

Welcome to the Northwest Territories!



A Tourism & Hospitality Workshop
about the
Northwest Territories



Northwest Territories
CANADA

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Table of Contents

Part One: Tourism & the Northwest Territories Information

Introduction.....	4
Tourism Information.....	5
<i>A Look at Tourism Worksheet</i>	8
NWT Overview.....	9
<i>NWT Quiz</i>	10
Official Symbols of the NWT.....	12
Industry & Resources in the NWT.....	14
Aboriginal Populations in the NWT.....	17
Museums, Territorial & National Parks, Historic & Heritage Sites.....	18
Territorial Parks.....	19
National Parks.....	21
Map of the NWT.....	25
NWT Community Descriptions.....	27
Things to See & Do in NWT Communities.....	40
<i>Knowing the NWT Worksheet</i>	44

Part Two: Visitor Hospitality

Your Role in Tourism.....	46
<i>Positive Attitude Worksheet</i>	48
Customer Service Tips.....	51
Quality Service Skills for Success.....	53
<i>Customer Complaints Worksheet</i>	56
LEARN	57
Did You Know?	58
Customer Concerns & Complaints.....	59
<i>Workshop Evaluation</i>	61



Welcome to the land of the midnight sun!

Welcome to the Northwest Territories!

Here's what you'll learn in the workshop...

- The value of the tourism industry to the NWT's economy
 - How many visitors come to the NWT and what they see and do
 - An overview of the NWT and its communities - their history, attractions and traditions
 - How to give a warm welcome and communicate with visitors
 - How to deal effectively with visitors' needs and complaints
 - The importance of customer service to your place of business, your community and the NWT.
-

Here's Why ...

- When visitors enjoy themselves and experience excellent service, they stay longer, make plans to return and they tell their friends.
- No amount of money can match the value of good word-of-mouth advertising!
- "Welcome to the Northwest Territories" is for everyone in the territory. We are all ambassadors for our community and the NWT!



Did you know...

- Wide Open Spaces! The Northwest Territories is 1,171,918 square kilometers, and the largest of the three territories.
- The entire population of the NWT is about 43,757.
- Sites to Explore! There are 34 territorial parks in the NWT and four national parks.
- There are three main highways in the Northwest Territories: Mackenzie, Liard and Dempster.

Tourism Awareness:

In the mind of the traveler, tourism is not an industry or a set of products and services: ***it is a set of experiences.*** The tourism industry in Canada employs nearly 1.2 million people working in businesses and public agencies, which have one element in common – they all cater to the guest and traveler.

The Canadian tourism industry recognized that the long-term sustainability of tourism in Canada depends upon delivery of a high quality product and continuing welcoming spirit among tourism professionals and host communities.

Benefits of Tourism:

- Increased economic activity
- Increased tourist dollars from outside the NWT
- Keeping existing jobs
- Creating new jobs
- Improved employment and career opportunities
- Development of tourism attractions, sites and resources
- Promoting goodwill locally, nationally and internationally
- Increased local, national and international recognition of your community
- Opportunities to interact and serve people from diverse cultures
- Development of new facilities not necessarily directly connected to tourism (schools, pools, parks, etc).

Who benefits from tourism?

Everyone!

Tourism dollars are new dollars to the NWT economy. The dollars flow into the communities through tourism operators, transportation and accommodations sectors, food and retail outlets, as well as recreation and entertainment industries.

Value of Tourism to the NWT

- Tourism is ranked as the third largest industry in the NWT, with approximately 92,000 visitors annually.
- Tourism is also the largest renewable resource based industry in the NWT.
- Tourism contributes about \$132.5 million to the NWT economy annually and generates more revenue than all other renewable resources sectors combined.
- Tourism is sustainable – high quality tourism experiences depend on the conservation of natural resources, protection of environment and preservation of cultural heritage.



Did you know...

49% of visitors to the NWT travel by plane, while 51% make it a road trip.

What is the primary reason visitors come to the NWT?

Each year...

- 510 come to hunt
- 1,900 come to participate in outdoor adventure such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, etc.
- 21,700 come to see the Aurora Borealis
- 3,500 come to fish
- 14,100 visit their friends and relatives (VFR)
- 14,800 come to participate in general touring activities which include camping, sightseeing, bird watching, etc.
- 35,300 come for business such as meetings, conventions, trade shows (such as the Oil and Gas Show in Inuvik, the Transportation Show in Hay River) etc.

How much money are they leaving in the NWT?

- Hunters spend \$5.9 million
- Outdoor adventurers spend \$4.1 million
- Aurora visitors spend \$21 million
- Anglers spent \$9.5 million
- Those who visit their friends and relatives spend over \$8.9 million
- General touring visitors spend \$12.6 million
- 35,300 business travellers spend \$70.5 million. This means that each business traveller spends approximately \$1,997.

Did you know...

77% of visitors to the NWT are fellow Canadians.
The other 23% are international travelers!



What is tourism?

Tourism combines portions of different industries.

SECTOR	TYPES OF BUSINESS	SAMPLE JOB TYPES
Food & Beverage	Restaurants, dining rooms, coffee shops, fast food outlets, pubs, lounges, night clubs, cabarets, club facilities, institutions, catering operations, specialty	Host/hostess, Line Cook, Beverage Service Manager, Food & Beverage Server, Bartender
Accommodation	Lodges, cabins, fishing and hunting camps, hotels, motels, resorts, campgrounds, summer camps, country inns, bed & breakfast, hostels	Front Desk Agent, Director of Sales and Marketing, House-keeping Room Attendant, Hotel Manager, Hostel/Lodge Manager
Adventure Tourism & Recreation	Hiking, cycling, skiing, river rafting, boating, fishing, mountaineering, outfitting, hunting, tennis, golf, parks	Park Attendant, Outdoor Guide, Hunting Guide
Attractions	Museums, galleries, heritage & historic sites, theme parks, gardens, recreation facilities, interpretive centres, native & cultural tourism	Public Relations Manager, Site Operator, Interpretive Tours Guide, Facility Manager, Event Coordinator, Gate/Cash Attendants
Tourism Services	Tourism industry associations, visitor information centres, marketing/advertising agencies, reservation services, government tourism departments, research consultants, tourism suppliers, retail operations, auto clubs	Tourism/Visitor Information Counselor, Business Travel Specialist, Retail Sales Clerk, Tourism/Visitor Information Centre Supervisor
Transportation	Air carriers, motor coaches, railways, cruise lines, car rentals, recreational vehicles, taxis, gas stations	Flight Attendant, Airport Operations Manager, Taxicab Driver, Bus Driver, Rental Agent
Travel Trade	Travel agencies, tour wholesalers, tour operations, tour guides	Travel Counselor, Local Tour Guide, Reservations Sales Agent
Events & Conferences	Special events, meetings, conferences, conventions, festivals, trade shows, marketplaces, fairs, exhibitions	Special Events Coordinator, Special Events Manager, Conference/Meeting Planner



A Look at Tourism

Most NWT visitors come from:

Most visitors to the NWT arrive by means of:

List four or five tourism related jobs

Is your job tourism related?

List five different industries that benefit from visitors

Estimate the revenue tourism generates annually:

\$70 - \$80 million

\$90 - \$100 million

\$110 - \$120 million

more than \$130 million

Tourism is ranked as the number ____ industry in the NWT.

A single convention that attracts 130 delegates to a community for three nights injects over _____ into the local economy.

\$43,000

\$75,000

\$96,000

\$120,000

\$286,000



The Spectacular Northwest Territories!

The Northwest Territories is 1.17 million square kilometres of land threaded by clean rivers and thousands of pristine lakes. More than 40,000 people inhabit this rugged natural beauty, located between the Yukon and Nunavut territories.

Tourism is the largest renewable resource-based sector of the NWT. Tourists love to explore the NWT. The vast expanse of this northern territory offers endless possibilities, summer and winter. Whatever your pleasure, whatever season is your favourite, we have it all. From pristine, unspoiled wilderness to urban centres with all the amenities. From twenty-four hour daylight and warm summer days to crisp, clear winter days with dancing northern lights.

It is truly a land of contrast. Temperatures during the long, cold winters can drop below -40 degrees but the short, warm summers can reach upwards of +30 degrees. Breathtaking landscapes vary from rolling tundra, to immense mountains and waterfalls, to deep valleys, boreal forests and pristine lakes surrounded by rocky Canadian shield.

The NWT is becoming a popular international destination – especially for visitors from the United States and Japan. The number of Japanese visitors arriving during the fall and winter months to view the Aurora Borealis and participate in unique winter activities such as dogsled rides, travelling by snowmobile, cross country skiing, and ice-fishing, is steadily increasing.

