

2021 Season Highlights



NWT Parks

For a second season NWT Parks visitations were impacted in 2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic resulting in border closures and travel restrictions. NWT border closures restricted leisure travel to the Territory through the 2021 NWT Parks season.

Key Indicators and Notes

The Research and Planning Unit within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's Tourism and Parks Division compiles and reports key statistics from NWT Parks.

Unless specifically noted, the data provided in this report is seasonal. The data reported for 2021 is for the May 15 to September 15 time period. The exception is 2020 for which data reported is from the June 12 to September 30 time period.

Reported data is based on paid camping reservations. The tabulation of overnight visitors and visitor

origin include seasonal permits. The tabulation of average length of stay excludes seasonal permits.

This season's total overnight visitor numbers are based on actual visitor numbers as entered during the reservation and check in process. Prior year's total overnight visitor numbers were calculated by multiplying the average party size in each territorial park by the total number of camping permits issued in each territorial park. Party sizes were benchmarked to 2013.



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Total Number of Overnight Visitors



24,123

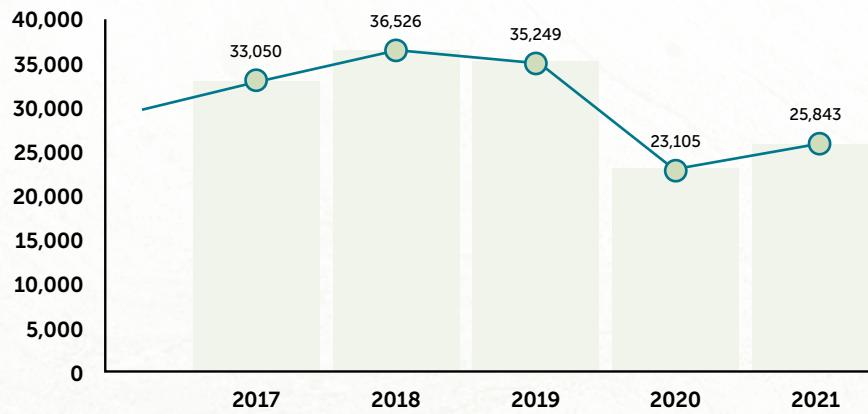
Overnight Visitors from the Northwest Territories

An increase of 52% since travel restrictions were initiated.

NWT Parks Overnight Visitors

The NWT Parks welcomed a total of **25,843** overnight visitors during the 2021 season, **12%** more visitors than in 2020.

Total NWT Park Overnight Visitors



1,720

Overnight Visitors From outside of the NWT

Four times the number of out-of-territory visitors that were registered in 2020.

NWT PARKS - ESTIMATED OVERNIGHT VISITORS BY REGION						2021 vs 2020
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YOY %
Beaufort Delta Region	2,526	5,615	6,292	842	1,100	31%
Dehcho Region	2,335	2,156	1,931	1,371	1,417	3%
North Slave Region	17,631	16,623	15,430	14,968	16,568	11%
South Slave Region	12,559	12,133	11,596	5,924	6,758	14%
Total overnight visitors	35,051	36,527	35,249	23,105	25,843	12%

All regions experienced increased visitation in 2021. Parks in the Beaufort Delta realized the greatest increase with a **31%** increase in overnight visitors, **13%** of which were from out of territory.

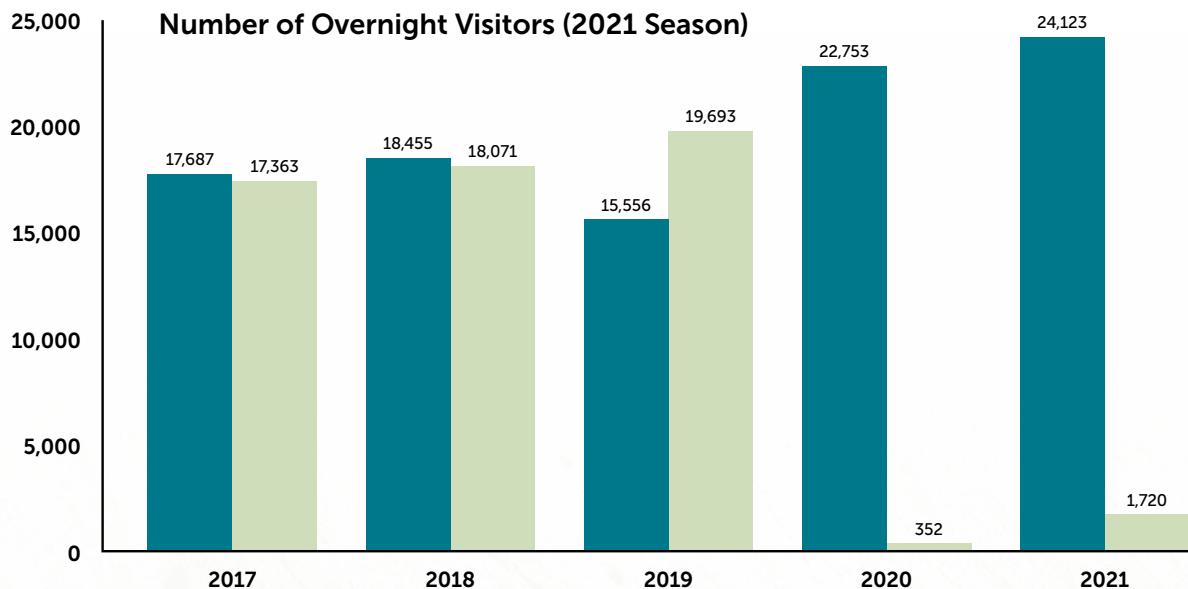
All regions experienced increased park visitations in 2021 over 2020. The Dehcho experienced park closures due to spring flooding. One of the region's three parks was out of service for most of the season.

