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DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY

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COVER: FRAN HURCOMB
A QUICK HISTORY

For centuries Weledeh Dene have lived in and travelled through the region for thousands of years. Yellowknife was permanently settled 85 years ago, following the discovery of large gold deposits. From its rough-edged beginnings as a frontier mining town, Yellowknife has evolved into a city bursting with life, home to dozens of nationalities in a population of 20,000.

Yellowknife offers many of the urban amenities you’d find in any Canadian centre. At the same time, the city is nestled in great Northwest Territories wilderness, where there are too many lakes to experience in one lifetime. In summer, the sun stays up for nearly 24 hours. Winter is a crisp, invigorating season of dogsledding, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and a life-changing Northern Lights experience that draws visitors from around the world.

Let this guide be your starting point as you explore your new surroundings. We’ve included everything you need to know— but you’re sure to find surprises all on your own. Welcome to Yellowknife!

WHAT TO PACK

The North of 60 essentials

WINTER

DRESS IN LAYERS: This means longjohns, snowpants, fleece tops, and wool socks. On windy days, this is your ticket to staying warm. You can rent gear from My Backyard Tours (mybackyardtours.com) and NARWAL Northern adventures (narwal.ca) and it’s best you do that in advance.

HAND AND FOOT WARMERS: Recommended for extended outdoor trips like hiking, skiing, dogsledding and aurora viewing. Aurora Heat (auroraheat.ca) is a local option made from beaver fur.

MOISTURIZER AND LIP BALM: Yellowknife has the driest winter air in Canada—so be prepared.

CONTACT LENSES: If you wear glasses, be advised that your lenses will fog up when every surface of your skin is covered and you’re breathing into a scarf or neck wrap. Contacts might be your best option.

SUMMER

BUG SPRAY: You can purchase bug spray in town. If you plan to head out into the bush, a bug jacket is a good idea, too.

SWIMSUIT: Fresh water is our trademark. Be warned: it’s chilly! Still, nothing beats a cool dip under the midnight sun.

FISHING ROD: Catch your own dinner. Flip to page 39 to find out what types of fish you can catch. Buy a fishing licence before heading out.

THE LINGO

Some key words you’ll hear around Yellowknife—and what they mean

DENE NATION: An organization that represents many of the NWT’s First Nations: Denesoline, Tłįcho, Deh Gah Got’ine, K’ashot’ine, and Dinjii Zhuh (or, Gwich’in). In most of these languages, “Dene” means “the people.”

BACK BAY: In Old Town, the sheltered body of water that lies across from Weaver & Devore, Bullock’s and The Wildcat is called Back Bay. It’s ideal for water activities.

DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE

You’ve just arrived in the capital of the Northwest Territories and one of the most vibrant, diverse communities in Canada.

The Yellowknives and Tłįcho Dene have lived in and travelled through this region, fishing the Yellowknife River and hunting across the current Yellowknife townsite.

1934 - 1937

A gold find on Yellowknife Bay spurred a staking rush. Several small gold strikes were explored, and two grew into long lived mines, Negus and Con. Giant Mine was discovered in 1948.

1967

Yellowknife had grown rapidly, and was named the capital of the Northwest Territories—an area that stretched from the Mackenzie Mountains in the west to Baffin Island in the east.

1991

After a long search, diamonds were discovered on the tundra far to the north of the city. A massive staking rush followed, and two diamond mines eventually resulted.

1999

Nunavut was created from the eastern part of the Northwest Territories, and Yellowknife remained the capital city in the west. The two gold mines, Con and Giant closed three years later.

2012

The Deh Cho Bridge opened crossing the 1.6 km wide Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. This provided the first year round road connection between Yellowknife and southern Canada.
FACT OR FICTION
Clearing up some misconceptions

FACT: You can see Northern Lights year-round. We are the world capital of aurora viewing for good reason. When it’s clear, emerald ribbons fill the night sky. But due to the near-constant sunlight in summer, you can’t see them until the dark returns in mid-August.

FICTION: You can drive on the ice. Ice roads are an important part of our transportation system. To be your own Ice Road Trucker, the Dettah Ice Road can be accessed from School Draw Avenue. Make sure it’s safe, obey the signage and stick to the road!

FACT: Houseboaters live on the lake all year. Whether frozen in or floating, their houseboats are home—the only thing that changes with the seasons is how they get there.

FICTION: There are polar bears. Phew! Our subarctic climate is not suited for the great white bears. Polar bears do live near the Arctic Ocean farther north.

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FACT: It gets cold. In winter it can drop below -30C (-40C if you’re lucky). There is limited daylight in the winter months but when the sun is out it’s bright and brilliant. Dress for the weather and experience Yellowknife. It’s not cold all year—the average July temperature is 21C.

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GETTING HERE

Remote but doable

North, WestJet and Air North. The Yellowknife airport (YZF) website has everything you’ll need to know about arrivals and departures.

BY ROAD
You can access the Mackenzie Highway (NWT Highway 1) via Alberta’s Highway 35 or British Columbia’s Highway 77 and then the Liard Highway (NWT Highway 7). From Edmonton, the route is approximately 1,500 km—that’s about 20 hours of driving. The road is paved most of the way. Try and minimize any time spent driving after nightfall: bison frequently wander onto the road and are hard to see (you don’t want to hit a 1,500-kg ungulate). When you start to see distinctive pink granite along the side of the road, you’re getting close to Yellowknife! For live updates of highway conditions visit www.gov.nt.ca.

GETTING AROUND HERE
You can pretty much walk anywhere if you needed to, but just in case…

RENTING VEHICLES
Rental cars and trucks are available in the city and at the airport. Rental firms include Budget, National, Hertz, and Royal Rent-a-Car.

TAXI SERVICES
Aurora Taxi: 867-873-5050
City Cab: 867-873-4444
Yellowknife Cab: 867-873-6666

CITY BUS SERVICES
There are three regular routes:
Route A – Borden/Downtown
Route B – Frame Lake/Northlands
Route C – Old Town/Niven
Buses run from 7:10 a.m. to 7:25 p.m., Monday to Saturday, all year. There is no transit service on Sundays or statutory holidays. For details, go to Yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/transit.asp

Adult fare - $3.00
Seniors fare - $2.00
Children under five - FREE

BIKE RENTALS
You can rent bikes from Old Town Glassworks, at 3510A McDonald Dr. and fat bikes from Overlander Sports, at 4909 50 St.

BY PLANE
We are well-connected, with direct flights from Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Vancouver and Whitehorse via Air Canada, Canadian

FRAN HURCOMB
10 CITY GUIDE • DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE

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Snowmobile Trails - Indoor Golf - Gym - Yoga Studio - Dog Park - Ball Diamonds
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AT A GLANCE:
ONE YEAR IN YELLOWKNIFE
When is the best time of year to visit? Obviously, that depends on what you want to see and do. Here’s what the city has to offer month by month.