Over half of the visitors to the NWT are Canadian and many travel by road. NWT highways are well maintained and offer a taste of wilderness that is fast disappearing in other parts of the world. Along the highway, wayside parks and campgrounds provide scenic places to picnic, fish, canoe, pick berries, take a hike or a photo, or camp for a relaxing night or two.

Driving or flying, summer or winter, the NWT offers visitors many amazing attractions: fishing for giant lake trout or northern pike at world class fishing lodges or on your own; viewing rare wildlife roaming free; canoeing or kayaking a legendary river; visiting one of our four National Parks. And where else but in the Northwest Territories, can you play golf at night in the golden warmth of the midnight sun?

From relaxing to adventurous, the Northwest Territories has something for every visitor.

Did you know...

The sun doesn't go down during the summer months in the NWT. Although the warm season is short, gardens grow very well because of the constant sunlight!



Fun Facts about the Northwest Territories

Test your northern knowledge with this fun quiz!

- 1. What is the longest river system in Canada?**
 - a. St. Lawrence River, Quebec
 - b. Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories
 - c. Fraser River, British Columbia
 - d. Yukon River, Yukon
- 2. Which two of the following National Parks in the NWT are UNESCO World Heritage Sites?**
 - a. Tuktut Nogait National Park
 - b. Nahanni National Park Reserve
 - c. Aulavik National Park
 - d. Wood Buffalo National Park
- 3. Where is the home of Canada's first Diamond Mine?**
 - a. Ontario
 - b. Northwest Territories
 - c. British Columbia
 - d. The Yukon Territory
- 4. Which NWT lake is the deepest in North America?**
 - a. Great Bear Lake
 - b. Lac la Martre
 - c. Colville Lake
 - d. Great Slave Lake
- 5. Pingos are found in the Western Arctic Region of the NWT. What is a Pingo?**
 - a. A cone-shaped hill with a core of ice
 - b. A wild dog, a little larger than a coyote, which roams the Arctic barren lands
 - c. A rare plant fossil created during the last ice age
 - d. A home made of mud and grass from the Mackenzie River Delta
- 6. What is the capital city of the NWT?**
 - a. Inuvik
 - b. Yellowknife
 - c. Fort McPherson
 - d. Fort Simpson
- 7. What is the territorial bird for the NWT?**
 - a. The Snowy Owl
 - b. The Raven
 - c. The Gyrfalcon
 - d. The Ptarmigan
- 8. What Superman star was born in Yellowknife, NWT?**
 - a. Christopher Reeve
 - b. Jackie Cooper
 - c. Margot Kidder
 - d. Gene Hackman
- 9. The Virginia Falls in the NWT are:**
 - a. Half the height of Niagara Falls
 - b. About the same height as Niagara Falls
 - c. About 1.5 times higher than Niagara Falls
 - d. Twice as high as Niagara Falls
- 10. What is the largest National Park in Canada?**
 - a. Kluane National Park, Yukon
 - b. Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta and NWT
 - c. Jasper National Park, Alberta
 - d. Fundy National Park, New Brunswick
- 11. What is the official gem of the NWT?**
 - a. Diamond
 - b. Ruby
 - c. Saffire
 - d. Emerald
- 12. Where in Canada can you find the world's oldest rock?**
 - a. Newfoundland
 - b. Nunavut
 - c. Alberta
 - d. Northwest Territories
- 13. What is the largest lake by area within Canada?**
 - a. Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories
 - b. Lake Huron, Ontario
 - c. Lake Superior, Ontario
 - d. Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 14. What shape is the most unique church in the NWT?**
 - a. Teepee
 - b. Igloo
 - c. Inukshuk
 - d. Diamond

Northwest Territories Quiz Answers:

1. **Answer:** B. The Mackenzie River is the longest river system in Canada at 4241km in length.
2. **Answer:** B & D. Both Nahanni National Park Reserve and Wood Buffalo National Park, which spans the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Nahanni National Park Reserve was actually the first UNESCO World Heritage Site established in 1978.
3. **Answer:** B. The Northwest Territories is home to the Ekati Diamond Mine, Canada's first Diamond Mine. Construction began in 1997 and the mine opened officially in 14 October 1998. Since then, over \$1 billion (USD) of rough diamonds have been produced and sold.
4. **Answer:** D. Great Slave Lake is the deepest lake in North America and sixth deepest in the world at 614 metres.
5. **Answer:** A. A pingo is a cone-shaped hill with an ice core. Pingo is Inuit for 'hill'. In the Northwest Territories, the greatest concentration of pingos occurs in the coastal area of the Mackenzie Delta, close to the community of Tuktoyaktuk. Researchers have counted over 1400 pingos in this area!
6. **Answer:** B. Yellowknife is the capital city of the Northwest Territories and is on the shore of Great Slave Lake.
7. **Answer:** C. The Gyrfalcon is the territorial bird and is the largest of all the falcons. The tundra region of the north is its breeding ground.
8. **Answer:** C. Margot Kidder was born in Yellowknife on October 17, 1948.
9. **Answer:** D. At 92 metres (300 feet), Virginia Falls is almost twice the height of Niagara Falls, and is the highest and most dramatic cataract in all of north western Canada.
10. **Answer:** B. At 44,807 km², Wood Buffalo National Park is Canada's largest national park and one of the largest in the world. The park was established in 1922 to protect the free-roaming bison herds of the area and spans the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories.
11. **Answer:** A. Diamonds were discovered in the Northwest Territories in 1991, and Canada is now the third largest diamond-producing nation in the world by value, behind Russia and Botswana.
12. **Answer:** D. The Northwest Territories is home to the oldest rock in the world. The record-breaking rock is 3.962 billion years old.
13. **Answer:** A. The largest lake in Canada is Great Bear Lake with a total of 31,328 km².
14. **Answer:** B. The Roman Catholic "Igloo" Church was built in the 1950's in Inuvik, NT.

Official Symbols of the NWT

Territorial Flag

The flag was adopted in January 1969. The design incorporates the territorial shield on a white centre section with blue sections on each end.

The blue panels represent the lakes and waters. The white centre panel, equal in width to the two white panels combined, symbolizes the ice and snow of the North.



Territorial Mace

The mace is the symbol of the authority of the Legislature and its Speaker. Composed mainly of silver and bronze the mace is 1.5 meters long and weights 12 kilograms. The top glistens with a snowflake crown. Nestled within the crown, a golden orb represents the midnight sun. On top of the orb sits a silver crosspiece that forms an ulu, a tipi and house representing the cultures of the territory. On top of the crosspiece sits a 1.31 carat northern diamond.

The most unusual feature is its sound. Tiny pebbles collected from the 33 communities in the NWT, create a magical sound similar to a rain stick, depicting the voices of the people. The mace can be viewed at the Legislative Assembly.



Territorial Tartan

The tartan includes many of the colours of the North – white of the snow, green of the forest, yellow of the birches in the fall, red of the tundra and blue of the lakes, rivers and oceans.



Territorial Crest

The coat of arms consists of two gold narwhals guarding a compass rose, symbolic of the magnetic North Pole. The white upper third of the crest or shield represents the polar ice pack and is crossed by a wavy blue line symbolizing the Northwest Passage.

The diagonal line separating the red and green segments of the lower portion of the shield reflects the treeline.





Official Gemstone

The diamond was adopted as the official gemstone on September 9, 1999 to recognize that the Northwest Territories is home to Canada's first diamond mine.



Official Bird

Gyr Falcon is the largest and most magnificent of the falcons that breed in the Northwest Territories. They range in colour from white through shades of grey and brown, to almost black. Gyrfalcons are expert hunters, and extremely fast and powerful fliers.



Official Mineral

Gold has played a major role in the development and prosperity of the Northwest Territories. Mines in Yellowknife operated for about 70 years. In May 1981, gold was proclaimed the Mineral Emblem symbolizing enduring wealth and the bright future of the Northwest Territories.



Official Tree

The tamarack reaches heights from six to 15 meters. The Tamarack is found throughout the Northwest Territories and was named the official tree on September 9, 1999. It is one of the few conifers that turns orange in the fall and loses its needles.



Official Flower

Mountain Avens have narrow basal leaves and support a single white and yellow flower on a short stem. This member of the rose family grows abundantly in the central Arctic, and in parts of the Mackenzie region.



Official Fish

Arctic Grayling can be found in a broad range of habitats in the Northwest Territories and has the ability to live in the harshest environments. It was named the official fish of the NWT on September 9, 1999.

NWT Resources



Mining

Mining is the major economic sector in the NWT and a significant source of employment, creating over 2,000 direct jobs.

Industry wages and salaries are the highest in Canada. Mineral extraction has been a major part of the NWT economy for many years. Currently the NWT has one tungsten and three diamond mines. There were two gold mines in Yellowknife but both have been shut down.

