



THE NATIONAL PARKS AND
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA IN
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
and
NORTHERN YUKON



Vacation Planner



Parks
Canada

Parcs
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Canada 

Proudly Bringing You Canada at its Best

Land and culture are woven into the tapestry of Canada's history and the Canadian spirit.

The richness of our great country is celebrated in a network of protected places that allows us to understand the land, people and events that shaped Canada.

Some things just can't be replaced. Your support is vital to protect the ecological and commemorative integrity of these natural areas and symbols of our past, so they will persist, intact and vibrant, into the future.

Discover for yourself the many wonders, adventures and learning experiences that await you in Canada's national parks, national historic sites, historic canals and national marine conservation areas. Help us keep them healthy and whole -- for their sake, for our sake.



Our Mission

Parks Canada's mission is to ensure that Canada's national parks, national historic sites and related heritage areas are protected and presented for this and future generations.

These nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage reflect Canadian values, identity and pride.

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☉ *This logo is used to denote a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These sites are considered to be of outstanding universal value, and are to be protected for future generations by the world community.*

Contact

For more information, please contact Parks Canada at:

1-888-773-8888

TTY# 1-866-787-6221

or visit:

www.pc.gc.ca

or by e-mail at:

information@pc.gc.ca





WELCOME

A gyrfalcon glides above the tumbling waters of an arctic river. Its piercing call echoes over the rolling tundra, where rainbows of delicate wildflowers peek from the spongy turf. In the far distance a caribou moves slowly across the horizon. Below, an ancient tent ring whispers stories from long ago...

Dare to explore where few have gone before, in the far-flung reaches of national parks in northern Canada. Experience the allure of the arctic or subarctic, where animals such as Dall's sheep or caribou roam free. Meet Aboriginal people, whose ancestors have forged a life here for thousands of years.

National parks protect landscapes and wildlife that are representative of

Canada's vastness and diversity. They tell the stories of Canada and are home for many Aboriginal people. They are places for discovering nature—for rejuvenating the spirit, for adventure and fun. If you find a National Historic Site plaque along the way, pause for a moment to learn about the people and events that have shaped Canada. Embrace the rhythms of the culture and the land.

Picture a raft plunging through whitewater in Ivvavik or Nahanni. Or a lone muskox in Tuktot Nogait. Imagine the view from the top of a pingo. Or the glow of

northern lights from a tent. Endless choices and unique opportunities await you. Tread lightly as you explore this delicate land.

The Parks Canada Guarantee



*Parks Canada
guarantees excellent
value, quality*

*services, and fair prices — a service
quality standard we've empowered front-
line staff to implement. It's one more
example of our commitment to providing
you with the utmost in
quality, service and
efficiency.*





Things to Consider

Canada's northern national parks are remote. Careful planning and preparation are essential for a safe and enjoyable visit.

- ◆ Air charters are required to access these northern parks. Only Wood Buffalo National Park is accessible by road.
- ◆ Each park has specific hazards, some of which are unique to the north. Please consult the Parks Canada website or park staff for important safety messages prior to your trip.
- ◆ Wilderness travelers must be self-reliant and able to handle any medical or wildlife-related emergencies on their own. Search and rescue operations are basic and there can be lengthy delays due to weather or availability of aircraft.
- ◆ In remote parks, carrying a satellite phone or licensed personal locator beacon is recommended.

Your Fees at Work

Canada's national parks and national historic sites "North of 60" offer spectacular landscapes and wilderness as well as legendary adventure and challenge.

When you pay a fee in a northern park, it is used to offset the costs incurred by that park to provide the services which visitors enjoy. Depending on the park, fees may contribute to

interpretive programs, products such as maps or brochures, facilities such as outhouses, or of special importance to remote parks, search and rescue operations.

Parks Canada is committed to investing visitor fees wisely so that your experience is enriching and enjoyable.

For more information visit www.pc.gc.ca

Keeping the Wild in Wilderness

Feel the landscape's dynamic embrace. Culture and nature are inseparable. Many northern habitats and wildlife are vulnerable. Traditional users, wildlife, natural objects, and cultural artifacts require our respect.



Leave No Trace Tips:

- ◆ Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- ◆ Dispose of waste properly
- ◆ Leave what you find
- ◆ Minimize campfire impacts
- ◆ Respect wildlife
- ◆ Be considerate of other visitors

Contact a Parks Canada visitor information centre or park office for more information.

Registration and Reservations

Registration in and out is **mandatory** for backcountry trips. Registration enables park staff to track your visit and ensure that you have arrived safely at the end of your trip. It also helps Parks Canada better understand its visitors while protecting park resources and planning improvements to services.

