

28. RIDE SHOTGUN IN A FLOATPLANE

Traveling doesn't get a lot more off the beaten path than being in a single-prop that's flying toward a mountainside—while battling rogue winds—and then bank-turning between two craggy peaks. If you're taking a floatplane trip, it means you're going somewhere remote. Which means you're flipping open the first page of an unforgettable chapter in your life. And after releasing your orangutan grip on the vomit bag, you'll never complain about a mid-winter landing at O'Hare again.

Black Sheep Aviation (www.flyblacksheep.ca) is based in Whitehorse, Yukon, and services northern British Columbia, Alaska, and the Northwest Territories. "You fly between mountain peaks and land on a very tiny lake," canoe savant Cliff Jacobson says of his trip to the Snake River. "It is awesome."

29. VACATION ON \$2K OR LESS

Talk to someone who has lived on an outdoor guide's salary about the places they have traveled. No, they weren't able to spend six months in Chile because they guided Bill Gates down the Salmon; it's because they have mastered the art of "dirt-bagging" while traveling. And besides, some of the best local foods are from street vendors, and the cheapest hostels usually have the most "local flair." While your stomach may pay the price, your wallet will thank you, and you can big league your friends with stories of cow brain street tacos in Mexico City.

Lonely Planet has a travel forum that can offer invaluable tips on top travel values (www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree).

30. WEAR A HEAD NET—WITH PANACHE!

Few things are more appealing to the opposite sex than the confident stride of a man wearing a new head net. Whether you're in midtown Manhattan or midstream Missinaibi, the only thing landing on your face will be the lips of yet another passionate female unable to resist the lure of a welt-free mug.

Log on to www.campmor.com and search for "Head Net." Price is \$4.99. Confident stride not included.

31. ORGANIZE THE LILLYDIPPER OLYMPICS

With all the importance placed on technique and performance, don't forget to have recess once in awhile. Sometimes, you have to just play. *Paddler* contributor Mike McCrea often organizes a group of canoeists to participate in the annual Lillydipper Games. Contestants compete in such events as the Bow Only Race and the Stand and Deliver Poling Competition. It doesn't matter how good your friends are. Getting people out of their comfort zones can be pleasing and amusing. "I think the best part of it is seeing people smiling and laughing. The simple joy of it. Plus, the amusement of watching people screw up."

Tips: "You need to offer contestants prizes, even if it's stupid \$2 swag stuff," says McCrea. "After everybody did it and realized how much fun it was, they said, 'Let's do it again.' There's something about swag."

32. POLE

Unless you've got Yao Ming in the bow, you're going to experience times when it would be to your advantage to stand up and see what's downstream. Or, maybe you'll have difficulty getting your paddle blade to catch any water on a bony, late-summer river trip. So, stand up and pole. It takes some balance, but it's nothing many paddlers can't get the hang of with some practice, determination, and a bit of humility. It's so much fun, you'll start looking for situations in which to pole.

Traditional paddles are outfitted with a metal shoe (looks more like a cake-decorating tool than what you'd wear on your foot) to help you gain purchase on the riverbed. Find more information and gear at www.poleandpaddle.com.

35. PLAN AN EXPEDITION

An expedition means something different to Oceans 8 trip leader Jon Bowermaster than it does to John Q. Paddler who has a week out of the office. Regardless of your skill level or how you define the word *expedition*, venturing on one promises to push you beyond your comfort zone and usually test your mettle/problem-solving skills/social skills.

You don't want a *Lord of the Flies*-style mutiny in the wild, so make sure you choose the right crew. Before you start rounding up paddlers, think of how they handle stress and adapt to ever-changing circumstances that can break an expedition. Having an expert in certain areas (assessing weather, route-finding, local knowledge) is also valuable.

For an in-depth look, check out *Expedition Kayaking* by Derek Hutchinson (www.amazon.com, \$1.19) or Cliff Jacobson's *Expedition Canoeing* (www.cliff-jacobson.com, \$21.95).



33. RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC BOAT

Some old plastic boats, alas, can't be sold again, and simply taking them to the dump is an option best left unexplored. Plastic doesn't biodegrade. Instead, it photodegrades, breaking down by sunlight into smaller pieces of plastic that can take hundreds of years to go away. High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE), plastics from which many boats are built, can be recycled.

Contact the organizers of a local paddling event (www.paddlermagazine.com/events) and help them coordinate and market a boat-recycle campaign. Or, contact your local paddlesports shop to see if they recycle old boats. California Canoe & Kayak (www.calkayak.com), with three Northern California shops, recycles boats. Also, log on to www.recycle.net to learn more about recycling plastic.

34. TAKE WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Let's say you're on a remote river and you've separated your shoulder. Your choices for administering the river-side shoulder-reinsertion procedure are a) the guy who says he did it to his high-school wrestling teammate, or b) the guy who grew up on a farm and once delivered a cow. Before committing to No. 12 on the 35 For Life list, have your crew commit to a Wilderness First Aid class and improve your odds of living to tell about your Think-Big adventure.

Go to your local paddle shop, or do a web search, to find a course near you. For a Cliff's Notes version, read *Wilderness First Aid*, published by NOLS. The book, however, will be immensely more useful after you've taken a class.