

## Where forest and tundra meet

Step right into boreal, alpine and arctic environments. At the south end of the park, forests follow the river valleys. Rainbows of alpine tundra carpet the slopes between dramatic rock formations. At the north end, a slender arm of Canada's Arctic reaches down into the Park. In this treeless, windswept tundra, look for ground-hugging plants and unusual permafrost landforms such as pingos and palsas.

A variety of habitats means a diversity of life. Caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly and black bears, wolves, hoary marmots, pikas, shrews and

voles all call Tombstone Park home. Along with subarctic mammals, the park harbours rare Beringian plants and insects found nowhere else on earth. Birders have spotted more than 148 species of birds. Arctic tundra breeders bump up against northern boreal species.

The continental divide cuts the park into two watersheds. To the south, the Klondike, Hart and Chandindu rivers feed the Yukon River watershed, whose waters eventually dump into the Bering Sea. The Blackstone River and its many creeks are part of the Mackenzie River watershed which flows north to the Arctic Ocean.

## Cultural Connections

At least 8,000 years of human history is preserved within the park's boundaries. This area is one of the most important cultural and hunting sites in the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

People have come to the Tombstone area for thousands of years. The open tundra landscape makes it easy to spot wildlife, thus good hunting. Nearby forests provide shelter and firewood. Dolly Varden and grayling

provide a food supply even in winter.

More than 70 archaeological sites tell us stories of look-out sites and ancient camps of caribou hunters. Attentive eyes may spot Han and Gwich'in house pits, elevated pole caches, hunting blinds, tent frames and graves.

You are welcome here, but please respect natural, historical and cultural artifacts or sites and leave them undisturbed.

## Hunting in the park



Visitors may encounter First Nation subsistence hunters or licensed resident hunters within park boundaries, usually in the fall. When you see our friends or families hunting moose or caribou, you

are witnessing an important part of northern culture.

If you are a hunter, please respect other park users. Store meat and dispose of carcasses away from high use areas (i.e.: keep it out of the campground).

## Publications

- Along the Dempster: An Outdoor Guide to Canada's Northernmost Highway* – Walter Lanz
- Birds by the Dempster Highway* – Bob Frisch
- Yukon's Tombstone Range and Blackstone Uplands: A Traveler's Guide* – Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Hiking in the Yukon* – Curtis Vos
- Available at Environment Yukon offices, Visitor Information Centres or from: [www.env.gov.yk.ca](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca)
- The Dempster Highway Travelogue*
- Birds of Tombstone Territorial Park*
- Into the Yukon Wilderness*
- How you can stay safe in bear country*
- Yukon Wildlife Viewing Guide*

## Maps

- A Hiking Map of Tombstone Territorial Park* – Yukon Parks

Use the following 1:50,000 scale maps for hiking in the backcountry.

*Tombstone River*  
(sheet 116B/7)

*Upper Klondike River*  
(sheet 116B/8)

*North Fork Pass*  
(sheet 116B/9)

*Seela Pass*  
(sheet 116B/10)

Use the *Dawson* (sheet 116B) 1:250,000 scale map for an overview of the park.

## Contacts

*Yukon Parks Main office* (Whitehorse):  
867-667-5648, toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648  
[yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca](mailto:yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca)

*Yukon Parks Klondike office* (Dawson City):  
867-993-7714

*Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in*:  
867-993-7100 | [www.trondek.com](http://www.trondek.com)

*Emergency* (RCMP Dawson):  
867-993-5555

[www.yukonparks.ca](http://www.yukonparks.ca)

A GUIDE TO

# Tombstone Territorial Park

Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän "ragged mountain land"



Yukon  
Parks



Yukon  
Environment

# Welcome

Yukon's Tombstone Territorial Park protects a unique wilderness of rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and abundant wildlife, all reflected in a rich First Nations culture.

The park is a legacy of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim agreement and lies entirely within their traditional territory.

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre is a 1-1/2 hr drive from Dawson City, 7 hours from Whitehorse and 12 hours from Inuvik.

On the Yukon portion of the Dempster Highway, gas, food and lodging are available only at the junction of the North Klondike and Dempster Highways and at Eagle Plains, 369 km further north. Make

sure you have plenty of gas and a couple of spare tires.

