



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

NWT PARKS

2024

Government of
Northwest Territories

K'áhshó got'íne xadā k'é hederí ɣedjhtl'é yeriniwé ní dé dúle.
Dene Kádá

Ṗerihṭ'ís Dēne Sų́líné yatı́ t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı́ theṗa ɣat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóftı́.
Dēne Sų́líné

Edi gondi dehgáh got'je zhaté k'éé edat'éh enahddhë nide naxets'é edahí.
Dene Zhaté

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

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaq'luta.
Inuvialuktun

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

kīspin ki nitawihitīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
nēhiyawēwin

Tɪjɕɔ yati k'èè. Dɪ wegodi newɔ dè, gots'o goneɗe.
Tɪjɕɔ

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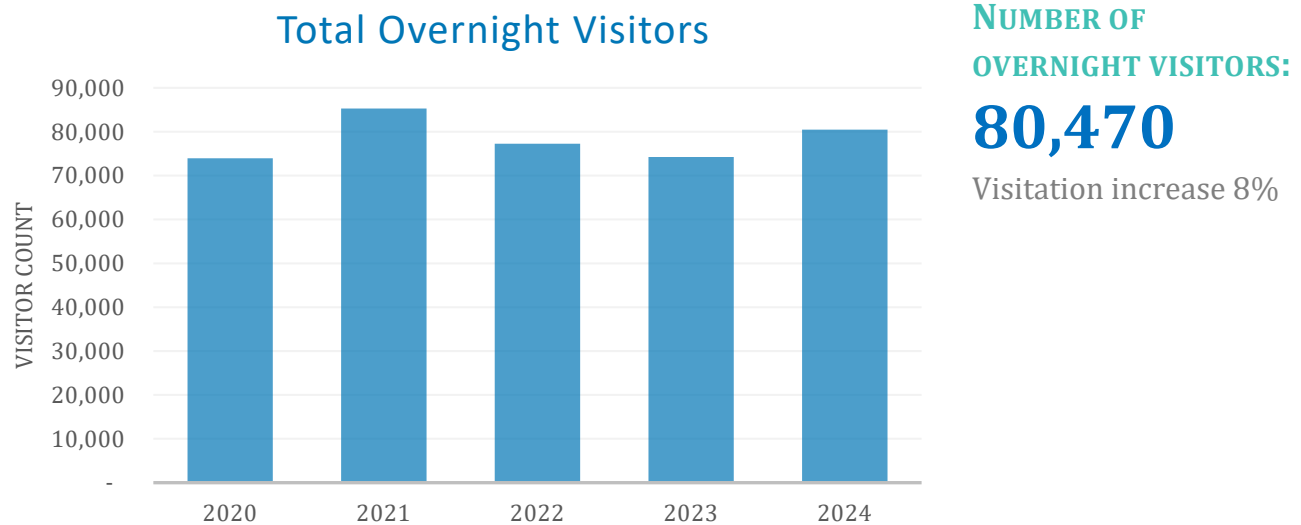
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Overview

The 2024 Parks Season Highlights show visits and tourism trends for Territorial Parks¹. This season saw an increase in overnight stays at parks closer to big towns and cities. There were more visitors from within the Northwest Territories (NWT) compared to international ones. 2024 continued with post-pandemic recovery. The number of visitors increased compared to 2023, as wildfires affected the 2023 season.

NWT Parks Overnight Visitors

The total number of overnight visitors to NWT parks increased by 8% from the 2023 to 2024 season. Overnight visitors are measured by the total number of nights each visitor stayed in a territorial park.



Overnight stays across all regions were, on average, 12% lower. However, in 2024, overall visitation increased by 8% compared to 2023. Visitation declined at the regional level, particularly in the Beaufort Delta, Dehcho, and South Slave. The North Slave region, however, more than made up for these losses, with 51,508 overnight stays—almost reaching its five-year peak of 54,674. There were mass cancellations in 2023 due to park closures from wildfires. This surge was

¹ **Key Indicators and Notes:** The Research and Planning Unit within the Tourism and Parks Division compiles and reports key statistics from NWT Parks. In 2024, NWT Parks introduced new reservation software with more robust reporting capabilities and as a result this season's datasets and report figures include information not available in previous years. To provide a comparative analysis, all values from previous years reports were updated to correlate with the improved data sets from this season's new software. Annual visitor data from 2020-2023 was updated to include the average length of stay, allowing for a more accurate comparison with the new 2024 data. Prior to 2024, overnight visitor totals were based solely on reservations and party size; this season, the number of nights in each reservation is also accounted for. Updates to the 2020-2023 season's data may introduce minor error into the figures.

followed by a rebound to normal levels in 2024. Additionally, the opening of a new campground this season may have contributed to the rise in visitation. Overall, visitation across all regions are moving back toward pre-pandemic levels.

