



Nááts'ihch'oh
National Park Reserve

HIKING

Trip Planner

Sedzeeléetó Piehtéh © Eddie Fast



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the mountains have kept the music



© Parks Canada / Lyn Elliott



© Parks Canada / Eric Laflamme

Welcome to Our Home

"It's almost like the mountains have kept the music. When you go up the river by boat you can feel the spirit of our ancestors and you can feel the powerful feeling from the mountains. It's so majestic. It's so overwhelming.

*...And we've had stories about our people where they dance their drum dances. There are rings where they've worn into the ground. There are places where they used to dance after a good celebration and a good kill, or maybe after they'd built their mooseskin boat and they would celebrate."*¹

- Ethel Blondin-Andrew

For generations of Dene and Metis people, Nááts'ihch'oh was and is a rich harvesting area. They still travel and harvest on this land, and they welcome you to their home.



© Colin Field / NWT

¹*Spirit of the Mountains Traditional Knowledge Study, Tulita District Land Corporation, 2009*

nááts'ihch'oh

the mountain that is sharp like a porcupine



© Colin Field/NWTT

Mount Nááts'ihch'oh (Mount Wilson)

Nááts'ihch'oh is the name of this mountain in the Shúhtaot'ine language. It refers to its unique shape - sharp and pointed like a porcupine quill.

The Shúhtaot'ine believe that Nááts'ihch'oh is a place of strong spiritual power, which can be bestowed on newborn children. Here, their ancestors would camp while travelling with moose skin boats to see Nááteho, the Nahanni prophet.

How to Visit **Mount Nááts'ihch'oh**

Due to the powerful nature of Mount Nááts'ihch'oh, Shúhtaot'ine Elders ask you not to hike or camp near the mountain. To honour this, Parks Canada has established a campsite on the northwest side of Moose Ponds. Take some time to linger here and contemplate the stories of the elders.

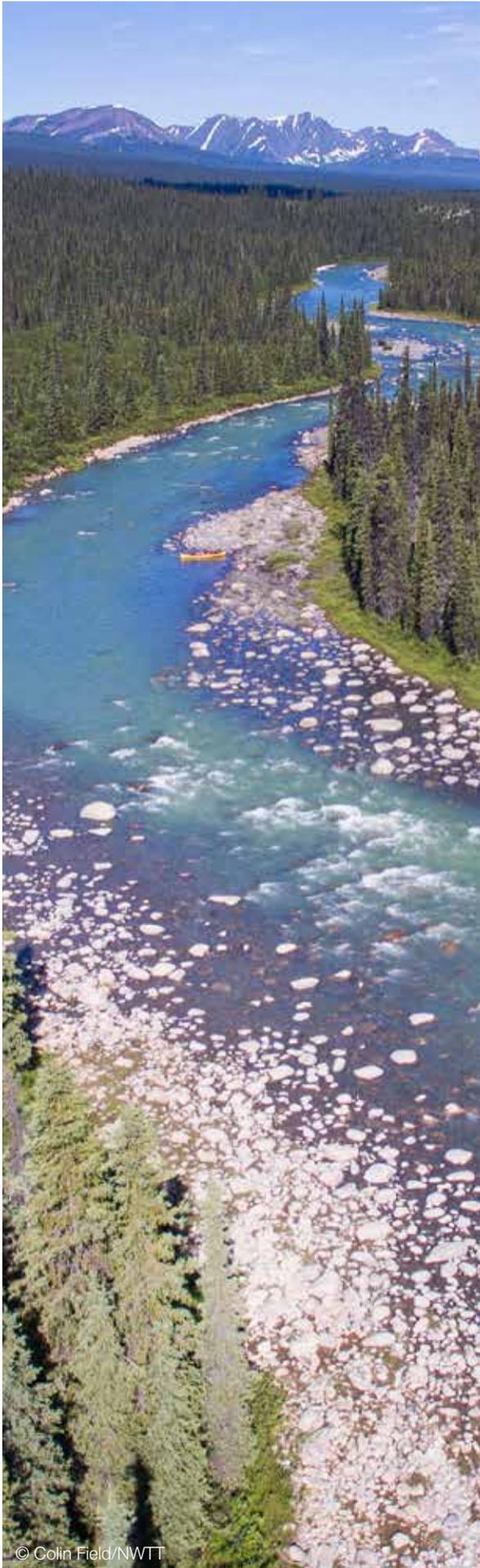
Mount Nááts'ihch'oh itself is closed to visitors.

Traditional Place Names

We use the Shúhtaot'ine place names where we know them. As we learn more about the park and its traditional place names, we will be adding these names to our maps and publications. If you have traditional place names to share, please let us know.

Nááts'ihch'oh is the name chosen for the National Park Reserve by the following Elders: Gabriel Horassi, David Yallee Senior, Maurice Mendo, Frederick Clement Senior, Frank Yallee, John Hotti, John B. Hetchinelle, James Bavard, Norman Andrew and Leon Andrew.

two parks one river



© Colin Field/NWTT



© Parks Canada



Nahanni and Nááts'ihch'oh

Nahane Deé, the South Nahanni River, flows through two parks and two Dene and Metis territories. Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve is in the traditional territory of the Shúhtaot'ine (the Mountain Dene) and the Metis people of the Sahtu region. Nahanni National Park Reserve is the traditional territory of the Dehcho First Nations.

