

North Yukon's

Great Wilderness Parks

Venture further...

Discover a vast land of epic migrations, ancient landforms, amazing adaptations and continuing cultural traditions in Yukon's own far north.

YG Photo / F. Mueller



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Information about parks and historic sites in Yukon has been provided by Parks Canada, Yukon Parks and Tourism Yukon – working together to share and promote Yukon's Canadian heritage and natural beauty.

Yukon's national and territorial parks – new worlds to explore. North Yukon's natural beauty and cultural history takes many different forms, and our great wilderness parks honour them all. You never imagined the North could hold so many secrets.

Communities and Cultures

North Yukon's parks each have their own rich cultural heritage. Archaeological sites in the parks tell us about the ancient peoples who travelled and hunted in the North long ago. Their modern descendants continue to practice many of their traditions and ways of life. In North Yukon you will meet Vuntut Gwitchin, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Teetl'it Gwich'in, and Inuvialuit who welcome you to visit their communities, and are proud to share their cultural heritage.

Respecting the Land

The delicate ecosystems of the north are sensitive to human disturbance. As you explore and enjoy Yukon's incredible natural treasures please help us protect them. Travel and camp with care and respect.

Honouring our Heritage

Yukon's northern parks all protect precious historic and cultural features, some representing a heritage of many thousands of years. When visiting the parks be aware of the artifacts and heritage sites you may encounter, and leave them undisturbed so their stories may continue to be told.



To ensure safe travel in these remote arctic areas, very careful planning and an excellent understanding of the potential risks is essential. For complete trip planning information please contact the parks.





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Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

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Where the natural life of both the land and sea share a precious arctic island, attracting Inuvialuit, historic whalers, researchers, and visitors to explore a rich and beautiful natural environment.



Parks Canada

Ivavik National Park

PAGE 5

Where the Firth River takes you through ancient river canyons all the way to Yukon's Arctic Ocean coast.



Parks Canada Photo / C. Wong

Vuntut National Park

PAGE 6

Where you can snowshoe across the rolling mountain landscape of prehistoric Beringia.

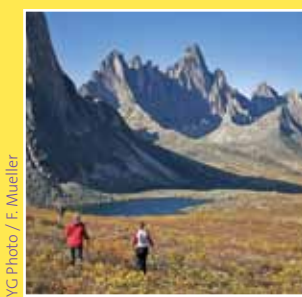


YG Photo / E. Mueller

Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Territorial Park

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Where salmon spawn, grizzly bears feast, and underground caves store warm waters through the long cold winters.