JANUARY
It’s aurora-viewing, dogsledding, snowmobiling and ice-fishing season.

Fireworks at Frame Lake: Starts at 8 p.m. on December 31.
Banff Mountain Film Festival: The tour lands in Yellowknife, January 16 to 18.

World Snow Day: On January 19, learn how to build a snow shelter, play ultimate frisbee, and more.

FEBRUARY
Some Yellowknifers escape to the Caribbean, others escape to the bush. The Northern Lights are better there.

NWT Ski Day: At the Yellowknife Ski Club, features a scavenger hunt and a tour to the ice falls, February 16. skiyellowknife.com

City of Yellowknife Heritage Week: Get a taste of the city’s history in mid-February.

Dead North Film Festival: Made-in-the-North horror film festival history in mid-February.

MARCH
With long, sunny days and aurora-filled nights, it’s the best part of winter to play outside.

Snowking XXV: Long live the King! The Snowking Festival takes place February 29 to March 29 on Yellowknife Bay. Visit the famous castle built entirely of snow and ice and stay for the art exhibits, live music, film festival, ice carving competition, pond hockey tournament, fish fry, snow playground... you name it! Snowking.ca

Frostbite 50: The annual cross-country ski race starting and ending at the Yellowknife Ski Club, March 16. For runners, try the Frostbiter Mini, a run along the ice road from the Long John Jamboree site to Dettah and back.

Long John Jamboree: In and around the Snowking castle March 27 - 29. Family-friendly fun that includes ice carving and beard-growing competitions, a curling tournament on the lake, a cabane à sucre and fireworks. And don’t forget the 150-mile Canadian Championship Dog Derby too! longjohnjamboree.ca; canadian-championshipdogderby.ca

APRIL
The melt begins! This marks the beginning of the aurora-off season.

Balsillie Cup: Annual old-timers hockey tournament that brings players in from across the territory. Early April. ykoldtimers.com

Gumboot Rally: This annual event raises money for the Yellowknife Association of Community Living and involves costumes, competition and a lot of fun.

Ptarmigan Ptheatrics: Catch Yellowknife talent onstage at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre’s annual spring play. facebook.com/ PtarmiganPtheatrics and naacct.ca

JUNE
Welcome to summer! Celebrate the longest day of the year on June 21.

The Yellowknife Farmers’ Market: Fresh food, handmade crafts and local tunes are on offer every Tuesday evening from 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., starting in early June at the Somba K’e Civic Plaza outside City Hall. ykfilmfest.com

City of Yellowknife Heritage Week: A collection of events throughout the week. June 21 to 29.

The Northern Lights are better there.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

JULY
Heat, sun, lakes and music galore—it’s all we’ve longed for all winter.

Canada Day: On July 1, gather for the annual parade down Franklin Avenue, followed by live entertainment at Somba K’e Civic Plaza outside City Hall.

Yellowknife to Hay River, a.k.a. YK2HR: Three days, 500 kilometres, one monumental bike trip along the Mackenzie Highway.

Folk on the Rocks: The biggest festival of the summer. Live music at Long Lake, food, arts and crafts. July 17 to 19. folkontherocks.com

AUGUST
The nights are getting darker. Late in the month you can catch the Northern Lights—without a parka.

Old Town Ramble & Ride: A street festival with Old Town merchants, artists and musicians. August 1 to 2. Oldtownyk.ca

NWT Pride: Workshops, storytelling, poetry slams, open mics, BBQs, live entertainment, watergun battles and open arms. nwtpride.com

Old Town Pond Sailor’s Regatta: The Snowking presents this annual sailing race, starting at the Old Town government dock. Most important rule: no electronics. extraordinaryyk.ca

SEPTEMBER
The trees show off their beautiful fall colours during prime cranberry-picking season.

Last Farmers’ Market: In early September, the final installment of the weekly Farmers’ Market is held. Time to stock up for the winter.

Prospecting 101: Yellowknife is a mining town and this weekend the NWT Mine Training Society offers an introduction to prospecting.

OCTOBER
It’s hit-and-miss with the Northern Lights because of the clouds. There will be snow by the end of the month.

Yellowknife International Film Festival: A collection of local, pan-Arctic and international films presented by Western Arctic Moving Pictures. Films are shown at the movie theatre and NACC. Late fall. ykfilmfest.com

NOVEMBER
Lakes begin to freeze up. Keep an eye on the City website for updates on ice thickness, so you know when it’s safe to venture out on them.

Pumpkin Lane: The McMahon Frame Lake Trail gets decorated with Halloween jack-o-lanterns.

Santa Claus Parade: A parade that’ll really make you feel like you’re at the North Pole. Bring hot chocolate! yellowknife.ca/ getting-active/Special-Events.asp

DECEMBER
Northern Lights season opens up and the ice is perfect for skating, skiing, ice fishing and sledding.

Holiday Lights: Take a stroll down McMahon Frame Lake Trail for the Christmas lights, starting early December. Somba K’e Plaza is quite the sight to see, too, and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has a display visible from the park.
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Tour Desk located at 4709 Franklin Ave., Yellowknife, NT
www.auroravillage.com 867-669-0006 info@auroravillage.com

BOOK NOW!
When the temperature drops below -30°C, you’ll still find Yellowknifers out on the street, the ice, the ski trails or in the bush—albeit wearing a few extra layers. Despite the chill, winter is the season of fun: it’s a time for Northern Lights viewing, dogsledding, pond hockey, and snowshoeing. If you’re visiting in winter, here’s what to do:

**IF YOU HAVE**

**24 HRS**

1. Tour the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre for a crash course in the history and culture of the territory’s first peoples, Northern aviation, and the area’s wildlife and geology. Bonus stop: the museum restaurant operated by the chefs behind local favourite Flavour Trader.

2. Walk down to the Yellowknife Book Cellar and browse its large selection of Northern literature. Then head downstairs to the Gourmet Cup for a hot coffee and some fresh baked goods.

3. If you only do one thing in Yellowknife, make time for winter’s greatest gift to the city. Sign up for an aurora-viewing tour or venture out on your own. If you’re driving, head out on Ingraham Trail to find a good viewing spot. Check the insert map. Please don’t park on the highway.

**IF YOU HAVE**

**72 HRS**

1. Take a tour of Old Town, the original town site turned quirky neighbourhood and heritage hotspot. Did you forget your long johns or a pair of warm mitts? Weaver & Devore has your winter gear and other supplies. The general store has been open in Old Town since 1936.

2. The Snowking’s Winter Festival on Yellowknife Bay runs throughout March. The famous snow castle hosts live entertainment for kids and adults, and its courtyard features an ice slide and snow sculptures.

