



2025 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

NWT PARKS

Government of
Northwest Territories



K'áhshó got'íne xədə k'é hederı Ɂedjhtl'é yerınıwę ní dé dúle.
Dene Kədə

ʔerihʔl'is Dëne Sųłiné yaʔi t'a huts'elkër xa beyáyatı theʔa ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ën yółti.
Dëne Sųłiné

Edi gondi dehgáh got'le zhatié k'ée edat'éh enahddhę nide naxets'é edahí.
Dene Zhatié

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinoththan ji', diits'at ginohkhii.
Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaq'luta.
Inuvialuktun

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

kīspīn ki nitawīhtīn ē nīhīyawīhk ōma ācimōwin, tīpwāsīnān.
nēhiyawēwin

Tɪjchɔ̃ yati k'èè. Di wegodi newɔ̃ dè, gots'o goneɗe.
Tɪjchɔ̃

Indigenous Languages
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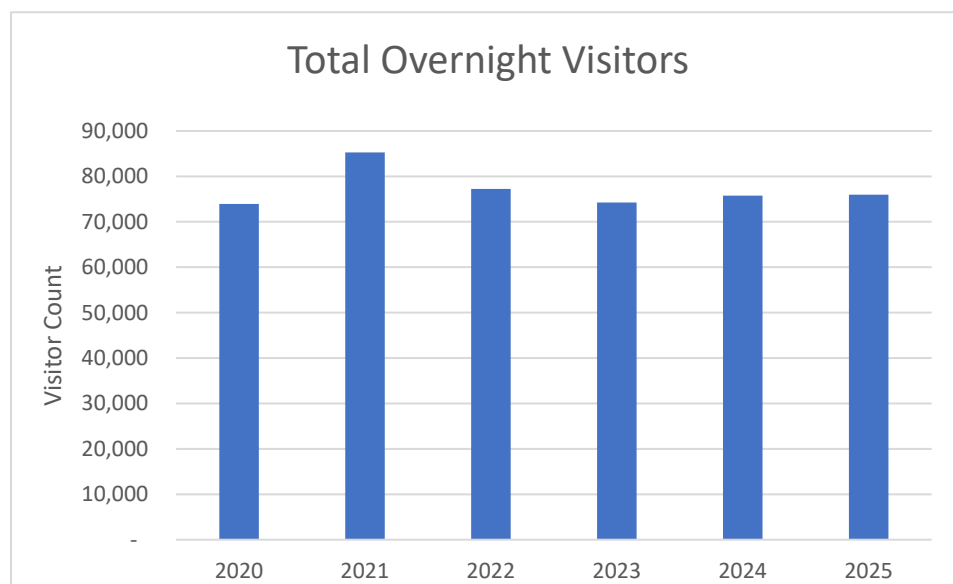
2025 NWT PARKS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 Parks Season Highlights presents key statistics on park visitation and tourism trends across the Territorial Parks. This season saw visitor numbers from outside the NWT increase while visitors from the NWT dropped marginally. Additionally, 2025 continued the post-pandemic recovery trend, showing an increase in visitors compared to 2023, when park attendance was impacted by wildfires in the territory.

Key Indicators and Notes

The Research and Planning Unit within the Tourism and Parks Division compiles and reports key statistics from Territorial Parks. In 2024, Parks introduced new reservation software with more robust reporting capabilities and as a result annual visitor data from 2020-2024 was updated to include the average length of stay, allowing for a more accurate comparison with the new 2025 data. Prior to 2024, overnight visitor totals were based solely on reservations and party size; beginning in 2024 the number of nights in each reservation is also accounted for. Updates to the 2020-2024 season's data may introduce minor error into the figures.

Overnight Visitation



75,984
Overnight Visitors in 2025

Total Overnight Visitors represents the sum of the visitors who stayed overnight in a territorial park during the operating season. It is calculated by adding the number of people present for each night at all campgrounds.

Number of Overnight Visitors for 2025 - 75,984. Visitation increased marginally by 0.3% compared to the 2024 Parks Season (visitation increased 231).

Following the 2024 parks season, NWT Parks updated its data and analytics platform for tracking campground occupancy and overnight visitation. When the 2024 visitation data was reprocessed using the updated tool, a discrepancy was identified between the previously published 2024 totals and the recalculated figures. A detailed review determined that the originally reported 2024 overnight visitation number included picnic shelter occupancy at some locations. To keep reporting consistent across years, the 2024 visitor total was recalculated without the previously included information.

