



EXPLORERS' GUIDE 2019

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST 
TERRITORIES
SPECTACULARNWT.COM

TRULY ARCTIC

INUVIK · NORTHWEST TERRITORIES · CANADA



TRULY AMAZING. TRULY AUTHENTIC. TRULY ACCESSIBLE.



TOWN OF INUVIK
Northwest Territories



WWW.INUVIK.CA

CONTENTS

02 WELCOME TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

06 SPECTACULAR 30

Browse some of our spectacular and unexpected activities.

12 AURORA

Our breathtaking Aurora attracts visitors from around the world.

20 FISHING

In the NWT you're never far from fish. Big, feisty fish.

28 PADDLING

Every river trip is a pilgrimage.

36 PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

We boast five National Parks and a network of Territorial Parks.

44 GETTING HERE

It's easy to get to the NWT by air or road.

46 PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Things you need to know when driving our remote highways.

48 ROAD TRIPS

The journey north is part of the total NWT experience.

50 MAP

52 YELLOWKNIFE

This dynamic capital city offers plenty to see and do.

56 WESTERN ARCTIC

The Western Arctic is a land of icons. Reindeer, muskoxen and more.

64 SAHTU

Journey into the wild mysterious heart of the Northwest Territories.

72 DEHCHO

Home to one of Canada's seven wonders, Nahanni National Park Reserve.

80 SOUTH SLAVE

Gateway to the southern shore of Great Slave Lake and Wood Buffalo National Park.

88 NORTH SLAVE

Vast Great Slave Lake and rock-ribbed Precambrian Shield define this region.

96 PLANNING AND ADVICE

General trip-planning information.

98 SERVICES

Check out some of our tourism operators and other visitor services when planning your NWT visit.



COVER PHOTO:
ADAM HILL / NWTT

THE 2019 EXPLORERS' GUIDE IS PUBLISHED BY: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TOURISM

P.O. Box 610, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N5 Canada

Toll free in North America
1-800-661-0788

Telephone (867) 873-5007
Fax (867) 873-4059

Email:
info@spectacularnwt.com

Web:
spectacularnwt.com

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The information on services and licences contained in this book is offered to you as a matter of interest and is believed to be correct and accurate at the time of printing. NWT Tourism and Outcrop Communications Ltd. accept no liability for errors or omissions.

Production by Outcrop Communications Ltd., Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Printed in Canada for free distribution.



WELCOME TO SPECTACULAR TRAVEL ADVENTURE

GARY BREMNER / NWT



HON. WALLY SCHUMANN
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Welcome to Canada's Northwest Territories — where the landscapes are as vibrant as our traditions. Experience our diverse wildlife, endless northern summers and the world's capital of thrilling Aurora scenes. Come for our spectacular slice of Canada's North; leave with a lifetime of memories. Boundless adventure awaits you.




The Northwest Territories is a land that has never been tamed. Larger than all but a handful of sovereign nations, it's where Canada's biggest river weaves through an empire of peaks. Where herds of caribou and bison darken the horizon. Where the midnight sun hands off to the Northern Lights. Where polar bears roar and great whales spout. Where lakes are ocean-sized, fish are human-sized, and freedom is infinite.

Here, too, are people. Not many of us, barely one-thousandth of the Canadian population. But we're colourful, resolute, ridiculously welcoming - all gusto and grins. Half of us are Indigenous, here since time immemorial: the Dene, who've roamed the boreal forest for millennia, the Inuvialuit of the Arctic shores, and the Métis, the vanguard of the fur trade. The rest of us too, are frontier folk: bush pilots, prospectors, Mounties, mountain men and outpost nurses. The real deal.



CATHIE BOLSTAD
Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Territories Tourism

In the Northwest Territories, incredible connections with people and places touch your mind, body and spirit! You experience moments that bring back fond childhood memories and as you bask in a sense of awe about how spectacular your surroundings are, you learn new things, including about yourself. Come visit us. Your spectacular journey begins here!



The Northwest Territories is legendary for all sorts of reasons, but let's start with the Big Four: sublime Northern Lights, supersized fish, epic wilderness paddling, and the most remarkable National Parks on Earth.

WELCOME TO NATURE'S GREATEST LIGHT SHOW

When the Northern Lights dance, bedtime can wait. We enjoy brilliantly clear skies, endless winter evenings, and a prime geomagnetic location that graces us with more than 200 Aurora-nights per year. Tens of thousands of starry-eyed visitors flock here to witness this haunting celestial phenomenon, whistling at the lights to lure them nearer and reaching out for colours that seem close enough to touch. Come during the cold season to combine sky-watching with dog-sledding, ice-fishing and more. Or visit in late summer, when the nights are shorter – but the heavens blaze just as bright.

BIG FISH MAKE BETTER FISH STORIES

There's a place where monsters are real: it's here. Among anglers, our waters are legendary. We're famed for big, fierce, feisty fish – and for having lots of them. The world's largest Trout lurk in our lakes, tipping the scales at over 70 pounds (32kgs). Char thrash in our Arctic rapids. Gator-like Pike prowl our shallows. And Grayling flash their iridescent fins at the base of our waterfalls. Troll at a comfortable all-inclusive lodge. Fly-fish in a crisp alpine creek. Drop a line through the ice as the Aurora rages overhead. Or cast from any old local dock, for a fishing experience that's off the hook.



PADDLE WHERE THE RIVERS RUN WILD

Up here, the rivers are renowned – and canoeing is a splash. This is where Alexander Mackenzie, paddle in hand, first sought the Northwest Passage. Where the Nahanni, that most-hallowed wilderness river, washes through gorgeous gorges. Where Barrenland currents quench creatures straight out of the Ice Age. And where world-class kayakers ride waves that could eat a bus. Day-paddlers come here for excursions among the bright houseboats of Yellowknife Bay. Adventure-seekers enjoy guided, weeklong descents of the Natla, Mountain, or Keele. And latter-day voyageurs paddle all summer, tracing fabled rivers running clear to the Arctic ocean.

EXPERIENCE PARKS SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME

Touring the parks of the Northwest Territories is like travelling by time-machine back to a wilder age. Here, nature is brand new. Our creatures have not yet learned to fear man. Our skies are still brisk, blue and soothing. And our landscapes – the nameless summits rising in endless ranks. The fearsome, misty falls. Polar meadows bedazzled with tiny wildflowers. And oases of rare creatures like muskoxen and the last free-roaming bison on Earth. You'll find all these – plus glorious trails, interpretive displays, campgrounds and facilities – in our five National Parks and extensive network of Territorial Parks and day-use areas.

BEN WEILAND / NWT



30

SPECTACULAR THINGS ABOUT THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

01

**STAND ON
THE BRINK OF
VIRGINIA FALLS**

It'll change your life.



02

FEEL WONDERFULLY SMALL

Wood Buffalo National Park is Canada's biggest protected area, abounding with bison, wolves, whooping cranes and more. Best of all? It's easy to reach by road, right on our southern border.

03

SEE THE STATE OF THE ART

At the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, or the Open Sky Festival in Fort Simpson, the North's creative side is on display.

04

HAVE A SPLASH ON EPIC WHITewater

Among the world's elite paddlers, the Slave River is a promised land – a mile-wide waterway that explodes into thousands of fast channels and frothing rapids. Here you'll find whitewater for every skill-level of kayaker and canoeist, from calm pools to waves as big as a bus. The best time to "put in?" At the annual Slave River Paddlefest, hosted by the friendly paddlers of nearby Fort Smith.

05

BRAKE FOR A HERD OF BISON

Once, millions of bison roamed the West. Now, they're gone – except for here. Welcome to the last refuge of North America's iconic creature. Weighing more than a ton, they're Canada's largest land animal, an awesome mass of horns, mane and muscle. Best of all, they wander our roadsides in dusty, lumbering herds, making them impossible to miss.

06

BUY YOURSELF SOME BLING

Diamonds are the Northwest Territories' best friend, and also our biggest industry. At the NWT Diamond Centre in Yellowknife you'll discover the secrets of Arctic diamond mining. Watch expert cutters turn rough diamonds into polished gems. If you're dazzled, you can buy some "bling" for yourself.

07

SHAKE A LEG

Community feasts and traditional gatherings are bound to end in dancing. Jump up and join in.



08

WITNESS THE ART OF THE ANCIENTS

Birchbark baskets. Inuit prints. Moosehair tufting. Porcupine quillwork. And traditional beading to die for. You'll want to collect it all.

09

ROLL 'TIL THERE'S NO MORE ROAD

Where else can you drive to the end of the world? In the Northwest Territories, our wild highways carry you to where the road runs out. To the Arctic Ocean beside famous Tuktoyaktuk. To the brink of the Barrenlands, east of Yellowknife. To rustic Wrigley, terminus of the Mackenzie Highway. And to the banks of the Peace River, deep in Wood Buffalo country.

10

CANOE THE GREATEST PARK

To keen river-trippers, the word “Nahanni” is like catnip. Canada’s most celebrated wilderness watercourse pours through Nahanni National Park Reserve, a paradise of stately peaks, plunging falls, towering canyons, and creatures that have never seen people. Leap into a raft or canoe and drink it all in.

11

WATCH THE SUN NOT SET

During our summers, the sun stays up, spinning gloriously in the sky. Golf, fish or paddle at midnight. Bedtime can wait.

12

PULL IN A 40-POUNDER

Big fish abound in the Northwest Territories, home to multiple world-records. Forty pounds is not uncommon for our Pike and Trout. Seventy-plus pounders have been landed – and released. They’re still out there, waiting for your hook.

13

GO TO THE DOGS (IN A GOOD WAY)

The most time-honored way to explore the North is behind a team of huskies. Our sled-dogs will show you a howling good time, trotting along frosted trails as the Aurora gleams overhead. Tours happen all winter long.

14

BEHOLD INFINITE WATERS

Great Slave and Great Bear are the biggest, deepest, purest lakes in Canada. Fish, sail and paddle them. You’ll be in liquid heaven.

15

CHECK OUT CLASSIC PLANES

The Northwest Territories is home to the Ice Pilots of reality-TV fame. Fans and aviation fanatics can tour their hangars – and maybe meet Buffalo Joe himself.

16

BUNK DOWN IN AN IGLOO

... or a houseboat. Or log cabin. Or a yurt. In the Northwest Territories, even the sleeping is wild.

17

LEARN THE LESSONS OF THE LAND

The Northwest Territories is home to a rich array of deep-rooted Indigenous cultures. Hire a Dene storyteller, Inuvialuit hunter or Métis fisherman to teach you the ways of their world.





18

OGLE AN AURORAL STORM

If it's night in the Northwest Territories, "the lights" will likely be out. Normally they're a ghostly green, slinking in slow-motion, straight above. But every so often you'll see the sky go wild. An Auroral storm! Stand back as red waves ricochet and purple curtains flash, filling the heavens with glorious turmoil – and thrilling all who see.

19

SAMPLE MUSKOKX STEW

... or other Northern fare. From bison-steaks smothered in morel-mushroom sauce to a crispy pan-fried Whitefish, you'll delight in our Arctic delicacies.

20

CLEANSE YOUR SOUL IN A HOTSPRING

The Northwest Territories is all about roughing it, right? Think again. Soak away your worries in a wild hotspring in Nahanni or Nââts'jhc'h'oh National Park.

21

LUXURIATE AT A WILD LODGE

Whether you're a fisherman or photographer, a hunter or naturalist, the best way to get back to nature is to book a room in a wilderness lodge. From posh to rustic, we've got scores of scenic retreats beckoning you to stay a while.

22

FLOAT THE MIGHTY MACKENZIE

Canada's mother of all rivers, this liquid highway washes through the heart of the Northwest Territories, linking historic villages, busy

boomtowns, ancient fish camps and more. Get into the flow of it, even if just for an hour. Guides can be hired, or canoes rented, in just about any community.

23

STRADDLE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

The legendary Dempster Highway traverses the Arctic Circle – the only place in Canada where you can drive to this legendary line. Be sure to stop and stroll across it, then congratulate yourself. You've been where few others have been before.

WILDCAT CAFE

24

SEE WHAT'S NEW IN OLD TOWN

Take a stroll through Canada's weirdest, most wonderful neighbourhood. Jutting from the outcrops above Great Slave Lake, Old Town is where Yellowknife's gold-boom began. Here you'll find frontier cabins, modern mansions, a real-live trading post, houseboats, floatplanes, and a couple of famous eateries – the iconic Wildcat Café, and Bullock's, with the country's best fish and chips.

PAUL VECSEI / NWTT

BEN WEILAND / NWTT



25

FLY IN A FLOATPLANE

We have a thousand times more lakes than roads. Floatplanes are our taxicabs, carrying you to remote lodges and virgin fishing holes, or taking you on flightseeing tours. Charter one today.





26

SEE OUR INTRIGUING MUSEUMS

From the spectacularly curated Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife to the tiny log-cabin gallery in Colville Lake, our museums will inspire and amaze.

27

PLAY IT COOL AT THE SNOW CASTLE

Each winter in Yellowknife, a fabulous snow palace arises. Inside is endless entertainment, beloved by kids and kids-at-heart.

28

DO A DAY IN DARKNESS

The midnight sun gets all the glory, but what about the noontime moon? Visit the Western Arctic in mid-winter for an out-of-this-world experience: endless dark. And, if you're in Inuvik in early January, celebrate at the Sunrise Festival, when the sun returns.

29

PARK YOURSELF HERE

In the Northwest Territories we have

roadside campgrounds galore, many with hot showers and powered sites, and all in spectacular locales; beside glittering beaches, gushing waterfalls, fish-filled lakes and more.



ANGELA GZOWSKI

30

ROCK OUT AT THE BEST FESTS

Get up here – and then get down. From Arctic Circle hootenannies like the Midway Lake Music Festival to Yellowknife's famous (and famously eclectic) Folk on the Rocks, the North will be music to your ears.



AURORA

It first appears as a ghostly glow. Is that a cloud or ? It's a cloud of solar particles slowly swelling, erupting, rippling and the heavens become electric. The plume of incandescence reaches across the sky, colours erupt and dance in the starry night. You realize that you're gasping and cheering. Maybe clutching the hand of your friend or even a stranger. Don't be shy. That's just what happens the first time you see Mother Nature's fireworks – the Aurora.



The Northwest Territories is the world's Aurora hotspot. Here, the Northern Lights dance an average of 200 nights a year between August and April, engulfing the sky, shimmering with colours that seem close enough to touch. Why are our Auroras so frequent and vivid? Because in Canada's Subarctic we're blessed with crystal-clear nights, ultra-low humidity, and a perfect location directly beneath the Earth's band of maximum Aurora activity – the "Auroral oval."

If you're keen to experience nature's greatest lightshow, your options are endless. See them from a dogsled, a hot tub, a rustic cabin, an upscale hotel, or right alongside the rest of the crowd on the side of a downtown street. In Yellowknife and several other Northern communities, guides can take you on a nightly "Aurora hunt" chauffeuring you far from city lights to optimal viewing spots. Alternatively, you can check into one of our legendary Aurora-watching lodges, where you can play all day and gaze at the Aurora all night.

JAMES MACKENZIE / NWT

A photograph of a person standing on a large, dark rock in a natural setting. The sky is filled with vibrant green and yellow aurora borealis. The person is wearing a red jacket and white pants. The background shows some trees and a dark landscape.

A tale of two seasons

There are two best times to see the Northern Lights – in late-summer/early autumn, when the land and lakes are warm, and in winter, when all is cool and dark. The former season starts in late August, once the midnight sun vanishes, when you can camp or canoe beneath the spectral glow. The latter launches in December, when the nights are brittle, clear and 18-or-more hours long – an ideal backdrop for the cosmic dance.



Lodge yourself beneath the lights

If your dream of winter is a snug log cabin bathed in Auroral radiance, book a winter package at a Northwest Territories lodge. Most activities are included, as is cozy winter gear. During the day, sample cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, Dene net-fishing or snowmobiling. Then warm up in the sauna or hot tub before spending the evening watching the heavens' pyrotechnics.

MARTINA GEBROVSKA / NWT

SORRY ABOUT THE SLEEP DEPRIVATION

"The lights are out!" That should be the official motto of the Northwest Territories. You'll hear it nearly every evening – a cry of delight, echoing through remote lodges or chic restaurants, sending everyone scurrying for the exits with their parkas half zipped and their cameras whirring to life.

Follow them outside and you might find yourself in a crowd, folks thronging the streets or lining the lakeshore, their heads craned skyward, eyes wide, mouths agape. Or maybe it's just you and the Aurora one-on-one for a private viewing.

Above, the ghostly glow floats in the jet-black sky. It creeps across the dome of the night. It brightens, flickering with tendrils of emerald, then jade. Now it is vivid and flaring – tongues of radiance, leaping and diving, licking the horizon like plumes of strange fire. Around you, the evergreens are framed in a weird unearthly gleam. The snowdrifts sparkle. The huskies sing. Spectators grin, or even cry. All are dazzled.

Nearly every night this scene repeats and visitors are mesmerized. They've discovered that the Aurora is "nature's greatest light show."

Auroras at night. Adventures by day.

If you're more of a do-it-yourself traveller, the lights are still within reach. Bunk down in a comfortable hotel or B&B in one of several Northwest Territories communities. Select from a range of daytime activities – from driving on an ice road to driving your own dog team. Then, at night, travel out of town, either on a guided tour or under your own power, for an awe-inspiring evening of Aurora viewing.



DID YOU KNOW?

"Aurora Borealis" is from the Roman name Aurora, goddess of dawn, and the Greek word Boreas, the north wind. Despite this supernatural name, the source of the Aurora is pure science.

The Northern Lights flare up when charged particles from the sun interact with the Earth's outer atmosphere, setting atoms aglow, just like a neon sign. The colours vary based on what layer of the atmosphere is being "excited." The most common colour is an eerie green glow. Those Aurora are caused by the excitement of oxygen atoms about 120 kilometres above the Earth's surface.

Sometimes, the lights blaze brighter. This occurs during Auroral "storms," when the sun ejects charged particles in a blast of "solar wind." These winds hurtle toward Earth at up to 3 million kilometres per hour, bombarding our magnetosphere and sending the Northern Lights into a frenzied dance. Solar blasts hit the Earth about 1,500 times per year – several times per day, on average. The bigger the blast, the more vivid the Aurora. The lights blaze violet or crimson when charged particles penetrate close to Earth, exciting nitrogen at altitudes as low as 80 kilometres up.

Such storms are intense. Scientists have measured the energy in the Aurora to be as much as 20 million amperes at 50,000 volts. By comparison, home circuit-breakers trip when currents exceed 15-30 amperes at 120 volts.

WHERE TO BE WOWED BY THE LIGHTS



Looking for Northern Lights that set the night on fire? Head out to one of these seven stellar Aurora-viewing spots in Canada's Northwest Territories.

1 Catch the Aurora like a King or Queen – in Yellowknife's glittering snow palace, created each winter on Great Slave Lake. The castle is the site of the March-long SnowKing Festival. Kick up your heels at a concert in the castle as the mysterious Lights sway overhead.



