

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST  TERRITORIES

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WELCOME TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, WHERE UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE AND A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES AWAIT.



Take a step into our spectacular North. Scan these QR codes to see more 360° tours, videos, and stories from all across the territory.

COVER: SAHTU NICKY RICHARDS / NWT
INSIDE FRONT COVER: THAIDENE NÉNÉ NATIONAL PARK RESERVE COREY MYERS / NWT



**CONNECT WITH SOMETHING
MUCH BIGGER THAN YOURSELF
WHEN YOU MAKE THE
JOURNEY TO THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES FOR AUTHENTIC,
LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES.**





**DONNA LEE DEMARCKE,
NWT TOURISM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Your absence has made our hearts grow fonder – we can't wait to welcome you to the

Northwest Territories! Get to know our warm, friendly, and unique people and experience pristine nature, wide-open spaces, and skies alight with the midnight sun or aflame with Northern Lights. Visit us and experience the timeless, enduring, and spectacular Northwest Territories. When the time is right for you to travel, we'll be waiting in the Spectacular NWT for you.

**CAROLINE WAWZONEK,
MINISTER OF ITI, GNWT**



Welcome to the Spectacular NWT Visitors' Guide!

We know you've been

dreaming of visiting Canada's Northwest Territories, and we have been waiting to welcome you back. Make your plans to visit today and you will find something spectacular around every corner. From our magnificent parks and Aurora-lit nights to the vibrant cultural traditions of our communities, Canada's Northwest Territories never fails to offer an awe-inspiring experience.

We look forward to greeting you with our Northern hospitality as you set forth on your adventure.



LITTLE DOCTOR LAKE DARREN ROBERTS / NWTT

THE TIMELESS WONDERS OF THE NWT

Intimate moments, lasting connections and a wide-open world of adventure await you in the Northwest Territories. Here, you'll always be first in line to witness the marvels of the North. You can watch nature's wonders free from barriers and crowds. In the Northwest Territories, everything is hands-on.

You are encouraged to experience this place with all of your senses.

Paddle into the East Arm of Tu Nedhé (Great Slave Lake) and touch shivering walls of towering Precambrian rock at Etthen Island. Standing above the Niagara-dwarfing Virginia Falls ('Nájljcho' to local Dene),



be awed into silence from the deafening roar of the South Nahanni River plunging nearly 100 metres right in front you. Gaze up at the sky all winter long and get lost in the mystical dance of Northern Lights.



YOUR GREAT NORTHERN ADVENTURE STARTS HERE.



06
World's
Best
Aurora

From left to right:
OLD TOWN, YELLOWKNIFE VAL POND / NWTT
YOUTH DRUMMERS, WEKWEËTĪ PAT KANE / NWTT
SLAVE RIVER RAPIDS DARREN ROBERTS / NWTT

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TOURISM

P.O. Box 610, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N5 Canada
Toll free in North America:
1-800-661-0788
T: (867) 873-5007
F: (867) 873-4059
E: info@spectacularnwt.com
W: spectacularnwt.com

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Yourself

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MACKENZIE RIVER BEN WEILAND / NWTT
LAKE TROUT JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWTT
NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE COLIN FIELD / NWTT

WATCH THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COME TO LIFE IN SPECTACULAR VIDEO.

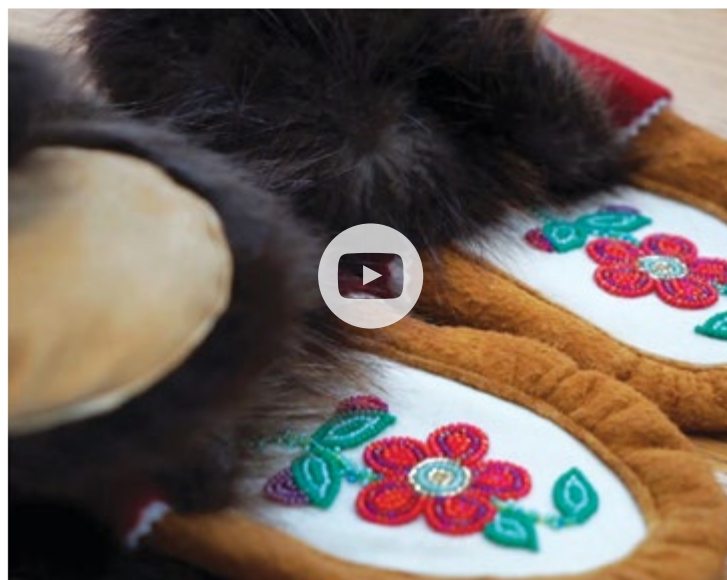
Whenever you come across a QR Code, scan it to give you a deeper sense of the adventure that awaits you in the NWT.

The Northwest Territories is so many things. It's the start of a journey. An attitude. A destination like no other. It is an immense land here for you to explore. It is waiting for you.

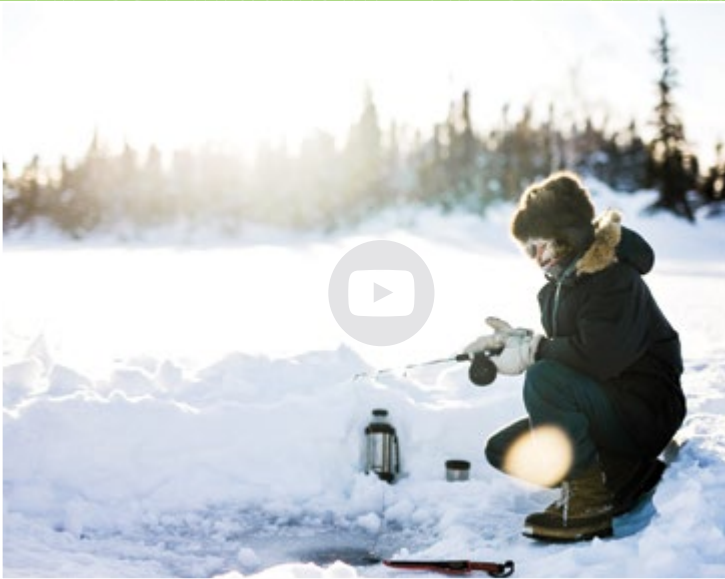


WELCOME TO THE NWT

There's a story behind every pair of beaded moccasins—and every work of art tells its own tale. Here's a glimpse of the types of stories told in the Northwest Territories.



THE TLICHO NATION NWT



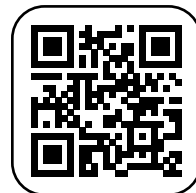
BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE MARTINA GEBROVSKA / BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE

Our fishing season doesn't end when the waters freeze - it will just give you the opportunity to take part in the age-old tradition of ice fishing in the NWT. The old ways still taste just as good.

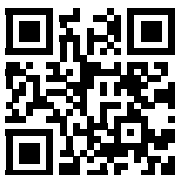


7 REASONS WHY THE NWT HAS THE WORLD'S BEST AURORA

The Northern Lights are a staple of the skies above the Northwest Territories. Here's just a taste of the magic that awaits you in late fall and all winter long.



PICTURE YOURSELF IN THE SPECTACULAR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WITH THESE 360 TOURS.



Scan this QR code to explore virtual spectacularnwt.com and tour some of the NWT from the comfort of home.

ENDLESS FUN UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN THE NAHANNI

Bask in calm as you paddle the glassy waters of Little Doctor Lake. Watch jaw-dropping canyons open below you on a flightseeing trip through the Nahanni National Park Reserve. And then hike to the top of Virginia Falls, twice as high as Niagara, and feel the power of this remote wonder.



LITTLE DOCTOR LAKE ALIETUM LTD / JENNIFER WAUGH / NWT

HOUSEBOATS, BISON AND TOWERING CLIFFS: SUMMER SIGHTSEEING IN THE NWT

There's so much to see and do in the Northwest Territories. In summer, paddle around the quirkiest neighbourhood in Canada in Yellowknife's Old Town, marvel at the gigantic bison that roam our highways and be awed by the majestic cliffs in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.



EAST ARM CLIFFS PAT KANE / NWT



NORTH SLAVE REGION TRENT ENTZOL / NWT

FLY INTO YELLOWKNIFE AND EXPLORE IT BY DOGSLED

Get a bird's eye view of the thriving NWT capital city on a winter helicopter tour and then wind and weave through the boreal forest pathways behind a team of enthusiastic sled dogs. Hop on a fat-bike for an ice road adventure through a pristine Northern landscape.



IGLOO VILLAGE, INUVIK ADAM PISANI / NWT

WONDERFULLY WILD WINTER EXPERIENCES IN CANADA'S ARCTIC

Play traditional games in an authentic igloo to the beat of Inuvialuit drumming and marvel at the world's greatest light show—the Northern Lights—in the best place on the planet to see them.

THE WORLD'S BEST AURORA





It starts out unassumingly: a phosphorescent ribbon floating off on the horizon that begins to creep across the dome of the night.

Before you know it, bands of lights have taken over the ink-black sky, glowing with a burning intensity. They flicker with tendrils of emerald, then jade, then pink, like plumes of strange fire. All around you, the evergreens are framed in an unearthly gleam.

Words don't quite do the Aurora justice. Really, the Northern Lights must be witnessed in person. And that's because everyone, from the tourist who just stepped off the plane to the Indigenous peoples who've gazed up at these lights for generations, all experience these lights in their own personal way. You won't fully understand their power until you're basking in their magical glow.

Some holler and dance in excitement. Others are still as statues, deep in contemplation. Many people feel a connection with the cosmic lights, or share communion with loved ones lost.

Everyone comes away from the spectacle touched by the wonder and beauty of the world's greatest lightshow. We warmly invite you to the Northwest Territories, the planet's premier Northern Lights destination, for an experience like no other.





Your best chance to see the heavens dance

You can't argue with science: the Northwest Territories is the world's Northern Lights sweet spot. Up here, the Aurora dance an average of 240 nights per year, engulfing the sky in shimmering greens, yellows and pinks that seem close enough to touch.

Why does a trip to the Northwest Territories give you the best chance to watch the heavens dance? Location, location, location. Canada's subarctic is blessed with a very dry climate that translates to crystal-clear nights and less Aurora-blocking cloud cover. What's more, the

NWT is perfectly situated under the "Auroral oval" – the Earth's band of maximal Aurora activity.

Fall and winter are the two best seasons to see the Northern Lights. Once the midnight sun abates in mid-August, you can camp comfortably under the nightly celestial light shows until mid-October. Then, starting in December and running until early April, the clear and very long nights provide the ideal conditions for the mystical Aurora.

LIGHT PILLARS IN NORMAN WELLS NICKY RICHARDS / NWT

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

COME WHEN THE LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTEST

MAKE SURE YOU TIME YOUR TRIP FOR PEAK AURORA ACTIVITY.

MIDNIGHT SUN
means no visible Northern Lights

NIGHT CREEPS BACK,
so do the Aurora

With freeze up comes
CLOUDY SKIES



YELLOWKNIFE VAL POND / NWTT

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

*It's cold and dark, **PERFECT FOR THE AURORA***

A vibrant aurora borealis display in a snowy, forested landscape. The sky is filled with swirling bands of green and purple light, with a hint of orange and red near the horizon. The foreground shows snow-covered evergreen trees and bushes.

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, YOU CAN REALLY CHOOSE YOUR OWN AURORA ADVENTURE.

WINTER AURORA OUTSIDE INUVIK KRISTIAN BINDER / NWT

See the lights any way you like

Watch the heavens come alive from a hot tub at a wilderness lodge, around a campfire at a rustic cabin, or even from a busy downtown Yellowknife street. Take in the world's greatest light show from a picturesque teepee or igloo village. Chase the Aurora by snowmobile, Bombardier or dogsled. Or, if you prefer, paddle onto a glassy lake and watch the lights dance above and all around you.

In Yellowknife, Inuvik and many other Northern communities, guides can take you on customized nightly "Aurora hunting" excursions, chauffeuring you far from city lights to optimal viewing spots. Join an expert Dene or Inuvialuit guide, who can teach you about the role the Aurora play in local legends. Or hop on a bush plane and fly out to any number of world-class Aurora-watching lodges, where you can play all day and marvel at the Northern Lights all night.



WINTER AURORA IN THE
WESTERN ARCTIC
KRISTIAN BINDER / NWT

FROM AN EXPERT

Inuvik's Kristian Binder has spent a decade shooting wondrous Aurora displays along the Dempster Highway. **Some quick tips:**

- Don't underestimate the importance of a tripod.
- Dress warmly!!!
- Bring along a flashlight with a really good throw distance to easily focus on interesting objects on the ground that frame the lights in the sky.

"I like to have foreground objects, whether it's trees or a boat or a person"

How to capture the magic

Photographing the Aurora can be tricky. To start, set your ISO to 1600, your aperture to f3.5 or f2.8 and try a shutter speed of five seconds. See what that gives you before trying longer or shorter exposure times, different apertures or f-stops.

Shutter speed refers to how long the shutter is open. Since it will be dark outside, you'll need a long shutter speed to let in as much light as possible. To avoid blurring, mount the camera on a steady tripod.

Aperture controls how much light reaches the camera's image sensor. A wide aperture (low f-stop number) lets the most light in. Let in as much light as possible, without sacrificing what's in focus.

ISO indicates the camera's sensitivity to light. A high ISO means greater sensitivity to faint light, but it can also result in a grainy photo. Using a high ISO reduces the need for a long shutter speed.



TIMELESS ARTS, THRIVING CULTURES





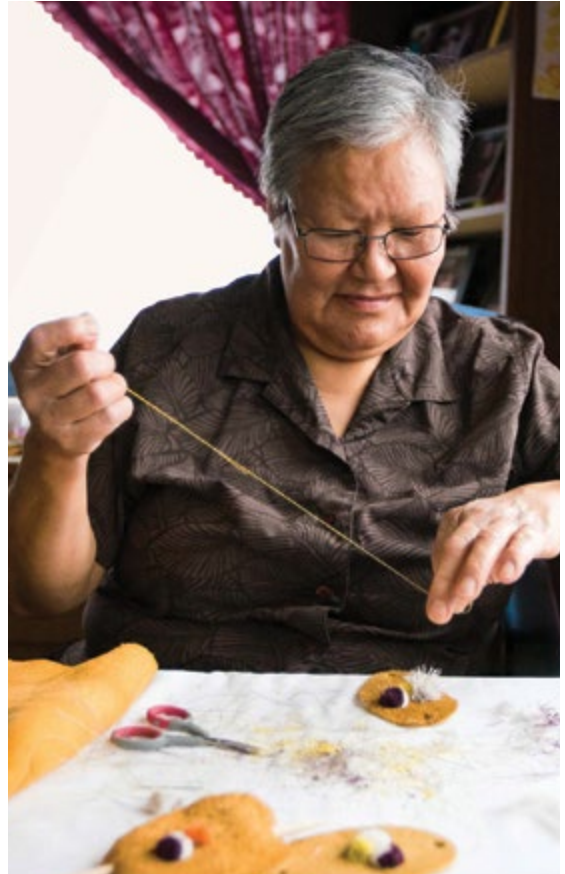
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS HOME TO A SMALL POPULATION, BUT A GREAT MANY PEOPLES: DENE, MÉTIS AND INUVIALUIT HAVE LIVED HERE FOR TIME IMMEMORIAL.



Today, the territory comprises a number of self-governing First Nations and more official languages than most countries.

This is a place where Indigenous cultures pass on generational knowledge through stories and art, where traditions are alive. Master artisans fashion ornately beaded moosehide moccasins and porcupine quill designs on birchbark baskets. Drums, of dried and stretched animal hides, are played in communities from the shores of the Arctic Ocean, all down the Dehcho (Mackenzie River) and around Tu Nedhé (Great Slave Lake), to mark important occasions and to ring in great feasts.

The Northwest Territories is rich with history, teeming with stories. Hear ours and share yours. As the campfire smolders and dusk becomes dawn, you will be enthralled, inspired, and made new again, in the last best place on Earth.



From top to bottom:
MOOSE HAIR TUFTING, DEHCHO REGION BEN WEILAND / NWT
BUNCHBERRY PLANT, DEHCHO REGION BEN WEILAND / NWT



From top to bottom:

DENE DRUM ARCTIC CIRCLE MONUMENT, FORT GOOD HOPE

NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT

TANNING MOOSEHIDE IN WEKWEËTĪ

PAT KANE / NWTT

State of the Arts

ARTISTS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DON'T LACK INSPIRATION.

Each community is home to master artisans who create works that reflect their lived experiences, that draw on the lessons of their mentors and elders, that inspire new artists to pick up the tools. Here are just some of the exquisite traditional arts that will leave you speechless.

CARVING AND SCULPTURE

From bone to limestone, expert carvers in the Northwest Territories use a variety of media to tell their stories or express a feeling. These artists can fashion an entire hunting scene out of a moose antler or muskox horn or tease out a nuanced emotion on a face etched into a rock canvas.



MOCCASINS AND MUKLUKS

Nothing keeps your feet warmer or more comfortable than moccasins or mukluks made with love in the North. Plus, you can't beat the smell: Even after owning a pair for years, the tanned caribou or moose skins will retain their signature and nostalgic smoky scent. Moccasins are the footwear of choice due to their coziness and style, ringed with beaver fur and decorated with beautiful beaded uppers.

EARRINGS, NECKLACES, AND MORE

Using caribou, moose, muskox, fish and even whale bone, NWT designers are making waves in the national and international fashion community with their inventive, home-grown jewellery designs that can also incorporate local gemstones, fish scales, porcupine quills, or beads affixed to tanned moosehide.

MOOSE HAIR TUFTING

Patiently arranged and sculpted from carefully prepared and dyed moose hair bundles, the vibrant flower designs fastened to a tanned moosehide backing will blow you away. Moose hair tufting requires focus, patience and attention to detail.

BIRCHBARK BASKETS

Smooth yet durable, birchbark baskets are wonders to behold. Waterproof, pliable and resistant to rotting, these baskets are typically decorated with delicate flower designs crafted from meticulously trimmed moose hair tuftings or carefully arranged porcupine quills.

Find them at the Acho Dene Native Crafts store in Fort Liard.

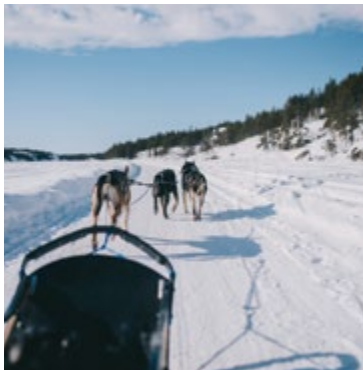
DENE AND INUVIALUIT DRUMS

The standard Dene drum is made from dried caribou skin stretched over a birch wood frame. Strips of sinew (known locally as babiche) lie on the face of the drum to give it a fuzzier sound when the drummer strikes it. The much larger Inuvialuit drum has a handle for the drummer, and produces a much deeper boom.

For more information on where to find and purchase art from across the territory, visit buynwtarts.com - an initiative that promotes all artists across the NWT.



