



 Wood Buffalo
National Park

WOOD BUFFALO DARK SKY PRESERVE

A VIEW TO THE INFINITE



Photo: Peter McMahon



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Thebacha & Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society
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 Parks
Canada



Photo: Yuichi Takasaka



EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DARK SKY PRESERVE

Follow the road into Wood Buffalo National Park's two dark sky observation sites as stars dance overhead. Stretch out on our Sky Circle observation platform and cast your eyes toward the heavens. The brilliant flare of the aurora borealis illuminates your evening while you explore the wonders of the night skies. The Milky Way stands out like a river of stars above the deep silence of the ancient boreal forest.

Welcome to Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), where everything exists on a grand scale. Canada's largest national park is also the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve. Take in breathtaking displays of northern lights and stunning views of the stars and planets that stretch into infinity. The park's strict lighting protocols keep the vast expanse of WBNP almost entirely free of light pollution, offering a truly breathtaking view of the deep, dark sky.

THE GREAT NORTHERN DISCOVERY DOME

Discover the wonders of the night sky. Be amazed by the Northern lights as you explore the mysteries of space from the comfort of the Great Northern Discovery Dome, our portable planetarium. Hear stories and legends of the night sky from all over the world and soar over the vastness of Wood Buffalo National Park in a 360-degree tour that highlight the wonders of this massive boreal wilderness. Travel through virtual space visiting planets, galaxies and constellations projected in amazing 360-degree images. Scheduled programs are offered throughout the visitor season at our Visitor Information Centre in Fort Smith, NT. Journey with us over Wood Buffalo National Park - a virtual tour not to be missed!

THEBACHA AND WOOD BUFFALO DARK SKY FESTIVAL

Join novice stargazers and seasoned astronomy buffs on the last weekend of August each summer at the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Festival. This three-day celebration of space and science offers exciting activities for all ages. Learn to cook a comet using dry ice. Watch homemade rockets streak into the sky. Join special guests for evening presentations. Prepare yourself for a night of camping, stargazing and aurora viewing at beautiful Pine Lake in the heart of Wood Buffalo National Park.

Come experience the wonders of the night skies in Canada's greatest protected wilderness – Wood Buffalo National Park. The best times for night sky viewing are early spring, late summer and fall. In addition to the planetarium shows offered at our Visitor Information Centre, park staff offer occasional interpretive programs in the park at our Dark Sky Observation sites. Check with the Visitor Information Centre for the program schedules.