3. Finish off the night at The Woodyard Brewhouse & Eatery for a bite and locally brewed beer.

4. You’ve seen Ice Road Truckers, now experience the ice roads for yourself. You can drive across Yellowknife Bay to nearby Dettah. Be sure to check conditions before leaving.

5. Snowmobiling is a practical and exhilarating way to experience the Canadian North. Guided snowmobile tours offered by many local operators will take you off the beaten track.

6. You must be hungry by now so make a reservation at Bullocks Bistro—it’s always busy for a reason. The Old Town staple is known for its fresh-caught fish.

**IF YOU HAVE**

**ONE WEEK**

1. Explore the outdoors on skis, snowshoes or by fatbike. Head out to the Yellowknife Ski Club for groomed ski tracks.

2. Warm up with brunch at the Dancing Moose Café. Take in the local artwork on the walls and watch planes take off on frozen Great Slave Lake right out the windows.

3. Made famous by History Television’s Ice Pilots NWT, Buffalo Airways has a unique fleet of vintage planes still in operation. Hangar tours are available Monday to Friday by appointment only.

4. Visit the NWT Diamond Centre to learn how prospectors discovered kimberlite deposits in the territory and see first hand how the rough rocks become precious stones. Free diamond polishing demonstrations.

5. Go ice-fishing in style. Take a heated SnoBear—a fishing hut on wheels—over the ice to your fishing hole and pull pike with Bluefish Services.

6. Curious about consensus government? Walk the Frame Lake Trail and stop at the NWT Legislative Assembly where you can take a free, guided tour weekdays at 10:30 a.m. The Legislative Assembly also has one of the territory’s best art collections.

7. Pick up some keepsakes and gifts in one of Yellowknife’s many galleries and shops. Visit Northern Images to find a print from Cape Dorset’s legendary Kinngait Studios, or try Aurora Emporium Art Gallery for unique local crafts.

8. Zip across a frozen lake and twist and turn down forest trails in a dogsled. Beck’s Kennels and Aurora Village have dedicated and devoted dog teams excited to give you a ride to remember.

9. Learn about Dene history and traditions by visiting a cultural camp and share stories over tea and bannock. A history of Yellowknife is not complete until you learn about the people and culture living here for centuries (try B Dene Adventures).
Thanks to our prime spot below the auroral oval, Yellowknife is one of the best places in the North, and the world, to view the aurora borealis, the Northern Lights. There are two main seasons for aurora viewing, in autumn when the land and lakes are warm (mid-August to mid October), and winter when all is dark and frozen (early December till April).

Choose an adventure with one of our aurora companies, or head out on your own to one of several sites around the City and along the Ingraham Trail. Stop at one of our parks to capture your photos - please don’t stop on the highway!

Learn to photograph the aurora with a local guide.

> See the first panel of our centerspread map for excellent aurora watching locations.
NORTHERN LITES TOUR
Aurora viewing, city tours, ice fishing and dog sledding. 867-445-2838. reservation@ijguang.ca.

NORTHERN STAR
Visit our website or give us a call. English, Tagalog. 867-445-9918. northernstaraurora.ca.

NORTH STAR ADVENTURES
100 percent Indigenous owned. Guided aurora hunting tours, featuring storytelling and cultural interpretation of the Northern Lights. Snowmobile tours. 867-446-2900. Northstaradventures.ca, info@northstaradventures.ca

RAVEN TOURS
Prime aurora viewing location with warm food and live entertainment. Snow machine trail rides. 867-988-2113. raventours.com

SONNY AURORA & SUNSHINE
Aurora tours and bed and breakfast in Old Town. Tours offered in English, Mandarin and Korean. 867-445-0151. sonnyaurora.com, sonny.0160@gmail.com

TUGÁH NORTHERN EXPERIENCES
Indigenous cultural tours, featuring aurora viewing, tipi and bannock nights, snowshoeing and dog-sledding. 867-444-7797, reserve.tugah@gmail.com, tugah.com

YELLOWKNIFE NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR
Aurora-chasing, photography, aboriginal culture camp and nature hike tours available. 1-888-405-3168. info@ynltour.com

YELLOWKNIFE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Aurora-viewing, fishing, dinner cruise, or snowmobile tours to a wilderness cabin on Great Slave Lake. Cabins, winter clothing available. 867-873-5800, 867-444-8320. Yellowknifeoutdooradventures.com, ykoutadv@yahoo.ca

DOGSLEDGING
Try driving your own team!

ICE FISHING
Before you find a spot in the ice, get your fishing licence at the downtown Reddi-Mart, or online at licences.enr.gov.nt.ca/fishing-licence

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DOGSLEDGING
Try driving your own team!
RAVEN: Ubiquitous in Yellowknife, the garrulous raven can be heard conversing with its mates on rooftops or mimicking the sounds of the streets above a busy downtown intersection. Take a few seconds to watch them and they’re bound to surprise you with their intelligence. They are clever problem-solvers and merry pranksters. The raven is also revered as a trickster and helper by the Dene.

BISON: You won’t see any of these massive ungulates in town, but once you get about 60 kilometres up Highway 3, you’re sure to come across a bison (or 20) lazing or grazing along the side of the road. You don’t want to get too close; though these docile beasts generally keep to themselves, do not feed or approach them.

PTARMIGAN: These bulbous white birds aren’t so easy to spot in their white winter coats (which go brownish in the summer). That’s why you’ll see so many Yellowknife vehicles with bumper stickers that read “I brake for ptarmigan.” A patient eye will spot these camouflaged birds, but if you want to increase your odds, look up among the branches of trees along city trails, or in a few Forrest Drive and Old Town yards that seem to be ptarmigan hotspots.

FOX: Foxes are a bit like the raccoons of Yellowknife—they seem adept at co-existing with city folk. They wander out of the forests around the city to scamper across downtown streets and backyards. They may appear curious, but they are generally scared of humans. Still, do not approach them.

BLACK BEAR: Though these massive bears are rarely found in town, you may see one in the bush along the side of the road. You don’t want to get too close; though these docile beasts generally keep to themselves, do not feed or approach them.

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BEAR SAFETY
BE AWARE: This is black bear country. But a few tips will keep you safe on the trails. Stay alert and keep aware as you walk. Whether travelling with a companion (recommended) or alone, whistle or sing as you walk. Wildlife will hear you coming and likely go in the other direction. If leaving the city, carry deterrents like bear spray, bear bangers, and/or an air horn, and become familiar with their safe usage beforehand. If you run into a black bear, stay calm. Raise your arms to make yourself appear big, talk firmly to the bear and back away slowly. If it approaches, use your deterrents. If camping, store food far from your tent, in bear-proof containers.

