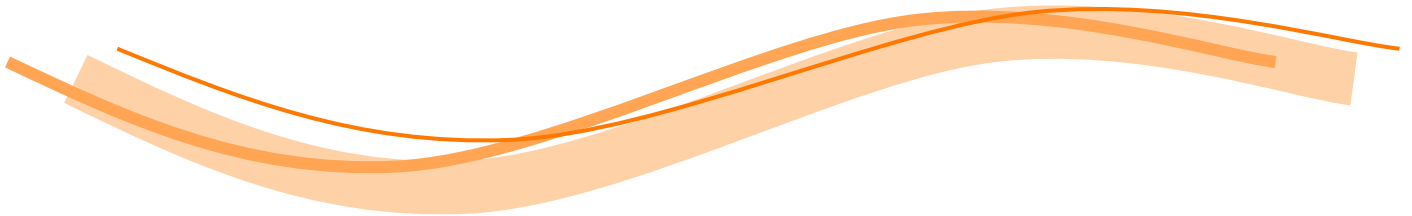




NORTHWEST TERRITORIES





DESTINATION INFO	Northwest Territories
Location	60th Parallel to 70 degrees in Canada's northwest
Geography	Area: 1.2million square km; the NWT's highest mountain is an unnamed peak in the Mackenzie Mountains, at 2773 m. The Mackenzie River is the 9 th longest river in the world. Great Slave Lake is the deepest lake in North America.
Name	From its geographical position within Canada
Population	42,000
Language	Official languages (11 in all): English, French, Inuvialuit, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Gwich'in, North Slavey, South Slavey, Tlicho, Chipewyan, Cree.
Currency	Canadian Dollar
Tipping	10 -15%
Government	The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has 19 members and functions in much the same way as a provincial legislature, except that there are no political parties. Operating under a consensus system, six Ministers and a Premier are elected by the members of the Assembly to form the Executive Council, also called the Cabinet. There is a Commissioner who fulfills a role similar to that of a Lieutenant Governor in the provinces. The NWT is in the federal electoral riding of Western Arctic and has one Member of Parliament and one Senator. Commissioner: Anthony W.J. Whitford Premier: Hon. Joe Handley Member of Parliament: Dennis Bevington (NDP) Senator: Nick Sibbeston (Liberal)
Documentation	None required for Canadians
Time zone	Mountain Time Zone, two hours behind EST
Health	Ensure that you have out of province travel insurance
Safety tips	Always let someone know if you are traveling outside the communities of NWT

CLIMATE	
General climate	The Northwest Territories has a relatively dry, cold climate, with long winters and warm summers drenched in sunlight. Temperatures can range from highs of 35°C in summer to minus 45°C in winter
Today's weather	Fort Simpson +15 degrees and sunny Yellowknife +6 degrees and sunny (20 April 2007)
Best time to visit	Every season has its unique attractions and the winter is increasingly popular for northern lights viewing, skiing and snowshoeing, ice fishing, or snowmobiling with our friendly tour guides, and at our winter lodges. Try dogsledding with some of our expert mushers.

