



Northwest Territories

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Best Places to Sleep

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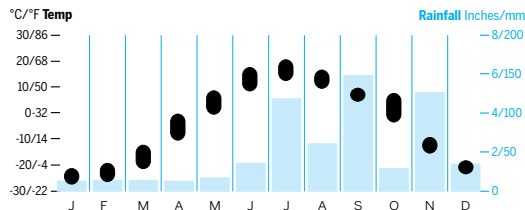
Why Go?

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 swath of boreal forest and Arctic tundra five times the size of the UK, 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, remarkably beautiful, accessible terrain, singular aboriginal culture and a vibrant, cosmopolitan regional capital. 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 the mid-night sun and go hiking before the horseflies hatch.

Jul & Aug Hyper-active summer, good for fishing and canoeing. Aurora sightings in late August.

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



Northwest Territories Highlights

- 1 Nahanni National Park Reserve** (p808) Canoeing past gorgeous hot springs and gorging bears.
- 2 Dempster Highway** (p811) Packing two spare tires and a camera for this gob-smacking highway.
- 3 Yellowknife** (p796) Driving your own sled with

- a husky team beneath the aurora borealis.
- 4 Wood Buffalo National Park** (p806) Being dazzled by herds of bison, vast salt plains, vanishing rivers and the brilliant night sky.
 - 5 Inuvik** (p810) Visiting the Western Arctic's remotest communities and dipping your toe in the Arctic Ocean.

- 6 Canol Heritage Trail** (p810) Hiking where few have hiked before.
- 7 Great Slave Lake** (p797) Paddling past buzzing floatplanes and bobbing houseboats.
- 8 Norman Wells** (p810) Embarking on a canoeing adventure down the mighty Mackenzie.