



IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

Course Itinerary

This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip. Our exact schedule will depend highly on the weather, strength of the group, and time of year.

Day 0: Arrive in Haines. As students arrive into Haines, we will meet everyone at the airport and/or ferry terminal. After dinner we will have a pre-course meeting with the whole group where we talk about expectations, the structure of the course, and go over everyone's gear to make sure they have what they need.

Day 1-3: Sea Kayaking We pack up our kayaks and hit the ocean. We will spend time going over paddling technique and technical kayaking skills. We will spend the next few days exploring the coves, pristine waters, and coastal trails around the Haines Peninsula. The area is full of vibrant flora and fauna - students often spot otters, seals, porpoises, eagles, and whales from the kayaks! We will enjoy evenings at the coastal campsites and campfires in the inter-tidal zone (weather permitting!). The group will return to base camp on the third day to gear up for the next adventure!

Day 4: Whitewater Rafting We will drive north into Canada for some whitewater rafting on the Blanchard River. After donning wetsuits and life jackets, our experienced guides will provide instruction on paddling and river safety. After a safety briefing, we will get on the river for a day of adventure! The Blanchard River starts with a series of gentle drops that give paddlers time to practice before the Blanchard converges with the Tatshenshini River. The latter half of the river offers fun rapids and wave trains. At the end of the day, we will return to the base camp in Haines.

Day 5-9: Backpacking We will leave base camp in the morning bound for the alpine tundra of Canada! The backpacking along the Chuck Creek Trail affords scouts opportunities to take in the breathtaking scenery. Tall mountains and a vast glacial landscape set the backdrop as we trek through gravelly riverbeds, tundra, and wildflowers. We may hike up nearby peaks that offer great scenic vistas. The group will return to town by 3:00 PM on the final day. We can drop off students to their parents (if parents did not join us for the adventure) anywhere in Haines – lodging, ferry terminal, or airport. Students and their families can plan on departing Haines on Day 9 — departure time should not be scheduled prior to 5:00 PM on the final day of the trip.

