

# BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP PLANNING GUIDE

## Clearwater Historic Lodge and Canoe Outfitters

At Clearwater Historic Lodge and Canoe Outfitters, we've helped people access the boundary waters for over 100 years. We believe that taking the time and effort to pick the right route at the right time of the year for the right group is the key to a great canoe adventure. There are many outfitters that service the BWCA, and hundreds of routes to choose from. All the outfitters have Wenonah Kevlar canoes, all of them have packs specifically made for canoes, all use freeze dried backpackers food, and they all use the same maps. So what is the difference? The difference is in the location of the outfitter, the time and effort that they put into your trip preparation, and their ability to help you pick a route that will match your group's interest.

At Clearwater Canoe Outfitters we believe a customized, tailored trip makes all the difference between having a good time in the BWCA and a great adventure that will be remembered forever. You spend all year working, planning, and looking forward to your vacation. We believe you deserve more than a vacation, you deserve an adventure!

## Five easy steps to your great adventure!

(Click the text on any box to jump to that page.)

Choose your date



Choose your route



Get your permit



Choose partial or complete  
outfitting



Make your reservation



# What Time of Year is Best?

People often ask what time of year is best for a boundary waters canoe trip. The answer depends on you. The height of the BWCA season is July and early August, but this might not be the best time for you. Each week brings out a different aspect of the BWCA. You should match the time of your trip to your group’s interests.

We can help you determine the best time for your group.

	Weather	Fishing	Vegetation & Wildlife	Bugs	Swimming	Crowds
May	Highs in the 60s & lows in the 40s.	Awesome! Fish can be caught in shallow water.	The animals and birds return.	No bugs! (Usually)	The water is still really cold.	Fishing Opener is always popular.
June	Highs in the 70s & lows in the 50s.	The top water fishing can be amazing.	Moose are active. Wildflowers are in full bloom.	Bugs are bad the first two weeks of warm weather.	The water is warming up enough to jump in.	School is out and families start to arrive.
July	Highs in the 80s & lows in the 60s.	The warm weather drives the fish deeper.	Raspberries and blueberries are ripe for picking.	Disappearing - still around at dusk and dawn.	Feels great after a day of paddling.	Busy season begins.
August	Highs in the 80s & lows in the 60s.	Fishing is good in early morning and evening.	If we've had rain you can still find berries.	Gone during the day.	The water is plenty warm.	Most popular month to visit.
September	Highs in the 60s & lows in the 40s.	The fish start coming back to the shallows.	The colors are changing.	No bugs!	You'd need to be pretty brave...!	The crowds are basically gone.

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# Which route is best?

The difference between a **good** canoe trip and a **great** canoe trip is the route. There are hundreds of possible routes and each route is unique.

We can help find a route that is perfect for your group.

## Ask yourself:

- What are the ages and physical condition of the people in my group?
- Are we more interested in a relaxed pace or a strenuous one?
- How important is fishing to the group?
- Are specific fish important to the fishers?
- Would we enjoy swimming in a waterfall?
- Do we want to hike and canoe or only canoe?
- Do we want to camp at a different site every night or have a base camp and take day trips away from this camp?
- Am I after some great photos?
- How challenging do I want my portages to be?
- Do we want total seclusion?

At Clearwater Lodge and Outfitters we pride ourselves on customized trips. We know that you spend a great deal of time planning and preparing for your vacations. So do we. We will go over your interests and make trip suggestions that match your interests.

