



GREAT CANADIAN
RIVERS

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Great Canadian Rivers takes viewers on a journey to our greatest rivers; exploring their connection to our culture, history, and identity. These rivers offer a window into the vast and spectacular diversity of the Canadian landscape. Explore the remarkable range of landscapes and regions of both wilderness and working rivers.

SEASON I

- #1 **Stikine River, B.C.** - The Stikine River traverses the spectacular wilderness of northwestern British Columbia. Its headwaters are in the vast Spatsizi Plateau, and it empties into the Pacific Ocean at Wrangell, Alaska
- #2 **Churchill River, Saskatchewan** - The Saskatchewan portion of the Churchill is actually a series of connecting lakes - flat water connected by rapids and waterfalls. Bald Eagles nest along the shores, and colonies of pelicans and cormorants inhabit small rocky islands in its headwaters.
- #3 **Coppermine, Nunavut** - From its headwaters at Lac de Gras, the Coppermine River flows to its mouth at the Coronation Gulf of the Arctic Ocean, at the community of Kugluktuk. The history of the Coppermine is fascinating, rich and diverse.
- #4 **French River, Ontario** - It emerges from Lake Nipissing to traverse the Canadian Shield and empty into Georgian Bay, following an ancient fault line through the resistant precambrian rock.
- #5 **Yukon River, Yukon** - It is the fourth longest river in North America, 3200 kilometres from its headwaters in Northern BC to its outlet in the Bering Sea.
- #6 **Athabasca River, Alberta** - The Athabasca is the longest and largest river in Alberta, and one of few in Western North America unaltered by human impoundment.
- #7 **Hayes River, Manitoba** - The Hayes River is one of the most important rivers in Canada's history - it is the only navigable route from the Fur Trade Headquarters on Hudson Bay to posts south of Lake Winnipeg.
- #8 **St. Croix River, New Brunswick** - Located in picturesque, historic western New Brunswick, the St. Croix International Waterway has been an important travel corridor for close to 12,000 years. Since 1798, it has marked the boundary between the United States and Canada.
- #9 **Gataga River, B.C.** - Join four intrepid adventurers as they float down British Columbia's wild Gataga River from the heart of the Northern Rocky Mountains and into the Rocky Mountain trench. Wildlife, including moose, caribou, Stone sheep and mountain goat, teems from the shores and mountainsides.
- #10 **Grand River, Ontario** - The Grand River and its tributaries comprise the largest watershed in Southern Ontario, 7000 square kilometres, from the Dundalk Plateau to Lake Erie. The River also has significant wetlands, and magnificent geological features.
- #11 **Fraser River, B.C.** - The Fraser is the largest river in British Columbia, and its drains about one-quarter of the province. The Fraser River crosses more diverse landscapes than any other Canadian river.
- #12 **Red Deer River, Alberta** - The Red Deer River rises in the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains in Banff, meanders through the grasslands, and cuts through the Alberta badlands. The ancient waterway is acknowledged as one of the most prolific regions for dinosaur fossils.
- #13 **Margaree River, Nova Scotia** - The southwest branch of the river begins at the largest lake on Cape Breton Island, Lake Ainslie. The northeast arm rises in the wilds of the Cape Breton Highlands. The two branches meet, and the main stem river proceeds through deep salmon pools and across floodplains, en route to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

SEASON II

- #14 **Snake River, Yukon** - The Snake River runs through the heart of the largest “unroaded” wilderness south of the Arctic Circle. Dall’s sheep, caribou and grizzly bears roam the land while golden eagles and peregrine falcons soar the skies.
- #15 **Cowichan River, B.C.** - The Cowichan is a treasured, delicate thread of wilderness in populous southern Vancouver Island. The River begins its 47-kilometre journey at mountain-ringed Cowichan Lake, passing through forests and fields, and finally emptying into an ocean estuary at Cowichan Bay.
- #16 **Slave River, Alberta / N.W.T.** - For 200 years the tumultuous Slave River played a major role in the transport of people and goods to the North. The 434-kilometre long Slave River connects the drainages of Lake Athabasca, and the Peace River to Great Slave Lake.
- #17 **Red River, Manitoba** - The Red is characterized by its muddy bottom and lazy flow - but also by its suddenly changing moods. In spring, this usually slow, murky, and pastoral river can overflow its banks with disastrous consequences for the towns and cities that line its banks.
- #18 **Hillsborough River, P.E.I.** - The 45-km Hillsborough is the largest river on Prince Edward Island - it almost splits the island in two en route to its mouth at the Atlantic Ocean.
- #19 **Bow River, Alberta** - The Bow River means many things to many people. It is a source of power for the city of Calgary, it provides drinking and irrigation water, and it is a prime recreation river.
- #20 **Clearwater River, Alberta / Saskatchewan** - A voyage down the Clearwater River is a journey through quintessential Canadian wilderness and an important chapter in this country’s history.
- #21 **Main River, Newfoundland** - The Main River is home to one of the only known old-growth boreal forests in the world, and is one of the last wild areas in the province. The River hosts a rare population of Atlantic salmon, and is famed for its fly fishing.
- #22 **Green River, B.C.** - The Green River is one of the rich estuaries in the complex coastal environment known as the “Great Bear Rainforest” - an ideal habitat for one of nature’s greatest spectacles: grizzly bears feeding on salmon.
- #23 **Qu’Appelle River, Saskatchewan** - The 430-km long Qu’Appelle is the quintessential prairie river - a subtly beautiful landscape, an ever changing course and gently touched by the presence of humans.
- #24 **Skeena River, B.C.** - The Skeena carves across northwestern BC, and eventually empties into the Pacific Ocean at Prince Rupert. The Skeena is North America’s largest undammed river, and still has the abundant natural resources of fish and forest that have drawn people for millennia.
- #25 **Mackenzie River, N.W.T.** - Flowing “down North” from the headwaters of the Peace River in B.C. with a total watershed length of 4,216 kilometres, the Mackenzie drains one-fifth of Canada.
- #26 **St. Lawrence River, Ontario / Quebec** - The St. Lawrence is arguably the grandest and the richest of Canadian rivers. It has become part of our national consciousness. Running for 1,207 kilometres, it is a transportation highway, a refuge for wildlife, Central Canada’s playground, and a reservoir of history.