From top to bottom:
 BEADED EARRINGS IN FORT LIARD BEN WEILAND / NWT
 BIRCHBARK BASKETS IN FORT LIARD BEN WEILAND / NWT
 TRADITIONAL DENE BEADWORK ON MOOSEHIDE
 DESTINATION CANADA / NWT
 GREAT NORTHERN ARTS FESTIVAL IN INUVIK
 GEORGE FISCHER / NWT



Join in the celebration

Northerners definitely know how to have a good time. Whether they're welcoming back the sun, celebrating spring, or reveling in 24-hour daylight, there's no better way to get to know the Northwest Territories than jumping right in and having some fun at a local festival.

SPRING JAMBOREES:

Across the Northwest Territories, most communities say goodbye to winter and celebrate the longer days and warmer weather with a weekend's worth of outdoor activities. Depending on where you are, you'll find dogsledding and snowmobile races, duck-plucking and tea-boiling competitions, jigging and fiddling contests, drum dancing and ice fishing derbies at a spring jamboree.

MUSIC AND ARTS FESTS:

In the summer, Northerners rock out under the midnight sun. This is your chance to hear traditional throat-singing and local Dene or Inuvialuit drumming and dancing. And year-round, arts festivals give visitors an opportunity to learn the finer points of Northern arts and crafts.

For the arts devotee:

The Great Northern Arts Festival (Inuvik, July) is a ten-day arts extravaganza that features workshops and exhibits from masters all over the North.

For the music lover: Folk on the Rocks (Yellowknife, mid-July) is the North's premier music festival, where southern hitmakers, up-and-coming bands and local favourites share the stage on the sandy shores of Long Lake.

For Dene storytelling:

The NAKA Festival (Dettah, March) is the perfect opportunity to learn about the Aurora from a Yellowknives Dene First Nation perspective.

For the big kid in you:

Fun for the whole family, the Snowking Festival (Yellowknife, March) is where adults can indulge their inner child by playing in a giant snow castle all day and dancing away the night.

From top to bottom:

DOGSLEDDING IN THE NORTH SLAVE REGION VINCENT RET / NWTT

FOLK ON THE ROCKS FESTIVAL BILL BRADEN / NWTT

NAKA FESTIVAL ART MARKET, YELLOWKNIFE SARAH PRUYS / NWTT

DRUM CIRCLE IN THE NORTH SLAVE REGION TESSA MACINTOSH / NWTT

IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION. HERE'S HOW TO GREET SOMEONE AND SAY THANK YOU IN ALL 11 OFFICIAL NWT LANGUAGES.

	GREETING	THANK YOU
Chipewyan:	?édlánet'ea (eht-klah-net-eyah)	Mársi (mah-see)
Cree:	Tanisi (tan-seh)	Kinanāskomitin (neh-nah-skohm-tehn)
English:	Hello	Thank you
French:	Bonjour	Merci
Gwich'in:	Dànch'ùh (dahn-choo)	Mahsi (mah-see)
Inuinnaqtun:	Haluuqqagin (ha-look-ajin)	Quana (kwa-na)
Inuktitut:	Ainngai (ai-ngai)	Qujannamiik (koo-ya-naa-miik)
		Nakurmiik (na-koor-miik)
Inuvialuktun:	Aaqana (ah-kah-nah)	Quyainnii (koo-ya-nain-nii)
North Slavey:	Negha dágòht'e (na-ga da-go-t'ehn)	Máhsi (mah-see)
South Slavey:	Negha dágòndíh (nay-ga da-gohn-dih)	Máhsi (mah-see)
Tlicho:	Dàḡat'e (Dah-theh)	Mahsi (mah-see)

MAGIC

UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN

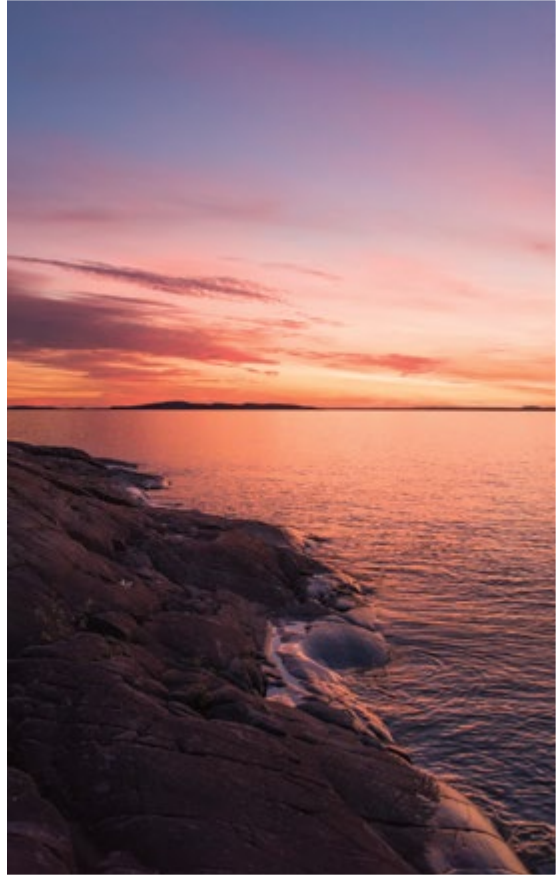




Imagine all the fun you could fit into a day if the sun never went down. During summer months in the Northwest Territories – where one day can literally last for weeks – you are free to make this fantasy a reality.

As the sun rides high late into the 'night,' all your normal cues for judging the time of day are thrown out of whack. Here, we don't let the hands on the clock guide our actions. Instead, we lean into the novelty and take our orders from the skies. Really, where else can you start an outdoor adventure at midnight?

Spend a day or two under the midnight sun and you will be surprised by your inexhaustible reserve of energy. And then you'll take full advantage of the limitless possibilities that these long summer days without night offer. You might even get so caught up in the fun that you lose track of time – or even forget what day it is. Don't worry, it's completely normal, and that's part of the magic of the midnight sun.



Top: SHORELINE NEAR ŁUTSELK'Ē PAT KANE / NWTT

Bottom: MIDNIGHT SUN SWIM NEAR FORT SIMPSON TERRY PARKER / NWTT

Right: DUSK IN YELLOWKNIFE RORY FARREL / NWTT



THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO ON THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR.

Celebrate all night long

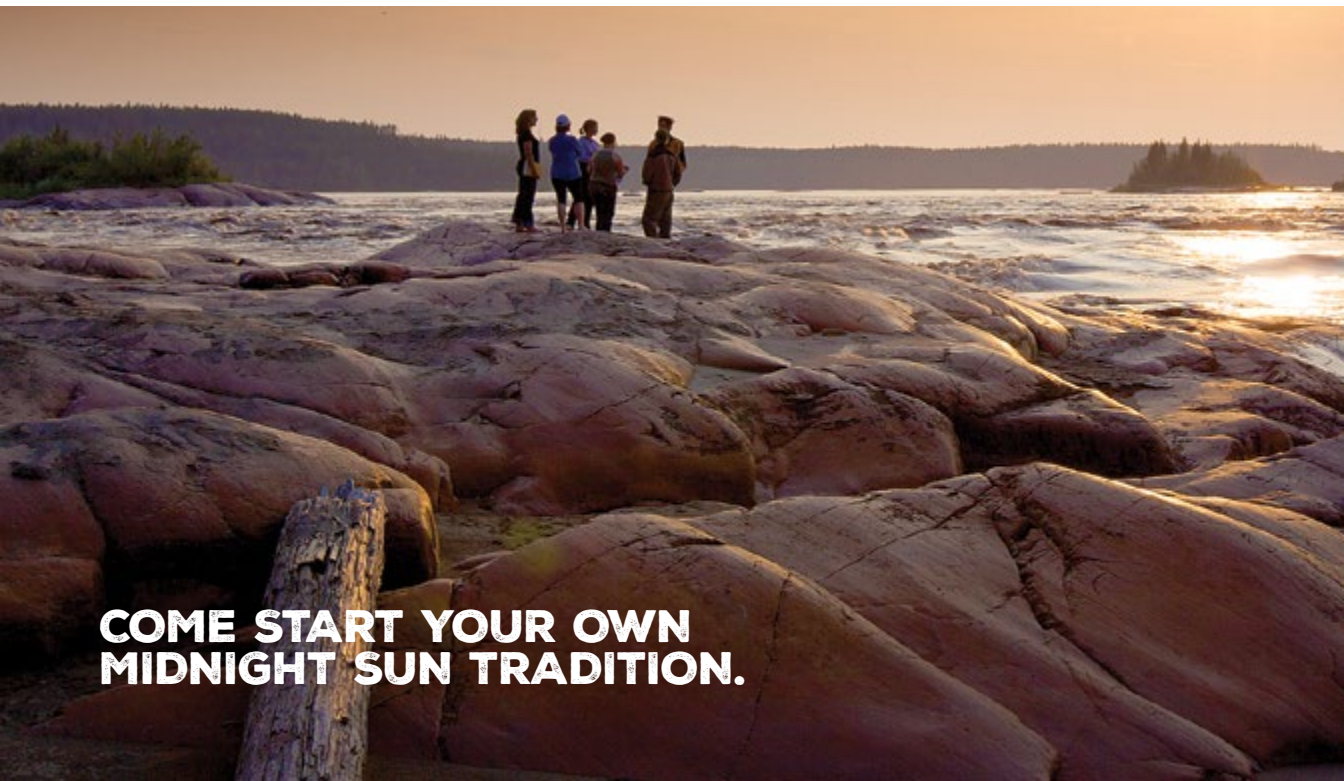
In the Northwest Territories, June 21 is a statutory holiday commemorating National Indigenous Peoples Day. Across the territory, in communities big and small, drum dances and feasts, Dene handgames, and Arctic games demonstrations are organized to showcase and celebrate the many nations that comprise the Northwest Territories. At Somba K'e Park, in downtown Yellowknife, everyone is welcome to a full day of musical performances, Métis fiddling and jigging, and a gigantic fish fry.

Festivities continue on through the night, with official and less formal observances of

the longest day of the year. On Yellowknife Bay, the residents of Canada's most unique neighbourhood take part in an annual Houseboat Crawl, moving from floating house to floating house, as the sun circles the sky.

People also get active on this day that doesn't end. The Yellowknife Golf Club hosts the Midnight Classic Golf Tournament, with golfers teeing off throughout the 'night.' In Inuvik, high above the Arctic Circle, runners get together for the Summer Solstice Midnight Sun Run, jogging from one day into the next, with no signs of night in sight.

SLAVE RIVER RAPIDS JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWTT



**COME START YOUR OWN
MIDNIGHT SUN TRADITION.**



HAY RIVER GOLF CLUB COLIN FIELD / NWT

The longest day in the Northwest Territories

Okay, so technically the sun does actually dip below the horizon in towns south of the Arctic Circle on the summer solstice. But believe us, that doesn't mean it gets dark. In fact, most communities in the NWT don't experience a deep black night sky from early May until mid-August.



HERE'S WHEN THE SUN SETS ON JUNE 21, THE SUMMER SOLSTICE:

10:55 P.M.

Fort Smith

11:20 P.M.

Hay River

11:38 P.M.

Yellowknife

11:57 P.M.

Fort Simpson

1:42 A.M.

the next day
Norman Wells

IT DOESN'T SET! FROM:

May 24 to July 18

Inuvik

May 19 to July 24

Tuktoyaktuk

May 13 to July 29

Ulukhaktok

May 9 to August 3

Sachs Harbour

Fun under the midnight sun

Do you ever feel like there just aren't enough hours in the day? That's a problem that doesn't exist in the Northwest Territories come summertime. Here, it's common to play 18 holes of golf after dinner or to head out for a dip at midnight. Here's just some of what you can do in a land where the sun doesn't go down.



01.

Head out for a lakeside midnight picnic with friends. Don't forget to bring your camera, because the golden hour here is definitely longer than 60 minutes!



02.

Get out on the water in a sailboat or motorboat for a late-night cruise.

You don't have to worry about darkness putting an end to a fishing trip.

03.

Pitch a tent in a campground.

Pack your phone away, and then take turns with friends trying to guess what time it is. Better yet, as the sun dips lower in the sky, debate whether you're witnessing a sunset or a sunrise. (Really, the two blend so seamlessly that they're the same thing.)



04.

Visit a remote lodge.

At a remote lodge, take a nap after dinner and then stroll down to the dock, dip your feet in the water, clink glasses with a loved one, and soak in the good times.

05.

Go kayaking.

Put your kayak or canoe into glassy waters at 2 a.m. and take a tour of your tranquil city or wilderness surroundings. It's like paddling through a still-life painting.



THE AWE- INSPIRING ARCTIC OCEAN



A wooden sign with a blue background and white text stands in a snowy, desolate landscape. The sign is supported by two weathered wooden posts. The ground is covered in snow, with some driftwood visible. In the background, a dark sea meets a horizon with a thin layer of orange and yellow light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a deep blue, filled with numerous stars and a vibrant, green aurora borealis that flows across the upper portion of the frame.

ARCTIC OCEAN

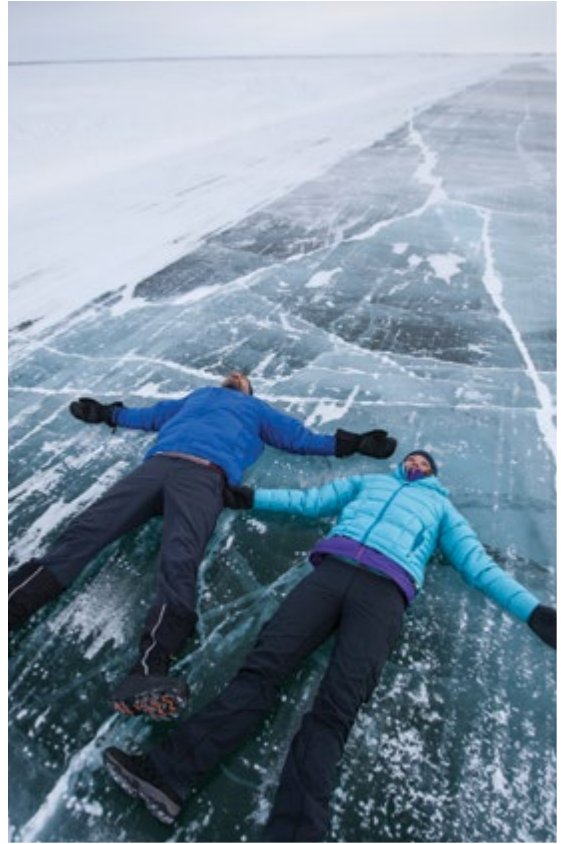
Few have dipped their toes in the Arctic Ocean.

It wasn't until 2017, when the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway opened up, that Canadians could drive from coast to coast to coast year-round. Now, at the end of the road – and the edge of the continent – this legendary body of water lies within reach for all.

What's so special about the Arctic Ocean? Well, this polar sea has been the backdrop of countless human dramas. First, there are the Inuvialuit hunters who fashioned kayaks – using only driftwood and animal bones, sinew and skins – and ventured into these frigid waters to harvest whales. Then came intrepid Europeans and Americans in search of a Northwest Passage. Some never left – their austere graves on High Arctic islands are a testament to humanity's hubris.

Turn-of-the-century whaling crews and later off-shore oil companies would come and go. But the resolute, resilient and resourceful Inuvialuit and Gwich'in residents of the Western Arctic continue to thrive in the northernmost reaches of the territory.

Come experience the stark beauty, abundant wildlife, and natural wonder of this place first-hand by plunging right into the history of the legendary Arctic Ocean.



Top: TUKTOYAKTUK ICE ROAD DESTINATION CANADA / NWTT

Bottom: BLANKET TOSS IN INUVIK ZOE HO / NWTT

Right: PINGO NEAR TUKTOYAKTUK J. F. BERGERON / NWTT

STAY SAFE AND AWARE AROUND ICE ROADS.
ALWAYS KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR VEHICLES.





PINGO IN TUKTOYAKTUK GEORGE FISCHER / NWT

On the road: an Arctic sea for any season

For most visitors, the Arctic Ocean is experienced in the community of Tuktoyaktuk, at the end of an epic road trip on what is affectionately known as 'the road to Tuk'. In summer, travellers can hit the sea to visit a traditional Inuvialuit whaling camp, where they will get the chance to sample local fare, such as muktuk (whale) and tuktu (caribou), while learning all about the daring hunt.

In winter, road-trippers can drive right onto the ocean and snap a photo with the landmark blue 'Arctic Ocean'

sign, standing out colourfully amid an endless expanse of white. They can also snuggle up in furs and spend a night in an igloo outside of Inuvik, reflecting on the ingenuity of the Inuvialuit who built these snow houses to stay warm through the winter.

No matter the time of year, visitors will experience the warm hospitality the people of Tuk are famous for. You may venture out to the Point, a neighbourhood on the frontlines of climate change that is being taken back by the Arctic Ocean.




From top to bottom:
TUNDRA SCENERY IN ULUKHAKTOK
 TERRY PARKER / NWTT
TOWN OF INUVIK SUNRISE FESTIVAL
 WERONICA MURRAY / NWTT

Or you can rent a canoe or kayak and paddle out to Ibyuk, the second-largest pingo on the planet, where you will learn all about the geological marvel from interpretive signage on the boardwalk.

Really, just getting to the Arctic Ocean is half the fun. The drive up the Dempster Highway is one you'll never forget. Take it at your own speed and stop at friendly communities like Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson along the way. Pitch a tent in clean, comfortable campgrounds and fish for frisky Northern Pike or Arctic Grayling. Watch the blooming fall tundra explode in colours. Take a break to pick some Arctic berries. Whatever you do, expect to be surprised by the warmth and wonder of the Western Arctic.





**FOR THOSE WHO
VENTURE FURTHER
NORTH, BE PREPARED
FOR TOTALLY NEW AND
UNIQUE EXPERIENCES.**

TUKTUT NOGAIT NATIONAL PARK PARKS CANADA / NWTT

Off road: an Arctic sea for any season

The community of Paulatuk, on the coast of the Arctic Ocean, sits just west of Tuktut Nogait National Park – a world of amber-hued canyons (some 170-metres deep!) where the Bluenose Caribou outnumber people more than 1,000 to 1.

Up in the Arctic archipelago, guests can fly into Sachs

Harbour or Ulukhaktok to witness communities that continue to live in rhythm with the land and sea. It was in these two communities that hunters discovered the first two confirmed polar-grizzly hybrids, in 2006 and 2010. Wildlife abounds. Hop on a snowmachine with an Ulukhaktok outfitter to search

for polar bears. In Sachs Harbour, you are essentially guaranteed to see muskoxen.

Although these Northern islands are sparsely populated, human history is everywhere. This is where European, American and Scandinavian mariners once searched for a Northwest Passage. Robert

From top to bottom:

PRESERVING ARCTIC CHAR IN TUKTOYAKTUK TERRY PARKER / NWTT

DOGSLEDDING NEAR INUVIK JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWTT



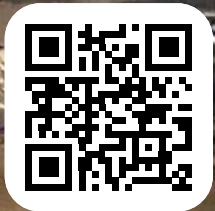
McClure, who came looking for the lost Franklin expedition in 1850, abandoned his HMS Investigator after it became stuck in pack ice off Banks Island. The Irishman would become the first person to make a successful transit of the passage by ship and sledge. (It would be another 50 years before Roald

Amundsen would successfully sail through the entirety of the Northwest Passage.) McClure's Investigator was discovered 150 metres off the coast of Banks Island in 2010.

These are just some of the stories waiting to be shared in Canada's Western Arctic.