YG Photo / E. Mueller

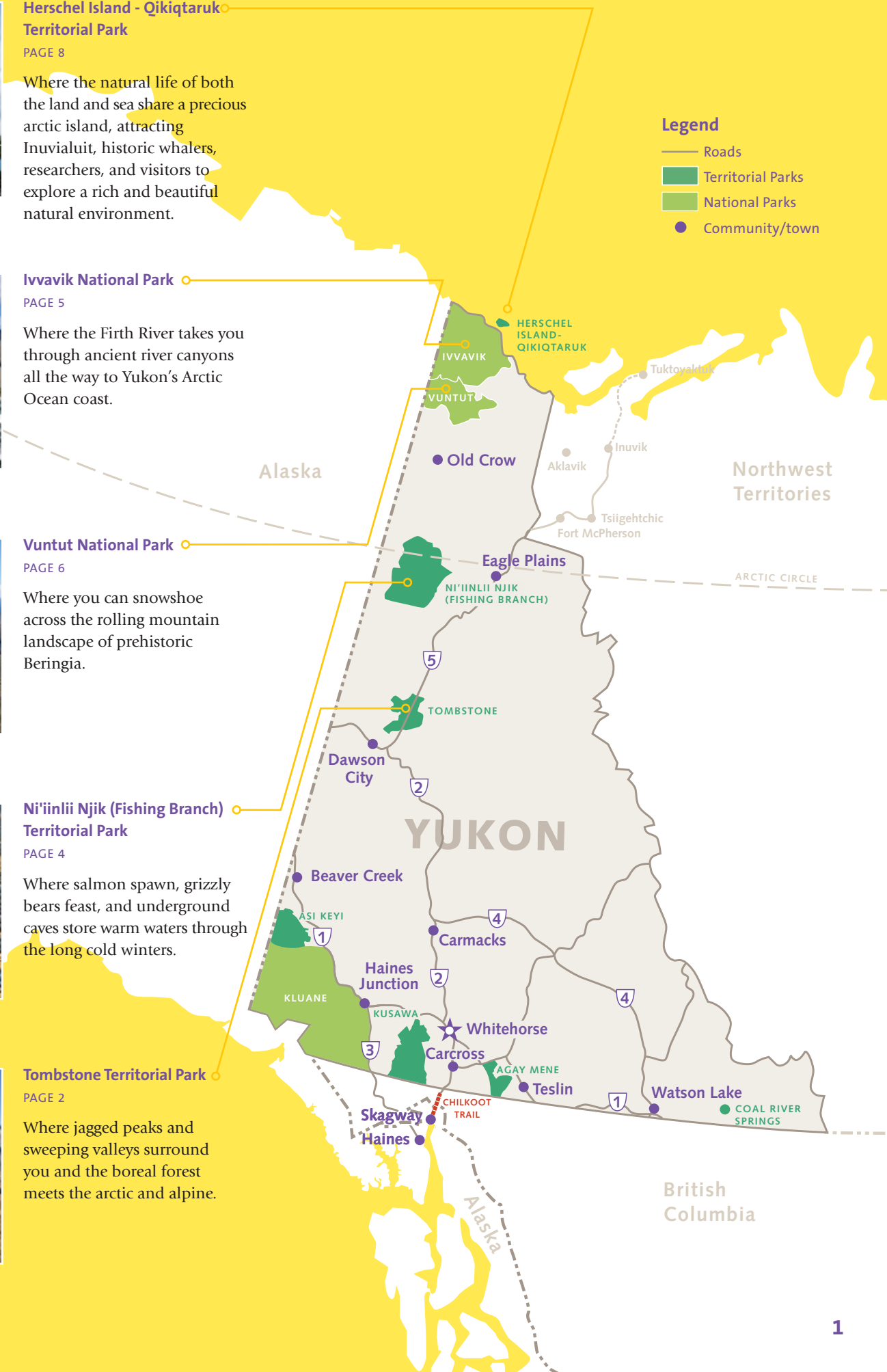
Tombstone Territorial Park

PAGE 2

Where jagged peaks and sweeping valleys surround you and the boreal forest meets the arctic and alpine.

Legend

- Roads
- Territorial Parks
- National Parks
- Community/town



Tombstone Territorial Park

Land of Jagged Mountain Peaks

A Special Place

Tombstone Territorial Park protects a spectacular wilderness area where the contrasting worlds of the boreal forest, alpine lakes, and arctic tundra meet, offering an exceptional concentration of diverse ecological niches. The jagged black peaks, the broad tundra valleys, the fascinating permafrost landforms and the diverse and abundant wildlife create a unique environment rich in natural and cultural heritage.

