a long time to walk, but with the right attitude, definitely accomplishable. Then finish your trip via Clearwater.
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 triumphant 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.
Begin your adventure with a long paddle out of Dashwa, then head up the Bow Chain. Though it’ll take some effort, this beginning will get you into more remote areas right away. The Bow Chain is known for good fishing and for good moose sightings - so stay quiet and keep your eyes out. Then head north through a series of unnamed lakes before visiting Sparkle and Adele. Next up, pass through two famous and dynamic portages, one of which has earned the name “Fun and Games,” but both will make sure you remember them. Then begin heading back toward your pick-up. Either route through the Gamble River or through Sandford Lake. Upon returning to Dashwa, you may choose a long paddle or a series of portages and beaver dams.
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.
Distance: 95 miles
Difficulty: Medium/Hard
Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

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.
Difficulty: Hard
Distance: 95 miles
Route: (Finlayson, Hardtack, Highland, Lower Bow, Upper Bow, Sparkle, Adele, Boulder, Gamble, Grummet Creek, Upper Doan, Doan, Irene, Sandford, Wasp, Dashwa, Eye, Little Eye, Eye River, Ear, Seine River, Perch, Atikokan Base)
Maps: Atikokan B/12, White Otter, G/4, Gulliver G/3

Start your journey with a bit of a challenge. From Finlayson, go through a less traveled area from Hardtack to Highland to Lower Bow. This area has some tough portages with steep ups and mucky downs, but also offers some beautiful sights. Take Lower Bow and Upper Bow north to a remote section of lakes. Begin journeying west and check out an area that no Northern Tier crew has visited in recent years, but where there once were trails connecting Gamble, Grummet Creek, and Upper Doan (or cut south to take “Fun & Games”). Coast through the big lakes of Irene and Sandford before heading south through the Green Zone. Plan for a long day’s paddling as you’ll need to cross Dashwa and Eye before you can camp. Then, follow the Eye River chain, a stunning area, to the Seine River. At long last, paddle yourself 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.
Difficulty: Hard/Very Hard
Distance: 88 miles
Route: (Clearwater
    Hawknest
    White Otter
    Nora
    Patricia
    Balmoral
    McNamara
    Agimak
    McNamara
    Balmoral
    Patricia
    Nora
    White Otter
    Hawknest
    Clearwater)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
    White Otter G/4
    Ignace G/5

This is the only trip that consists of a 100% Yo-Yo route. Why would one choose to do this? It is still a challenging route as getting up to the town of Ignace will require some crafty navigation and determined and creative portaging, but the reward is an afternoon in town where you can treat yourself to a hot meal and cold ice cream. The second reason is that your return will provide a fantastic opportunity to put your newfound skills to the test and witness just how much you’ve grown individually and as a canoe travelling team. If you’re looking for a greater test of your skills, consider travelling down the Balmoral River upon your return. This river is a remote, challenging, team building machine that can also provide relief from the mental strain a true yo-yo route can provide. Note: The Balmoral River requires aluminum canoes to avoid the potential for damaged gear.
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)
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.
This route starts with the shuttle sweeping you away to our farthest drop off point. Then you’ll have to follow this route all the way home. Beginning on the Turtle River, you’ll see a few waterfalls and rapids. Keep your eyes peeled for pictographs. Then head east. You can visit an old trapper’s cabin and the White Otter Castle. Follow big lakes further east and be amazed with how your canoe can speed across the water on smooth days (or, if you’re less lucky, how much wind can slow down even the strongest paddle strokes). Even further east you will go, into a more remote area. Expect to cross two 1 km portages, one of which earned the name “Fun and Games.” At long last you can begin your journey south. Take the follow Upper Bow and Lower Bow to a couple mucky portages, then float down the Gamble River. Spend a long day’s work passing through the Green Zone to the Eye River. Follow this river chain through a beautiful area to the Seine River. Float your way back to 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.
Distance: 200 miles

Difficulty: Medium/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)
Begin your trip with a long paddle out of the Green Zone. Keep heading north to get a glimpse of Sandford before starting your journey east. Cross over the tricky “Fun and Games” portage. Meet Adele and Sparkle before heading south into a serious of unnamed lakes. Take the Bow Chain west and ride the Gamble River back into Wasp. Face Sandford again, from south to north, before moving into Mabel, Elsie, and White Otter. See the White Otter Castle and the remains of a POW camp. Head north through Nora into Patricia. Then begin follow the sun west down a creek into Dibble. Now you’re on the Turtle River, and you’ll remain in its waters for the rest of your trip. Go north into Bending Lake then turn south. See rapids, waterfalls, and even a pictograph. Pass through Johnson, Eltrut, and Robinson Lake before tackling the last stretch of the river into Little Turtle Lake for your pick up.
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.
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.
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 lifetime. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.
Maps: White Otter G/4, Ignace G/5, Stormy F/8, Pekagoning F/1, Manion C/16, Mine Centre C/15

When your crew puts in at Clearwater, North is the way to go. Up Clearwater, up White Otter, past White Otter Castle, up Nora, up Patricia, up and over a series of hard, soggy portages where few people roam, up to Balmoral. Then turn east and take on the challenge that makes this route Very Hard: the Balmoral River. Go over, go under, get out of the canoe, get back in, and most importantly, careful of your ankles. The Balmoral River takes only the best on its waters, but if you make it, you’ll have the pleasure of remote wilderness, a waterfall very few ever see, and the chance to grow together through teamwork. Cross Dibble then head north again. Keep out an eye for pictographs and paddle carefully - there’s whitewater to portage around. Take your crew north to Smirch before beginning the southern branch of the Turtle River. Follow the gentle current down a stunning river. Take a variety of short and long portages around rapids and waterfalls. Finish your trip on Little Turtle Lake near Mine Centre.
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
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
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.