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GETTING THERE	<p>Air service to Yellowknife has been expanded, with a third carrier offering daily flights to the territorial capital. Canadian North with service from Calgary and Edmonton and First Air with service from Edmonton, have been joined by Air Canada with service from Calgary and Edmonton. Standard fare for a round trip from Edmonton to Yellowknife is \$600 plus taxes, but all airlines do offer special sale prices. Access by road from Fort Nelson, BC on Liard Trail; from High Level Alberta on Waterfalls Route; it's 1,500 km from Edmonton to Yellowknife and it's all hard surface now; 4,500 km by road from Toronto!</p> <p>There is also access via the Dempster Highway from Yukon to Inuvik</p>
Flying time	Lunchtime flight from Toronto via Edmonton to Yellowknife early evening local time
Cities	<p>Yellowknife: Pop 19,000; named for copper knives traded by local first nations, not for the gold beneath; 1934 gold discovered in Yellowknife Bay; Fraser Tower Suite Hotel; City Hall on Frame Lake; Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre; Legislative Building; Visitors Centre; shopping malls (NWT diamonds); School Draw Avenue, parallel to Yellowknife Bay; Ragged Ass Road; Old Town (1930's); Bush Pilots Monument; Wildcat Café; OldTown Landing Restaurant (smoked arctic char, musk ox fillets)</p>
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inuvik: Inuvik ("Place of man," population 3,667), is the largest Canadian community north of the Arctic Circle. It's set on a plateau overlooking the Mackenzie Delta, and the Arctic Ocean is only 97 kilometres farther north. In summer, Inuvik buzzes with charter planes taking visitors on excursions to the Mackenzie Delta. Inuvik offers a full range of accommodations, restaurants and specialty shops. Visit the Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre for information about package tours and to see the fascinating interpretive displays. Pick up your certificate, awarded to all travellers who cross the Arctic Circle. Our Lady of Victory, the Igloo Church is an Inuvik landmark. - Tuktoyaktuk: Tuktoyaktuk (Tuktuuyaqtuumukabsi, "looks like caribou") was once an Inuvialuit harvesting site for tuktu (caribou). When the people settled in communities, Tuk was chosen as a harbour for supply ships because of its natural shelter from winds and waves. Tuk is easily accessible by scheduled flights from Inuvik, and is a base for exploring the amazing Pingos - the Arctic hills created by premafrost. There's a hotel and restaurant and community store. - Hay River: With a population of 3253, the North's largest shipping hub has accommodations, restaurants, a seaport atmosphere and Great Slave Lake. Visit Katl'odeeche Reserve, home to the Dene Cultural

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	<p>Institute and Hay River Mission National Historic Site. Sports events and fishing derbies are yearly highlights, and don't miss the fiddling and jigging contest at the Metis Friendship Centre. Hay River is accessible via Highway 2; regular air service is available to and from Yellowknife.</p> <p>- Great Slave Lake: This magnificent lake, 150 miles long, is truly an inland sea. From Yellowknife, cruise the island dotted bay of the same name by launch or sailboat. Outfitters offer a wide range of fishing and sightseeing trips, and rent watercraft of all types. The North Arm is a fishing destination, and known for its sandy beaches accessible by boat. The East Arm, soon to be a National Park, is a spectacular region of cliffs and deep waters, famed for monster trout.</p>
Ferries	<p>A road tour in the Northwest Territories usually means a river crossing somewhere. And these crossings are on government operated ferries... for free. The longest and busiest crossing is the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence. One of the most scenic crossings is at the north end of the Mackenzie River, at its confluence with the Arctic Red River near the Gwich'in community of Tsiigetchic. Other crossings are on the Liard River near Fort Simpson, the Camsell River en route to Wrigley and the Peel River near Fort McPherson on the Dempster Highway.</p> <p>You can also cruise the Mackenzie River: board a cruise ship for a week long river cruise on the Mackenzie River, one of the great river boat cruises in Canada</p>
Distances	Yellowknife is 4500 km from Toronto by road!
Car Rental	Available in Yellowknife and several other communities
Buses	You can choose scheduled bus service linking Edmonton Alberta to NWT communities along the Mackenzie Highway or you can also select scheduled service on the Dempster Highway from the Yukon to Inuvik.
Bush Planes	<p>Bush planes opened up the North of Canada, and here in the Northwest Territories bush aircraft are still a great way to get around. Both scheduled and charter airlines offer flightseeing adventures. You can purchase a half hour trip on a floatplane to see a community from the air. For a longer trip, travel by "sked" or charter along a famous river route to one of the smaller communities. There are tour packages to see the Mackenzie Delta, the Richardson or the Mackenzie Mountains, the Canol, Nahanni, or Wood Buffalo parks and more. In winter, flightseeing in a bush plane on skis, you might catch a glimpse of northern caribou close to a community. When you fly northern skies with one of NWT's savvy bush pilots, you'll be flying with a Canadian legend.</p>
ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<p>NWT Road and Campground Guide: open May 15 to Sept 15; Waterfalls Route; Heritage Route; Liard Trail; Wood Buffalo Route; There are 27 Territorial Parks and 14-Day Use Areas.</p>