JASON SIMPSON / NWTT



YUICHI TAKASAKA / NWTT

2 For a transcendent communion with the Aurora, escape to a remote lodge, such as Blachford Lake Lodge, Trout Rock Lodge, or Yellow Dog Lodge, all in the North Slave region. You'll experience pristine wilderness and see the radiant sky just steps from your cozy room – or from a luxurious outdoor hot tub.

3 For a more active adventure, sign up for a dogsledding outing in Inuvik. You'll fall in love with the iconic white huskies with their bright blue eyes.





4 Go mush! In the Northwest Territories you can experience the Aurora the old-fashioned way, by dogsled. For example, Arctic Adventure Tours in Inuvik offers overnight mushing excursions with their famous white huskies. There's a good chance of witnessing the lights overhead during the winter.

5 You might call it "the village that never sleeps."

Aurora Village, a short 20-minute drive outside of Yellowknife, boasts heated Aurora-viewing seats, cozy teepees where you can warm up, and no light pollution to dim the show.



AURORA VILLAGE / NWT



J. F. BERGERON / NWT

6 In autumn, before freeze-up, Great Slave Lake is a paddler's paradise for viewing the Northern Lights, away from the streetlamps of town to watch the Aurora shimmer – and see it reflected in the rippling water below. In winter, head out on skis, snowmobile, snowshoe or fat bike as the Aurora sets the frosted world a-glimmer.

7 In autumn, catch the full majesty of the Northern Lights all night long. In late August visit Fort Smith for the Dark Sky Festival to view the wonders of our skies.



YUICHI TAKASAKA / NWT



START PLANNING: [SPECTACULARNWT.COM](https://www.spectacularnwt.com)



FISHING

Northern waters are alive with the biggest, healthiest, most vigorous fish on the planet. Dolly Varden and Bull Trout leap in our clear alpine streams. Brilliant-red Char thrash in pristine Arctic rapids. Squadrons of Pickerel patrol Subarctic creeks. Whitefish, Pike and of course Lake Trout haunt the cool depths of our freshwater inland seas. Whether you fish from a community dock, fly-cast in a mountain river or spend weeks trolling at a far-flung lodge, we know you'll be hooked.



There's no better place to wet your line. The Northwest Territories is a land blessed with waters – tens of thousands of the biggest, purest, healthiest lakes and rivers on Earth. Great Slave is the deepest lake in North America. If you fish in Christie Bay, the bottom will be a dizzying 2,100 feet (640m) below you. Great Bear, meanwhile, is the largest lake within Canadian borders – yet it's visited by only 300 sport fishers per year. Most of our lakes and rivers are like that: It's possible to fish all day, all week, or all month, and never see another boat.

Or, you can fish in our mountains, our Arctic coast, our Barrenlands. You can fish in racing rivers, at the base of frothing waterfalls, or in placid roadside ponds. Ultimately, you can go to the ends of the Earth, stand on a lonesome shore, and cast your line.

BIG FISH MAKE BETTER FISH STORIES

In the Northwest Territories, fish grow to the size of a small child – and are just as energetic. Great Bear is home to the biggest Lake Trout on Earth. Legends say Indigenous fishermen have netted leviathans that approach 90 pounds (41kgs). In the lake's western reaches, an angler at a fishing lodge caught (and released) a 79-pounder (36kgs) – the world sport-fishing record. We're also home to the planet's largest Char: beautiful scarlet beasts weighing more than 30 pounds (14kgs).

Not only are the fish here big, there are lots of them. Fishing pressure in

the North is nearly nil. Our environment is unspoiled, and our lakes and rivers are literally uncountable – making us a pristine paradise. Chances are, your arms will get tired before the fish do. (When that happens, relax on a sun-baked rock and watch your guide prepare a shore lunch of the fish you just caught.)

So get ready for a fisherman's fantasy. Whether you plan to fly-fish for Grayling, troll for Trout, ice fish, escape to a posh fishing lodge, or just cast a spoon from shore, the Northwest Territories is sure to be a catch.



A thousand rivers run through it

Welcome to world-class fly-fishing. With only a few summer months to feed, our fish are in a frenzy, snapping at wet or dry flies. You can wade the glacial creeks of the Mackenzie Range, casting for Bull Trout and Dolly Varden. You can walk the riverbanks along the Northwest Passage, hunting the flamboyant Arctic Char. Or you can explore the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, where the shallow waters crawl with fierce, feisty, metre-long Pike, giving fly-fishers the thrill of a lifetime.



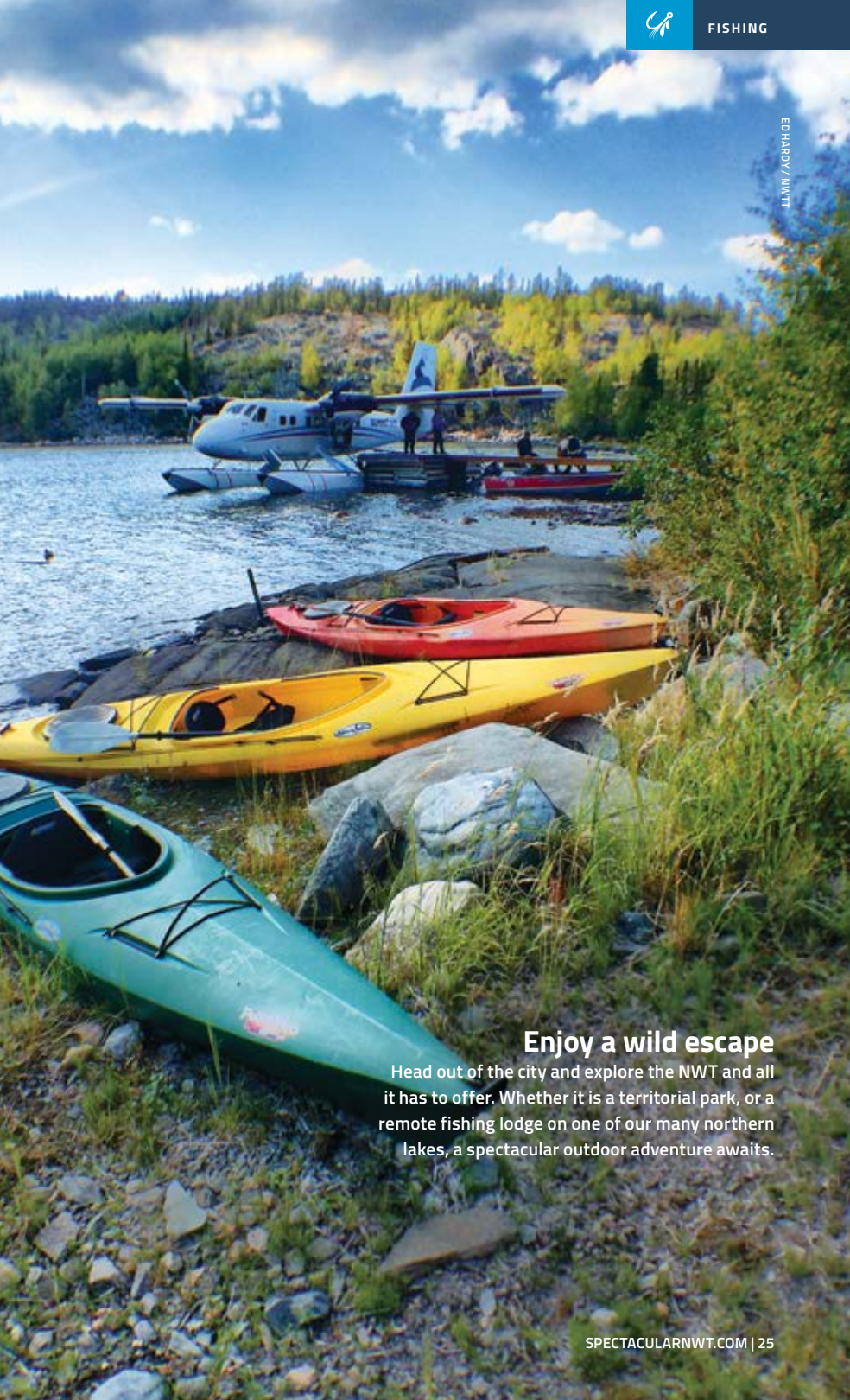
MARTINA GEBROVSKA / NWT

Do some cool fishing

Up here, fishing stays hot when the world freezes over. In several of our communities, guides offer out of this world ice-fishing excursions. Using snowmobiles or tracked vehicles, they'll take you out onto our glittering frozen lakes, send an auger through 3 feet (a metre) of ice, and help you drop a line to catch Pike, Trout or Burbot. Best of all, your day of ice-fishing is completed with a performance by the Northern Lights, which billow above after the fish bite below.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Northwest Territories, here's what lies beneath: Lake Trout stalk the pure, cold depths of our famous lakes, growing to outlandish sizes. Forty-pounders (18kgs) are frequent and bigger ones aren't unusual. Pike, found prowling warm marshes and reedy backwaters, get similarly massive. Inconnu, Burbot and Whitefish are also coveted lake species. Meanwhile, mouthwatering Arctic Char run in our coastal rivers. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden abound in alpine streams, while Pickerel and Grayling splash in many of our rivers and creeks.



Enjoy a wild escape

Head out of the city and explore the NWT and all it has to offer. Whether it is a territorial park, or a remote fishing lodge on one of our many northern lakes, a spectacular outdoor adventure awaits.

THERE'S A PLACE WHERE MONSTERS ARE REAL



They lurk in nearly every Northern lake. Impossibly numerous. Impossibly large. Patrolling the depths for decades without ever having seen a lure – until you make that one life-changing cast. Here are the reasons you'll find angling in the Northwest Territories to be "off the hook."

1 CATCHES BEYOND COUNTING. It isn't just the size of our fish that set records. It's the quantity of them, too. Up here, you don't have to choose between "bigger" or "more." At many of our lodges it's not unusual for an angler to have a 100-fish day. And of course, since we practice catch-and-release, all those fish go back in the water, growing even bigger, waiting to be caught again.



COREY MYERS / NWTT

2 FISHIN' AT MIDNIGHT... or at midday, or whenever you darn well please. Our fish don't wear watches. Under the midnight sun, they're biting all the time.

3 RECORD-SHATTERING TROUT. American doctor Aviars Slucis is the Captain Ahab of the North. A few years back, fishing on Great Bear Lake, he reeled in his Moby Dick – a whale of a Trout, perhaps a century old and estimated by his guide to weigh a world-record 79 pounds (36kgs). Did he mount it on his office wall? Nope. He let it go. And he returns, year after year, hoping to catch it again. It's still out there, somewhere, waiting for him – or for you.

4 THE LARGEST CHAR IN THE WORLD. It's not just our Trout that are record-breakers. We also have the most gargantuan Arctic Char on Earth, tipping the scales at more than 30 pounds (14kgs).





JOCELYN DEMETRE / NWT

5 LAKES ALL TO YOURSELF.

Great Bear is the largest lake within Canada. Its surface area exceeds that of Belgium, yet it's visited by an average of less than one angler per day. Venture even farther afield and you'll find nameless lakes that have likely never seen a fisherman.

6 DEEP WATERS AND WILD FISH.

Great Slave is the deepest lake in North America. To drop a hook in those depths would require a heckuva lot of line – but you just might catch something remarkable. Thriving in Great Slave's dark, cold abyss are deepwater Sculpins, Ciscos, and a fat variety of Lake Trout called a Siscowet.



JASON VAN BRUGGAN / NWT

7 EXOTIC LODGES.

Our lodges are a wilderness escape. Regardless of your interest (or skill!) in angling, spending time at a remote Northern fishing lodge is a true retreat – into blissful nature, into peace and quiet, and into the lap of luxury. Feel free to sit on the deck all day, doing absolutely nothing, just relaxing in our pure, tranquil world.

8 FRESH-CAUGHT SHORE LUNCHES.

The only thing better than landing a fish is frying it up on the waterfront.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM



PADDLING

In the Northwest Territories, every river trip is a pilgrimage. Launch your canoe here and you'll be paddling in the wake of legends. This is where Alexander Mackenzie, seeking a "Northwest Passage," first canoed to the Arctic Ocean. Where expeditioners trace the fabled Nahanni, considered the greatest wilderness river on Earth. Where kayakers frolic in the waves of the Slave River and where paddleboarders explore the gold-studded shores of Yellowknife Bay.



It's no wonder that paddlers dream of this place. We're a liquid Eden – a Promised Land of water. There are infinite places to go for a drift, including Canada's biggest and deepest lakes (Great Bear and Great Slave), its longest, farthest north, and most-dramatically-named rivers (Mackenzie, Thomsen, Brokenskill!), and National Parks like Aulavik and Tuktoyaktuk that are typically only seen from the water.

There are all sorts of options – whatever floats your boat. Sign up for a guided evening excursion by Voyageur canoe around Yellowknife's historic Old Town. Jump in a raft and relax for a week as an oarsman steers you down the Nahanni. Join a flotilla of flat-water kayakers for an escorted journey among the islands and cliffs of the East Arm, soon to be a National Park.

You can day-trip the calm Yellowknife River, fishing as you go. Or rent a canoe in Hay River and spend a month descending the fabled Mackenzie, visiting welcoming Dene and Inuvialuit villages and fish-camps. Or, you can paddle clear across the Barrenlands to the Arctic Ocean, never encountering a single town, never passing under a bridge, and likely never seeing another soul along the way.

DARREN ROBERTS / NWTT

Guided journeys galore

Even if you don't know your bow from your stern, the Northwest Territories is a splash. More than a dozen guiding companies lead trips here – quick kayak treks out of Yellowknife, two-week odysseys down the Horton River, and everything in between. Some outfitters cater to first-time boaters who are keen to be pampered: all the rowing, cooking and hauling is done by the seasoned guides. Others are for experts: You scout and run the big stuff yourself. There are also specialty trips – just for women, or combining paddling with hiking, and so forth.



The world's best wilderness rivers

Here you can be flown out to the Thelon, “the place where God began,” to stroke for weeks through an Arctic oasis to the saltwater of Hudson Bay. You can put in near Tungsten, on the continental divide, and drift every inch of the incomparable Nahanni, running rapids for a month or more. You can float the bracing snowmelt of the Thomsen, the northernmost navigable river on Earth, waving to muskoxen as you go by. Or you can descend the Mackenzie, the queen of Canadian rivers, enjoying a waterfront view of both the ancient and the modern North.



MARVELOUS WATERS – FROM MILD TO WILD

Wonder why paddlers speak of the Northwest Territories in hushed tones, plotting that *One Epic Journey*? Because, up here, the lakes and rivers have always run free. Today you'll find them crystal-clear, ice-cold and wild – just like when Earth was new.

Are you a casual paddler? Throughout the Northwest Territories, public put-ins abound – docks, boat ramps and sandy beaches where you can launch your little craft into our welcoming waters. Don't have a vessel? Many of our towns feature boat rental businesses. Even

better, local visitor centres and park offices gladly provide pointers, guiding you to the best fishing, wildlife, scenery, and more.

Prefer more epic paddling? Our paddling tourism operators are some of the best and most knowledgeable in the world. They can facilitate your adventure-of-a-lifetime, putting you efficiently on the water and getting you back home safe. Trips are available for all skill levels and are guaranteed to provide memories you'll have for life.

JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWT





Delirious day-trips

Up here there's a bumper sticker that reads, "My other car is a canoe." And just like us, you'll love paddling in the North. What's more, you don't have to be an expert to do it. Safe, placid routes, requiring an hour or a day, can be found at nearly every community and park. Drift on the azure surface on sandy Pine Lake, in Wood Buffalo National Park. Kayak among the colourful houseboats of Yellowknife Bay. Bob just offshore of the fabulous Hay River Beach. Or poke around the East Channel of the Mackenzie River, rich with muskrats and waterfowl, abutting downtown Inuvik.



BEN WEILAND / NWT

DID YOU KNOW?

Every one of our Territorial Parks is washed by wonderful waters. Put your canoe on your car and tour from campground to campground, exploring more than a dozen iconic lakes and rivers. Want some examples? Blackstone Landing Territorial Park provides access to the Liard River. Hay River Territorial Park lets you launch into Great Slave Lake. Fort Providence Territorial Park is perfectly situated to set off down the Mackenzie. And Reid Lake Territorial Park is the jumping off point for shield-country canoe adventures along the Tibbett, Jennejohn and Upper Cameron routes.

GRAB LIFE BY THE PADDLE



The Northwest Territories is possibly the world's premier canoe and kayak destination. Here are 13 reasons to float merrily down our streams.

1 THAT FEELING WHEN THE FLOATPLANE DEPARTS The aircraft lifts off, dips its wing to say “goodbye,” then disappears. You and your canoe buddies are all alone. Finally, the adventure has begun. The weight of the world lifts from your shoulders. You're truly free.



COREY MYERS / NWTT

3 BEING DOWNSTREAM OF A ROARING WATERFALL We've got scores of stunning cascades, from graceful Lady Evelyn Falls, on the Grayling-filled Kakisa River, to roaring Virginia Falls, on the famous Nahanni. They're a wonder to behold.

2 SEE RIVERSIDE CRITTERS The best way to watch wildlife is to drift right past it. Muskoxen through the Thomsen River on Banks Island. Beluga whales swim in the mouth of the Mackenzie River. Mountain sheep amble the Nahanni. You're not the only beast that loves the water.

4 PADDLING ASHORE TO MEET THE LOCALS Before we had roads, we had rivers, and they remain the lifeblood of the North. Our waterways are lined with traditional Indigenous towns, fish-camps and hunting cabins, where friendly folks will welcome you with tea, stories, and info about what lies downstream.

5 RIVERSIDE HOT SPRINGS Think of it as a spa in the wilderness. You earned it. Bask as long as you'd like.

6 DAY HIKES Give your arms a break and trot up to the nearest lookout.



COLIN FIELD / NWTT

7 CANYONS Paddling along the foot of plunging cliffs and sheer-sided chasms is a special sort of thrill. Whether you're in the gorgeous gorges of the Mountain River or among the red escarpments of the East Arm, you'll be amazed.



OLD TOWN PADDLE & CO / NWTT

8 STAND UP PADDLEBOARD
Because paddling doesn't have to cramp your style.

9 PADDLING AT MIDNIGHT
Nothing beats boating during the dusky overnight hours, when our Northern world is pink, silent and still.

10 PADDLING IN THE WAKE OF HISTORY Sir John Franklin canoed here. So did Samuel Hearne. And Alexander Mackenzie. Chief Akaitcho, and Matonabbee too. The list goes on.

11 CATCHING A FISH THAT'S NEARLY THE SIZE OF YOUR VESSEL

Up here, any angler with a motorboat can reel-in a 40 pound (18kgs) Pike. But landing a lunker while you're in a canoe, kayak or paddleboard? That takes true skill.