ESTIMATED OVERNIGHT VISITORS BY REGION

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023 season vs. 2024 season
Beaufort Delta	2,694	3,630	10,053	13,796	5,148	-63%
Dehcho	4,387	4,676	4,848	4,592	2,924	-36%
North Slave	47,898	54,674	36,322	30,521	51,508	69%
South Slave	18,957	22,301	26,025	25,341	20,890	-18%
Grand Total	73,936	85,282	77,248	74,250	80,470	8%

NWT Park Visitor Origin

Overnight visitors from within the NWT increased 51%, from 34,956 in 2023 to 52,916 this season. This increase offset the 30% decline in visitors from outside the territory. Visits from outside the NWT dropped from 39,294 visitors in 2023 to 27,554 in 2024. The reduction in out of territory visitors is likely from intermittent highway closures because of persistent wildfires at the NWT/AB border.

52,916

Overnight visitors from the NWT

NWT residents accounted for 66% of total visitation.

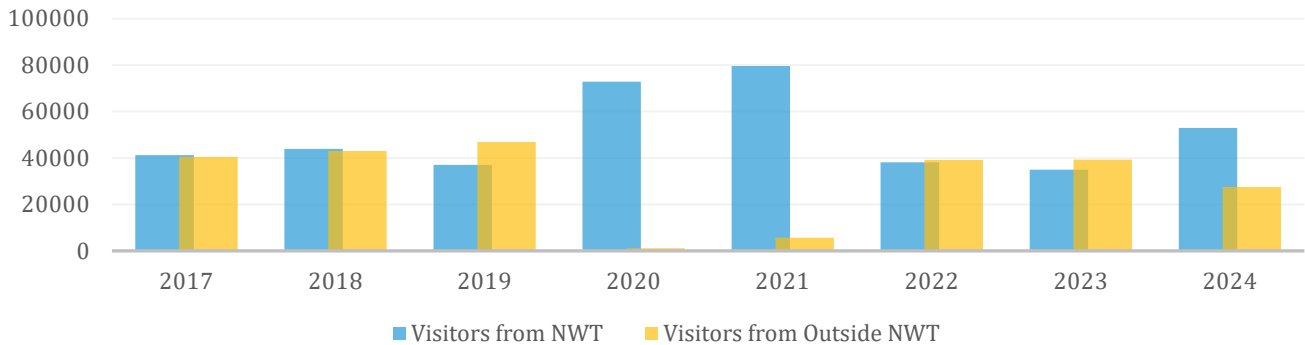
27,554

Overnight non-resident visitors

Visitors from outside the NWT accounted for 34% of the total visitation.

2

Annual Visitor Origin



Visitor origin trends differ across regions. Most regions show an even mix of resident visitors and out-of-territory tourists. The North Slave region stands out with 85% of visitors originating from within the territory. Most visits are to parks near the capital city of Yellowknife. All regions experienced an increase in resident visitors this season. There was a decline in visitors from other parts of Canada compared to the 2023 season. Visitation from the USA remained consistent across most regions. Only the Dehcho region reported a 5% decrease in American tourists compared to last year.