The boundary between the parks is the border between the Sahtu and Dehcho regions of the Northwest Territories. As you paddle from the Sahtu to the Dehcho, be sure to say Mahsi, the Dene word for thank you.



© Parks Canada/Fritz Mueller Visuals

what to expect

Ready to choose your own adventure?

There are no established campsites, trails, or routes in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve. In this guide, we've described places in the park and suggested ways to explore them. But it's really up to you. We recommend using this guide along with some topographic maps to plan your trip.



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© Wendy Shanks



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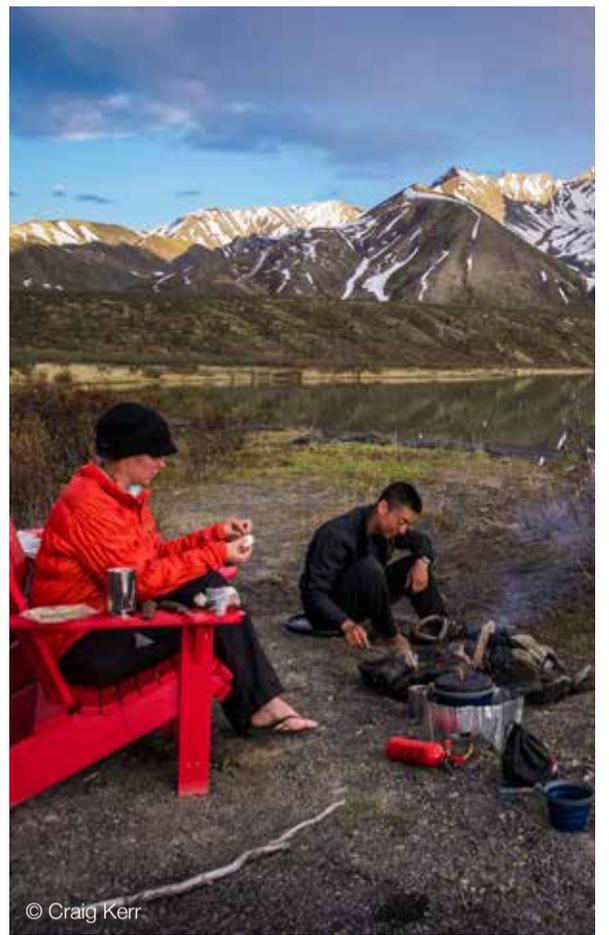
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© Parks Canada/Fritz Mueller Visuals



© Parks Canada/Fritz Mueller Visuals

#sharethechair

Red Chairs

Find the red chairs and share your moment.

níonep'ene? tué backbone lake



© Wendy Shanks



Níonep'ene? Tué

Backbone Lake
(formerly Grizzly Bear Lake)

Guided Trips Available

For alpine adventurers, Níonep'ene? Tué is *the* Nááts'ihch'oh destination. Follow alpine streams to countless peaks, including the park's highest peak - just south of the lake. No matter how much time you have, there is a trip option to meet your needs.

A week of base camping at the lake will give you enough time for epic day hikes. Where? To all the places you can see from your tent and twice to the hot springs.

If you attempt a loop trek through the mountains to the northeast, please let us know how it goes. We are still looking for the alpine pass that we'd recommend to visitors.

Níonep'ene? Tué:

62°41.25'N, 127°49.19'W

Highest Peak in the Park:

62°37.08'N, 127°48.43'W

National Topographic System Maps

Grizzly Bear Lake - 95 L/12

grizzly bear

hot springs



© Colin Field/NWTT



Grizzly Bear Hot Springs

The moment you see them, you know they're special. Grizzly Bear Hot Springs are beautiful—surrounded by delicate wildflowers and tufa formations.

Please walk softly and visit carefully.

From Níonep'ene? Tué, the hot springs are a 5 km hike one-way from the mountain pass. It is easiest to follow the game trails on the north/river right side of Shúhzhíé kájlj (The Creek is Flowing Out of the Mountain). However, you will need to cross the creek and climb up to the hot springs. Allow at least 6 hours return to hike to and enjoy the hot spring.

From Pííp'enéh íéetóó Deé (the Broken Skull River), Grizzly Bear Hot Springs is a long 10 km hike up a creek bed. Allow a full day, and be prepared for multiple creek crossings and bad jokes about the hike being TOO FAR or TU-FA.

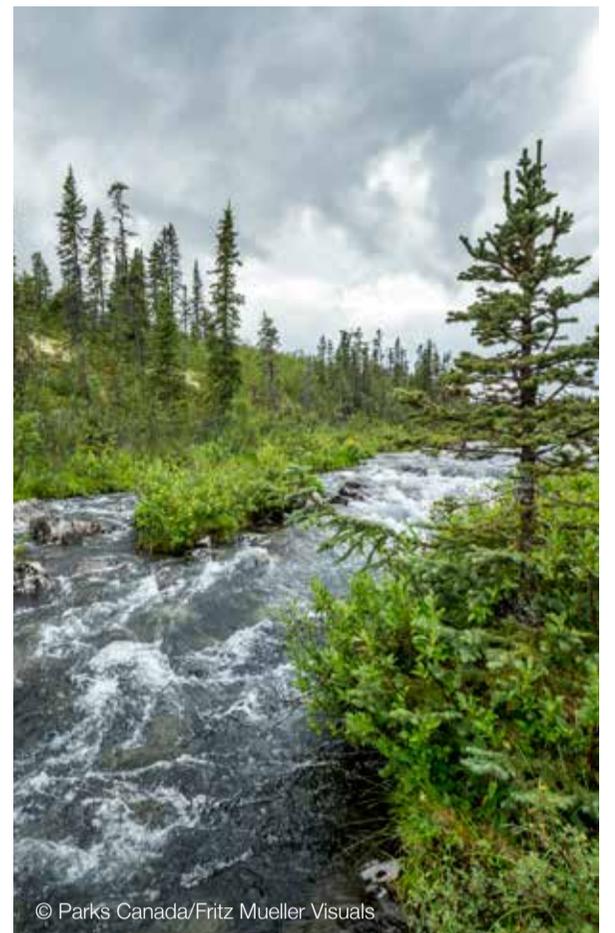
The “turret” you see on the mountain (photo at left) is a good landmark. It is located on the far side of the creek from the hot spring.