YELLOWKNIFE CLIMBING CLUB
Indoor bouldering. 45 Kam Lake Road. ykclimbingclub@gmail.com

YELLOWKNIFE CURLING CLUB
Family-friendly curling facility. Open daily. 6008 Franklin Ave. 867-873-4805. yellowknifecurling.com

YELLOWKNIFE FIELDHOUSE
Indoor multi-sport fields, walking and running track, preschool play area. 45 Kam Lake Road. 867-669-3457. yellowknife.ca

ICE SKATING
The city has five outdoor rinks—including one downtown on Frame Lake, just outside city hall. But be safe and check yellowknife.ca to make sure the ice is thick enough to venture out on.

FITNESS AND HEALTH

ANYTIME FITNESS
New 24-hour fitness club and gym. 13-480 Range Lake Road. yellowknifent@anytimefitness.com

BREAKAWAY FITNESS
Weight and cardio rooms, personal trainers and fitness classes. 5003-48th Street. 867-920-4220. breakawayfitness.ca

COLLECTIVE SOUL SPACE
Yoga classes and workshops. 5102 50 Ave. 867-445-5888. collectivesoul-space.com, cssnwt@gmail.com

LCP HEALTH
Book a restorative massage. 4903 47 St. 867-920-4920. lcphealth.ca

RACQUET CLUB
Squash courts, fitness classes, personal training, weight and cardio rooms and even a hot tub. 4002 49 Ave. 867-920-2224. ykracquetclub.com

STANLEY BOXING & JUST FITNESS
Sport and fitness instruction. 4920 54 Street. 867-873-2348. facebook.com/justfitnessyk

SNOW BOARDING

BRISTOL PIT
Shred it on the hill at Bristol Pit. Day pass required and you can rent equipment. Tow lift and heated clubhouse. 867-688-0105. raggedriders@outlook.com. Nwtsnowboard.ca

ARCTIC COMBAT
MMA, Judo, Muay-Thai and more. 160 Enterprise Drive. 867-445-2164.

Canoe, Kayak, Snowshoe Rentals
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and much more!

www.sundogadventures.ca
1-867-446-TOUR (8687)
@sundog_adventures  @sundogadventures
AURORA TIPS
What are the best ways to see the Northern Lights?

FORECAST: Although the aurora are unpredictable, the best months to view them are January through March and mid-August or early September. If you’re here in April/May or October/November, you may not see much. The humidity coming from the breakup and freezeup of the lakes in and around Yellowknife tends to cloud the skies. Once you’re here, check @Auroramax on Twitter, astronomynorth.com or auroraforecast.com for activity forecasts.

VIEW: The trick is to simply get away from streetlights. If you’re on foot, you’ll see them better from Frame Lake. If you’ve got wheels, head to the ice road to Dettah and then stop along the side of the road for a magnificent view. If you’re feeling even more adventurous, drive down the Ingraham Trail and turn off at any of the lake entrance parking lots. Careful, though: many a driver has been so caught up in the light show overhead, they’ve accidentally driven into a snowbank. Keep your eyes on the road!

CAPTURE: Want to give Northern Lights photography a shot? Be sure to bring a tripod and a spare battery; your batteries will drain quickly in the cold. Set your ISO to at least 800, and leave your aperture open as wide as it can go. If you’re not planning to take your own photos, you can pick up a print or photo of the aurora-lit skies from various galleries and studios across town (see page 70).
B•Dene ADVENTURES
867.444.0451
bdene.com
tours@bdene.com

Aurora Viewing
Unique Cultural Tours
Cabin & Camp Rental
Dene History
Traditional Drumming
Education & Corporate Events
YOUR DENE CONNECTION IN YELLOWKNIFE ALL YEAR ROUND

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la_pac@ntassembly.ca
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Weekdays
10:30 am

TO REPORT A WILDFIRE
CALL 1 877 NWT FIRE

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WHAT TO DO: SUMMER

Though Yellowknife is undeniably a winter city, Yellowknifers live for their summers. Music and festivals under near-endless sunlight, and outdoor adventure both within city limits and outside, will keep you busy. Just don’t forget to sleep.

IF YOU HAVE 24 HRS

1. Take a stroll through Old Town and snap some photos of its ramshackle shacks and eclectic architecture. Use the Old Town Soundwalk app to learn the history of Yellowknife’s first neighbourhood.

2. Stop for lunch at The Wildcat Café. If there’s room, find a seat on the sunny patio to watch floatplanes take off and land on Back Bay.

3. Head over to Old Town Glassworks to pick up a souvenir sandblasted glass made from a recycled wine bottle. Better yet, sign up for a workshop and create your own.

4. Treat yourself to some of the best fish and chips in the country at Bullocks Bistro. The whitefish, lingcod and lake trout are often pulled from Great Slave Lake the very same day. Tip: the pan-fried whitefish is a favourite.

5. End your day with a pint—or a flight—at NWT Brewing. The NWT’s only brewery has a wide selection of craft beer on tap, and introduces new experimental small cask or seasonal brews all the time. Grab a growler to take home.

IF YOU HAVE 72 HRS

1. Wake up and grab a coffee and a bannock ’n egger at Birchwood Coffee Kjí.

2. Book a tee-time and hit the dunes at the Yellowknife Golf Club. The 18 hole course’s famed sand fairways (portable grass provided) are unlike anything you’ve played before. Tip: Watch the ravens—they’ve been known to steal a ball or two.

3. Now that you’ve built up an appetite, head over to Flavour Trader at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

4. Plan a downtown pub-crawl. Have a pint at the Black Knight Pub, but make sure you get to the Gold Range in time to hear Welders Daughter, the hardest working band just about anywhere. The Gold Range made such an impression on Canadian songwriter Joel Plaskett that he wrote a song about it.

5. After a night on the town, mingle with the regulars at breakfast (or brunch, if we’re being honest) at the Gold Range Bistro.

6. No Yellowknife experience is complete until you’ve been out on the water. Book a tour on a commercial fishing boat with Great Slave Lake Tours and see nets get pulled. And then take home a whitefish for dinner from the fish plant or fish truck down at the government dock.

7. Before you leave, hop in a voyageur canoe and take the Floating Dinner Theatre tour with NARWAL Northern Adventures. Paddle around the bay and get a world-class fiddle concert at the same time. You’ll see mini-plays, watch painters create works of art and get a traditional meal, too.
IF YOU HAVE ONE WEEK

1. Take a hike. Yellowknife and the surrounding area have no shortage of historic or nature trails for the casual to experienced hiker. (See the fold-out map for details.)

2. Sample some of Yellowknife’s excellent international cuisine—from sushi to Korean ribs, and Chinese hot pot to Vietnamese pho. Tip: Don’t leave town without eating at Zehabesha, named one of Canada’s best Ethiopian restaurants by the Toronto Star.