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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids & Teens	NWT is a great adventure for the kids and there is no shortage of things to do and places to see that will provide a family vacation to treasure. I traveled with my family in the summer of 2006 and my children, aged 11 and 16, will never forget their northern experiences
Romance	Rekindle your romance in a remote fly-in lodge in NWT's dramatic landscapes!
Honeymoons & Weddings	Many Japanese are traveling to NWT in winter to tie the knot under the Northern Lights
Seniors	NWT is surprisingly easy for seniors to travel and see the sights, with Yellowknife sporting excellent accommodations and dining. I was standing at the Arctic Circle marker on the Dempster Highway recently when a coach full of seniors rolled up!

UNIQUES	Aurora Borealis: great in winter, but can see in summer sometimes too; they are viewable on average 243 times a year. When the nights are dark in autumn and winter, the northern lights come out in the Northwest Territories of Canada. The Aurora dances and swirls, slower and then faster, mingling with the stars in the night sky. Visitors on aurora tours come half way around the world to see these dancing lights. Aurora vacations include a stay in a hotel or cozy bed and breakfast, and tours out of town to see, and photograph, the northern lights from a remote lake. Outfitted with warm winter clothing, visitors are awed by superb displays of the aurora. Our winter lodges also offer aurora packages with the opportunity to relax in a hot tub under the stars and watch for the elusive aurora
Surprising	<p>Canada has become the world's third largest diamond producer! Diamond Tourism: Diamond Manufacturers of Yellowknife and Northwest Territories Tourism have agreed to form a strategic marketing partnership to promote and enhance the growth of two of the North's largest industries and a new-to-Canada co-operative "Diamond Tourism" venture. In 1998 Lac de Gras became the first diamond mine to start production in Canada.</p> <p>Pieces of what may be the Earth's original crust have been found in the Northwest Territories. Tonalite gneiss from the Acasta River northwest of Yellowknife is thought to be 3.962 billion years old.</p>
History	In the Northwest Territories, history is the saga of great journeys. About 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age, ancestors of some modern Aboriginal peoples came from the Yukon to the upper Mackenzie Valley. As the glaciers retreated, freeing Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes, the bison hunters of the western plains moved north. A campsite at Acasta Lake east of Great Bear establishes their

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	<p>presence some 7,000 years ago. The people began to follow the caribou onto the Barrens in summer, returning to the forest in winter. Today's Dene, who belong to a language group called Athapaskan, have occupied the southern NWT for some 2,500 years, travelling and hunting in small groups.</p> <p>The first predecessors of the Inuvialuit arrived about 4,000 years ago, and continued their migrations in a succession of cultural waves. The Dorset culture thrived for about 1800 years until the Thule people, direct ancestors of modern Inuit, began to move across the Arctic in 1000 AD. By this time, the Dene lived in the territories they still occupy today. Europeans did not make recorded visits to the present-day NWT until late in the 18th century, when fur traders established the first posts on the shores of Great Slave Lake. Explorers and missionaries came in the 19th century, and many of today's communities put down roots. Prospectors and bush pilots brought the 20th century north, and with it an era of sweeping change.</p>
Books	Frommer's Canada
Must Sees	Nahanni National Park should be viewed by all Canadians at least once in their lifetime!