WILL RICHARDSON / NWTT

12 EPIC 'PLAYBOATING' Along with the Zambezi and White Nile, the Slave River, near Fort Smith, offers some of the world's best whitewater kayaking. Here, skilled paddlers perform tricks on waves with names like Avalanche and Rollercoaster. Even if you can't do a "donkey flip," the antics are thrilling to watch. Plus, there are plenty of entry-level spots to go for a lazy float.

13 PADDLING CELEBRATIONS Every August, Fort Smith's Paddlefest attracts scores of canoeists and kayakers for games, food and competitions. The same month, Tsiigehtchic celebrates Canoe Days with paddling races, a fiddling and jigging contest, and drum dancing.



START PLANNING: SPECTACULARNWT.COM

PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

The National Parks of the Northwest Territories are surviving bits of Eden. Here, rivers race with pure snow-melt. Peaks poke the heavens. Waterfalls plummet. And beasts abound – muskoxen, caribou, beluga, you name it. Some of our parks, like Nahanni, are legendary, spoken of in reverent tones. Others are unsung gems – the most untouched parts of the planet. But whether you're waiting for bison to make way for your car in Wood Buffalo National Park, or ascending a trackless peak in Nāáts'ihch'oh, you'll be experiencing Earth in its perfect form: glorious, wild, free.



BEN WEILAND / NWTT



The Northwest Territories also boasts an extensive network of Territorial Parks, campgrounds and day-use areas that highlight our natural wonders and make touring the region a snap.

Our 21 campgrounds are right where you want them – there's at least one campground along each of our highways, and all are near idyllic lakes, crashing cascades, rolling rivers or vibrant communities. Eleven of these campgrounds include powered sites for RVs, and most offer drinking water, showers, firewood, kitchen shelters, trails, playgrounds, and local staff eager to make your stay remarkable.

Meanwhile, our 19 roadside day-use areas are ideal for picnicking, fishing, strolling down a forested path, or marveling at a scenic vista. So whether you're barbecuing beside your Winnebago on a Great Slave Lake beach, camping at Blackstone Landing, or fishing and picnicking at pull-outs along the lake-studded Ingraham Trail, you'll find our parks Spectacular!

COLIN FIELD / NWT



NATIONAL PARKS

Nahanni National Park Reserve

Our signature park showcases the South Nahanni, possibly the world's greatest wilderness river. Framed by four towering canyons, the river gushes through an alpine oasis of bears, nimble Dall's sheep and elusive woodland caribou. Attractions include Virginia Falls, an earthshaking, soul-stirring cascade, plus riverside hot springs, burbling tufa mounds, and hike-able peaks. Nahanni is a stellar day-long flightseeing trip from Fort Simpson or even better, a guided or unguided expedition by canoe or raft.



DESTINATION CANADA / NWT

Wood Buffalo National Park

As big as a European country and as strange as an alien world, Canada's largest park was founded to protect the rare Wood Bison, the biggest land animal in the Western hemisphere. The park bestrides our southern border, taking in pine-studded plains, gleaming salt flats, "karstland" caves, and the Peace-Athabasca wetlands. On hikes, drives, boat-rides or flightseeing tours you might spot the world's last whooping cranes, a beaver dam visible from space, and of course hundreds of bison. Best of all, the park is road-accessible year round from friendly Fort Smith.

Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserve

Named for a sacred mountain in its midst, this is our newest National Park. It's tucked against the Yukon border, guarding the headwaters of both the Nahanni and the Natla/Keele river systems. Here, paddlers can traverse the South Nahanni's "rock garden," featuring 50km of continuous rapids, or try the less technical Broken Skull, or put in on O'Grady Lake to descend the Natla/Keele. Wildlife includes grizzlies, mountain goats and the northernmost Dall's sheep in Canada.



Tuktut Nogait National Park

Bordering the fabled Northwest Passage, this is one of Canada's least visited parks: Each year, more people orbit the Earth than set foot here. That's just fine with the 68,000 Bluenose caribou who make their calving grounds here. Most visitors experience the park while paddling the canyon-framed Hornaday River. Bird life – peregrine falcons, tundra swans and jaegers – abound, as do ancient Inuit archeological sites.

CHARLA JONES / NWT

PARKS CANADA / NWT

Aulavik National Park

Our farthest north park sprawls across the pristine, big-sky barrenlands of Banks Island. It's famous for two things: the Thomsen River and muskoxen. The calm, clear Thomsen is the world's northernmost navigable river, carrying guided or independent paddlers through this Arctic paradise. The muskoxen are everywhere, in numbers found nowhere else on Earth. Also, keep your eyes peeled for diminutive Peary caribou, snowy owls and gyrfalcons.



TERRITORIAL PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

WA WESTERN ARCTIC

S SAHTU

D DEHCHO

SS SOUTH SLAVE

NS NORTH SLAVE

WA GWICH'IN TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On Campbell Lake, half an hour south of Inuvik on the Dempster Highway, this campground has 23 non-powered campsites, 12 tent sites and a floating dock.

WA HAPPY VALLEY TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

This campground is in the heart of Inuvik, on a bluff overlooking the Mackenzie River and with views of the Richardson Mountains. There are 19 powered and 9 non-powered sites, 6 tent sites, washrooms with running water and showers, plus friendly staff.

WA JÀ'K TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Just outside Inuvik, this park features an observation tower with excellent views and prime birding. There are 9 powered and 27 non-powered sites, trails, washrooms with running water and showers, interpretive displays and welcoming staff.

WA NITAINLAI TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

This park is nestled among spruce trees on a cliff overlooking the Peel River, just outside of Fort McPherson. The visitor centre offers a fascinating glimpse of the life of the Gwich'in. There are 23 non-powered sites and helpful staff.

WA VADZAIH VAN TSHIK TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Beside cliff-flanked Caribou Creek north of Tsiigehtchic on the Dempster Highway, this campground will appeal to birders – kingfishers skim the water and peregrine falcons nest nearby. There are 6 non-powered sites.

S MACKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the banks of the Mackenzie in Norman Wells, this is a perfect stop for river-trippers. There are eight non-powered campsites offering great views of the Mackenzie Mountains.

D BLACKSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Off the Liard Trail, Blackstone boasts a prime location beside the mountain-flanked Liard River. There are 19 non-powered campsites, washrooms with running water and showers, friendly staff, an intriguing interpretive centre, and a boat launch.

D FORT SIMPSON TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Overlooking the Mackenzie-Liard confluence near the historic Papal Site, and within walking distance of downtown Fort Simpson, this idyllic spot has 21 powered sites, 11 non-powered sites, and washrooms with running water and showers.

D SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Beside the Trout River near the community of Jean Marie River, this campground has hiking trails, fishing, and great views of two waterfalls. There are 20 wooded, non-powered campsites, washrooms with running water and showers, and attentive staff.

SS FORT PROVIDENCE TERRITORIAL CAMPGROUND

Perched on the Mackenzie River just upstream from Fort Providence (and just outside the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary), this placid, timber-shrouded campground offers great fishing mere steps from its 33 non-powered campsites.

SS HAY RIVER TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the sandy shores of Great Slave Lake just a few kilometres from downtown Hay River, this park is a prime swimming and fishing location. It has 43 powered sites, trails, washrooms with running water and showers, and receptive staff.



**START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM**



**SS LADY EVELYN
FALLS TERRITORIAL
PARK CAMPGROUND**

Just outside quaint Kakisa where the warm Kakisa River spills over a limestone escarpment, this park has great Grayling fishing, trails, interpretive displays, 23 powered sites, washrooms with running water and showers, and hospitable staff.

**SS LITTLE BUFFALO
RIVER CROSSING
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

On the scenic Buffalo River 20 kilometres shy of Fort Resolution, this placid campground features 20 powered sites, a boat launch, and excellent fishing.

**SS LITTLE BUFFALO
RIVER FALLS
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

En route to Fort Smith and Wood Buffalo National Park, this campground boasts a small waterfall and, in the gorge below, a boat launch. There are six non-powered sites and trails.



BENJI STRAKER / NWT

**SS QUEEN
ELIZABETH
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

Just outside Fort Smith, this large, lushly wooded campground features 24 powered campsites, washrooms with running water and showers, interpretive information, friendly staff, and a walking trail leading to great views of the Slave River Rapids.

**SS 60TH PARALLEL
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

On the banks of the Hay River at the Alberta-Northwest Territories border, this campground has seven non-powered sites nestled amongst birch and aspens. You'll find interpretive displays and knowledgeable staff at the adjacent visitor centre.

**SS TWIN FALLS
GORGE TERRITORIAL
PARK AND
LOUISE FALLS
CAMPGROUND**

Just south of Enterprise, this aptly named spot overlooks Hay River canyon



DAVE BROSHA / NWT

near Louise and Alexandra Falls. You'll find trails, lookouts, interpretive signage, washrooms with running water and showers, welcoming staff, and 28 powered sites.

**NS FRED HENNE
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

On Yellowknife's outskirts, this is the territory's busiest campground, with a beach, boat launch, and trails amid the outcrops. There are 75 powered sites, another 40 without power (including 9 hike-in tent pads), washrooms with running water and showers, and cooperative staff.

**NS PRELUDE LAKE
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

On the Ingraham Trail, Prelude has a beach, boat launch, boat rentals and trails. There are 79 non-powered sites (including 12 stunning hike-in tent pads), washrooms with running water and showers, interpretive displays, and friendly staff.

**NS REID LAKE
TERRITORIAL PARK
CAMPGROUND**

Reid Lake, almost at the end of the Ingraham Trail, is a base for fishing, swimming, power-boating, and canoeing. It has 74 non-powered sites (including 9 tent-pads), a boat launch, trails, washrooms with running water and showers, and engaging staff.

QUICK FACTS

FEES:

Tent pads:

\$15/night

Non-powered sites:

\$22.50/night

Powered sites:

\$28/night

Fred Henne powered

sites: \$32/night

SEASON:

Dehcho:

June 1-Oct. 1

Sambaa Deh:

May 18-Sept. 17

Sahtu:

May 11-Sept. 16

South Slave:

May 17-Sept. 17

Western Arctic:

June 1-Sept. 1

North Slave:

May 11-Sept. 16

MAXIMUM STAY:

14 days at Fred Henne,

Fort Providence, Hay

River, Queen Elizabeth

and Twin Falls

Territorial Parks during

peak season (June

15-August 15).

RESERVATIONS:

Campsites can

be reserved at

nwt-parks.ca/

campgrounds. This

website features an

interactive map where

you can plan your route

through the Northwest

Territories, explore our

various campgrounds,

identify the campsites

of your choice, check

availability, and make

bookings. To avoid

disappointment,

particularly at

parks near large

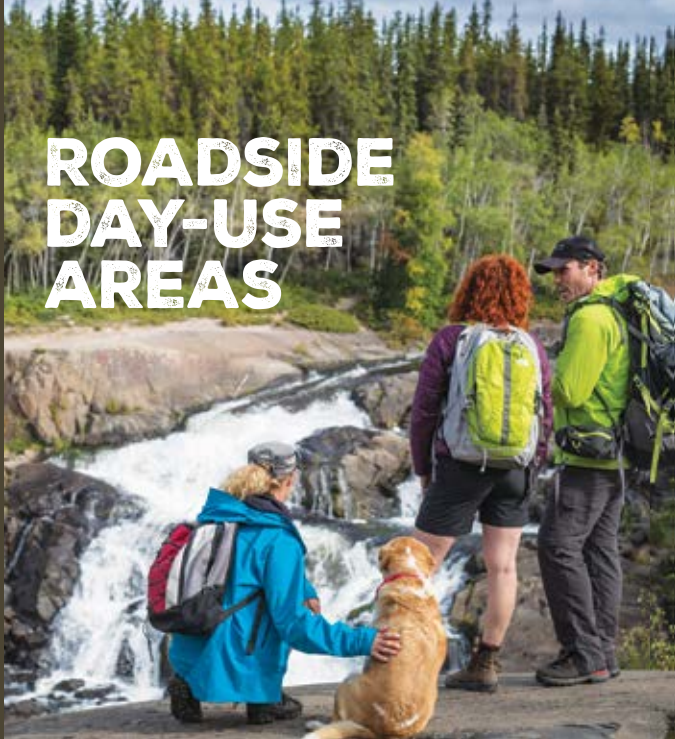
communities,

reserve early.

CONTACT:

www.nwt-parks.ca

ROADSIDE DAY-USE AREAS



DAVE BROSHA / NWT

WA EHJUJ NJNIK DAY USE AREA

Just off the Dempster Highway, you can spend an afternoon here picnicking on the banks of Cabin Creek or casting your line for Arctic Grayling.

WA NIHTAK DAY USE AREA

At this Dempster Highway site you'll find a Whitefish-filled creek and a boat launch providing access to Campbell Lake at the foot of the Dolomite Hills.

WA TETLIT GWINJIK TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

Nestled on the slope of the Peel River Plateau, this Dempster Highway interpretive lookout offers sweeping views of the Richardson Mountains and Mackenzie Delta.

SS DORY POINT TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

Located a short way from Hwy 3's Deh Cho Bridge, this is a picnic spot overlooking the south bank of the Mackenzie River not far from its source at Great Slave Lake.

SS FORT SMITH MISSION TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

Here in the heart of Fort Smith, explore the historic grounds of the Oblate Catholic Mission, the most important in the North. Interpretive panels will guide the way.

SS KAKISA RIVER TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

Off Hwy 1 along the Kakisa River, picnic, launch a canoe, or cast a line for Arctic



GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT

Grayling. Then take the trail to crescent-shaped Lady Evelyn Falls.

SS MCNALLIE CREEK TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

From Hwy 1, a short trail leads to a viewing platform above 17-metre-high McNallie Creek Falls. Look for the cliff swallows nesting in the ravine walls.

SS TWIN FALLS GORGE TERRITORIAL PARK - ALEXANDRA FALLS DAY USE AREA

From the lookout on Hwy 1, peer at Alexandra Falls, where the Hay River tumbles 32 metres. Then stroll the canyon-side trail to almost-as-dramatic Louise Falls.

D BLACKSTONE RIVER DAY USE AREA

A convenient rest stop along the remote Liard Trail, this site perches on the forested banks of the Blackstone just upstream from its confluence with the Liard River.

D CHAN LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On Hwy 3 in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, this is a picturesque picnic spot. Watch for sandhill cranes on the roadside, waterfowl on Chan Lake, and, of course, bison.

NS CAMERON RIVER CROSSING TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

Along the Ingraham Trail, this sandy riverside site beckons to picnickers, anglers and hikers strolling downstream to the Upper Cameron Falls.

NS CAMERON RIVER FALLS DAY USE AREA

From the Ingraham Trail, a path leads one kilometre over rocky outcrops to spectacular Cameron Falls. From there, a pedestrian bridge crosses the river.

NS FRED HENNE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On Long Lake, just a few kilometres from downtown Yellowknife, you'll find picnic sites, a boat launch, a sandy beach, a playground and change houses.

NS MADELINE LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

This small Ingraham Trail park is an ideal launching point for canoeists, boaters and anglers using placid Madeline Lake.

NS NORTH ARM TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On Hwy 3, along the glorious shores of Great Slave, the

scenery changes here from the well-treed Mackenzie Lowlands to the rolling granite of the Canadian Shield.

NS PONTOON LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On a scenic peninsula, this Ingraham Trail site appeals to picnickers, anglers, and folks looking for wildlife and waterfowl under the midnight sun.

NS POWDER POINT TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On the Ingraham Trail, this site offers access to Hidden Lake Territorial Park. Check out the interpretive panels and then launch your canoe for backcountry adventure.

NS PROSPEROUS LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

On the Ingraham Trail, this is the best place to launch into Prosperous Lake, featuring big Trout, towering shore-cliffs, and the fun-to-run Tartan Rapids.

NS YELLOWKNIFE RIVER TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

At the mouth of the Yellowknife River, this Ingraham Trail site is perfect for picnicking, fishing, launching a canoe up the roundabout river, or boating into Great Slave Lake.



GETTING HERE

The Northwest Territories is within reach – yet beyond belief. Getting here is half the fun. There are two ways to do it (unless you come by canoe like Alexander Mackenzie). Jump on a jetplane for a fast scenic flight. Or, point your wheels north for the road trip of a lifetime.

COLIN FIELD / NWTT

Getting here by air

No matter where you live, it's easy to fly to the Northwest Territories.

Our capital city, Yellowknife, enjoys direct service from **Edmonton** (1.5 hours; Air Canada, Canadian North, First Air, WestJet), **Calgary** (2 hours; Air Canada, WestJet), **Ottawa** (4 hours; Air North), **Vancouver** (2.5 hours; Air Canada) and **Whitehorse** (1.5 hours; Air North).

Our regional hubs, Fort Smith, Hay River, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson and Inuvik also receive flights from Yellowknife.

Getting here by road

You can pick any one of three well-maintained, all-season highways to reach the Northwest Territories.

Stretching north through the boreal woodlands of Alberta is Hwy 35. After a day's drive from Edmonton you'll reach our waterfall-washed South Slave region and our premier fishing port, Hay River, on Great Slave Lake.

In British Columbia, scenic Hwy 77 begins near Fort Nelson and enters our Dehcho region two hours later near the artsy town of Fort Liard – an easy side trip from the Alaska Highway.

Finally, the fabled Dempster Highway begins near Dawson City, Yukon, and runs northeast through stunning alpine country to our Western Arctic region. A 12-hour drive will bring you to the town of Inuvik. Two hours more and you'll reach the Arctic Ocean at Tuktoyaktuk.





GETTING AROUND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

By air

Yellowknife is the primary departure-point for flights to outlying communities in the Northwest Territories. Other air hubs include Fort Simpson, serving the Dehcho region; Norman Wells, serving the Sahtu; Inuvik, serving the Western Arctic and Fort Smith, serving the South Slave. Almost all of our communities enjoy scheduled air service at least a couple of times per week. Charter flights – fixed-wheel aircraft, floatplanes, or ski-planes – provide access to the smallest settlements as well as to fishing lodges, National Parks and wilderness rivers.

By road

All major towns in the territory, and some of the smaller outposts, are linked by all-weather highways. In the South Slave and North Slave regions most of these routes are paved. In the Dehcho and Western Arctic the roads are

predominantly crushed gravel. Except in unusually wet conditions they are navigable in a standard passenger car or RV.

BY FERRY

In summer, free car ferries bring travellers across our unbridged rivers – the Liard near Fort Simpson, the Mackenzie near Wrigley and Tsiigehtchic, and the Peel near Fort McPherson (hours of operation are limited, so check in advance). For several weeks during “freeze up” in the autumn and “break up” in the spring these

ferries are out of operation, preventing overland access.

BY ICE-ROAD

In winter, ferries are replaced by ice crossings. Ice roads also provide seasonal overland access to most of the Northwest Territories’ smaller communities. Drivers using these roads should be well-prepared for cold-weather travel, carrying winter survival gear and extra fuel.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM



SHERRY OTT / NWTT

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

It pays to check ahead. Road reports are available through the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation at dot.gov.nt.ca, on Twitter at @GNWT_INF, or by calling 1-800-661-0750.