An aerial view of Con Mine

Oil and Gas

Oil and Gas has long been a commercial force within the NWT economy. Norman Wells, in particular is one of Canada's largest oil fields. First developed during World War II, the field still exports over \$500 million in oil every year. Aside from the Mackenzie Natural Gas Project, there is renewed interest in Beaufort Oil. Over the past few years two major oil companies have invested billions in securing exploration opportunities to find Arctic Oil.

Oil and gas exploration in the NWT has been steadily increasing. Exploration and development is taking place in the Liard Valley, the Cameron Hills, the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea and the Sahtu area. Potential oil and gas reserves in the NWT are impressive. Past exploration has resulted in the discovery of more than 1.75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and potential natural gas reserves in the NWT are estimated at 65 trillion cubic feet.

Diamonds

Canada's first operating diamond mine, BHP's Ekati Mine, is in the NWT. Major diamond bearing kimberlite pipes were discovered at Lac de Gras in the north-eastern part of the NWT in 1991. A kimberlite pipe is a rare type of volcanic rock which is known to contain diamonds.

The Ekati Mine began production in October 1998, Diavik Diamond Mine began production in 2003 and Snap Lake started production in 2008.





Trapping

About 40% of NWT residents over the age of 15 spend time trapping, fishing or hunting. Approximately 700 still make their living trapping – contributing an estimated \$1.3 million to the economy annually. Wild fur from the NWT is considered among the best in the world!

Trapping is critical to sustaining a traditional lifestyle. Trapping provides food, material for clothing and most importantly, cash income. Most often the cash is reinvested back into the traditional economy, often to purchase equipment or materials in support of future harvesting.

Trapping provides cash income and enables northerners to continue a lifestyle that has been a tradition in the North for thousands of years. Management of resources is done in partnership with trappers, local wildlife management boards and government. All harvesting is monitored and analyzed to ensure healthy animal populations.

Forestry and Agriculture

Both these industries are in the early stages of development in the NWT. For centuries, the people of the NWT used the forest for food, shelter and to provide transportation such as canoes, moose skin boats and sleds. However, it is only in the past 100 years that the forest has been used for commercial purposes.

Many people continue to use wood for all or part of their heating requirements. Furs, wildlife and plants are harvested on a regular basis for personal consumption and economic gain. There is potential to create new jobs and economic opportunities in the forestry sector through the harvesting and processing of timber into a variety of manufactured products.

The NWT has an abundance of fish, game, berries and plants which people have harvested for thousands of years. The beginnings of “organized” gardening can be linked back to the establishment of Hudson’s Bay posts and the various missions and mission schools in the NWT.

Market gardening is done on a limited scale in the southern part of the NWT. There are two commercial egg production facilities in the NWT.





Wildlife and Fisheries

Caribou, muskox, wolves, arctic fox, polar bear, grizzly bears, black bears, moose, Dall's sheep and bison — you'll find them all in the NWT!

Wildlife has sustained Aboriginal people for thousands of years by providing food, clothing, shelter, tools and goods for trade. Today, harvesting of wildlife continues to be an important source of food for many northern families. Big game hunting, trapping, and some harvesting are done on a commercial basis. There is even a reindeer herding operation near Tuktoyaktuk!

Fish stocks in the NWT are harvested for subsistence, commercial and recreational use. Fisheries are particularly important to residents in smaller communities where the catch makes a crucial contribution to a healthy diet.

There is one well-established commercial freshwater fishery in the NWT – the Great Slave Lake Fishery.



Did you know...

- Great Slave Lake is the deepest lake in North America! At 614 metres, it is the sixth deepest lake in the world!
- The Mackenzie River is the longest river system in Canada at 4,241 km in length.

Northwest Territories Aboriginal Population

There are 21,617 people in the NWT of Aboriginal origin, this represents a little more than half of the population.

From North to South, there are Inuvialuit (Mackenzie Delta and high arctic islands), the Gwich'in (Mackenzie Delta), the Sahtu Dene (middle NWT) and Metis (throughout), the Dehcho people (southwestern NWT), the Tlicho and the Akaitcho people (around Great Slave Lake).

Aboriginal Languages in the NWT

Aboriginal languages are widely spoken in all NWT communities and they vary considerably in the vast leap from the 60th Parallel to the Arctic Ocean.

There are eleven official languages and they include: Inuvialuktun, Innuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, North Slavey, South Slavey, Dogrib (Tlicho), Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, French and English.

Did you know...

In the Northwest Territories you can view the Aurora Borealis approximately 243 nights per year!

The territories is right under the Auroral Oval, the huge crown of energy that encircles the magnetic North Pole.



Museums, Territorial & National Parks, Historic & Heritage Sites

The Northwest Territories has three museums:

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre - Yellowknife

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) is the Government of the Northwest Territories' museum and archives. The concept for the PWNHC was originally established in 1971, as a result of concern over the loss of northern artifacts and collections.

The museum collection includes paintings, sculptures, clothing, hunting and working tools, geological samples and many other items illustrating the history of the NWT. The exhibits are constantly changing so be sure to check the online calendar of events (www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca)



*Prince of Wales Northern
Heritage Centre*

Northern Life Museum - Fort Smith

Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre is a gem for history buffs and cultural enthusiasts.

The museum's upper galleries showcase the traditional lifestyle of the First Nations and Métis people of this region, including traditional arts and crafts. The galleries also depict how exploration and development affected the people of the region. Among the highlights of the upper galleries are a whooping crane display, a replica birch bark canoe, and an original copy of Treaty 8.

The lower galleries are often used to display the works of local artists, including photography, painting, quilting, and carving.



Northern Life Museum

Norman Wells Historical Centre - Norman Wells

The Norman Wells Historical Centre was opened in October 1989 to preserve the history of the Canol Trail. The Centre's collection has expanded to include a wide range of history, from traditional Dene lifestyles, to early aviation, to mining, as well as the development of the Norman Wells oilfield.

Inside the Visitor Centre, a combination of large shed and wartime hut, the story of the Norman Wells Oilfield and the Canol Project are told. Essential parts of these stories are the history of aviation in the Northwest Territories, the story of the discovery and mining of uranium on Great Bear Lake and the development of the oilfield during the war.



*Norman Wells Historical
Centre*

Territorial Parks

Territorial Parks are owned and operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories and most are open from May 15th until September 15th. (Inuvik Region parks have a slightly shorter season and are open from June 1st until September 6th.) Most parks are readily accessible from the highways and feature spectacular natural attractions such as waterfalls, river canyons and lakes. Many also have interpretive displays and unique walking trails. Parks with campgrounds usually have day use areas as well and some have visitor information centres.

Information on all parks including services and facilities is available at: www.nwtparks.ca

Reservations can be made on-line for some campgrounds at www.campingnwt.ca

The *NWT Road and Campground Guide* provides useful information about routes, highway and park services, points of interest, and more! (Available from NWT Tourism or GNWT Tourism & Parks.)



Spiral Staircase at Louise Falls



Blackstone Park day use area



Alexandra Falls



Prelude Lake Panoramic Trail

NWT Parks by Region

South Slave Region

Sixtieth Parallel - campground & VIC

Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park

- Alexandra Falls - day use
- Louise Falls - campground
- Escarpment Creek - group campsite

Hay River - campground

Queen Elizabeth - campground

Little Buffalo Crossing - campground

Little Buffalo Falls - campground

Lady Evelyn Falls - campground

McNallie Creek - day use

Dory Point - day use

Kakisa River - day use

Fort Providence - campground

Chan Lake - day use

North Slave Region

Fred Henne - campground

North Arm - day use

Yellowknife River - day use

Madeline Lake - day use

Prelude Lake - campground

Pontoon Lake - day use

Cameron River Crossing - day use

Prosperous Lake - day use

Reid Lake - campground

Hidden Lake

- Cameron Falls Trail - day use
- Powder Point - day use

Dehcho Region

Fort Simpson - campground

Blackstone - campground

Sambaa Deh Falls - campground

Sahtu Region

McKinnon - campground

Inuvik Region

Tetlit Gwinjik - day use

Nitainlaii - campground & VIC

Gwich'in

- Vadzaih van Tshik - campground
- Tithegeh Chii Vitaii Lookout
- Gwich'in Territorial - campground
- Ehjuu Njik - day use
- Nihtak - day use

Jàk - campground

Happy Valley - campground

National Parks

The Northwest Territories has four national parks: Nahanni, Tuktut Nogait, Aulavik, and Wood Buffalo.



Wood Buffalo National Park

- At 44,807 square kilometers, it is Canada's largest national park, one of the largest in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The park's unique characteristics include:
 - One of the largest free-roaming bison herds in the world;
 - Millions of migrating ducks, geese and swans;
 - The last remaining natural nesting area for the endangered whooping crane;
 - Winter dens of red-sided garter snakes;
 - One of the largest inland freshwater deltas in the world;
 - Some of the finest examples of gypsum karst landforms in North America;
 - Unique salt plains;
- The park office is located in Fort Smith.