Reservations are required for river trips on the Firth River in Ivvavik National Park, and for camping at and departures from Virginia Falls in Nahanni National Park Reserve. They should be made well in advance for these popular destinations.

The National Parks and National Historic Sites of Canada in Northwest Territories and northern Yukon



3

BANKS ISLAND

Sachs Harbour

BEAUFORT SEA

ALASKA

6

7

Tuktoyaktuk

5

Aklavik

Inuvik

Paulatuk

4

Old Crow

Dempster Highway

Dawson

5

Déline

Great Bear Lake

USA
CANADA

YUKON

8

NORTHWEST

Tungsten

2

Whitehorse

Fort Simpson

Alaska Highway

Nahanni Butte

Watson Lake

Hay River



Legend

1. Wood Buffalo National Park
2. Nahanni National Park Reserve
3. Aulavik National Park
4. Tuktoyaktuk National Park
5. Pingo Canadian Landmark
6. Ivvavik National Park
7. Vuntut National Park
8. Kluane National Park Reserve (www.pc.gc.ca/kluane)

— Highway routes

• Communities



WOOD BUFFALO

NATIONAL PARK

Bison, Bears, Wolves and Whooping Cranes

There's poetry in the sound of a dripping paddle. You think about this as the canoe catches the Peace River's main current. Slowly the white gypsum cliffs near Peace Point Reserve disappear into the early-morning mist. Sweetgrass Landing is two days away. You're on the edge — the very edge — of the Peace-Athabasca Delta, a slipstream of solitude so big and so primal that the mind slows just to take it all in.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Wood Buffalo is home to the largest free-roaming and self-regulating bison herd in the world and the last remaining natural nesting area for the endangered whooping crane.
- ◆ Water is everywhere. Canoeists of all skill levels can find routes to suit their styles, from easy day-paddling on Pine Lake to wilderness adventures on the Peace, Athabasca and Slave rivers for experienced backcountry paddlers.
- ◆ The park has wetlands of international significance. Birdwatchers love the Peace-Athabasca Delta, one of the largest inland freshwater deltas in the world. Migratory birds from all four North American flyways pass through the delta every spring and fall.
- ◆ Fall and winter visitors can often get amazing views of the aurora borealis, or northern lights. Wood Buffalo is ideally situated in an area of intense aurora activity.

Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada

Box 750

Fort Smith, NT, Canada X0E 0P0

Fort Smith (867) 872-7960, Fort Chipewyan (780) 697-3662

www.pc.gc.ca/buffalo

Endless Opportunities

Walking & Hiking

The park's trail system offers a choice of hiking experiences, from short, relaxing strolls to energetic day hikes. Frontcountry trails include the Salt River Trail System and the Lane Lake Trail.

Wildlife Viewing

The Salt Plains are a must-see attraction. Spy on sandhill cranes or other wildlife using the spotting scope at the top, then trek down the escarpment to the brilliant white salt flats below. Look for signs of bison while travelling along park roads.

Accommodations

Fort Smith, the gateway to Wood Buffalo National Park, has a

hotel, campground and bed & breakfasts, as well as air charter services and commercial airline flights. Fort Chipewyan has a hotel and bed & breakfasts.

GETTING THERE

Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada straddles the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Fort Smith, NT, is accessible year-round via the Mackenzie Highway. Fort Chipewyan, AB, a fly-in community, has winter-road access for three months of the year.

Open year-round.

Significance

Big. Bigger than Switzerland. Established in 1922, Wood Buffalo National Park is Canada's largest national park and one of the largest in the world. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For more than 8,000 years, Aboriginal people have been sharing this vast boreal wilderness with bison, bears, wolves and whooping cranes. It's a veritable Garden of Eden for wildlife. Solitude is one of the hallmarks of this park. Water is another. It is truly a place where you can walk, or even paddle, where few have been before. In winter, even the wolves are moved by the mystery and clarity of the northern lights.