GAS AND REPAIRS

Diesel and unleaded gasoline are available in most Northwest Territories towns. In small communities, gas-station hours may be limited, or fuel may be available only at “card-lock” pumps, requiring a valid credit card. Towing and repairs can be arranged in larger centres.

IN CASE OF A BREAKDOWN

Don't sweat it. Except in deep winter, car trouble here is less stressful

than major cities. Just pop your hood, activate your flashers and hail a passing motorist. In the North it's customary to lend a hand. Rare would be the driver who would drive on by.

SPEED AND DRIVING TIMES

All our highways have posted speed limits of 100 kilometres per hour or lower. Speed-traps are rare, but our roads are still patrolled – by buffalo, moose and bears. Be sure to slow down. Keep in mind that the southern rule of thumb – an hour per 100 clicks – doesn't apply here. For instance, plan for 12 hours to cover the 775 kilometres between Yellowknife and Fort Liard.

MIND THE DUST

During dry periods, unpaved roads can be dusty, posing a hazard when being passed by,

or trailing too closely behind, other vehicles. Always drive with headlights on, pass only in passing zones – and slow down.

COMMUNICATIONS

Except near towns, your cell phone probably won't get reception. Ditto for your car radio and GPS. Download podcasts in advance.

DRIVERS LICENCES

Canada honours valid drivers' licences from any country.

EATING ALONG THE HIGHWAY

There are only a few restaurants located along the highway system but our communities usually have a snack bar or restaurant. And every community along the highway has a grocery store or general store.

THE LAW SAYS...

Headlights and seatbelts are required by law in the Northwest Territories. Make sure you buckle up and have your headlights turned on day and night.



BEN WEILAND / NWT



Watch for wildlife

Big beasts roam our roads. Most common are bison, often idling fearlessly in the middle of the highway. While easy to spot in daylight, caution should be exercised at night. Take it slow in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, Wood Buffalo National Park, and on the Liard Trail.

HANS PFAFF / NWT

COLIN FIELD / NWT



Preparations

Some travellers carry an extra jerry-can of gas, but it's not essential – the longest stretch between stations is under 400 kilometres. Always gas up when you can. Make sure your tires are good, have a full-sized spare (perhaps two on the Dempster Highway), and know how to change it. Summers can be buggy, so fill your wiper-fluid. In winter, pack a shovel, flashlight, and cold-weather survival gear.

ROAD TRIPS

The wild highways of the Northwest Territories will take you through stunning, unspoiled wilderness – yet they lead to comfortable campgrounds, scenic picnic sites, perfect fishing holes, friendly visitor centres and a wealth of welcoming towns.

DO THE WILDEST DRIVE

Up here, you can drive all night beneath the midnight sun. Camp for days by roadside waterfalls. Watch bison browse just metres from your vehicle. Tour log-cabin hamlets and colourful, cosmopolitan towns. However you roll – in a big truck or a compact passenger car – your vehicle will be perfect for the Northwest Territories. Many of

our highways are paved, while others are well-groomed gravel. RVers will find pull-through campsites and dump stations at many campgrounds. Gas pumps are located in every town, and larger centres have fully-equipped service stations. Best of all, you can now drive to the Arctic Ocean, thanks to the brand-new “Tuk Highway.”



J. F. BERGERON / NWTT

Roll to the polar sea

Seeking the road less travelled? The Arctic coast of North America can now be reached by car. The 130-kilometre-long Tuk Highway, linking Inuvik to the Beaufort Sea, has opened to the public, putting adventurous road-trippers face-to-face with roaming reindeer, frozen “pingo” peaks, the beloved Inuvialuit town of Tuktoyaktuk, and of course the legendary Arctic Ocean.

Go for a spin on an ice road

Heard of Ice Road Truckers? This is where the show got rolling. In winter, when our lakes and rivers freeze, the Northwest Territories creates a whole new set of roads. Hundreds of kilometres of icy highways reach out across our boreal forests and Barrenlands, linking drivers to national parks, natural wonders and idyllic Indigenous communities, all glittering under the Aurora Borealis.

Rev up for a Dempster adventure

For the road trip of a lifetime, drive the 730km Dempster Highway. This is Canada’s northernmost road, departing the Klondike, rumbling through a humbling alpine highlands, and then descending into the sweeping Mackenzie Delta. You’ll find roaming wildlife, staggering scenery, great boating and hiking, and culturally rich communities where you’re welcome to bunk down for the night – or for the summer.



GEROLD SIGL / NWTT

Detour from the Alaska Highway

Each summer, crowds of RVers creep up the “Alcan,” never realizing how close they’ve come to untouched wilderness. At Fort Nelson, B.C., the Northwest Territories is barely an hour’s detour north. Make the turn onto the Liard Trail and you’ll be bound for Nahanni Country, home to ancient peaks, untapped fishing holes, famous waterfalls, friendly towns – and zero traffic.



COLIN FIELD / NWTT

Free boat rides! (sort of)

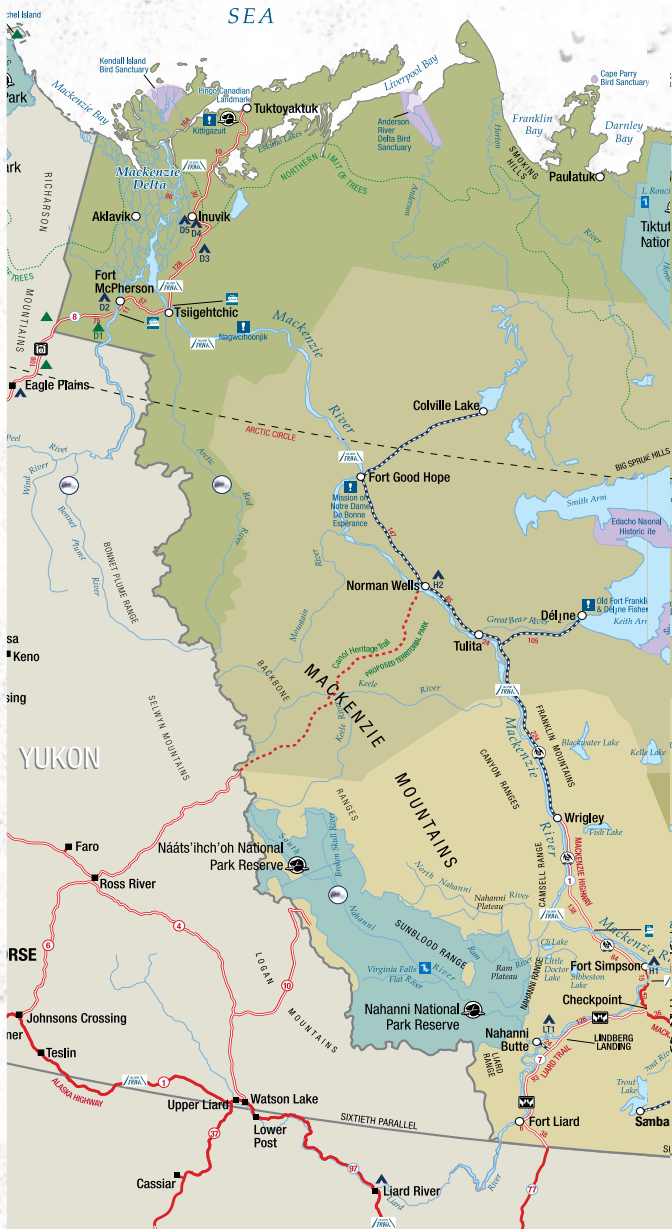
Car ferries are one of the charms of the North, where few of the rivers are bridged. During summer, ferries cross the Mackenzie, Liard and Peel – providing highway travellers not just with free transport but a quick, easy way to see these mighty waterways. Winter crossings are equally novel: You can drive right over the ice.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Northwest Territories is 1.2 million square kilometres and is home to 44,000 people who live in the 33 communities.

ARCTIC OCEAN

BEAUFORT SEA



GETTING HERE

- Air Canada | www.aircanada.com
- Canadian North | www.canadiannorth.com
- First Air | www.firstair.ca
- West Jet | www.westjet.com
- Air North | www.flyairnorth.com
- Northwestern Air Lease | www.nwal.ca

ROAD DISTANCES

From Yellowknife to:	Miles	KM
Vancouver, BC	1613	2595
Edmonton, AB	937	1508
Calgary, AB	1110	1789
Winnipeg, MB	1773	2853
Toronto, ON	2824	4544
Ottawa, ON	3037	4887
Chicago, IL	3078	4953
Dallas, TX	3150	5069
Salt Lake City, UT	2036	3278
Denver, CO	2391	3848

AIR DISTANCES

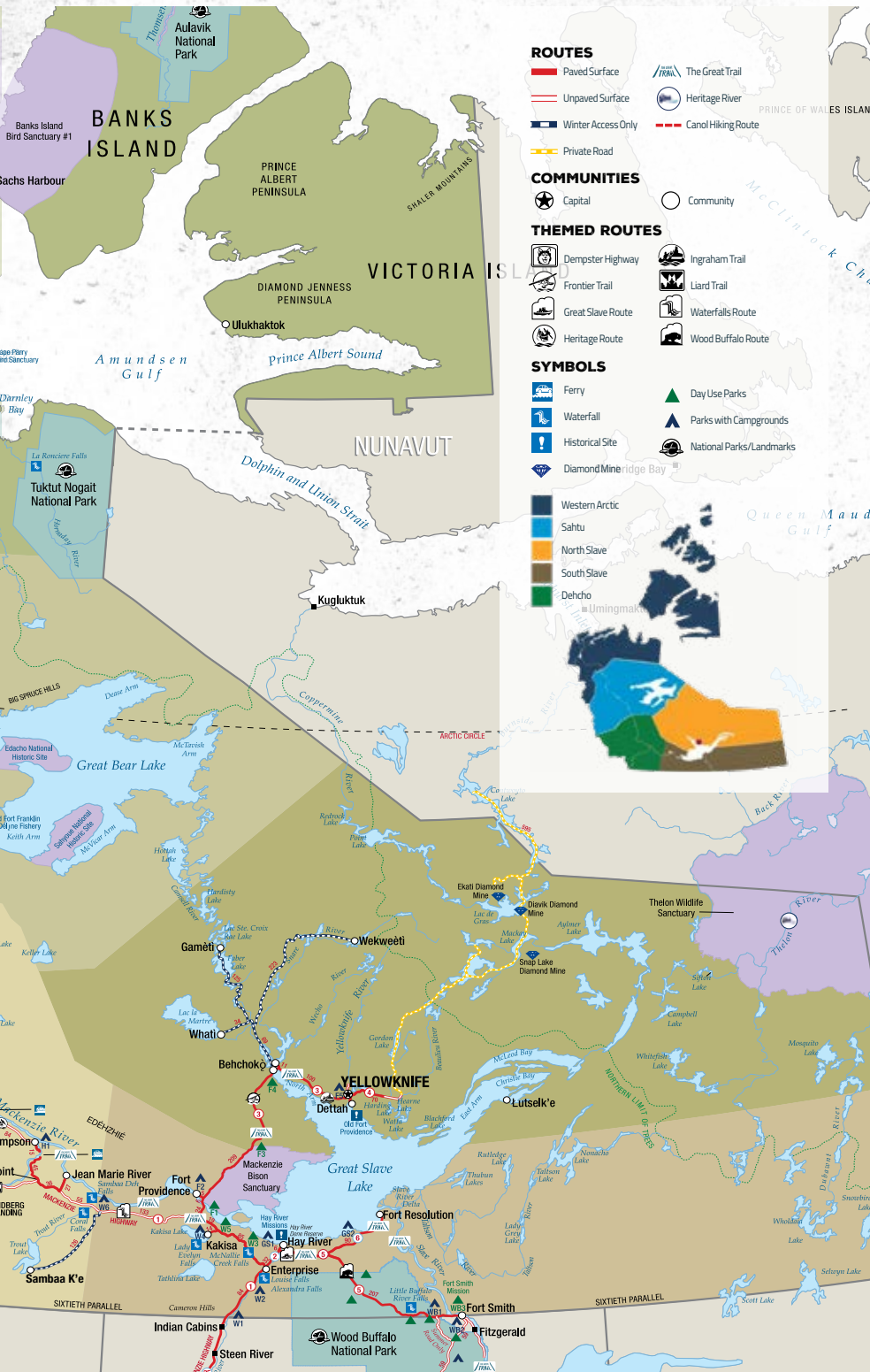
From Yellowknife to:	Miles	KM
Vancouver, BC	972	1564
Edmonton, AB	616	991
Calgary, AB	786	1265
Winnipeg, MB	1085	1746
Toronto, ON	1906	3068
Ottawa, ON	1930	3106
Chicago, IL	1792	2883
Dallas, TX	2191	3526
Salt Lake City, UT	1505	2422
Denver, CO	1616	2600
Los Angeles	1942	3125

METRIC CONVERSIONS

Metric Multiplied by US Units

Kilometres	0.62140	Miles
Litres	0.26420	Gallons
Kilograms	2.20460	Pounds





ROUTES

- Paved Surface
- Unpaved Surface
- Winter Access Only
- Private Road

- The Great Trail
- Heritage River
- Canoe Hiking Route

COMMUNITIES

- Capital
- Community

THEMED ROUTES

- Dempster Highway
- Frontier Trail
- Great Slave Route
- Heritage Route
- Ingham Trail
- Liard Trail
- Waterfalls Route
- Wood Buffalo Route

SYMBOLS

- Ferry
- Waterfall
- Historical Site
- Diamond Mine
- Day Use Parks
- Parks with Campgrounds
- National Parks/Landmarks



YELLOWKNIFE

Welcome to the best of all worlds. In the capital city of the Northwest Territories you'll find skyscrapers leaping up from timeless outcrops and peering over Great Slave Lake. You'll see sailboats slip through gleaming waters while floatplanes loop overhead. You'll experience a carnival in an ice palace, an international music festival lit by the midnight sun, and a dogsled race reminiscent of old time, long distance travel.



DAVE BROSHA / NWTT



You'll visit a neighbourhood of bright houseboats, all aglow beneath the Aurora. You'll taste a smorgasbord of flavors, at brewpubs and bison burger joints, Ethiopian eateries and sushi bars. You'll smell jackpines, frying fish, tanned moosehide, Labrador tea, and campfires.

You'll make yourself cozy in a posh high-rise hotel, or in a B&B with the Northern Lights flashing overhead. Or you'll pitch your tent on a lakeshore where the granite glitters with gold.

You'll meet a whole bunch of friendly people: Other visitors, from Tokyo, Toronto and Tuktoyaktuk, plus all the off-beat locals who make this place their home. And like them all, you'll have a heckuva time.

A PLACE BOTH MODERN AND WILD

Anywhere else, you would have to choose: Big city chic, or nature unleashed? Pick the first one and you'll be stuck in traffic for two hours en route to the nearest campground. Choose the latter and the local "coffee shop" will be a gas station.

In Yellowknife, you don't have to choose. Here, uptown refinement and backcountry adventure come as a package deal.

Where else could you cross-country ski on Great Slave Lake, gliding past the cabins of historic Ragged Ass Road and ending up at an award-winning brewpub? Where else could you rent a canoe and join a group of paddlers at a floating film festival?

Or how about attending a gala ball in an ice castle, and then enjoying an encore performed by the blazing Northern Lights? Or snowshoeing out the front door of your B&B, tramping down a frosted trail to a world-class museum? Or witnessing drum dancing, breakdancing and ballet dancing, all in a single day?

Or meeting diamond prospectors, bush pilots, grizzled poets and the territorial premier – well, you get the picture. Pack for rustic, prepare for high class, and get ready to be blown away by both, in Canada's capital of cool.

YELLOWKNIFE ITINERARY

DAY 1 First things first: Ogle the Aurora. To get great views of the Northern Lights, just wait 'til night and wander to somewhere dark – out on Houseboat Bay, or atop Pilot's Monument in Old Town. Even better take an Aurora-watching tour that drives even farther from city lights, or hunker down in nearby Aurora Village, where the heated outdoor seats allow you to gaze up in comfort.



RORY FARRELL / NWT

DAY 2 Museum day! Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre showcases frontier aviation, mining heritage, Indigenous culture, plus Arctic art exhibits. Next door is the Legislative Assembly, with paintings by the Group of Seven and displays on Northern governance. Finally, check out the NWT Diamond Centre where expert cutters display their skills, turning rough diamonds into polished gems.



J. F. BERGERON / NWT



ADAM PISANI / NWT

DAY 3 Today is for eating and exercise. Trek scenic trails over the outcrops around Frame, Niven and Jackfish lakes, looking for foxes, beavers, and waterfowl. Lunch at our legendary log-cabin eatery, the Wildcat Café. Then rent a kayak, canoe or paddleboard and go float among the colourful houseboats of Yellowknife Bay. Finally, dine on the catch-of-the-day at lakefront Bullock's, with the top-rated fish and chips in Canada.



DAY 4 Take a historic walking tour of Old Town. Ascend Pilot's Monument. Poke around Weaver & Devore's, a still-in-business trading post. Cross the McMeekan Causeway to the Bank of Toronto log cabin. Peruse the galleries of Willow Flats, and stroll down Ragged Ass Road. Check out Lois Lane, in honour of Yellowknife-born Margot Kidder of Superman fame.

DAY 5 Today is for boats and planes. First, lift off on a flightseeing tour, soaring over the red-rock cliffs of the East Arm or the buffalo pastures of the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary. Land at a Trout-fishing lodge near the Barrenlands or a Pike haven on the shallow North Arm. Or, return to town for a fishing tour down Yellowknife Bay, hooking Inconnu, Whitefish and more – and turning them into a tasty shore-lunch.



START PLANNING: SPECTACULARNWT.COM

DID YOU KNOW?

Yellowknife was founded in 1934 when prospector Johnny Baker struck gold on the east shore of Yellowknife Bay. Soon, the Con and Giant Mines were in production; by 1950 the population was nearly 3,000. Both of the mines shut down by 2004, by which time Yellowknife's economy was fueled not by gold, but diamonds, which are mined in profusion on the Barrenlands. To learn more, visit extraordinaryyk.com.

WESTERN ARCTIC

The Arctic is a land of icons. Polar bears. Reindeer. Tundra sprawling to infinity. High Arctic islands reaching toward the pole. Beluga whales. Muskoxen in a ring around their young. An ocean, frozen in place, gleaming in the nightless spring. And the people who call it home – the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, who've thrived here for ages along the mouth of the Mackenzie River and the flanks of the Northwest Passage.

The Western Arctic is remote, but getting here is half the fun. The Dempster Highway unfurls over the mountains from Dawson City, Yukon. Driving it is the biggest adventure you can have while sitting down. And now, too, there's the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Canada's northernmost road, stretching clear to the Arctic coast.