Nahanni National Park Reserve

- This spectacular park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It embraces the South Nahanni and Flat Rivers, beautiful mountain ranges and awesome valleys. It also boasts some of Canada's most renowned white-water rapids, spectacular canyons, the famous Rabbitkettle Hotsprings, caves and sinkholes.
- Virginia Falls is a popular focal point of the park. At twice the height of Niagara Falls, this natural wonder is a sight not to be missed.
- Legends and intrigue abound, reflected in creatively named features such as Headless Valley, Funeral Range and Sombre Range.
- Access to the park is by air or water only.
- The park office is located in Fort Simpson.



Tuktut Nogait National Park

- “Tuktut Nogait” means “young caribou” in Inuvialuktun.
- This park encompasses 16,340 square kilometres and is located 170 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle in the northeast corner of the Northwest Territories.
- It protects a portion of the Tundra Hills Natural Region, a representative natural area of Canadian significance.
- One of Canada’s undiscovered gems, the park represents a spectacular arctic tundra landscape of rolling hills, barren plateaus, wild rivers, valleys, deep canyons, stunning waterfalls and crystal clear lakes.
- The park is home to the Bluenose West caribou herd as well as many other wildlife species including grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, muskoxen and numerous small mammals such as the arctic ground squirrel (“siksik” by the Inuvialuit).
- It is also an important habitat for a large number of migratory and resident birds such as raptors, ptarmigan, waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds.
- The park's waters are home to arctic char, grayling, lake trout and whitefish.
- Established in 1996, it is within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and is one of Canada’s first cooperatively managed national parks.
- Access to the park is by air only.



Muskox



Grizzly Bear



An eagle in flight

Aulavik National Park

- “Aulavik” means “place where people travel” in Inuvialuktun.
- The park protects approximately 12,274 square kilometres of Western Arctic Lowlands at the northern end of Banks Island.
- This pristine arctic wilderness encompasses a wide diversity of landscapes but is completely treeless.
- The Thomsen River, one of the most northerly navigable rivers in North America, runs through the heart of the park. The river is popular with canoeists and kayakers and also has great fishing.
- The park has the highest concentration of muskoxen on earth. 20% of the estimated 68,000 to 80,000 animals on Banks Island are thought to reside in the park.
- It is also home to the endangered Peary caribou as well as the more common barren-ground caribou.
- Other wildlife includes arctic foxes, brown and northern collared lemmings, arctic hares and wolves.
- Many birds inhabit the park, including ptarmigan, ravens, snowy owls, rough-legged hawks, gyrfalcons and Peregrine falcons.
- Access to the park is by air only.

National Historic Sites

Did you know..

Over 1,350 pingos dot the landscape around Tuktoyaktuk!



Ibyuk, the tallest pingo in Canada

Pingo Canadian Landmark

- Pingo Canadian Landmark protects a unique arctic landform: ice-cored hills called pingos.
- With some 1,350 pingos, the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the Northwest Territories has the world's largest concentration of the hills.
- Managed by Parks Canada, the Landmark protects eight pingos in an area roughly 15 sq km, on the shore of the Beaufort Sea, 5 km west of Tuktoyaktuk.
- Rising out of the flat tundra, these hills provide a distinctive backdrop to the community.
- Two pingos, Ibyuk and Split, dominate the skyline. Ibyuk is the highest pingo in Canada, (and the world's second highest), at 49 metres. Ibyuk is growing at a rate of approximately two centimetres per year and is at least 1,000 years old.
- Pingos, formed by the expansion of underground ice, are unique to permafrost areas. They can be as high as 50 metres and may measure 300 metres in diameter.
- Other features of a permafrost environment can also be found in the Landmark, including wedge ice and tundra polygons.

Our Lady of Good Hope

- Located in Fort Good Hope on a bluff overlooking the Mackenzie River, this church was built by Catholic missionaries between 1865 and 1885, and designated as a National Historic Site in 1977.
- The building's simple exterior and small size, only 14 x 8 metres, give no indication of the extraordinarily painted interior.
- Recently restored, the church is a popular attraction, well-known for the colourful frescos painted throughout.
- The original panels in the church were designed by the priest and executed by his Dene parishioners in natural dyes mixed with fish oil.



Church of Our Lady of Good Hope



Saoyú-ʔehdacho (Saw-you-ay Aa-da-cho)

- This National Historic Site encompasses two major peninsulas, totalling 5,550 square kilometres on the west arm of Great Bear Lake: Saoyú is *Grizzly Bear Mountain* and ʔehdacho is the *Scented Grass Hill*.
 - Parks Canada designated them as a National Historic Site in 1999.
 - In April 2009, Saoyú-ʔehdacho was designated under the Protected Areas Strategy process, permanently protecting the land from development.
 - This area has great historical and cultural importance to the Sahtugot'ine, the Dene of Great Bear Lake. It is a place where rich oral histories are tied directly to the land.
 - Saoyú-ʔehdacho has intact boreal forest, and is home to important wildlife species including woodland caribou, grizzly bears, wolverine and peregrine falcons.
-

Heritage Parks

The Fort Smith Mission Historic Territorial Park

- Fort Smith Mission Heritage Park is all that remains of the original 151 acre / 61 hectare Oblate Catholic Mission in what is now the centre of Fort Smith. The Roman Catholic Church operated its mission to the western arctic from here between 1876 and the early 1980s.
- Many of the original structures still remain, including the Cathedral, the Bishop's residence, a hospital building and a grotto.
- The park provides an extensive self-guided tour of the historic mission site, with signage describing the history and activities of the mission.
- This is the NWT's only heritage park.



*Fort Smith Mission Historic
Territorial Park*

**Department of Industry
Tourism, and Investment
Administrative Regions**



NWT Regions & Communities

Inuvik Region:

Aklavik
Fort McPherson
Inuvik
Paulatuk
Sachs Harbour
Tsiigehtchic
Tuktoyaktuk
Ulukhaktok

Sahtu Region:

Colville Lake
Deline
Fort Good Hope
Norman Wells
Tulita

North Slave Region:

Behchokö (Rae-Edzo)
Detah
Gameti
Lutselk'e
N'Dilo
Wekweeti
Whati
Yellowknife

South Slave Region:

Enterprise
Fort Providence
Fort Resolution
Fort Smith
Hay River
Hay River Reserve
Kakisa

Dehcho Region:

Fort Liard
Fort Simpson
Jean Marie River
Nahanni Butte
Trout Lake
Wrigley

Northwest Territories Communities

Aklavik

Aklavik “Barrenground grizzly place”

Population: 645

This community with a population of 645 was once the commercial heart of the Mackenzie Delta. It is now a peaceful, mostly traditional village. The main spoken languages are Gwich'in, Inuvialuktun and English.

Aklavik, one of the most northern NWT communities, is just over 100 km south of the Arctic Coast. The community of Inuvik was established in the 1950's and was meant to replace Aklavik which suffered from flooding and had no room for expansion. However, many Aklavik residents were devoted to their community and refused to make the move. The trip from Aklavik to Inuvik can be driven in winter when the Mackenzie Delta freezes, creating a stunning road of ice. During the remainder of the year flights from Inuvik are scheduled five days a week. There is a walking tour brochure that is available at the Aklavik airport and the Inuvik visitor information centre.

Aklavik is where the legendary **Mad Trapper of Rat River** is buried. In 1931, Albert Johnson (aka the Mad Trapper) led the RCMP on the longest manhunt in Canadian history. Fleeing across frozen tundra and mountains in blizzard conditions, Johnson evaded RCMP for 48 days and crossed hundreds of kilometres on foot.

Traditional activities are a huge part of life in Aklavik and much of the community rely on their hunting and fishing skills to support themselves. Handmade traditional arts and crafts, like moccasins, tufting work and canvas products can be found in the community. Northern festivals are an excellent opportunity to purchase unique pieces and meet the artists, as well as participate with the community in dogsled and snow mobile racing, feasts, drum dancing and games.



Behchoko (changed from Rae-Edzo in 2005)

“Big Knife”

Population: 2,026

Behchoko encompasses the communities of Rae and Edzo close to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake. The two communities were officially combined to create Behchoko in 2005, creating the largest Dene community in the NWT. Rae was originally named after Dr. John Rae, who opened a Hudson's Bay Company post in 1882 at Old Fort Rae (around 8 km from the present location). Edzo, named after a Tlicho leader, was developed by the government in 1965 to attract residents from Rae. Many residents, however, remained in Rae, where hunting, fishing and trapping were more accessible.

There's an historic church, which once was part of a much larger mission including a convalescent hospital. Behchoko offers a bed and breakfast establishment, a meeting centre, restaurant, vehicle services and a general store on Highway 3.