The Experience

- **Hiking.** This is a wilderness park with few established trails. Hikers must be prepared for the challenges of hiking in a remote backcountry. But the rewards are great. The breathtaking scenery, natural environment, and unique features of the park offer an exceptional hiking experience.
- **Tombstone Interpretive Centre.** Open from June to September, the Centre offers interpretive displays, programs, and guided walks that will enrich your experience of the park.
- **Tombstone Mountain Campground.** The campground is easily accessible from the highway and provides an excellent base of exploration for the park. The campground is located near the Interpretive Centre and it offers basic camping facilities.
- **Roadside wildlife and scenic viewing.** The Dempster Highway runs through Tombstone Park, allowing fantastic opportunities to view the scenery and wildlife, which includes caribou, moose, wolves, grizzly and black bears, foxes and ptarmigans. Knowledgeable park staff at the Interpretive Centre can provide tips for wildlife viewing from the highway, also available in *The Dempster Highway Travelogue* and the *Wildlife Viewing Guide*.
- **Backcountry camping and campgrounds.** You can camp for free anywhere in the Tombstone Park backcountry, and there are also three maintained campgrounds to choose from. Permits are required at the backcountry campgrounds, which you can purchase at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre. If you require advance scheduling, contact the Yukon Parks Dawson office.



Tombstone Park is one of the most important cultural and hunting sites in the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Teet'it Gwich'in. Archaeology sites provide evidence of at least 8,000 years of human history in the park. Tombstone Park remains a valued part of the traditional ways of life of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Teet'it Gwich'in.



Marc Pike Photo



Yc Photo / E. Wujeler

How to get there

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre and Tombstone Mountain Campground are located on the Dempster Highway, 71.5 km north of the North Klondike Highway. From Whitehorse the drive to the park is 550 km, approximately 7 hours. From Dawson City it is approximately 1.5 hours.

For more information

Yukon Parks, Environment Yukon
PHONE (867) 993-6850 (DAWSON OFFICE)
TOLL-FREE 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648
www.yukonparks.ca | tombstone@gov.yk.ca

Park Information Hotline – (Dawson City)
PHONE (867) 993-2441 TOLL-FREE 1-866-617-2757

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
PHONE (867) 993-7100 | www.trondek.com

Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Territorial Park

Where the Salmon Spawn

A Special Place

Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Park is a wilderness park that protects a distinct and fascinating ecosystem. Each year chum salmon travel thousands of kilometres from the Bering Sea to the Fishing Branch River, bringing valuable nutrients from the sea that sustain a flourishing ecosystem deep in the northern interior. Karst formations enhance this nutrient-rich habitat by storing thermal energy in underground reservoirs of water. The warm waters resurface and flow year-round, creating an island of temperate forest around Bear Cave Mountain and the Fishing Branch watershed. This unique environment supports a high seasonal population of grizzly bears, which congregates each fall to feed on spawning salmon. The park area also includes part of the spring migration route of the Porcupine caribou herd, as well as sheep, moose, raptors, and a wide variety of other wildlife.

The Experience

Commercially guided grizzly bear viewing opportunities are available in the ecological reserve during the salmon run in September and October. Other recreation opportunities are still being explored in the park so access is limited and requires a park permit. For current visiting information please contact the park.

- **The Village of Old Crow.** Feel the spirit of Ni'inlii Njik in the traditional community of Old Crow. Enjoy interpretive displays at the John Tizya Centre and visit with Vuntut Gwitchin of today, the people who continue to know this land the best.

