



Arctic Development
Library

***The Northwest Territories In Canada's Arctic
- Information Kit***

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Media contacts

General Tourism Information

1-800-661-0788 (Ask for Operator "M.")

The Northwest Territories maintains a toll free (from the US and Canada) tourism information line. If you are calling from elsewhere, and need information call (403) 873-7200 or fax us at (403) 873-0294.

To write for information:

Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196
Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT. XIA 2L9

Coordinator of Tourism Marketing:

Ph: (403) 873-7385
Fax (403) 873-0294

Contact the Coordinator of Tourism Marketing with any questions pertaining to NWT Tourism, statistics, operators, programs for writers and media. He will refer you to the appropriate contact, send marketing support materials, or help coordinate media trips.

Regional Tourism Contacts

For information on tourism developments, events or products in the various regions of the Northwest Territories, contact the Regional Tourism Offices listed below.

Inuvik Region, north: (Lower Mackenzie Valley, Dempster Highway, Banks Island)
Judith Venaas
'Regional Tourism Officer
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Bag #1, Inuvik, NT XOE OTO
Phone (403) 979-7237 Fax: (403) 979-7321

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- Inuvik Region, south:
(Sahtu) (Middle Mackenzie Valley, Mackenzie Mountains,
Canol Trail, Great Bear Lake)
Celina Stroeder
Parks/Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Norman Wells, NT XOE OVO
Ph: (403) 587-2437 Fax (403) 587-2707
- Deh Cho Region (Upper Mackenzie Valley, Nahanni National Park area,
Liard Highway)
Clarence Villeneuve
Regional Tourism Officer
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 240, Fort Simpson, NT XOE ONO
Phone (403) 695-7232 Fax (403) 695-2381
- South Slave Region (Wood Buffalo National Park, south side of
Great Slave Lake, Mackenzie Highway, upper mouth
of Mackenzie River)
Sam Ransom
Regional Manager, Tourism & Parks
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 390, Fort Smith, NT XOE OPO
Phone (403) 872-7238 Fax: (403) 87²⁻⁴⁶²⁸
- North Slave Region (Central Barrenlands, north side of Great Slave Lake,
East Arm, Yellowknife Highway)
Barry Stoneman
Regional Tourism Officer
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Phone (403) 920-3473 Fax: (403) 873-6109
- Kitikmeot Region: (North central Barrenlands, Arctic Coast and islands
east to the Boothia Peninsula)
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Cambridge Bay, NT XOE OCO
Ph: (403) 983-7218 Fax (403) 983-2802

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Keewatin Region (Western coast of Hudson Bay, interior Barrenlands, The Ion and Kazan watersheds)
Susan Makpah
Regional Tourism Officer
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Rankin Inlet, NT XOC OGO
Ph: (819) 645-5067 Fax (819) 645-2346

Baffin Region (Baffin island and northeastern half of the Arctic Islands)
Rick Hamburg
Supervisor, Tourism Development
Economic Development & Tourism,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Iqaluit, NT XOA OHO
Ph: (819) 979-5075 Fax: (819) 979-6026

Individual Operators

To contact individual operators about their products or types of tours available in the NWT, use the *Explorers' Guide* Listings in the *Guide* provide all phone and fax numbers for an operation, and a description of the activities carried out. Listings are broken down by the type of product General Interest Tours, Naturalist/Cultural Tours, Adventure Travel (including canoeing, rafting, - cruises, hiking, and snow-season adventures), Sport Fishing, and Sport Hunting.

A separate section on Road Travel is designed to better prepare the traveller for driving the roads in the NWT. A listing of Special Events provides dates of festivals and events.

National parks, museums and visitors centres, airlines and all hotels are also listed in the *Explorers' Guide*.

If you need a copy of the *Explorer's Guide*, phone 1-800-661-0788, and ask for Operator "M."

Assistance to the media

Interested in writing about Canada's Northwest Territories, or in producing **video** or film material about us? Need slides, background material, or assistance? The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is glad to assist, from loaning slides and videos to providing contacts and assistance with press trips.

Sources of Photos

When requesting slides, please provide as much information as **possible** regarding **your** needs so we can select pertinent photos.

- 1) *Department of Economic Development and Tourism Slide Library.*
Contact Barb Dillon, Coordinator of Marketing **Services**,
(403) 920-8767. Fax (403) 873-0294.

Slides are usually loaned without charge. Please list your general or **specific** needs.

- 2) *Operators' Collections.*
Many operators are happy to provide slides for media use. Use the *Explorers' Guide* to select **operators** or **subjects needed**, and **contact the operator directly**.

Assistance with Reference Material

Numerous free materials are published by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mention your needs to contacts from Economic Development and Tourism or to any operator you are interviewing, and it is likely they can tell you if suitable materials are available.

Many materials published by various departments of the **GNWT** are available through the associations or visitors' **centres** (see the *Explorers' Guide* for lists), or through Artisan Press, which has a fulfillment contract with the **GNWT**. **Contact Artisan Press** at (403) 920-2794 or (fax) 873-8487 for a list of government publications. Of particular interest are the *NWT Wildlife Sketches*, individual pamphlets on the biology of many species of birds and mammals in the NWT.

The Canadian Wildlife Service also publishes numerous materials on The wildlife of the North, including bird lists and material on parks and natural areas. **Contact:** Vicky Johnson (403) 920-6789 or Jacques Sirois (403) 920-8534 at the Canadian Wildlife Service in Yellowknife.

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Deh Cho Region Rivers of myth, mountains of mystery

FORT SIMPSON, NWT - The Deh Cho Region was once home to a mysterious band of natives called Nahaa or Nahannis. The name is translated as "People over there far away". Legends of wild mountain men, a white queen, evil spirits, lost maps, lost gold and headless men are myths that prevail to this day. You can feel the fascination of this land by its names Headless Valley, Hell's Gate, Death Lake and Funeral Range.

The Deh Cho Region is located in the vast and remote southwest corner of the Northwest Territories. Also known as the Nahanni-Ram, it includes the communities of Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Wrigley, Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie River, Trout Lake and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The people as well as the places are remote. Some communities have motels and hotels, restaurants and service stations, but the distance between communities can be considerable. Territorial parks, situated along our highway systems, include Saamba Deh Falls Park, Fort Simpson Campground and Blackstone Park. Winter travel is adventurous and many people can experience the thrill of driving winter "ice roads". It is said that the road system in the Northwest Territories increases by 500/0 in the winter!

Spring, summer and fall are spectacular in the Deh Cho with long hours of sunlight. In spring, wildlife awakens from the long winter and water flows in a great surge. This is truly fantastic for the avid outdoor enthusiast with ample opportunities to see and photograph black bear, moose, beaver, woodland caribou, dall sheep, lynx, bald eagles, wolf or perhaps the elusive grizzly bear...from a distance! Wildflowers such as mountain avens and orchids come alive each spring permeating the air with their fresh bouquet and displaying their natural beauty for all to see.

Bird enthusiasts from around the world have discovered the Deh Cho with its many feathered friends during migration. About 280 species of birds have been recorded in the NWT including the white pelican, peregrine falcon, sandhill crane and the threatened trumpeter swan (often spotted on trips into Nahanni National Park Reserve).

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Deh Cho Region . . .2

Lodges in the Deh Cho are few, but offer wonderful opportunities to view and photograph wildlife, wildflowers or birds as well as enjoy the never ending expanse of the wilderness. Some lodges offer fishing excursions that would boggle a person's mind...with excellent angling opportunities for a variety of species Lake trout, arctic grayling, northern pike and pickerel, to name just a few.

River boat excursions in the Deh Cho provide visitors with an opportunity to see the many famous water systems and traditional, accessible native communities. Travel down the Mackenzie, stop and visit with the local residents as they demonstrate their traditional handicrafts or as they show their skill at tanning hides. Enjoy a traditional native meal, then sit by a fire and listen to stories told by a local elder.