62°40.28'N, 127°54.00'W

National Topographic System Maps

95 L/12

dechjbaa tué margaret lake



© Parks Canada/Fritz Mueller Visuals



Dechjbaa Tué

Margaret Lake

Air charters starting at \$2,100

If you're an enthusiastic hiker who doesn't mind wet feet, Dechjbaa Tué can give you access to rarely seen alpine meadows. The best hiking is around the unnamed lake northeast of Dechjbaa Tué. Here, you'll get into rocky alpine slopes and turquoise creeks.

If you go, please let us know what you find. We haven't been much further than the photo you see here (left).

Due to the high altitude and short length of the lake, you need a powerful float plane to get you in and out of here. Many of our licenced air charter companies have Pilatus Porter, DeHavilland Turbo Beaver, or a DeHavilland Twin Otter aircraft that can get you safely in and out of this lake.

62°36.26'N, 128°39.53'W

National Topographic System Map

105 I/10

sedzeeléetó piehtéh broken heart plateau



© Parks Canada / Lyn Elliott



Sedzeeléetó Piehtéh

The Broken Heart Plateau

Air charters starting at \$2,100

If you're looking for miles and miles of alpine meadows, Sedzeeléetó Piehtéh (the Broken Heart Plateau) is your destination. Landing at Bezíihule Tué (Lake with No Name), you can access rolling hills, glaciers, dramatic vistas, and waterfalls everywhere you look.

Three days will give you enough time to enjoy base-camping near the lake with day hikes up to nearby peaks and plateaus.

Five or more days will give you time to hike into the neighbouring valleys and explore as far and wide as you can see.

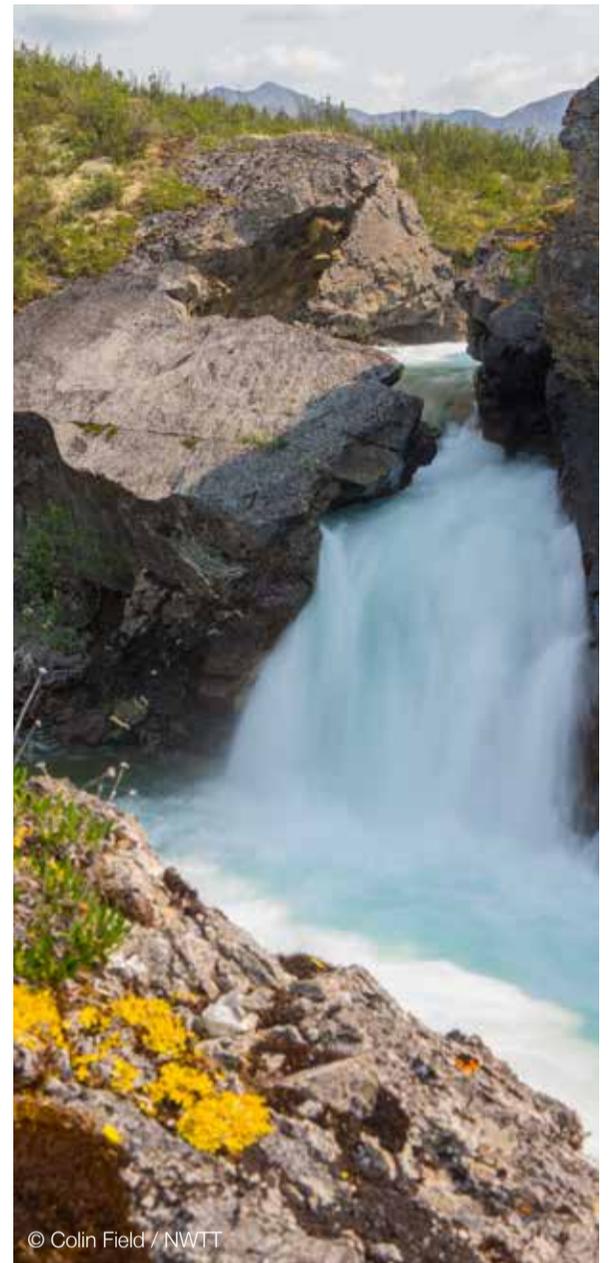
Due to the high altitude and short length of Bezíihule Tué (Lake with No Name), you need a powerful float plane to get you in and out of here. Many of our licenced air charter companies have Pilatus Porter, DeHavilland Turbo Beaver, or DeHavilland Twin Otters that can get you safely in and out of this lake.

