

What are the trails and terrain like?

The terrain of the South Chilcotin Mountains is some of the most spectacular and vast alpine you will encounter in BC. The trails vary from dense treed bush-land, open grasslands, technical sections along rivers where you will encounter scree and rocks, technical wooded sections with roots, and steep rocky mountain passes. Most trails were originally created by cattle and horses and are still used by the odd horse-back tour, hikers, and of course mountain bikers. Depending on weather and usage, some sections of the trails may be muddy, but passable. Technical sections will be found on almost all trails which can include crossing scree slopes, loose rocks, technical lines through rocks, some roots, some exposure, switchbacks, and lots of fun flow sections. Expect to have many uphill sections, some are longer and sustained with some hike-a-biking (up to 2 hours) and others are shorter and punchier.

Will there be river crossings and hike-a-biking?

Yes, and Yes! We will be crossing rivers during most camps and your feet will get wet. There will be some pushing of bikes up steeper trails depending on ability and fitness. Everyone will get to the top and it will be so worth it! **Chilcotins Alpine Adventure camp will have multiple and bigger creek crossings and longer/steeper alpine passes with hike-a-biking (day 1 and 2). Explorer Camp will have a hike-a-bike up a mountain pass on day 2 (2hrs)*

What kind of mountain bike should I bring on my trip?

We recommend that you bring an all-mountain style bike that has 130-150mm of travel and is relatively light (25-35lbs) for the long climbs and uphill pedaling sections. Due to the nature of this adventure - lots of climbing, and technical descents - the following bikes are NOT recommended: Heavier Enduro / DH bikes, Steep Angled Cross-Country bikes and Ebikes (Ebikes are not allowed in the park as per provincial laws, nor allowed on the aircraft). If your bike falls in the latter category, we recommend you rent a bike for the trip! The closest rental shops with lots of bike options would be Whistler.

Are there special restrictions when flying with mountain bikes?

Yes. 5 people with bikes and packs/gear fit well in the plane, up to a maximum of 5 people with light daypacks and bikes can be accommodated provided the maximum capacity is not exceeded. Any bear spray must be removed from bags and given to the pilot for safe transport. Wheels must come off the bikes (front or both, depending on load). Participants are responsible for getting their wheels off their bikes. *Ebikes are not allowed on the aircraft, nor in the Chilcotins backcountry.*

Is there anything specific I should do to my bike before coming on this trip?

Please make sure your bike is in PERFECT running condition and has been freshly checked over by a mechanic (and then test ridden) before the trip. We are not set up to encounter any major repairs in the backcountry. Fresh tires, fresh brake pads, smooth drive train, suspension and seat post checked, spokes checked, etc. Make sure you know how to (and have tools) to take off both wheels. With bikes going in the back of the plane with wheels off it's good to have a caliper spacer while your wheel is off in case brake levers get accidentally squeezed and cause problems with your brakes. Your local bike shop will have these. Also ask your mechanic for a spare chain quick link or pins specific to your chain as well as a derailleur hanger – all of which is very specific to your bike.

What time do we leave and where do I stay the night before the trip?

Most camps meet up at 7am, with the first group flying out at 8am. *See your trip itinerary for confirmation.*

There may be up to 3 flights which take 30-45 minutes round trip. Be prepared by wearing/having warmer layers for while we are in the Alpine waiting for the rest of the group. **It's highly recommended to arrive the night before the camps starts.** Accommodation the night before is up to the participant to arrange. The following are some close by options:

Tyax Lodge & Camping: <https://tyax.com/wilderness-resort-accommodation/>

Gold Bridge Hotel - <https://m.facebook.com/GoldbridgeHotelCafeBar/>

Friburg Rec Site - <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/search/search-result.aspx?type=Site&site=REC4557>

Mowson Pond Rec Site - <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/Mobile/Search/search-result.aspx?site=REC4591&districtCode=RDCS&type=Site>

Airbnb's - may require multiple nights, be sure to check the location to make sure it is close to the base

Most camps will finish around 3pm so there is time to drive home, or to another destination or stay and enjoy the area some more! Check out all the options here: <https://bridgerivervalley.ca/stay/>

What kind of shops/services are near Tyax Base?

There are no shops or services nearby. The closest towns are Gold Bridge (20min away) and Bralorne (40 min away) and they have very limited resources; gas station, simple convenience store, pub, and rustic hotel. Tyax Lodge does have a small gift shop and restaurant, and if you are a guest of the Lodge, they offer spa services and free kayak and paddleboard rental. *Please note the Lodge is not open on Mondays and Tuesdays and require 2 nights minimum for a Fri/Sat booking.* The best approach for packing is to be over prepared, and to make sure you have a full tank of gas and plenty of extra food for before and after the trip. Also be prepared to have no cell or WIFI connection during your entire trip!

Where is Tyax Adventures Base?

Tyax Adventures Base is approximately 2.5 hours North of Pemberton via the Hurley FSR (very rough non paved mountain road) or about 4 hours via the Duffy Lake Road and Route 40 from Lillooet (partly gravel road but fine in any car with good tires). Tyax base is located adjacent to Tyax Resort Lodge (look for small outbuilding on your way to the lodge front entrance)

Directions are available here: <https://tyxadventures.com/about/location/>.

**Do not drive here in an electric vehicle, there are NO charging stations.*

***Please note that Google Maps is showing an incorrect route from Lillooet to Tyax Lodge. You will be updated with exact directions. Do not follow google maps as it's taking you on unnecessary FSR's instead of paved road.*

What is the weather like in the South Chilcotin Mountains?

Tyaughton Lake and Spruce Lake are located on the border between the Chilcotin Mountains and the Coast Mountains. The temperature is substantially cooler in the early morning and evening, so make sure you bring warm layers for sunrise and sundown. In the higher alpine areas, please be prepared for even cooler weather - we could even get snow! The middle of the day will be the warmest and is a great time to swim in the lakes.

Please note the weather in the mountains can change rapidly during the day so you must pack for every kind of weather even if it looks nice at the base!

Average temperature range:

June
77F/25C high
41F / 5C low

July
JUL: 82F / 28C high
46F / 8C low

Aug
86F / 30C high
50F / 10C low

What types of clothing are recommended?

Lightweight, quick-drying fabrics such as wool or other wicking fibers. Do not bring cotton as it retains heat and moisture. During the early morning and evening the temperature cools down significantly so make sure you have a warm jacket like a puffy, warm hat, long socks, warmer gloves, and always a lightweight waterproof jacket you can depend on. You will be packing all your clothes with you while riding so choose lightweight and minimal (re-wear most of your clothes). *Please refer to the specific packing list provided.*

What kind of facilities are available in the backcountry camps?

The Tyax Adventures backcountry camps are all equipped with fresh filtered drinking water, canvas wall tents, each with 2 raised single beds with thick foam mattresses and foam pillows, a cozy thick sleeping bag, and spots to hang your gear. You will be supplied with crocs and a fleece jacket you can wear at camp if you like. Each camp also has a main cook/dining cabin with a wood stove, space to dry out your gear, warm showers, and outhouses. Outside there are fire pits for having bonfires under the stars (when possible), as well as a large, covered picnic table.

*During your stay at the backcountry camp please remember that we are in the **remote wilderness**. In the event there is a facility complication during your stay, please be kind and patient as these things can usually not be fixed as quickly as they could due to the remote nature of their locations. We will always do our best to provide the best experience possible, with whatever resources we have.

** Please note you do not have to a pack sleeping bag, thermarest, pillow, or camp footwear - all of that will be provided for you at the backcountry camps. See packing list provided

Can I drink the water in camp or in the backcountry?

Filtered drinking water is available at each camp, usually this water comes from a nearby creek and is then filtered through a gravity filter system or put through a boiling purification process. We recommend bringing a water bladder and hose for your backpack and filling up at camp prior to hitting the trail to be sure you have enough water for the day. There are many streams and creeks available throughout the South Chilcotins and while we don't recommend drinking directly from most of these sources you can easily bring a portable filter or water purification tablets. ** You should ride with a 2-2.5L bladder & water bottle and the coaches will carry purifying tabs to re-fill in the creeks. It's a good idea to use electrolyte tabs or powder in your water since we'll be spending lots of energy out on the trails!*

Can you cater to special diet requirements?

Tyax Adventures can accommodate vegetarians, gluten free and those with allergies. If you have allergies, please note on your booking form and be sure to let us know your specifics well in advance. Due to the remote

locations and limited food access, the chefs are only able to cater to allergies and not necessarily every food preference.

Do I need to pack extra food?

Yes! We highly recommend you pack yourself extra food, like your favorite trailside snacks. You will receive trail snacks daily, but if you're picky, or extra hungry having more is always better! Typical packed lunches will include a sandwich, bar, fruit, and nut mix. While this may sound like plenty, you will be surprised how much energy you are spending and how much more food than normal you will eat. You can never go wrong with having too much! It is also good to have electrolyte tabs to put in your water bottle.

Is alcohol allowed in camps?

Alcohol is allowed in camps, and you are allowed to carry your own, although this will make your pack very heavy, so please do not do that! Tyax Adventures offers beer, cider and wine to be pre-ordered and ready waiting for you in camp. You will need to pre-book this at least 7 days in advance.

Do I need to bring a first aid kit?

Our guides are trained and prepared for first aid situations. Packing and carrying your own first aid kit on rides is optional. If you require specific medical attention, you are required to notify Tyax Adventures upon booking to ensure our guides are prepared. Please bring sufficient prescribed medication(s) with you.

Are there Bears and/or Bugs?

During most tours, we venture into remote country and even though there will be an abundance of wildlife, it can be rare to spot them. With proper precautions, it is unlikely any will bother us on our tours. Certain times of the year there are mosquitoes, black flies, horse flies and other bugs. We recommend you bring bug spray or light long sleeve shirts if you have a tendency to attract them.

Is there a power supply at the backcountry camps?

There is no power supply to re-charge your phone or camera so please be prepared with a light portable one if needed, or only use your phone very sparingly.

Is there cell coverage or WIFI in the area?

There is no cell reception anywhere in the backcountry nor at Tyax Resort. Limited access to WIFI and landlines are available at Tyax Lodge for emergencies. Enjoy your time being disconnected!

Do I need to bring an Emergency Device & Bear Spray?

Your guides will have InReaches, radios, and bear spray so you do not need to bring these items. If you have your own Bear Spray and know how to use it, please feel free to bring it with you and let the Pilot and guides know you have it.

What are the tipping guidelines?

Pricing includes tips for Tyax Adventures staff, pilots, camp hosts, shuttle drivers, and guest service. Additional tips for Sweet Skills coaches are always appreciated and is at your discretion. Tyax Adventures & Sweet Skills prides itself on our outstanding crew and we are there to meet all your expectations.