J. E. BENDERON / NWIT



Once here, the options are limitless. Explore bustling Inuvik, a town conceived by the Canadian Government in 1953. Boat through the maze-like Mackenzie River Delta, rife with rare birds and beasts. See two National Parks: Aulavik and Tuktoyaktuk. And visit a medley of idyllic villages, from friendly Fort McPherson to Ulukhaktok, site of the farthest north golf tournament on Earth.

A NEW ROAD RUNS THROUGH IT

Start your engines, because the Western Arctic is now home to Canada's greatest road trip. From Dawson City, the rough-and-ready Dempster Highway rambles 737 kilometres across the Arctic Circle, through the Richardson Range, and into the vast Mackenzie River Delta.

You'll see razor-sharp peaks, majestic caribou herds, big rivers, roaming grizzlies, and a sprinkling of idyllic Indigenous towns. You'll arrive at Inuvik, the metropolis of the Western Arctic – the perfect place to pick up an Inuvialuit carving, take a river tour to see birdlife and reindeer, or fly to the abandoned whaling station of Herschel Island, once the busiest port in the Arctic.

And from here, the road continues on. The just-opened Inuvik to Tuk Highway treks even farther north, out onto the

great coastal Barrenlands, rolling 120 kilometres to the Arctic Ocean. There, you can visit the Inuvialuit community of Tuktoyaktuk, jutting into the Beaufort Sea, with its ice-cored "pingo" hills, permafrost and famous whales.

Off the highway system, even more opportunity awaits. East of Inuvik is traditional Paulatuk, and remote Tuktoyaktuk National Park, cut through by the rushing Hornaday River. West is historic Aklavik, where the Mad Trapper saga unfolded.

Up on Banks Island, paddlers tackle Canada's most remote paddling trip, through muskox-dense Aulavik National Park, or make visits to the territory's farthest north communities – artistic Ulukhaktok, tiny, serene Sachs Harbour and steeped-in-tradition Paulatuk.

WESTERN ARCTIC: ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fancy a trip to the top of the world? Roll northbound on the epic Dempster Highway. You'll traverse the jagged Tombstone Range, cross the boundless, lonesome Eagle Plains, and arrive at the Arctic Circle, beyond which you're officially in the Arctic. Welcome to True North!



COLIN FIELD / NWTT



COLIN FIELD / NWTT

DAY 2 Today, rumble through the Richardson Mountains, witnessing lovely wildflowers and lordly grizzlies. A car ferry navigates the Peel River to Fort McPherson, a Gwich'in outpost that's the resting place of the tragic Lost Patrol. Then descend to the mighty Mackenzie River, stopping at scenic Tsiigehtchic – don't miss the historic waterfront church! Finally, weave through the boreal taiga landscape to bustling Inuvik.



DAY 3 Savour city living in this Arctic metropolis. Inuvik unites three cultures: Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and non-Indigenous. Discover their stories at the museum-quality visitor centre, snap up crafts at local galleries, and (if your timing is right), attend the inspiring Great Northern Arts Festival. Also, hit local landmarks like the iconic Igloo Church and the observation tower overlooking Ja'k Park.



TAWNA BROWN / NWTT

DAY 4 Drive yourself wild on Canada's northernmost highway. The just-completed "Tuk Highway" wriggles across reindeer prairies, passes lakes where beluga whales take refuge, and reaches the Pingo Canadian Landmark, sprouting with conical, ice-filled pingo hills. It ends in the Inuvialuit hub of Tuktoyaktuk. Meet locals, see the sights (historic schooners, traditional dwellings) and dip your toe in the Arctic Ocean.

ANNE KOKKO / NWTT

DAY 5 Finally, venture even farther afield: Catch a plane from Inuvik to Paulatuk, home to the eerie plumes of the Smoking Hills, or Aklavik, where the murderous Mad Trapper lies. For golfers, tee off on the world's farthest north golf course, in Ulukhaktok on Victoria Island. Or head up to tiny Sachs Harbour, crawling with muskoxen and the gateway to Aulavik National Park, where the fabled Thomsen River runs.



WESTERN ARCTIC: A CLOSER LOOK

Access

Get revved up for the roadtrip of a lifetime. The epic Dempster Highway rolls from Dawson City to the sweeping Mackenzie Delta, visiting Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and bustling Inuvik. From there, you can keep on driving. The brand-new road to Tuktoyaktuk now reaches this Inuvialuit hub on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Inuvik receives flights daily from Yellowknife and Whitehorse; offers onward flights to Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok and Paulatuk; and provides charters to the region's National Parks.

Weather

Conditions vary dramatically between the Richardson Mountains, the Delta lowlands and the Arctic Islands. One thing you can depend on is the daylight – the sun is up 24 hours per day in summer (and not at all in December). Inuvik enjoys (and not at all in December). Inuvik enjoys July average highs of 19.5°C and March highs of -16.8°C. Up in the Arctic Islands, expect July highs around 10°C and March highs of -23°C.

Attractions

Aulavik and Tuktot Nogait National Parks draw intrepid paddlers, while the Mackenzie Delta is a naturalist's dream. Hiking and sightseeing are stellar along the Dempster and Tuk Highways. Meanwhile, the communities of the Western Arctic are hotbeds of Indigenous art, music, culture and history.

Visitor centre

In Inuvik, the Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre has welcoming staff, maps and brochures, as well as a wealth of museum-quality exhibits – and, you can pick up your official Arctic Circle Adventurer Certificate.

Fish & wildlife

Caribou, moose and grizzlies patrol the Richardson Mountains. The Mackenzie Delta is a sanctuary for everything from muskrats to migratory seabirds. And out on the Arctic Ocean and islands, bowhead whales, belugas, polar bears and muskoxen abound.

People

The Western Arctic's population is about 6,700. The southernmost two communities, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic, are predominantly Gwich'in, while the coastal towns are mainly Inuvialuit. Aklavik is a mix of the two; likewise with Inuvik, with a substantial non-Indigenous population as well.

Parks

Aulavik National Park, on Banks Island, is crowded with muskoxen and home to the Thomsen River. Tuktot Nogait, near Paulatuk, boasts caribou, canyons, waterfalls, and the Hornaday River. Along the Dempster Highway, a series of Territorial Parks facilitate fishing, hiking and camping. Finally, in the Yukon – but accessed through Inuvik – are Irvavik National Park and Herschel Island Territorial Park, both rich in Inuvialuit culture and natural wonders.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM



Events

Inuvik's calendar is jam-packed: There's the Sunrise Festival in January, the Muskrat Jamboree in April, and in July, the Great Northern Arts Festival, drawing creators and performers from around the Arctic. Meanwhile, each of the smaller communities has its own spring jamboree. For the world's northernmost golf tournament, head to Ulukhaktok in July. And if you want an Indigenous and country music hoedown, the Midway Lake Music Festival, held in August near Fort McPherson, can't be beat.



JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWT

DID YOU KNOW?

The Western Arctic is the gateway to the Northwest Passage. For nearly 400 years, Europeans searched for this elusive waterway, leading over North America to the Orient. Hundreds lost their lives in the process. Success finally came when Norwegian Roald Amundsen sailed through to the Western Arctic in 1906.

COMMUNITIES



TERRY PARKER / NWTT

FORT MCPHERSON

Teet'it Zheh – “Place at the head of the waters

Population: 776

The first community you'll encounter when driving north on the Dempster, this friendly Gwich'in town is set in the rolling Richardson foothills along the Peel River, a popular paddling route. Don't miss the famous Tent and Canvas Shop, source of heavy-duty trapper's tents, satchels and souvenirs, as well as the graves of the Lost Patrol – four Mounties who died en route to Dawson City in the terrible winter of 1911.

AKLAVIK

“Barrenground grizzly place” | Population: 656

This Gwich'in/Inuvialuit town rests near the western foothills of the Richardson Mountains. Once the region's administrative centre, locals were slated to be moved to Inuvik, but refused – hence their motto, “Never say die.” Don't miss the grave of the Mad Trapper, the mysterious backwoods killer who led Mounties on one of Canada's greatest manhunts. Access is by air or, in winter, via the ice road from Inuvik.

INUVIK

“Place of man” | Population: 3,192

The northern Northwest Territories' regional hub, this busy town was engineered in the 1950s as the territory's first “planned” community. Today it's a vibrant mix of Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and non-Indigenous residents, all gathered on the boreal flats along the easternmost channel of the Mackenzie Delta. There is a rich visitor industry: hotels, restaurants, galleries and a variety of tour providers. Access is by air or via the stunning Dempster Highway.



SHERRY OTT / NWTT

PAULATUK

Paulatuq – “Place of coal” | Population: 312

Near the western mouth of the Northwest Passage, this is a small, traditional Inuvialuit community with deep roots in hunting, trapping and Arctic Char fishing. It's also a basecamp for trips to Tukut Nogait National Park, the Cape Parry Bird Sanctuary, and the Smoking Hills. Access is by air from Inuvik.

**ULUKHAKTOK:****"Where there is material for ulu knives"****Population: 420**

Formerly known as Holman, this Inuvialuit community wraps around the head of an Arctic inlet on the west coast of Victoria Island, the ninth largest island on Earth. It was founded as a Roman Catholic mission in the 1930s and is now famous for two things: The world's northernmost golf course (each summer it hosts the Billy Joss Open Celebrity Tournament), and exquisite Inuit prints. Access is by air from Inuvik and Yellowknife.



TERRY PARKER / NWT

TSIIGEHTCHIC**"Mouth of the iron river" | Population: 179**

Stationed atop a commanding bluff at the confluence of the Mackenzie and Arctic Red Rivers, this Gwich'in village is steeped in traditional fishing, hunting and trapping. It's a worthwhile stop for Dempster Highway travellers, who can stroll the riverbanks, stop in at the new visitor centre, and check out the picturesque, 80-year-old church. Access across the river is via ferry in summer and ice road in winter.



BILL BRADEN / NWT

TUKTOYAKTUK**"Looks like a caribou" | Population: 1,026**

Our biggest town above the treeline, "Tuk" overlooks the Arctic Ocean. Over the years it has served as a base for Inuvialuit caribou and beluga hunting, a DEW Line radar site, and a centre of oil and gas exploration. Today it welcomes visitors, who tour the nearby "pingo" hills, sample traditional foods (like muktuk!), and, of course, cool their heels in the chilly sea. Access is by the brand-new all-weather road from Inuvik.

SACHS HARBOUR**Ikaahuk – "Place to which you cross" | Population: 112**

Our northernmost community, this tiny Inuvialuit settlement is the only outpost on Banks Island, Canada's fifth largest island. The island is home to more than half the world's muskoxen, plus Aulavik National Park, the epic Thomsen River, bird sanctuaries, the famed *HMS Investigator* shipwreck, and, possibly, a few "pizzlies" – hybrid polar bear/grizzlies like the one that was identified here in 2006. Access is by air from Inuvik.



SAHTU

The Sahtu is the beating heart of the North. Here in the trackless core of our territory, the frantic outside world has not arrived, and possibly never will. This is the home of that grand inland sea, Great Bear Lake – half a kilometre deep, crawling with colossal Trout, and awash with alluring locales: Conjuror Bay, Grizzly Bear Mountain, the Scented Grass Hills.

Here, too, is the North's king of rivers, the mammoth Mackenzie, at points four kilometres wide, pressing northward at a rate that could fill an Olympic pool in a quarter of a second, bearing fish, barges, driftwood, and canoeists, and joined along the way by wild tributaries like the Redstone, Keele and Mountain.

COLIN FIELD / NWTT



In the west of the Sahtu, you'll find a jagged world: the Mackenzie Mountains, home to Nááts'j'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, the famous Canol Heritage Trail, and bustling with mountain sheep, caribou, moose and other game.

And finally, here you'll find five vibrant villages, thriving on the cusp of the Arctic Circle – no roads in or out, their hearty residents insulated from the hurries and worries of the outside world.

RIVERS AND PEAKS IN AN UNSPOILED LAND

The Mackenzie washes through the Sahtu region, sometimes sprawling so broadly that it's hard to see across, other times pinching through the Sans Sault Rapids and the towering Ramparts. In lieu of roads, the river is the region's highway – you'll see barges, motorboats and canoes (and, in winter, automobiles) plying its surface.

Three towns huddle beside the Mackenzie: pretty Tulita, in the shadow of Bear Rock, the historic oil town and transport centre of Norman Wells, and traditional Fort Good Hope, at the cusp of the Arctic Circle.

The surrounding mountains, meanwhile, are a hunter's paradise (moose, muskox, mountain caribou, Dall's sheep, wolves)

and a paddler's wonderland (the upper Nahanni is here, in Nááts'j'ihch'oh National Park, along with the Natla, Keele and Mountain rivers). And for those who tackle the 355-kilometre Canol Heritage Trail, this is the most epic backpacking landscape in the North.

And of course there's Great Bear Lake, where the waves lap at the shores of ancient camping places, including the national historic site of Saoyú-Pehdacho – also known as Grizzly Bear Mountain and the Scented Grass Hills. At the lake's outlet, where it pours into Bear River, the vibrant village of Délı̨ne stands as a bulwark against the cultural encroachments of modernity.

SAHTU: ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive in Norman Wells, where the Mackenzie Mountains rise to the west, the Mackenzie River rolls Arctic-bound, and pumpjacks pull oil from the permafrost. Head for the museum, showcasing the Sahtu's aviation, military and petroleum heritage, and peruse the great giftshop. Hike nearby fossil-strewn hills, golf the local greens, and explore the riverfront, where the current is four kilometres wide.

HANS PFAFF / NWTT

DAY 2 No time to trek Canol Trail, Canada's toughest, most rewarding hike? Take a flightseeing tour. See where shivering soldiers laid the Canol Pipeline, supplying oil to the Alaskan Front during World War Two. Spy the badlands of Dodo Canyon, and resplendent Carcajou Falls. And see where the canyon-pinched Mountain River races like a natural waterslide, carrying skilled paddlers on a once-in-a-lifetime ride.



MARK PATRICK / NWTT



COLIN FIELD / NWTT

DAY 3 Take to the skies again today, buzzing over the gorgeous gorges of our newest National Park, Nááts'jhc'oh, named for the sacred mountain in its midst. The park features epic whitewater rivers like the upper Nahanni, Natla, Keele, and the fearsomely named (but quite friendly) Brokenskill. There's hot springs here, too, and more grizzlies, moose, mountain caribou and Dall sheep than you can count.



TAWNA BROWN / NWT

DAY 4 Wing your way to Délįne, the recorded birthplace of hockey and the Sahtu's cultural bastion. Here, where Great Bear River drains Great Bear Lake, "water keepers" work to preserve natural and spiritual heritage. Hire a boat guide to teach you about the lake and help you catch the world's largest Trout. Not far off is Grizzly Bear Mountain, a.k.a. the Saoyú-Pehdacho National Historic Site, enshrining Dene history.

HANS PFAFF / NWT



DAY 5 Finally, explore other remote Sahtu towns. Fort Good Hope has the sheer-sided Ramparts and the North's most prized structure, ornate Our Lady of Good Hope Church. Colville Lake is tiny, yet features a small museum with the art of the late musher, preacher and bush-pilot Bern Will Brown. And Tulita occupies a plum locale, gazing over the Mackenzie River and guarded by stately Bear Rock, sacred in Dene lore.

SAHTU: A CLOSER LOOK

Access

The Sahtu is off the beaten path, but it's still easy to reach by air. Norman Wells enjoys daily jet service from Yellowknife; from here, the area's outlying towns are a quick bushplane-flight away. Or, in winter, you can drive up the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road, with side trips to Délı̄ne and Colville Lake. Finally, there's the old-fashioned way: by river. The big Mackenzie River rolls right through the Sahtu, making for a once-in-a-lifetime paddling trip from Hay River, Fort Providence or Fort Simpson.

Weather

The Sahtu enjoys mild, bright summers (though in the mountains, conditions are more variable) and true Canadian winters. July average highs in Norman Wells are 22.5°C with round-the-clock daylight. In March, highs reach -12.5°C with 12 hours of light.

Attractions

Great Bear, the grandest of Canadian lakes, attracts intrepid anglers seeking 70-pound (32kgs) Trout. In the Mackenzie Mountains, hunters track big game while hikers tackle the Canol, one of the toughest backpacking trails on Earth. For paddlers, there are the remote, remarkable Mountain and Natla-Keele rivers. Finally, the traditional settlements of the Sahtu entrance cultural enthusiasts with rich Northern history and Indigenous heritage.

Visitor centre

In Norman Wells, the Historical Centre doubles as the region's main visitor centre, with welcoming staff, maps and brochures, plus gifts, clothing and Indigenous crafts from the Sahtu area.

People

The Sahtu, though vast, is home to a mere 2,500 people. Norman Wells, the hub, has a mix of Dene, Métis and non-Indigenous residents; the other four communities are predominantly Dene.

Parks

On Great Bear Lake, the vast Saoyú-Pehdacho National Historic Site showcases Sahtu Dene heritage. Embracing the upper reaches of the South Nahanni and Natla-Keele Rivers, Nááts'j'ihch'oh National Park Reserve is a paddler's dream. Meanwhile, on the banks of the Mackenzie River in Norman Wells, MacKinnon Territorial Park welcomes river travellers.

Events

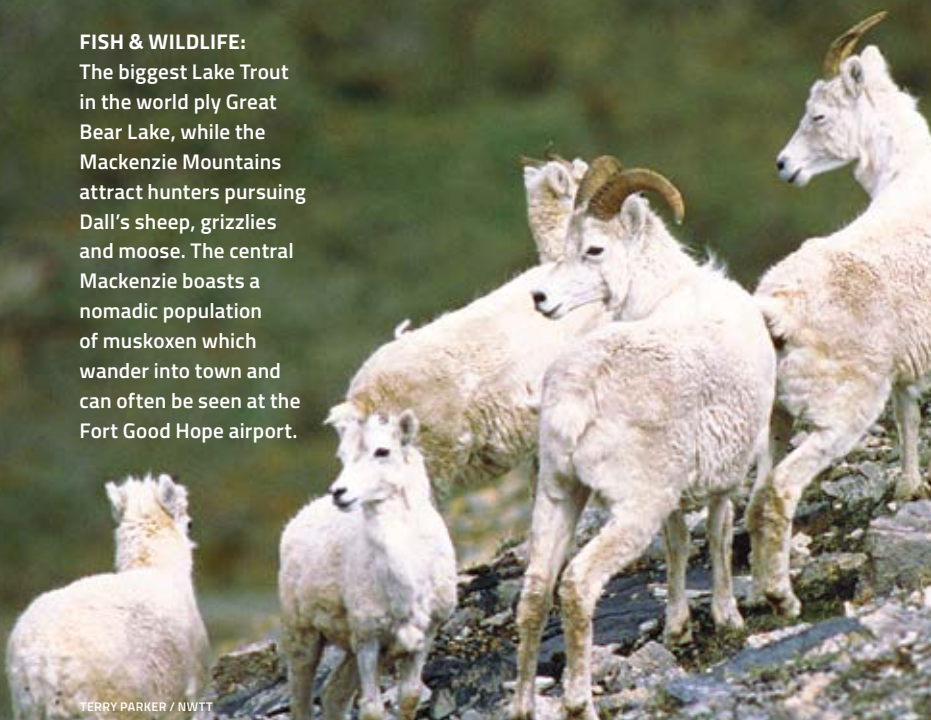
In July, Fort Good Hope's Rampart Rendezvous showcases cultural events including tea boiling, dry fish making and duck plucking. In early August, there's the Spiritual Gathering in Délı̄ne, devoted to Dene history, spirituality and traditional healing. In August, be sure to take in the Farmers' Market in Norman Wells.



