



Ouje Bougoumou

Cree Culture, Natural Resources, and Sustainability

Itinerary: March 8-19, 2017

This itinerary is subject to change. There is an inherent unpredictable nature to bush life. Sometimes the most wonderful and unique experiences on this trip come from the surprises and our ability to be flexible.

Wednesday, March 8

- 1:00pm** Arrive at UMass, Pack Trailer, and Van (Holdsworth Hall “back parking lot”). Check for passports.
- 1:45pm** Depart UMass Amherst for Hulbert Outdoor Center (~2 hours)
- 4:00 pm** Arrive at Hulbert Outdoor Center – Introductions, setting group norms, equipment review, Description of what’s to come, preparing for cultural immersion
- 6:00pm** Dinner
- 7:00pm** Discussion about Cree culture, their current and past issues. Expectations and tips for joining a Cree community and being good guests. Pack up trailer as best we can.
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Thursday, March 9

- 4:45 am** Wake up call
- 5:00 am** Coffee, continental breakfast, pack bag lunch, pack final items into trailer. Check for passports.
- 6:00 am** Van leaves from Hulbert Outdoor Center
- 12:00pm** Lunch at La Tuque, QC, Canada
- 7:00pm** Arrive at Ouje Bougoumou, Eat dinner, Settle in at the Cultural Village tent
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Friday, March 10

- 9:00 am-12:00 pm** Cree Cultural Institute (see exhibits, meet staff, behind-the-scenes tour)
- 12:00pm** Lunch
- 1:00pm** Village tour with a Cree host ...free time for snowshoeing before dinner.

~5:00pm Welcome from Cree Hosts, Anna & David Bosum; orientation & review week

Saturday, March 11

AM Pack and leave for bush, traveling to camp by snowshoe (gear carried by skidoo) trail snack along the way. Scott Lake camp.

PM Set up camp, which might include any or all of the following: exploration, gathering spruce boughs, getting water, helping Anna prepare dinner, or something unexpected.

EVE stories from the past, camp games, legends, journal writing, art projects, etc.

**Sunday, March 12 –
Thursday, March 16**

Winter life in a bush camp learning about traditional ways, for example, camp chores, setting and checking fish nets, setting snares, learning about bush medicine, looking for beaver, collecting boughs, sewing, wood carving, baking bannock, and observing and helping Anna prepare animals for food and fur.

There is often a morning and afternoon activity session. One part of the day usually includes a long snowshoe trek, while the other part of the day may focus on smaller tasks or individual craft, whittling or camp chores.

Friday, March 17

AM Breakfast and break down camp and return to the village. Lunch

PM Free time, Cree Cultural Institute gift shop, walks.

EVE Prepare a dinner for the Bosum family and other friends at the Cultural Village. Lodging at Cultural Village.

Saturday, March 18

6:00 am Departure for Vermont

12:00pm Lunch at La Tuque, QC

5:30pm Arrive back at Hulbert. Unpack personal belongings, settle into cabins

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Shower, resting, hanging out, personal or group reflection

Sunday, March 19

7:30am Breakfast. Sort, clean, pack and store equipment.

9:30am Course Evals, Reflections, Appreciations, and Good byes

10:00am

Depart for UMass Amherst

12:00pm

Arrive at UMass Amherst (Holdsworth Hall "back parking lot")