62°34.35'N, 128°31.58'W

National Topographic System Maps

105 I/10, 105 I/09

q̄taa tué fehto divide lake



© Colin Field / NWTT



Q̄taa Tué Fehto

Divide Lake

Air charters starting at \$2650

Q̄taa Tué Fehto, the lake that flows both directions, is a great place to relax for a few days. Simply watch the wildlife crossing back and forth across the lake, hike down to Pííq̄hda Náaréélí (Swallow Falls), or climb up the ridge for a view 800m above Pííp'enéh léetóó (Broken Skull) Valley.

63°01.18'N, 128°10.63'W

National Topographic System Maps

Divide Lake - 105 P/01

tuóchéé tue o'grady lake



© Parks Canada / Fritz Mueller Visuals



Tuóchéé Tue

(O'Grady Lake)

Feeling intrepid? Love planning Type II Fun trips? This is the place for you. If slogging through scrubby willows while promising yourself that the alpine is closer than it looks sounds like your dream trip, then Tuóchéé Tue (O'Grady Lake) is your destination. Rich in wildlife, the area is a good starting point for across-the-park treks and other “because it’s there and you can” attempts that will be great stories when you’re 80.

63°00.44'N, 129°00.50'W

National Topographic System Maps

105 P/3, 105 P/2, 105 I/14, 105 I/15



Park Office

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve's office is located in Tulita, NT. Nááts'ihch'oh is part of the traditional lands of the people of the Sahtu, and they chose Tulita as the park headquarters. The only road access is a winter ice road from Wrigley. But, if you're paddling the Mackenzie River, be sure to drop in and say hello!

drive
here

Get Here by Road

Drive to Fort Simpson, NT or Watson Lake, YK

Whether you take the Mackenzie Highway and Liard Highway to Fort Simpson, or the Alaska Highway to Watson Lake and Flat Lakes, you're in for an epic road trip. From there, connect with your charter flights into the park.

fly
here

Get Here by Plane

Fly commercially into Yellowknife, NT then onto Norman Wells, Tulita, or Fort Simpson. Alternatively, fly into Whitehorse, YK. Once in these neighbouring communities, charter an aircraft into the park.

Airlines with scheduled flights to Yellowknife and Whitehorse:

- Air Canada
- Air North
- Canadian North
- Condor
- First Air
- Northwestern Air
- WestJet

Airlines with scheduled flights to Norman Wells or Fort Simpson:

- North Wright Airways
- Canadian North
- First Air
- Air Tindi



Communities and Services

Tulita, NT



Pop: ~500

Air access: year-round

Road access: winter only

Norman Wells, NT



Pop: ~700

Air access: year-round

Road access: winter only

Canoe rentals

Fort Simpson, NT



Pop: ~1200

Air access: year-round

Road access: year-round

Canoe rentals

go to town

Watson Lake, YT



Pop: ~800

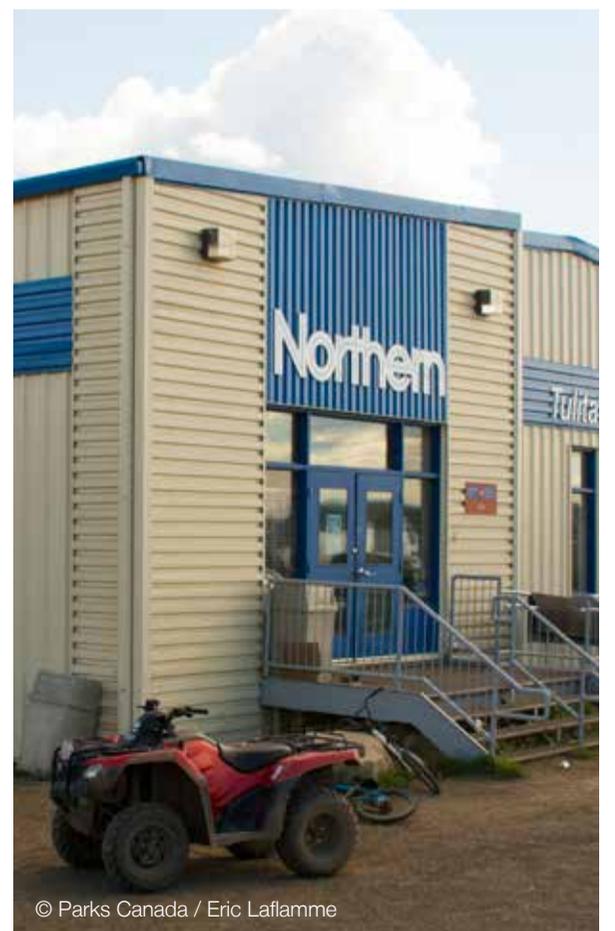
Road access: year-round

Nahanni Butte, NT



Pop: ~100

Road access: via river taxi across Liard River



© Parks Canada / Eric Laflamme



© Dustin Silvey

find your way

Maps and Guides

It's a real-life choose your own adventure. There are no trails or established routes in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve. To find your way, you will need solid map-reading and backcountry route-finding skills.