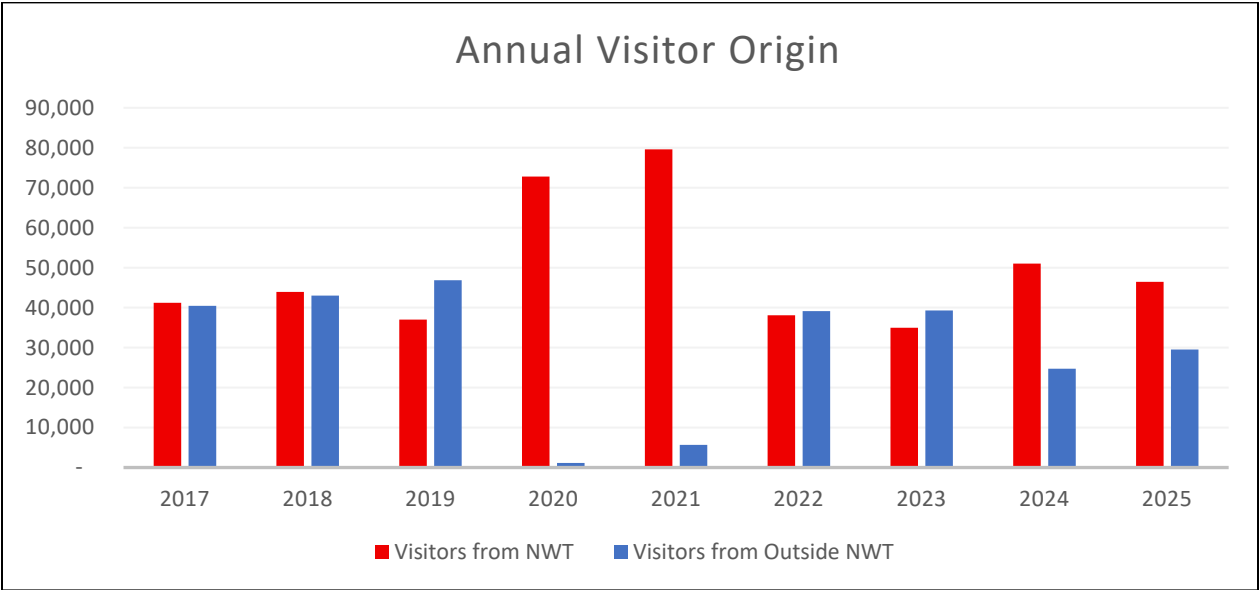
Previously Reported 2024 Overnight Visitation Total of 80,470 has been recalculated to 75,754. Using the consistent data across both years, 2025 visitation was 231 visits higher than 2024. At a broader level Parks visitation has been relatively steady with a modest upward trend from 2022-2025.

Visitation Overview by Region

ESTIMATED OVERNIGHT VISITORS BY REGION							
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 season vs. 2024 season
Beaufort Delta	2,694	3,630	10,053	13,796	5,040	5410	7%
Dehcho	4,387	4,676	4,848	4,592	2,841	3223	13%
North Slave	47,898	54,674	36,322	30,521	47,413	44,290	-7%
South Slave	18,957	22,301	26,025	25,341	20,460	23,061	13%
Grand Total	73,936	85,282	77,248	74,250	75,754	75,984	0.3%

In 2025, most regions saw an increase in overnight visitors, particularly in the Beaufort Delta, Dehcho, and South Slave regions. In contrast, visitation in the North Slave declined by 7% compared to 2024, the reduced visitation may be partly attributed to late-season wildfires along Highway 3, which caused intermittent road closures and likely discouraged travel toward the region and parks in that area.

Visitor Origin Trends



Over the past nine years, visitor-origin trends show variable patterns between residents and non-residents.

Out-of-territory visitation increased from 24,723 in 2024 to 29,542 in 2025. In contrast, overnight visitation from NWT residents dropped from 51,031 in 2024 to 46,442 in 2025.

Most visitors are still local, with far fewer coming from outside the territory.

This trend indicates a continued strong reliance of NWT parks by local visitors.

