



cochrane river to eskimo point

Henning F. Harmuth and Anne B. Spragins-Harmuth

Those who like portages will love this route. We did 53 of them, but more would have been required if we had not used an ABS plastic canoe that permitted endless dragging over rocks. The route traverses the area inhabited until about 25 years ago by the southern group of inland Inuit described by F. Mowat in his book "The Desperate People" (Little, Brown: Boston, 1959). The word "desperate" rings only too true when one passes along the Henik-Padley portage route and finds signs of Inuit camps but no wildlife whatsoever, not even a duck or a goose.

The starting point is close to the northernmost point of the Cochrane River that flows from Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan to Reindeer Lake in Manitoba. We chartered a float plane in Lynn Lake to the put-in. This makes the return to the car easy, since one may either fly from Eskimo Point via Churchill and Thompson back to Lynn Lake, or take the train from Churchill to Thompson and a bus from there.

An alternative starting point is Wollaston Lodge, which is reached by a horrible road from La Ronge in Saskatchewan. The return to the car is difficult. By air one has to go from Churchill to Winnipeg, Regina, Prince Albert, La Ronge, and Wollaston Village, which is on the wrong side of the lake. Alternatively, one may take the train from Churchill to Hudson Bay in Saskatchewan, the bus

to Prince Albert and La Ronge, and fly from there. In either case one must charter or hitch a ride across Wollaston Lake to Wollaston Lodge. An unpredictable ferry runs from Wollaston Village to a roadhead about 10 km south of Wollaston Lodge.

The first written report about this area is due to Samuel Hearne, who passed through it in the years 1769 to 1772 on his way from Churchill to the Coppermine River (S. Hearne, "A Journey from Prince of Wales' Fort in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean"). In those days the area was

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