NAHANNI - Nahʔa Dehé

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Landscape of Legends

Range after range of rocky peaks, vast plateaus and canyons thousands of feet deep unfold before your eyes. Your heart beats with the raw power of ancient rivers. You imagine the legends as you travel in the midst of people who have lived on this land for thousands of years. Your spirit transforms in this precious wilderness that is Nahʔa Dehé.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ The South Nahanni is one of North America's great wild rivers. Stunning canyons, broad valleys, towering mountains, caves and hot springs surround you in this landscape.
- ◆ Observe the dramatic intensity and beauty of Nájl̥cho (Virginia Falls) plunging 90 metres into Fourth Canyon. Explore 27 metre high Gahn̥hthah (Rabbitkettle Hotsprings), a spectacular and fragile, terraced mound of calcium carbonate.
- ◆ Learn about Nahanni's remarkably diverse vegetation and critical habitat that is home for wildlife such as moose, Dall's sheep, woodland caribou, wolves, grizzly bears and over 180 bird species.
- ◆ Meet the Dene culture that is so intimately connected with the land and waters of Nahʔa Dehé. Myths, legends and traditional travel routes are part of the rich legacy of people on this land.

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

P.O. Box 348

Fort Simpson, NT, Canada, X0E 0N0

(867) 695-3151

www.pc.gc.ca/nahanni

Endless Opportunities

River Travel

The South Nahanni and Flat rivers offer world-famous whitewater paddling. Because of the difficulty of these big, northern rivers, contact the park office to be sure you have the skills, experience and equipment necessary for a safe journey. Licensed outfitters offer guided trips for less experienced park visitors.

Hiking

Almost all hiking in Nahanni is on un-maintained routes. Contact the park office for more information.

Interpretive Programs

Park staff guide hikes to Nájłıcho and Gahnjthah. Campfire programs and cultural

demonstrations at Nájłıcho interpret local Aboriginal heritage.

Camping

Nahanni is remote wilderness. Basic backcountry facilities are located at key sites in the park.

GETTING THERE

There are no roads into Nahanni National Park Reserve. Contact the park office for a list of Parks Canada licensed air charter companies. Designated landing sites in the park include Virginia Falls and Rabbitkettle Lake. Virginia Falls is the only day-use landing site.

Significance

Nahanni's designation as the first UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrates the area's globally important features. The South Nahanni is also recognized as a Canadian Heritage River for its nationally significant qualities. Dehcho First Nations and Parks Canada Agency now shape the future of Nah?ą Dehé by consensus, ensuring lasting protection of the watershed.



AULAVIK

NATIONAL PARK

A Place Where People Travel

As you paddle along the gently bending Thomsen River, you see the muskoxen – clumps of fur grazing all around you in the vast tundra. The immense living skies are the only other witnesses to the mysteries of this land adorned by flowers, rocks and bones. The river meanders along and you follow it, spreading your long shadows down the place where people travel...

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Go where few have gone before! Enjoy paddling down the most northerly navigable river in North America.
- ◆ In summer, never-ending daylight offers a unique chance to paddle or hike at any time of the day or night, over the expansive rolling tundra.
- ◆ Feel the timelessness of a land where 3,500 years of arctic peoples' history shares the stage with the European history of arctic misadventures and explorations.
- ◆ Make your trip a complete arctic experience! See the modern cultural history of the Inuvialuit of Banks Island with a side visit to Sachs Harbour.

Aulavik National Park of Canada

P.O. Box 29

Sachs Harbour, NT, Canada X0E 0Z0

(867) 690-3904

www.pc.gc.ca/aulavik

Endless Opportunities

Canoeing

The Thomsen River meanders through the rolling arctic tundra, offering more than 150 kilometres of wilderness paddling. There are no rapids or whitewater on the Thomsen, but weather can be unforgiving. The best time for paddling is between late June and late July.

Hiking and Wildlife Viewing

There are no designated routes or trails within Aulavik National Park, but the terrain is gentle enough that hiking is possible practically anywhere. Muskoxen are often seen along the Thomsen River, as well as arctic wolves and foxes.

Accommodations

There are no visitor facilities, services, or campgrounds in the park, so be prepared for serious wilderness camping in arctic conditions. A park office and visitor reception centre is located in Sachs Harbour. Contact the park office or visit the park's website for more information.

GETTING THERE

Access to Aulavik National Park is by air charter from Inuvik. Landing permits are required for aircraft landings in the park, and designated landing areas should be used.

Inuvik has daily air service from southern Canada and may also be reached via the Dempster Highway.

Significance

Aulavik, meaning “place where people travel” in Inuvialuktun, protects more than 12,000 square kilometres of arctic lowlands on the north end of Banks Island. The park bears witness to a rich and diverse cultural history, including 3,500 years of arctic people's history and nearly 200 years of European exploration and adventure.

Aulavik National Park was established in 2001 following an agreement between the federal and territorial governments and the Inuvialuit of Sachs Harbour, who today cooperatively manage Aulavik with Parks Canada.