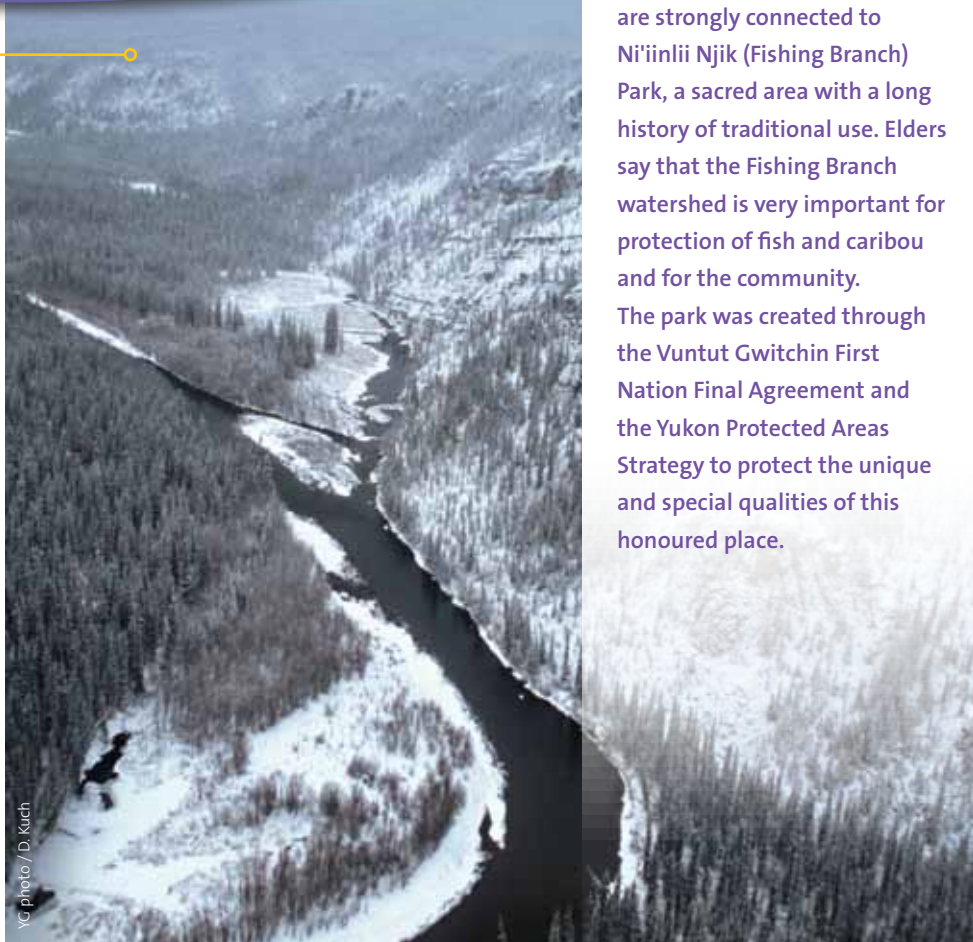
How to get there

Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Territorial Park is a remote wilderness park far from the nearest road or airport. It is located between Dawson City and Old Crow, Yukon. Access to the park is primarily by helicopter. A permit is required to visit and visitors must be accompanied by a guide during the salmon run. If you are interested in visiting Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Park, please contact the park for complete information and assistance.

For more information

Yukon Parks, Environment Yukon
PHONE (867) 993-6850 (DAWSON OFFICE)
TOLL-FREE 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648
www.yukonparks.ca | yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
PHONE (867) 966-3261 | www.vgfn.ca