The increase in out-of-territory visitors is attributed to exemptions in travel regulations allowing family reunifications. General leisure travel to the NWT was not permitted through the 2021 NWT Parks season.



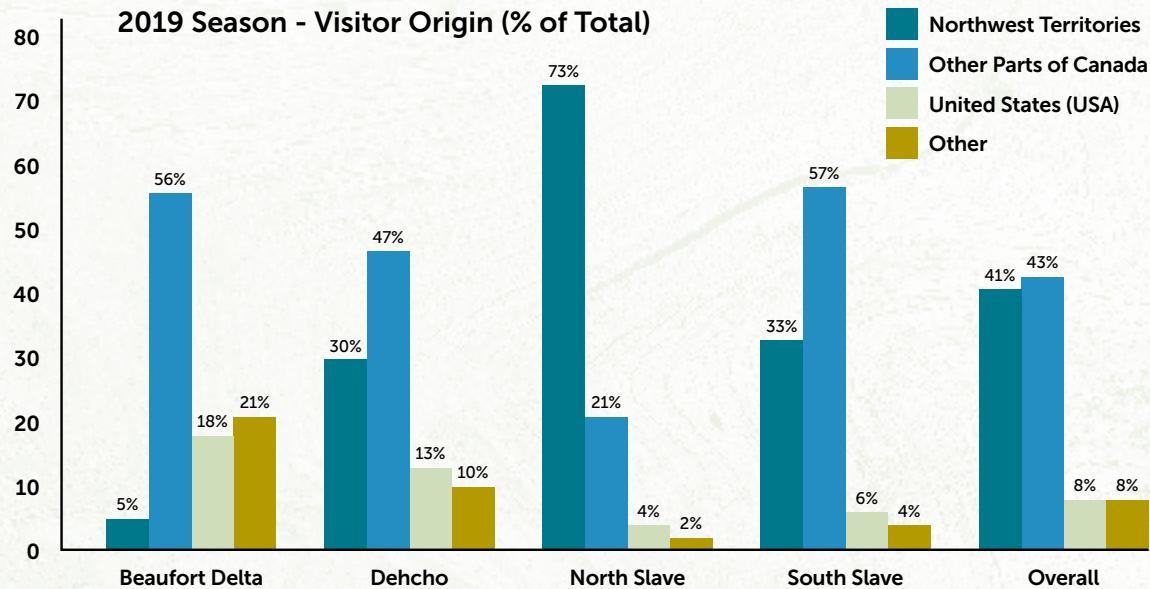
NWT Parks Visitor Origin

Visitors from NWT Visitors from outside NWT



Typically, NWT Parks record more than half of total visitors from outside the NWT. Origin of visitors in the 2021 season, similar to 2020, differed significantly from the 2019 season. In the 2019 season, almost **60%** of overnight visitors were from outside of the NWT: **43%** from other areas of Canada, **8%** from the USA, and **8%** from other international countries.

Of the total **25,843** overnight visitors to the NWT Parks during the 2021 season, **24,123 (93%)** were NWT Residents. This season, NWT resident visitor numbers grew by an additional **1,370** visitors over the 2020 season. While restrictions were still in effect for leisure travelers, exemptions (for example: allowing family reunification) were made in 2021 and allowed for more non-resident visits.



Number of Overnight Visitors by NWT Park

NWT PARK	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020 season vs. 2021 season
Beaufort Delta	2,526	5,614	6,292	842	1,100	31%
Gwich'in Territorial Park	84	288	603	271	262	-3%
Happy Valley Territorial Park	1,593	3,442	3,548	19	0*	0*
Jàk Territorial Park	488	1,258	1,258	534	805	51%
Nataiinlaii Park	361	626	883	18	33	78%
Dehcho	2,335	2,156	1,931	1,371	1,417	3%
Blackstone Territorial Park	605	784	656	275	269	-2%
Fort Simpson Territorial Park	768	472	459	315	191	-39%*
Sambaa Deh Territorial Park	962	900	816	781	957	23%
North Slave	17,630	16,623	15,430	14,968	16,568	11%
Fred Henne Territorial Park	12,238	11,323	10,548	8,370	10,183	22%
Prelude Lake Territorial Park	2,764	3,043	2,872	3,657	3,668	0%
Reid Lake Territorial Park	2,628	2,257	2,011	2,940	2,717	-8%
South Slave	12,560	12,133	11,596	5,924	6758	14%
60 th Parallel	461	342	250	0*	0*	0*
Fort Providence Territorial Park	2,042	2,016	1,860	594	584	-2%
Hay River Territorial Park	3,886	3,777	4,052	2,340	2,401	3%
Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park	1,780	1,624	1,281	1,270	1,256	-1%
Little Buffalo River Crossing Territorial Park	764	726	928	213	167	-22%
Little Buffalo River Falls Territorial Park	14	29	17	0	0	0%
Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park	971	1,115	1,106	825	1,292	57%
Twin Falls Gorge – Louise Falls Campground	2,642	2,504	2,102	682	1,058	55%
Grand Total	35,051	36,526	35,249	23,105	25,843	12%

*Park closed for the season. Fort Simpson Park opened limited campsites in August due to spring flooding.

The average length of stay for all parks was **3.3 days**. Since 2019, the average length of stay in the parks has increased by approximately one day (**2.3 days** in 2019).

Average Length of Stay



**3.3
DAYS**
Grand Total

**3.7
DAYS**
Beaufort Delta

**3.2
DAYS**
DehCho

**3.2
DAYS**
North Slave

**2.9
DAYS**
South Slave