Drum Dance Arbour, Rae.

Colville Lake

K'ahbamiutue: "Ptarmigan net place"

Population: 147

Colville Lake is the most remote community in the Mackenzie Valley, only 50 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle. The lake, for which the community is named, is one of the larger bodies of water north of Great Bear Lake. The fishing is great!

Colville Lake's economy is based on game hunting, fishing and trapping and is probably one of the most traditional communities you will find in the NWT. Situated on a grassy bank and dotted with pretty log buildings and wild flowers, people have proclaimed Colville Lake to be an artist's dream. One especially beautiful attraction is the **Our Lady of the Snows log church**. Built in 1962, it features a thousand-pound bell. This tiny village is accessible by plane in the summer and ice road in the winter. It has a B&B and two stores.



Our Lady of the Snows Church

Deline (changed from Fort Franklin in 1993)

"Moving or flowing water"

Population: 565



A Deline drummer

Located on the southeast corner of Great Bear Lake, Deline is a traditional Dene community, with abundant natural resources on their doorstep. The community has limited air service from Norman Wells. Road access is only available in the winter.

Did you know...

The midnight sun - 24 hours of daylight - lasts from May through July in Deline.

The first recorded hockey game in the NWT took place at Deline in the 1820's when Sir John Franklin and his crew spent some time there.

Many Deline residents still supplement their diets by hunting, fishing or trapping for part of the year. Visitors can be escorted on **hunting and fishing trips by local guides**. The small community embraces both past and present ways of life. Though homes may feature a traditional lodge or tipi to smoke meat and fish, it is not unusual to see satellite dishes.

Enterprise

Population: 108

Enterprise is an important stop for travelers on the Mackenzie Highway, located 43 km/28 miles southwest of Hay River. Visitors typically stop at Winnie's Arts and Crafts Shop to fill up on gas and enjoy a home-cooked meal. Traditional **Dene arts and crafts** are also available for sale.

In Enterprise you'll find food, fuel, accommodations and other services. There is a breathtaking view of the **Hay River Canyon** immediately east of the community. **Fossil hunting** at the quarry or along the river is also popular. The lovely **Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park** is only about 10 km/6.2 miles south of Enterprise.

Languages spoken here include English, Slavey and Chipewyan.

Fort Good Hope

Radeyilikoe: “Rapids”

Population: 567

The picturesque community stretches over a series of small hills along the east bank of the Mackenzie River. The oldest trading post on the lower Mackenzie, Fort Good Hope was established in 1805. The site was well chosen. The area nearby was rich in meat and fur. Gwich'in and Inuvialuit travelled here to trade, and the network extended as far west as Russian Alaska. Many of the people of Fort Good Hope still hunt and trap today for subsistence living.



Our Lady of Good Hope Church

Travelers should visit the beautiful **Our Lady of Good Hope Church**, a National Historic site. The **Dene Museum and Archives** should be added to visitor's to-do list! Fort Good Hope also allows access to the towering limestone cliff formations known as “**The Ramparts**”.

Fort Liard

Echaot'ie Kue: “People from the land of giants”

Population: 572

Don't expect big city attitude when you visit Fort Liard, nicknamed the “Tropics of the North”. There are no movie theatres or clubs, but what Fort Liard does have is culture, nature and adventure. The community is known for its tall trees and winter warm spells. Residents keep busy by **hiking** and **canoeing** in summer and **ice fishing** and **snowmobiling** in winter. Visitors can always check the events calendar for upcoming festivals, activities and sporting events.



A log house surrounded by fireweed

The Fort Liard area has been occupied for many generations and by many tribes including the Small Knives and the Slavey Dene tribes. The Northwest Company set up a post where the Liard and Petitot rivers meet prior to 1807. The Post merged with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821. After several turbulent years the area stabilized and began to flourish. Although the introduction of oil and gas, tourism and business has affected the way of life, many residents still pursue the traditional lifestyle. Trapping, hunting, fishing, arts and crafts, provision of local services and forestry are major economic activities.

Dene arts and crafts can be found in Fort Liard and birchbark baskets are especially beautiful. Pick up a Visitor Information Map at Acho Dene Native Crafts for sites worth seeing, such as **The Cliff**, the **Roman Catholic Mission** and the **Money Tree**. Did you know that archaeological evidence shows that people have been living around Fort Liard - fishing and trading - for about 9,000 years? That is roughly 4,000 years before the first pyramid was built in Egypt!

Fort McPherson

Teetl'it Zheh: “At the head of the waters”

Population: 791

Fort McPherson is a picturesque community located on a rolling plateau between the Richardson Mountains and the Mackenzie River Delta. For years the community was only accessible by air or water and was seldom visited by tourists. But all this changed in 1979 with the completion of the **Dempster Highway**, the most northern public highway in North America. Today Fort McPherson sits on the edge of this highway, and is a popular stopping off place for the many travelers heading for the end of the road.



The ferry at Fort McPherson

Visitors should leave time to stop by the **Nitainlaai Visitor Centre and Campground**, located one kilometer from the Peel River ferry. The Visitor Centre provides a good introduction to Gwich'in culture and the Fort McPherson **Tent and Canvas Shop**. The small Anglican graveyard is also the site where members of the **Lost Patrol** are buried - a Northwest Mounted Police patrol who became lost in the winter of 1911. Services in Fort McPherson include a hotel, gas station, two general stores and a craft shop.

Fort Providence

Zhahti Kue: "Mission house"

Population: 759

Fort Providence is the historic crossroad where the Mackenzie River begins its journey to the Arctic. For centuries, this was the "highway" to northern communities and trading posts. Until recently, the only way to cross the river was by ferry or ice road. The Deh Cho Bridge now provides uninterrupted access to Fort Providence and communities beyond.

The community has a fine old church and is a stronghold of the Slavey Dene and Metis culture. There is a **campground**, service centre/motel complex, a motel and a general store in town. It's not unusual for **wood bison** from the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary to wander the streets, and snack on tasty local lawns.



There's a wonderful **craft store** in town and don't miss out on the **moosehair tufting**. A fur garment workshop creates unique collectibles. **Walking trails** lead along the river's edge, and local expeditions by boat and air can be arranged, ask at the motel. Slavey and English are spoken here.

Fort Resolution

Deninu Kue: "Moose island"

Population: 506



Fishing on Great Slave Lake

A quiet stronghold of Chipewyan and Metis culture, Fort Resolution was established in 1786 as a fur-trading centre in the Slave River Delta. Today it is a base for sport fishing adventures and explorations of **Great Slave Lake**. Accommodations include bed and breakfast establishments and wilderness cabins at **Little Buffalo River**.

With abundant forests and close proximity to world class **fishing** and **hunting**, Fort Resolution benefits from an economy based on its natural resources.

Traditions of the Dene people thrive in the community and it's an ideal stop for visitors in search of **wilderness** and **culture**.

Fort Simpson

Liidli Kue: "Place where rivers come together"

Population: 1,283

Fort Simpson is at the fork of two rivers that join - the Mackenzie and Liard. The Mackenzie is green while the Liard is brown due to all of the silt. The blushing gold of the sunset against blue-grey water and pine trees is enjoyed by the residents fortunate enough to have settled in the "Fort of the Forks".

Fort Simpson has an interesting selection of activities for visitors. Try the **historic walking tour** covering prospector Albert Faille's cabin, the Papal Grounds, and Fort Simpson Heritage Park. The Village's **visitor information centre** has displays on the history, culture and geography of the region.

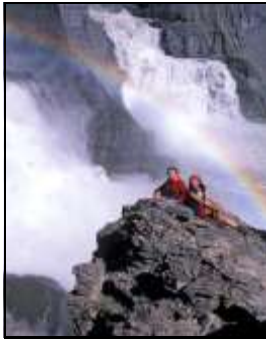
If you lead an energetic lifestyle there are plenty of options to stay active – even when the winters get down to the -40s! Fort Simpson has a gym, rec centre, curling rink, a swimming pool (operates only in the summer), hockey rink, weekly fitness classes and a **9-hole golf course**.

The community hosts **feasts and drum dances** throughout the year. Everyone in the community, as well as visitors, are invited to take part in the traditional gatherings. During the summer a community garden is created for everyone to wander through and enjoy.



Aerial view of Fort Simpson

The **Visitor Information Centre** has a wealth of artifacts for visitors to view: a birch bark canoe, remnants from the Hudson Bay Company and the chair built for the Pope upon his visit. Also be sure to visit the local **craft store** for interesting finds!