National Topographic System Maps

We use topographic maps for our work in the park, and recommend the 1:50 000 maps for your adventures. Canada's National Topographic System maps are available for print-on-demand from your favourite map printers. To make ordering easier, we have provided the map numbers for the 1:50 000 maps throughout this planner.



carefree days

Guides and Outfitters

For guided overnight hiking trips in Nááts'ihch'oh, contact:

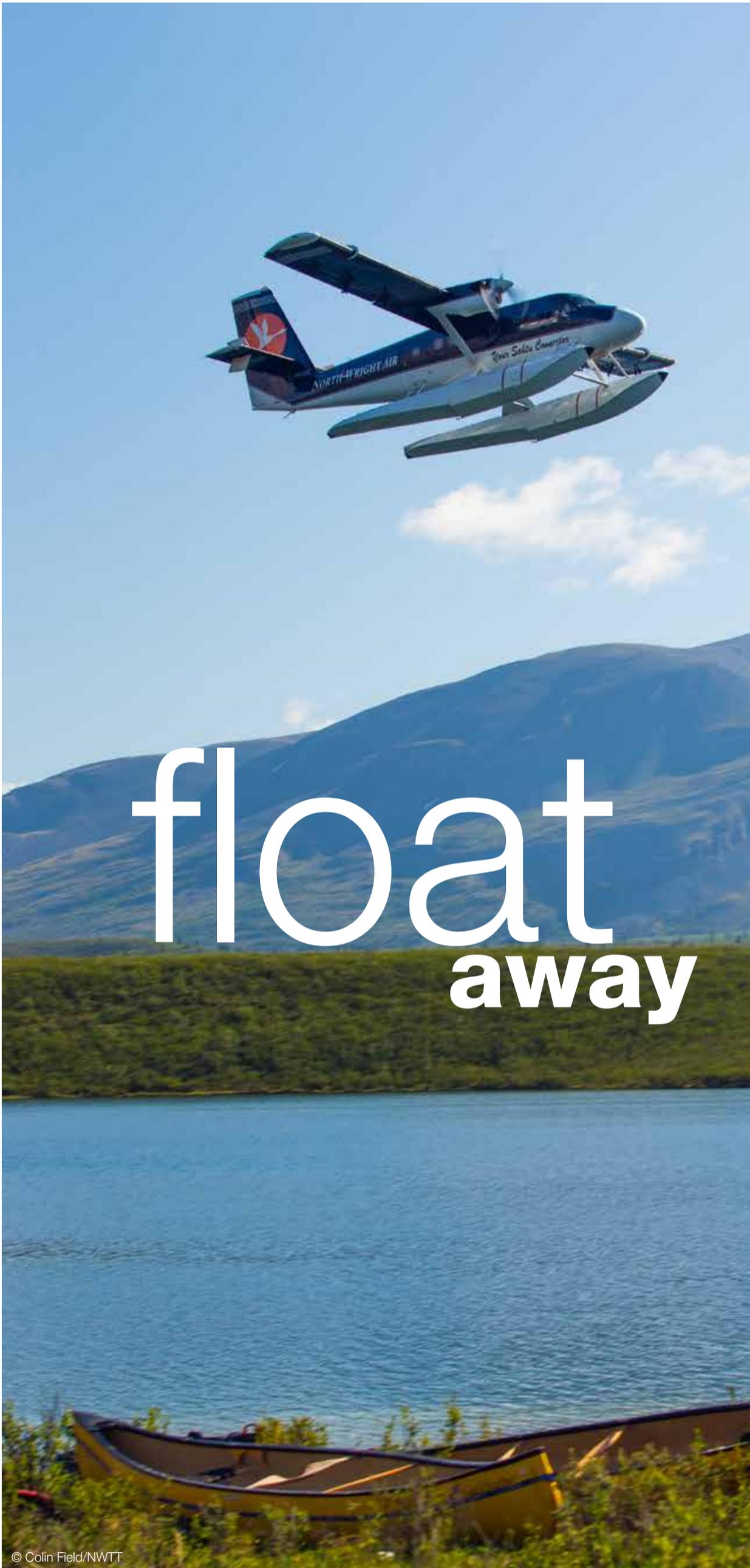
Blackfeather, The Wilderness Adventure Company

1-888-849-7668
info@blackfeather.com
www.blackfeather.com

For guided day hiking trips in Nááts'ihch'oh, contact:

Summit Helicopters

1-855-355-5527
info@summithelicopters.ca
www.summithelicopters.ca



Flightseeing and Air Charters

Flightseeing tours starting at \$2,450

Book your air charter or flightseeing tour:

Alpine Aviation

Whitehorse, YK
1-867-668-7725
alpineaviation@gmail.com
www.alpineaviationyukon.com

Kluane Airways

Kelowna, BC
1-250-860-4187
info@kluaneairways.com
www.kluaneairways.com

North Wright Airways

Norman Wells, NT
1-867-587-2288
info@north-wrightairways.com
www.north-wrightairways.com

Sahtu Helicopters

Norman Wells, NT
867-587-2827
dennis.rusch@gsheli.com
www.greatslaveheli.com

Simpson Air

Fort Simpson, NT
1-866-995-2505
simpsonair@northwestel.net
www.simpsonair.ca

Summit Air

Yellowknife, NT
1-866-709-7717
info@flysummitair.com
www.flysummitair.com

Summit Helicopters

Yellowknife, NT
1-855-355-5527
info@summithelicopters.ca
www.summithelicopters.ca

South Nahanni Airways

Fort Simpson, NT
1-867-695-2007
info@southnahanniairways.ca
www.southnahanniairways.ca



How to Book an Air Charter

Booking an air charter is easier than you think. The pilots know the lakes and mountains, and they'll help you plan where to put in, take out, and what kind of aircraft you'll need to make it happen.

Book as early as you can to ensure your aircraft and dates are available.

