

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do we get to Fort George – Buckingham House ?

FG-BH is 13 km east of Elk Point. Follow the blue highway signs. Elk Point is located where Hwy 41 crosses the North Saskatchewan River, about two hours east of Edmonton.

2. If we come for the weekend, where can we stay?

Elk Point has both motels and campgrounds. Lindbergh, the site of the bike drop-off, has free camping. Heinsburg is a ghost town on the North Saskatchewan, 15 km farther east which also has free camping. Whitney Lakes Provincial Park has excellent campgrounds. The park also has 30 km of bike trails and four lakes for paddling. See the albertaparks.ca website for more info. Find out more about the region thru albertaslakeland.com and kalynacountry.com.

3. How will the Riverland Challenge day unfold?

The first canoes will be launched at 11:00. Registration begins at 9:00. The first thing you need to do is drop your bikes off at Lindbergh, about 5 minutes away – signs will direct you. Then you will organize your canoe and gear for the launch. After that, visit the voyageur camp for some tea and bannock. Each launch will have a musket salute; then comes 10 km of paddling thru the spruce forest river valley. Canoes will beach on the north bank where trailers will carry your canoe back to FG-BH for you. You then climb to the top of the valley for a spectacular view and a chance to meet with historic travelers. Five km later you are in Lindbergh to pick up your bike for the 15 km ride back to FG-BH. Half is on Alberta's Iron Horse Trail which is firm rail bed, the other half on quiet country roads.

4. What is the entry fee used for?

There are lots of costs to putting on an event including insurance, bibs, food and t-shirts.

5. Is this a race?

Technically, no. There will be prizes for the youngest team, oldest team, best fur trade costumes and team from farthest away. There will also be some general participant draws. Feel free to set your own race challenge with your friends.

6. What about safety?

Challenge organizers have planned carefully to make this a safety conscious event, however, personal safety is an individual responsibility. Be prepared to be on the river. Include all safety

equipment in your canoe including PFDs, an extra paddle, bailer, whistles, and ropes tied to each end of your canoe. All cyclists must wear a helmet for this event. Volunteers will be stationed at intervals along the route to assist participants.

7. What else is there to do while we are in the area?

There are geocaches to find, two fort sites to explore and an interpretive centre to visit. There will be a trading post with local crafts, authentic voyageur food and black powder musket demonstrations. Saturday night there is an old time jamboree at the Heinsburg Hall. For those who want more paddling and pedaling, longer stretches of the North Saskatchewan and Alberta's Iron Horse Trail can be tried.

8. Is this an annual event?

This is our first time out, but we plan to host paddling and pedaling on the last Saturday in May every year. Next year, we will start with cycling from FG-BH west to the Elk Point Bridge, then canoeing back to FG-BH and ending with a run past the two fort sites.

9. Do you have an environmental policy?

The Riverland Adventure Challenge encourages non-motorized, low impact recreation. Please bring your own water bottle; refill stations will be provided along the way. Also, for the post-event meal, feel free to use your own camp dishes. Canoes will be trailered back to FG-BH saving one vehicle trip for participants.

10. How do I register?

Complete the registration form on our website and mail to the address given. Call 1 888 645-4155 for more information.