3. Drive up the Ingraham Trail to do some camping. Have a cookout at one of the many day-use areas just off the highway. A beautiful view and some peace and quiet are guaranteed.

4. Plan a trip to Great Slave Lake’s East Arm, or book a fly-in visit to one of the many lodges in the North Slave region.

5. Long summer days mean there’s plenty of time to spend on the countless water bodies in and around the city. Rent a kayak or canoe and get exploring. If you don’t know what you’re doing, let NARWAL teach you.

6. Drop in at Somba K’e Plaza on Tuesday evening for the Yellowknife Farmers’ Market. Browse the handmade crafts, home-cooked food and take in a local performance. And then stay up all night and watch the sun barely dip below the horizon.

The Yellowknife Guide to Bugs

They may not be poisonous but they can drive you mad. Here’s how to stay sane:

MOSQUITOES: Newcomers who aren’t accustomed to mosquitoes tend to get swollen welts from their bites at first. Not to worry—soon your body adapts and you will barely even notice a bite. Use bug spray, wear light colours, and avoid scented products. Smoke from your bonfire will keep them at bay. Other defenses are bug jackets or authentic moccasins made with smoky moose hide.

BLACKFLIES: These small suckers are going to aim for exposed skin at your neck, behind your ears, waist and ankles. Their bites don’t hurt, they just bleed. Make sure you’re on swatting patrol in June.

HORSEFLIES/BULLDOGS: Their names are representative of their force. These guys are not fun to deal with. They’re big and common around lakes. Bug spray won’t work—your only defense is baggy clothes.
Yellowknifers love summer.

By June, there’s 20 hours of daylight and temperatures can rise to 30 degrees C. We swim, sail, water ski, paddleboard, bike, golf, and most of us also like to fish! Golfers love our 18-hole sand course with carpeted greens. Walkers and bikers haunt our many well-marked trails. There are float planes for a city air tour. There’s a public beach at Long Lake, and delightful lakes for water sports on the Ingraham Trail.

And yes, there are fish here! Take a guided trip to catch your shore lunch or dinner of pike, trout, whitefish or grayling on Great Slave Lake or smaller lakes nearby. Fish for a weekend or a week at lodges listed under Tours at the back of this Guide.

All summer long there are events – Indigenous displays, music in the park, art displays and every Tuesday evening, a farmer’s market.

ON THE WATER

The city is surrounded by pristine lakes and waterways, with plenty of room for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and boating. Arrange guided fishing expeditions and tours with local operators, or rent your own vessel.

LONG LAKE BEACH

Remember your sunscreen and swimsuit. Long Lake Beach is at the Fred Henne Territorial Park, out by the airport; beach volleyball nets available.

FISHING & DAY TRIP OPERATORS

AURORA VILLAGE SPORT FISHING

Explore Prosperous Lake in a traditional 26-foot freighter canoe. 867-669-0006. auroravillage.com, info@auroravillage.com

B. DENE ADVENTURES

Indigenous cultural and boat tours. by Detah’s Bobby Drygeese. 867-444-0451. bdene.com

JACKPINE PADDLE CO.

Canoe and kayak tour packages for Great Slave Lake, Thelon River and Sahtu region. Paddle instruction, courses, rentals, youth programs. Camping gear rental packages. 1-800-508-0662, info@jackpinepaddle.com

NARWAL NORTHERN ADVENTURES

Tours, instruction and canoe and kayak rentals at daily, weekly and monthly rates. See the Floating Dinner Theatre—a weekly show with three hours of live entertainment, traditional dinner and paddling in Voyageur canoes. 867-873-6443. Narwal.ca outdoors@narwal.ca

OLD TOWN PADDLE & CO.

Rent stand-up paddleboards or sign up for lessons to enjoy the water in a fun new way. 867-445-5683, Oldtownpaddle.com, info@oldtownpaddle.com

OMEGA MARINE

Inflatable and aluminum boats and motors, for rent on the shore of Great Slave Lake. 867-873-3770 or 1-800-873-5104. For parts & service emergencies call 867-444-5378. Omega marine.ca, omegamarine@theedge.ca

OVERLANDER SPORTS

Canoe and kayak rentals. 867-873-2474. Overlandersports.com, sales@overlandersports.com

PRELUDE LAKE MARINA

Rent fishing and pontoon boats at Prelude Lake Territorial Park, 30 km east of Yellowknife on the Ingraham Trail. 867-446-5779. Preludelakemarina.com

SUNDOG ADVENTURES

Boat tours: Houseboat and heritage tour or fishing tour with fly fry. 4 Lessard Drive. Early bird tours, call. 867-446-8687, info@sundogadvntures.ca

YELLOWKNIFE TOURS

Autumn aurora-viewing packages around town and out at Trout Rock Lodge. 867-873-4600. Yellowknife tours.com, aurora@yellowknife tours.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Central to our past, present and future, Yellowknife’s bush planes come in many shapes and sizes. Here’s a quick guide to tell the difference between the planes you see in the sky.

DC-3

Physical characteristics: Full, tapered belly resembling a fish; low wings that angle toward a central, three-pronged tail; plumage variable, but Northern species often have a green mask. Sound: Single persistent holler. Population: 607 (produced 1936-42, 1950). Related planes: None. It’s been said that the only replacement for a DC-3 is another DC-3. Fact: Starred in the History Channel’s Ice Pilots NWT.

Cessna 185


DeHavilland Twin Otter

Physical characteristics: 15.8m long. Sleek, pointed nose and full, bottom-heavy breast; long, blunt-tipped wings set toward the centre of the back; plumage variable, but notable species include the Kenn Borek (red, black and white underbelly) and the Canadian Forces (solid red with a large blue dot under the wing). Sound: Quiet growl, intermittent low whistles when propellers reverse direction mid-flight. Population: 844 (produced 1965-1998, 2008-present). Related planes: The single-engine Otter. Fact: In 2001, when Antarctica’s resident doctor needed a medevac from her -60C winter outpost, the Twin Otter was the only plane rescuers trusted to perform the mission.

DeHavilland Beaver

Physical characteristics: 9.2m long, box-shaped body and blunt, pug-like nose; once described as a “big ol’ pelican”–slow, cumbersome, but carries its weight in fish. Sound: Loud snarl punctuated with piston-like bangs and pings. Population: 1,657 (produced 1947-1967). Related planes: Norseman, Turbo Beaver. Fact: The Beaver is named after Canada’s national animal, but the first Canadian-designed DeHavilland was named after the Chipmunk.

Yellowknife’s bush planes come in many shapes and sizes. Here’s a quick guide to tell the difference between the planes you see in the sky.