Our river systems are world renowned to paddle enthusiasts and perhaps the most impressive of all is the South Nahanni River, part of which flows through the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The South Nahanni originates outside the park in the ice fields of the Selwyn Mountains just east of the Yukon-Northwest Territories border, It then flows southeast through the Mackenzie mountains into the Liard River and finally empties into the Mackenzie River, encountering rapids such as Five Mile Canyon and George's Riffle.

The Ram Plateau offers excellent fly-in hiking opportunities to see spectacular examples of the karst topography such as the sand blow-outs and cave systems.

For some, an air charter flight over Nahanni National Park with a stop at Virginia Falls, twice the height of Niagara, is the thrill of a lifetime...for others, the thrill takes them much farther into the wilderness on a two week white water rafting or canoeing expedition. Expeditions can be arranged by one of the four outfitters from our region.

Paddle or raft our remote and pristine rivers, fly in to fish our many lakes, take a day trip to Virginia Falls or perhaps camp overnight, travel our wonderful and scenic waterfalls route, visit our communities for a taste of the local Dene culture or simply sit back and listen to the quiet and calm of this magnificent land.

There's something for everyone in the Deh Cho Region.

Kitikmeot Region, the Northwest Passage Canada's Arctic Coast

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NWT - The Kitikmeot is one of three Territorial Government regions that will make up the new Nunavut Territory in 1999. The Nunavut Land Claim was signed by the Government of the Canada and the Inuit on July 9th, 1993 in Coppermine, the largest of the communities on the mainland.

Nunavut is almost entirely above the treeline where the Inuit have lived for thousands of years. Inuit make up 85% of the population of this soon to be new territory (approximately 18,000 people), however the future Government of Nunavut will be a public government in which Inuit and non-Inuit will participate. Two traditional languages are present, and both exist in the Kitikmeot Region, as it spans both Eastern and Western Arctic areas. The Eastern Arctic dialect of Inuktitut is written using the syllabic alphabet while inhabitants of the Central and Western Arctic areas speak Innuinaqtun, which is written using Roman Orthography.

The Kitikmeot region which extends East and West along mainland Canada's Arctic Coast and includes many Arctic Islands, consists of six communities: Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Holman, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and Taloyoak; and two outpost settlements of Umingmaktok (Bay Chime) and Bathurst Inlet, with a total population of approximately 6,000 people. Accommodation services, arts and crafts retail outlets, and experienced and licensed tourism operators provide land and water based excursions for visitors throughout the year. The Arctic Coast Tourist Association can provide brochures and additional details required for planning a trip to this area, Tel: (403) 983-2224. Fax: (403) 983-2302

The Arctic Coast Visitors' Centre, located in Cambridge Bay, has historical, arts and crafts and general information displays as well as brochures and information on tourism opportunities in Cambridge Bay and throughout the region.

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As in most Arctic regions the temperatures during the summer season can range from the freezing point to the mid-teens Celsius (mid 50-60s Fahrenheit). Except for a small area on the mainland, the Kitikmeot Region is completely north of the Arctic Circle which results in 24 hours of daylight for most of the summer and 24 hours with no sun for a small period in the winter. The return of the sun in January is a time for celebrations in many Arctic communities.

The Northwest Passage . . . images of ice, shipwrecks and explorers of years gone by come to mind. But that's only one part of Canada's Arctic Coast; there's traditional Inuit culture, wildlife thought to be extinct, and the unmistakable Arctic phenomena of Aurora Borealis and the Midnight Sun. In summer tiny plants carpet the land with colourful flowers. Caribou and muskoxen can be found by the thousand. Whales, seals and millions of birds flock to the shores of this region.

Historic parks and sites commemorate past expeditions to search for the Northwest Passage, the elusive path from Europe to the Far East through the northern seas. Archaeological research and present day expeditions continue to search for the details of the exploration for the Passage in the early 19th century. Britain's Royal Navy and the Hudson's Bay Company lost many ships and men over the years, each contributing an important piece of critical information to the search.

The real heroes in the story of the Northwest Passage were the Inuit who lived along the Arctic Coast for centuries, fishing, hunting and trapping. They travelled the Passage in winter when the cold calmed the restless ice. The Inuit watched the Europeans and their ships with interest and sometimes discovered traces of their travels in the summer seas and washed up on the shores. The Inuit met and visited with the Explorers, working as guides and interpreters and sometimes traveling with them to Europe and America. Stories were passed from generation to generation about these visitors and can still be heard today from the elders. Stories of Samuel Hearne, Henry Larsen, RCMP and Hudson's Bay Company ship captains and crews, Sir John Franklin, Roald Amundsen, Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, Charles Hall and many many more.

The quest for the Northwest Passage to the Orient captured and held the world's imagination for close to 500 years. Even today, almost a hundred years after the first successful voyage through the narrow, ice-infested channel, the story of the search, and of the first small wooden ships to traverse the passage lives on. Today's modern forms of transportation allow much easier access than that experienced by explorers of the past. Even though the 500 year old search is over, you can join the small group of illustrious explorers who first described the Arctic to the outside world. The Order of the Arctic Adventurers Northwest Passage Explorer certificate is awarded to these modern day explorers.

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Even though jets and luxury cruise ships carry travelers in comfort, and cozy hotels and guest homes have replaced tents and igloos, the traditional Arctic welcome hasn't changed. There are full service restaurants that provide American and European cuisine along with gourmet dishes prepared from local country foods such as muskox, caribou and Arctic char.

The Inuit still use fur, hide and bone to make carvings and sculptures. In addition to traditional art, artisans and craft producers are expressing themselves through contemporary art forms. Arctic scenes, metal and precious stones are applied to jewellery. Factory textiles used along with local materials, enhance traditionally patterned parkas. In earlier times, these products comprised an integral part of daily life and there were crafts for virtually all functions related to daily living and survival. What we now refer to as "arts and crafts" could easily be considered the life line of the Inuit culture. Parents who carved bone and stone for weapons and sewed hides into clothing to keep the family warm, also created toys and games for entertainment. Those skills and traditional ideas are passed down through the generations. The producers welcome the opportunity to share tea and bannock with visitors who are interested in their work and their tradition.

For more information on the Arctic Coast and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 Canada. From Canada and the continental U.S.A., call toll-free 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S.A., call 403-873-7200 or fax 403-873-0294. For photos and slides, please contact Regional Tourism Officer, Economic Development and Tourism, Government of the NWT, Cambridge Bay NT XOE OCO. Tel: 403-983-7218. Fax 403-983-2802.

South Slave Region

FORT SMITH, NWT – Camping, fishing, hiking, canoeing - all in the heart of one of the largest unspoiled wildernesses left in the world. Welcome to the South Slave Region of Canada's Northwest Territories. Our forests, rivers, communities and people await you with the vacation experience of a lifetime - all within reach of an extensive all-weather highway system.

Our Communities

South Slave communities range in size from the hamlet of Fort Resolution, where Dene (Indian) culture thrives on the beautiful shores of Great Slave Lake, to the larger sophisticated communities of Fort Smith and Hay River.

Traveling north by road from Alberta will bring you to the 60th Parallel Visitors' Centre, where you can begin planning your South Slave adventure. The first settlement you will encounter on the road is Enterprise, a refueling stop and service community where you can supply yourself for the road ahead.

On the way to Hay River, don't forget to stop at Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park, the site of Alexandra and Louise Falls, two spectacular cataracts that tumble over the Hay River escarpment on their way to Great Slave Lake, a clean, clear inland sea that has some of the finest sport fishing in the world. The two falls are connected by a trails system along the riverbank, and camping and picnic facilities are available.

