

The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company

SPIRIT ISLAND CAMPOUT GUIDED OR SELF-GUIDED TRIP OPTIONS

Trip Description:

Need to get away for the weekend, but don't want to go too far from home? An overnight canoe camping trip to Spirit Island on the Haw River just might be the perfect way to shed the stresses of an urban lifestyle. Put-in at the Village of Saxapahaw, NC and paddle 4.5 miles to the Island. Set up your tent on one of two camping platforms and settle back to soak up the surroundings before the evening meal. After breakfast the next day, paddle back to Saxapahaw.

There are no rapids in this section of the Haw River, but a lot of isolation, beautiful scenery and birds and wildlife to observe. Great blue herons, Canada geese, cormorants, muskrats, beavers and turtles, ospreys, red-tail hawks and belted kingfishers are often seen. It is not unusual to also see bald eagles fishing in the downstream reaches of river. The river's wide floodplain makes for characteristic floodplain forests of sycamore, birch, sugarberry, box elder, willow and ash trees while high rocky bluffs in some areas are characterized by beech, oak, pine and hickory trees along with cane and mountain laurel under the forest canopy.

Logistics:

This trip can be done either as a guided or a self-guided trip. Guided trips will begin at 1:00 p.m. at The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company office in Saxapahaw, NC. Before we get on the water, instruction will be offered for those with little or no previous paddling experience. Guided trips will return to Saxapahaw by noon the next day.

What We Provide:

Guided Trips:

A canoe, PFDs (Personal Floatation Device), paddles, kitchen, camp supplies, a reserved camping platform, dinner, breakfast and at least one experienced guide/naturalist are provided. Depending on the number of people on the trip, a camping platform may need to be shared.

Self-guided Trips:

A canoe, PFDs (Personal Floatation Device), paddles and a reserved camping platform are provided. Depending on the number of people camping on Spirit

Island, a camping platform may need to be shared. A camp kitchen and supplies can be provided for an additional fee.

Your Responsibility:

Guests are responsible for transportation to and from our office, foot wear that can get dirty and/or wet, dry clothes to leave in your vehicle, appropriate clothing for the season, hat, insect repellent and water bottle. A camera and binoculars are recommended, but optional.

Guided Trips:

For guided trips, guests will also need to provide a tent, ground cloth and sleeping bag.

Self-guided Trips:

In addition to a tent, ground cloth and sleeping bag, guests doing a self-guided trip will also need to bring food, a camp kitchen and have a method of dealing with human wastes, which they will pack out when they leave Spirit Island.

Trip Fee & Reservations:

Guided Trips:

The trip fee for a guided trip is \$75.00 per person. If you bring a canoe, the trip fee is \$65.00 per person.

Self-guided Trips:

Canoe rental is \$45 for the first day and \$35 for the second day.

Camping fees are \$10 per person per night, with the possibility of guests from more than one party sharing a platform, or \$50 to reserve an entire platform for up to six people.

Please note that there are to be no ground fires, no disturbance to vegetation and no harassment of wildlife. Spirit Island is a place for self-reflection and rejuvenation. If partying is your objective, Spirit Island is not the place. There are other more appropriate places.

You must be registered and paid in full before being allowed to go on the trip. You will be required to read and sign a liability waiver and pay attention to the safety briefing presented before the trip begins. You will also be asked to read and sign an agreement that outlines your conduct on Spirit Island.

To register, please call 336/260-6465. When your registration has been confirmed, send payment to The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company, P.O. Box 22, Saxapahaw, NC 27340. Registrations are filled on a first come, first serve basis when payment is received.

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations made more than 30 days in advance will receive a full refund less a 15% administration fee. Cancellations made less than 30 days but more than 10 days prior to the trip start date, will not receive a refund – but 50% of the fee may be credited toward a future course or trip, to be used within 1 yr. Cancellations made less than 10 days prior to departure, or "no shows", will receive no refund or credit.

If The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company cancels the trip, participants are eligible for a full refund, but in no way shall The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company's liability exceed the cost of the trip, and The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company is not liable for extra expenses incurred in preparation for the trip. Trips are sold as a package, and credits are not given for services not used.

Dollar-A-Day for Conservation

All of the courses and trips offered by The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company are intended to raise public awareness to the need to protect our environment. We hope you will consider contributing one dollar per day to support the work of the Haw River Assembly, a local conservation group whose mission it is to protect the river, its tributaries and Jordan Lake. Simply add one dollar per day to The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company trip fee. We will make sure that your contribution gets to the Haw River Assembly.

Before and after your activity, we will have Haw River Assembly membership brochures available should you be interested in joining the organization.