START PLANNING: SPECTACULARNWT.COM

**FISH & WILDLIFE:**

The biggest Lake Trout in the world ply Great Bear Lake, while the Mackenzie Mountains attract hunters pursuing Dall's sheep, grizzlies and moose. The central Mackenzie boasts a nomadic population of muskoxen which wander into town and can often be seen at the Fort Good Hope airport.



TERRY PARKER / NWT

DID YOU KNOW?

Today, the Sahtu is the beating heart of the North, as it was back in World War Two when it bustled with activity. Thousands of U.S. troops and Canadian contractors flooded the region to build the Canol Road and Pipeline, linking the Norman Wells oilfield with the petroleum-hungry fighting forces in the Pacific. Today, hikers, bikers, quadders, and skidoos travel the route.

COMMUNITIES

COLVILLE LAKE

K'áhbamǫtúé – “Ptarmigan net place” | Population: 159

Fifty kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, this traditional log cabin village nestles between rolling black spruce forest and the gleaming waters of its namesake lake. It dates from 1962, when the region's Hareskin Dene began to settle around the new Our Lady of the Snows mission. Today visitors can check out the mission and the small museum/gallery, and fish for Trout, Grayling and Pike. Access is by air and, in winter, by ice-road.

DÉLŪŦ

“Flowing water” | Population: 510

This culturally vibrant village is home to the only residents of vast Great Bear Lake, legendary for big fish and pure waters. The town also claims fame as the birthplace of ice hockey: the first documented game was said to have been played by Sir John Franklin's men when they overwintered in the 1820s. Today, local guides will take you fishing and teach you about the area's rich traditions and environment. Access is by air and, in winter, by ice road.



PAT KANE / NWTT

FORT GOOD HOPE

Rádeyǫkǫé – “Place of rapids” | Population: 570

On the west bank of the Mackenzie River, just upstream of the towering limestone chute of The Ramparts, this Dene village has deep roots in fishing, hunting and trapping. It's also home to the oldest building in the Northwest Territories: the ornate Our Lady of Good Hope church, built in 1865 and now a national historic site. Access is by air from Norman Wells or, in winter, by ice road up the Mackenzie Valley.



GEROLD SIGL / NWTT

TULITA

Tulít'a– “Where the waters meet” | Population: 497

Hugging the broad Mackenzie River where it's met by the clear-running Bear River, this village, long occupied by the Mountain Dene, got its start as a formal settlement with the establishment of a trading post in 1869. It enjoys a dramatic setting: The Mackenzie Mountains rise across the river, while just north of town looms distinctive Bear Rock, famous in Dene lore. Access is by air and, in winter, by ice-road from Wrigley.



NORMAN WELLS

Tłegóhtı – “Where there is oil”

Population: 809

Tucked between alpine foothills and the big Mackenzie River, this is a historic oil town – explorer Alexander Mackenzie reported oil seeping from the riverbanks in 1789, and today pumpjacks and storage tanks abound. The town boasts several hotels and restaurants, a campground, and a compelling museum, making it a great place to explore before heading out to the Mackenzie Mountains or Canol Trail. Access is by air and, in winter, by winter road from Wrigley.

DEHCHO

The Dehcho is a land of big waters, big mountains, and big hearts. For paddlers, coming here is a pilgrimage. Dehcho means “big river” – the incomparable Mackenzie, sluicing relentlessly toward the Arctic Ocean. Hustling to join it, the robust Liard. And then there’s the South Nahanni, in Nahanni National Park Reserve, the crown jewel of Canada’s wilderness rivers and a highlight of every canoeists’ life list.



Flanking the big waters are the spires of the Mackenzie Mountains, including dizzying destinations like Scimitar Canyon, Sunblood Peak, and the Cirque of the Unclimbables. Here you'll find eco-lodges and fishing retreats, on lakes with names like Little Doctor. Here too: earth-shaking Nâłjłcho (Virginia Falls), to which Niagara is but a riffle.

For drivers, the Dehcho is a revelation – just two hours from the Alaska Highway, yet eons more wild. There's no touristy schlock here, no lines of RVs. Just moose, bison, and wolverines rambling the dusty roadsides, and villages where the Old North thrives – outposts of Dene, Métis, traders, bush pilots and more, whose friendly faces and low-key pace will pacify your soul.

SERENE PLACES. WILD SIGHTS. ADVENTURES TO IGNITE YOUR LIFE.

Great cascades tumble at the roadside. Campsites perch above rivers wrapped in history. And locals, bound for woodcutting or hunting, stop their pickup trucks to chat.

At first, the Dehcho will soothe your spirit. Fort Simpson, the regional hub, stands at the confluence of great waters, an outpost from the past. Here, festival-goers gather on the river flats, floatplanes depart for the mountains, and golfers (yep!) play the greens at the island's edge. In the region's other villages, there's an even mellower pace

– families living by gun, trap and net, happy to share their tales and, maybe, take you on a tour of their world.

Then, the Dehcho will thrill you. It's home to Nahanni National Park Reserve – boasting impossibly steep peaks, bubbling tufa mounds, ridiculously powerful Virginia Falls, and the mother of all wilderness rivers, the Nahanni. Take a week or a month to let yourself be carried along on its fabled waters. When you return to the outside world, you'll be brand new.

DEHCHO: ITINERARY

DAY 1 West past the Mackenzie Highway junction, the pavement ends – and adventure begins. You'll cross great fishing creeks like the Axe-Handle and Redknife, then come to the thundering chute of Samba Deh Falls, with a fine campground and trails. Next is Jean Marie River, a village perched placidly on the Mackenzie River. Two hours more, over the Liard River by car ferry, comes the regional hub, Fort Simpson.

DARREN ROBERTS / NWT



BEN WEILAND / NWT

DAY 2 Once called The Fort of the Forks, Fort Simpson is where rivers – and Peoples – meet. Long an Indigenous rendez-vous point and fur trade nexus, it has historic sites galore, a grassy golf course, a quiet, leafy campground, the Open Sky arts and culture festival, and most notably, the riverfront Papal Site, a sacred spot where, 30 years ago, Pope John Paul II held mass for the Indigenous people of Canada.



COLIN FIELD / NWT

DAY 3 The Dehcho boasts Nahanni National Park Reserve. If you can't spend weeks canoeing this epic wilderness river, then take a flightseeing tour from Fort Simpson. Highlights are heavenly Glacier Lake, perplexing Rabbitkettle Tufa Mound and the Nahanni's dizzying canyons. Best of all, you'll stop at Virginia Falls. Cradled by summits, and twice Niagara's height, it's a life-changing, bone-shaking experience.



DAY
4 Alternatives?
Drive north from Fort Simpson, meeting the Mackenzie Mountains at Camsell Bend and then winding along the Franklin Range to the little Dene town of Wrigley. Or, fly from Fort Simpson to remote, traditional Samba K'e, on the sandy shores of Trout Lake. From there, travel by boat to the locally owned lodge and fish for some of the biggest, purest Trout, Pike and Pickerel you've ever seen.



BEN WEILAND / NWTT

DAY
5 From Fort Simpson head southbound, down the rough-and-ready Liard Trail. As the Mackenzie Range peeks into view, look for moose, bison and bears. Stop at Blackstone Landing Territorial Park to camp, fish, or arrange a river taxi to the scenic village of Nahanni Butte. Further south you'll reach Fort Liard, the North's garden spot, famed for its giftshop teeming with masterful birchbark crafts.



DEHCHO: A CLOSER LOOK

Access:

Driving up the Alaska Hwy 1, detour into the Dehcho. From near Fort Nelson, B.C., the adventurous Liard Trail provides all-weather access to Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Wrigley and Jean Marie River. Intrepid travellers can continue by water taxi to Nahanni Butte or by chartered aircraft to Nahanni National Park Reserve, Trout Lake, or lodges and rivers in the Mackenzie Mountains. Alternatively, the Dehcho is an easy drive from the North Slave or South Slave via Hwy 1, or a quick flight from Yellowknife to Fort Simpson.

Weather:

This is the hothouse of the Northwest Territories. In Fort Simpson, the average July high is 23.7°C, with 24 hours of daylight. In March, the average high is -6.4°C with 12 hours of daylight.

Attractions:

Nahanni National Park Reserve – featuring Virginia Falls (twice the height of Niagara), plus deep canyons, soothing hot springs and scenic trails – beckons flightseeing day trippers and expedition paddlers. Motorists encounter wildlife, waterfalls and grand landscapes along the Liard and Mackenzie Highways. And local communities offer a wealth of experiences, including history in Fort Simpson, Indigenous crafts in Fort Liard, and top-notch fishing in Trout Lake.

Visitor centre:

The region's main visitor centre is right at the entrance to Fort Simpson, with museum-quality displays, video presentations, maps, brochures and friendly staff. Meanwhile, travellers in Fort Liard can stop by the Acho Dene Native Crafts store, which doubles as the community's visitor centre.

Fish & wildlife:

Bison, black bears and moose browse the Dehcho's roadsides, while in the Mackenzie Mountains, Dall's sheep and alpine caribou are common. Trout grow huge in aptly named Trout Lake; the Mackenzie River boasts feisty Pike; while creeks in the high country are home to Grayling, Bull Trout, Pickerel and more.

People:

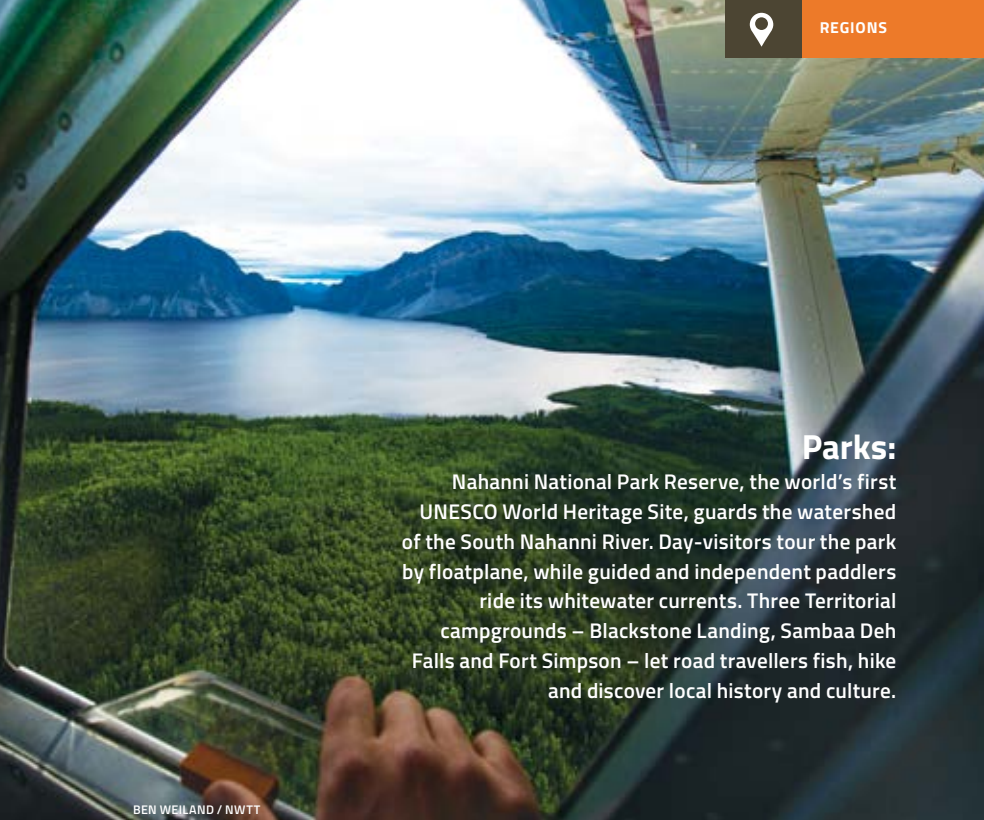
Though the Dehcho is vast, it's home to just over 2,200 people. Approximately half live in five small Dene communities. The balance reside in Fort Simpson, a mix of Dene, Métis and non-Indigenous people.

Events:

Fort Simpson hosts the area's major happenings – the Beavertail Jamboree winter carnival in March, the Spring Gathering cultural celebration in June, the Dehcho Open Golf Tournament on the summer solstice, and, in July, the Open Sky Festival, showcasing Northern art and performances.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM



BEN WEILAND / NWT

Parks:

Nahanni National Park Reserve, the world's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, guards the watershed of the South Nahanni River. Day-visitors tour the park by floatplane, while guided and independent paddlers ride its whitewater currents. Three Territorial campgrounds – Blackstone Landing, Samba Deh Falls and Fort Simpson – let road travellers fish, hike and discover local history and culture.

DID YOU KNOW?

Virginia Falls is a maelstrom – perhaps the grandest wilderness waterfall on Earth. At 96 metres tall, it's twice the height of Niagara, with four acres of furious whitewater suspended in freefall. It could fill an Olympic swimming pool in six seconds. Hold your hat, or gusts could blow it off from half a mile away.

COMMUNITIES

FORT SIMPSON

łíídlı Kúqé – “Place where rivers come together” | Population: 1,174

The Dehcho's friendly regional centre perches at the confluence of the big Liard River and the even more massive Mackenzie. Many visitors come en route to Nahanni National Park Reserve or the surrounding mountains, but those who remain in town will stay busy – at riverfront heritage sites, the nine-hole golf course, or among intriguing exhibits at the visitor centre. Access is via air or Hwy 1 (except when breakup and freeze-up halt ferry and ice-road service across the Liard).

JEAN MARIE RIVER

Ttheł'ėhdėł – “Water flowing from Magill Lake” | Population: 44

This tiny, tranquil Dene settlement got its start in 1915 as a trading post, strategically located on the flats where the Jean Marie meets the Mackenzie. Today the community can be reached via a 27-kilometre access road off Hwy 1. It's a good place to picnic at the river, photograph the historic tugboat now retired on shore, or launch a kayak or canoe for a paddle downriver to Fort Simpson.

BEN WEILAND / NWT

NAHANNI BUTTE

Tthenāāgō – “Strong rock” | Population: 97

Named for the stately mountain guarding over it, this quiet Dene settlement is picturesquely situated where the South Nahanni River pours into the Liard. It's a common stop for paddlers exiting the National Park, and offers awesome hiking to the top of the butte. Check out the log church and school. Access is by river taxi in summer (call ahead) or, in winter, via ice road across the Liard.



FORT LIARD

Echaot'je Kúĕ – “Place of the people from the land of giants” | Population: 658

Sheltered by tall timber in the rolling foothills of the Mackenzie Mountains, this rambling riverfront hamlet is the Northwest Territories’ “garden spot,” enjoying warm weather and luxuriant vegetation. Located just off the Liard Trail, 37 kilometres north of the Northwest Territories border, it’s a good place to gas up, buy exquisite Dene arts and crafts (birchbark baskets are the local specialty), or kick back on the banks of the river.

TAWNA BROWN / NWTT

WRIGLEY

Pedzêh Kĭ – “Place where the rock goes into the water” | Population: 135

The northernmost Dehcho Dene community, this small log-cabin settlement sits on a high bluff overlooking the Mackenzie River. Tucked into the Franklin Mountains, it’s scenic and serene, with a traditional lifestyle revolving around trapping, hunting and fishing. Access is by Hwy 1, which rolls through the foothills north from Fort Simpson and crosses the Mackenzie River by ferry or ice-road (except during breakup/ freeze-up).



GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT

SAAMBA K'E

“Trout lake place” | Population: 106

Formerly, this placid, traditional Dene village was called Trout Lake, after the body of water that sprawls gloriously before it. The lake is famous for fishing. Townsfolk run the nearby Saamba K'e Fishing Lodge, featuring log cabins and excellent angling for Trout, Pickerel and Pike. The community is accessible by aircraft in summer or by a 126-kilometre ice-road off Hwy 1 in winter.

SOUTH SLAVE

Welcome to a land of waterfalls and wonder. This is your first taste of the raw North. Here, just beyond the Alberta border, lie waters whispered of by anglers and voyageurs. Creatures that are the last survivors of their kind. And colourful folks full of stories to share.



The South Slave includes the gleaming and impossibly deep Great Slave Lake, home to Canada's northernmost freshwater fishery. The rowdy Slave River, where top-ranked paddlers compete on waves the size of a bus. And royal waterfalls: Lady Evelyn, Louise, Alexandra.

The South Slave is your gateway to big wildlife and wild sanctuaries – especially the roaming herds of bison, endangered whooping cranes, and regal wolves of Wood Buffalo National Park.

Finally, here you'll find big-hearted people, living vibrantly in the bustling port community of Hay River (terminus of Canada's most remote railway), the charming town of Fort Smith, and in welcoming Indigenous communities, including quaint Kakisa, Fort Resolution, K'at'lodeeche Reserve, and Fort Providence, where bison stroll the streets.

ROARING RAPIDS, ROAMING HERDS AND MORE

Driving north, a great chasm, the Hay River Gorge, gapes alongside the highway. Perk up your ears and you'll detect the rumble of waterfalls. Currents plunge. Mist shrouds the trails. Campgrounds perch on the lip of the void.

Further along, at Enterprise, the highway divides into tendrils of adventure. North delivers you to the town of Hay River on vast Great Slave Lake, with beaches, barges, fishing fleets and vibrant Indigenous culture.

East leads to Chipewyan and Métis territory. To historic Fort Resolution.

To the broad Slave River, frothing over ancient shield-rock at Fort Smith. And to the wild glories of Wood Buffalo National Park.

Northwest, meanwhile, lie more waterfalls and rivers – the Kakisa, famed for sportfishing, near the idyllic log-cabin village of the same name, and the indomitable Mackenzie, with artistic, historic Fort Providence on its north flank.

And off the road? Endless waters and woods, for flightseeing, for paddling a galloping river, or for flicking a lure and prompting a fish to rise.

SOUTH SLAVE: ITINERARY

DAY 1 You've made it. The sign reads "Welcome to the Northwest Territories." Celebrate at the cheerful 60th Parallel Visitor Centre, then motor to the billowing torrent of Alexandra Falls. Walk the woody trail to gentler Louise Falls. Nearby, canyon-side Enterprise offers gas and snacks. A half-hour beyond, through verdant evergreens, is hopping Hay River, beside the glorious expanse of Great Slave Lake.

TERRY PARKER / NWTT

DAY 2 After tenting at the waterfront campground, or bunking at a local hotel, do Hay River right: hire a fishing guide to catch Pickerel, Pike or Trout in the boundless lake. Hit the links on the lush riverside golf course. Discover northern history at the Historical Centre. Then poke around rustic, charming Vale Island, the territory's nautical mecca, with deep roots in commercial fishing and High Arctic shipping.