TUKTUT NOGAIT

NATIONAL PARK

Larger than Life

Imagine a place where the sun never sets. Where the sky is immense and land is limitless. Where you walk in a dream world of rolling hills, multicoloured tundra and deeply cut canyons and gorges. Where countless sites bear testimony to the land's vast human history. This is the world of Tuktut Nogait, home of the young caribou.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Hiking, hiking, hiking. The endless rolling terrain of Tuktut Nogait urges you to keep going forward, while the beautiful river landscapes invite you to seek what is beyond the next bend.
- ◆ Enjoy the exceptional chance of paddling down pristine arctic watercourses rich with birdlife, scenic canyons and waterfalls.
- ◆ You can experience northern culture by scheduling some extra time to visit communities. The Inuvialuit of Paulatuk or the Sahtu Dene of Deline connect modern life to the rich ancient human history of Tuktut Nogait.

GETTING THERE

The nearest community is Paulatuk, 45 kilometres to the west. Access to the park is on foot or by boat shuttle from Paulatuk, or by air charter from Inuvik. Commercial flights are available from Inuvik to Paulatuk.

Inuvik has air service from southern Canada and may also be reached via the Dempster Highway. The southern extension of the park can be reached via Norman Wells. Park use and landing permits are required.

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

P.O. Box 91

Paulatuk, NT, Canada X0E 1N0

(867) 580-3233

www.pc.gc.ca/tuktutnogait

Endless Opportunities

Hiking

With its open, easy terrain and spectacular scenery, Tuktut Nogait is a hiker's paradise. There are no designated trails in Tuktut Nogait. All hiking takes place by following approximate routes. The park office has guides outlining suggested multi-day routes in the park.

Canoeing and Kayaking

The Hornaday and Brock Rivers along with their canyons and scenic waterfalls are at the heart of Tuktut Nogait. A range of moderate to highly challenging multi-day paddling opportunities exists for seasoned wilderness travelers.

Accommodations

There are no visitor facilities, services, or campgrounds in the park, so be prepared for serious wilderness camping in arctic conditions. There is a park visitor reception centre in Paulatuk. For other information on services in Paulatuk or Deline, check the Tuktut Nogait website or contact the park office.

Significance

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada is a vast landscape of timeless human history, home to the Bluenose West caribou herd and a high density of raptors. The park was established in 1996 through an agreement by the federal and territorial governments and the Inuvialuit. In 2005, the Sahtu Dene and the federal government agreed on a large addition to the southern region of Tuktut Nogait. The extension further protects the calving grounds of the Bluenose caribou herd and the headwaters of the Hornaday River. Today both the Inuvialuit and the Sahtu Dene cooperatively manage Tuktut Nogait with Parks Canada.



IVVAVIK

NATIONAL PARK

A Vast and Ancient Land

Feel the cool breeze coming from the ancient mountains of Beringia. Witness thousands of caribou flowing through river valleys. Live the thrill of running the spectacular rapids of the Firth River. In this world of awe-inspiring summers and icy winters, you can still feel the exhilarating abandon of a world beyond time.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Raft the untamed waters of the Firth River. Travel through rock canyons that slash the tundra towards the arctic coast. This is THE wilderness journey of a lifetime!
- ◆ Travelling in the north creates the opportunity to experience the rich cultural history of its people. Plan ahead and visit communities such as Inuvik or Aklavik.
- ◆ Ivvavik National Park is an arctic environment like no other. It includes millions of acres of mountains, tundra and translucent waterways. It also hosts one of the great wildlife wonders of the world, the Porcupine caribou migration.

Ivvavik National Park of Canada

P.O. Box 1840

Inuvik, NT, Canada X0E 0T0

(867) 777-8800

www.pc.gc.ca/ivvavik

Endless Opportunities

Rafting and Kayaking

Rafting on the Firth's world-class white water is the most sought after recreational activity in Ivvavik. Kayaking is a more challenging option. The difficulty levels can range up to class IV+ on the Firth's 130 kilometres of navigable waters. Guided trips are available with licensed outfitters.

Hiking and Wildlife Viewing

The gentle unglaciated mountains of Ivvavik offer infinite hiking possibilities. During the short explosive summers, wildflowers carpet the landscape and wildlife viewing opportunities abound.

Accommodations

There are no visitor facilities, services, or campgrounds in the park, so be prepared for serious wilderness camping. Check the Ivvavik website for links to information on attractions and services in Inuvik and Aklavik, or contact the park office.

GETTING THERE

Access to Ivvavik National Park is by air charter from Inuvik, NT, located 200 kilometres away. Designated landing sites must be used. Park use and landing permits are required.