Virginia Falls

The administrative office for **Nahanni National Park Reserve** is in Fort Simpson as well. The park, about a 90 minute float plane ride from Fort Simpson, is one of the most stunning spots to visit. The terrain is adorned with deep canyons, white water rapids, hot springs, mountain ranges, forests, waterfalls, and limestone caves. The park includes the highest mountains and biggest ice fields in the NWT and is home to two herds of caribou and nearly 500 grizzly bears. **Virginia Falls**, located in the park, cascade down more than 90 meters – that’s more than twice the height of Niagara Falls! The rush of plummeting water is split by the pinnacle of “Mason’s Rock,” creating a jaw-dropping spectacle that you won’t soon forget.

Fort Smith

Tthebacha: *“Beside the rapids”*

Population: 2,466

With the world’s largest free-roaming wood bison herd, spectacular rapids, breath-taking northern lights, soaring pelicans, lush boreal forest and a rich history and culture, Fort Smith is an impressive and unforgettable holiday destination for the entire family.

Wood Buffalo National Park – the second largest park in the world – is the backyard of Fort Smith. The stunning park, decorated with caves, sinkholes and underground waterways, is home to the endangered whooping crane and the wood bison. Fort Smith rests on a bank of the **Slave River** where four sets of rapids twist and tangle over a 25 kilometer whitewater jungle. The **rapids** are considered one of the most accessible and challenging whitewater spots in North America.



The warmth of the people and the climate has earned Fort Smith the title as the ‘Garden Capital of the North’. About 2,500 people of diverse origins – including Dene, (Cree, Chipewyan), and Metis – call Fort Smith home.

Gamètì (changed from Rae Lakes in 2005)

Gahmiti *“Rabbit-net place”*

Population: 295

Gamètì, formerly Rae Lakes, is known for its charming log buildings, fine **handicrafts** and the famous Gamètì **drummers**. The settlement is located between Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes and can be reached by ice road in winter and by plane year-round. The winter ice road is 100 km from Highway 3 near Behchokö and is accessible between January and March.

In the past Gamètì had been used as a temporary camp, however, in the 1970s an airstrip, school, store and new log houses were built, and families settled there. Local outfitters and guides offer a choice of **wilderness adventures** in the settlement where **fishing, hunting** and trapping are still part of the economy. Beautiful **beaded and embroidered clothing** and traditional **snowshoes** can be purchased at the general store.



An ice road in the NWT

Hay River

Xatl'odehchee: "Hay River"

Population: 3,420



Hay River is a small town with a strong economic spirit that's geared especially towards small business. The town can trace its beginnings to the transportation industry and its strategic location in relation to the waterways of the Northwest Territories. Used for thousands of years by the Slavey people as a major stopover point in their seasonal travels, it came to be a permanent settlement when European explorers and fur traders recognized its important location and made use of its many advantages in their opening of the region.

Today the community is known as the Hub of the North, due to its location at the intersection of many transportation routes. The community is a centre for the shipping of products to all parts of the Northwest Territories by water, air, tractor-trailer and rail.

Hay River, nicknamed the "Whitefish Capital" is a great spot for fishers to visit. A **fishing fleet** in the town harvests whitefish, trout and cod from **Great Slave Lake** and the catch of the day is served around town. Be sure to stop by the Fisherman's Wharf and Marina or rent a **canoe or kayak** to take in the local sights. There are sports events and **fishing derbies** annually as well as **fiddling** and **jigging** events at the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre. Hay River has **sandy beaches, hiking trails, a river delta**, and on summer Saturdays, a **market on Vale Island**. **Camping** by Great Slave Lake is a summer favourite and **golfing** on the 9-hole course is also popular. The **visitor information centre** keeps an updated schedule of events in Hay River, be sure to check it when planning a trip.

Inuvik

Inuvik "Place of man"

Population: 3,586

Inuvik is one of the few places in the NWT that has no traditional past. Canada's Government decided it should establish a communication centre in the Mackenzie Delta. The town site was chosen for its proximity to navigable water, land for town and airport construction, and ease of fresh water and supply of gravel.

Engineers overcame the permafrost problem by building everything above the ground, so all buildings and service connections (in large utilidors) are on stilts. The town of 3,586 Inuvialuit, Dene, Métis and non-native people was built between 1955 and 1961 to serve as the regional centre for activity in the Western Arctic.



Local girls in a field of fireweed

Darkness grips Inuvik in the winter months and for nearly 30 days the sun does not rise above the horizon, providing only about four hours of daylight. Locals rejoice in the first sun rise of the year in early January, and the sunlight increases until June.

In summer, Inuvik is transformed into the land of the midnight sun with 56 days of **24-hour sunlight**. With such an abundance of sunlight available, locals spend the summers playing in sports tournaments, hiking, camping, hunting and fishing.

Inuvik is a close-knit community that balances tradition and modern living.

Hunting, handmade crafts, and drum dancing are a part of life in Inuvik, yet watching a hockey game on satellite TV or updating your Facebook account with wifi is popular too. You can take yoga classes, rent movies, relax in a steam room, or garden at the **community greenhouse**. The community is decorated with landmarks like the charming **Igloo Church**, the rainbow coloured rows of houses, and the inviting **visitors centre**.



The Igloo Church

Jean Marie River

Tthek'ehdeli: "Water flowing over clay"

Population: 76

The hamlet is accessible from the Mackenzie Highway and is well-known for their Dene **tradition and crafts**, especially fine porcupine quill work and moosehair tufting. The community has a number of log cabin homes as well as newer buildings, a co-op store and community hall. Visitors can rest in comfort at the bed and breakfast or park their RV's in a designated area.

Residents practice traditional ways, subsistence **hunting, trapping and fishing**. Take a **river trip** with a guide for fishing and stunning views of untouched land. Some stunning handmade crafts are created within the community - moose-hide jackets, slippers, moccasins, mittens and gauntlets. Slavey and English are spoken here.



Moose hair tufting

Kakisa

K'agee: "Between the willows"

Population: 55



Just past the beautiful **Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park** is the community of Kakisa. Accessible from the Mackenzie Highway, via a 12 km side road, Kakisa is known for its great **pickerel and pike fishing**. Adventure-seekers can paddle above or below the Lady Evelyn Falls. Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park has a summer **campground** and a waterfall viewpoint. Kakisa has a four-room motel as well as a gas bar. Residents speak Slavey and English.

Lutselk'e (changed from Snowdrift in 1992)

"Place of the lutsel, a small type of fish"

Population: 312

Lutselk'e, a Chipewyan settlement, is the only community on Great Slave Lake's legendary **East Arm**. You can engage an outfitter for large trout fishing on the big lake, or to take you on a boat tour. Lutselk'e is recognized for its **trophy lake trout**, grayling and pike. There is a summer fishing lodge and you can charter flights to Barrenlands destinations. There is no road access but regularly scheduled flights arrive in Lutselk'e from Yellowknife.



View of Lutselk'e

Nahanni Butte

Tthenaago: "Strong rock"

Population: 120



Nahanni Butte

With spectacular views of the **Nahanni and Liard mountain ranges**, this is a picture-postcard, log-built community where traditional ways are the norm. It is also a great stop on the final leg of a canoeing or rafting trip in Nahanni National Park.

Enjoy fantastic **scenery**, **wildlife-viewing** opportunities and **outdoor adventures**. Access is by air or boat, or by ice road in winter. Bed and breakfast accommodations are available.

Norman Wells

Tlegohti: "Where the oil is"

Population: 800

Unlike other settlements on the Mackenzie River, which originated as fur trading posts, Norman Wells was the first community in the NWT to be established entirely as a result of non-renewable resource development. The Northern Trading Company investigated oil seepages at the site of Norman Wells in 1911.

During the Second World War, the US Government, concerned with supply routes to Alaska, constructed the Canol Pipeline over the mountains from Norman Wells to a new refinery in Whitehorse, Yukon. The bush road which paralleled the line has been declared the Canol Heritage Trail and is now used as a hiking trail. Norman Wells, the hub of transportation for the Sahtu Region, supplies fuel throughout the north and is becoming a regional centre for government services and tourism.



*Norman Wells
Town Office*

Norman Wells has a prime location, flanked by the **Mackenzie Mountains** and **Mackenzie River**. Visitors can spend weekends **hiking**, **fishing**, **hunting**, **canoeing**, **kayaking** or **rafting** along the rugged terrain.



*Hiking the
Mackenzie Mountains*

Norman Wells is an energetic community and locals participate in activities year-round. Spring activities include snowmobile races, cross country skiing, ice golf, and dances. Summer activities include youth soccer, canoe races, eco challenges (walking and biking), barbeques, **fossil hunts** and softball tournaments. Norman Wells has a youth and elder centre, a **swimming pool**, **golf course**, **baseball diamond**, and **tennis courts**. **Jackfish Lake** and **McKinnon Park** are great for gatherings and an easy way to meet people.

The **Norman Wells Historical Centre** offers a good history lesson of the town and also has a small theatre that features videos on the **Canol Heritage Trail**. Norman Wells encompasses the best of two worlds: the traditional lifestyle of the Metis and Dene people and the adrenaline rush of rugged landscapes.