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	Northwest Territories golf courses have the advantage in June and July, when 24 hours of daylight allows golfing round the clock. Five of our golf clubs are located near our larger communities, and feature equipment rentals, including golf carts. Holman's course, on rolling tundra overlooking the Beaufort Sea, is in a league by itself
Fishing	<p>The Northwest Territories has superb fish. Arctic grayling, Arctic char, lake trout, great northern pike and pickerel (walleye). Our fish are long lived, wily and great fighters. But there's more on offer here. There's the spectacular lake or river you fish on – clean, clear and far from your everyday world. There is the northern land itself, and finally there is your host, an experienced northerner, ready to share the lore of northern lakes and rivers. There are over 60 sport fishing operators in the Northwest Territories offering a range of products from full service lodges that can accommodate over 40 people, to rustic log cabins, that are ideal for 8 or 10 people.</p> <p>Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake: record-book lake trout, arctic grayling, great northern pike, pickerel; season: early June to late Sept; Ask for the NWT Fishing Experiences 2007 Fishing Guide</p>
Canoeing and Rafting	Paddling trips here take planning, but options are as varied as the rivers themselves. Challenges range from kayaking churning whitewater to skimming a glassy stream by canoe. Canoeists can spend a few days close to the capital city, exploring the rivers and lakes that skirt the Ingraham Trail — or fly to the mountain headwaters of expedition rivers

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	like the Natla-Keele and Arctic Red, on journeys of a week or more. River tour operators provide just the right level of excitement, depending whether clients are novice or experienced paddlers. Several offer raft expeditions through the stunning canyons of the Nahanni, the polar desert of Aulavik National Park on Banks Island, or the great rivers of the Barrenlands.
Hiking	The ultimate hiking destination, NWT offers everything from gentle hikes along the Ingraham Trail near Yellowknife to the ultimate challenges of wilderness treks such as the Canol Trail
Cycling	The Dempster Highway is the ultimate bike challenge, but there are more moderate opportunities in and around Yellowknife
Outfitters	Black Feather; Nahanni River Adventures (Neil Hartling); Nahanni Wilderness Adventures

CULTURE	
Arts	Northern arts and crafts are available in just about every community of the Northwest Territories. These range from unique hand made items of clothing - mitts, hats, moccasins, kamiks and jackets, to art to hang on the wall.
Music	Folk on the Rocks Festival in July is a great way to soak up northern music. With more than 24 hours of music, song, storytelling and dance on five stages, Folk on the Rocks is the must do summer event in Yellowknife. Proud of its history, FOTR is organized by over 300 volunteers, and draws top billed Canadian and international musicians, as well as Inuit and Dene artists from the NWT and Nunavut. Set in a natural amphitheatre on the sandy shores of Long Lake, the festival includes a childrens area, cultural area and a popular beer garden with the latest hot bands. Savor international and traditional cuisine at the food fair and view local and northern crafts at Art on the Rocks
Museums	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre , Yellowknife: one of Canada's important museums, the Heritage Centre highlights centuries of Aboriginal history— plus 250 years of fur-trading, exploration and mining in Canada's North. There are hands-on exhibits bring the past to life, for hours of entertainment.
Festivals	<p>Caribou Carnival Date: end March Caribou Carnival, with its 50 year history, is the largest spring event in the Northwest Territories, featuring world class dog racing, snowmobile races and activities for the entire family. Held on the ice of Frame Lake, the carnival features traditional Dene hand games, tests of bush skills like wood chopping and tea boiling, an ice sculpting contest, an Ugly Truck and Dog contest, "Cabane a Sucre" tent, fireworks and more!</p> <p>Great Northern Arts Festival Date: July Experience the best that arts and culture in the North has to offer. Over</p>