YG photo / D. Kuch

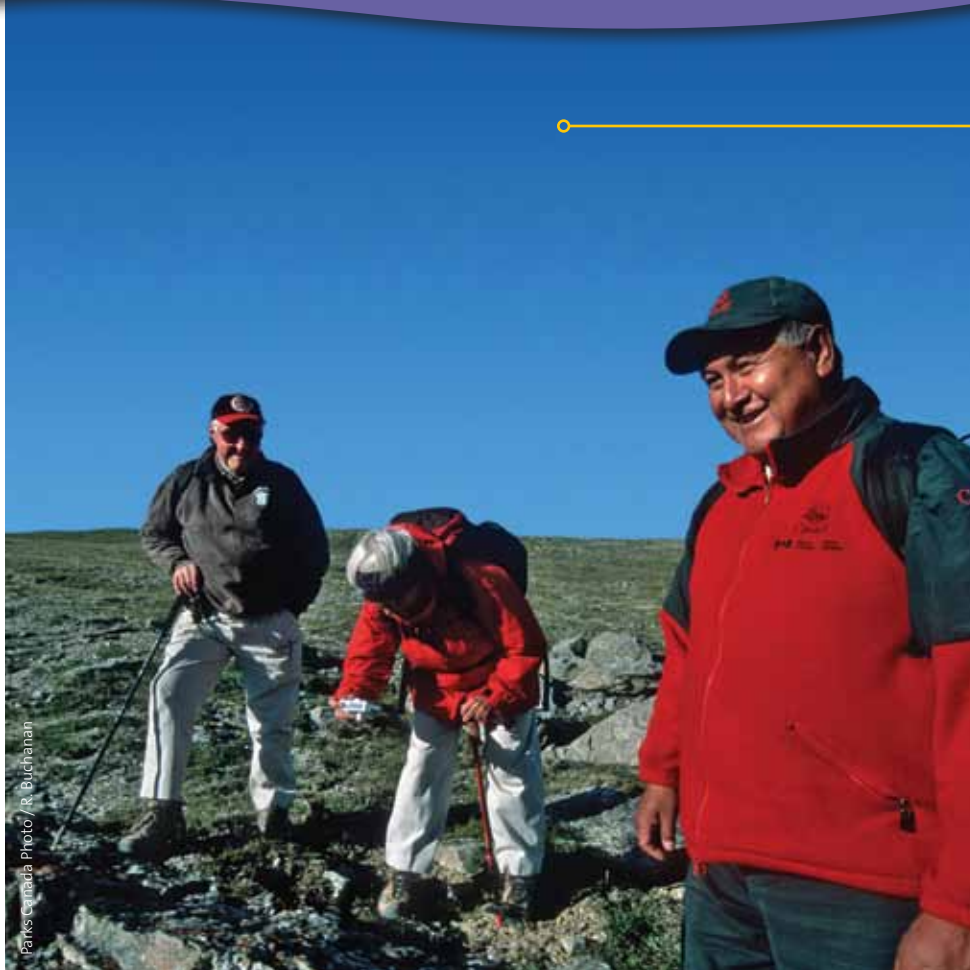
The Vuntut Gwitchin are strongly connected to Ni'inlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Park, a sacred area with a long history of traditional use. Elders say that the Fishing Branch watershed is very important for protection of fish and caribou and for the community. The park was created through the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy to protect the unique and special qualities of this honoured place.