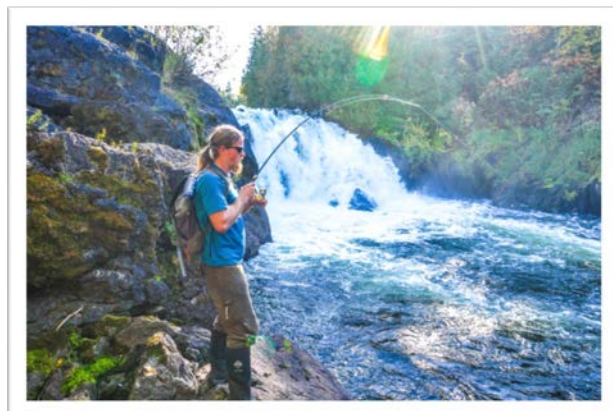
Looking for a route?  
Click this link: [Canoe Routes](#)



## Answers to some of our most asked questions:

- Kids do great on trips.
- Campsites are first come-first served.
- You can't have more than 9 people in a group per permit.
- You do not need a guide.

With clear route details, good instructions, and a detailed map you can enjoy your trip more without a guide than with a guide.





# Getting your Permit

## You need to know:

- Permits can be obtained by individual groups or by a BWCA outfitter.
- The cost and procedure is the same no matter who gets the permit.
- A permit costs \$16 per adult and \$8 per youth for your entire time in the BWCA.
- There is a \$6 processing fee per group.
- A permit is valid for up to 9 people.
- You need to select an entry point and specific date you want to enter the BWCA.
- Each entry point has a limited number of permits per day.
- To get your own permit go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) to create an account and fill out the forms.
- If you'd prefer to have an outfitter get your permit simply call and they will get it.
- Your permit can be picked up at the lodge or outfitter base that reserved your permit or at a Forest Service Ranger Station.



A little background on

## BWCA Permits

The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) is a federally designated wilderness preserve. Joined by the Quetico Provincial Park, the boundary water area has 2.3 million acres and 1600 lakes of pristine non-motorized wilderness that is primarily accessed by canoes. On the U.S. side alone there are 2,200 designated campsites that are used by people who go on multiple day trips. The U.S. Forest Service regulates the number of people who enter the BWCA by issuing permits. There are designated entry points all around the edge of the BWCA and each day a designated amount of permits are allotted to each entry point. These permits must be gained in advance to guarantee availability. Getting a permit is a critical step in planning your BWCA canoe trip.

We are happy to obtain your permit for you. Call us at 1-800-527-0554 or email us at [info@clearwaterhistoriclodge.com](mailto:info@clearwaterhistoriclodge.com)  
If you prefer you obtain your own permit visit: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

# Choose Partial or Complete Outfitting

## Partial Outfitting

Do you have most of the gear you need? Not a problem. We can help you fill in the missing pieces from a canoe to a cook kit.

Check out our website to see prices on individual items: [Equipment Rental](#) and [Canoe Rental](#).



## Not sure what type of canoe to rent?

Canoes are generally categorized in three types:

1. Aluminum canoes have a keel, are extremely durable and weigh about 62 pounds.
2. Kevlar canoes are the most popular. They do not have a keel and aren't as durable as aluminum, but they only weigh about 42 pounds. (If you are the one carrying the canoe when you portage, you'll quickly learn why Kevlar canoes are the most popular!)
3. Royalex canoes weigh about 58 pounds and are much more durable than Kevlar canoes.

We offer all three types of canoes. If you're not sure which would best fit your group call us and we can talk about the pros and cons of each type.

	Daily Rate per Canoe	Canoe Weights
Kevlar	\$46 for tandem \$54 for 3-man	42 pounds for tandem 50 pounds for 3-man
Aluminum	\$27 for tandem \$36 for 3-man	62 pounds for tandem 66 pounds for 3-man
Royalex	\$33 for tandem canoe	58 pounds

## Do you only need lodging?

If all you need is a place to lay your head the night before you head out on the water we've got you covered. We have bunk houses to accommodate you. Or, you can stay in our lodge. The lodge was built in 1926 and is the oldest remaining whole log structure in the entire region. Breakfast is included with your lodge room rental. Our daily breakfast is cook's choice and served hot for your group.