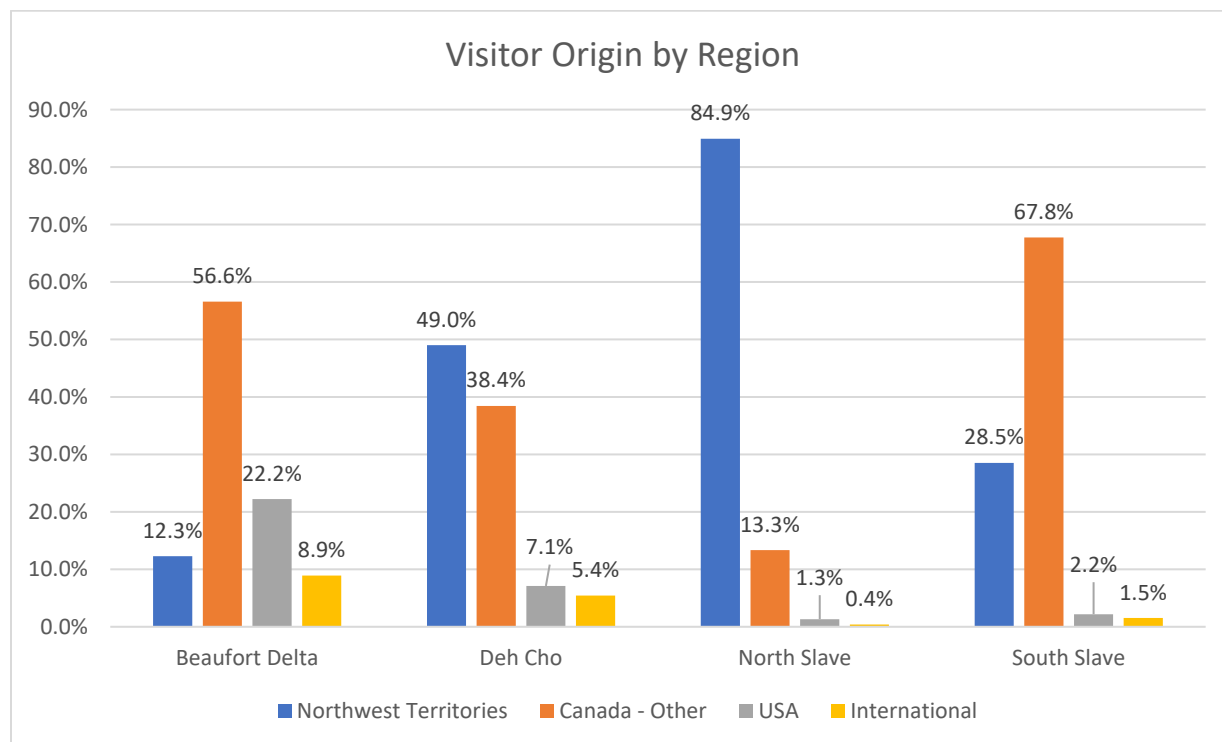
29,542

Overnight Visitors from outside the NWT accounted for 39% of the total visitation.

46,442

Overnight visitors from the NWT.

Visitors from other areas in Canada: 34%
International travellers: 5%
NWT residents: 61%



While comparing where visitors come from across the four regions, several shifts emerged between 2024 and 2025. Overall, overnight visitors from within the NWT decreased by 9%, while visitors from outside the Territory increased by 19%. At the regional level, visitor-origin patterns in the Dehcho and North Slave remained largely consistent with 2024. The Beaufort Delta saw a notable increase in visitors from other parts of Canada (up 10%), accompanied by declines in visitors from the NWT, the United States, and other international locations. In the South Slave, visitors from other Canadian provinces increased by 12%, while NWT resident visitation declined by 10%, along with a small decrease in U.S. travellers.

**Regional numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.*

Overnight Visitors by Park

In the 2025 season, visitation shifted between regions and parks rather than increasing overall. Total overnight visitors remained nearly unchanged, growing by just 0.3% year over year. This suggests that, while people continued to visit the Territory, they chose different destinations within it rather than driving overall growth in demand.