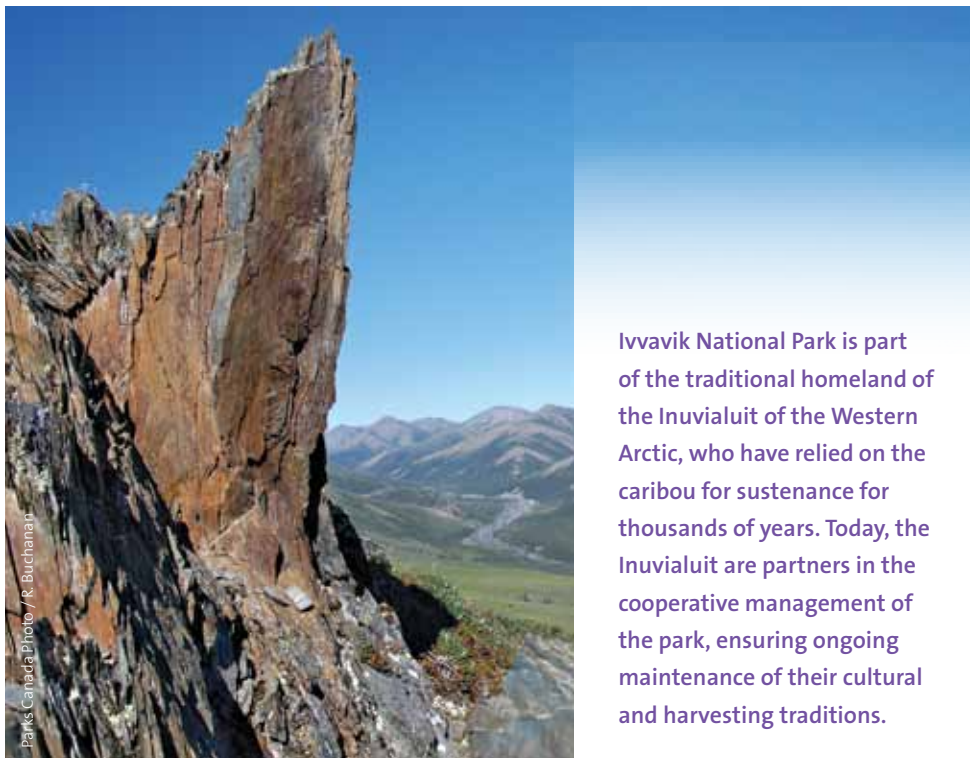
YG photo / E. Mueller

Ivvavik National Park of Canada

Where the Caribou Are Born



Parks Canada Photo / R. Buchanan



Parks Canada Photo / R. Buchanan

Ivvavik National Park is part of the traditional homeland of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, who have relied on the caribou for sustenance for thousands of years. Today, the Inuvialuit are partners in the cooperative management of the park, ensuring ongoing maintenance of their cultural and harvesting traditions.

A Heritage Treasure

Ivvavik National Park celebrates a diverse environment of ancient mountain peaks, rocky canyons, turquoise rivers, and arctic coastal plains. A portion of the Porcupine caribou herd calving grounds is included in Ivvavik, allowing the park to play an important role in the health of the herd. Representing the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta natural regions of Canada, Ivvavik National Park ensures that a spectacular portion of these unique environmental areas is cherished by present and future generations.

The Experience

- **Rafting on the Firth River.** Rafting on the Firth's world-class white water is *the* wilderness journey of a lifetime. Travel through ancient rock canyons that slash the tundra and take you out to the arctic coast.
- **Hiking.** The gentle unglaciated mountains of Ivvavik offer infinite hiking possibilities. During the short explosive summers, wildflowers carpet the landscape and wildlife viewing opportunities abound.
- **Flightseeing.** Ivvavik is accessed by air charter, which adds the unforgettable experience of flying across the massive delta of the Mackenzie River and over the blue rivers, tundra foothills, and mountains of northern Yukon.
- **A cultural experience.** Visit the communities of Inuvik and Aklavik, and meet Inuvialuit whose traditional knowledge and cultural heritage are a treasured part of Ivvavik National Park.

How to get there

Ivvavik National Park is 200 km from Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Access to the park is by air charter from Inuvik.

Regular scheduled flights connect Inuvik to Edmonton, Alberta, and Whitehorse, Yukon. Inuvik is also accessible by road from Yukon by travelling the world-famous Dempster Highway.

For more information

Ivvavik National Park of Canada
P.O. Box 1840, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
PHONE (867) 777-8800 | www.pc.gc.ca/ivvavik

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
PHONE (867) 966-3261 | www.vgfn.ca

Vuntut National Park of Canada

Land of Lakes and Rolling Mountains

Heritage Treasure

Vuntut National Park protects an ancient arctic landscape of rolling tundra mountains, fertile lakes and wetlands, winding rivers, and highly adapted wildlife. As part of a larger protected area, including Ivvavik National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Vuntut National Park contains a portion of the Porcupine caribou herd range, a key species to the ecosystems and Aboriginal people of northern Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Alaska. The park also includes internationally recognized natural areas such as the Old Crow Flats, designated under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

The Experience

Are you a serious wilderness adventurer?

You can discover one of Canada's last unexplored hidden treasures by hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing in the ancient open landscape of the park. Vuntut National Park is a true wilderness park with no facilities or designated trails, and you can work with park staff to plan your own route and itinerary.

Are you a curious traveller with a passion for authentic experiences?

You can get a taste of the park in the north Yukon village of Old Crow. Start your visit at the John Tizya Centre where interpretive exhibits will introduce you to the natural and cultural history of Vuntut National Park. Then take your time and explore the village. You will experience a warm welcome from the Vuntut Gwitchin, who continue to practice many of their traditional ways of life, relying on the land for the majority of their sustenance.



