



Northwest Territories

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Fuego (p805)
- ➔ Thornton's Wine & Tapas Room (p805)
- ➔ Frozen Grape (p809)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Embleton House B&B (p803)
- ➔ Yellowknife Bay Floating B&B (p803)
- ➔ Blachford Lake Lodge (p807)
- ➔ Mackenzie Rest Inn (p812)
- ➔ Whooping Crane Guest House (p810)
- ➔ Arctic Chalet (p816)
- ➔ Heritage Hotel (p815)

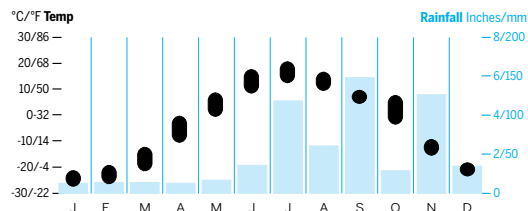
Why Go?

On a planet containing seven billion people, it's difficult to imagine that there are still places as empty as the Northwest Territories (NWT). A vast swathe of boreal forest and arctic tundra five times the size of the United Kingdom, it has a population of a small provincial town. In the 19th century, gold prospectors passed it over as too remote; modern Canadians, if they head north at all, prefer to romanticize about iconic Nunavut or the grandiose Yukon. More people orbit the earth each year than visit lonely Aulavik, one of the territory's four national parks.

What they're missing is something unique: a potent combo of epic, accessible terrain and singular aboriginal culture. With one of the world's greatest waterfalls and North America's deepest lake, it has enough brutal wilderness to keep a modern-day David Livingstone happy for a couple of lifetimes.

When to Go

Yellowknife



Jun See midnight sun before the horseflies hatch.

Jul & Aug Hyper-active summer season, good for fishing and canoeing in lakes and rivers.

Mar Best winter visits, with aurora viewing, husky mushing and Yellowknife's Snowking festival.



Northwest Territories Highlights

1 Pack two spare tires and a capacious camera memory for the gob-smacking **Dempster Highway** (p815).

2 Rent a kayak and float on **Great Slave Lake** (p801) amid technicolor houseboats and barnstorming floatplanes.

3 J-stroke past gorgeous hot springs and gorging bears

in the paddlers' paradise of **Nahanni National Park Reserve** (p813).

4 Be buffaloeed by mating snakes, vanishing rivers and the eponymous ungulates of **Wood Buffalo National Park** (p810).

5 Go to the dogs during a husky-team ride near

Yellowknife (p800) beneath the aurora borealis.

6 Go where few have gone before and hike part or all of the **Canol Heritage Trail** (p815).