Hay River is the South Slave's largest town. More than 3,000 inhabit this busy commercial town and fishing port. After checking out the local shops and sights, go for a swim at the sandy beach on Great Slave Lake near the Hay River Campground.

Traveling east from Hay River by road will bring you to Fort Resolution located on Great Slave Lake, or Fort Smith which sits on the NWT-Alberta border high on the banks of the Slave River.

Fort Resolution is a community that still moves with the rhythm of the land. Many people still make their livelihoods fishing and hunting as their ancestors have done for thousands of years.

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Fort Smith, the South Slave's second largest community, is a government and education centre. The headquarters and largest campus for the Western N.W.T.'s college system is located here, as is the headquarters for Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada's largest national park. Fort Smith offers spectacular scenery, such as the majestic Rapids of the Drowned on the Slave River, and a well-serviced community that is used to making visitors feel right at home. Don't forget to visit the Northern Life Museum, where the natural and social history of our people is proudly displayed.

The Finest in sport Fishing

The lakes and rivers of the South Slave region contain some of the largest trout, grayling and Great Northern Pike found anywhere, and to make it easy for you, we've got fishing camps and lodges located throughout the region.

Our lodges range from rustic to luxurious - choose which one is right for you. Ask our friendly folks at any visitor centre throughout the region. They will provide you with brochures, maps and other information to help you decide.

Roughing it or relaxing in comfort

Accommodations in the South Slave can meet any traveller's needs. Looking for that perfect bush spot to pitch your tent or park your trailer? No problem. We've got hundreds of camp sites tucked away in forest or within easy reach of the shops and services of our largest towns. Ready for a night of comfort? With hotels, motels and bed & breakfasts, we can provide you with a relaxing night of rest after a long day of adventuring.

And if you've got business in the North, we have conference centres and meeting facilities to host almost any group.

A land of lakes and rivers

For sheer beauty, size and abundance of fish, there are few places on earth that can match the South Slave region. The Slave and Hay Rivers are our two largest, but hundreds of smaller rivers flow into them, and they in turn flow into Great Slave Lake, a boater's, sailor's and fishermen's paradise. This pollution-free freshwater sea is the size of Massachusetts, but our package tours and experienced guides will help bring it down to size for you.

Experience the peace of the great northern forest as you canoe down one of our mighty rivers, with only the sounds of the forest and the dip of your paddle to disturb the serenity. Boats and canoes can be rented at most South Slave communities.

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The accessible wilderness

One of the great advantages of vacationing in the South Slave is our excellent all-weather highway system. Forget traffic, noise and the hurried pace of southern highways. Instead you'll find wildlife, placid rivers, quiet roadside turnouts, and the friendliest people in the North - and all can be reached from the comfort of your own vehicle.

Maps of the highway system and its sights can be obtained from the 60th Parallel Visitors' Centre.

More than just a day in the park . . .

The parks of the South Slave region rank with the worlds great parks, and chief among them is Wood Buffalo National Park, a vast unspoiled wilderness of bogs, rivers, wildlife and jewel-like lakes set amid the great, silent boreal forest. Wood Buffalo is home to the worlds largest free-roaming bison herd, and the last nesting refuge of the rare whooping crane. Extensive camping facilities are available, as are planned excursions. To see what opportunities await you, drop into the Wood Buffalo National Park headquarters located in Fort Smith. The helpful people at the Visitor Reception Centre can help you discover the parks natural wonders.

For more information on the South Slave and your free copy of the Explorer's Guide, contact the Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 Canada. From Canada and the continental U.S.A. call toll-free 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S.A., call 403-873-7200 or fax 403-873-0294.

Inuvik Region

INUVIK, NWT – The Inuvik region or the Western Arctic Tourism Zone is perhaps most noteworthy as the Delta-Beaufort region. It is tucked away in the northwest corner bordered by the Beaufort Sea, traversed by the mighty Mackenzie River, and yet it includes Banks Island just across Amundsen Gulf. Twenty-four hour daylight during the summer enhances traveling experience while the absence of the sun for six weeks in the winter is hard to imagine by southerners. Visitors can get here by traveling the wilderness Dempster Highway, fly-in on a jet to the modern airport just out of town, canoe or cruise the river, take a long snowmobile ride or drive a dogteam.

Inuvik - The Largest Centre

Inuvik, the heart of the Mackenzie Delta is the terminus of the famous Dempster Highway. Located on the East Channel of the Mackenzie River, Inuvik meaning “place of man” in Inuvialuktun boasts harmony of the tri-racial character: Inuit, Dene and non-aboriginal Inuvik, the hub, services the communities of Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour.

Connected to the south by the Dempster Highway and daily jet flights, Inuvik offers all the advantages of a regular southern town, with the wilderness just a few minutes walk, or a short drive away. The town’s cosmopolitan population includes Dene, Inuvialuit, Metis and people from across Canada and around the world

Three hotels, cozy bed and breakfast operations, and a campground provide accommodation. Restaurants and lounges offer a wide variety of dining and a speciality is Northern cuisine - muskox, caribou, Arctic char and other local fish.

Entertainment varies from the lively after hours music scene to cultural events. Shop for fine arts and craft items at several art galleries featuring northern Dene and Inuit artists.

Within the town limits there is a walking trail system. In season the ski club operates a series of well groomed and lit cross country ski trails open to all. For a different experience, dog sled rides are available.

Newly constructed in 1995, a visitors’ information centre modeled after a traditional Inuvialuit sod house is located at the entrance to the town. It contains interpretive displays and offers information about the attractions and services in the area.

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Other communities

Sachs Harbour on Banks Island boasts bed & breakfast accommodations, the chance to stay with an Inuvialuit family. Visitors can book guided tours to see muskox, go fishing or hunting, or take a ATV or boat to view wildlife and flowers.

Paulatuk offers hotel accommodations, guided excursions for Arctic char fishing in season and other guided services along with sport hunts in season.

Tuktoyaktuk, a popular destination for the name alone, boasts arts and crafts shopping, guided town tours, and on the land or water guided service in the area..

Aklavik, famous as the resting place of the Mad Trapper of Rat River, boasts overnight accommodations, arts and crafts sales, self-guided town walking tours, and a rich history in the heart of muskrat trapping country. Check out the fur-garment factory when there.

Arctic Red River, a Gwich'in community, offers overnight accommodations, arts and crafts, and guide services.

Another Gwich'in community, Fort McPherson, the gateway to the Western Arctic, offers overnight accommodations, guided river transportation for day trips or overnight camping, arts and crafts and a tent and canvas bag manufacturing factory.

Hunting and Fishing

The Western Arctic offers ample fishing opportunities. One can cast a line into the numerous streams, rivers or lakes or book a guided fishing tour to remote spots. Stay on the mainland and fly-in to a remote lake or fly out to Banks Island; do a day trip or overnight in modern facilities or tent camps. Book the opportunity to go out with a local guide to a traditional camp and sample typical northern fare like bannock and tea, smoked whitefish dinners or caribou stew.

The fishing is extraordinary - surrounded by water, lakes of all sizes, Inuvik is the perfect jumping off point for a fishing trip - for a day, a week, or longer. Lodges and camps offering accommodation and catering to all types of anglers, are just an hour or less by air from the town. Visitors can charter a sport fishing boat. Featured species include lake trout, spirited Arctic grayling, northern pike, pickerel, whitefish, inconnu or "coney" as they are referred to by the locals.

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Hunting experiences range from trophy caribou, muskox, barrenground grizzly bear to the mighty predator, the polar bear. Transportation is handled either by ATV, snowmobile or dog team travel. One can also arrange to take smaller game like wolverine, wolf, ptarmigan, etc. Packages often include fishing for lake trout and Arctic grayling.