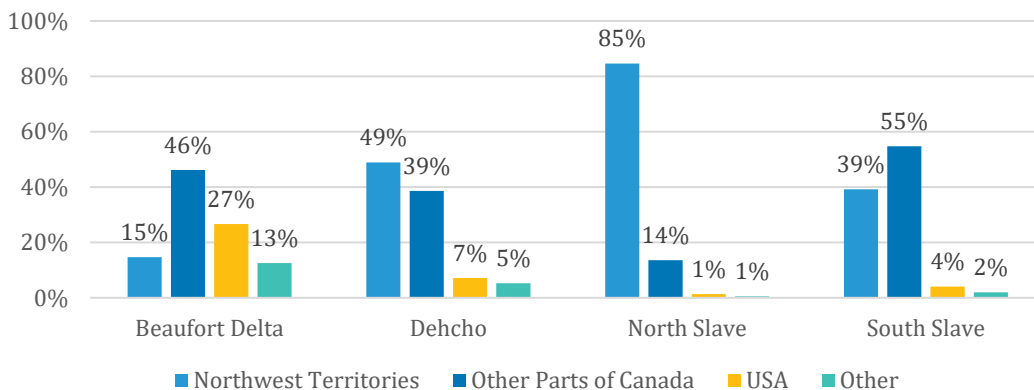
26%

FROM OTHER
AREAS IN CANADA

8%

INTERNATIONAL
TRAVELLERS

2024 Season Visitor Origin² (Percent Of Regional Total)



**Overnight
visitors from
the NWT
increased 51%**

**Visitors from
outside the
territory
declined 30%**

² Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Overnight Visitors by Park

Some parks experienced significant increases in visitation, while others saw similar decreases. There was an overall 8% increase across all parks. The parks with the highest occupancy compared to 2023 were Reid Lake, Prelude Lake, and Queen Elizabeth Territorial Parks. Visitation increases ranged from 48% to 122%.

The increase in visitation is likely due to two factors:

- These parks have a high concentration of local visitors;
- Record lows in 2023 were caused the cancellation of all reservations from August and September due to wildfires.

The rebound to above normal levels is extraordinary.

The Beaufort Delta experienced some of the steepest declines in visitation. The average drop is -63% when compared to 2023. The region typically sees high occupancy from out-of-territory and international visitors. There are a combination of operational and travel access issues—particularly the availability of park services and the poor condition of the Dempster Highway—that could be contributing factors to the lower occupancy.

Highway closures due to persistent wildfires in 2024 likely caused lower visitation at most South Slave and Dehcho parks. The decline in visitation at Twin Falls can also be partly attributed to the closure of the 12 campsites at Escarpment Creek Campground due to wildfire damage.



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

Grand Total	Beaufort Delta	Dehcho	North Slave	South Slave
2.3 DAYS	1.8 DAYS	2.2 DAYS	2.3 DAYS	2.5 DAYS

The average length of stay in the NWT parks was 2.29—a decrease in the average length of stay during the 2023 season. The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increase in length of stay to above three nights per visitor. In 2024, this figure has gradually returned to pre-pandemic norms.

Number of Overnight Visitors by Park ³	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023 season vs. 2024 season
Beaufort Delta	2,694	3,630	10,053	13,796	5,148	-63%
Gwich'in Territorial Park	867	865	115	286	60	-79% ⁴
Happy Valley Territorial Park	61	-	2,599	4,261	2,081	-51%
Jàk Territorial Park	1,709	2,657	5,159	6,384	2,050	-68%
Nataiinlaih Park	58	109	2,289	2,865	957	-67%
Dehcho	4,387	4,676	4,848	4,592	2,924	-36%
Blackstone Territorial Park	880	888	1,431	1,220	538	-56%
Fort Simpson Territorial Park	1,008	630	1,546	1,602	1,462	-9%
Sambaa Deh Territorial Park	2,499	3,158	1,872	1,770	924	-48%
North Slave	47,898	54,674	36,322	30,521	51,508	69%
Fred Henne Territorial Park	26,784	33,604	20,813	17,659	24,099	36%
Prelude Lake Territorial Park	11,702	12,104	9,140	7,692	14,560	89%
Reid Lake Territorial Park	9,408	8,966	6,369	5,169	11,461	122%
North Arm (New Park)	-	-	-	-	1,388	N/A
South Slave	18,957	22,301	26,025	25,341	20,890	-18%
60 th Parallel	-	-	451	294	142	-52%
Fort Providence Territorial Park	1,901	1,927	5,297	7,361	5,845	-21%
Hay River Territorial Park	7,488	7,923	5,131	5,289	5,352	1%
Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park	4,064	4,145	4,471	3,765	1,913	-49%
Little Buffalo River Crossing Territorial Park	682	551	2,362	2,422	2,817	16%
Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park	2,640	4,264	3,250	2,208	3,258	48%
Twin Falls Gorge – Louise Falls Campground	2,182	3,491	5,062	3,973	1,563	-61%
Grand Total	73,936	85,282	77,248	74,250	80,470	8%

³ Data from 2020-2023 was updated to be comparative to 2024 season data collected with improved software. Previously, totals were based solely on reservations and party size. Moving forward data will account for nights per reservation to describe the number of visitors using parks per day more accurately.

⁴ Due to limited permit availability at the park, the data may not reflect actual visitation.