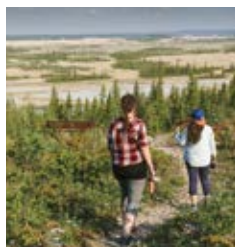
KEVIN MCNEIL / NWTT



GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT

DAY 3 Drive east, road-tripping to Fort Resolution, a former fur-trading hub. Cast a fishing line at Little Buffalo River Crossing or stop and hike to see the beautiful falls at Little Buffalo River Falls. Then it's on to friendly Fort Smith, rich in museums, historic buildings, Indigenous culture, and the roaring Slave River Rapids, where pelicans feast and daring kayakers play.

DAY 4 Surrounding Fort Smith is Wood Buffalo National Park, the second-largest park on Earth, with wild roaming bison herds, rare birds, bizarre landforms and great hiking trails. Drive out to the Salt Plains Overlook for a chance to spy wolves, bears and get a great view of the glittering saline flats. Then head to Pine Lake for a swim or a paddle, being careful to dodge the bison that are sure to stand in your way.



HANNA EDEN / NWTT

GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT



DAY 5 Westward ho! Head to the quaint Dene community of Kakisa, where log cabins overlook a gleaming lake. Nearby is crescent-shaped Lady Evelyn Falls, with a campground, trails and great Grayling fishing. Northbound you'll cross our signature river, the indomitable Mackenzie, via the Deh Cho Bridge. Just beyond is the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary and placid Fort Providence, where buffalo stroll the streets.

SOUTH SLAVE: A CLOSER LOOK

Access:

All communities here are served by well-maintained roads. Approximately 10 hours north of Edmonton, you'll reach the 60th Parallel, gateway to the North. From here it's just 72 kilometres to Alexandra Falls, 120 kilometres to Great Slave Lake, 210 kilometres to the Mackenzie River, and 212 kilometres to Wood Buffalo National Park. Hay River and Fort Smith are a quick flight from Edmonton or Yellowknife.

Weather:

Expect warm, bright summers and brisk, crystalline winters. Hay River enjoys July average highs of 21.2°C with nearly round-the-clock daylight. In March, normal highs are -7.8°C with 12 hours of light.

Attractions:

For big creatures and bigger landscapes, check out Wood Buffalo National Park, where bison and elusive whooping cranes dwell on the Northern boreal plains. The Slave River's roaring rapids attract daredevil paddlers, while the Hay and Kakisa Rivers feature stunning roadside waterfalls.

People:

About 8,000 people call the South Slave home. They're a diverse bunch. Fort Resolution and Fort Providence are predominantly Dene and Métis, while Kakisa is mainly Dene. Hay River has a mix of Dene, Métis and non-Indigenous residents. So does Fort Smith, with some Cree added in.

Fish & wildlife:

Wood Bison roam the South Slave, lining the roadsides near Fort Providence and throughout Wood Buffalo National Park. White pelicans flock to the rapids in Fort Smith. Whooping cranes, though rarely spotted, are the region's most coveted wildlife sighting.

Parks:

Wood Buffalo, sprawling the size of Switzerland, is the largest and most visited National Park in the Northwest Territories. There, visitors can hike, paddle, marvel at wildlife, and camp on the blissful shores of Pine Lake. Also luring travellers to the region are several spectacular Territorial Parks. Twin Falls and Lady Evelyn Falls showcase stunning cascades. Hay River Territorial Park basks on the shore of Great Slave Lake, while lush Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park, just outside Fort Smith, perches above the Slave River.

Events:

Winter highlights include community celebrations like Wood Buffalo Frolics and the K'amba Carnival, along with competitions such as the Fitz-Smith Loppet (skiing), the Polar Pond Hockey Tournament, and the Itsago Dogsled Race. On the August long weekend, kayakers and canoeists have a splash at Fort Smith's Paddlefest and in late August, locals and visitors gather for the annual Dark Sky festival.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM



Visitor Centre:

At the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre, right on the Northwest Territories' southern border, you'll find brochures, maps, displays and exuberant staff. Ditto with the Hay River Visitor Centre, at the entrance to town, and the Fort Smith Visitor Centre, in the same building as the Wood Buffalo National Park headquarters on McDougal Road.



BENJI STRAKER / NWT

DID YOU KNOW?

Wood Bison are North America's largest land animals. Darker, heavier, woollier, and bigger-horned than Plains Bison, they can tip the scale at over one ton (900kgs). Hunted nearly to extinction a century ago, they now thrive in the Northwest Territories, protected in both Wood Buffalo National Park and the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary.

COMMUNITIES

ENTERPRISE

Population: 125

Scenically situated beside the Hay River canyon at the junction of Highways 1 and 2, this settlement is the gateway to the South Slave. Just 83 kilometres north of the Alberta border, and within hiking and biking distance of Louise and Alexandra Falls, it's the first place North of 60 where you can get gas, groceries, a motel room, a restaurant meal, or shop for local arts and crafts.



TERRY PARKER / NWT

FORT PROVIDENCE

Zhahti Kúĕ – “Mission house place” | Population: 770

Stretching along a high bank overlooking the broad Mackenzie River, this historic Dene village is an essential stop for road-trippers. Just five kilometres west of Hwy 3, it boasts a campground on the riverfront, top-notch fishing (Pike, Pickerel, Grayling), and distinctive crafts – porcupine quillwork is a local specialty. Also, keep your eyes peeled for bison, which ramble the dusty streets and graze in local yards.

FORT RESOLUTION

Denínu Kúĕ – “Moose island place” | Population: 507

At the terminus of Hwy 6, where the Slave River washes into Great Slave Lake, this Dene, Chipewyan and Métis town is the oldest in the Northwest Territories. Founded when the Hudson Bay Company began trading for furs here in the 1780s, trapping remains a key local industry, along with commercial fishing and timber-harvesting. There's lots of lush, scenic lakeshore where you can take a stroll, cast a line, or launch a boat into the waves.

FORT SMITH

Tthebacha – “Beside the rapids” | Population: 2,562

Equal parts Métis, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, this friendly, historic town was once the Northwest Territories' front door: All northbound river travellers passed through here while portaging the Slave River Rapids. These days, visitors arrive by scenic Hwy 5, to tour sprawling Wood Buffalo National Park, paddle (or peer at white pelicans) in the Slave's foaming whitewater, walk or cycle the riverfront Thebacha Trail, and check out museums, gift shops and historic sites.



HANS PFAFF / NWT



COLIN FIELD / NWT

HAY RIVER

Xāt'odehchee – “Hay river” | Population: 3,734

An easy day's drive from Edmonton, this is the Northwest Territories' “hub” – terminus of Canada's northernmost railway, launch-point for Arctic-bound barges, and a key commercial-fishing port. It's also the territory's second-largest town, with restaurants, shops and lodging options that range from rustic to posh. Best of all, it's situated on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, graced with the Northwest Territories' best beach and all manner of possibilities for boating and fishing.

K'ATL'ODEECHE RESERVE

Xāt'odehchee – “Hay river” | Population: 329

The only Northwest Territories' Indigenous reserve, K'atl'odeeche hugs Great Slave Lake just across the river-mouth from the town of Hay River. Accessible by a short ice-road in winter and a 14-kilometre spur from Hwy 2 in summer, the community is a centre of Indigenous tradition and learning. Visit the Yamoza Kue, where you'll trade in your shoes for beaded moccasins and take a tour of Dene art and history.



YUICHI TAKASAKA / NWT

KAKISA

K'ágee – “Between the willows” | Population: 45

Kakisa is the iconic North – a tiny, traditional Dene settlement of log cabins, blazing fireweed and fragrant evergreens, all nestled beside the broad blue waters of Kakisa Lake. It's an easy 13-kilometre detour from Hwy 1, just up the road from the camping, fishing, paddling and sightseeing opportunities at stately Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park.

NORTH SLAVE

The North Slave region is a place of opposites: A vast lake and the rock-ribbed Precambrian Shield. Dense boreal forests and the wide-open Barrenlands. Ultra-modern industries and lifeways older than history.

Here you'll find the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, home to plunging shore cliffs, profound blue depths, super sized fish, and wilderness lodges – all soon to be protected by a new National Park.

DAVE BROSHA / NMITT



Also in the North Slave are legendary paddling rivers like the Thelon, its banks patrolled by caribou and muskoxen; the North Arm of Great Slave, with sparkling waters and feisty Pike; and the frozen highway to Canada's first diamond mines, made famous on *Ice Road Truckers*.

The North Slave is the home of the Tłı̨chǫ, the Chipewyan and the Yellowknives Dene – a dynamic, diverse, welcoming congregation. Dwelling in seven deeply traditional communities, there's no better place to immerse yourself in the calm, rooted culture of the North.

And amazingly, the North Slave is within easy reach – the True North wild and free is easily accessible from Yellowknife which is served by air and overland transport from all across Canada.

INFINITE LAKES. ANCIENT LIFEWAYS.

This is the North new and old – firm in the bedrock, thriving among the jack pines, walking with a foot in both worlds.

Drive the Ingraham Trail: a string of shimmering lakes, rivers and waterfalls, perfect for adventure – motorboating on gleaming Prelude Lake, fishing at Tartan Rapids, and canoeing the Yellowknife River on the course John Franklin once traced.

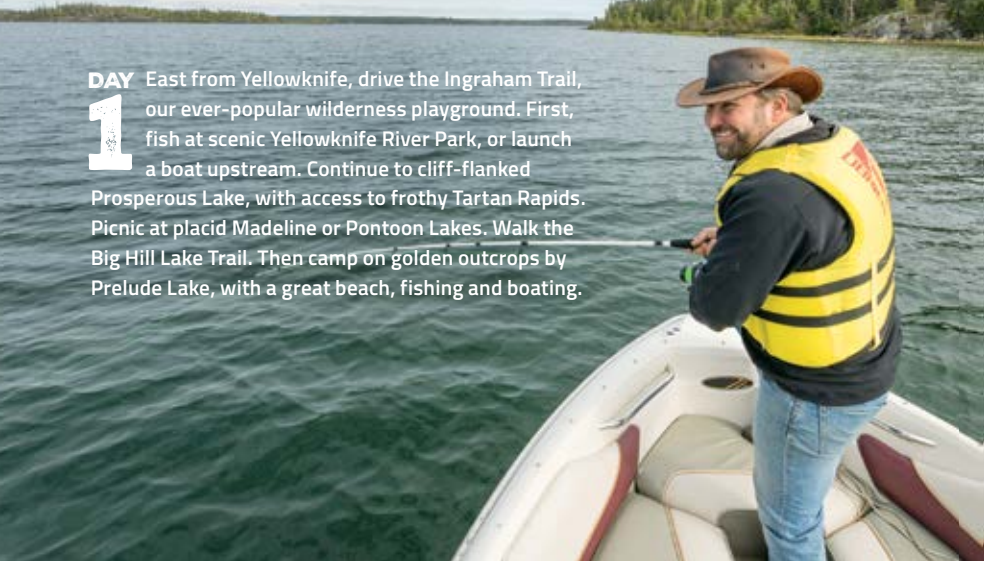
Explore Great Slave Lake. Its North Arm is speckled with islands and alive with Pike and waterfowl, while its magical East Arm boasts plunging sea cliffs and Trout as big as children. Lodges are sprinkled along its shores, floatplanes

skim its waters, and visitors, after seeing it, share tales of its glory.

Finally, learn the ways of the Indigenous. Visit the vast homeland of the Tłı̨chǫ, one of the North's most traditional cultures, who live off the generous land in the remote communities between Yellowknife and Great Bear Lake. See beautiful Łutsel'è, on depthless Christie Bay. And, when you've had enough of Yellowknife's hubbub, renew yourself in the two gracious Dene enclaves (Detah and N'Dilo) on the doorstep of the capital, which stand as testaments to the North's true roots.

NORTH SLAVE: ITINERARY

1 DAY East from Yellowknife, drive the Ingraham Trail, our ever-popular wilderness playground. First, fish at scenic Yellowknife River Park, or launch a boat upstream. Continue to cliff-flanked Prosperous Lake, with access to frothy Tartan Rapids. Picnic at placid Madeline or Pontoon Lakes. Walk the Big Hill Lake Trail. Then camp on golden outcrops by Prelude Lake, with a great beach, fishing and boating.



DAVE BROSHA / NWTT

2 DAY Start with a trek over the rolling shield-rock of Prelude Lake Trail. Continuing east, cast a line at Powder Point. Then hike along boardwalks and bluffs to 17-metre Cameron Falls, the region's best-loved cascade. Finally, arrive at Reid Lake, where there's a peaceful campground with swimming and fishing. From here you can paddle even further afield, to Jennejohn Lake, down the Cameron River, and more.



DAVE BROSHA / NWTT

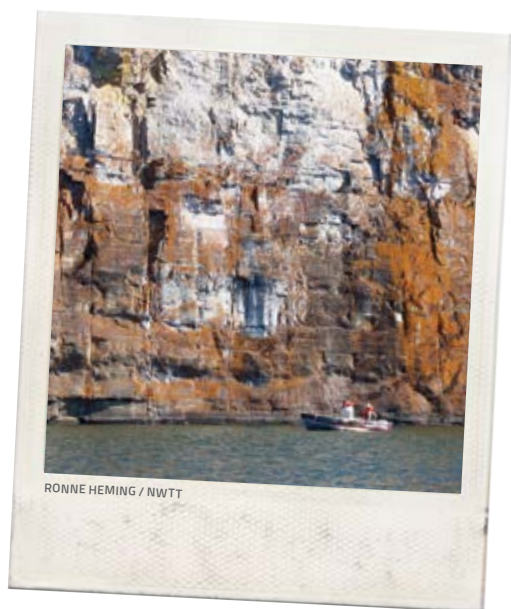


HANS PFAFF / NWTF


3 DAY Head up Highway 3 past waterfowl-filled lakes and "drunken" spruce forests. At Boundary Creek begin watching for wood bison. Roll into Behchokò, the largest Tłı̨chǫ town in the territory, where Marian Lake spills through Frank Channel. During community fests, or on National Indigenous Peoples Day, the region's deep cultural roots are on full display. Picnic at North Arm park on Great Slave Lake. If you wish, press on southward to the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary.



DAY
4 No time to explore the East Arm, sailing, kayaking, or escaping to a world-class Trout-fishing lodge? Then at least do a flightseeing trip. Witness jagged Pethei Peninsula; the crimson walls of Red Cliff Island; Christie Bay, with the deepest waters on the continent; the aqua oasis of Wildbread Bay, and historic Reliance, the gateway to the Barrenlands, where caribou, wolves, bears and muskoxen roam.



PAT KANE / NWTT



DAY
5 The North Slave is all about ancient lifeways spent in intimate connection with the land. Experience them at a traditional fly-in community. Łutselk'e boasts big Trout and great East Arm scenery. Whatı has its own local waterfall. Gamëti, on the Rae Lakes, is a Trout and Pike paradise. And tiny Wekweëti, among sandy eskers in the "land of little sticks," is famous for vast herds of caribou.

NORTH SLAVE: A CLOSER LOOK

Access

Getting to the North Slave region is half the adventure. A handful of the communities here are all-season-road-accessible: Detah and N'Dilo, both of which are on the outskirts of Yellowknife, and Behchokō, an hour's drive northwest on Hwy 3. Three more, Gamētī, Wekweētī and Whatī, can be reached by ice-roads in winter or year-round by air from Yellowknife. Łutsek'e, meanwhile, is fly-in only (unless you have a boat or snowmobile!).

Weather

The North Slave is mild in summer, bracingly cold in winter, and almost always dry and clear. Behchokō's July average high is 20.8°C with perpetual daylight; March average highs are -12.5°C with 12 hours of light.

Attractions

The North Slave's rural communities are sanctuaries of rich Indigenous languages and lifeways. Then there's Great Slave: the shallow North Arm, rife with islands and swimming with giant Pike, and the fabled East Arm, with dazzling cliffs, deluxe fishing lodges and monster Trout. Finally, there's the Barrenlands, a grazing-ground of caribou and a realm of historic rivers.

Fish & wildlife

Gargantuan sportfish ply the lakes. Caribou and wolves trek the Barrenlands. Bison amble the highways. And foxes, ravens and ptarmigans make themselves at home right in town.

People

Approximately 4,000 people call the North Slave home. Almost all of them are Indigenous. Half are in Behchokō, the hub of the Tłı̄chǫ First Nation. Gamētī, Wekweētī and Whatī are also Tłı̄chǫ towns. Detah and N'Dilo form the core of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.


Parks

Just shy of Behchokō, bison throng the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary. On the Ingraham Trail, two popular campgrounds, Prelude and Reid, showcase the region's recreational lakes and rivers. Out in the Barrenlands, the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary guards muskoxen and other tundra wildlife. And the East Arm of Great Slave will soon be protected by Thaidene Nënë National Park.



START PLANNING:
SPECTACULARNWT.COM





Events:

To get a true sense of Dene culture, head to any of the North Slave communities on Indigenous Peoples Day, when Indigenous music, contests, dancing and feasting are on display. Equally exciting is when local teams gather for “Hand Games” – a wildly popular, intensely dynamic traditional guessing game that fills gymnasiums with frantic drumming, chanting, and cheering.

PAT KANE / NWT

DID YOU KNOW?

Beneath the whitecaps of Great Slave Lake lies a watery abyss unrivaled in North America. In Christie Bay the bottom falls away two-thirds of a kilometre. The official figure is 614 metres, but recent studies found trenches up to 30 metres deeper. Put in context, Great Slave could sink the CN Tower. To drop an anchor to the bottom, a fisherman would need more rope than he could lift.

COMMUNITIES

BEHCHOKÒ

“Mbehcho’s place” | Population: 2,227

Once called “Fort Rae” or “Rae-Edzo,” the Northwest Territories’ largest Dene community occupies two sites straddling Frank Channel. Orderly Edzo was supposed to replace more traditional Rae, a 10-kilometre detour from Hwy 3 on the shores of Marian Lake, but most residents refused to leave. Today Behchokò is the seat of the new Tłı̨chų Self-Government and a gateway to Great Slave Lake’s island-studded North Arm. Groceries, gas and lodging can be found here.

DETAH

T’èehda – “Burnt point” | Population: 245

One of two Yellowknives Dene settlements on the outskirts of Yellowknife, this idyllic village occupies an enviable spot on the rolling shield-rock at the mouth of Yellowknife Bay. In winter you can drive, ski or walk here on the six-kilometre ice road from Yellowknife’s Old Town, while in summer it’s a worthwhile 27-kilometres by bike or car. Look for huskies howling, whitefish drying on racks and moosehides being tanned.