WILD AND FREE RIVERS



The original highways and byways of the Northwest Territories are the wild, rushing rivers that reach into every corner of this land. Our waterways are physical links that connect us with each other, with the land, and with the past.

Here, the course of these great rivers remain mostly unaltered, unbridged, and undammed. These are some of the last free-flowing rivers left on the planet.

Paddlers dream of these waters, which continue to carve their stories into this beautiful land. The Northwest Territories is home to the mighty Mackenzie, the longest river in Canada, and the most significant waterway in all of the North. Here, the Slave and Liard and Hay rivers come to their end. This is where the South Nahanni has carved some of the most dramatic canyons in all the world. Where the Coppermine weaves back and forth through the treeline. Where the Thelon creates its own microclimate, with shore-lined forests in the tundra. Where the Mountain and Keele rush through alpine paradises.

Start planning your next river paddling adventure and prepare to let the Northwest Territories tell you its age-old stories.



Top: SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER COLIN FIELD / NWTT

Bottom: MACKENZIE RIVER BEN WEILAND / NWTT

Right: NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWTT





PADDLING THE DEH CHO NORTH STAR ADVENTURES / NWT

The Mighty Mackenzie

At 1,738 kilometres, flowing from Great Slave Lake through to the Arctic Ocean and draining one-fifth of the country, the Mackenzie is Canada's longest river. And it's central to life in the Northwest Territories.

Dene have travelled this mighty river, called 'Deh Cho' or big river, for as long as anyone can remember. Families built moosehide boats – drying and stretching the animal's skins – and paddled them up and down the Mackenzie Valley to harvest game and visit trading posts.

Today, paddling the Mackenzie is still the best way to experience the true heart of the Northwest Territories. Paddlers can visit the dozen or so communities that flank it, including Fort Providence at its headwaters and Inuvik in the delta. They also get to see mountains,

hot springs, and the awesome Ramparts – limestone cliffs that pinch the river near Fort Good Hope.

Many operators and outfitters specialize in Mackenzie River journeys, connecting with elders and historians in communities along the way who are proud to share the history of their people. At Bear Rock in Tulita, learn about the legendary Dene hero, Yamoria, who killed three giant beavers that had been terrorizing local hunters. He draped their pelts on Bear Rock, forming three dark circles that distinguish the mountain to this day.

A trip down the Deh Cho gives you an intimate look at the Northwest Territories' past, present and future.

Rivers for any paddler

There's no better way to experience the incomprehensibly vast and wild Northwest Territories than by paddling a wilderness river. You can travel at your own speed, exploring your surroundings with backcountry hikes, dropping a line for some fresh-caught dinner and generally slowing down to adopt the rhythm and pace of the natural world. Fortunately, there's no shortage of rivers to travel, ranging from tranquil day-trips for beginners to remote, weeks-long expeditions for whitewater experts.

BEST FOR:

- BEGINNERS
- INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED

■ YELLOWKNIFE RIVER

An easy and accessible paddle up the Yellowknife River, less than a ten-minute drive from the capital, takes you through moose and black bear country. Keep the binoculars within reach to spy the treetop eagle's nests.



YELLOWKNIFE RIVER DAY USE AREA BENJI STRAKER / NWTT



BROKEN SKULL RIVER CANOE NORTH ADVENTURES / NWTT

■ SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER

Famous for its 150-metre-tall canyon walls, epic alpine day-hikes and thundering Virginia Falls, the South Nahanni isn't a river you want to do on your own as a beginner, but it's something most paddlers can tackle by canoe or raft with an experienced guide.

■ MOUNTAIN RIVER

This 250-kilometre route is considered one of the best wilderness paddling experiences for intermediate-to-advanced canoeists. For days on end, you will enjoy almost continuous whitewater. Guided adventures are recommended for those who have no Northern backcountry experience.



MOUNTAIN RIVER TODD LAWSON / NWTT

THELON RIVER

This iconic Canadian waterway – and the greatest of all Barrenland rivers – begins east of Great Slave Lake and runs through barely touched tundra landscapes, home to muskoxen, wolves, caribou and wolverines. This is grizzly bear country, so be sure you've successfully completed some remote, wilderness paddling trips before thinking about tackling this river. Better yet, book a guided trip across the wild barrenland paradise to take the stress out of your travels.



THELON RIVER DAN WONG, JACKPINE PADDLE / NWT



SLAVE RIVER RAPIDS DARREN ROBERTS / NWT

SLAVE RIVER RAPIDS

A series of four rapids (Pelican, Rapids of the Drowned, Mountain Portage, and Cassette) outside Fort Smith comprise this world-famous whitewater destination. House-high waves, dizzying whirlpools, and gushing channels provide a playground for skilled kayakers, but some of the rapids can be easily run by moderate kayakers.

COPPERMINE RIVER

This historic river, traced by the likes of Matonabee, Hearne, Akaitcho and Franklin, rises at Lac de Gras in the Northwest Territories and flows almost 1,000 kilometres to the Northwest Passage. The Coppermine weaves through the treeline and features rapids, waterfalls, and loads of Arctic char. Access from Yellowknife.



COPPERMINE DAN WONG, JACKPINE PADDLE / NWT



HORTON RIVER JASON VAN BRUGGEN / NWTT

HORTON RIVER

From its headwaters at Horton Lake, not far from Great Bear Lake, this river cuts 600 kilometres through stunted spruce forest and tundra to Franklin Bay, on the Arctic coast near Paulatuk. From afar, see the spooky Smoking Hills and wind through challenging limestone canyons. Access from Inuvik.

KEELE RIVER

This alpine river, flowing 360 kilometres from the mouth of the Natla River, is suitable for all levels of canoeists. The Keele brings paddlers through and past the impressive mountains, soothing hot springs and the unspoiled wildlife habitat of Nāāts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, before merging with the Mackenzie south of Tulita. Access from Norman Wells.



KEELE RIVER MIKE PEAKE / NWTT



MUSKOXEN BULLS WAYNE LYNCH / NWTT

THOMSEN RIVER

This placid, pure river of snowmelt meanders through the heart of Aulavik National Park on Banks Island. The most northerly canoeing river in North America, its banks are lined with delicate tundra wildflowers, ancient Inuit archeological sites, and more muskoxen than anywhere else on Earth. Access from Inuvik.

GREAT NORTHERN LAKES





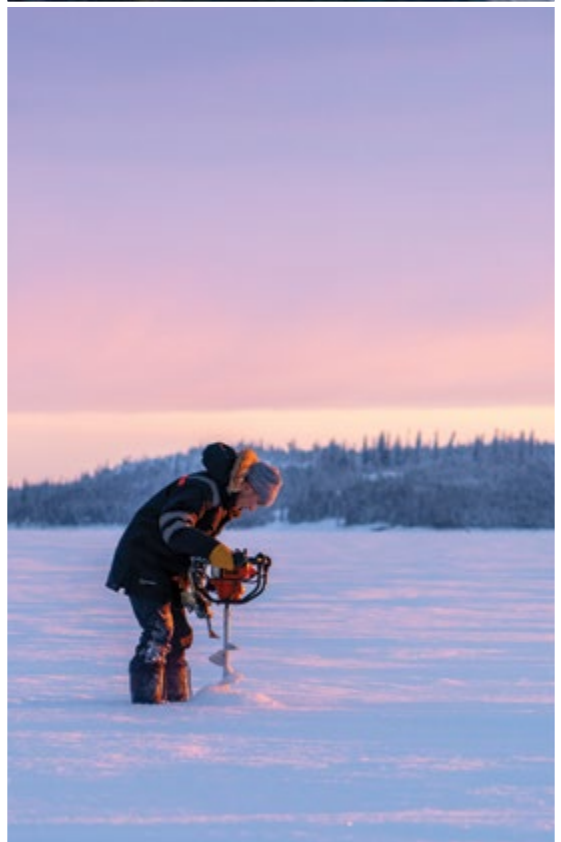
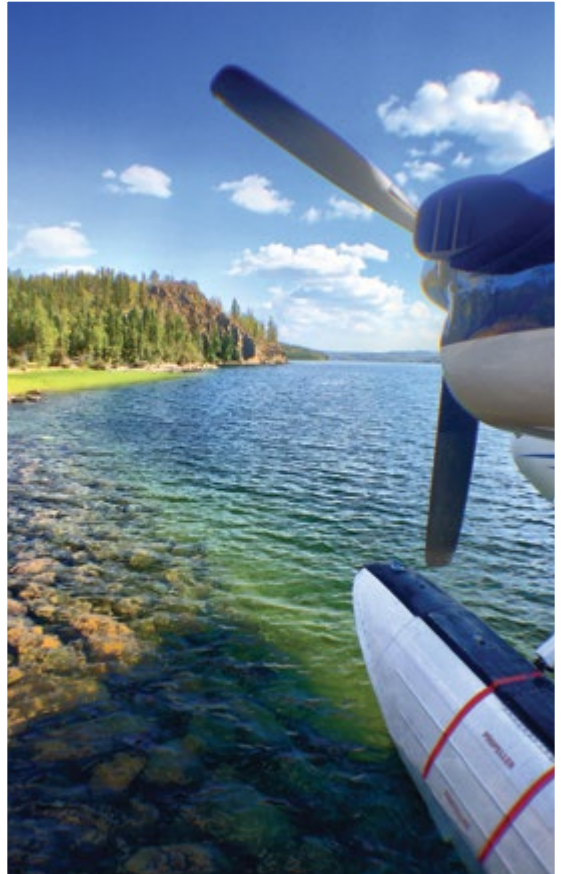
In the Northwest Territories, you'll find reel big fun wherever you choose to drop a line.

It might help to think of these great lakes more as in-land seas. On some lakes in the Northwest Territories, when you get a few kilometres from shore, it can feel like you're out on the ocean, with no sign of land on the horizon. The only difference? You can dip a mug in and drink freely from these pure, pristine waters.

The Northwest Territories is a water world, with innumerable lakes dotting the landscape. Great Bear and Great Slave are two of the planet's largest and since the relative human impact on them is so low, they are home to some of the biggest and healthiest freshwater fish populations on Earth. That's why the fly-in fishing lodges in the Northwest Territories are revered by any serious trophy fisher.

Northern fishing lodges put the treat in retreat. These wilderness wonderlands out on the barrens or on the banks of Great Bear or Great Slave wow with unparalleled fishing and fine dining. It's not unusual for an angler to catch and release 100 fish in a day!

And there are fish in almost every water body in the Northwest Territories, with expert guides eager to bring you to their trusted fishing holes. There's Lac la Martre, near Whatì; Kakisa Lake south of Great Slave; Campbell Lake outside Inuvik on the Dempster Highway. There's Duncan and Hearne and Point and the thousands of lakes north of the Ingraham Trail outside Yellowknife.



Top: **YELLOW DOG LODGE** ED HARDY / NWTT

Bottom: **BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE** JULIEN SCHRODER / NWTT

Right: **FISHING NEAR WEKWEETÌ** PAT KANE / NWTT





EAST ARM CLIFFS COREY MYERS / NWT

Great Slave Lake

From the soaring cliffs outside Łutsel K'e to the bustling marinas in Yellowknife and Hay River, Tu Nedhé (Great Slave Lake) is an aquatic playground.

The jewel of the lake is the East Arm, where the lake-bottom falls away two-thirds of a kilometre, making it the deepest lake in North America and the sixth deepest on Earth. (It could sink the CN Tower!) Here, the waters are crystal clear, the fishing is exceptional and trail hikes to the top of Etthen Island cliffs provide jaw-dropping

panoramas. This place is home to Canada's newest national park, Thaidene Nëné – meaning 'the Land of the Ancestors' in Chipewyan. Łutsel K'e outfitters can bring visitors out to their traditional fish camps for an intimate experience on the land or at nearby lodges.

From Hay River or Yellowknife, guests can join second- or third-generation Great Slave fishers in winter or summer. Here, you can help tend the nets, pulling Burbot, Whitefish and Lake Trout from the depths, and then your host

will fry up a fresh shore lunch using their own secret recipe.

Great Slave Lake is the start of many memorable Northern adventures, whether it's lifting off in a floatplane, destined for a remote Aurora-viewing or fishing lodge in the Yellowknife area, or setting out on an unforgettable drive across the ice road from the capital city to the small Yellowknives Dene community of Dettah.

Got a bite? Here's what it might be

YOU WON'T JUST FIND FISH IN ABUNDANCE HERE—YOU'LL ALSO DISCOVER A SURPRISING VARIETY OF SPECIES IN OUR BIGGEST LAKES. HERE'S WHAT LIVES IN OUR UNDERWATER WORLDS:

Lake trout stalk the pure, cold depths of our famous lakes, growing to outlandish sizes. Forty-pounders are normal and bigger ones aren't that uncommon.

Northern pike ("jack" or "jackfish" locally) can be found prowling warm marshes and reedy backwaters. They bite at pretty much anything, which might explain why they grow so phenomenally long.

Burbot ("loche" or "ling cod"), the world's only freshwater cod, come out at night to feed. You can find them on Bullock's Bistro's menu as "Great Slave Cod."

Whitefish and **Inconnu** (also called "coney") are relatives and coveted lake species. The former is ideal for frying up, while the latter is a good fish to smoke.

Arctic char, the northernmost freshwater species on Earth, are meaty, mouth-watering fish that migrate into lakes in summer or fall to spawn.

Bull trout and **Dolly Varden** abound in alpine streams and are a fly-fisher's dream.

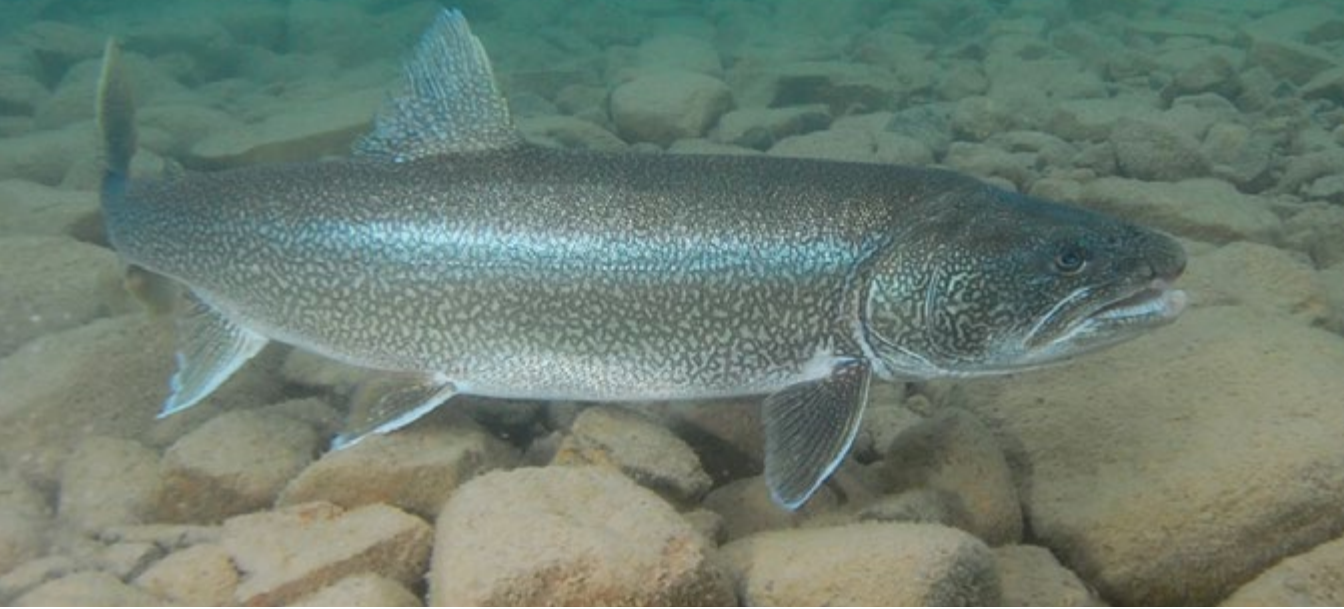
Walleye (called "pickerel" locally) and **Arctic grayling** splash in many of our rivers and creeks. Both have pronounced dorsal fins: the walleye's is spiky, while the iridescent and smaller Arctic grayling's fans out beautifully.

And don't look now, but more pink salmon are being found swimming up the Mackenzie River each summer—warming waters may be behind the new arrivals.



THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

A few years back, an American doctor reeled in a whale of a Trout, estimated by his guide to weigh 78 pounds – an unofficial rod and reel world record. Did he mount it on his office wall? No, he let it go. That means it's still out there somewhere, waiting for you.



LAKE TROUT PAUL VECSEI / NWTT

Great Bear Lake

Sahtu, the Dene name for gigantic Great Bear Lake, means "bear water," likely referring to the barrenland grizzlies on the lake's eastern shores. But it's the fish – or the size of the fish – that gives this lake its outsized reputation among serious fishers.

The fishing lodges of Great Bear consistently claim some of the largest Lake Trout ever recorded, and prize trout are still being hauled from its depths. The monsters go back in the lake under catch and release rules that prevail in the Northwest Territories, and only a few eating fish are harvested. That means the giants return to Great Bear to prowl these depths, only getting bigger and bigger and bigger.



FISHING ON GREAT BEAR LAKE ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWTT



BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE JULIEN SCHRODER / NWTT

GET FISHING

Purchase a fishing license online at licences.enr.gov.nt.ca/Fishing-Licence

A year-long license costs \$20 for a Canadian resident and \$40 for non-residents.