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	<p>100 Northern artists from the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut gather in Inuvik for 10 days to participate in the largest Visual Arts Festival in the North. Evening performances by Northern musicians, drummers and dancers, along with public workshops and artist demonstrations will be an unforgettable experience. Visit the Great Northern Arts Festival Gallery for your opportunity to browse and purchase art in a unique professional gallery setting. Please join us in celebrating Northern Arts and Culture during the Midnight Sun!</p> <p>Open Sky Festival Date: July Arts festival - Join us for an annual celebration of the vibrant arts below the treeline! Something for all ages at the Papal Site and other venues along the Mackenzie at Fort Simpson. Highlights: outdoor concert, traditional Dene and contemporary arts and crafts exhibits, demonstrations, art workshops, kids' attractions and art, sports events, Canada Day parade, historical tours, theatre and dance, video screenings, and more.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	
Wildlife	<p>Animal populations: Black bear – 5,000 Grizzly bear – 5,000 Polar bear – 6,000 Wood bison – 2,500 Dall's sheep – 6,000 Barrenground caribou – 400,000 Muskox – 50,000 Woodland caribou – 10,000 Mountain goat – 700</p> <p>Birdwatching: the Canadian North is the summer destination for birds from all over the Americas. Five North American flyways converge in the Mackenzie Valley, one of the world's great bird migration corridors. Birdwatchers can keep a sharp eye out for over 200 species of birds of the Northwest Territories. Spot a raven, a year-round northern resident, challenging a bald eagle for food, or marvel at a white pelican calmly feeding its young in the midst of a raging rapid.</p>
Parks	<p>National parks: The Northwest Territories is home to some of Canada's finest national parks, including two World Heritage Sites, Nahanni and Wood Buffalo. On the northern edge of North America two wilderness parks protect the calving grounds of the caribou - Tuk-tuk Nogait - and the range of the mysterious, prehistoric, muskox - Aulavik National Park.</p> <p>Nahanni National Park Reserve is a World Heritage Site which draws canoeists and rafters to its navigable river canyons. Virginia Falls on the Nahanni is 90 metres high – twice the height of Niagara. Wood Buffalo National Park is the largest park in Canada, and as a World Heritage Site, protects part of the northern range of the plains bison.</p> <p>Wood Buffalo National Park: Wood Buffalo National Park is a northern world all its own, a driveable wilderness at one end of the Mackenzie Highway. Wood Buffalo is one of the largest parks on earth - at 44,807</p>

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	<p>square kilometers - an enormous Boreal wilderness that straddles the Northwest Territories boundary in northern Canada. It was set aside to protect wood bison. It's also the nesting ground of the endangered whooping crane, and a World Heritage Site. Features include unusual karst formations, salt plains and vast grasslands. The Slave River, once the river highway to the North, forms the eastern boundary of the Park. The Slave River cascades down a series of sharp drops that form some of best kayaking rapids in the world, right by the town of Fort Smith. Travel with an airline or an outfitter into the magical world of Wood Buffalo National Park, or test your skills against the best kayakers in the world, on the Slave River.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	Northern arts and crafts are available in just about every community of the Northwest Territories. These range from unique hand made items of clothing - mitts, hats, moccasins, kamiks and jackets, to art to hang on the wall. Moosehair tuftings and porcupine quill handwork on moosehide, and drawings and paintings by northern artists are true collectibles. You'll also find exceptional carvings by master craftspeople, some with an international clientele. In the larger communities, retail stores offer a wide selection of crafts as well as northern jewellery - and in Yellowknife, purchase Canadian Arctic Diamonds. In the smaller communities, craft shops feature hand made birchbark baskets, designer clothing with aboriginal flair, and in Fort McPherson, canvas products.
Nightlife	Yellowknife has some lively bars where you can soak up the lively nightlife

CUISINE	
Food	Try some of NWT's specialties: musk ox, caribou, buffalo, arctic char, northern berries...and perhaps even muk-tuk or whale blubber
Restaurants	Yellowknife: The Wildcat Café; The Diner; Bullock's Bistro – all three very characterful and personally recommended

MORE INFO	
Brochures	To download a digital copy of the Explorer's Guide, Hunting and Fishing Guide or Road Touring Guide, click on the cover on the website.
Website	www.spectacularNWT.com

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