Expeditions on the water

Waterways were once the highways of this remote region of Canada. Canoeists, kayakers, or rafters can follow the mighty Mackenzie to the Arctic coast or the other option is to book a cruise. Bring your own canoe and drop it in the water or rent equipment when you get here. An abundance of tourist operators offer a variety of packages guiding visitors on the different waterways. Options range from a two hour quiet boat trip viewing scenery, to all day trips viewing beluga whales to customized overnight trips.

Traveling by air

Air Canada connector, NWT Air, and Canadian Airlines International's Canadian North service offer daily jet flights to Inuvik from Yellowknife. Out of Inuvik, a one hour flight connects to Norman Wells, then on to Yellowknife. From Yellowknife travel to Edmonton which connects with U.S. and Canadian carriers to locations across North America. Turbo prop flights are also available to Whitehorse, Old Crow and Dawson City, Yukon. From Inuvik, a network of regional airlines carries visitors to all points in the Western Arctic.

Special Events

Every year, on January 5, Inuvik marks the return of the sun with a "Sunrise Festival". Fireworks, bonfires, cultural entertainment, and dancing are part of the proceedings. Then in the spring, when longer sunshine hours start defrosting the country side, each community celebrates with a Spring Jamboree. Witness competitive events like muskrat skinning, snowshoe races, tea boiling contests and other northern events. In June, help celebrate the Pokiak River Festival in Aklavik. The three day Midway Lake Music Festival near Fort McPherson presents entertainers from across the Western Arctic, Yukon and Alaska; fiddling, singing, jigging and square dancing are just some of the entertainment. The Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, in the latter part of July, is ten days of celebrations, sales, workshops and seminars in the visual and creative arts. Experience northern foods and entertainment as well. In 1995, Inuvik will be hosting the 25th Anniversary Northern Games in late July. Athletes from across the north will compete in traditional games like the Alaska highkick.

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The Dempster Highway

Visitors can begin their northern travel adventure at the Dempster Corner, 40 km/25 miles south of Dawson City, Yukon. As they leave the Klondike Highway, they begin 730 km/450 mile trip through some of the most scenic wilderness country in the north. The Dempster, hard packed gravel, is the only public road in Canada to cross the Arctic Circle.

Public campgrounds and wayside turn-outs offer the traveller a chance to stop and hike, view wildlife and flowers or photograph the scenery enroute.

Ferries transport vehicles and passengers across the Peel and the Mackenzie Rivers. Ferry operations start, on average, around the first week of June and continue until late October when the formation of ice on the rivers makes it dangerous for ferry operations to continue. There is a four to six week hiatus of road traffic at both the opening and closing of the ferry operations due to ice conditions.

Ice Road Travel

Winter time, mid-December through mid-April, offers the opportunity to travel to Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk by ice road, as the rest of the year they can only be accessed by boat or air transportation. No stop signs or traffic lights on these roads, just a 40-70 km speed limit. A true adventure is traveling the 186 km ice-road to Tuktoyaktuk or the short 116 km to Aklavik.

For more information on the Western Arctic and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 Canada. From Canada and the continental U.S.A., call toll-free 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S.A., call 403-873-7200 or fax 403-873-0294.

Hunting in the Northwest Territories - stepping back in time

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – For sport hunters after classic big game, the Northwest Territories is the destination of a lifetime. The immense land mass and isolated islands of the NWT shelter healthy populations of polar bear, barren-ground grizzly, black bear, muskox, Dan's sheep, moose, wolf, wolverine, and barren-ground, Peary, and woodland caribou.

According to hunting outfitter Gary Jaeb of True North Safaris, the attraction of the NWT to hunters is multifaceted: "It's the unspoiled wilderness, small numbers of people, beauty of the land, and the magnificent selection of trophy animals. Our hunting industry is so young that it's like stepping back in time to hunt here."

For each species, the lure is different.

Hunting **Dall's sheep** in the remote Mackenzie Mountains of the western NWT tests the physical capabilities of the hunter. Hunts involve flying into base or spike camps and traveling high into the mountains on horseback or hiking with pack dogs, and then climbing into the peaks to hunt the high meadows and rocky slopes. These snow-white cousins of the bighorn sheep are keen-sighted and vigilant; it is no easy task to stalk them. Sheep hunts can be combined with hunts for the large **woodland caribou** and moose on the lower slopes of the mountains.

The migration of the related **barren-ground caribou** is one of the last great wildlife spectacles in North America. There are eight herds in the NWT, some exceeding 500,000 animals. Comfortable lodges and outpost camps provide well-organized hunts. Hunters and guides travel by boat along the shores of tundra lakes, hiking inland to stalk the caribou.

During the barren-ground caribou season in August and September, antlers reach their maximum growth, the velvet is shed, and the antlers are polished in preparation for the rut. Antlers may measure 4 ft. (1.5 m) along the curve of the main beam and a yard (1 m) across. The current World Record Central Canada Barren-ground Caribou was taken in 1989 at MacKay Lake, by James Wooten, a client of True North Safaris. This big bull scored 412 6/8 by Boone & Crockett. The NWT is so big, barren-ground caribou so plentiful, and numbers of hunters so small that it is certain that many new records will be set in the next few years.

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Hunting in the NWT . . . 2

Setting records is also a real possibility on **muskox** hunts. Hunted almost to extinction during the 1800s by whalers along the arctic and Hudson Bay coasts, muskox have made an excellent recovery in the NWT. With the exception of a small hunt on a population of muskox transplanted to Nunivak Island in Alaska, muskox are sport hunted only in the NWT. There are two seasons, one in the springtime (April), and one in the fall (August) during the rut.

Snowmobiles provide access to muskox country for spring hunts during the long days of the arctic spring when snow still covers the land. In the fall, they are located from boats or all-terrain vehicles. Regulations require that they be stalked on foot. Currently the top 17 musk oxen, according to the 1991 Boone & Crockett record book, were taken in the NWT. The World Record musk ox was taken west of Bathurst Inlet by Stephen Kroflich, a client of Canada North Outfitters and the Umingmaktok Hunters' and Trappers' Association, guided by Philip Kadlun of Umingmaktok (Bay Chime).

A **polar bear** hunt is considered the epitome of hunts by many hunters, as the polar bear is one of the largest predators in the world. Sport hunters experience the Inuit (Eskimo) culture as it used to be. In Canada, polar bear hunts must be conducted by dogteam, so the sport hunter travels with an Inuit hunter/guide by dog team over the vast expanse of sea ice.

Recently, revisions to the Marine Mammal Protection Act in the US have removed restrictions to the import of polar bear hides into the US. This change is due in no small part to excellent resource management practices in the NWT that ensure that polar bear populations are healthy and not adversely affected.

Sport hunting is important to the native people of the NWT. In a time when there is little economic base for many of the small communities, the income provided by sport hunters is vital to the people, sometimes doubling or tripling a guide's annual income. Guiding fosters pride in "land skills", as a skilled guide makes his hunters feel at ease in an often alien environment. The small communities in the North welcome hunters. Local arts and crafts are available in most communities, and often represent the great respect of the hunter for the mammals upon which his people depend.

All populations of big game mammals are carefully monitored by the NWT Department of Renewable Resources to ensure they are not adversely affected by hunting pressure. Tags and quotas are adjusted or examined yearly. Annual surveys of caribou populations provide information on the previous year's calf survival. In addition, it is illegal and a violation of native tradition to waste the meat of game, so all usable meat is taken by the hunter or shared with the local people.

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Hunting in the NWT . . .3

A pamphlet entitled "NWT Hunting Regulations" outlines seasons and limits. The NWT *Explorers' Guide* lists all hunting operators. For copies, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the US, call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator "M. From outside Canada and the US, call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development & Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT. CANADA XIA 2L9.