Remember, different fish and bodies of water have their own catch-and-keep quotas, so be sure to consult the NWT's sport fishing regulations at enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/sport_fishing_guide-en-web_0.pdf

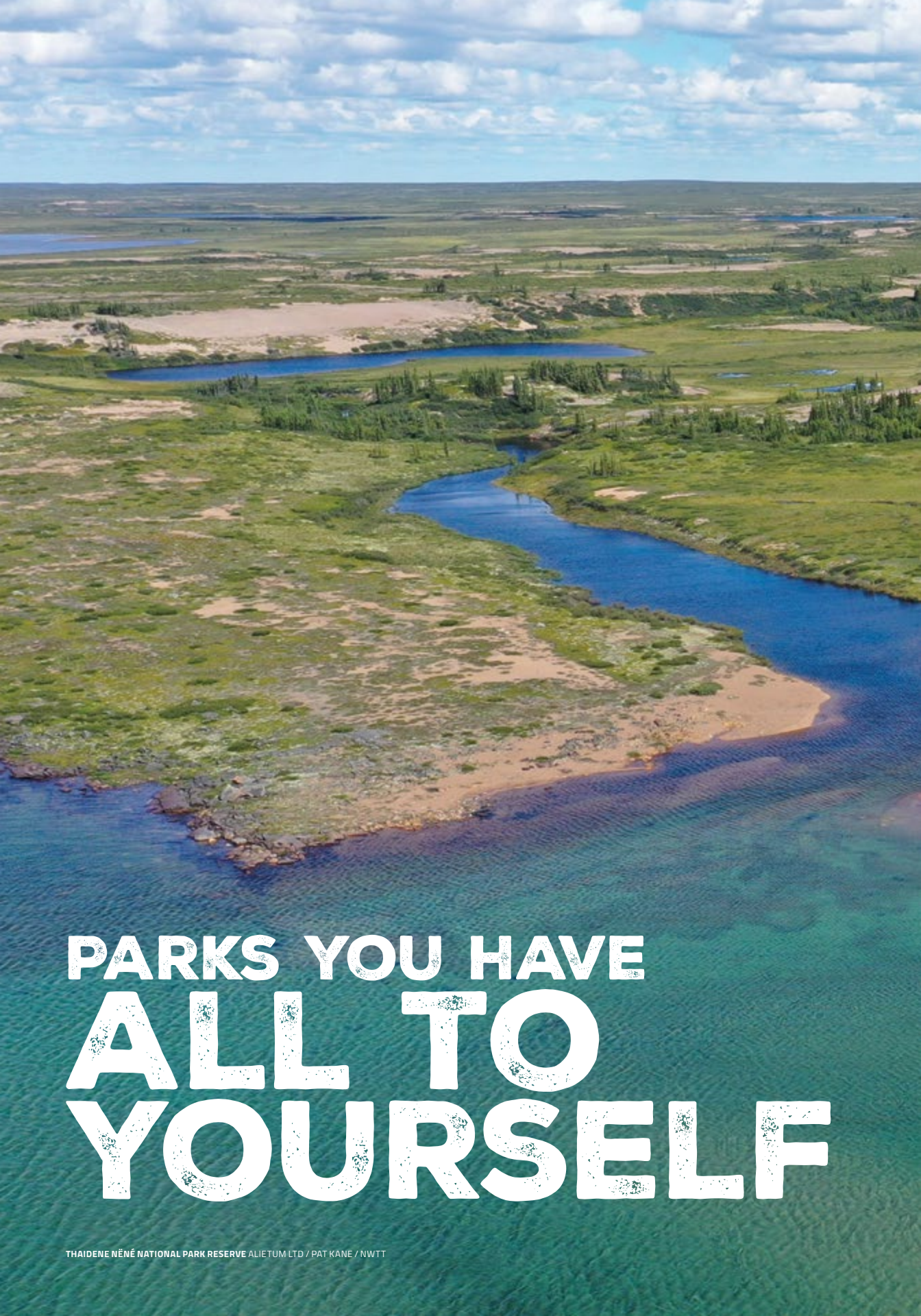
Bigger fish make better stories

In the Northwest Territories, fish grow to the size of a 10-year-old child – and they're just as energetic. Great Bear is home to the biggest Lake Trout on Earth, holding the official tackle record. Local fishermen have netted leviathans that approach 90 pounds, while in the lake's western reaches, anglers have caught 70-plus pounders.

A world-record Northern pike was pulled from Great Slave Lake in 2017, tipping the scales at nearly 28 pounds. The Northwest Territories is also home to the planet's largest Arctic char – beautiful scarlet fish weighing more than 30 pounds – and Arctic grayling.



ARCTIC CHAR PAUL VECSEI / NWTT



**PARKS YOU HAVE
ALL TO
YOURSELF**



Less means more in the Northwest Territories.

Some parks up here might only see a couple dozen visitors each year. Even the most popular parks will get just a couple thousand guests annually. That means every single traveller in the Northwest Territories gets a little more attention, a little more time, and a more personalized experience in our territorial and national parks. There are no long lines, no throngs of people. Every visitor is special.

So whether it's an action-packed river rafting adventure through the towering canyons of Nahanni National Park Reserve, a deep commune with the natural world in Tuktut Nogait National Park (where local caribou outnumber annual visitors by a factor of 1,000 to 1), or a picnic in the spray of Alexandra Falls at Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park, you will more than likely have the place to yourself. But knowledgeable and friendly parks staff are there to help and teach you about local culture and traditions so you get the most out of your time in the Northwest Territories' wide-open parks.



Top: THAIDENE NENE NATIONAL PARK RESERVE ALIETUM LTD / PAT KANE / NWTT

Bottom: BROKEN SKULL RIVER COLIN FIELD / NWTT

Right: NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE COLIN FIELD / NWTT



National Parks

IN THE NWT'S NATIONAL PARKS, RIVERS RACE WITH PURE SNOWMELT. PEAKS POKE THE HEAVENS. WATERFALLS SHAKE THE GROUND. BISON, MUSKOXEN AND CARIBOU ABOUND.

CIRQUE OF THE UNCLIMBABLES BRYANA MATTHEWS / NWT

**HERE, THE
WORLD IS
GLORIOUS,
WILD AND
FREE. YOU
WILL BE TOO.**

THAIDENE NĒNĒ NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

The newest park in all of Canada is Thaidene Nënë, an ecologically diverse area stretching from the sheer cliffs and boreal forests of Great Slave Lake's East Arm northeast to the Barrenlands. Exploding with life, Thaidene Nënë or 'Land of the Ancestors' as it's known to the local Dene, is rich with culture and history.

NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Framed by four towering canyons, the South Nahanni River courses through an alpine oasis. Attractions in this UNESCO World Heritage Site

include Virginia Falls – an earth-shaking, soul-stirring cascade – plus riverside hot springs, the awe-inspiring Cirque of the Unclimbables, burbling tufa mounds, and too many hike-able peaks to name.

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

Canada's largest park encompasses pine-studded plains, gleaming salt flats, karstland caves, and the Peace-Athabasca wetlands. Here, you may spot the world's last whooping cranes, a beaver dam so big you can see it from space, and – obviously – hundreds of bison.

From top to bottom:

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK PIERRE EMMANUEL CHAILLON / NWTT
 AULAVIK NATIONAL PARK PARKS CANADA / NWTT
 NĀĀTS'JHCH'OH NATIONAL PARK RESERVE PARKS CANADA / NWTT
 TUKTUT NOGAI NATIONAL PARK PARKS CANADA / NWTT



AULAVIK NATIONAL PARK

Sprawling across the pristine, big-sky barrens of Banks Island, this park features the world's northernmost navigable river, the Thomsen, which carries guided or independent paddlers through an Arctic paradise. Here, muskoxen are found in numbers not seen anywhere else on Earth.



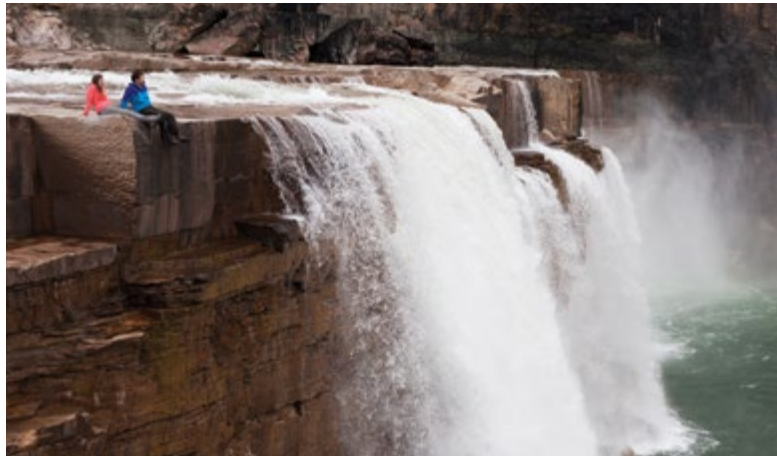
NĀĀTS'JHCH'OH NATIONAL PARK RESERVE PARKS CANADA

Tucked against the Yukon border, this park is named for the sacred mountain that guards the headwaters of the Nahanni and Natla-Keele river systems. Here, paddlers can traverse the South Nahanni's "rock garden," featuring 50 kilometres of continuous rapids, while encountering mountain goats and Dall's sheep.



TUKTUT NOGAI NATIONAL PARK

Bordering the legendary 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 in the park. Most visitors paddle the canyon-framed Hornaday River.



Territorial parks

CRASHING CASCADES, ROLLING RIVERS, PHENOMENAL FISHING. THE NWT'S 18 CAMPGROUNDS ARE RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT THEM, HIGHLIGHTING OUR NATURAL WONDERS AND MAKING A TOUR OF THE TERRITORY BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE.



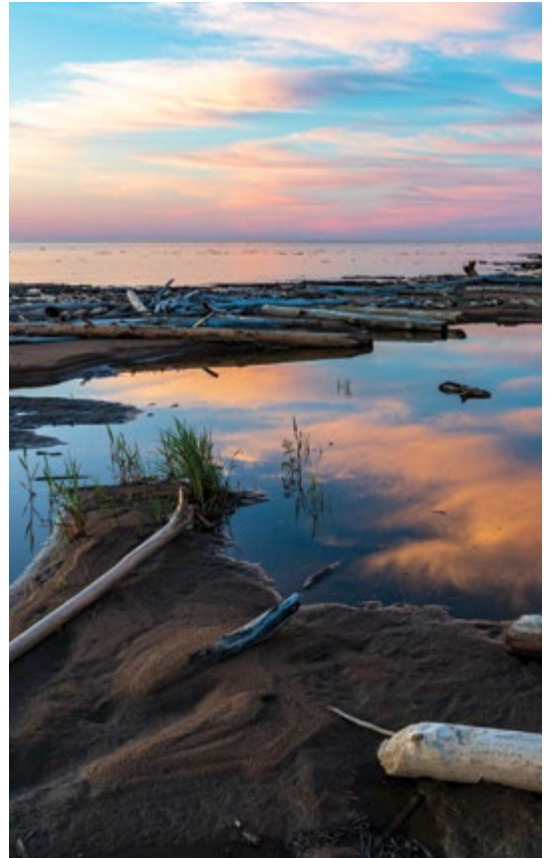
There's at least one campground along each of our highways, with wilderness trails, playgrounds, and knowledgeable local staff eager to make your stay unforgettable.

For the fossil hunter: After you've explored the network of trails that take you around the Trout River Gorge and Samba Deh Falls, hike a few kilometres upstream to Coral Falls, where you can spend a fun-filled afternoon with the family searching for fossils along the shore in the Dehcho.

For the fishing enthusiast: On your drive up the Dempster Highway, set some time aside to cast for feisty Northern Pike from the scenic shoreline in Campbell Lake at Gwich'in Territorial Campground, just 30 kilometres south of Inuvik in the Western Arctic.

For the beach bum: Roll into Hay River Territorial Campground, park your RV in one of more than 30 large, shaded sites, set the kids loose and relax. Grab your book and dig your feet into the sandy beach on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, just a short walk from your campsite in the South Slave.

Outside the capital city: After enjoying all the sights and tastes that Yellowknife has to offer, take a drive down the Ingraham Trail. Roughly 50 minutes from the city, you'll see a pull off for Reid Lake Territorial Park. Here, you'll find a beach, a playground, a boat launch, and more. Best of all, this is the perfect base camp to explore the area. Be sure to hike into nearby Cameron Falls or to look for morel mushrooms on the forest floor of recent wildfire burn areas.



From top to bottom:

GWICH'IN TERRITORIAL PARK COLIN FIELD / NWT
HAY RIVER BEACH AARON TAMBOUR / NWT

Waterfalls, waterfalls everywhere

WITH AN ALMOST EMBARRASSING SHARE OF THE WORLD'S WATER, IT'S NO WONDER THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS A WATERFALL WONDERLAND. HERE'S WHERE TO FIND SOME OF THE TERRITORY'S MOST CAPTIVATING CASCADES AND EXPERIENCE NATURE AT ITS MOST POWERFUL, PEACEFUL AND PRIMEVAL.

LA RONCIÈRE

This rarely visited remote waterfall, where the Hornaday River falls 21 metres, is located deep in Tuktut Nogait National Park. Fly-in only.

CARCAJOU

Not far from the epic Canol Trail, waterfall lovers can take in aerial views of this magnificent Mackenzie Mountain landmark with a helicopter tour from Norman Wells. Fly-in only.

VIRGINIA

Twice as tall as Niagara, Virginia Falls is one of the most impressive sites in all of the world. Here, in Nahanni National Park Reserve, the South Nahanni River plunges 96 metres in a thundering cascade. Fly-in only.

SAMBAA DEH

This centrepiece of Sambaa Deh Territorial Park is a fast-moving fall that offers great Arctic Grayling fishing in pools down river. Accessible via Highway No. 1.

WHATI

Sure to become the next, great sightseeing spot in the Northwest Territories, these idyllic falls with two spillways will be accessible via the new Tłjchq Road, opening up year-round access to the community of Whati.

CAMERON

Just 45 minutes from Yellowknife and a short 10-minute hike from the highway, Cameron Falls is a perfect day-trip for capital city visitors. Accessible via Ingraham Trail (Highway No. 4).

ALEXANDRA AND LOUISE

Watch the Hay River plummet over two beautiful falls. First, there's powerful Alexandra, a ten-storey drop that's literally a stone's throw from the highway. Then there's pretty Louise Falls, a 15-metre-high tiered falls that's a short hike downriver, in the aptly named Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park. Accessible via Highway No. 1.

LADY EVELYN

Wake up to this picturesque, 17-metre high crescent falls when you camp at Lady Evelyn Territorial Park, just outside of the tight-knit community of Kakisa. Accessible via Highway No. 1.



From top to bottom:

CARCAJOU FALLS GEROLD SIGL / NWTT
 VIRGINIA FALLS GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT
 CAMERON FALLS GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT
 LADY EVELYN FALLS BENJI STRAKER / NWTT

GETTING HERE



ROAD TRIPPING IN THE DEHCHO REGION BEN WEILAND / NWT

Getting to the NWT by air

Yellowknife enjoys direct service from Edmonton (Air Canada, Canadian North, WestJet) and Calgary (Air Canada, WestJet). Fort Smith and Hay River also have direct flights from Edmonton.

GETTING AROUND THE NWT BY AIR

Yellowknife is the main jumping off point for flights to outlying communities in the Northwest Territories. Outside of the capital, Fort Simpson serves the Dehcho region, Norman Wells serves the Sahtu, and Inuvik serves the Western Arctic. Nearly every community has at least a couple scheduled flights in and out per week.

Charter flights (on wheels, tundra tires, floats or skis) can take you and your canoe to our wildest rivers, most isolated fishing, and into our least visited national parks.

Getting to the NWT by road

Three highways connect the Northwest Territories to the rest of the world. A day's drive north from Edmonton and you'll reach Hay River and our waterfall-rich South Slave region, via Alberta's Highway 35.

In British Columbia, scenic Highway 77 starts west of Fort Nelson (off the 97) and enters the Dehcho region two hours later just south of Fort Liard.

Finally, the famed 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 in Tuktoyaktuk.



FLOAT PLANE IN NORMAN WELLS ANGELA GZOWSKI/ NWT

GETTING AROUND THE NWT BY ROAD

Most major communities in the territory, and many smaller communities, can be reached by road year-round. Nearly every community in the southern portion of the territory is connected by highway. In the Western Arctic, many communities are connected via the Dempster Highway and the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

YELLOW DOG LODGE ED HARDY / NWT



FERRIES

In summer, four free ferries take drivers across our unbridged rivers. These include the Liard River near Fort Simpson, the Peel River near Fort McPherson, and the Mackenzie River near Wrigley and further north at Tsiigehtchic. For several weeks during fall “freeze up” and spring “break up” these ferries do not operate, preventing overland access. Check hours of operation in advance.

ICE ROADS

In winter, these ferries are replaced by ice crossings. And across much of the Northwest Territories, ice roads, constructed by the territorial government, provide seasonal overland access to smaller communities, which for some is the only road access they will have all year, often lasting only 6-12 weeks. Drivers using these roads should be well-prepared for cold-weather travel, carrying winter survival gear and extra fuel. Be cautious on ice roads, and aware of ice road traffic when stopping.

WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO FLY OR DRIVE, GET READY FOR ONE SCENIC TRIP.

ROAD TRIPS



DEMPSTER HIGHWAY MARCEL GROSS/ NWT

Drive to the Arctic Ocean

This is Canada's road to the top of the world. It threads through rugged mountains and radiant tundra. It crosses into the Arctic Circle, traverses two massive rivers and winds through some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness scenery in North America.

Starting outside Dawson City, Yukon, the iconic Dempster Highway stretches 740 kilometres to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. From there, the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway continues over pingo-studded tundra to the Arctic Ocean.

You will pass through grizzly bear and caribou country, stop in small friendly communities, and you might even be momentarily delayed by a migrating reindeer herd. Along the way, meet intrepid travellers like you, who also dream of dipping their toes in the ocean at the edge of the continent. This isn't any ordinary road trip. This is one for the ages.

DEMPSTER ROAD TIPS

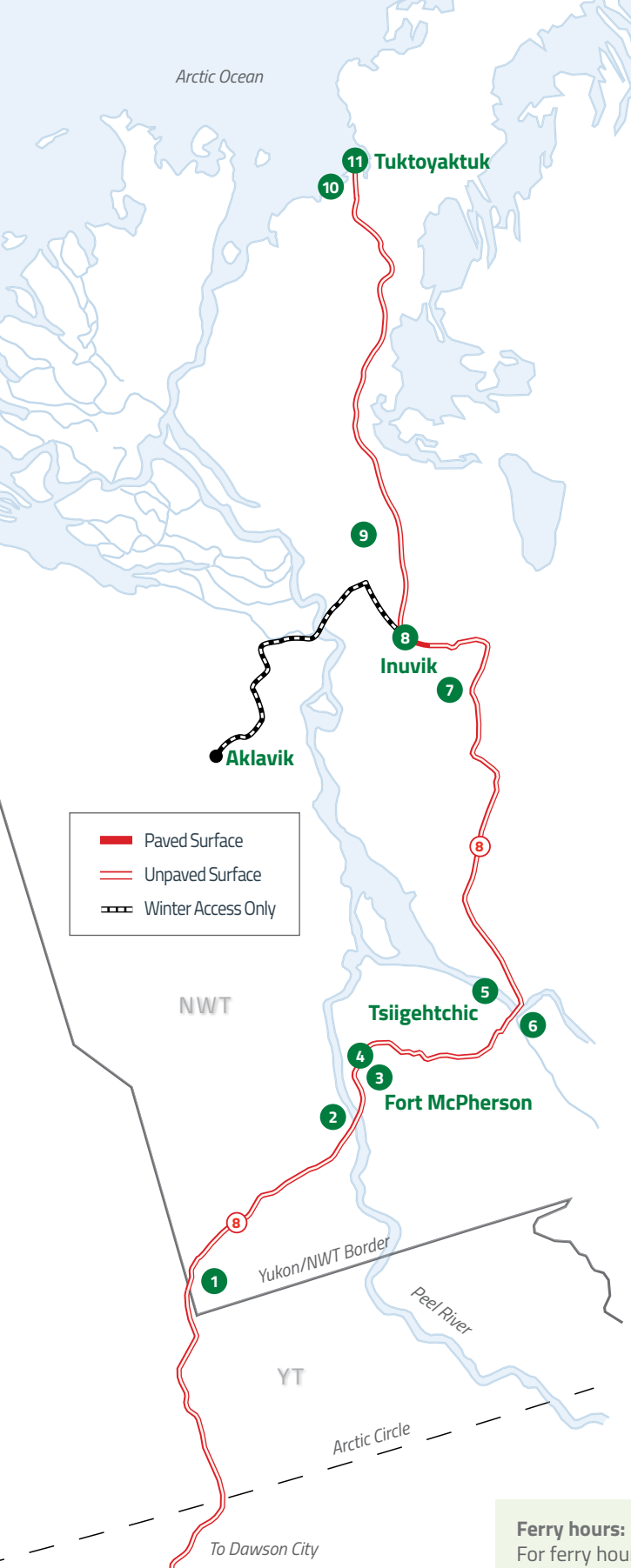
Carry a spare tire - or two!