SEASON III

- #27 **Exploits River, Newfoundland** - The Exploits is Newfoundland’s longest river, and has an intriguing mix of spectacular landscape and vibrant culture. The 246 kilometre river takes a spectacular journey across the Island, from rugged inland forests to the island-dotted iceberg alley known as Notre Dame Bay.
- #28 **Missinaibi River, ON** - The Missinaibi River echoes with the ghosts of its past. Northeastern Ontario’s Missinaibi River is one of the only river systems that links James Bay to Lake Superior, so saw most of its travellers during the fur trade era.
- #29 **Columbia River, British Columbia** - The Columbia is the most dammed River in North America, and a ghost of its former self. But the Columbia also has the longest stretch of undisturbed wetlands in North America. This vast maze of ever-changing ponds, streams, and channels is a nursery for millions of birds and diverse wildlife species.

- #30 Milk River, Alberta** - The Milk River has inspired awe for millennia, evidenced by its remarkable collection of ancient rock art framed by the evocative landscape of the badlands. The river is the lifeblood of the valley, both for the ranchers who irrigate its waters for survival and for the myriad of species that call the prairies home.
- #31 Klinaklini River, British Columbia** - With a stunning range of life zones within its watershed, the 195 kilometre Klinaklini River is a miracle of biodiversity. A low elevation highway connecting interior to coast, the Klinaklini is one of the few rivers in British Columbia that cuts right through the coastal mountains.
- #32 Moisie River, Quebec** - The Moisie River is a spectacular, wild national treasure, but is known mostly only to experienced canoeists and wealthy sport fishers. This anonymity has saved it, because the river has become as much known for its pristine wilderness state as it has for the quality of its scenery and fishery.
- #33 Three Rivers, P.E.I.** - From its early days as a major shipbuilding centre to the current-day mussel fishery, the Three Rivers has always provided Islanders with a strong sense of identity that will forever link them to their landscape.
- #34 Kicking Horse River, British Columbia** - The Kicking Horse may have the most storied past of all of BC's rivers, and it still remains one of the most beautiful. Today, more than half a million people a year enjoy the natural splendours of the river valley including Wapta Falls, Takakkaw Falls and the best rafting in the Rockies.
- #35 Ottawa River, Ontario / Quebec** - The Ottawa River is a river of contrasts and surprises. For over two centuries, the Ottawa was a significant gateway to Canada's natural riches - first as a travelway by the Algonquin, then as a major fur trade route, and later as a vector to some of the interior's finest stands of timber.
- #36 Grass River, Manitoba** - The Grass River is a conduit between past and present - the river of today is still a travel corridor, food source and home for hundreds of people. Visitors are intrigued by the river's extensive karst formations and caves, karst springs and the two largest waterfalls in Manitoba.
- #37 Saint John River, New Brunswick** - Both superlatives and contrasts define the 600-kilometre Saint John River. Although its mighty waters have been harnessed for power, it retains enough energy to sustain a variety of wildlife, shelter endangered species and sculpt the very foundations of Atlantic Canada.
- #38 North Saskatchewan River, Alberta** - The North Saskatchewan cuts through the heartland of western Canada. It is a historical river of remarkable diversity.
- #39 Miramichi River, New Brunswick** - The legendary Miramichi is characterized by colour. In autumn, its trees turn. And it is the meeting place for vibrant cultures - Migma, Acadians and Irish have come together here to form a rich historical tradition.



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