

Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club

Trip Classification

For each trip, the elements of Pace (1-3), Skill (A-D) and Duration (1-5) are determined by the Trip Coordinator and combined into a detailed trip rating and trip an overall rating. Paddlers can assess their suitability for the trip based on each of the elements and the overall rating (Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced)

Pace	
1	Not Strenuous: Daily paddling typically less than 3 hours with flat water distances of 10 km or less and moving water distances of 15 km or less.
2	Moderately Strenuous: Daily paddling typically between 3 and 5 hours with daily flat water distance of 10 to 25 km or daily moving water distances of up to 35 km.
3	Strenuous: Daily paddling typically more than 5 hours, with daily flat water distances of 25 km or more, or daily moving water distances of 35 km or more.
Skill Requirements	
A	<p>Beginner: Little or no previous paddling experience</p> <p>Flat Water or Ocean Class I Gentle trips in non-challenging protected waters with limited wind effect, little or no current, easy landings.</p> <p>Moving Water Class I Passages clear except for minor obstructions, little to no current, no rapids.</p>
B	<p>Novice: Can perform the basic paddling strokes and manage boat. May require aid on the water. Learning how to judge paddling conditions.</p> <p>Flat Water or Ocean Class I to II Requires basic paddling skills, practiced wet exits for kayaks. Expect protected waters, easy landings and shelter for resting.</p> <p>Moving Water Class I to Class II Passages clear except for minor obstructions. Small, regular rapids. Easily navigated passages.</p>
C	<p>Intermediate: Experienced, safe, self-sufficient paddler.</p> <p>Flat Water or Ocean Class II Requires basic paddling skills including ability to brace, self-rescue, and participate in assisted rescue. Be comfortable in 1-meter waves. Mostly protected waters. Short crossings, moderate potential wind effects, gentle to moderate non-turbulent currents, easy to moderate landings and light surf beaches, some difficult landings, and some sheltered spots for resting.</p> <p>Moving Water Class II Most passages clear, though may be narrow. Fairly frequent rapids. Regular, medium-sized waves, low ledges, sweepers and log jams may be present.</p>
D	<p>Advanced: Requires advanced paddling, seamanship and rescue skills. Ability to handle waves greater than 1meter. Expect exposed waters, open crossings, moderate to strong windsurf, fog and potentially difficult landings. Sheltered resting and landing spots could be few.</p> <p>Flat Water or Ocean Class III Exposed water, sparsely populated areas with more committing crossings, moderate to strong currents with turbulence, moderate to strong wind effects, ocean swells, fog difficult landings, surf-beaches.</p> <p>Moving Water Class III Rapids numerous. Waves high, powerful, irregular, exposed rocks and strong eddies. Prior inspection is required.</p>
Isolation and Duration	
1	Part day trip near urban areas.
2	Day trip near urban areas or weekend trip in car-accessible campsites.
3	Weekend trip up to 100 km from urban areas with wilderness camping.
4	Week-long trip up to 100 km from urban areas with wilderness camping.
5	Multi-day trip in extremely remote area such as northern Canada or Haida Gwaii.

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Trip Classification

Examples:

Wednesday Night River Paddles:	Detailed: 1A1 Overall:		Beginner
Islet Lake	Detailed: 1A1 Overall:		Beginner
Wabamun Lake:	Detailed: 2B2 Overall:		Novice
Devon to Edmonton:	Detailed: 2A1 Overall:		Novice
Blue Ridge to Fort Assiniboine	Detailed: 3B3 Overall:		Intermediate
Bowron Lakes Canoe Circuit:	Detailed: 2B4 Overall:		Intermediate
Haida Gwaii	Detailed: 2C5 Overall:		Advanced
Nahanni	Detailed: 3D5 Overall:		Advanced