Check in at the visitors' centres in Dawson City and Inuvik for road conditions and weather updates.

Stop and smell the fireweed. The best memories are made when you leave time for surprises.



Scan this QR code for more information about the Dempster Highway to the Arctic Ocean Route on the Spectacular NWT Website.



1. **Yukon-NWT:** You have crossed the continental divide. You are now north of the Arctic Circle. Welcome! You have arrived in the real Arctic.
2. **Peel River:** Roll onto the Abraham Francis cable ferry, which will take you across this major Northern waterway – free of charge!
3. **Natainlaih Territorial Park:** A great place to spend the night and learn about Gwich'in culture and history.
4. **Fort McPherson:** Spend an afternoon in this community of nearly 700 and be sure to visit the graves of the tragic Lost Patrol.
5. **Mackenzie and Arctic Red rivers:** Take the MV Louis Cardinal across the fabled Mackenzie to continue on to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. (We recommend you first cross the Arctic Red River to visit Tsiigehtchic.)
6. **Tsiigehtchic:** Make a pitstop in this quaint community, situated at the striking confluence of the Arctic Red and Mackenzie rivers, and take in the sweeping views from the hill.
7. **Gwich'in Territorial Park:** Go for a midnight hike or find yourself the perfect fishing spot at this park on Campbell Lake.
8. **Inuvik:** There's so much to do in the cultural and economic hub of the Western Arctic. Check out the famed Igloo Church, grab a bite at Alestine's and drop into the visitor centre for your Arctic Adventurer's Certificate. (Only 140 kilometres to go!)
9. **Treeline:** You're out of the trees and in tundra country now.
10. **Ibyuk:** Marvel at a mountain made of ice – the second-largest pingo in the world sits just outside Tuktoyaktuk.
11. **Tuktoyaktuk:** You've made it! The end of the road. The end of the continent. Take a dip in the Arctic Ocean. You deserve it

Ferry hours:

For ferry hours, please visit: inf.gov.nt.ca/en/ferries

DRIVE THE DEHCHO TO REALLY EXPERIENCE CANADA'S NORTH AND MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE FAMED NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK.

SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT



Scan this QR code for more information about the Nahanni to the Dehcho Route on the Spectacular NWT Website.

The Dehcho Connection

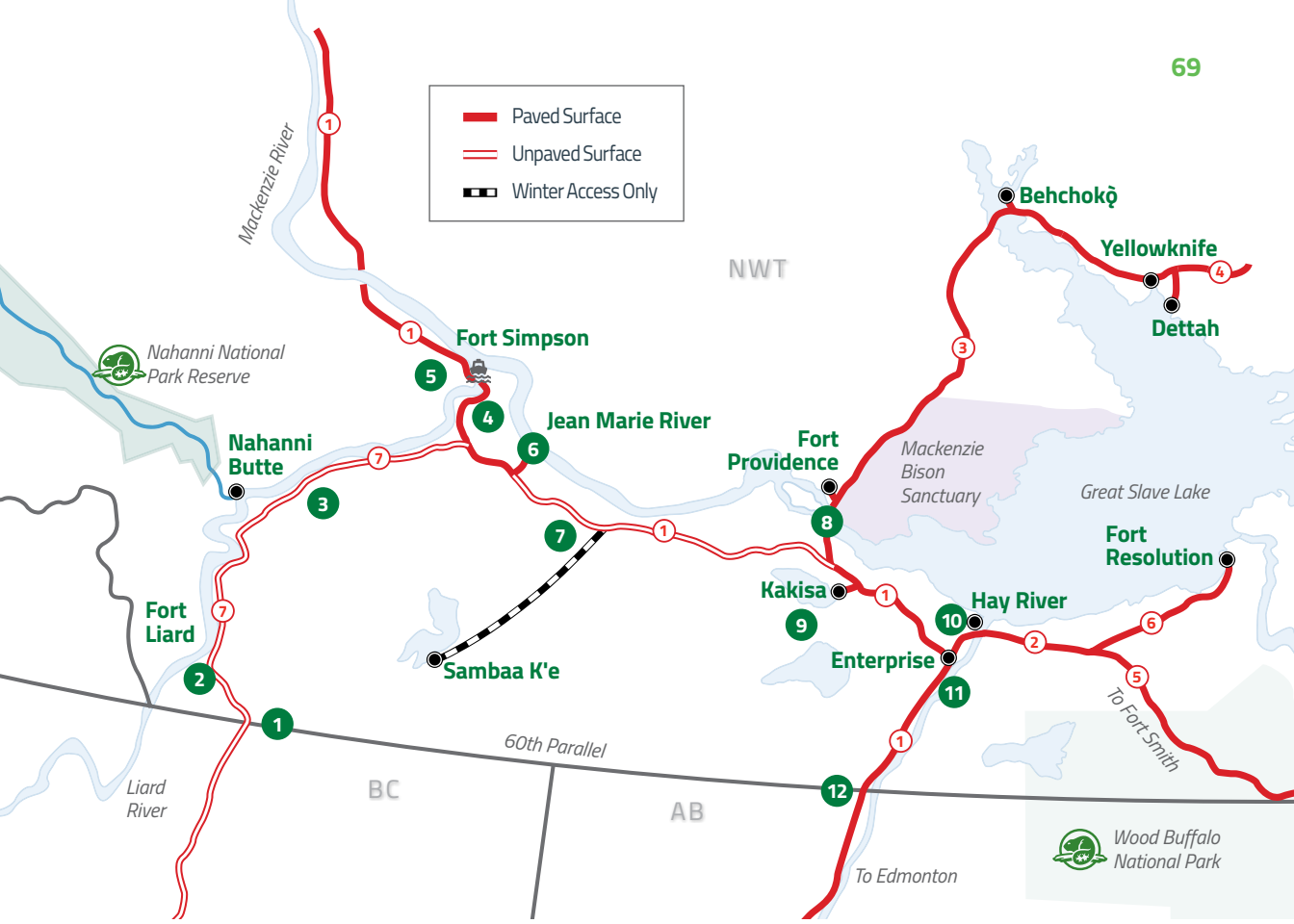
Welcome to the Dehcho Region, and a great tour of Canada's northern frontier. See vast tracts of wilderness broken only by small communities perched at the edge of massive rivers or lakes. Cross three of Canada's largest river systems: Peace, Liard and Mackenzie. Visit a series of scenic waterfalls, readily accessible from the highway. All the while, watch for herds of stoic bison along the roadside and graceful sandhill cranes strolling riverbanks.

- 1. BC-NWT border:** Congratulations, you are now officially North of the 60th parallel!
- 2. Fort Liard:** Pull off the highway and visit a community that teems with bison. Drop into the Acho Dene Native Crafts store and pick up an elegant, locally-made birchbark basket.
- 3. Blackstone Territorial Park:** This is the perfect place for a picnic and a peaceful night's sleep.
- 4. Liard River:** Take the free MV Merv Lafferty ferry across one of Canada's largest rivers to visit the Dehcho hub of Fort Simpson.
- 5. Fort Simpson:** Tour this beautiful and historic village, situated on the banks of the Mackenzie River. Don't miss a flightseeing tour of Nahanni National Park Reserve, with its abundance of canyons, waterfalls and mountains, taking you over the Ram Plateau, to the Cirque of the Unclimbables and into serene Little Doctor Lake.
- 6. Jean Marie River:** Pull into this quiet community of 89 on the Mackenzie River's south shore for a relaxing picnic.



From top to bottom:

BLACKSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK BEN WEILAND / NWTT
SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK BEN WEILAND / NWTT



Ferry hours:

For ferry hours, please visit: inf.gov.nt.ca/en/ferries

7. Samba Deh Falls Territorial Park:

A phenomenal campground with fossil hunting, Arctic Grayling fishing and stunning canyon hiking and mountain bike trails that take you around the racing falls.

8. To Deh Cho Bridge and Yellowknife:

Head north to the capital city.

9. Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park and Kakisa:

Do some fly-fishing by the highway or catch some rays next to the picturesque falls in this family campground near the small Dene community on Kakisa Lake.

10. To Hay River/Fort Smith:

Gas up (and so much more) in Hay River, on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, or continue on to Fort Smith and Wood Buffalo National Park.

11. Twin Falls Territorial Park and Enterprise:

Snap some photos of towering Alexandra Falls and then walk down a beautiful forest path to tiered Louise Falls.

12. NWT-Alberta border:

Grab a coffee at the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre and start planning your next visit to the Northwest Territories.



From top to bottom:
 HAY RIVER COLIN FIELD / NWT
 LOUISE FALLS COLIN FIELD / NWT
 ALBERTA-NWT BORDER BENJI STRAKER / NWT



LADY EVELYN FALLS BENJI STRAKER / NWT



Scan this QR code for more information about the Waterfalls to the Wood Buffalo Route on the Spectacular NWT Website.

The Waterfalls to Wood Buffalo

This roadtrip is big on water – blessed with gorgeous waterfalls, world-famous whitewater and the territory's best beach and picnic spots. And don't forget the wildlife. Along the way, you might witness anything from lynx, moose, and black bears to the continent's largest land mammal (the wood bison), the last wild flock of whooping cranes, or even to the northernmost river pelican colony.

This adventure takes you to NWT communities with fascinating histories and bright futures: Hay River, a vital transportation hub; Fort Smith, the territory's former capital; and Fort Resolution, the oldest community in all of the NWT. And this trip finishes up in Wood Buffalo National Park, a boreal forest wonderland with endless trails to explore.

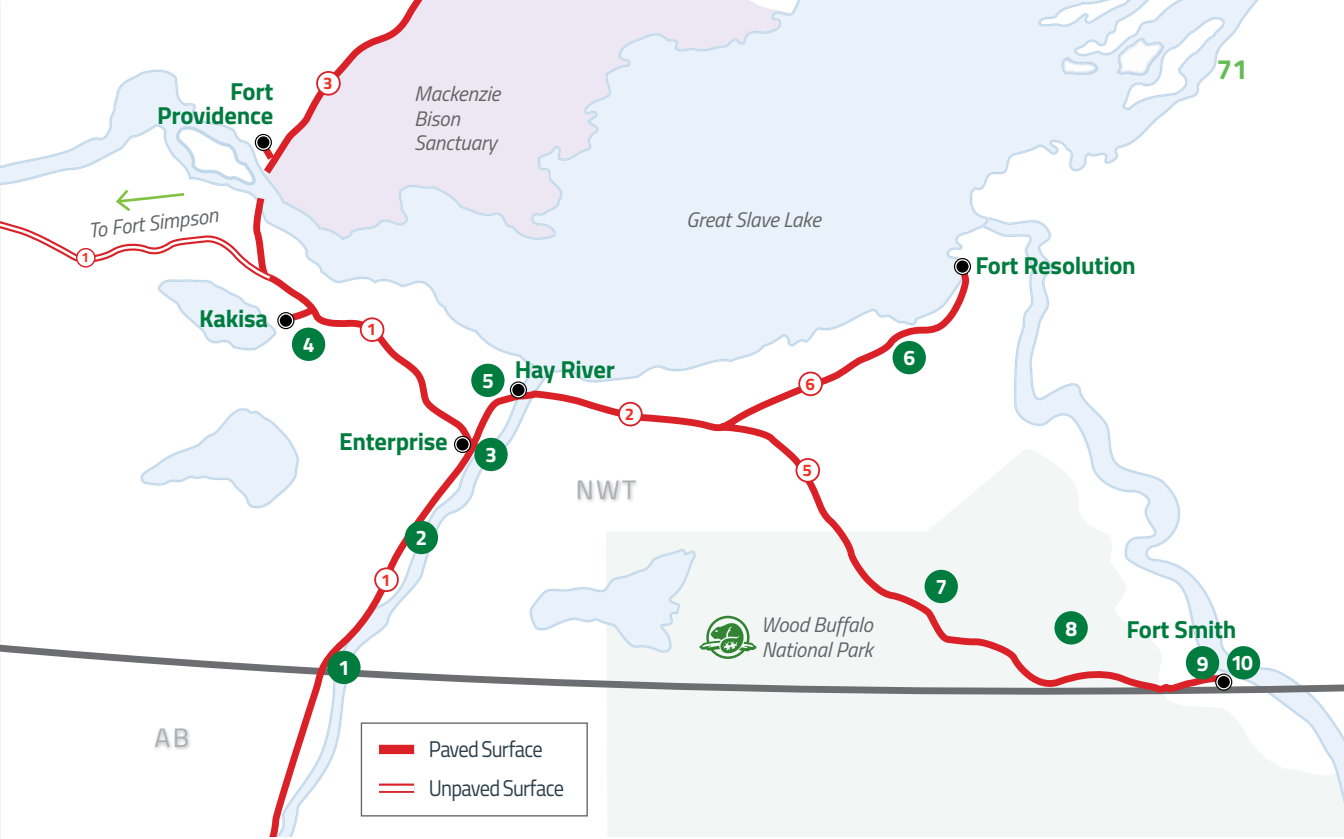
- 1. NWT-Alberta border:** Stop in at the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre to get the lowdown on everything that's happening in the Northwest Territories.
- 2. Twin Falls Territorial Park:** You won't have to wait very long for a first glimpse of the spectacular. Just 45 minutes from the border, you'll feel the power and the roar of the mighty Hay River as it plunges more than 30 metres over Alexandra Falls. Follow a wooded path downriver to Louise Falls, a beautiful, tiered falls.
- 3. Enterprise:** Be sure to visit the arts shop and studio in this small hamlet of 106, dubbed "the handshake of the NWT."
- 4. To Lady Evelyn Falls and Kakisa:** If you haven't had your waterfall fix just yet, take a short detour to picturesque Lady Evelyn Falls, less than an hour north-west of Enterprise on Highway #1.
- 5. Hay River:** Welcome to the Hub! Take the turn on to Highway #2 from Enterprise and 30 minutes later, you'll



From top to bottom:

SUMMER IN HAY RIVER COLIN FIELD / NWT

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK DARREN ROBERTS / NWT



arrive in the NWT's second-largest town. Lounge on the best beach in the NWT, play nine holes on the prettiest golf course in the territory, or sample fresh fish, caught earlier that day from Great Slave Lake, at the Saturday farmers' market.

6. **To Fort Resolution and Little Buffalo River Crossing Campground:** Take Highway #6 to the end of the road to get to Fort Resolution. If you want to spend the day exploring this scenic community on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, consider staying overnight at Little Buffalo River Crossing Campground, 20 kilometres from Fort Resolution, and do some fishing under the midnight sun.
7. **Little Buffalo River Falls Campground:** Head south on Highway #5 from the junction at Highway #6 towards Fort Smith and Wood Buffalo

National Park. Be on the lookout for bison as you roll across the park's boundary. Outside Fort Smith, pull off the highway and into small and peaceful Little Buffalo River Falls Campground and settle in for the night.

8. **Wood Buffalo National Park:** The largest national park in Canada, Wood Buffalo is fun for the whole family. Spend a day hiking down to the surreal salt plains, scan the horizon for the world's last wild flock of whooping cranes, go mountain biking down many backcountry trails and then spend the night at the comfortable cabins at placid Pine Lake.
9. **Fort Smith:** A heaven for outdoorspeople, Fort Smith is abundant in trails for hiking and biking and wild waters to paddle. It's also a historic gateway into the North, as an important stopping point at the north-end of a 26-kilometre

portage along the Slave River. Find out all about this history and more at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre.

10. **Slave River Rapids:** Unstrap the kayak and challenge some of this planet's wildest whitewater. Bring your camera too, as the river is also home to stoic – and photogenic – pelicans all summer long.



From top to bottom:

HAY RIVER AARON TAMBOUR / NWT

KAYAKING ON THE SLAVE RIVER DARREN ROBERTS/NWTT

HIT THE ROAD, HEADING DUE NORTH, AND YOU'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR TRIP TO YELLOWKNIFE.

AURORA OVER THE HAY RIVER AARON TAMBOUR / NWT



Scan this QR code for more information about the Yellowknife and Ingraham Trail Route on the Spectacular NWT Website.

The Trip North to Yellowknife

Wild waterfalls, hulking wildlife and hidden jewels growing from old wildfire areas. This is just some of what you can expect on an action-packed road-trip to the Northwest Territories capital city. This journey takes you halfway around Great Slave Lake and over Canada's largest river, the Mackenzie, across the only bridge that spans it.

Here, you'll encounter herds of bison grazing along the side of the road. You'll cross intra-national lines, entering into Tłı̄ch̄ territory. You'll also cruise past stretches of forest razed by wildfires, where you can pull over and search the charred forest floor for morel mushrooms, which shoot up in the spring and summer after a burn.

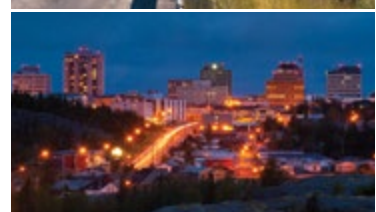
- 1. NWT-Alberta border:** Snap a selfie at the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre, grab a cup of coffee and keep rolling north.
- 2. Twin Falls Territorial Park:** Stretch your legs with a hike down a forest trail to Louise Falls from 30-metre-high Alexandra.
- 3. Enterprise:** Make sure to fill up your gas tank in this small, friendly community of 106. If you're feeling sleepy, stop for the night. Or pop into the arts shop and studio to pick up some moccasins, handmade by a local master artisan.
- 4. Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park and Kakisa:** If you have some time to kill, grab your rod and reel and cast for Arctic Grayling just off the highway. Or stop into the campground and have a picnic at the foot of the scenic falls.
- 5. Deh Cho Bridge and Yellowknife:** This is the only bridge across the mighty Mackenzie. (Before this bridge was completed in 2012, residents in Yellowknife went without fresh produce for days or weeks during spring break-up.)
- 6. Fort Providence:** You will definitely want to gas up here. This community on the scenic north bank of the Mackenzie River has everything you might need. Stop into the Snowshoe Inn for their famous homemade donuts.



— Paved Surface
== Unpaved Surface

- 7. Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary:** You'll notice the giant signs on the side of the road. Yes, this is bison country. The Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary begins outside Fort Providence and you can expect to see herds of Canada's largest land animal for the next 200 kilometres.
- 8. Tłı̄ch̄ territory:** Roughly two hours out of Fort Providence, you'll see a sign announcing that you are now on Tłı̄ch̄ lands. The Tłı̄ch̄ are a self-governing Dene nation within the Northwest Territories.
- 9. To Whatı̄:** Take a detour due north on the NWT's newest highway, to visit the lakeside community of Whatı̄. Stop at the namesake falls along the way for a stunning photo opportunity.

- 10. North Arm Territorial Park:** This stretch of the trip takes you north and then east around Great Slave Lake. Take in scenic views of the big lake at North Arm Territorial Park. From here, it's southeast for an hour to Yellowknife.
- 11. Behchok̄:** Just minutes after North Arm Territorial Park, you'll come across a turnoff to Behchok̄, the largest Tłı̄ch̄ community and seat of its government.
- 12. The final stretch:** Watch as the endless boreal forest gives way to a network of small lakes and pink outcrops. Soon, you'll pass the airport, where World War II-era planes operated by Buffalo Airways take off to deliver services and supplies across the North. And then, as you take one last corner, you'll see a Northern city rising out of the Precambrian shield.
- 13. Welcome to Yellowknife!** Somehow, after a remarkable journey, your trip is just getting started.