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North Slave Region

YELLOWKNIFE NWT – Some of the very best winter night displays of Northern Lights in the world are enticing hundreds of visitors to the North Slave Region in Canada's Northwest Territories. In summer, North Slave, known as the Northern Frontier Country, is a natural playground of rolling polished Precambrian rock, dotted with thousands of clear, clean lakes.

Yellowknife - The Capital

Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories and the only city in the North Slave, is located on a large bay on Great Slave Lake's north shore. Connected to the south by highway, and almost 50 jet flights a week, Yellowknife offers all the advantages of a city, with the wilderness just a few minutes walk, or a short drive, away. The city's cosmopolitan population includes Dene, Inuit, Metis and people from across Canada and around the world.

Seven hotels offer a total of 400 rooms. Cozy bed and breakfast operations, some in Yellowknife's colourful Old Town, add to the accommodation scene. More than 26 restaurants and lounges offer a wide variety of dining - Continental, Italian, Nouvelle, Chinese and North American fast food.

After hours, the music scene is lively. There are Dene cultural events as well, and modern sports facilities, including a pool and a curling rink.

Within the city limits there's a six-mile walking trail system, a favourite of joggers. The ski club operates well groomed, lighted, cross country ski trails open to all. Yellowknife's golf club, with its sand fairways and thieving ravens, hosts tournaments each summer which draw visitors from all over North America.

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre serves as the principal museum for the Northwest Territories, and features displays of the cultures of the North - Dene, Inuit and Metis - the North's aviation heritage and a fine collection of Inuit art.

The Northern Frontier Visitors' Centre is a good introduction to the area, as well as a central reference for visitor services. The new igloo-shaped Legislative Assembly building is located in Yellowknife as well. In keeping with its northern heritage, the assembly grounds are landscaped with plants native to the arctic and subarctic.

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The Northwest Territories In Canada's Arctic

North Slave Region . . .2

Art galleries featuring northern artists and craft shops offering Dene and Inuit crafts round out the cultural scene.

Aurora Borealis

North Slave is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the best places in the world to view the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis, each autumn and winter. Tour packages include accommodation in Yellowknife, city tour, dog team rides, and an opportunity to see caribou on their winter range. Visitors sample bannock and tea while the Aurora Borealis sweeps majestically across the sky.

Conference Services

Conferences are a snap in Yellowknife. The City's facilities include meeting/banquet facilities for up to 400, a variety of locales, and an arena which converts to trade show space or concert hall for up to 1200 people. A modern, 300-seat theatre hosts concerts, dance troupes and plays as well as conventions.

Yellowknife businesses can provide planning and co-ordination for conferences, as well as live television connections to locations just about anywhere in the world. Multiple languages are no problem - the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly holds its sessions in eight official languages and simultaneous translation equipment is readily available.

The fishing's extraordinary

Surrounded by lakes of all sizes, Yellowknife is the perfect jumping off point for a fishing trip - for a day, a week or longer. Sixteen lodges and camps accommodating 240 and catering to all types of anglers, are just an hour or less by air from the city. Visitors can drive to lodges along the highway or charter a sport fishing boat on Great Slave Lake. Featured species include lake trout, spirited Arctic grayling, northern pike, pickerel and whitefish. Some lodges offer side trips for Arctic char action.

Barrenground hunting-one of the great experiences

Yellowknife is just an hour by air from the Barrengrounds, where in autumn, eight licensed outfitters provide first class service. Safari Club, Boone & Crocket, and Pope & Young all recognize the Central Canadian Barrenground Caribou. There's an excellent chance of taking a record trophy from the Bathurst herd, 320,000 strong. Packages often include fishing for lake trout and Arctic grayling.

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The Northwest Territories In Canada's Arctic

North Slave Region . .3

Expeditions on the water

Waterways were once the highways of North Slave. Canoeists can follow Dene routes to the Arctic coast or Hudson Bay, from Yellowknife.

Packages are offered on the Hood, Burnside and Coppermine flowing to the Arctic Coast, and the Thelon, which flows to Baker Lake, near Hudson Bay.

For those with less time, there are more than a dozen places to drop a canoe in the water in Yellowknife and along the scenic 70 km (44 miles) long Ingraham Trail just outside the city.

Yachting might appear an unlikely recreation in Canada's North, but the 10,000 square miles of Great Slave Lake provides excellent recreational boating. Close to the city, tour boats ply Yellowknife Bay. The lake's East Arm is renowned for its trout and grayling fishing. It is also a summer haven for boaters, with spectacular wilderness scenery. Sailboats, up to 12 m (40 feet), with and without crew, or power boats can be chartered,

Traveling by air

Air Canada connector NWT Air, and Canadian Airlines International's Canadian North service offer up to six daily non-stop jet flights to Yellowknife from Edmonton, Alberta. The hour and a half flight connects with US. and Canadian carriers to locations across North America. Jet flights are also available from Winnipeg to Yellowknife. From the city, a network of regional airlines carries visitors to all points in the Northwest Territories.

In the North Slave, visitors can travel by air to three small Dogrib Dene communities offering fishing, naturalist tours, historical sites and an opportunity to meet and talk with northerners from all walks of life. Small hotels in Wah Ti (Lac La Martre), Snare Lake and Rae Lakes can arrange excursions with local Dene guides. It's an opportunity to meet people who still make their living from the land.

The Mackenzie Highway

There are no traffic jams and few stoplights, on NWT highways. Instead, visitors travel through spruce forest and might come face to face with a black bear, a wood bison, or a moose. Highways are wide and hard packed, with more miles paved each year. Visitors have a choice of starting points - northern British Columbia, near Fort Nelson, on the Alaska Highway (Liard Highway) or Edmonton, Alberta (Mackenzie Highway). From Edmonton, the trip to Yellowknife takes about **19** hours. There are attractive parks and visitor centres and well serviced communities along the way.

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North Slave Region . . .4

A ferry takes road traffic across the broad Mackenzie River. The road passes through the Mackenzie Wood Bison Sanctuary, home of the largest free roaming herd in the world. At Rae-Edzo, the largest Dogrib Dene community, 108 km (68 miles) from Yellowknife, visit a Dene-run retreat on the shores of Great Slave Lake.

For more information on the North Slave and your free copy of the Explorer's Guide, contact the Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 Canada, From Canada and the continental U.S.A., call toll-free 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S.A., call 403-873-7200 or fax 403-873-0294.

Northwest Territories sport hunting guides set standards

Yellowknife, NWT – The Northwest Territories leads the way in the development of occupational standards and in offering training and certification for hunting guides. At a workshop at Blachford Lake Lodge near Yellowknife, NWT, in March of 1994, representatives of the sport hunting industry from all of western Canada met to finalize guide standards that had been reviewed by over 700 members of the industry.

Sport hunting guides are vital components of the sport hunting industry. Without a highly skilled guide who knows the local area, the sport hunter might not even see game, and certainly is unlikely to encounter enough animals to provide a choice of trophy animals. Through his (or her) personality, sense of humour and communications skills, a guide can make the difference between a “bearable” experience and a lifetime memory. Because many are local Dene or Inuit residents, working with a good guide also provides a window into another world, that of the Inuit or Dene culture.

A guide that is trained in wilderness first aid is far better prepared to assist in case of an injury. A guide trained in the proper way to skin and “cape” an animal is unlikely to ruin a treasured trophy. And a guide competent in snowmobile repair can add incredible reassurance to an early spring muskox hunt in the central Barrenlands, where sport hunters and guides may be traveling hundreds of miles by snowmobile

Guide training courses are offered across the NWT, under the supervision of the Northwest Territories Tourism Training Group. Each course runs for three weeks, and are taught outside, often in brutal winter weather out in the barrenlands. Courses include training in first aid, camp management and cooking, communications and customer relations, handling of trophies and meat, boat and snowmobile handling, and much more.