PAT KANE / NWTT

TESSA MACINTOSH / NWTT

GAMÈTÌ

“Rabbit-net place” | Population: 291

This village got its start in the 1970s when Tłı̨chų Dene founded a traditional settlement on the point between Rae Lake and Lac Ste. Croix, halfway between Great Bear and Great Slave. In summer it’s typically reached by plane from Yellowknife, while in winter it’s an adventurous 213-kilometre trip via ice road. Grayling fishing, lake tours, and local crafts await visitors. Intrepid wilderness paddlers sometimes set out from here en route to Behchokò on Hwy 3.



**N'DILO****"End of the island" | Population: 200**

Before gold-miners flooded Yellowknife in the '30s, Indigenous people used Latham Island as a hunting and fishing base, near to Back Bay, Yellowknife Bay and Weledeh – the Yellowknife River. These days, the southern half of Latham Island is part of eclectic Old Town, but the northern half remains a colourful Indigenous enclave, home to cultural events and great access to the lake.



TESSA MACINTOSH / NWT

WHATÌ**"Marten lake" | Population: 522**

A quick flight away from Yellowknife or a scenic 125-kilometre drive by ice road from Behchokò, this Tłı̨chǫ Dene community is set on the shore of huge, pristine Lac La Martre. The town is known for its monster Pike and Trout fishing, and for its migratory bird life. Less well known is the stunning Whatì waterfall – two thundering spillways with fine Grayling fishing in the rapids below.

ŁUTSELK'Ē**"Place of the cisco fish" | Population: 330**

This traditional Chipewyan village is the only settlement on Great Slave Lake's fish-filled, cliff-cradled East Arm – site of the proposed new Thaidene Nënë National Park. The scenic community is accessible only by air, boat or snowmobile, and is an ideal jumping-off point for angling and paddling trips in Christie and McLeod Bays and over Pike's Portage into the muskox- and caribou-rich Barrenlands.

WEKWEETÌ**"Rock lake" | Population: 136**

This smallest, most remote Tłı̨chǫ Dene community occupies a gorgeous setting on the Snare River as it weaves through sandy, rolling shield-country on the cusp of the treeline. No settlement is closer to the herds of caribou that migrate through the Barrenlands, nor to the diamond mines that are the Northwest Territories' economic engine. Fishing and hiking here are ideal. Access is by air and, during some winters, ice road.



TESSA MACINTOSH / NWT



PLANNING & ADVICE

Explorer Roald Amundsen once said “adventure is just bad planning.” Unlike him, you won’t be spending three years in the Northwest Passage. But it still pays to heed the advice of those who’ve gone before you.

DESTINATION CANADA / NWTT

WEATHER

Some like it hot. For the rest of us, there’s the Northwest Territories. In summer we’re typically room temperature, with brilliant skies. In fact, Yellowknife is Canada’s sunniest capital. Winter, of course, is nippy – but it’s a dry cold. Days are typically clear and windless, making the chill fresh and intriguing. Plus, there’s a wealth of welcoming spots to warm up indoors.

Here’s what to expect for average daily highs:

	July	October	January	April
Fort Liard	24°C 75°F	5°C 41°F	-15°C 5°F	8°C 46°F
Yellowknife	22°C 72°F	2°C 36°F	-21°C -6°F	1°C 34°F
Inuvik	20°C 68°F	-3°C 27°F	-23°C -9°F	-6°C 21°F
Sachs Harbour	10°C 50°F	-7°C 19°F	-24°C -11°F	-14°C 7°F



CLOTHING

Dress for function, not fashion (wellingtons are appropriate even in the North's finest restaurants). In summer, have a sweatshirt or windbreaker handy in case the north-wind whips up. In winter you'll want the warmest gear possible. Many guides and outfitters provide – or will rent to you – parkas, snow-boots, caps and mitts.

INSECTS

Bugs have great taste: they love the Northwest Territories. They'll love you, too, if you forget to apply repellent. DEET works best. Around campsites, burning a mosquito coil is helpful. Deep in the bush, a bug-jacket is wise.

BEARS

The central Northwest Territories has black bears. The Barrenlands and Mackenzie Mountains are home to grizzlies. And polar bears live up in the Arctic. Run-ins are rare but not unheard of. Take precautions. Make noise, keep a clean camp, don't run, pack bear spray – or hire an experienced local guide.

SLEEP

The midnight sun is glorious – so don't lose sleep over it. Most hotels feature "black out" blinds, keeping your room inky dark. If you're camping you may want to bring a sleep mask like those used by airline travellers.

CELL SERVICE

Every year the North gets more cell towers. Almost all communities now have coverage. Farther afield – on the highways, and certainly out in the wilds – cellular service is minimal.

Wilderness-trippers should bring a satellite phone or can rent one locally.

WATER SAFETY

Even in summer, Northern waters are desperately cold. Life jackets are essential, as are signaling, navigation and communication devices. Always share a "float plan" – tell someone where you're going and when to expect you back.

ALCOHOL

Many of our small communities are officially "dry." Don't bring in booze – and if you've got it, don't flaunt it. Spending the night in lockup would not be a holiday highlight.

HOURS

In little communities, stores and museums don't necessarily have fixed hours (or signage, or even phone numbers). Just because it's locked doesn't mean it's closed – it's just not open right now. Ask a local. Chances are, they'll help you find the manager.

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

Check your anxiety at the border. Up here, nature is boss, and everything happens on Northern Time. Relax and roll with it – you'll have a great experience and learn a lot. English is nearly universal, though some Dene elders and children speak only Indigenous languages. You'll get by fine with hand gestures, humour, silence, and "mahsi cho" – thank you.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Travellers from foreign countries are advised to obtain medical insurance. Canadian residents can use



GEROLD SIGL / NWT

their medical insurance cards in the Northwest Territories. All travellers to the NWT should ensure that they have Air Evacuation Insurance if travelling to remote parts of the NWT. Medical assistance in most communities is available at health centres, staffed by specially trained nurses, with hospitals in larger centres. Only larger communities have pharmacies.

BANKING/ATMS

Larger communities have one or more banks. ATM's are available in most Northwest Territories communities.

TAXES

There is no territorial sales tax in the Northwest Territories. However, the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% is charged on most goods and services.

LICENCES

Licences are required for both fishing and hunting in the Northwest Territories. For more information visit www.enr.gov.nt.ca.



SERVICES

Some folks enjoy getting back to nature. Others prefer getting back to the hotel. Either way, the Northwest Territories has you covered. We're an ultramodern, full-service frontier, with a complete range of visitors' services.

ADAM HILL / NWT

We've got outfitters who will look after every detail of your visit – or, if you'd rather go it alone, we can supply you with food, gear, a satellite phone, and expert advice. Set out across the Barrenlands by dogsled, roughing it like the explorers of old. You can fill your belly on Trout you caught moments before, or delight your taste buds in a high-end dining room. And you can lodge yourself wherever you wish – in an igloo, a cozy timberframe lodge, a posh penthouse apartment, or the back of your own Winnebago.

To ensure a safe trip, Northwest Territories tour operators/guides are licensed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. When booking a trip, ask the operator if he has a current tourism license, or check the NWT Tourism website (spectacularnwt.com) which includes only licensed operators.

Hotels and other accommodation facilities are licensed by the municipality where they are located.



Government of
Northwest Territories

IF YOU SEE A BISON in the Bison Control Area...

Bison populations in the Slave River Lowlands and the Wood Buffalo National Park area are infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. In 1987, the Bison Control Area (BCA) was created to prevent the spread of these diseases to the healthy Mackenzie and Nahanni populations.

The BCA establishes an exclusionary zone between the diseased and disease-free populations. The objectives of the program are to detect and remove any bison within this zone and to keep bison from becoming established in it. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources monitors the Bison Control Area and public reports are an important part of the program.

Under Northwest Territories Wildlife regulations, a resident may, at any time, hunt bison within the BCA. A hunter who kills a bison in the BCA is required to report the incident as soon as possible.



If you would like more information regarding the BCA, please contact any ENR office, or visit www.enr.gov.nt.ca.

The BCA program is jointly funded by Parks Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Please Report!

If you see a bison in the Bison Control Area,
call 1-866-629-6438 (or the nearest ENR office) as soon as possible!

CHATEAU
NOVA

1.866.722.6682
NOVAHOTELS.CA

**A GREAT PLACE TO
MEET, EAT, HOST & STAY**



MODERN ROOMS & SUITES

QUARRY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

CONFERENCE & MEETING ROOMS

NEW EXECUTIVE APARTMENT SUITES

FITNESS CENTRE, SAUNA, & STEAM ROOM



867.766.6682 | 4571 - 48TH STREET, YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 0E2

ACHESON | EDMONTON | EDSON | INUVIK | KINDERSLEY | MANNING | PEACE RIVER | YELLOWKNIFE

Northern Lights Big.

**Explorer
Big.**



**Where
Adventures Meet**

1.800.661.0892 | ExplorerHotel.ca

**We are adding to the North's reputation
for endless wide open spaces.**

- ➔ **259 Rooms - 72 new Deluxe Rooms**
including the largest Executive Suite
in the North – Our Aurora Signature Suite!
- ➔ **Grand Katimavik Ballroom**
6,000 Sq ft of flexible meeting space
- ➔ **Latest Audio Visual Equipment**
for Conferences and Events

rest & recreation

Let your day melt away... After a magnificent light show, relax into a signature Aurora Bed™ and enjoy the best night's sleep in the North. Comfortable, convenient and affordable, we are the premier choice for your next visit.

Discover the Capital advantage!



Toll free: 877-669-9444
www.capitalsuites.ca

SIMPSON AIR AND NAHANNI MOUNTAIN LODGE

Simpson Air and Nahanni Mountain Lodge offer fly-in tours of the Nahanni National Park Reserve. View and photograph Canada's deepest canyons, highest waterfall (Virginia Falls), glaciers, hot springs and wildlife.

SIMPSONAIR.CA

"Canada's 'Big River' flows through some of the world's most breathtaking mountain scenery."

For more information, please call us at (867) 695-2505 or email info@simpsonair.ca

NORTHERN LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

YOU CREATE, WE REBATE...
IN CANADA'S **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**



**NWT
FILM
.COM**

40% UP TO
CASH REBATE

The NWT Connection

First Air has the largest air route network in the Arctic. Chances are we're going where you want to go.

Book now and let us take you there.



First Air
Fly the Arctic

Reservations: 1-800-267-1247 or visit firstair.ca |   

Government of
Northwest Territories



Journey through
NWT culture
and heritage
at the museum



Free admission

Open daily from 10:30am to 5pm, Thursdays until 9pm
Closed statutory holidays during the winter

Prince of Wales
**Northern
Heritage
Centre**



www.pwnhc.ca
867.767.9347



Restaurant hours

Monday to Friday 10:30am to 4:30pm
Thursday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Reservations: www.flavourtrader.com

Blachford Lake Lodge & Wilderness Resort

ADVENTURE AWAITS.



Blachford Lake Lodge
& Wilderness Resort

blachfordlakelodge.com
+1 [867] 873.3303



ADVENTURE
CANADA



Small-ship Expeditions

Now Booking for 2019/20!

Northwest Passage · Arctic Explorer
Greenland & Wild Labrador

1.800.363.7566

adventurecanada.com

14 Front Street South, Mississauga, ON, L5H 2C4 Canada
TICO Reg# 4001400



黃刀旅遊

極光首選

黃刀旅遊

YELLOWKNIFE TOURS LTD.

開發極光旅遊 華人第一家

手機: 867-446-0879 / 867-444-8179 公司: 867-873-4600

電郵: aurora@yellowknifetours.com

預訂查詢 網址: www.yellowknifetours.com

- ◆ 多年來有口皆碑、廣受好評、深得中、港、台各地旅行社指定與信任!
- ◆ 本公司以特色產品與服務為宗旨，產品獨特、保證物有所值、從不將貨就價
- ◆ 多種語言專業導遊、優質精選活動、服務品質倍受肯定

- + 精彩行程包括冰湖鑽洞垂釣、雪鞋踏雪、雪上電單車、原住民文化遊等……
- + 360度極光觀賞台，既保暖並提供熱湯小吃及有沖水馬桶
- + 精選亞拉斯加狗拉雪橇(Huskies)2人一組自我駕駛
- + 原住民村，品嚐土法烤魚以及極光觀賞
- + 專業親切導遊提供免費攝影服務

2015 BEST TOUR OPERATOR AWARD 最佳旅行社大獎
2017 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARD 最佳商業大獎
CITIE 2018 THE BEST OUTBOUND TRAVEL OPERATOR PRIZE



黃刀旅遊精選活動

Special Yellowknife City Tours	精選黃刀城市觀光遊
Aurora Viewing at Aurora Station	極光觀賞台極光觀賞遊
Aboriginal Cultural Aurora Viewing	原住民村極光觀賞遊
Dog Sledding Tours	阿拉斯加狗拉雪橇
Snowmobile Tours	雪地電單車之旅
Ice Fishing Tours	冰上釣魚
Cameron Falls Tours	金馬倫瀑布健行(秋季)
Boat Ride on Great Slave Lake	大奴湖泛舟遊覽(秋季)

Nature ▶
Adventure ▶
Escape ▶

Canada's Northwest Territories

Canoe North
Adventures
519-941-6654

Epic multi-day canoe expeditions!



2014 NWT
ENTREPRENEUR
OF THE YEAR



CANADIAN SIGNATURE
EXPERIENCE
CANADIENNES DISTINCTIVE

2016 NWT LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD



www.canoenorthadventures.com

BIG RIVER

SERVICE CENTRE LP

Fort Providence

RESTAURANT

Home Cooking & Take Out

Convenience Store



Explore a Wild River



The Greatest Wilderness Destinations in Canada



Canoe the canyons of the *Nabanni*, see spectacular wildlife on the barrenlands of the *Coppermine*, *Hood* or *Thelon* rivers or paddle the thrilling rapids of the *Mountain River*. For 35 years we've explored the most beautiful wild places on earth. With over 50 guided wilderness adventures, we have a trip for your experience, skills and ability.

For your *Free Colour Catalogue* and trip information:
1-888-849-7668 www.blackfeather.com



Black Feather
the wilderness adventure company

Hertz®

...has the right vehicle
for the right price.



NEW DODGE / CHRYSLER UNITS
CARS - VANS - JEEPS - 4x4 TRUCKS - MINE READY TRUCKS

CALL 867-766-3838 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION OR
CALL 1-800-263-0600 OR VISIT WWW.HERTZ.CA

ENODAH WILDERNESS TRAVEL LTD.



TROUT ROCK WILDERNESS LODGE

- Fly-in, fully guided. Licensed lounge, wifi.
- Summer: Best Trophy Pike Fishing in the World!
- Fly-in packages, boating, fishing, hiking, woodstove operated hot tub and UNLIMITED Aurora Viewing
- Winter: Hagglands BV206 transfers, snowmobiling, Ice fishing, snowshoeing and UNLIMITED Aurora Viewing

AURORA STATION JUST OUTSIDE YELLOWKNIFE

Skydeck | Teepees | Dogsled Tours with Alaskan Huskies
Flush Toilets | 20 minutes by bus from Yellowknife

RAGNAR WESSTROM BOX 2382, YELLOWKNIFE, NWT X1A 2P8 CANADA PHONE: 867-873-4334
LODGE: 867-669-7980 CELL: 867-444-9591 E-MAIL: INFO@ENODAH.COM WWW.ENODAH.COM

Peterson's Point Lake Lodge

CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE



Trophy Lake Trout Fishing | Wildlife/Nature Sightseeing
Arctic & Aurora Photography



Contact us today to book your adventure.

peterston@ssimicro.com | 1.867.920.4684 | www.petersonspointlake.com

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT



Protect and conserve our ecosystems and our natural resources for future generations. We are all stewards of the environment.

- Report all Spills 1-867-920-8130 (collect calls accepted)
- Report a Poacher 1-866-763-2437
- Report a Wildfire 1-877-NWT-FIRE (698-3473)

enr.gov.nt.ca

Government of
Northwest Territories



EXPLORE YELLOWKNIFE BY FAT BIKE • BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED

**Book a custom tour
for your group today.**

borealisbiketours-unlimited.com • 1 (867) 447-0037



— OUR CAMPGROUNDS — TAKE YOU FARTHER.

TAKE YOUR NEXT CAMPING ADVENTURE
ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE WITH NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PARKS.

Drive the Dempster Highway to Inuvik, NWT. Thanks to campgrounds and day use areas along the route you'll enjoy the journey and the destination. From Inuvik you can push farther than ever before with the new all-weather highway to Tuktoyaktuk where Pingos, the Arctic Ocean and tundra landscapes await.

Make NWT Parks part of your adventure

nwtparks.ca

Toll-free: 1-800-661-0788

Government of
Northwest Territories



AN EVENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB HAY RIVER SUNRISE

HAY DAYS

HAY RIVER
JULY 2-6, 2019

MUSIC, ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL

- ♥ *Workshops for all ages*
- ♥ *Music Hop*
Live bands hosted by local establishments
- ♥ *Street Fest and Corporate Art Attack*
- ♥ *Northern Arts & Crafts Vendors*
- ♥ *Family and Kids Activities*
- ♥ *Saturday Night Shaker On The Beach*
Live bands, licensed event under the midnight sun on the beach of Great Slave Lake

f @HAYDAYSFESTIVAL #HAYDAYSFESTIVAL

FOR EVENTS, SCHEDULES, REGISTRATION & LINEUPS VISIT US AT: HAYDAYSFESTIVAL.COM





WWW.NWTBREWINGCO.COM
3905 Franklin Ave. | Yellowknife

LUNCH • DINNER • SATURDAY BRUNCH





YELLOWKNIFE'S GO-TO PLACE FOR OUTDOOR GEAR



OVERLANDERSPORTS.COM

T: 867-873-2474
FAX: 867-920-4079
4909 60TH STREET,
YELLOWKNIFE, NT



SAFETY IN BEAR COUNTRY



You are in bear country. Be bear aware.

Treat bears with respect and take precautions when camping or travelling on the land.



Contact your local ENR office or visit enr.gov.nt.ca for more information.

North Slave Office – Yellowknife, NT
Phone: (867) 767-9187
Emergency Line: (867) 767-9238

Tłı̄chǫ Area Office – Behchokǫ, NT
Phone: (867) 392-6511



Government of
Northwest Territories

SPORT FISHING LICENCES

are available online!

Purchase yours at enr.gov.nt.ca



Government of
Northwest Territories



OUT THERE ARE AMAZING JOURNEYS AND LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Air Canada brings the world to the Northwest Territories with award-winning service from over 200 destinations worldwide, and daily flights from Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton to Yellowknife.

Book at aircanada.com or contact your travel agent.



Voted Best Airline
in North America

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER ✪



AIR CANADA

DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY

Photo: Kayley Allin, NARWAL Northern Adventures

EXTRAORDINARYYK.CA

 [EXTRAORDINARYYELLOWKNIFE](https://www.instagram.com/EXTRAORDINARYYELLOWKNIFE)

  [EXTRAORDINARYYK](https://www.youtube.com/EXTRAORDINARYYK)

• EXTRAORDINARY •
YELLOWKNIFE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES • CANADA