Pilatus Porter

Physical characteristics: 11m long, box-shaped, narrow, very short wings; unnoticeable but sly. Sound: Noisy growl, similar to the Beaver. Population: 562 (produced 1959-present). Related planes: Helios, Heliostar. Fact: The Pilatus holds the world record for highest landing by a fixed-wing aircraft: in 1960, it touched down on a 5,750-metre mountain peak in Nepal—but then crashed on its way out.

SUNDOG ADVENTURES

Boat tours: Houseboat and heritage tours or fishing tours with fish fry. 4 Lessard Drive. Early bird tours, call. 867-446-8687, info@sundogadventures.ca

YELLOWKNIFE TOURS

Autumn aurora-viewing packages around town and out at Trout Rock Lodge. 867-873-4600. Yellowknife tours.com, aurora@yellowknife tours.com

Traditional Dene drying of fish.
An angler’s paradise
Forget the gold mines, the real treasure’s in the water
LAKE WHITEFISH
Coregonus clupeaformis
Found in Great Slave Lake’s Yellowknife Bay, as well as at Tartan Rapids outside the city and in lakes along the Ingraham Trail, whitefish average 1kg. These fish provide a lot of action but must be hooked gently, as they have fragile mouths.

INCONNU
Stedonus leucichthys
Inconnu average from 3 to 5kg, although it’s not uncommon to reel them in at 9 to 14kg. Some even reach up to 22kg. You can catch these year-round throughout the Mackenzie River watershed and in the tributaries of Great Slave Lake, as well as other little lakes in the area.

ARCTIC GRAYLING
Thymallus arcticus
Grayling are treasured by anglers for their feistiness, which guarantees an exciting battle, but are limited to the open water season. Members of the whitefish family, the pretty little fish with sail-like dorsal fins are found at the mouths of rivers. They average from 0.5 to 1kg and can reach up to 1.5kg.

NORTHERN PIKE
Esox lucius
Pike are greedy, so they’re relatively easy to catch. But hold on tight; they’re fighters! Often called jackfish, pike generally run from 2 to 7kg, and some tip the scales at more than 18kg. Pike prefer warm, slow-moving, weedy water. You can catch these year-round.

LAKE TROUT
Salvelinus namaycush
Lake trout average 4.5kg, but catches of 18kg and above are common. They grow slowly in our cold water, taking 12 or more years to mature. The big ones can be found out in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.

WALLEYE
Sander vitreus vitreus
Also commonly called pickerel (a misnomer), these are arguably the most prized shorelunch around—what you catch is culinary quality. On average, walleye weigh in at 1 to 2kg, but people have been known to reel them in at 3kg. You can catch these year-round throughout the Mackenzie River watershed and in the tributaries of Great Slave Lake, as well as other little lakes in the area.

Yellowknife sits on the shore of one of the largest and deepest lakes in the world, home to monster lake trout and great northern pike. There are dozens of smaller lakes nearby, some accessible by car, and others by floatplane, where the fishing is spectacular.

Now that there’s a $10 per day licence fee for fishers (effective April 1, 2020), there’s no excuse not to try out our favorite sport. Let one of our fishing guides take you out on the lake to catch one of our prized fish. Hop aboard in Old Town where our guides keep their boats, or hop a floatplane to a lake of your own. For airlines and longer, catered trips check the additional tour listings on page 82.

BLUEFISH SERVICES
Guided fishing trips on Great Slave Lake. 867-445-8553. Bluefishservices.ca or bluefish.greg@gmail.com

BOB TURNER
Aboriginal fishing tours on Great Slave Lake. 867-446-6502. turner@theedge.ca.

GREAT SLAVE ADVENTURES
Fishing tours, call or email to book a tour. 867-445-2226. gsa@theedge.ca

GREAT SLAVE LAKE TOURS
A fishing adventure on a true Great Slave fishing boat. 867-875-8077.

JOCELYN DEMETRE’S GREAT SLAVE LAKE SAFARIS
Day or overnight fishing trips to the East Arm. 867-445-3625.

NORTH STAR ADVENTURES
Aboriginal-owned business offering fishing tours, boat tours, nature and wildlife tours. 867-446-2900. Northstaradventures.ca, info@northstaradventures.ca

TRUE NORTH SAFARIS
Indigenous owned tour company offers wilderness lodging, fishing. 867-873-8533. truenorthsafaris.com

YELLOWKNIFE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Trophy fishing and fish fry dinner tours. Birding and photography. Cabin rentals on the shore of Great Slave Lake. 867-444-8320. Yellowknifeoutdooradventures.com. ykoutadv@yahoo.ca

YELLOWKNIFE SPORTFISHING ADVENTURES
East Arm day or overnight guided trips. 867-446-5950. yellowknifesportfishing.com

FISHING LICENCES
Visitors and residents between 16 and 65 can purchase NWT fishing licences online, at some government offices and at the downtown Reddi-Mart (licences are free for anyone over 65). Canadian visitors can purchase a seasonal licence for $20, or a three-day licence for $15, or a day licence for $10. Non-residents pay $40 for a seasonal licence, $30 for a three-day licence and $10 for a day licence NWT residents pay $10 for a seasonal fishing licence. Purchase online at licences.enr.gov.nt.ca/fishing-licence.
ON LAND

BOREALIS BIKE TOURS UNLIMITED
Year round guided fat bike tours. 867-447-0050, david@borealisbiketours-unlimited.com

STRONG INTERPRETATION
Guided tours exploring the boreal forest, strolls through Old Town, and more. 867-446-2799. Experienceyellowknife.com, walkyellowknife@gmail.com

THE NORTH COUNTRY STABLES
On the outskirts of the city, next to the Yellowknife Golf Club, this property has four outdoor paddocks, an outdoor riding arena and riding trails. Private and group lessons for all levels. 867-873-2579. Great Slave Animal Hospital. gsah.ca

THE OUTDOOR RANGE
Head down Highway 3, turn when you see the sign for the sandpits. Membership required. 867-445-4783. Yellowknife shooting club.ca

YELLOWKNIFE GOLF CLUB
An 18-hole, par-72 golf course with sand fairways and reasonable green fees is just off Highway 3, across from the airport. If you don’t have time for the full 18, whack a few balls on the driving range. 867-873-4326. Yellowknife golf.com

TENNIS
The city has three outdoor tennis courts at Somba K’ee Park, McNiven Beach and near the Multiplex. 867-445-2459. yellowknife tennis.com, info@yellowknife tennis.com

Hiking Trails

YELLOWKNIFE IS A HIKER’S DREAM, WHETHER YOU’RE LOOKING FOR CASUAL AFTERNOON STROLLS OR INTENSE WEEK-LONG EXPEDITIONS. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF TRAILS WITHIN CITY LIMITS, AS WELL AS AN ABUNDANCE OF POPULAR HIKES FARther UP THE INGRAHAM TRAIL.