The Dempster Highway crosses the Arctic Circle (km 406) and ends in Inuvik, NWT (km 733). Pick up a *Dempster Highway Travelogue* at a Visitor Information Centre in Dawson, Inuvik or Tombstone Park. Topographic maps can be purchased in Dawson City or Whitehorse (see back page).

## Keep it Wild

Plan ahead. Prepare to leave no trace

Travel and camp on durable surfaces. Use existing trails and campsites. In pristine areas, spread out on durable ground.

Dispose of waste properly. Pack it in, pack it out. When outhouses are not available, cover human waste in a small hole 60 metres from water, camp and trails.



### Leave what you find

Leave natural, historical and cultural artefacts undisturbed.

### Minimize campfire impacts.

Use stoves or existing fire rings. Keep campfires small.

Respect wildlife. Observe from a distance. Never feed them. Keep pets under control.

Be considerate of others



## Facilities

### Tombstone Interpretive Centre

km 71.4



Open June to early September, seven days a week, including holidays. Connected to the roadside campground by a nature walking trail, the centre offers displays on the cultural and natural history of the park and highway. Centre staff offer free interpretive talks and walks on a posted schedule.

### Tombstone Mountain Campground

km 71.5



Just north of the Centre, the riverside campground offers firepits, picnic tables, outhouses, water and a picnic shelter. All campers must register.



## Backcountry Camping



You may camp for free anywhere in the Tombstone Park backcountry. Permits are required at Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake campgrounds, which feature cooking shelters, greywater disposal and outhouses. Limit ten tents per night per lake. Buy permits at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre or at the Dawson park office. You can also check availability and book online at [www.yukonparks.ca](http://www.yukonparks.ca).

Please follow Leave No Trace principles. For bear safety, separate camping, cooking and food storage by 100 meters. Store food and garbage in bearproof containers, for loan at the Centre. Register your backcountry trip at the Centre and at Hiker Registration boxes along the highway.

We strongly advise you to leave a trip plan with a reliable friend or the RCMP. Include your planned routes and stops on a map, your expected date of return and when the authorities should be notified if you don't show up. Get a Yukon Smart Travel Plan at [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/travelsmart](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/travelsmart).

## Hiking



Hiking in Tombstone is no "walk in the park." Enjoying its incredible backcountry means taking responsibility for your own safety, and respecting the experience of others.

This is a remote park with few established trails. Even if you plan on a day hike, prepare for rough terrain and drastic weather changes. Read *Into the Yukon Wilderness*, check the status of trails, weather and wildlife sightings at the centre or call the hotline.

## Wildlife and You

Bears aren't the only wildlife attracted to human smells. Squirrels, ravens, gray jays (aka "Camp Robbers") and marmots are notorious thieves. Help them stay wild and healthy by keeping your food and garbage secure.

### Bear safety starts with the following basics.

Learn about bears and how to prevent negative encounters.

Keep attractants in your vehicle or in the food cache near the kitchen shelter. Put waste in the bearproof garbage containers.

Food and garbage are the major attractants. Never leave food, dishes, garbage, cosmetics or any smelly item where a bear could get it, especially in your tent. Store them in bearproof containers away from your camp.

Pick up a copy of *How you can stay safe in bear country* at the Centre, any Environment Yukon office or Visitor Information Centre. We strongly advise you read it. Ask to view the *Staying Safe in Bear Country* video.

## Wildlife and Scenic Viewing



Several scenic viewpoints and wildlife viewing sites are found along the Dempster Highway corridor within Tombstone Park. Consult the *Dempster Highway Travelogue* or the *Wildlife Viewing Guide*. Even a short hike off the highway can provide you with spectacular views.

Drivers are often surprised by fox, ptarmigan, grouse, caribou and moose running onto the road. Please drive slowly enough so you can pull over and stop safely. Use binoculars, spotting scopes or telephoto lenses to get a better look.



## Day Hikes

Trailhead	Hwy km	Duration (return)	Distance (return)	Level
Grizzly Lake Trail to viewpoint	58.5	2-3 h	6 km	M-D
North Klondike River Trail	71.5	1-2 h	3.4 km	E
Goldensides Mtn. Trail	74.4	2-3 h	3.4 km	M-D
Hart River Winter Road	78.2	0.5-10 h	up to 16 km	E-M
Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail	71.5	1 h	1 km	E

Difficulty Level: ● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult