



**SOPER RIVER EXPEDITION
META INCOGNITA PENINSULA ~ NUNAVUT**



JULY 6 - 14 • JULY 20 - 28

THE ULTIMATE NORTHERN CANOE TRIP . . .

CANADA'S BAFFIN ISLAND - now Inuit governed NUNAVUT TERRITORY - lies to the north of the Labrador sea, and to the west of Greenland. It offers some of the earth's most spectacular and dramatic glacial arctic landscapes. Rugged coastlines are indented with countless fiords; glaciers cover much of the wild interior. The rolling tundra glows with delicate arctic flowers and lichens - all illuminated by the sublime radiance of the midnight sun.



**SUNRISE
INTERNATIONAL**
MARTIN BROWN & ASSOCS.

EXPEDITION SERVICES & RIVER GUIDES
~ SINCE 1973 ~

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Inhabited by the proud and stalwart Inuit, Baffin Island is also home to the full range of arctic wildlife; caribou, seals, walrus and polar bears roam freely, and roughly 12% of the North American bird population breeds on Baffin. Renowned for its artists, the vibrant culture of the **Baffin Inuit** has produced some of the finest artists and sculptors in the North. Open canoeing on Baffin Island was virtually unheard of - until our **first descent** of the upper **Soper River** in July 1990.

THE **SOPER RIVER VALLEY**, on the **META INCOGNITA PENINSULA**, along the southern end of the island, directly across the Hudson Strait from the Ungava Peninsula, is considered one of the most beautiful pieces of terrain in the eastern arctic.



EVENING CAMP



CLASS II WHITEWATER

As we approach the coast, and Soper Falls, we link up with local Inuit guides who escort us into the small, native community of **KIMMIRUT**, (formerly Lake Harbour.) This historic, traditional community has greeted whalers, missionaries, and traders since the 1860's, and is renowned for its intense soapstone carvings. Offshore excursions, among icebergs and polar bears, are optional.



LUNCH BREAK

The trip meets in Ottawa, the evening prior; **FIRST AIR** scheduled flights, (group fares arrg. through Sunrise) take the party to **IQUALUIT**, the bustling capital of newly formed Nunavut Territory, from which point the party embarks, via air charter to the river.



ARCTIC POLER

Proclaimed the "**Oasis of Baffin Island**", the Soper River Valley receives both federal and territorial protection. This pristine valley is characterized by lush and delicately flowered tundra, intimate gorges, thin wisps of waterfalls cascading off terraced escarpments - lit by the soft glow of the summer northern light. The Soper River is moderate in terms of whitewater; comprised of many short, runnable **Class I-II+** rapids - ideal for novices.

Access is via twin-engine Otter, equipped with "tundra tires"; landing directly adjacent to the river. The climate is surprisingly dry, and there are **no black flies**. The pace is fairly relaxed, allowing ample time for some spectacular **side hikes**, and excellent **Arctic Char fishing**.



\$3250 (\$6350 for Two) (from Iqaluit, Nunavut)

\$1000 DEPOSIT REQD. • FAMILY & GROUP RATES AVAILABLE

See following pages for specific logistical details

~ RIVER GUIDES & EXPEDITION SERVICES SINCE 1973 ~
CANADA • MAINE • AMERICAN SOUTHWEST • ARCTIC • INTERNATIONAL



SOPER RIVER
NUNAVUT TERRITORY

ITINERARY & LOGISTICS
~ 2008 ~

ITINERARY

Evening of Arrival: (7/5, 7/19) Meet in OTTAWA at the **The Southway Inn**, in the vicinity of the Ottawa Airport. **Briefing** for final logistics and review of personal gear in conference room at 7 P.M. Hotel accommodations at participants' cost, and should be guaranteed by credit card. (Sunrise will reserve a block of rooms). Vehicles may be left at the Southway, or at the airport parking facility.