IN YELLOWKNIFE:

MCMAHON FRAME LAKE TRAIL
This 9 km trail circles Frame Lake in the centre of town, and is popular with walkers, bicyclists, joggers and dog-walkers. An extension towards the Bristol Monument, Lakeview Cemetery and Jackfish Lake. Pack bug spray!

NIVEN LAKE TRAIL
Running alongside a marshy ecosystem, home to amphibians, waterfowl, muskrats and beavers, this 2 km trail is a must for wildlife lovers.

PROSPECTORS’ TRAIL
Accessible from the Fred Henne Park Campground, this 4 km trail is full of geological phenomena.

RANGE LAKE TRAIL
Connects to the Frame Lake Trail from the hospital, through the uptown supermarket and starts behind the Shell convenience store and gas station.

TIN CAN HILL
A popular off-leash dog-walking trail that links Yellowknife with the old Con mine site.

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB TRAILS
A day-use fee of $15 per person or $40 per family gives access to multiple routes—from 2 to 10 km—full of wooded trails and views of Back Bay.

Sommers are short but spectacular so get outside and soak up the sun. Yellowknife is a hiker’s dream, whether you’re looking for casual afternoon strolls or intense week-long expeditions. There is no shortage of trails within city limits, as well as an abundance of popular hikes farther up the Ingraham Trail.
**THE FOLLOWING NEARBY LAKES HAVE BOAT LAUNCHES:**
- Great Slave Lake (Old Town and Giant Mine)
- Prosperous Lake (Cassidy Point & Secondary)
- Powder Point (for Prelude East/Hidden Lake)
- Vee Lake and Walsh Lake
- Madeline Lake
- Pontoon Lake
- Prelude Lake
- Reid Lake
- Tibbitt Lake

**ON THE INGRAHAM TRAIL:**

**BIG HILL LAKE**
This is a hidden treasure of the Yellowknife area. Accessible by driving down the Ingraham Trail to Madeline Lake (25 km east), with parking available on a rough pull-out on the south side of the highway. The 6 km round-trip hiking trail is well marked in the summer months only. It is a great destination for an overnight camping trip. No facilities.

**PRELUDE LAKE TRAIL**
This scenic 2.5 km nature trail within the Prelude Lake Territorial Campground (30 km east) provides gorgeous views of Prelude Lake and interpretive signage explains everything you need to know about the North’s wildlife and vegetation.

**RANNEY HILL HIKE**
It’s 2.5 km of trail marked by colourful flagging tape. You know you’re at the end when you climb the pink granite of Ranney Hill. At the top? A panoramic view of the Yellowknife area and its wilderness. To get to the trailhead, drive the Ingraham Trail and turn left on Vee Lake Road. Most people park on the shoulder at the trailhead.

**LOW BUSH CRANBERRIES RIPEN AFTER THE FIRST FROST.**

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**ON THE INGRAHAM TRAIL:**

**BIG HILL LAKE**
This is a hidden treasure of the Yellowknife area. Accessible by driving down the Ingraham Trail to Madeline Lake (25 km east), with parking available on a rough pull-out on the south side of the highway. The 6 km round-trip hiking trail is well marked in the summer months only. It is a great destination for an overnight camping trip. No facilities.

**PRELUDE LAKE TRAIL**
This scenic 2.5 km nature trail within the Prelude Lake Territorial Campground (30 km east) provides gorgeous views of Prelude Lake and interpretive signage explains everything you need to know about the North’s wildlife and vegetation.

**RANNEY HILL HIKE**
It’s 2.5 km of trail marked by colourful flagging tape. You know you’re at the end when you climb the pink granite of Ranney Hill. At the top? A panoramic view of the Yellowknife area and its wilderness. To get to the trailhead, drive the Ingraham Trail and turn left on Vee Lake Road. Most people park on the shoulder at the trailhead.

**LOW BUSH CRANBERRIES RIPEN AFTER THE FIRST FROST.**

**THE FOLLOWING NEARBY LAKES HAVE BOAT LAUNCHES:**
- Great Slave Lake (Old Town and Giant Mine)
- Prosperous Lake (Cassidy Point & Secondary)
- Powder Point (for Prelude East/Hidden Lake)
- Vee Lake and Walsh Lake
- Madeline Lake
- Pontoon Lake
- Prelude Lake
- Reid Lake
- Tibbitt Lake
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS

Yellowknife is a great place for families. Summer or winter, you'll find it easy to keep busy with the little ones. Be sure to check out the Yellowknife Recreation Guide for specific events and activities that are planned during your visit.

FLIP FOR GYMNASTICS
Register for gymnastics programs or drop-in for some fun. 41 Kam Lake Road—in the Multiplex, 867-920-7771, info@ykgymnastics.com, yellowknife@ykgymnastics.com

LEARN TO SKATE
A winter city—for six months of the year, skating is as important as walking. Learn from those in the know. ykskatingclub@outlook.com.

LOVE THE LIBRARY
All sorts of readings, arts and crafts activities and programs throughout the year at the Yellowknife Public Library. Second floor of the Centre Square Mall, 5022 49 Street, 867-920-5642, yellowknife.ca/ypl

MAKE BELIEVE AT THE MUSEUM
Pull out the stuffed animals or get dressed up and live like a true bushman or woman at the museum play area. For little and big kids alike. 4750 48 Street, 867-767-9347 x 71472

PLAY TOGETHER
Drop into the multiplex for some extended playtime for kids up to four years old. Toys included. Check for times here: yellowknife.ca/en/getting-active/drop-in-programs.asp

BELLA DANCE ACADEMY
From ballet to hip-hop, for babies and adults, there are dance classes for everyone. #103 349 Old Airport Road, 867-87-DANCE, belladance.ca

FARMERS’ MARKET
Grab a bite, listen to some music and run around with the kids until they get tuckered out. Somba K'e Civic Plaza, Tuesdays from 5:15-7:30 p.m. from early June until September.
Top-notch schools and excellent programs for all children

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- Advanced placement
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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8
Fax: 920-2775

Hours: 7:00am-8:00pm Mon-Fri, 8:00am-4:00pm Sat.

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CAFES AND LUNCHES

Lighter fare, first-rate coffee, great for a midday meal.