Accommodation	Sleeps	Rate	Breakfast	Bathroom
<a href="#">Bunkhouses</a>	4-10	\$22 per person	11.95 per person	Yes
<a href="#">Lodge Room</a>	2	Varies	Included	Shared
<a href="#">1 Bedroom Suite</a>	4	Varies	Included	Yes <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> Bathroom
<a href="#">2 Bedroom Suite</a>	4-6	Varies	Included	Yes <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> Bathroom

# Complete Packages

If you don't have any camping or canoeing gear you've come to the right place. We have complete packages that include everything you'll need for a great canoe trip. All our packages include transportation to any entry point on the Gunflint Trail, one night lodging in a bunkhouse, food (fresh the first night and then a selection of our quality freeze dried backpackers food), Thermo-rest sleeping pads, Slumberjack sleeping bags, packs, tents, maps and a routing session, bear rope, cooking stoves, first aid kit and rain ponchos.



**Ultra Light Wilderness Package:** this package includes an ultra-light aluminum canoe and covers all your basic needs. The gear is top notch and in great shape. The cook kit is aluminum and lightweight.

Number of Days	Price per Person
3	\$300
4	\$376
5	\$453
6	\$518
7	\$585

**Kevlar Wilderness Package:** this includes our deluxe, top-of-the-line, ultimate gear and equipment. In order to make your trip more comfortable we throw in extras like a hammock, crazy creek canoe chairs (gives you a back rest while in the canoe), Katadyn Hiker-Pro antimicrobial water purifier, thwart bags, dry bags, headlamps, and more.

Number of Days	Price per Person
3	\$340
4	\$430
5	\$525
6	\$595
7	\$655

Check out our website for more information about our [Complete Outfitting Packages](#).

Scouts, Church Groups and other large or Non-Profit group rates available upon request.

## Make your reservation

Hopefully by now you're excited to take a canoe trip in the BWCA.

Let us know what kind of trip you are looking for and we'll start crafting a perfect trip for you. Fill out the [Outfitting Request Form](#), [email us](#), or give us a call.



1-800-527-0554 / 1-218-388-2254

[info@clearwaterhistoriclodge.com](mailto:info@clearwaterhistoriclodge.com)

<http://clearwaterhistoriclodge.com>

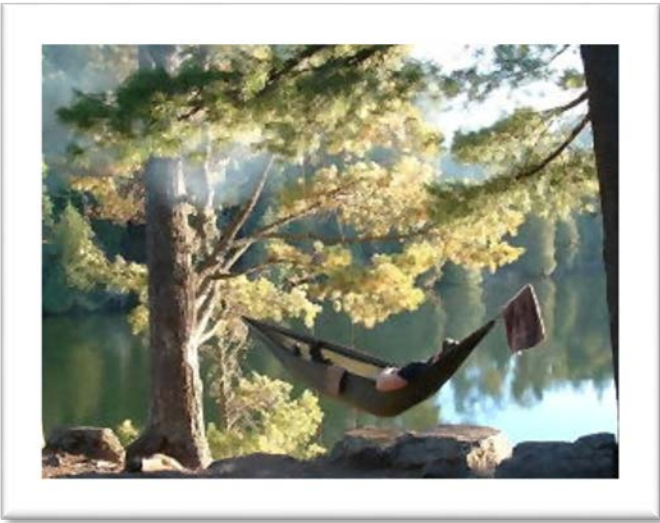
### Where is Clearwater Lodge?

Clearwater Lodge is located half-way up the Gunflint Trail on Clearwater Lake. Paddlers can access the BWCA directly from our dock into entry point #62. The lodge the oldest remaining whole log structure in the entire region and is listed on the National Historic Registry. Clearwater Lake is believed by many to be the second clearest lake in Minnesota, second only to Lake Superior. Along with our outfitting services, we have 8 cabins and 5 rooms in the lodge that can be rented if you want to experience the BWCA without sleeping in a tent. Call or [email](#) today to inquire about booking a cabin or lodge room.



Let us help plan your next  
Great Adventure.





Thank you!  
We hope to see you soon.