From top to bottom:
 ALEXANDRA FALLS GEORGE FISCHER / NWTT
 LADY EVELYN FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK BENJI STRAKER / NWTT
 WHATı̄ WATERFALLS TESSA MACINTOSH / NWTT
 DEHK'É FRANK CHANNEL COREY MYERS / NWTT
 YELLOWKNIFE J.F. BERGERON / NWTT

TIPS FOR THE ROAD

WHILE YOU'RE ON THE ROAD, HERE'S SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION:

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

It pays to check ahead, especially in spring when roads may be soft. Road reports are available through the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure at inf.gov.nt.ca, on Twitter (@GNWT_INF), or by calling 1-800-661-0750.

GAS AND REPAIRS

Always gas up when you can. Diesel and unleaded gasoline are available in most Northwest Territories communities. 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. Some travellers carry an extra jerry-can of gas, but it's not essential. The longest stretch between stations is less than 400 kilometres.

PREPARATIONS

Check your tires often and be sure you know how to change them. Bring along a full-sized spare (perhaps two on the Dempster Highway). Summers can be buggy, so top up your



GRIZZLY BEAR GEROLD SIGL / NWT

wiper-fluid. In winter, pack a shovel, flashlight, and cold-weather survival gear. If you plan on driving a winter road, call ahead to let people know when to expect you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Except near communities, don't count on your cellphone getting any signal. Ditto for your car radio. Download podcasts in advance.

SPEED AND DRIVING TIMES

All NWT highways have posted speed limits of 100 kilometres per hour or lower. Take note, the southern rule of thumb (an hour per 100 kilometres) doesn't apply here. Plan for 12 hours to cover the 775 kilometres between Yellowknife and Fort Liard.

IN CASE OF A BREAKDOWN

Pop your hood, activate your hazard lights and hail a passing motorist. Northerners are friendly people and will lend a hand. In winter, when travelling on less busy

highways or ice roads, it is wise to let others know your route and when to expect you.

WATCH FOR WILDLIFE

Big beasts roam our roads. Most common are bison, who pay little attention to passing vehicles. While easy to spot in daylight, caution should be exercised at night. Take it slow, especially in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary north of Fort Providence, in Wood Buffalo National Park, and on the Liard Trail.

MIND THE DUST

Unpaved roads can be dusty, posing a hazard for motorists passing other vehicles on our two-lane highways. Always drive with headlights on, pass only in passing zones, don't tailgate and take it slow.

FOLLOW THE RULES

Make sure you have your seatbelt buckled and your headlights on at all times. It's the law.

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS A COMPLEX AND CONSTANTLY CHANGING PLACE.

Western Arctic

78



PINGO J. F. BERGERON / NWTT

Sahtu

82



CANOL TRAIL ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWTT

Dehcho

86



NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE COLIN FIELD/ NWTT

Once upon a time, it encompassed more than half of Canada's landmass. Over the last century, various provinces and territories have been cleaved off.

Today, it's home to five separate regions, eleven official languages, and a multitude of Indigenous governments. Although we have a small number of residents – barely one-thousandth of Canada's population – we comprise many nations. We're resolute, resourceful and ridiculously welcoming.

South Slave

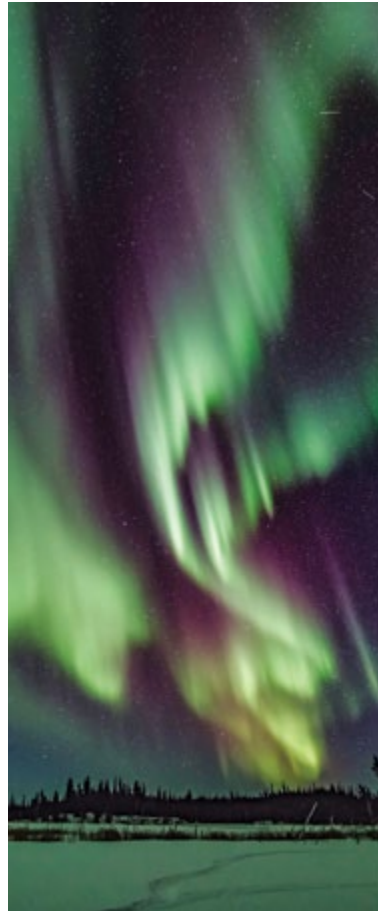
90



LADY EVELYN FALLS COREY MYERS / NWT

North Slave

94



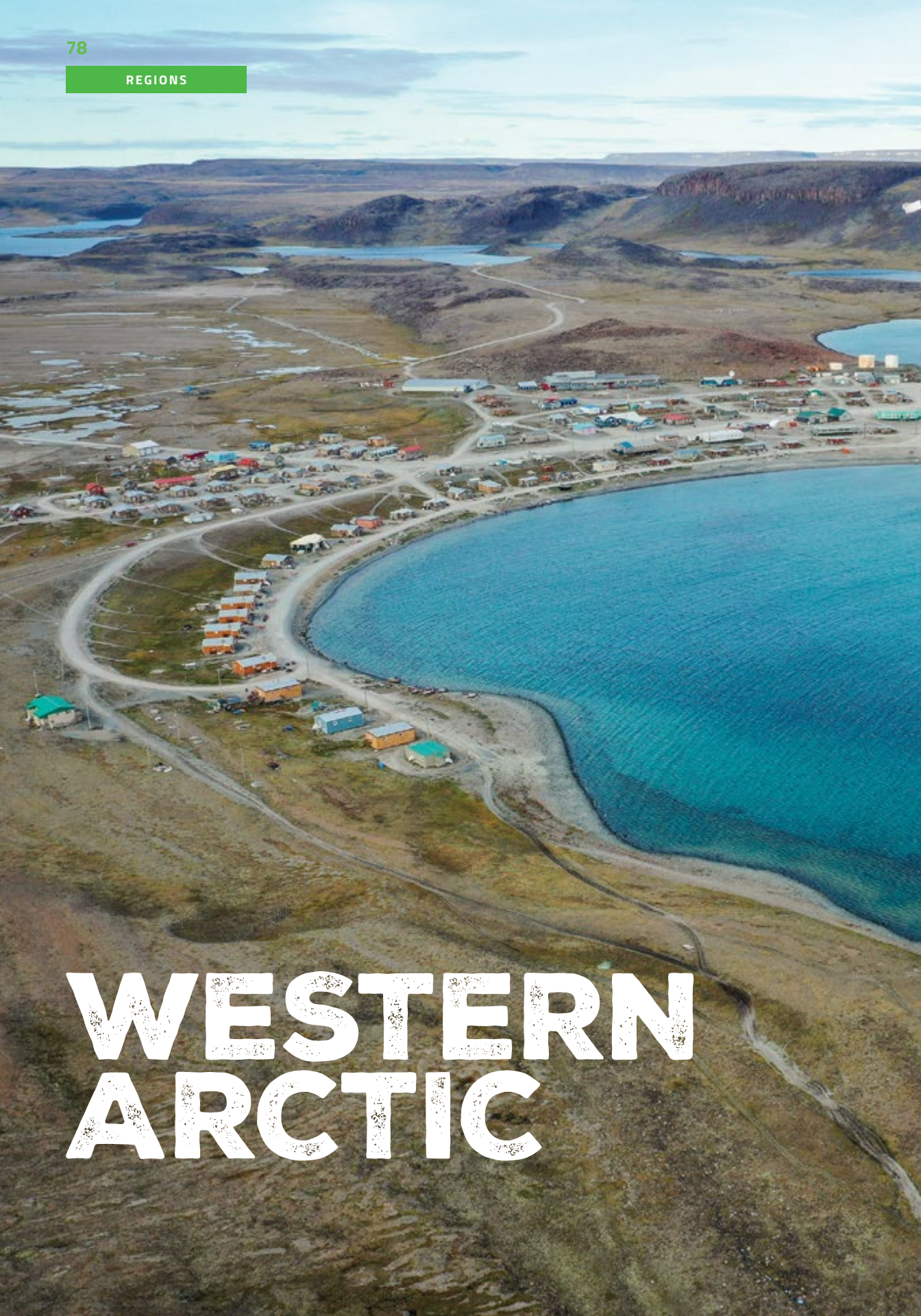
AURORA MARTIN MALE / NWT

Yellowknife

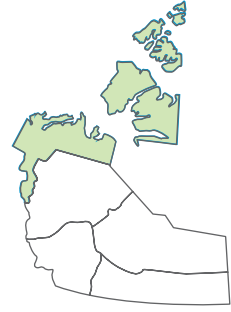
98



YELLOWKNIFE JULIEN SCHRODER / NWT



WESTERN ARCTIC



The True North, strong and free. That describes the Western Arctic region of the NWT perfectly.

Here, you will find polar bears and muskoxen, beluga whales and caribou. Depending on when you visit, you will experience an ocean frozen in place or gleaming in the night-less summer. You will marvel at some of the world's largest pingos as you glide past by canoe or dogteam. And you will be blown away by the hospitality of the people who call this place home – the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, who've thrived for ages along the mouth of the Mackenzie River and the flanks of the Northwest Passage.

Drive the Dempster to the end of the road in Tuktoyaktuk, through rolling tundra landscapes that explode with colours, like fireworks under your feet in the fall. Visit two national parks, Aulavik and Tuktoyaktuk, with stunning canyons, rivers and waterfalls seen by only dozens each year. Spend a night in an igloo in winter, as the Northern Lights dance overhead. Sample local fare, like muktuk or dryfish, and get a true taste of the Arctic.

The Western Arctic is what you've always dreamed the North would be.

AKLAVIK

"BARRENGROUND GRIZZLY PLACE" | POPULATION: 623

'Never say die' became Aklavik's motto after residents of this Gwich'in and Inuvialuit community, at the scenic foothills of the Richardson Mountains, refused to move to Inuvik in the late 1950s.

Don't miss:

A stop at the grave of the Mad Trapper, the mysterious murderer who led Mounties on one of Canada's greatest manhunts in 1932.

Getting here:

By air. Via ice road from Inuvik in winter, by boat in summer

Event:

Mad Trapper Jamboree (late-March or early-April)

FORT MCPHERSON

TEETŁ'IT ZHEH: "PLACE AT THE HEAD OF THE WATERS" POPULATION: 684

This friendly Gwich'in hamlet on the Peel River is the first you'll encounter when driving up the Dempster. Visit the famous Tent and Canvas Shop, source of heavy-duty trapper's tents and satchels.

Don't miss:

The graves of four Mounties who died on the Lost Patrol from Fort McPherson to Dawson City in the winter of 1911.

Getting here:

By road on the Dempster Highway

Event:

The Midway Lake Music Festival (August)

INUVIK

"PLACE OF MAN" POPULATION: 3,536

The largest town in Canada north of the Arctic Circle, Inuvik was built in the 1950s as the territory's first "planned" community. Today, it's the Western Arctic's cosmopolitan hub with a rich tourism industry (hotels, restaurants, galleries and a variety of tour providers), as well as unique architecture (check out the Igloo Church) and a thriving community greenhouse.

Don't miss:

The Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre, where you can pick up an Arctic Adventurer certificate and find out what's happening in the region.

Getting here:

Via the Dempster or daily flights from Yellowknife

Events:

Sunrise Festival (January), Muskrat Jamboree (March/April), Great Northern Arts Festival (July)

PAULATUK

"PLACE OF COAL" POPULATION: 302

Near the western mouth of the Northwest Passage, this small, Inuvialuit community has deep roots in hunting, trapping and Arctic char fishing. It's also a jumping off point for Tukturnogait National Park and its dramatic, otherworldly canyons.

Don't miss:

View the Smoking Hills from a distance, a smoldering fire that's been burning as long as anyone can remember.

Getting here:

By air from Inuvik

SNOWSHOEING OUTSIDE INUVIK WERONICA MURRAY / NWT



SACHS HARBOUR

IKAAHUK – “PLACE TO WHICH YOU CROSS” | POPULATION: 111

The NWT’s northernmost community is the only outpost on Banks Island, Canada’s fifth largest island. The island is home to the HMS Investigator shipwreck, Aulavik National Park, and possibly a few grolar bears—hybrid polar/grizzlies first identified here in 2006.

Don’t miss:

Your chance to photograph a muskox. Banks Island is home to half of the world’s muskoxen!

Getting here:

By air from Inuvik

Event:

White Fox Jamboree (May)

TSIIGEHTCHIC

“MOUTH OF THE IRON RIVER” POPULATION: 198

Atop a commanding bluff at the confluence of the Mackenzie and Arctic Red Rivers, Dempster road-trippers can stroll this Gwich’in community’s riverbank, and hike a network of local trails, including one that will take you to the famed Hollywood-style sign.

Don’t miss:

A picnic with sweeping river views, by the community’s picturesque, 80-year-old church.

Getting here:

Via the Dempster, by ferry in summer and ice bridge in winter

Events:

Mackenzie Jamboree (April), Canoe Days (August)

TUKTOYAKTUK

“LOOKS LIKE A CARIBOU” POPULATION: 982

The biggest NWT 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.

Don’t miss:

A tour of Ibyuk, the world’s second-largest pingo, just outside of town.

Getting here:

By road, year-round from Inuvik

Events:

Beluga Jamboree (April), Land of the Pingos Music fest (July)

ULUKHAKTOK

“WHERE THERE IS MATERIAL FOR ULU KNIVES” | POPULATION: 444

Formerly known as Holman, this Inuvialuit community on the west coast of Victoria Island was founded as a Roman Catholic mission in the 1930s. It’s famous for beautiful art prints and polar bears.

Don’t miss:

Getting in a round at the world’s northernmost golf course

Getting here:

By air from Inuvik and by cruise ship

Event:

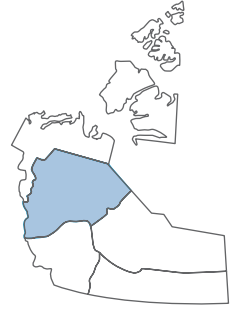
The Billy Joss Open Celebrity Golf Tournament (July)

MIDWAY LAKE COLIN FIELD / NWT



SAHTU





The Sahtu is home to the king of rivers. The mammoth Mackenzie acts like a superhighway through the beating heart of the North.

Six kilometres wide at points, pushing ever northward, it bears barges, driftwood, and canoeists. Along the way, it's joined by wild tributaries like the Great Bear, Redstone, Keele and Mountain rivers.

A paddling and fishing mecca, the Sahtu is also home to that grand inland sea, Great Bear Lake – half a kilometre deep and crawling with colossal 70-pound Lake Trout.

In the west, you'll find a hunter and hikers paradise: the Mackenzie Mountains and the famous Canol Heritage Trail, bustling with mountain sheep, moose and other game.

The Sahtu is home to five tight-knit communities, thriving on the cusp of the Arctic Circle. With no all-season road in or out, this is a place that keeps the hurries and worries of the outside world at bay.

COLVILLE LAKE

K'ÁHBAMI TÚÉ – “PTARMIGAN NET LAKE” | POPULATION: 142

Fifty kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, this log-cabin community is nestled between rolling black spruce forest and the gleaming waters of its namesake lake.

Don't miss:

A stop at the museum, which features paintings from town founder, Bern Will Brown, and the North's first snowmobile.

Getting here:

By air

Event:

Spring Carnival (April)

DÉLJNĚ

“FLOWING WATER”
POPULATION: 576

This community is home to the only residents of vast Great Bear Lake, a legendary world-record holder for big fish and pure waters. DéljnĚ claims fame as the birthplace of ice hockey: the first documented game was said to have been played by Sir John Franklin and his men when they overwintered in the 1820s. Local guides will take you fishing and teach you about the area's rich traditions and environment.

Don't miss:

A visit to the shrine to the Prophet Ayah (1857-1940), who predicted many things that came to pass after his death.

Getting here:

By air

Event:

Spiritual Gathering (early August)

FORT GOOD HOPE

RADJLĪH KÓÉ – “PLACE OF RAPIDS” | POPULATION: 570

On the west bank of the Mackenzie, just upstream from where the river squeezes through the Ramparts, this Dene community is 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.

Don't miss:

Getting your photo with the NWT's newest landmark, a giant drum (quite possibly the world's largest) outside of the community.

Getting here:

By air from Norman Wells or driving winter roads

Event:

Rampart Rendezvous (July)

NORMAN WELLS

TŁEGŪHTJ – “WHERE THERE IS OIL” | POPULATION: 818

Tucked between alpine foothills and the Mackenzie River, this is a historic oil town. Alexander Mackenzie reported oil seeping from the riverbanks in 1789, but the Dene knew of it long before. The town boasts a campground, several hotels and restaurants, and it's a great place to explore before heading out to the Mackenzie Mountains or Canol Trail.

Don't miss:

A stop in the Historical Centre, which doubles as the region's main visitor centre. Here you'll find knowledgeable staff, maps and brochures, plus gifts, clothing and handmade crafts from the Sahtu.

Getting here:

By air

Event:

Black Bear Jamboree (September long weekend)

TULITA

TULÍT'A – “WHERE THE WATERS MEET” | POPULATION: 531

Hugging the broad Mackenzie where it's met by the clear-running Bear River, this community, long occupied by the Mountain Dene, got its start as a formal settlement with the establishment of a trading post in 1869. Here, the Mackenzie Mountains rise across the river, while just north of town looms distinctive Bear Rock, famous in Dene lore.

Don't miss:

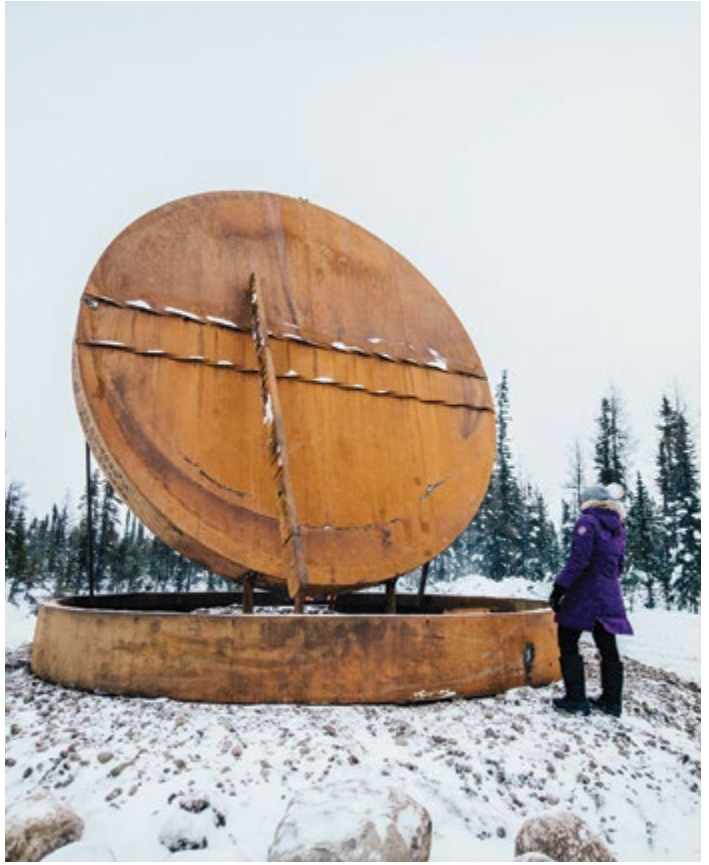
A guided tour of sacred Bear Rock. Towering 400 metres above Tulita, this is said to be where Yamoria, the great law-giver of Dene legend, killed three giant beavers that had been drowning hunters.