When you request a quote, have this information ready:

- Date and time (if) you want to fly into the park
- Date and time (if) you want to fly out of the park
- Name and coordinates of the location where you want to be taken
- Name and coordinates of the lake/location if you want to be picked up
- Number of passengers
- Any special equipment (canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Any special flightseeing route or added stops

The **"Air charters starting at"** prices listed in this guide are based on flying two people and lightweight camping gear in a Turbo Beaver aircraft at November 2016 fuel prices. Prices will vary based on the location of the float plane base, the size of your group, your equipment, the aircraft required, and fuel prices.

Flight delays are part of the adventure.

Weather can make flying in and out of the park tricky, and flights are regularly delayed. Your pilots have the experience to decide when it's safe to fly.

Plan for a **flight delay** to be part of your adventure story, and bring extra food just in case.

go places



Fees

We don't have a fee system set up. That's right, there are no fees to visit Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in 2017. We'll let you know when this changes.

If visiting Nahanni National Park Reserve is part of your trip plan, fees do apply. See **Nahanni's website** for more information.

Reservations

To reserve your trip, contact us at 1-867-588-4884 or naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca with this information:

- Type of trip (hiking, paddling, etc.)
- Trip itinerary (# days, route)
- Preferred trip dates
- Trip leader's contact information
- Group size (max 12)
- Air charter company (if needed)
- Whether you plan to visit Nahanni as well

If you are taking a guided trip, the company you have booked with will make the necessary reservations.

Registration and Orientation

You can register in person at our Parks Canada office in Tulita or Fort Simpson, or by phone. We'll ask for this information:

- Group member names
- Communication equipment details (sat phone #, etc.)
- Emergency contact info
- Equipment descriptions (tents, canoes, kayaks)
- Trip itinerary and end date



© Craig Kerr

it's just you **out here**



© Colin Field/NWTT

Emergency Help

You are responsible for your own safety. Prepare to handle an emergency on your own. Bring good first aid and repair kits, and the skills to use them.

If you do need urgent help, call our Duty Officer at **1-867-695-3732**, 24 hours a day, June 1 - September 30.

Keep in mind, our resources are limited and we might not be able to rescue you right away due to flight delays.

Satellite Phones, InReach, and SPOT Devices

Coverage can be limited in northern latitudes, canyons, and valleys. Know how to deal with your device's limitations. The Iridium satellite system currently has the most reliable coverage here.