SOUTHWAY INN
2431 Bank Street South
(at Hunt Club Road)
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8R9
1-87-SOUTHWAY or 613-737-0811
(Directions to hotel incl. with trip confirmation)

Day 1: (7/6, 7/20) Take **scheduled morning flight** (on First Air) from **Ottawa to Iqaluit**. Arrive early afternoon in IQUALUIT, capital of Nunavut, and the region's service and government center. Typical of many northern communities, where the modern world and old ways mix, one hears the sounds of English, French, and Inuktitut. After quick last minute prep., embark on late afternoon/early evening **charter flights into upper reaches of Soper River**. Aircraft used will be twin engine Otter, (canoes placed inside), equipped with oversized "tundra tires". Plane lands directly on tundra "strip" in vicinity of Mt. Joy; approximately 63° 15'; roughly 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

Days 2-7: Proceed DOWNRIVER, approximately 80 km, towards the coast. Whitewater typically never exceeds moderate Class II. Ample time has been allotted to run the river, so as to allow for some relaxed exploring, side hikes (such as the former mica sites; Baffin's only "forest" of centuries old Dwarf Arctic Willows, and Livingstone Falls) as well as arctic char fishing. At Soper Falls we are met by a party of local Inuit from the coastal community of Kimmirut, who shuttle us across Soper Lake and into the settlement of Kimmirut.

Day 7: (aft./eve.) KIMMIRUT; We are guests of the community. Formerly known as Lake Harbour, this traditional native settlement, the best natural harbor on South Baffin, is one of the oldest settled communities on Baffin; and has produced some of the finest carvers and printmakers in the far north. We participate in a home dinner that evening, and camp on the outskirts of town.

Day 8: Morning in Kimmirut; opportunity to explore the town, shop for carvings, etc. **Charter flight back to Iqaluit.** Check into **The Discovery Lodge**, Iqaluit's best full service hotel. Accommodations, based on double occupancy, are included in the trip price; (single occupancy at additional charge.)

Day 9: (7/14, 7/28) Iqaluit. Morning available for touring and shopping in town. Early afternoon flight to Ottawa, arriving approximately 5P.M. (Later flights occasionally scheduled). Most people opt to stay in Ottawa (at the Southway) upon their return.



KIMMIRUT - EST. 1909

NOTE: Please bear in mind that this is an expedition in the Far North, and changes in itinerary may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and conditions.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:

Airfare from Ottawa, Ontario to Iqaluit, Nunavut (on **FIRST AIR**, Canada's "Airline of the North") is at participant's own expense; however Sunrise International is a tour agent for First Air and arranges a discounted group fare, (approximately 50% of the regular published fare.) At time of writing fares are approximately \$700 USD; we generally take payment for the airfare 30 days in advance of trip departure. Sunrise also operates in conjunction with a full service travel agency and can assist you with obtaining competitive airfares to Ottawa from your local departure city.

INCLUDED:

Air charter from Iqaluit to the river, and return via Kimmirut; all land and/or water transfers on Baffin; the services of two Sunrise guides, (at least one of whom is a senior northern expedition leader); also we usually employ a local Inuit guide to accompany the trip; all canoes, camping/ river gear, all meals on river; home dinner in settlement of Kimmirut; accommodations upon return to Iqaluit at The Discovery Lodge.

NOT INCLUDED:

Scheduled airfare from Ottawa to Iqaluit; hotel accommodations in Ottawa; last night's dinner and any other meals in Iqaluit; personal expenses and purchases; gratuities; liquor (*not permitted in Kimmirut*).

Adventure travel in the arctic is often unpredictable - due to unforeseeable weather and logistical considerations. We will provide you with an **optional** travel insurance application - should you desire trip and/or personal insurance protection at your own expense for this excursion. **Sunrise is not responsible for individual travel costs (extra accommodations, airline change fees, etc.) incurred by participants due to natural forces and/or or logistical impediments beyond our control.**

BALANCE OF PAYMENT:

Trip balances are due in our Maine office **30 days prior to trip departure date**. We prefer checks or wire transfer for payment of balances, but will also accept credit cards (Visa/MC/AMEX)

TRIP FORMS:

Unless already submitted, a trip form is enclosed. **KINDLY FILL OUT ALL THE FORMS PROVIDED AND RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** This will enable our guide to prepare for your trip properly.