According to Hilary Jones, Executive Director of the NWT Tourism Training Group, “Our courses are in the forefront of training for hunting guides across all of North America. We’re providing not only very complete training, but also a graduated series of courses. A young guide can begin with the Level I course, get some experience and proceed to Level II, then, as he acquires expertise, can go on to become an Instructor, all through courses offered within the NWT.”

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Hunting Guides . . .2

So, if you choose a hunt in the Northwest Territories you can rest assured that creative and up-to-date standards have been developed, and are being applied throughout the industry.

For further information on hunting in the NWT, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the US, call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator "M. From outside Canada and the US, call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development & Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT. CANADA X1A 2L9.

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Northwest Territories offers a variety of river trips

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – A combination of superb whitewater, scenery, wildlife and history make Canada's Northwest Territories one of the world's premiere destinations for canoeists. Twelve major rivers, hundreds of smaller rivers, and tens of thousands of lakes provide choices for all skill levels and interests.

Canoe trips in the NWT average between ten days to three weeks. Wilderness outfitters offer primarily two types of trips guided and unguided ("on your own" trips).

On **guided trips**, the outfitter provides river guides who handle all logistics of the trip, sharing their expertise with participants, and interpreting the natural history of the area. All food and cooking equipment is provided; most operators even provide tents. This type of trip is a tremendous learning experience. On raft trips, the river guides do much of the actual work of handling the raft; guests can help if they wish, or sit back and enjoy the scenery.

People concerned about their own canoeing ability or wilderness skills or who do not want to invest in a lot of gear can participate in a guided river trip.

The appreciation is apparent; Ed Jezak of Kingston, Ontario, wrote to outfitter Neil Hartling of Nahanni River Adventures "I enjoyed the Nahanni River trip for the paddling, the whitewater, the scenery and the sense of adventure. I appreciated your organization's good planning and the good and competent care that the guides provided. I was free to enjoy my trip without worrying about logistics."

And those who are disabled need not miss out; operators like Et-Then Expeditions have the training, ability, and equipment to make the adventure available to almost everyone. According to owner Kristen Gilbertsen-Olesen, "We do not do trips solely 'for the disabled, those with physical challenges are welcome on our trips and are full participants, just like everyone else.'"

The other type of trip appeals to the person who owns a fair amount of gear and who enjoys the time spent in organizing equipment, maps, and meals for a trip. This is the unguided river trip, in which canoeists do all their own planning, including packing of food. Some previous river experience and

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River Trips . . .2

training are necessary for unguided trips. NWT rivers are powerful, and the water is cold. Self-guided paddlers have to rely on their own skills and ability to read the river.

River outfitters, canoe expediting services, and some air charter companies will arrange transportation and provide canoes and equipment for unguided groups. They will provide advice on degree of difficulty of the river and on some local conditions, but the actual decisions on the river must be made by the group.

Barry Beales, owner of WhiteWolf Adventure Expeditions, has this advice for a person considering a river trip in the North: "Decide what level of trip you want, and the area you want to see. Talk to the operators, and find one that offers what you want to do, one you trust and like. Ask lots of questions, about the equipment, the food, the scenery, the wildlife. But most, important, pick a river, and GO! You'll not regret it!

The Northwest Territories *Explorers' Guide* provides summaries of the attractions of many of the rivers which are regularly paddled, and lists all outfitters and river tour operators. In addition, canoe reports on many rivers are available from the Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism.

To request the Guide or a report on a specific river, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the US, call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator "M. From outside Canada and the US, call (403) 8737200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development & Marketing, Suite 196, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT. CANADA X1A 2L9.

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A river runner's dream – Canada's Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The rivers of the NWT are recognized by river enthusiasts as providing some of the finest paddling experiences in the world. They are untamed, unpolluted and flow through hundreds of miles of unmatched wilderness.

NWT adventure travel operators claim that canoeing and rafting are the fastest-growing segment of a youthful tourism industry. One tour operator credits the growth to a general increase in the number of canoeists. “More people are learning to canoe, and they are looking for a trip that takes them away from the ordinary.”

Boyd Warner of Bathurst Arctic Services comments, “Interest (in self-guided trips) is really growing in Europe and Scandinavia. Europeans are deeply interested in Canada, and in Canadian aboriginal groups; most people ask if they will meet the local people, or see people living in a traditional way.

“Our clients come for the challenge of whitewater, some for the wildlife. An increasing number come for the space and the scenery.”

And space and scenery are what they get on all the great rivers of the North . . . whether they choose a river that winds through the boreal forest, or sweeps across the Arctic tundra.

Boreal forest rivers flow through coniferous forest. Their banks are lined with spruce trees, and the wildlife seen in the river valley might include moose, beaver, woodland caribou, black bear, lynx, or bald eagles.

The scenery on rivers like the Nahanni, the Natla-Keele, the Mountain, or the Slave is spectacular. Deep canyons, cataracts, and waterfalls challenge the paddler and the photographer. Virginia Falls on the Nahanni is twice the height of Niagara. Many boreal forest rivers were historic exploration and fur trade routes, and are still used as highways between remote northern communities and to traditional fishing and hunting camps. Many journals of the explorers and traders survive in published form, and are read beside the campfires of modern river explorers.

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River Runner's Dream . . .2

North of the boreal forest, the Arctic tundra stretches over 2/3 of the NWT. Arctic rivers have incredible appeal; they wind through open tundra, where most plants are less than a foot tall, and the view is infinite. The walking is usually quite easy, and a short hike out of the river valley allows the hiker to scan miles of open land to locate wildlife.

Some Arctic rivers like the Anderson, the Horton, the Coppermine, the Hood, and the Burnside, flow to the Arctic coast through dramatic canyons and sweeping tundra. Others, like the Thelon and the Kazan, wind through islands of trees and sandy eskers to Hudson Bay. Still others, like the Thomsen, the Kuujua, and the Soper, drain the interiors of the Arctic islands.

It is the great wildlife spectacles that attract most people to arctic rivers. Mid-summer migrations of the barren-ground caribou can result in encounters with thousands of animals crossing the rivers. Muskox graze at the river's edge, and gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles nest on steep cliffs. Grizzly bears and tundra wolves provide an extra thrill for paddlers. Signs of previous Inuit occupation of the river systems are frequent – tent rings, meat caches, and game-drive systems of stone, called "inukshuks". Many Arctic river trips end at small Inuit communities along the Arctic coast, where participants meet people whose ancestors have lived in the area for centuries.

The Northwest Territories *Explorers' Guide* provides summaries of the attractions of many of the rivers which are regularly paddled, and lists all outfitters and river tour operators. In addition, canoeing reports on many rivers are available from the Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism.

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Anglers pursue world records in Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT - Canada's Northwest Territories boasts nearly 40 world sport fishing records - with anglers from across North America and Europe in hot pursuit.

The Northwest Territories holds 34 world records for Arctic char, lake whitefish, lake trout, Arctic grayling, and northern pike, according to the International Game Fish Association.

Included among the trophies are all-tackle records for Arctic char (14.77 kg or 32 lb 9 oz), Arctic grayling (269 kg or 5 lb 5 oz), and lake trout (30.16 kg or 66 lb 8⁰²).

"The north is a sports fishing utopia," says Russ Heslep, an avid fisherman, Chairman of the National Selection Committee for Canada's National Recreation Fisheries Awards, and Vice-President of the Yellowknife Fish and Game Association. "To me, it's like the last frontier.

"This area constitutes about one-third of Canada's land mass, yet only 60,000 people live here. There are uncharted lakes, streams and rivers that have never been touched. We're forever finding new lakes, some without names, that are stuffed full of lake trout!"

There are 46 fishing lodges offering superb fishing in virtually every region of the NWT, from Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes in the west, to Baffin Island in the east, and the Arctic coast in the north.