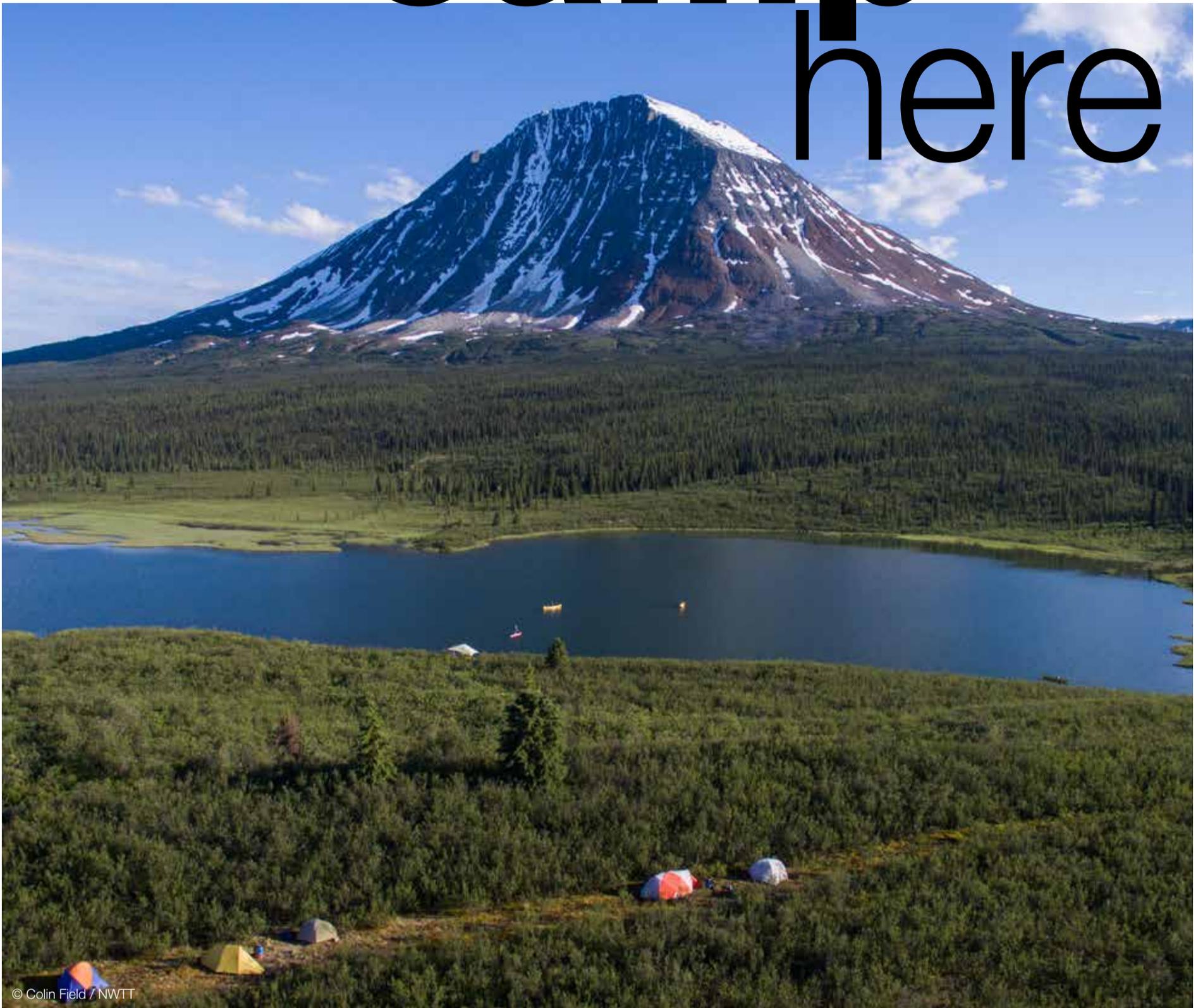
Alpine Safety

This isn't the place for rookies. Make sure you and your group have the wilderness, alpine trekking, and creek crossing skills to travel here.

Flash Flooding

Rain upstream can raise water levels suddenly - even if it is not raining where you are. Choose your campsites and hiking routes accordingly.

camp here



Choosing Your Campsite

In most of Nááts'ihch'oh, you choose where to camp. When choosing your site, please follow Leave No Trace principles:

- Find a good campsite - don't make one.
- Keep your campsite small, and in areas with no plants.
- Camp on durable surfaces such as rock and gravel.

Camping at Moose Ponds

If you're camping at the **Moose Ponds**, please camp near the commemorative plaque. Due to the powerful nature of Mount Nááts'ihch'oh, Shúhtao'tine elders recommend that you do not camp too close to the mountain.

We've established a kitchen area with a great view near the float plane landing area. A short walk away, there is a large flat tenting area on an old air strip.

Moose Ponds Kitchen Site 62°55.19'N, 129°41.30'W

Moose Ponds Tenting Area 62°55.25'N, 129°41.28'W



Cooking and Campfires

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove or firebox for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.

At alpine lakes and creeks, use a gas stove or charcoal for cooking and warmth. Trees are scarce here - do not collect or burn firewood.

At river campsites, keep fires contained in a firebox. Do not build fires on the ground. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes. On big rivers, you may scatter cool ashes in the river.

Drinking Water

It may look crystal clean, but it's a really long ride home if you get beaver fever (Giardia).

Treat all your drinking water.

Waste Disposal

Pack it in? Pack it out.

Pack out all of your trash, leftover food, and litter.

Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 15 to 20 cm deep at least 100 metres from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

To wash, use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater, or on big rivers, pour strained dishwater into the river.

take only memories

Share Your Stories

We love hearing stories, seeing pictures, and watching videos about your trips. Use the hashtag **#Naatsihchoh** on social media so we can find you.

If you have stories, images or video you're willing to share with us, drop us a line at naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca.

Leave What You Find

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Leave your campsite as pristine as you found it.

Drones and UAVs

Take lots of photos and videos to document your trip, but please leave your drone at home. Recreational use of drones or other unmanned aerial vehicles is not allowed at Parks Canada sites.