Paulatuk

Paulatuq “Place of coal”

Population: 311

The hamlet derives its name from the nearby **Smoking Hills**, (which can be seen while flying to Paulatuk), where local Inuvialuit gathered coal. Located 400 km east of Inuvik, Paulatuk is a great destination for sports **hunting** and **fishing**, or visits to Inuvialuit camps for a taste of life on the land. Hiking and canoeing in nearby **Tuktut Nogait National Park** are also popular activities.

Tuktut Nogait National Park contains spectacular arctic tundra landscape: rolling hills, barren plateaus, wild rivers, valleys, canyons, waterfalls and pristine lakes. Grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, muskoxen and small mammals make their home in the park.



*The Smoking Hills
near Paulatuk*

The Inuvialuit have lived in the Paulatuk area for thousands of years. At the time the first Europeans arrived, over 200 years ago, there were five distinct groups of Inuvialuit along the Beaufort Sea coast, living off the abundance of the land and sea. In 1935 the opening of a Catholic mission and trading post gave Paulatuk a permanent site. Twenty years later, the construction of the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning) site created wage employment and considerable community wealth. Since 1984, the people of Paulatuk have governed themselves, under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

Sachs Harbour

Ikaahuk: “Place to which you cross”

Population: 136

Named after the ship Mary Sachs, of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913, the tiny community formed around an RCMP post, established in 1953. Banks Island had been inhabited by Pre-Dorset peoples over 3,500 years ago and Thule Inuit 500 years ago, but remained deserted for several centuries.

Today, Sachs Harbour is the only settlement on Banks Island. The traditional lifestyle of **hunting**, **trapping** and **fishing** is still very much alive and **guided tours** to view wildlife, **birds** and flowers are available. Outfitting for **big-game hunts** for **muskox** and **polar bear** can be arranged with the local Licensed Tourism Operators. **Local crafts** include the spinning and weaving of qiviut, the silk-like wool of the muskox, into fine scarves and sweaters.



Banks Island is also the site of two **bird sanctuaries** and **Aulavik National Park**. The park is home to over 60,000 **muskoxen** and **Thomsen River** which is popular for **canoeing** and **kayaking**.

Trout Lake

Saamba K’e “Trout lake”

Population: 106

Access to this small, traditional Dene community is by air charter or winter road only. In summer the local people operate the Samba K’e Fishing Lodge. The lodge and cabins, located on the edge of the 504 square kilometer Trout Lake, are constructed entirely of local logs. There is spectacular **fishing** for lake trout, whitefish, pike, pickerel and arctic grayling.

Tsiigehtchic (changed from Arctic Red River in 1994)

Tsiigehtshik “Mouth of the river of iron”

Population: 136



View of church at Tsiigehtchic

Tsiigehtchic is a small community formerly known as Arctic Red River, which is located at the confluence of the Arctic Red and Mackenzie Rivers. It is one of the four communities in what is now referred to as the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The residents of the community are one of several regional groups who speak a dialect of Gwich'in, one of the Athapaskan languages. Archaeological digs at the mouth of the river show that Gwich'in people used this excellent fishing area centuries before Alexander Mackenzie explored the river in 1789. The Tsiigehtchic population is skilled in **hunting, trapping and fishing**; and rely on

moose, caribou, ducks, beaver and fish.

There is no airport in the community but access to the Dempster Highway is provided by ferry in the summer and ice road in the winter. Travelers are welcome to pitch their tents or park vehicles on the beach by the river in the summer months.

A **Roman Catholic Church**, built by missionaries nearly 80 years ago, sits atop a hill in Tsiigehtchic. A beautiful cemetery is close by and both attractions have a commanding view overlooking the **Arctic Red River**. In summer, wade through fields of long grass and fireweed. In winter, watch as the landscape transforms into a snowy desert and watch the sky swell with northern lights.

Tuktoyaktuk

Tuktuuqartuuq “Looks like a caribou”

Population: 929



Inuvialuit Dancers

Tuktoyaktuk, commonly referred to as Tuk, is 137 air km north of Inuvik in Kugmallit Bay in the Beaufort Sea, east of the Mackenzie Delta. Tuk is located on the flight routes of migratory birds going to their summer nesting grounds and is a staging area for the birds coming and going during migration seasons of spring and fall.

This town, founded in 1934, was the traditional home of the whale-hunting Karngmalit or Mackenzie Inuit. Other Inuit (Inupiat) from Alaska and Herschel Island moved in, along with the Hudson's Bay Company, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Tuk was the springboard for oil and gas exploration in the waters of the Beaufort Sea in the 1970's. Today, there is renewed interest in natural gas exploration.

Keep an open mind – and mouth – when visiting Tuk. Delicious traditional foods like muktuk (raw beluga whale), caribou burgers and bannock are served at feasts and festivals. Be sure to explore the **community freezer** that sits 30 feet below ground. Permanently frozen soil called permafrost, acts as a natural freezer and keeps the communities' food frozen solid – even in summer! Plunge your big toe into the numbing waters of the **Arctic Ocean**. Swing by the **sod house** replica. Gaze upon the immense ice dome hills, called **pingos**. Be sure to stop by the **Our Lady of Lourdes** ship on display in Tuk. It is one of the many wooden schooners that travelled to the north in the 20th century. This ship in particular was piloted by brothers and priests between 1930 and 1957.

Did you know...

In the summer, Inuvik is the most northern point in Canada that is accessible by road. In winter, with ice road access, Tuktoyaktuk has that honour. The Mackenzie Delta ice road is open from mid-December to mid-April.

Tulita (changed from Fort Norman in 1996)

Tulit'a "Where the waters meet"

Population: 566

Tulit'a was established as a trading post in 1810. One of the most attractive sites in the valley, the natural terraces of the hamlet overlook the junction of the clear blue-green waters of the Bear River, and the silt laden waters of the Mackenzie.



Bear Rock in Tulit'a



Wild flowers

In past years, guides from this community made historic treks, far to the east, across the Great Bear Lake and the Barrens, to Coppermine on the Arctic Coast. Now, Tulita sits on a new trade route – an oil pipeline to the south. The Dene combine a sharp business sense with the traditions of the land. The surrounding area is rich with **wildlife**, including beaver, otter, caribou and marten. Some residents continue to make their living by **hunting, fishing and trapping**. Save time to visit the log **Anglican Church**, the **arbour** (a circular **events centre**), and admire the view of **Bear Rock**.

Ulukhaktok (changed from Holman in 2006)

Ulukhaqtuuq "Where there is material for ulus"

Population: 451

Formerly called Holman, this community is home to **Inuvialuit printmakers** who have a world class reputation. You can join artists' workshops and meet the printmakers.

Ulukhaktok boasts a top quality nine-hole **golf course**, with artificial greens, situated on the tundra overlooking the Beaufort Sea. There's spectacular **hiking**, too, with views over the Amundsen Gulf. A local tour company offers **tundra travel** and **muskox viewing**. Arctic char **fishing** and **wildlife viewing** are also popular in the community. There's one small hotel and scheduled air service from Inuvik and Yellowknife.



View of Ulukhaktok

Wekweeti (changed from Snare Lake)

"Rock lake"

Population: 137



The community of Wekweeti

Wekweeti is a traditional Tlicho community (formerly Snare Lake) set on rolling rock above the Snare River and on the northern edge of the treeline. Originally an outpost hunting camp, Wekweeti did not become a permanent community until 1962.

195 air miles north of Yellowknife, the community has regular scheduled air service from Yellowknife, and winter road access. There is a small hotel, restaurant and general store.

There is great **paddling** and **hiking** and **ski trails** in winter. The area is also known for great jackfish and trout **fishing**. You can book a variety of wilderness trips with local guides, check with the hotel.

Whati (changed from Lac La Martre)

“Marten lake”

Population: 497

A traditional Tlicho community, Whati was once a trading post. The community was established in 1793 by the Northwest Company near the beautiful **Lac La Martre** (the third largest lake in the NWT). It is accessible by air and by winter road only.

Wildflowers like fireweed flourish around **log homes** in the older part of Whati.

Wildlife is abundant; you may see black bears, barren-ground caribou, eagles and grey wolves. The extensive northern marshland is a primary **bird migration route** and home to thousands of geese, ducks, swans, gulls, red-breasted mergansers, terns, loons, mallards and bald eagles. Whati is also renowned for its excellent trout fishing and **boat and fishing tours** can be arranged. Be sure to arrange a stay at the local bed and breakfast.