Inuvik has daily air service from southern Canada and may also be reached via the Dempster Highway.

Significance

Ivvavik National Park is nestled into Canada's northwestern corner, bordered by Alaska and the Beaufort Sea. The park is an area of spectacular beauty and ecological significance. It also represents a historical landmark. Ivvavik is the first national park in Canada to be created as a result of an Aboriginal land claim agreement. Ivvavik is part of the traditional homeland of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, who have relied on the caribou for sustenance for thousands of years. Today, the Inuvialuit play an important role in cooperatively managing the park, ensuring ongoing maintenance of their harvesting traditions.



VUNTUT

NATIONAL PARK

Lure of the Midnight Sun

A vast and ancient landscape of wide green valleys, winding rivers and gently sloping mountains spreads to the horizon. High on a hilltop a prehistoric rock cache marks a successful hunt from long ago. Tundra swans fly overhead. Their calls break the stillness of the arctic summer night, as the midnight sun floods the hills with a timeless golden light.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Vuntut National Park has one of the most significant wetlands in the Yukon and the only one designated under the *Ramsar Convention*.
- ◆ Half a million migratory birds flock to the Old Crow Flats each spring, to breed and moult in the fertile lakes and marshes of this important wetland.
- ◆ Grizzly bears, wolverine, muskox, and other wildlife roam the foothills of the British Mountains.
- ◆ The park encompasses portions of the Porcupine caribou herd's range. Each spring and fall the Porcupine caribou herd follows the trail of its awe-inspiring migration through the park.
- ◆ The park is a post-Beringian landscape with rare plants and a non-glaciated landscape.
- ◆ The Vuntut Gwitchin continue to travel and practice their traditional ways of life in the park as they have for thousands of years.

Vuntut National Park of Canada

General Delivery

Old Crow, Yukon, Canada Y0B 1N0

(867) 966-3622

www.pc.gc.ca/vuntut

Endless Opportunities

Recreation

The backcountry enthusiast can experience canoeing the Old Crow River, hiking in the mountainous part of the park, or enjoying winter ski trips.

Wildlife Viewing

Visitors can witness the spectacular migration of the Porcupine caribou herd, one of the largest in North America numbering approximately 130,000 animals.

Accommodations

Visitors can choose from two places to stay in Old Crow, Yukon.

GETTING THERE

Vuntut National Park is located north of the remote community of Old Crow, Yukon. It is a distance of 60 kilometres by air or 190 kilometres by river north of the community. There is scheduled air service between Old Crow and Whitehorse, Yukon.

Significance

Vuntut National Park of Canada was established in 1995 as part of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement. The land claim envisions an integrated approach to the management of the traditional territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin, “the people among the lakes.” The Vuntut Gwitchin travel and practice their traditional ways of life here, continuing to live in close connection with the land they have known for many thousands of years. Vuntut National Park protects all of these precious parts of our national heritage, ensuring that a representative portion of the Northern Yukon natural region may be known and enjoyed by future generations.



Pingo

Canadian Landmark

There you stand in the bright arctic morning. Ahead of you, rising conspicuously out of the delta wetlands, you see Ibyuk, Canada's largest pingo. You smile and imagine how handy it was as a landmark for the people that have travelled in this flat landscape for thousands of years.

Why You Will Love It!

- ◆ Experience a true permafrost phenomenon! Pingos are ice-cored hills that form only where lakes exist above permanently frozen ground.
- ◆ Arctic birdwatching! In spring, migrating waterfowl and shorebirds rest here on their way north to the arctic islands.
- ◆ An accessible and unique arctic experience, right next door to Tuktoyaktuk!

GETTING THERE

The Pingo Canadian Landmark is located 5 kilometres west of the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk. In winter, a seasonal ice road connects Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik. You may reach Inuvik via the Dempster Highway, or by daily air service from southern Canada. There is scheduled air service from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk year-round.

Pingo Canadian Landmark protects a unique arctic landform: ice-cored hills called pingos. The Landmark features eight of the 1350 pingos found in the region, including Ibyuk Pingo, Canada's highest pingo at 49m. Approximately one quarter of the world's pingos are concentrated in the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula area.

Pingo Canadian Landmark, P.O. Box 1840, Inuvik, NT, Canada X0E 0T0
(867) 777-8800, www.pc.gc.ca/pingo

Planning Your Visit to Canada's National Parks and National Historic Sites

To receive **FREE** trip-planning information on Canada's National Parks and National Historic Sites in other provinces and territories, call today:

1-888-773-8888



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Northwest Territories and northern Yukon*