Getting here:

By air

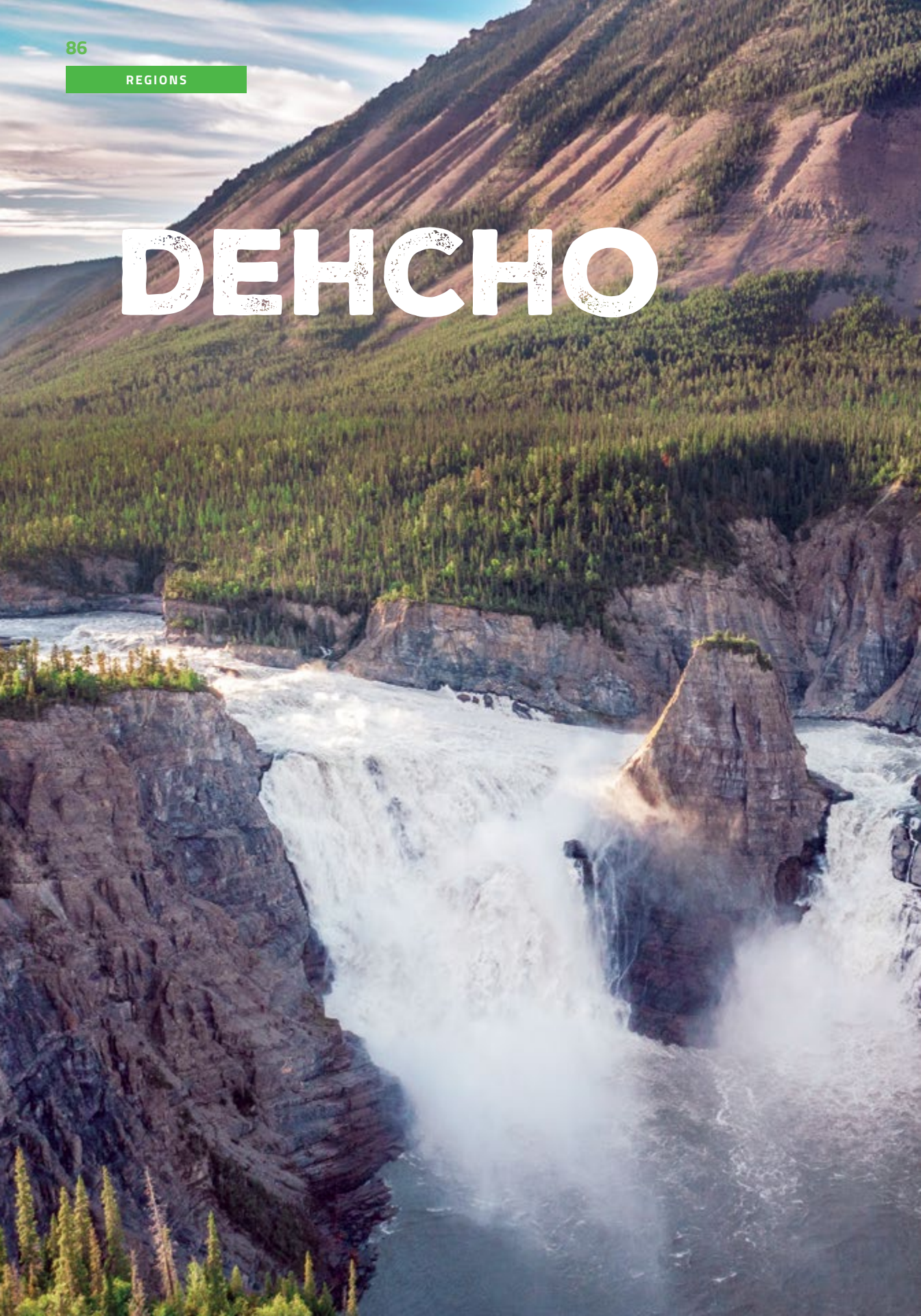
Event:

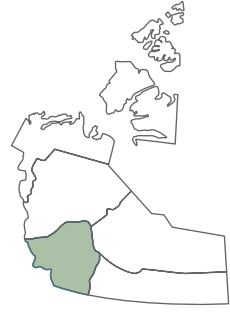
Hand Games
(September long weekend)



From top to bottom:
DENE DRUM ARCTIC CIRCLE MONUMENT, FORT GOOD HOPE
ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWTT
OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE CHURCH, FORT GOOD HOPE
NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT

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 Nahanni, the crown-jewel of Canada’s wilderness rivers and the highlight of canoeists’ must-see list.

Flanking the big waters are the spires of the Mackenzie Mountains, rife with eco-lodges and fishing retreats. Here too is earth-shaking Virginia Falls, to which Niagara is but a riffle.

For drivers, the Dehcho is a revelation – just two hours from the Alaska Highway, yet orders of magnitude wilder. In the Dehcho, moose and bison ramble the dusty roadsides. Here, the North thrives and its friendly faces and low-key pace will pacify your soul.

FORT LIARD

ECHAOT'JE KŪĒ – “PLACE OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE LAND OF GIANTS” | POPULATION: 537

Sheltered by tall timber in the rolling foothills of the Mackenzie Mountains, Fort Liard is located off the Liard Trail, some 30 kilometres north of the NWT-B.C. border. This riverfront hamlet is known as the “tropics of the North,” enjoying warm weather and luxuriant vegetation, and is visited regularly by herds of bison.

Don't miss:

Browse the exquisite arts and crafts at the Acho Dene Native Crafts store and bring home a birchbark basket – a local specialty.

Getting here:

By air and by road, just off Highway 7

FORT SIMPSON

ĒÍÍDLĪ KŪĒ – “PLACE WHERE RIVERS COME TOGETHER”
POPULATION: 1,296

At the confluence of the impressive Liard River and the even-bigger Mackenzie, the Dehcho's regional centre is a jump-off point for Nahanni National Park Reserve adventurers. But you can stay just as busy in town, exploring riverfront heritage sites (like the local arbour where Dene people have gathered for centuries), teeing off at the Seven Spruce nine-hole



From top to bottom:

BIRCH BARK BASKETS, FORT LIARD BEN WEILAND / NWT

SEVEN SPRUCE GOLF COURSE, FORT SIMPSON BEN WEILAND / NWT

NAHANNI BUTTE BEN WEILAND / NWT

golf course, and diving into intriguing historical exhibits at the visitor centre.

Don't miss:

A flightseeing tour over the Ram Plateau to Virginia Falls and Little Doctor Lake.

Getting here:

Direct flights from Yellowknife. By road (except during breakup/freeze-up)

Events:

Beavertail Jamboree (March), Spring Gathering (June), Dehcho Open Golf Tournament (June 21), and Open Sky Festival (July)

JEAN MARIE RIVER

TTHEK'ÉHDÉLJ – "WATER FLOWING FROM MAGILL LAKE"
POPULATION: 89

This tiny Dene settlement got its start in 1915 as a trading post, strategically located on the flats where the Jean Marie meets the Mackenzie. 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.

Don't miss:

A stop at the old school, which community members built in the 1950s to keep their children from being taken away to residential school.

Getting here:

By road, via the 27-kilometre access road off Highway 1

NAHANNI BUTTE

TTHENÁÁGÓ – "STRONG ROCK"
POPULATION: 99

Named for the stately mountain that guards it, this quiet Dene settlement sits where the South Nahanni River pours into the Liard. This picturesque spot is a common stop for paddlers leaving Nahanni National Park Reserve and it offers awesome hiking in the area around this sacred place.

Don't miss:

Snapping a photograph at the unique log church.

Getting here:

By river-taxi in summer (call ahead) or via winter ice-road across the Liard.

SAMBA K'E

"TROUT LAKE PLACE"
POPULATION: 89

This tight-knit Dene community was formerly called Trout Lake, after the body of water that stretches out gloriously before it. The lake is famous for fishing: locals run the nearby Sambaa K'e Fishing Lodge, featuring log cabins and excellent Northern Pike, Walleye and Trout Fishing.

Don't miss:

Drop into the lodge and see if you can get out for a few hours of carefree fishing.

Getting here:

By air from Fort Simpson, by 126-kilometre ice-road in winter

Event:

Sambaa K'e Fishing Lodge's annual fishing derby (July)

WRIGLEY

PEDZÉH KJ – "PLACE WHERE THE ROCK GOES INTO THE WATER"
POPULATION: 114

The northernmost Dehcho Dene community 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.

Don't miss:

A walk down to explore the banks of the Mackenzie River. In early June, just weeks after breakup, giant, truck-sized chunks of ice pile up on the shore.

Getting here:

By road (except during breakup/freeze-up on the Mackenzie)

SOUTH SLAVE





Welcome to a land of waterfalls and wild wonder.

The South Slave is home to the impossibly deep Great Slave Lake, with Canada's northernmost freshwater fishery, and the rowdy Slave River, where top-ranked paddlers compete on waves the size of busses. It's where adventurers set off for the Thelon, the storied Barrenlands river that takes you through caribou, grizzly and muskoxen country. And don't forget the royal waterfalls – Lady Evelyn, Louise, Alexandra – literally steps away from popular NWT roadways.

This is the gateway to big wildlife and wild sanctuaries – the roaming herds of bison, endangered whooping cranes, and regal wolves of Wood Buffalo National Park. And it's home to big fun. With epic beach parties, cosmic discoveries, and non-stop paddle adventures, South Slave communities love to get together to celebrate what makes their home so special.

ENTERPRISE

POPULATION: 131

Along the Hay River Canyon at the junction of Highways 1 and 2, just an hour north of the Alberta border, Enterprise is within hiking distance of Louise and Alexandra Falls. Find out why locals call their home “the handshake of the North.”

Don't miss:

Spend a day marvelling at the waterfalls at Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park.

Getting here:

By road, year-round

Events:

Itsago Dogsled Race (March/April), Gateway Jamboree (August)

FORT PROVIDENCE

ZHAHTI KŪĒ – “MISSION HOUSE PLACE” | POPULATION: 719

Stretching along a high bank overlooking the broad Mackenzie, this historic Dene community is an essential stop for road-trippers, with gas bars and comfortable lodgings. Fort Providence boasts a quiet campground on the riverfront, top-notch fishing and distinctive crafts like porcupine quillwork.

Don't miss:

Snapping a photo of some hulking bison, which ramble the dusty streets and graze in local yards.

Getting here:

By road, or air

Event:

Deh Cho Championship Dog Sled Races (December)

FORT RESOLUTION

DENĪNU KŪĒ – “MOOSE ISLAND PLACE” | POPULATION: 561

Where the Slave River washes into Great Slave Lake, this Chipewyan and Métis hamlet 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.

Don't miss:

Pack a picnic, walk down to the shore of the big lake and enjoy a sunny summer day.

Getting here:

By road

Event:

Culture Week on Mission Island (August)

FORT SMITH

TTHEBACHA – “BESIDE THE RAPIDS” | POPULATION: 2,500

This frontier town was once a main entry point into the Northwest Territories, with all northbound river travellers passing through while portaging the Slave River Rapids. These days, visitors arrive by road to tour sprawling Wood Buffalo National Park, paddle in the Slave's foaming whitewater, and walk or cycle the riverfront Thebacha Trail.

Don't miss:

Spending some time at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre to check out exhibits about the rich local history and culture, while also learning where to find historical sites.

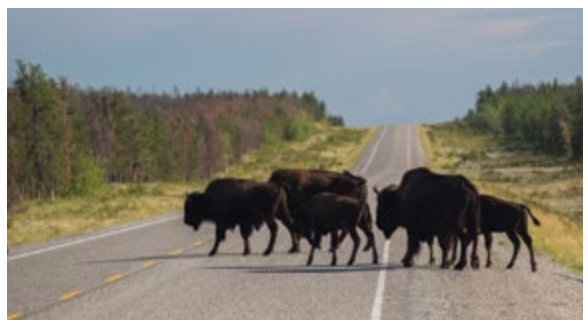
Getting here:

By road, direct flights from Yellowknife, Edmonton

Event:

Wood Buffalo Frolics (March), Paddlefest (August), Dark Sky Festival (August)

BISON ON THE ROAD TO FORT SMITH COLIN FIELD / NWTT



HAY RIVER

XÁTŁ'ODEHCHEE – “HAY RIVER”
POPULATION: 3,824

An easy day's drive from Edmonton, Hay River is dubbed the “Hub” because it's the terminus of Canada's northernmost railway, a 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 eclectic to more upscale.

Don't miss:

Taking a beach day. Sitting on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, Hay River has the territory's best beach. In summer, you can sunbathe for 24 hours a day for weeks.

Getting here:

By road, direct flights from Edmonton, Yellowknife

Event:

Polar Pond Hockey Tournament (March),
Hay Days (July)

KAKISA

K'ÁGEE – “BETWEEN THE
WILLOWS” | POPULATION: 45

This small traditional Dene settlement of log cabins, blazing fireweed and fragrant evergreens is nestled beside the broad blue waters of Kakisa Lake. It's just up the road from camping, fishing, paddling and sightseeing opportunities at stately Lady Evelyn Falls. There's a small convenience store with limited hours.

Don't miss:

The Arctic Grayling run in early spring, which brings anglers from all over the region.

Getting here:

By road

K'ATL'ODEECHE RESERVE

XÁTŁ'ODEHCHEE – “HAY RIVER”
POPULATION: 331

One of the only First Nations reserves in the Northwest Territories, K'atl'odeeche hugs Great Slave Lake at the mouth of the Hay River. It's a centre of Indigenous tradition and learning, with residents who can provide interpretive tours of the Twin Falls Gorge and explain the cultural significance of the waterfalls to the local Dene.

Don't miss:

A visit to the Dene Cultural Institute to learn about local Dene history.

Getting here:

By road, and ice crossing from Hay River in winter

Event:

K'amba Carnival
(February/March)

SLAVE RIVER RAPIDS PIERRE EMMANUEL CHAILLON / NWTT

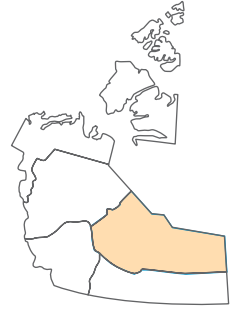


FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN HAY RIVER HANNAH EDEN / NWTT



NORTH SLAVE





Dense boreal forests and the wide-open Barrenlands. Ultra-modern industries and lifeways older than history. The North Slave is a region of contrasts.

Here, you'll find the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, home to plunging shore cliffs, profound blue depths, super-sized fish, and remote wilderness lodges. The North Slave is host to innumerable waters to paddle, like the North Arm of Great Slave, with sparkling waters and feisty pike. Come winter, these waters freeze over, becoming the frozen highway to Canada's first diamond mines, made famous on Ice Road Truckers.

The North Slave is the home of the Tłı̄chǫ, the Chipewyan and the Yellowknives Dene – a dynamic, diverse, welcoming congregation. There's no better place to immerse yourself in the calm, rooted culture of the North.

BEHCHOKŌ

"M̄BEHCHO'S PLACE"
POPULATION: 2,010

The territory's largest Dene community occupies two sites (Edzo and Rae) straddling Frank Channel. Edzo was planned to replace the more traditional community of Rae, on the shores of Marian Lake, but most residents refused to leave. Today Behchokŏ is the seat of the Tłjchŏ Government and a gateway to Great Slave Lake's island-studded North Arm.

Don't miss:

A stop at the Tłjchŏ Store to pick up an exquisite pair of moccasins.

Getting here:

By road

Events:

Ediwa Weyallon Hand Games Tournament (March), Happy Daze (August)

DETTAH

T'È?EHDA – "BURNT POINT"
POPULATION: 233

One of two Yellowknives Dene settlements on the outskirts of the capital, this small community occupies an enviable spot on the rolling shield-rock at the mouth of Yellowknife Bay. In winter you can drive, snowmobile, ski or walk here on the six-kilometre ice road from Old Town.



NORTH SLAVE CAMPING KAITLYN VICIAN / NWT

Look for huskies howling, whitefish drying on racks and moosehides being tanned.

Don't miss:

Dropping into the YKDFN Artisan Shop for locally made jewellery after a drive across the ice road.

Getting here:

By road

Event:

Naka Festival (March)

GAMÈTÌ

"RABBIT-NET PLACE"
POPULATION: 301

This quiet community got its start in the 1970s, when Tłjchŏ Dene founded a traditional settlement on the point between Rae Lake and Lac Ste. Croix, halfway between Great Bear and Great Slave. Grayling fishing, lake tours, and local crafts await.

Don't miss:

A subarctic adventure by setting out on the Jdàa Trail to Behchokŏ, over the trade route the Tłjchŏ have used for hundreds of years.

Getting here:

By air, or winter road from Whatì in winter

Event:

Meltdown Carnival (April)

ŁUTSELK'È

"PLACE OF THE CISCO FISH"
POPULATION: 319

This traditional Chipewyan community is the only settlement on Great Slave Lake's fish-filled, cliff-cradled East Arm – site of Thaidene Nënë National Park. The scenic community 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.

Don't miss:

A trip with a local outfitter, who can show you significant sites and host you at a traditional fishing camp.

Getting here:

By air

Event:

Spring Carnival and Fishing Derby (April)

N'DILQ

"END OF THE ISLAND"
POPULATION: 200

Before goldminers flooded Yellowknife in the 1930s, Indigenous residents used Latham Island as a hunting and fishing base, near Back Bay, Yellowknife Bay and Weledeh (Yellowknife River). The northern half remains a Yellowknives Dene community, home to cultural events and great access to the lake.

Don't miss:

The fall harvest, where gardeners, harvesters and food growers from across the capital region pool their bounty together for a large feast.

Getting here:

By road at Yellowknife city limits

Event:

Fall harvest (late-August)

SHORELINE NEAR ŁUTSEL K'Ē PAT KANE / NWT



WEKWEÈTÌ

"ROCK LAKE"
POPULATION: 132

This smallest, most remote Tłjchq Dene community occupies a gorgeous setting on the Snare River as it weaves through sandy, rolling shield-country on the cusp of the treeline. Fishing and hiking here are ideal.

Don't miss:

A chance to photograph the mighty Barrenland Caribou, since no settlement is closer to great herds of caribou that sweep across the tundra.

Getting here:

By air, or winter road in winter from Whatì

Event:

National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21)

WHATÌ

"MARTEN LAKE"
POPULATION: 501

This Tłjchq Dene community is set on the shore of huge, pristine Lac La Martre and is known for its monster Northern Pike and Trout fishing, and migratory bird life. Less well known is the stunning Whatì waterfall – two spillways with fine Arctic Grayling fishing in the rapids below. Whatì – and its falls – are accessible by road year-round.

Don't miss:

Magnificent fishing for the monstrous Northern Pike in the pristine waters of Lac La Martre. Enjoy hospitality in town or lakeside from a luxurious fishing lodge.