These lodges attracted 4,316 anglers in 1992- more than half of these from the United States. The 1992 fishing season marked a slight increase from 1991 when 4,257 anglers fished the NWT.

After fishing at Frontier Fishing Lodge on Great Slave Lake, Thomas McIntyre of Sports Afield wrote "The five waters - Great Slave, Stark and Murky Lakes, and the Stark and Snowdrift Rivers - must be ranked among the worlds greatest angling waters!

"Each has a unique fishing experience to offer, each has its own special memory it will leave you with. The sparkling leap of grayling at the end of your flyline, the great surge of striking pike, the burnished shadow of a huge lake trout as he comes reluctantly to the surface, all are accessible memories."

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Angler . . .2

Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout and great northern pike are the main prizes sought by anglers, while pickerel, inconnu and lake whitefish add to the NWT fishing adventure.

Arctic char, a member of the salmon family, can be found from Baffin Island to the Yukon. Char are feisty fighters and commonly range in size from 2.3 to 3.2 kg (5 to 7 lbs.), although fish weighing 6.8 kg (15 lbs) are common in some NWT rivers.

Arctic grayling are beautiful fish with dark blue backs, purple-grey sides and large, sail-like dorsal fins. Average weights range from 0.4 to 0.9 kg (1 to 2 lbs). They are common in the drainage systems of the Coppermine, Anderson, Thelon and Back Rivers.

Hard-fighting northern pike can be found throughout most of mainland NWT. They prefer warmer water; slow, heavily-vegetated rivers, or weedy bays of lakes. Pike generally run from 2.3 to 6.8 kg (5 to 15 lbs), but quite a few weighing 13.6 to 18.1 kg (30 to 40 lbs) have been caught.

Lake trout provide spectacular sport on Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes, and in hundreds of other lakes throughout the NWT. They average 4.5 kg (10 lbs), but catches of 13.5 to 18 kg (30 to 40 lbs) are not uncommon.

Inconnu average 4 to 9 kg (9 to 20 lbs) but catches over 31.5 kg (70 lbs) have been reported. Pickerel, also known as walleye or doré, generally weigh up to 2.3 kg (5 lbs). Lake whitefish are large, and the most common commercially sold lake fish found in the Northwest Territories.

The *Northwest Territories Sport Fishing Guide* provides a wealth of information on fishing in the NWT and is available through the Department of Economic Development & Tourism.

For more information and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the U.S., call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S. call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9, Canada.

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Ancient cultures attract modern tourists

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – In the Northwest Territories - and perhaps nowhere else in North America - travelers can experience aboriginal cultures that lived nomadic lifestyles well into the 20th century.

And although the Dene and Inuit are bridging the gap to the modern industrial world, neither culture has abandoned its traditional ways. In communities across the NWT, the Dene and Inuit are proud to share their cultures and traditions with visitors.

In Pangnirtung on the eastern shores of Baffin Island, more than 8,000 visitors toured the Angmarlik Visitors Centre in 1993, emerging with a new awareness of the traditional life of the Inuit.

At the gateway to Nahanni National Park, the Village of Fort Simpson Visitors Centre offers a glimpse into the Dene way of life, complete with crafts and a reproduction of a Hudson Bay Store.

The Dene and Inuit have inhabited the northernmost regions of Canada for 1,000-2500 years, their unique cultures shaped by survival in harsh Arctic and sub-Arctic climates.

Visitors can hear the diverse languages of the NWT and experience the Aboriginal cultures in any of the fascinating small communities of the vast Northwest Territories. The NWT has eight official languages, but almost everyone under the age of 40 speaks English as either a first or second language.

Visit a community and take part in a drum dance, sample caribou stew and bannock. Watch the strong sure hands of a Dene woman as she scrapes a mooseskin, or makes tiny neat stitches to create colourful designs with glass beads on a piece of moosehide. Travel with an Inuit hunter by dogteam across a frozen fiord, or listen to an Inuit woman as she recounts tales from long before the arrival of Europeans, of days when Inuit still hunted whales from kayaks with harpoons, lances and floats of inflated sealskins.

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Ancient Cultures . . .2

There are many operators in the Northwest Territories offering packaged tours that escort travelers to the communities, and offer a glimpse into the past and present lifestyles of the peoples of the North. Most of these packages start from a commercial airline "hub and include transportation, accommodation, meals, and programming and interpretation.

There are numerous museums, visitors centres, traditional camps and archaeological sites that provide visitors with insight into the history of the Northwest Territories, and the Inuit and Dene.

Learn from the Inuit of the search for the Northwest Passage, or the history of whaling in Pangnirtung Fjord Watch a master sculptor as he carves out scenes of the past while perched in front of his modern house. Tour Inuit print-making studios. Or watch the creation of a sturdy Fort Liard birchbark basket, complete with porcupine quillwork.

Travel with an Inuit family to set nets through the spring ice for Arctic char. Inspect immense tent rings and rectangular house foundations of stone that date from the 1400s to 1700s, when the Thule people hunted along the edges of ice floes. Relax in a setting of peaceful natural beauty in a traditional Dogrib camp along the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, or trace the history of the oilfields in Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic coast

For more information and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the U.S., call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the US. call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294.

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Naturalist's paradise in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – Although two-thirds of the NWT is tundra and referred to as barrenlands, it is anything but barren - particularly during the short summer months.

In fact, one of the most spectacular and predictable natural “shows” is the annual display of Arctic wildflowers.

From June through July, the tundra is literally carpeted with tiny, colourful flowers. Heather and rhododendron, lupines and mountain avens create ever-changing patterns, punctuated by orchids less than six inches tall, woolly louseworts like fuzzy candles, yellow buttercups, a variety of saxifrages, and dozens of other flowers.

There are a number of lodges offering opportunities to view and photograph the NWT's incredible diversity of wildflowers, birds, mammals and sea mammals. And for each of the lodges offering naturalist experiences, there are literally hundreds of thousands of square miles of wilderness.

Of course, these lodges are not alone in the 3,426,320 square kilometers (2,129,115 square miles) of land and fresh water comprising the NWT. They share this vast land with approximately 62,900 people, 1,300,000 barren-ground caribou, 105,000 muskoxen, 26,000 moose, 15,000 wolves, 12,700 polar bears, 10,000 woodland caribou, 6,000 Dan's sheep, 5,000 grizzly bears, 5,000 black bears, 2,500 bison and many others.

Smaller land mammals include coyotes, beavers, Arctic and red foxes, lynx, wolverines, weasels, mink, martens, fishers, hares, Arctic ground squirrels, marmots, pika, lemmings and others.

Canada's Arctic is one of the few areas in the world with an abundance of marine mammals. Common species include ringed, bearded and harbour seals, walrus, Greenland bowhead whale, killer whale, beluga whale, narwhal and others.

Each spring, millions of songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and seabirds converge on Canada's North to breed. Birds from six continents travel through more than 30 countries to breed in this northern land. About 280 species of birds, 45 per cent of Canada's total, have been recorded in the NWT - including

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threatened or endangered species such as the trumpeter swan, American white pelican, whooping crane, peregrine falcon and Eskimo curlew.

Unlike most of the world, the wildlife in the Arctic is totally unconfined, not compelled to exist only where the human population allows it to exist. There is a lot of land in the North, and it's easy to miss even the largest of herds as well-documented early tragedies will attest.

The advantage of using local lodges and outfitters is knowledge. Their guides and naturalists know where to find the wildlife and how to approach it. Page Burt, naturalist for Bathurst Inlet Lodge, states, "Although we never 'promise' wildlife encounters, we routinely get groups of guests within 60 yards of muskoxen. We know where to find them and understand their body language."

Sila Lodge, situated in Wager Bay on the western shores of Hudson Bay, offers a unique opportunity for naturalists to view polar bears in their summer habitat.

