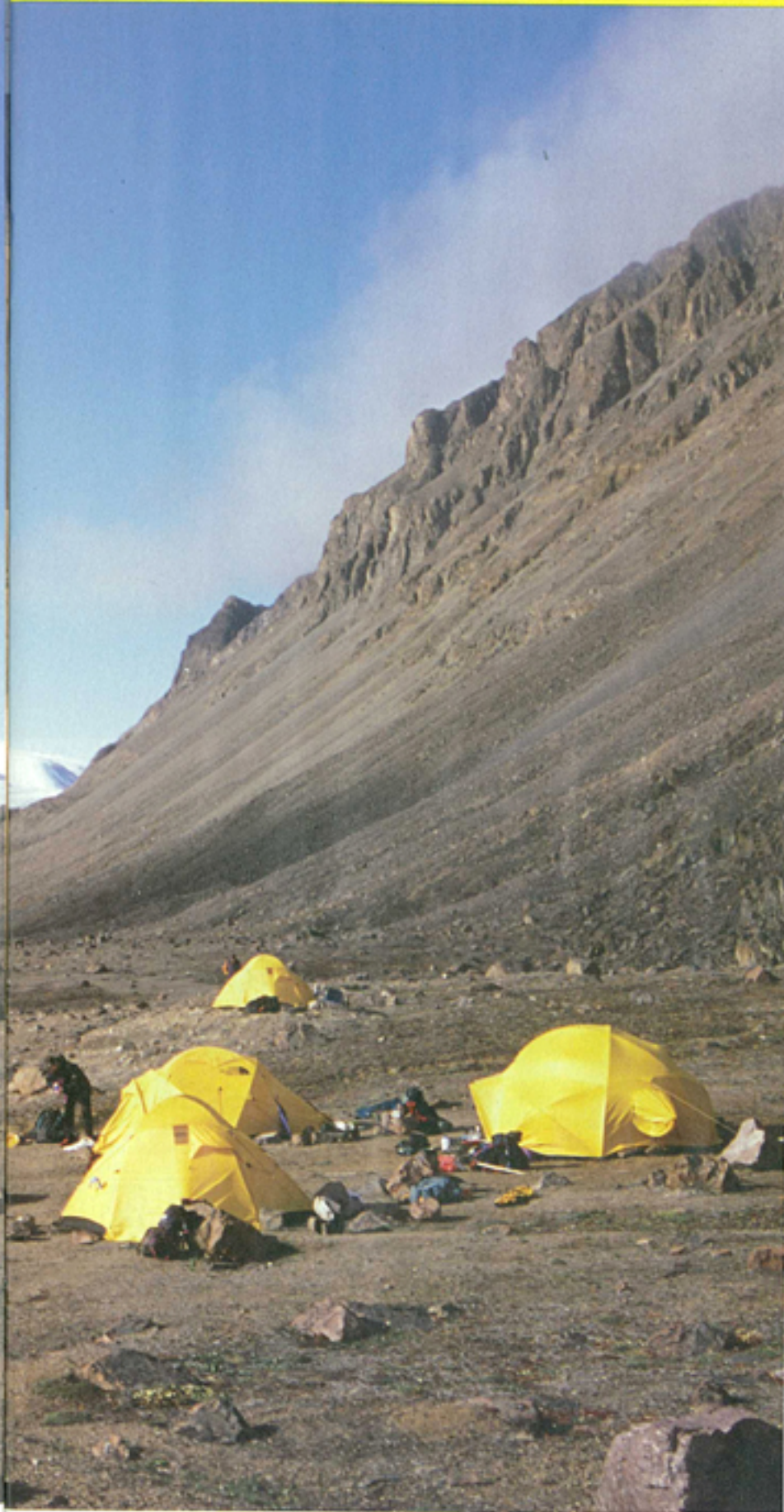


THE CANADIAN CLASSICS



Way up there:
Camping at the
top of the world,
Ellesmere Island.



25

TRIPS YOU MUST DO IN YOUR LIFETIME

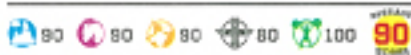
Canada has so many great adventure tours that it's hard to know where to go when vacation time rolls around. Kayaking in B.C.? Hiking in Newfoundland? Trekking in the Arctic? To help you decide, we've ranked what, in our humble opinion at least, are the 25 best guided trips this country has to offer. So read on and then start packing

**BY
JACKIE
DAVIS**

THE CANADIAN CLASSICS

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Trek Ellesmere



It seems only fitting that in a country defined by its northerness, the best all-around adventure trip takes you about as far north as you can get, to Quttinirpaq National Park on Ellesmere Island—a mere 1,300 kilometres from the North Pole. On this two-week journey, you'll backpack across the tundra from Lake Hazen to Tanquary Fjord in 24/7 sunlight, revelling in some of the most dramatic and rarely viewed sights in Canada. Among the highlights: Mount Berbeau, at 8,582 feet the highest peak in Eastern Canada; the lushly vegetated area around Lake Hazen (the world's largest lake north of the Arctic Circle); and the kind of wildlife you'd normally only see in the pages of a coffee-table book—Arctic here running on their hind legs, endangered Peary caribou, herds of muskoxen (on last year's trip they counted 70) and ghostly Arctic wolves. You won't be backpacking every single day, but when you are, expect tough slogging for six to eight hours, through rivers and over rough terrain with a hefty pack. (You're expected to help carry some food for all the gourmet meals you get to enjoy.)

DATES: July 12-26

PRICE: \$9,500

INFO: legendaryex.com

TIP: Hiking poles and neoprene socks are a must. You'll be crossing a lot of rivers, some of them very fast and deep due to snow melt from glaciers.



Kayak Haida Gwaii



Ocean Sound's eight-day Totems of the Pacific kayaking tour includes everything an adventure-seeking visitor to Haida Gwaii—also known as the Queen Charlotte Islands—could possibly want. The trip journeys through the southern waters of Gwaii Hanas National Park, and—as the name suggests—includes a stop at the Ninstints UNESCO World Heritage Site on Anthony Island, home to the largest collection of standing Haida totems. You'll have plenty of opportunities to see the area's amazing aquatic biodiversity and wildlife, from tufted puffins to Steller's sea lions to the largest subspecies of black bear (there's a reason why they call Haida Gwaii the Galapagos of the North). You'll also get three-course meals made with ingredients from local communities, and enough lessons in Haida history to fill a textbook. Expect to spend up to five hours a day in the kayak, but the schedule is flexible and will depend on the needs and wants of paddlers.

DATES: Multiple departures between July 5 and August 16 **PRICE:** \$1,995

INFO: oceansoundkayaking.com

TIP: When it rains here, it really rains, so a seriously waterproof jacket—think rubber slicker—is essential.