Getting here:

By road

Event:

Spring Carnival (April)

WALL TENT CAMPING PAT KANE / NWT



YELLOWKNIFE

POPULATION: 20,607





Welcome to the best of all worlds. And the greatest place in all the world to watch the Northern Lights.

In the capital city of the Northwest Territories, you might find yourself at a gala ball in the Snowking's snow-and-ice castle, or an international music festival lit by the midnight sun.

Half of the people in the Northwest Territories live in Yellowknife, a cosmopolitan city that punches way above its weight in cultural vibrancy. Yellowknives Dene, Métis, and Inuit from the High Arctic mix with people from all over the world – Philippines, Somalia, Vietnam, Jamaica. The local food scene is just as dynamic, with some of Canada's best Ethiopian fare across the street from authentic Korean cuisine. Walking through town, you might smell jackpines, tanned moosehide, Labrador tea, and frying fish.

Whether you're here for a day or a month, you won't run out of things to do. Yellowknife truly has it all.

WHAT TO DO: 24 HOURS IN YELLOWKNIFE



WINTER

01.

Don't forget, you're here to see the Northern Lights, so let yourself sleep in just a little.

02.

Grab a coffee and a bannock 'n eggert at Birchwood Coffee KQ and check tonight's Aurora forecast.

03.

Book a dogsledding trip with a local outfitter and feel the surge of adrenaline as a pack of sled dogs whips you through a winter wonderland! Enjoy bannock and tea over an open fire with your guide.

04.

Hit the (ice) road and drive out to Dettah on the 6-kilometre-long winter road over Yellowknife Bay. Be safe on the ice. Always be aware of traffic when stopping or taking pictures on an ice road.

From top to bottom:

AURORA VILLAGE KWON O CHUL / NWTT

BIRCHWOOD COFFEE KQ DAVE BROSHA / NWTT

DOGSLEDDING ADAM PISANI / NWTT

From top to bottom:
DETTAH ICE ROAD JASON SIMPSON / NWTT
SNOWKING FESTIVAL RILEY VELDHIJZEN / NWTT
NWT BREWING CO. ADAM PISANI / NWTT
PTARMIGANS MAKI KAWAI / NWTT



05.

If you're visiting in March, you **MUST** experience the Snowking's castle. Before it opens you can get a tour of the unique construction in the months leading up to the festival.



06.

Head back into town and browse the fine arts at Down to Earth Gallery and the Gallery of the Midnight Sun. Now, grab a bite and a micro-brew (or two) at NWT Brewing Co.'s Woodyard Pub, the territory's only brewery.



07.

It's getting dark by now. Get snug in your winter gear, head outside and enjoy the light show of all light shows. In Yellowknife, you can see the Aurora any way you like, with expert outfitters here to show you an amazing time whether you're chasing them by Bombardier or watching them from a wilderness lodge.



SUMMER

01.

Sit on the historic patio of Wildcat Cafe, a living memory of the city's log cabin beginnings.

02.

Drop into Old Town Glassworks to sandblast your own souvenir glasses out of recycled bottles.

03.

Get out on the big lake (Great Slave Lake) with a local fishing guide and cast for Northern Pike, Arctic Grayling, Whitefish, Trout or Walleye. Or book a floatplane flightseeing tour and get an aerial view of the region.

From top to bottom:

WILDCAT CAFE RONNE HEMING / NWTT

OLD TOWN PAUL VECSEI / NWTT

MIDNIGHT SUN IN YELLOWKNIFE JULIEN SCHRODER / NWTT



04.

Yellowknife is a festive town, so there's probably something fun going on. On Tuesday evenings, visit the farmer's market downtown. In July, head out to Long Lake and enjoy the good vibes at the Folk on the Rocks music festival. During August long weekend, lean into the weirdness at the Old Town Ramble and Ride.



05.

You're getting hungry. Let the pros at Bullock's Bistro fry up some of their world-famous fresh fish for you in the eclectic Old Town restaurant.



06.

Walk off some of that giant meal and enjoy the view of the city atop Pilot's Monument, as floatplanes take off below you and houseboaters commute back and forth to shore in their canoes, boats, SUPs and Kayaks.



07.

The sun's not going down, so why stop now? Hop into your own canoe or kayak and tour Houseboat Bay. Or head out to the golf course and play 18 holes, teeing off at midnight. Let your imagination run wild.



From top to bottom:

OLD TOWN RAMBLE AND RIDE FESTIVAL FRAN HURCOMB / NWTT

PILOT'S MONUMENT DAVE BROSHA / NWTT

LAKE TROUT COREY MYERS / NWTT

YELLOWKNIFE BAY HOUSEBOAT DAVE BROSHA / NWTT

NWT CAMPGROUNDS

CAMPING UNDER THE AURORA DAVE BROSHA / NWT

Get out on the water

Every one of our territorial parks sits near water, so don't leave home without a canoe or kayak. 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.

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)

Check-In: After 2 p.m.

Check-Out: By noon

Reservations:

Campsites can be reserved online at nwt parks.ca/campgrounds. Plan your route through the NWT with interactive maps, explore various campgrounds, check specific campsite availability, and make bookings. To avoid disappointment, especially at parks near large communities during holiday weekends, be sure to reserve early.

Contact:

nwt parks.ca

FEES:

\$15/night

Tent pads

\$22.50/night

Non-power sites

\$28/night

Powered sites

\$32/night

Powered sites

at Fred Henne

CAMPING SEASON:

Opening and closing dates vary year-to-year but typically open mid-May to mid-September. Check nwt parks.ca for the latest opening and closing dates.

BLACKSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Off the Liard Trail, Blackstone sits beside the mountain-flanked Liard River, with an impressive interpretive centre.

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 and beautiful views overlooking the Mackenzie River.

FORT SIMPSON TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Near the historic Papal Site and the confluence of the Mackenzie and Laird Rivers, this campground is within walking distance of downtown Fort Simpson.

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 Precambrian outcrops.

GWICH'IN TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On Campbell Lake, half an hour south of Inuvik on the Dempster Highway, launch your boat for some top-notch Arctic lake fishing.



CAMPING IN TULITA ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWT

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.

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 with all sorts of scenic trails.

JÀK TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Just outside Inuvik, this park features an observation tower with excellent views, prime birding, interpretive displays and trails galore.

LADY EVELYN FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Just outside quaint Kakisa where the warm Kakisa River spills over a limestone escarpment, this park has great Arctic Grayling fishing, trails, interpretive displays, and knowledgeable staff.

LITTLE BUFFALO RIVER CROSSING TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the scenic Buffalo River 20 kilometres shy of Fort Resolution, this placid campground features excellent fishing.



MCKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND ALASDAIR VEITCH / NWTT

SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Beside the Trout River near the community of Jean Marie River, this campground has so much for families to do. Hit the hiking trails, go fishing, or hike to some great views of two waterfalls and the river gorge.

SIXTIETH PARALLEL TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the banks of the Hay River at the Alberta-Northwest Territories border, you'll find interpretive displays and pleasant staff at the adjacent visitor centre.

TWIN FALLS GORGE TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Just south of Enterprise, this aptly named spot overlooks Hay River Canyon near Louise and Alexandra Falls. It has plenty of trails, lookouts and interpretive signage to help deepen your understanding of what you are seeing.

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.

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.

MACKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the banks of the Mackenzie in Norman Wells, this is a perfect stop for river-trippers with great views of the Mackenzie Mountains.

NATAINLAIH 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 Gwich'in life.

PRELUDE LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

On the Ingraham Trail roughly 30 minutes from Yellowknife, Prelude has a beach, boat launch, fishing and trails, as well as interpretive displays, and caring staff.

QUEEN ELIZABETH TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Just outside Fort Smith, this large, lushly wooded campground features interpretive information, knowledgeable staff, and a walking trail leading to great views of the Slave River Rapids.

REID LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Reid Lake, at the end of the Ingraham Trail, is a wonderful place to go fishing, swimming, power-boating, and canoeing.

DAY USE AREAS

THE WILD AND WINDING ROADS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARE DOTTED WITH 19 PULL-OFF DAY USE AREAS, IDEAL FOR PICNICKING, FISHING, STROLLING DOWN A FORESTED PATH, OR MARVELING AT A SCENIC VISTA.

MCNALLIE CREEK FALLS AND TERRITORIAL PARK JULIEN SCHRODER / NWT

Roadside day use areas

WESTERN ARCTIC:

Tetlit Gwinjik Territorial Park

Day Use Area: On the slope of the Peel River Plateau, this Dempster Highway interpretive lookout offers sweeping views of the Richardson Mountains and Mackenzie Delta.

Ehjuu Njik Day Use Area:

Spend an afternoon at this Dempster Highway pull-off picnicking on the banks of Cabin Creek or casting your line for Arctic grayling.

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.

DEHCHO:

Blackstone River Day Use

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

Sambaa Deh Territorial Park

Day Use Area: This area is nestled right in with the hiking trails to the fishing hole, the viewing platform over the gorge, the Sambaa Deh falls.

SOUTH SLAVE:

Chan Lake Territorial Park

Day Use Area: On Highway 3 in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, watch for sandhill cranes on the roadside, waterfowl on Chan Lake, and, of course, bison.

Dory Point Territorial Park

Day Use Area: Near the Deh Cho Bridge, this picnic spot overlooks the south bank of the Mackenzie River not far from its source at Great Slave.

Kakisa River Territorial Park

Day Use Area: Off Highway 1 along the Kakisa River, picnic, launch a canoe, or fly-fish for Arctic grayling. Follow the trail to crescent-shaped Lady Evelyn Falls.

McNallie Creek Territorial

Park Day Use Area: A short trail off Highway 1 leads to a viewing platform above 17-metre-high McNallie Creek Falls. Look for cliff swallows nesting in the ravine walls.



TWIN FALLS GORGE TERRITORIAL PARK COREY MYERS / NWT

Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park - Alexandra Falls Day Use Area:

From the Highway 1 lookout, peer at Alexandra Falls, where the Hay River tumbles 32 metres. Then stroll the canyon-side trail to tiered Louise Falls.

Fort Smith Mission Territorial Park Day Use Area:

In the heart of Fort Smith, explore the historic grounds of the Oblate Catholic Mission. Interpretive panels guide the way.

NORTH SLAVE:

North Arm Territorial Park

Day Use Area: Along the glorious shores of Great Slave just outside Behchokò on Highway 3, the scenery changes here from the well-treed Mackenzie Lowlands to the rolling granite of the Canadian Shield.

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 popular sandy beach, a playground and change houses.

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.

Prosperous Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area:

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

Madeline Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area: This small Ingraham Trail park is an ideal starting point for canoeists, boaters and anglers using placid Madeline Lake.

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.

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.

Cameron River Falls Day Use Area: From the Ingraham Trail, a one-kilometre path over rocky outcrops leads to spectacular Cameron Falls, with a pedestrian bridge that crosses the river.

Cameron River Crossing Territorial Park Day Use Area: Along the Ingraham Trail, this sandy riverside site beckons to picnickers, fishers and hikers strolling downstream to the Upper Cameron Falls.



From top to bottom:

FRED HENNE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

DAVE BROSHA / NWT

YELLOWKNIFE RIVER TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

BENJI STRAKER / NWT

MADLINE LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

BENJI STRAKER / NWT

CAMERON RIVER CROSSING TERRITORIAL PARK DAY USE AREA

R. REDSHAW / NWT

INFORMATION AND SAFETY

DENE DRUM ARCTIC CIRCLE MONUMENT, FORT GOOD HOPE ANGELA GZOWSKI / NWT

BEAR SAFETY

The NWT is home to black, grizzly and polar bears. While bear sightings can be a unique part of your NWT adventure, it is important to exercise caution and bear safety. Bears normally avoid contact with people and the best bear safety method is prevention.

Stay informed on best practices for bear safety while at a cabin or out on the land by scanning this code and knowing how to react to a bear encounter. Being prepared is crucial for bear encounters:



FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION

The NWT is the best place to cast a line if you want to reel in a record-setting catch, but first, you will need a fishing licence. Fishing licence fees are different, depending on whether you live in the NWT, Canada or elsewhere. Find more information and purchase a licence by scanning this code:



ICE ROAD SAFETY

Driving the ice roads of the NWT is sure to be a one-of-a-kind experience on your Northern road trip, but the best way to ensure your time on the ice roads is memorable and safe is to stay informed and be prepared. Always familiarize yourself with road conditions and safety precautions you can take before embarking and while on the road. Exercise caution by planning ahead.

You can find several safety tips and updates on road conditions for ice and winter roads across the NWT by scanning this code:



LEGEND

WESTERN ARCTIC (WA)

Communities:

- Aklavik
- Fort McPherson
- Inuvik
- Paulatuk
- Sachs Harbour
- Tsiigehtchic
- Tuktoyaktuk
- Ulukhaktok

- WA1** Tetlit Gwinjik Day Use Area
- WA2** Nitainlaih Territorial Park
- WA3** Gwich'in Territorial Park (includes multiple sites and day use areas)
- WA4** Jàk Territorial Park
- WA5** Happy Valley Territorial Park

SAHTU (SA)

Communities:

- Colville Lake
- Déjine
- Fort Good Hope
- Norman Wells
- Tulita

- SA1** MacKinnon Territorial Park

DEHCHO (DH)

Communities:

- Fort Liard
- Fort Simpson
- Jean Marie River
- Nahanni Butte
- Sambaa K'e
- Wrigley

- DH1** Blackstone River Day Use Area
- DH2** Blackstone Territorial Park
- DH3** Fort Simpson Territorial Park
- DH4** Sambaa Deh Falls Territorial Park

SOUTH SLAVE (SS)

Communities:

- Enterprise
- Fort Providence
- Fort Resolution
- Fort Smith
- Hay River
- Kakisa
- K'at'l'odeeche First Nation

- SS1** Chan Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area
- SS2** Fort Providence Territorial Park
- SS3** Dory Point Territorial Park Day Use Area
- SS4** Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park
- SS5** Kakisa River Territorial Park Day Use Area
- SS6** McNallie Creek Territorial Park Day Use Area
- SS7** Hay River Territorial Park
- SS8** 60th Parallel Territorial Park
- SS9** Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park (includes multiple campgrounds and day use areas)
- SS10** Little Buffalo River Crossing Territorial Park
- SS11** Little Buffalo River Falls Territorial Park
- SS12** Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park
- SS13** Fort Smith Mission Territorial Park Day Use Area

NORTH SLAVE (NS)

Communities:

- Behchokq̃
- Dettah
- Gameti
- Lutsel K'e
- N'Dilo
- Whatì
- Wekweètì
- Yellowknife

- NS1** North Arm Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS2** Fred Henne Territorial Park
- NS3** Yellowknife River Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS4** Prosperous Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS5** Madeline Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS6** Pontoon Lake Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS7** Prelude Lake Territorial Park
- NS8** Powder Point Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS9** Hidden Lake Territorial Park (Backcountry)
- NS10** Cameron Falls Day Use Area/Hiking Trail
- NS11** Cameron River Crossing Territorial Park Day Use Area
- NS12** Reid Lake Territorial Park

SERVICES LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Accommodation | | Medical Services |
| | Restaurant | | Police |
| | Store | | Airport |
| | Bank | | Gasoline Station |
| | Banking Machine | | Diesel |
| | Visitor Information | | Propane |
| | Golf Course | | Automotive Service |

ROAD CONDITIONS

Driving through the NWT will take you through the spectacular and enduring landscapes of the North. Be sure to get the best of your experience by staying informed of changing road conditions through the seasons. Like when getting ready for any prolonged road trip, it's important to have a plan and be prepared. For safety tips and an up-to-date report on road conditions in the NWT, scan this code:



NWT ARTS

The NWT Arts Program is a marketing initiative that promotes all artists of the NWT. If you're looking for authentic traditional and contemporary art from Northern artists, NWT Arts promotes stores, workspaces and galleries in communities all across the territory.

When shopping for an authentic piece of artwork, be sure to look for the NWT Arts logo. This mark of authenticity ensures the piece was handmade by a registered artist of the NWT Arts Program and helps support this sustainable, local industry.

To find out more about the NWT Arts Program or find where to buy art in the NWT, scan this code:



BISON SIGHTING INFORMATION

While the NWT's bison are spectacular animals to see on and around the highways of the NWT, it is important to exercise caution when driving in areas they typically roam. Keep in mind these important safety tips when driving in the NWT:

- Check highway conditions before departing.
- Slow down, especially after dusk and at dawn. If you plan on driving on Highways 3, 5, and 7, try to plan your driving during daylight hours only.
- If you see wildlife, flash your hazard lights to warn drivers behind you.
- Do not swerve suddenly to avoid animals. If necessary, stop and wait for the animal to clear your path.
- Remember that most animals travel in herds; where there is one there are often more.
- Use your high beams whenever possible to increase your visibility farther down the highway.
- Should you hit an animal, do not approach it. Move to the shoulder of the road and flag down a vehicle to call your nearest Wildlife Officer. Use your hazard lights to warn other traffic.





ARCTIC OCEAN

ALASKA

BEAUFORT SEA

Amundson Gulf

BRITISH MOUNTAINS

Ivvavik National Park

Vuntut National Park

Kandall Island Bird Sanctuary

Tuktoyaktuk

Liverpool Bay

Franklin Bay

Darnley Bay

Paulatuk

La Ronciere Falls

Tuktut Nogait National Park

WESTERN ARCTIC

RICHARDSON MOUNTAINS

NORTHERN LIMIT OF TREES

Mackenzie Delta

Inuvik

Aklavik

Fort McPherson

Tsiigehtchic

SAHTU

ARCTIC CIRCLE

Mackenzie River

Colville Lake

Fort Good Hope

World's Largest Drum Landmark

Mission of Notre Dame de Bonne Esperance

Norman Wells

Tulita

Déline

Die Fort Franklin & Déline Fishery

Keith Arm

Sawit National Historic Site

McVicar Arm

Great Bear Lake

Smith Arm

Dease Arm

Zehachco National Historic Site

Dawson City

Elsa

Keno

Mayo

Stewart Crossing

Pelly Crossing

YUKON

THE KLondike HIGHWAY

Carmacks

Faro

Ross River

Nahanni National Park Reserve

Naáts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

Whitehorse

Haines Junction

Carcross

Johnsons Crossing

Jakes Corner

Teslin

Upper Liard

Watson Lake

Lower Post

Cassiar

Dease Lake

Toad River

Fort Nelson

MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

BACKBONE

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

Keel River

DEHCHO

Wrigley

Fort Simpson

Checkpoint

Nahanni Butte

Fort Liard

Sambaa K'e

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

Liard River

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meander

Rainbow



THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS 1.2 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETRES AND IS HOME TO 44,000 PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE 33 COMMUNITIES.



ROUTES

- Paved Surface
- Unpaved Surface
- Winter Access Only
- Private Road
- Heritage River
- Canoe Hiking Route

COMMUNITIES

- Capital
- Community

THEMED ROUTES

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

SYMBOLS

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

GETTING HERE

- Air Canada | aircanada.com
- Canadian North | canadiannorth.com
- West Jet | westjet.com
- Air North | flyairnorth.com
- Northwestern Air Lease | 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
Los Angeles	2678	4310

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, CA	1942	3125

METRIC CONVERSIONS

Metric Multiplied by US Units	
Kilometres 0.62140	Miles
Litres 0.26420	Gallons
Kilograms 2.20460	Pounds

**SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES**



SPECTACULARNWT.COM

#spectacularnwt