"Our guests are also able to see lots of caribou, peregrine falcons in one of their largest nesting grounds, as well as Arctic wolves, seals, sik-sik (ground squirrels) - they're great fun for photographers - and Arctic loons," says Lynda Gunter of Sila Lodge.

Other lodges offering naturalist opportunities are Arctic Watch Lodge, Ferguson Lake Lodge, Blachford Lake Lodge, MacKay Lake Lodge, Nahanni Mountain Lodge, Oldsquaw Lodge, and Watta Lake Lodge. Many operators also offer day trips or excursions of several weeks out of communities across the North.

In addition to the lodges, there are territorial and national parks, such as Wood Buffalo, Nahanni and Auyuittuq, that welcome thousands of visitors each year.

For more information and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the U.S., call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S., call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9, Canada.

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Explore the Canadian Arctic by highway

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT (1994) - The Dempster Highway to Canada's Arctic is one of the fastest growing tourist attractions in North America.

The Dempster - a newer, more remote version of the famed Alaska Highway - offers 730 kilometres (450 miles) of uncrowded, breath-taking vistas across the continental divide en route to the town of Inuvik about 375 kilometres (233 miles) north of the Arctic Circle.

The Dempster leaves the Klondike Highway east of Dawson City in the Yukon. From the goldfields of the Klondike it passes through the Ogilvie Range, along the ridges and through the black spruce forest of Eagle Plains. It crosses the Arctic Circle and Mackenzie River and ends at the town of Inuvik - the gateway to the communities of the Delta and the Beaufort Sea.

There are three highways leading into the NWT: the Dempster; the Mackenzie Highway, also known as the 'Waterfalls Route', which enters southwestern NWT via Alberta, and the Liard Trail which provides entry from British Columbia.

Ever-improving conditions of the NWT highway system have resulted in an upswing in the number of visitors driving to the western Northwest Territories. The Dempster and Liard are truly northern roads. They're not paved, but they're not the gravel roads of rural North America. They are wide, hard-packed highways; transportation routes for residents and visitors alike. Crossing the historic rivers of the NWT, on free government-operated ferries, is part of every highway driving experience.

Statistics from the summer of 1993 show that 3369 visiting vehicles (8,423 visitors) travelled the Mackenzie Highway and crossed on the Mackenzie River ferry at Fort Providence, while 1,145 vehicles (2,863 visitors) crossed on the Liard River ferry at Fort Simpson. A total of 2,267 vehicles (5,668 visitors) travelled the famed Dempster Highway and crossed on the Peel River ferry at Fort McPherson.

After leaving British Columbia, the Liard Highway follows the Liard River from Fort Liard to the Fort Simpson junction, with views of the beautiful Mackenzie Mountains to the west. Thick spruce forest borders this well-maintained gravel road. This is the country of the moose, black bear, and the rare trumpeter swan.

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The Mackenzie Highway, #1, continues north across the Alberta/NWT border to Enterprise where it meets Highway #2 which heads north to Hay River and connections to Fort Smith and Fort Resolution. Along these sections of highway Wood Bison are bound to be seen. Highway #1 veers west at this point following the Mackenzie River to the junction of Highway #3 which heads north to Fort Providence and Yellowknife or continues west to the junction of the Liard Highway, or on to Fort Simpson and Wrigley.

Wrigley, a small Dene community, will see its first summer road travelers in 1994 when the ribbon is cut on the Mackenzie Highway extension to reveal another ferry crossing the Mackenzie River and the longest bridge north of the 60th Parallel which spans the Willowlake River.

Motorists striking out for Yellowknife will encounter about 250 kilometres (155 miles) of gravel road

“The route from the Alberta border to Yellowknife is about 528 kilometres (328 miles), and more than half is now asphalt surfaced,” says Masood Hassan, the Director of Transportation Planning for the NWT Department of Transportation. “It’s about 1,500 kilometres from Edmonton to Yellowknife, and of that 1,500 kilometres only 250 is gravel. So it’s really only two-and-half hours of gravel and within five years, we’ll have it down to one hour gravel.

Mr. Hassan adds, however all roads in the NWT - even the gravel roads - are maintained to good standards.

“It used to be said that our roads up here were so rough they would knock the head off a woodpecker. They were bad But we’ve made impressive progress and we are quite proud of our road system?”

Services along northern highways have also improved, but are still limited. Most communities on the highway system have motels, restaurants and service stations. The distance between communities is considerable, however, so motorists are advised to always plan ahead and keep their tanks as full as possible. Between communities on the highway there is a system of NWT parks, ranging from fully staffed and serviced campgrounds, and visitor centres to rest stops with interpretive signage and incredible photo opportunities.

Motorists venturing North in the winter can experience the thrill of traveling on winter roads. These roads traverse land and frozen lakes and rivers, and connect off-highway communities and mines that must otherwise rely on air transport. It’s estimated that the NWT road system increases by 50 per cent in the winter.

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For a free "NWT Official Explorers' Map", more information and your free copy of the Explorers' Guide, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From Canada and the US, call toll free to 1-800-661-0788 and ask for Operator M. From outside Canada and the U.S. call (403) 873-7200 or fax (403) 873-0294. Or, write to Tourism Development and Marketing, Suite 196, Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT, P.O. Box 3320, Yellowknife, NT, XIA 2L9, Canada,

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Canadian Arctic heats up!

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The Canadian Arctic is the hottest new winter destination for North American and international travelers.

Winter/spring tourism has grown steadily in the Northwest Territories as more travelers become interested in seeing the Arctic during the off-season of October through May. Today, nearly one out of every six tourists visiting the Northwest Territories arrives in winter.

Last year, close to 9,000 people visited the NWT during the winter, while approximately 48,000 visitors touched down in the NWT between June and September.

A popular T-shirt in the NWT depicts the four seasons as “June”, “July”, “August” and “Winter”. As with most humour, there’s more than a grain of truth here. Winters in the North are long, dark and sometimes harsh. But Northerners are an active people and life goes on during winter.

A wide range of things to see and do are offered throughout the spring and winter in virtually all regions of the Northwest Territories. For example, an average of 700 Japanese tourists visit the NWT’s Capital City of Yellowknife each winter to “see the beauty of the aurora borealis,” reports Bill Tait of Raven Tours.

A wide variety of festivals and special events are held throughout the year and any travelers venturing North of 60 in the winter/spring are more than welcome to join in the fun.

In early January, visitors can join Inuvik residents as they celebrate the return of the sun after a month of darkness! March, April and May are extremely busy months with bonspiels, dogsled races and celebrations held throughout the North to mark the impending return of spring. There’s the Beaver Tail Jamboree in Fort Simpson, Cabin Fever Days in Fort Liard, Caribou Carnival in Yellowknife, Omingmak Frolics in Cambridge Bay, White Fox Jamboree in Sachs Harbour, Toonik Tyme in Iqaluit and many others.

NWT tourism operators can enhance a visitor’s stay with general interest tours that are sure to provide an exhilarating experience!

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Northern visitors can mush a dogteam, experience the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), watch as seemingly endless herds of caribou migrate across a frozen lake, snowmobile across the tundra, cross-country ski, ice fish, taste northern life at a trapper's cabin, travel an ice road, camp out in an igloo, or simply photograph the North's spectacular scenery!

When it's time to retreat to the warmth of the indoors, there are nearly 20 museums, cultural centres and exhibits spread throughout the Northwest Territories. (There are also numerous restaurants that offer warm dining areas and tasty northern meals!)

Of course, there's always the true NWT experience of stepping out into a crackling cold -40° Celsius night and watching the northern lights dance across the sky.

For a detailed listing of year-round events, tourism operators who can help package a Northern holiday of a lifetime, or a free copy of the *Explorers' Guide*, contact the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

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