Wrigley

Pedzeh Ki: “Clay place”

Population: 113

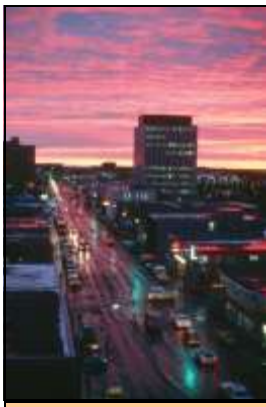
Wrigley, a Slavey Dene community, is the last stop on the Mackenzie Highway. This traditional hamlet is set on a terrace overlooking the Mackenzie River and is ideal for taking in impressive views of the valley and the Franklin Mountains. Limited services available. Roche Qui Trempe a l'Eau is an amazing 366 metre cliff that drops to the river's edge. At its base there are warm water sulphur springs.



Yellowknife

Sombak'e “Where the money is”

Population: 19,711



Downtown Yellowknife

Yellowknife is set on rolling, pink and grey Precambrian rock, on the shores of Great Slave Lake. With a population of just under 20,000, it is the largest community in the Northwest Territories, but one of the smallest cities in Canada. Yellowknife is a modern city, offering a wide range of services for its size, with hotels, many restaurants and tour packages for all tastes.

There are a wide variety of cultures living together in this northern city. Not only do you find the typical mosaic you'd find in any other southern Canadian city, but Yellowknife is home to many northern cultures - the Dene, Metis and Inuit.

One of the sunniest spots in Canada, Yellowknife has a dry, temperate climate, with summer highs reaching about 25 degrees Celsius. May, June and July offer long, sunny days for enjoying **camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, hiking, biking and fishing** among other activities.

The spectacular winter season is excellent for **dog team racing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, ice fishing and snow shoeing**. It is also an ideal time to view the **Aurora Borealis**. In winter or summer, be sure to check out **Ingraham Trail**, where some of the best lakes, trails and wildlife are found.

Yellowknife is accessible by air from Edmonton (7 days a week), or by road – the Mackenzie Highway from northern Alberta, or the Liard Highway from northern British Columbia. Yellowknife is the gateway to the north, with flights to most NWT communities.

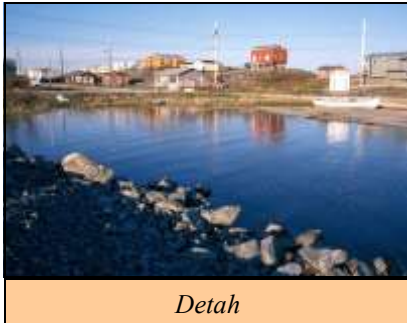
N'Dilo Population: 200

Detah "Burnt point" Population: 257

When exploring Yellowknife don't forget to visit **N'Dilo** and **Detah**. Located on opposite sides of Yellowknife Bay, both are the communities of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

N'Dilo is located on the north tip of Latham Island, on the edge of Yellowknife, with a population of approximately 200 people. There are no overnight services, restaurants or stores, but N'dilo is a vibrant focus of Aboriginal life and residents frequently host **cultural events** where visitors can learn about Dene arts, customs and history.

Detah, located across the bay from Yellowknife, has been a **traditional** Dogrib fish camp for hundreds of years and hunting, trapping and fishing continue to dominate the economy. In the summer, make the 27 km drive along the Ingraham Trail and in the winter take the shorter 6 km drive on the frozen **ice road**!



Events and Festivals in NWT Communities

Northerners love to celebrate and there are many events and festivals across the north and throughout the year. Take in our music and art festivals, spring carnivals and outdoor sporting events in spring, summer, autumn or winter. Visitors are always welcome. For more information about events and dates go to:

www.spectacularnwt.com/whattodo/events



Things to See and Do in NWT Communities

Quick Reference Guide

Aklavik:

- Burial site of the Mad Trapper of Rat River

Behchoko:

- Water access to Marian River system for good pike fishing

Colville Lake:

- Art Gallery and museum
- Our Lady of the Snows log church
- Excellent fishing

Deline:

- Teepee-shaped Mission Church
- Fishing on Great Bear Lake

Enterprise:

- Winnie's Arts and Crafts Shop
- Fossil hunting at the quarry or along the river
- Easy access to Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park - Alexandra Falls, Louise Falls

Fort Good Hope:

- Our Lady of Good Hope Church National Historic Site
- Dene museum and archives
- Boat-ride to the Mackenzie River rapids

Fort Liard:

- Acho Dene Native Crafts & Visitor Information Centre
- Roman Catholic Mission Church

Fort McPherson:

- Fort McPherson tent and canvas shop
- Lost Patrol Graveyard; burial site of members of the Northwest Mounted Police patrol who became lost in the winter of 1911
- Nitainlaih Visitor Centre

Fort Providence:

- Walking trails along the edge of the Mackenzie River
- A craft shop that features traditional moose hair tufting

Fort Resolution:

- Sport fishing on Great Slave Lake

Fort Simpson:

- The Papal Grounds - a drum circle and teepee mark this area where Pope John Paul II celebrated mass when visiting Canada
- Seven Spruce Golf Course - a nine-hole golf course that hosts six tournaments each summer.
- A historical walking tour offered by the Visitor Information Centre takes you on a historical adventure, exploring what the small island has to offer. Some of the tour highlights include the McPherson House and the Albert Faille Cabin.
- The McPherson House - built in 1936 by George McPherson
- The Albert Faille Cabin - owned by a well know prospector that travelled up the Nahanni National Park searching for gold. (In 1961, an award-winning documentary about Albert Faille was filmed by the National Film Board. This video is available to watch at the Visitor Information Centre).

Fort Smith:

- Northern Life Museum
- Wood Buffalo National Park
- The Slave River Rapids - ideal for kayaking and rafting
- Mission Historic Territorial Park - tour the remains of the original Oblate Catholic Mission
- Visitor Information Centre

Gameti:

- Anglers can fly-fish for Arctic grayling
- The general store sells traditional crafts such as snowshoes and beaded or embroidered clothing

Hay River:

- Visitor Information Centre
- Dene Cultural Institute
- Fisherman's Wharf outdoor market and marina
- Hay River Beach
- Fishing on Great Slave Lake

Inuvik:

- Roman Catholic "Igloo" Church
- Ingamo Hall which hosts cultural events and community feasts
- Community greenhouse - the most northern greenhouse in North America
- Dog-sledding, boat tours, fishing, and canoeing
- Community walking trails

Jean Marie River:

- Local artists specialize in moose hair tufting (ask at the B&B for more information)

Kakisa:

- Lady Evelyn Falls
- Campground near falls
- Fishing for pickerel and pike at the base of the falls

Lutselk'e:

- Trophy lake trout, pike and grayling fishing on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake

Nahanni Butte:

- The beautiful log church and log school are focal points in the community
- Located just south of the Nahanni National Park and can be reached by canoe or raft from the park

Norman Wells:

- Norman Wells Historical Museum
- Canol Heritage Trail - one of the most challenging hiking trails in Canada
- Fossil Hunting - fossils as old as 65 million years can be found in the quarry east of town
- Hiking and canoeing

Paulatuk:

- Smoking Hills can be seen from the air when flying to Paulatuk; the hills contain oil shales and have been burning for centuries
- Tukturnogait National Park is nearby
- Hiking and canoeing
- Arctic char fishing

Sachs Harbour:

- Home to the world's largest concentration of muskoxen
- Headquarters for Aulavik National Park
- Nesting ground of many species of birds
- Arctic char fishing

Trout Lake:

- Trout Lake Lodge is a short distance from the community and the cabins were constructed entirely with local logs
- Good fishing area for pike, lake trout, pickerel, whitefish and Arctic grayling

Tsiigehtchic:

- A Roman Catholic Church built 80 years ago
- Confluence of the Arctic Red and Mackenzie Rivers

Tuktoyaktuk:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Ship - an historical landmark that was once used to transfer children from Tuk to residential Catholic schools
- Pingos - large hill formations caused by frozen water
- Trans Canada Trail marker which indicates the start and most northern part of the trail
- Dip your toe in the Arctic Ocean

Tulita:

- Historic log Anglican Church
- An harbour, a circular centre, is used for community events

Ulukhaktok:

- Golfing on a nine-hole tundra course
- Holman prints by artists with worldwide reputations
- Arctic char fishing
- Wildlife viewing

Wekweeti:

- Wilderness trips can be booked with local guides

Whati:

- The marshland is a primary bird migration route
- Lac La Martre is renowned for its trout fishing

Wrigley:

- View of Franklin Mountains
- Warm sulphur springs at the base of a cliff (Roche Qui Trempe a l'Eau) near the community

Yellowknife:

- Bristol Freighter Monument
- Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre museum
- Northern Frontier Visitor Centre
- Sombe K'e Park and sculpture by City Hall
- Old Town where you can enjoy authentic dining and a beautiful view of houseboats on Yellowknife Bay
- Take a tour of the Legislative Assembly building

Knowing the NWT

List five attractions around your area:

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List five activities around your area:

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List five things to see or do in other areas of the NWT:

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