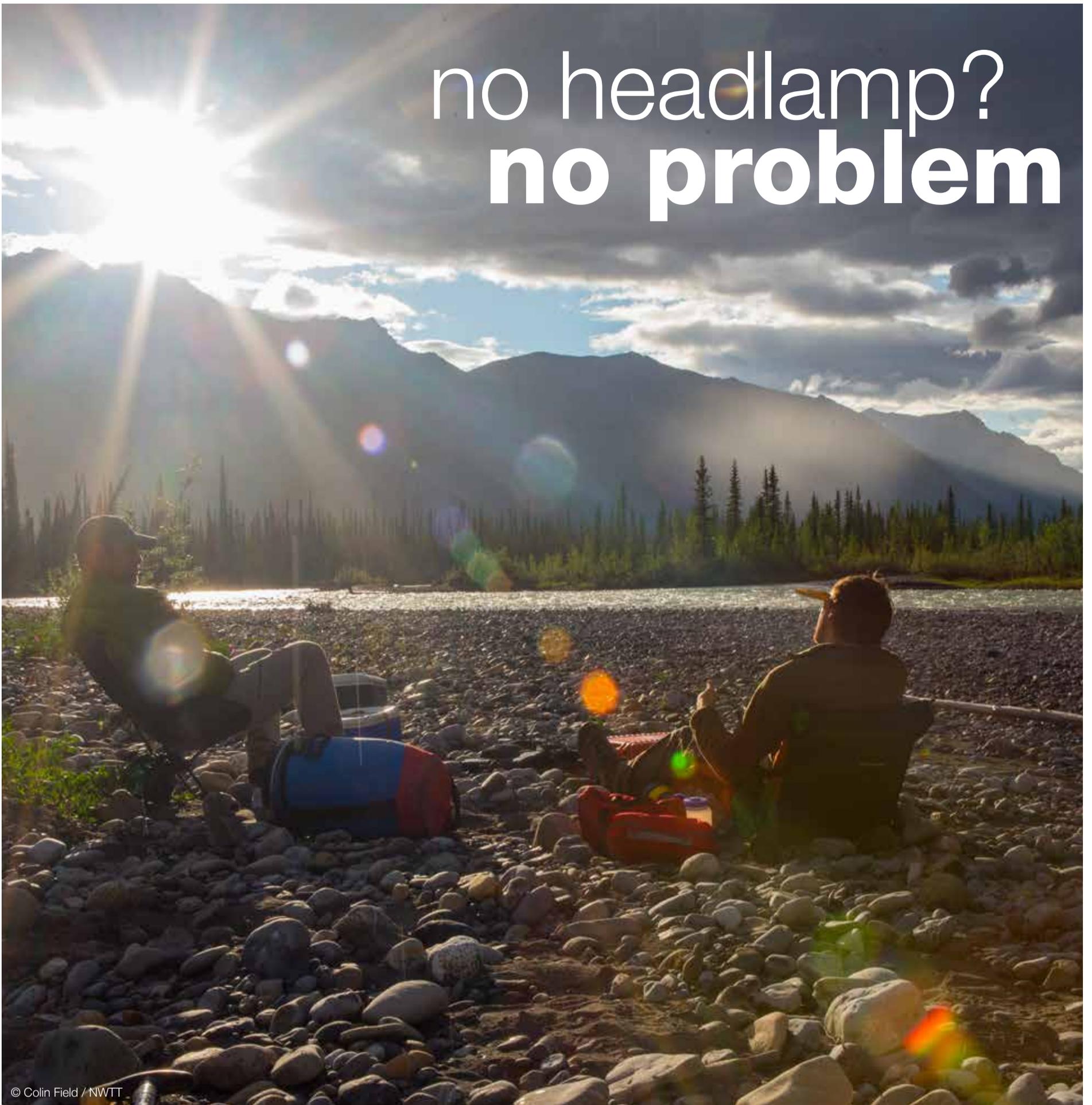
Filmmakers

If you are a filmmaker, please contact us about how to get a film permit for Nááts'ihch'oh.

Fishing

Except for traditional harvesting, fishing is not permitted at this time.

no headlamp? no problem



© Colin Field / NWT

Midnight Sun and the Northern Lights

You probably won't use your headlamp, but you'll want a mask for sleeping under the midnight sun. Especially in late June and early July, the sun seems to shine all night long.

If you really want to see the northern lights, or *aurora borealis*, plan your trip for mid to late August or early September when the skies are darker.

	Sunrise	Sunset
Jun 21	4:40 am	12:30 am
Jul 21	5:30 am	11:45 pm
Aug 21	6:50 am	10:15 pm



© Craig Kerr

Weather

The elders tell us that in Nááts'ihch'oh, “the rain is always moving somewhere.” From our time in the park, we know this to be true. Nááts'ihch'oh is in the mountains. It can snow or rain at anytime, and storms can cause flash floods in canyons and steep valleys. Make your trip a fun one - be prepared for all conditions.

	Low	High	And you can expect...
Jun	-5°C	25°C	Frost, snow, blazing sun
Jul	0°C	30°C	Hot sun, afternoon rainstorms
Aug	0°C	30°C	Hot sun, rain, and frost
Sep	-5°C	20°C	Frost and snow

wild

life



This Is Their Home

For caribou, bears, moose, and other wildlife, Nááts'ihch'oh is their home. Be a courteous guest:

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- **Protect wildlife and your food by storing food and trash in mouse- and bear-proof containers.**
- Leash pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.



Bears

Black bears and grizzly bears live here, and they especially like the river valleys and hot springs. For more information, read **You Are In Bear Country** or call us.

If you're flying, check with your airline before packing bear spray or bangers.

Bear spray is available for purchase at the Norman Wells Museum. Alternatively, check with your air charter company.

Wildlife Cameras

During your trip, you might notice motion-sensitive cameras installed along wildlife trails. We use the images from these cameras to monitor and learn more about wildlife such as caribou, moose, wolves, and bears that live here.

All photos of visitors are deleted to protect your privacy. But don't be afraid to strike a pose and give us a laugh!

gear? check.

Camp Gear

- tarp
- tent
- water filter/purification system
- stove and fuel or firebox
- cooking pot
- rope
- trowel and toilet paper
- biodegradable soap
- food and lots of hot drinks
- other stuff you need or want
- leash if you're bringing your pet

Personal Gear

- water bottle
- mug, bowl and spork
- knife
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- towel
- daypack
- sunscreen / sunglasses
- sleeping bag, pad, and mask
- wallet / cash
- contact phone numbers
- trip plan
- camera and spare batteries

Safety Gear

- brain filled with experience
- satellite phone/InReach/SPOT
- headlamp/flashlight
- lighter/fire starting kit
- bear spray and bear bangers
- first aid kit
- extra food in case of flight delays

Navigation

- maps and waterproof case
- watch
- GPS and compass
- binoculars

Repair Kit

- duct tape
- spare batteries
- silicon sealant
- needle and thread
- tent repair kit
- stove repair kit

Personal Clothing

- warm hat
- sun hat
- rain gear with hood
- shorts: quick dry
- pants: wool or fleece
- jacket: fleece
- sweater: light wool
- shirt/t-shirt
- long underwear
- underwear and socks
- gloves or mittens
- camp shoes
- swimsuit
- bug hat, jacket, and repellent

For Hikers

- backpack
- hiking boots
- blister kit
- trekking poles
- bear canisters or other bear-proof food storage**





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need help **trip planning?**

Contact Us

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve
Tulita, NT
1-867-588-4884
naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca
parksCanada.gc.ca/naatsihchoh
www.facebook.com/ParksCanadaNWT

*Aussi disponible en français.
Erscheint auch in deutsche.*