Vuntut National Park remains an important part of the traditional territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin, a place where they continue to travel and practice their traditional ways of life as they have for thousands of years. The park is dedicated to protecting both the park ecosystems and the cultural heritage of the Vuntut Gwitchin. Working closely with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Parks Canada proudly ensures that this treasured area of the Northern Yukon Natural Region will remain vibrant and healthy for present and future generations to enjoy.



Parks Canada Photo / C. Wong



YG Photo

How to get there

For the serious adventurer

Access to this remote arctic national park is challenging and requires extensive trip planning and preparation. If you are interested in planning a trip into Vuntut National Park, you will need to contact the park office for complete information and assistance.

For the curious traveller

If you seek opportunities to step off the beaten track, time spent in Old Crow will provide an outstanding highlight of your Yukon experience. Old Crow is a fly-in community with no road access. Regular scheduled flights connect Old Crow to Inuvik, Northwest Territories, and Whitehorse, Yukon.

For more information

Vuntut National Park of Canada, Parks Canada
General Delivery, Old Crow, YT Y0B 1N0
PHONE (867) 966-3622 | www.pc.gc.ca/vuntut

Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

The Haven in the Sea

A Special Place

Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park – Yukon's only large marine island – supports vibrant land and sea ecosystems. Nestled only 5 km off of Yukon's north coast on the Beaufort Sea, Herschel Island creates a protected harbour from pack ice and north winds, and traps the warm nutrient-rich waters that flow west from the Mackenzie River delta. The special characteristics of Qikiqtaruk and its unique combination of plants, animals and sea life have drawn people to the island for thousands of years. Historic and archaeological sites from many periods of human history remain, including evidence of Thule and Inuvialuit occupations and twelve historic structures from a large 19th century whaling station. The island continues to be used and valued, by the Inuvialuit and by researchers as a globally-significant climate change hotspot.

How to get there

Inuvik, Northwest Territories is the main access point to the park, located 250 km to the southeast. From mid-June to mid-September, Herschel Island is accessible by boat or aircraft charter from Inuvik. Contact Tourism Yukon or NWT Tourism for current information on charter options.

If you are rafting or kayaking the Firth River in Ivvavik National Park you can end your trip at Herschel Island. The Firth River enters the Beaufort Sea directly south of Herschel Island, and you can arrange to be picked up on the island. Contact Parks Canada in Inuvik for information on this option.

Flexible schedule required! This is the Arctic, and your travel plans will always depend on the right weather conditions. Herschel Island is often shrouded in fog, especially in late summer, and flights can be delayed for hours and days. It is essential to be prepared for possible delays with sufficient food and equipment.

Qikiqtaruk is deeply treasured by the Inuvialuit. It is a place they come to hunt and fish as they have for countless generations. Inuvialuit oral tradition says people witnessed the making of Qikiqtaruk, and the island has continued to be a part of their traditional way of life since prehistoric times. Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park was established through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.





The Experience

- **Hiking and scenic viewing.** The windswept rolling tundra, abundant arctic wildflowers, and driftwood-laden beaches of Herschel Island offer fantastic terrain for hiking and exploring, all set against the breathtaking scenery of the British Mountains and coastal plains of Yukon's North Slope.
- **Wildlife and bird viewing.** Many arctic species make seasonal use of Herschel Island and its surrounding waters, including beluga and bowhead whales, ringed seals and polar bears, caribou, muskoxen, grizzly bears, and a wide variety of migratory birds. If you are lucky, you may even meet researchers studying these arctic denizens in their changing climate.
- **Camping.** Qikiqtaruk offers basic camping facilities including fire rings and outhouses. Cool temperatures and steady winds require that campers be properly prepared, but the driftwood windbreak shelters and 24-hour daylight provide memorable camping highlights.
- **Historic buildings.** During the late 19th century Herschel Island was the base of a large whaling settlement that included whaling ships, missionaries, police, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, and Alaskan, Inuvialuit, and Gwich'in traders. Thirteen historic structures from the period still stand today on Pauline Cove spit.
- **Archaeological and cultural sites.** Prehistoric arctic people migrated through this area several times, leaving evidence of their passing that goes back at least 9,000 years. Remains of 1,000-year-old dwellings from the Thule cultural period mark occupations on Herschel Island from that time. Other cultural features include semi-subterranean ice houses, cemeteries, and archaeological remains of historic and prehistoric cultures.

For more information

Yukon Parks, Environment Yukon
 P.O. Box 1129, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
 PHONE (867) 777-4058 (INUVIK OFFICE)
 TOLL-FREE 1-800-661-0408
www.yukonparks.ca | yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca

NWT Tourism
 Box 610, Yellowknife, NT, XIA 2N5
 TOLL-FREE 1-800-661-0788
spectacularnwt.com

What else is in the neighbourhood?

- **Dempster Highway.** This 736-km gravel highway is one of the most remote and scenic highways in North America. Starting just south of Dawson City, Yukon, the Dempster Highway heads north to Inuvik, crossing the Arctic Circle on the way. The drive up the Dempster will leave you with breathtaking memories of the Ogilvie and Richardson mountains, sweeping tundra valleys and vast wilderness plains of northern Yukon and Northwest Territories. The highway also travels through a number of First Nations' traditional lands. Pick up a free copy of *The Dempster Highway Travelogue* and *The People's Trail: Traveling in Dempster Country* at a Visitor Information Centre in Dawson City, Inuvik, or at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.
- **Dawson City, Yukon.** This historic Klondike Gold Rush town is a special part of any Yukon experience, including Dawson Historical Complex, Dredge No. 4, and S.S. Keno national historic sites of Canada. www.dawsoncity.ca
- **Inuvik, Northwest Territories.** Inuvik is the regional hub for the Western Arctic portion of the Northwest Territories, part of the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in traditional territories, and the end destination of the Dempster Highway. It is a great access point for adventures throughout the Western Arctic. www.inuvik.ca
- **Aklavik.** Across the Mackenzie Delta from Inuvik, at the base of the British Mountains, this traditional village is home to Gwich'in and Inuvialuit families who have hunted, travelled and practiced a traditional way of life in the Mackenzie Delta and northern Yukon for generations. Regular scheduled flights between Inuvik and Aklavik make it an easy and unforgettable day trip.
- **Old Crow, Yukon.** Immerse yourself in the cultural and natural world of the Vuntut Gwitchin. Explore the village of Old Crow on the banks of the Porcupine River and see the log homes, smokehouses and caribou antlers that tell of a life on the land. At the John Tizya Centre you will learn about the magnificent wildlife and delicate ecosystems of Vuntut National Park and Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Territorial Park. The Centre also offers trip planning information for travels throughout the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territories, including Rampart House and Lapierre House historic sites. And be sure to pick up the self-guided walking tour brochure, which leads you to the historic and beloved highlights of the village. www.oldcrow.ca



YG Photo / R. Postma



Parks Canada Photo

For more information

Find more useful Yukon travel tips in the following brochures, available at **Environment Yukon offices, Yukon Visitor Information Centres**, or at www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca.

- *Into the Yukon Wilderness*
- *Staying Safe in Bear Country*
- *The Dempster Highway Travelogue*
- *Wildlife Viewing Guide*

Travel Smart in the Yukon Outdoors

www.hss.gov.yk.ca/programs/health_promotion/travel_smart

Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon

www.wtay.com/bestenvironmentalpractices.aspx

Leave No Trace Canada www.leavenotrace.ca/programs/principles.html

Tourism Yukon

travelyukon.com

Canada

Yukon
Government