FISHING

Fishing will be exclusively for Arctic Char - up to 15 pounds. There are numerous pools and holding areas along the course of the river that can be fished. The preferred method is spin casting using brightly colored (reds, orange, pink) spoons and lures. However, you can also flyfish using highly visible streamers and sinking tip leaders; current may be fairly substantial. The run upriver by the sea run char happens later in the year but there are fish holding over in the river so there is generally the opportunity to catch a few fish. A fishing license can be obtained in Iqaluit before you fly into the Soper Valley for about \$40 CDN.



FOOD PREFERENCES & ALLERGIES, MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Most food concerns can be accommodated given notice (*hence our request for timely return of the trip forms.*) We carry both a satellite EPERB and/or satellite phone for evacuation in case of medical emergency, as well as complete major medical kits.

PACKING CONSIDERATIONS:

A **complete northern packing list** will be forwarded with your reservation confirmation. Individual river bags, tents, PFD's etc. are all provided, although participants are welcome to bring their own, if suitable. Essentially one should be prepared for a climate comparable to northern New England in October; e.g. temperatures range from daytime temps (*Fahrenheit*) in the mid 50's to the upper-mid 70's; to 30's and 40's in the evening hours. Sunrise currently has a load of canoes cached in Iqaluit. All other gear and provisions are air freighted annually to Iqaluit, except for some food items which are purchased locally.

INSURANCE:

Sunrise Expeditions International does not carry medical insurance on trip participants. Make sure your present medical insurance provides adequate coverage in case of accident or illness during the trip. Sunrise carries equipment or baggage at your own risk of loss. If your present policies do not provide the coverage you desire, or you wish additional protection for yourself or your baggage, we recommend that you purchase short-term traveler's insurance which is available from a number of companies. An application form from one such company is provided. This company also offers trip cancellation/emergency evacuation insurance.

CANADIAN BORDER, IDENTIFICATION, CURRENCY ISSUES, FISHING LICENSES:

U.S. citizens need only a valid government issued picture I.D.; passports, although not technically required (as date of this writing), are recommended.

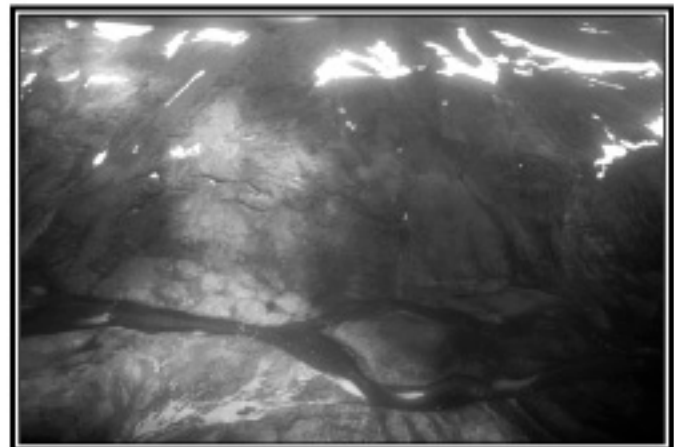
Please remember to exchange U.S. cash into Canadian cash either at the airport of entry or at a bank enroute for incidental expenses. Do not expect local merchants to negotiate accurate exchange rates upon demand. However all major credit cards are accepted throughout Iqaluit, and both the Co-op and the Hudson's Bay store in Kimmirut accept VISA and Mastercard.

Non-resident fishing licenses may be obtained at the Department of Natural Resources in Iqaluit at very reasonable cost.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are several good book departments in Iqaluit, notably the one at Arctic Ventures. Particularly recommended is:

THE NUNAVUT HANDBOOK;
Nortext Publishing; Box 8; Iqaluit, NT XOA OHO
1-800-263-1452
www.arctic-travel.com



ORIGINAL LANDING SITE - UPPER RIVER - 1990



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- SINCE 1973 -