Number of Overnight Visitors by Park*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 season vs. 2025 season
Beaufort Delta	2,694	3,630	10,053	13,796	5,040	5,410	7%
Gwich'in Territorial Park	867	865	115	286	75	127	**69%
Happy Valley Territorial Park	61	-	2,599	4,261	2,078	2,309	11%
Jàk Territorial Park	1,709	2,657	5,159	6,384	1,930	1,906	-1%
Nataiinlaih Park	58	109	2,289	2,865	957	1,068	12%
Dehcho	4,387	4,676	4,848	4,592	2,841	3,223	13%
Blackstone Territorial Park	880	888	1,431	1,220	539	759	41%
Fort Simpson Territorial Park	1,008	630	1,546	1,602	1,418	1,257	-11%
Sambaa Deh Territorial Park	2,499	3,158	1,872	1,770	884	1,207	37%
North Slave	47,898	54,674	36,322	30,521	47,413	44,290	-7%
Fred Henne Territorial Park	26,784	33,604	20,813	17,659	20,061	19,850	-1%
Prelude Lake Territorial Park	11,702	12,104	9,140	7,692	14,524	10,351	-29%
Reid Lake Territorial Park	9,408	8,966	6,369	5,169	11,440	13,155	15%
North Arm (Est. in 2024)	-	-	-	-	1,388	934	-33%
South Slave	18,957	22,301	26,025	25,341	20,460	23,061	13%
60 th Parallel	-	-	451	294	143	355	148%
Fort Providence Territorial Park	1,901	1,927	5,297	7,361	5,845	4,343	-26%
Hay River Territorial Park	7,488	7,923	5,131	5,289	5,351	7,232	35%
Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park	4,064	4,145	4,471	3,765	1,913	2,849	49%

Little Buffalo River Crossing Territorial Park	682	551	2,362	2,422	2,817	3,467	23%
Little Buffalo Falls - NEW					1	45	**4400%
Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park	2,640	4,264	3,250	2,208	2,861	2,183	-24%
Twin Falls Gorge – Louise Falls Campground	2,182	3,491	5,062	3,973	1,529	2,587	69%
Grand Total	73,936	85,282	77,248	74,250	75,754	75,984	0.3%

*Data from 2020-2024 was updated to be comparative to 2025 season data collected with improved software. Previously, totals were based solely on reservations and party size. Present data also accounts for nights per reservation to describe the number of visitors using parks per day more accurately.

** The introduction of a new self-registration permit at Gwich'in and Little Buffalo Falls likely contributed to higher participation in permits sold.

Park visitation across the Northwest Territories showed mixed but generally positive performance in 2025, with strong gains in several parks offsetting declines in others.

Beaufort Delta – recorded solid overall growth. Gwich'in Territorial Park increased 70%, while Happy Valley and Nataiinlaih each rose 11%. The introduction of a new self-registration permit at Gwich'in and Little Buffalo Falls likely contributed to higher participation in permits sold.

Overnight visitation increased at all parks except Jàk, which saw a very minor decline.

North Slave Parks saw significant decreases at Prelude Lake (–29%), North Arm (–33%), and a very small decline at Fred Henne (–1%) drove the regional downturn. Reid Lake was a notable exception, growing 15%. Given the region's size, these declines had a substantial impact on system totals. Intermittent end of season highway closures is suspected to be a contributing factor. South Slave was the strongest growth driver, with overnight occupancy increasing approximately 13% year over year. Major gains occurred at Little Buffalo Falls, Hay River (+35%), Lady Evelyn Falls (+49%), Little Buffalo Crossing (+23%), and Twin Falls – Louise Falls Campground (+69%). An end of season evacuation of the community of Fort Providence may attribute to some of the gains at Hay River park that hosted some of the displaced residents for a few weeks.

The Dehcho region parks posted moderate but positive results, with regional growth of roughly 13%. Strong increases at Blackstone (+41%) and Sambaa Deh (+37%) were partially offset by an 11% decline at Fort Simpson.

Average length of stay for 2025

Average Length of Stay				
2.10 DAYS Grand Total	1.6 DAYS Beaufort Delta	2.2 DAYS Dehcho	2.1 DAYS North Slave	2.4 DAYS South Slave

The average length of stay in the NWT parks in 2025 was 2.10 days— a decrease in the average length of stay from 2.3 during the 2024 season. The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increase in length of stay to above three nights per visitor. In 2025, this figure has continued to revert to pre-pandemic norms.