BARREN GROUND COFFEE
You can buy locally roasted beans at local gift shops and grocery stores, or stop by the roastery to purchase their organic and/or fair trade coffee and grab a pour-over coffee to go. 5103 52nd Street. Barrengroundcoffee.com

BIRCHWOOD COFFEE KÔ
Have a coffee or latte, the perfect companion to homemade cinnamon buns or a Bannock ‘N Egger. 5021 49 Street. 867-873-5466. Birchwoodcoffeeko.com

BUBBLE TEA NORTH
Bubble tea is the main item, but this little spot also offers frozen yogurt and fresh fruit smoothies. 5115 48 Street. 867-766-2017. Bubbleteanorth.com

THE CLIFF CAFÉ
Daily soup and catch-of-the-day specials and more at the Legislative Assembly’s cafe. Open year-round, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch service between 11 and 3. 4570 48 St. 867-767-9010 or 867-873-7570. facebook.com/thecliffyk

DANCING MOOSE CAFÉ
In Old Town’s Bayside B&B on the shore of Yellowknife Bay, it serves breakfast and lunch. Catering and special occasion dinners available. 3505 McDonald Drive. 867-669-8844. baysidenorth.com

FLAVOUR TRADER AT PWNHC
The faces behind the museum restaurant are the chefs from local favourite Flavour Trader. Open Monday–Friday 10:30 to 4:30

GOURMET CUP
A large selection of coffees are available in this bright café, which also serves baked goods and sandwiches. Hot breakfast till 9:30 a.m. and hot lunches 11:30 to 1:30 pm Mon. to Fri. Lower level YK Centre Mall, 3 4802 50 Ave. 867-873-8782. Gourmetcupyellowknife.ca

JAVAROMA GOURMET COFFEE
A popular downtown coffee and meeting spot with sandwiches, soups and bagels. Suite 101 5201 50 Ave. Also at Yellowknife Airport. 867-669-0725. Javaroma.ca

CASUAL & PUB FARE
Grab a pint with your meal for the full experience.

THE BLACK KNIGHT
A popular after-work watering hole, this Scottish pub offers hearty pub fare, daily specials (Steak Knight, Wings Knight) and a large selection of beer on tap. Upstairs, the Top Knight frequently hosts live shows. 4910 49 Street. 867-920 4041. facebook.com/blackknightNWT

BOSTON PIZZA
Casual dining with pizza, pasta, salads and more. Families, teams. Take out and delivery. 5102 48 Street. 867-920-2000. bostonpizza.com

COYOTE’S BISTRO ON FRANKLIN
Everything from pub fare to steaks to crab, for sit in or take-out. 4511 50 Ave. 867-873-8880. facebook.com/coyotesbistroonfranklin

GOLD RANGE BISTRO
Western and Chinese dishes served up in this classic diner-styled eatery, which is popular with locals for its daily specials, hearty breakfasts and sassy servers. 5010 50 Street. 867-873-4567.

THE KILT AND CASTLE PUB
An Irish pub with frequent live music and great drink prices. 5019 49 Street. 867-766-5458. Facebook.com/kiltandcastle

SAM’S MONKEY TREE PUB
Steak, ribs, pasta and a range of other options—including a selection of poutine, hot lunch specials and more. 483 Range Lake Road. 867-920-4914.

WOODYARD BREWHOUSE AND EATERY
Yellowknife’s very own brew pub. This popular Old Town establishment offers hearty meals and made-in-the-NWT suds. 3905 50 Ave. 867-873-BEER (2337). nwtbrewingco.com

No matter what you’re craving, Yellowknife’s diverse culinary scene has something to offer you.
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50 CITY GUIDE • DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE
FOOD & DRINK
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

For a little Northern city, we’ve got diverse cuisine from around the globe.

A TASTE OF SAIGON
This popular location for pho, stir-fries and rice dishes is a favourite for the downtown office crowd at lunch. Take-out and sit-down. 4913 50 Street. 867-873-9777. atasteofsaigon.ca

BENTO SUSHI
Kiosks serving up takeout sushi in the city’s three main grocery stores: the two Yellowknife Independent Grocer locations and the Yellowknife Co-op. Bentsushi.com

ELKE’S TABLE ON 47TH
German schnitzel and Mediterranean cuisine—plus local fish—to fill you up. 4911 47 Street. 867-873-3489. Facebook.com/elkestable

KOREA HOUSE
Downtown Korean barbeque for sit-down, take-out or delivery. The bibimbap is a local favourite. 5103 50 Street. 867-669-0188.

MAIN STREET DONAIR & FALAFEL
Wraps and authentic Lebanese cuisine served up food court-style located at the front of Centre Square Mall. Take-out and sit-down. Centre Square, 4905 50 Ave. 867-766-3354

MISS SAIGON
Get pho or vermicelli to go (or for delivery) from the counter at Kim’s Confectionary. 5309 50 Ave. 867-873-6477

MAIN STREET PIZZA & DELI
Stone oven pizza, East Indian dishes, soup, sandwiches, donair and shawarma. 5012 53 Street. 867-873-6400.

WE subtle Asian ingredients, and adventurous minds, the dishes here provide a little taste of Asia. 4913 50 Ave. 867-873-9777.

THE MANTLE RESTAURANT
In the Days Inn, serves a delicious brunch on Sundays. 4401 50th Ave, 867-446-5812

QUARRY RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
New establishment with a steakhouse menu in the Chateau Nova hotel. 4571 48 Street. 867-766-6682. novahotels.ca/chateau-ova-yellowknife

STAKE
Upscale, family-friendly dining with a private room available. 484 Range Lake Road, 867-920-5500. copperhouse.ca

THE RED APPLE
This family-style restaurant offers a Western and Chinese menu. 4701 50 Ave. 867-766-3388.

VIETNAMESE NOODLE HOUSE
Vietnamese food in a log building. Vermicelli is a local staple, while their menu includes plenty of non-noodle selections like stir-fries and rice plates. Take-out and sit-down. 4609 50 Ave. 867-873-3399.

ZEHABESHA
This downtown spot serves up Ethiopian food (including traditional injera flatbread with vegetarian and non-vegetarian offerings) along with some western items. Take-out, delivery and sit-down. 5030 50 Street. 867-873-6400.

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An Old Town must. Heaping portions of local fish or wild game that you’ll think about for months. 3534 Weaver Drive. 867-873-3474. bullocksbistro@gmail.com facebook.com/bullocksbistro

COPPERHOUSE EATERY AND LOUNGE
Upscale, family-friendly dining with a private room available. 484 Range Lake Road, 867-920-5500. copperhouse.ca

TRADE’S GRILL RESTAURANT
The Explorer Hotel’s main dining room specializes in Northern delights such as Arctic Char and Elk. It’s known for its Sunday brunch. 4825 49 Ave. 867-873-3531. Ex. 4. Explorerhotel.ca/dining/traders-grill

WILDCAT CAFÉ
Yellowknife’s oldest restaurant, this restored heritage building is open during summer only. They offer Northern fare. Shoot for a seat on the patio. 3904 Wiley Road. 867-873-4004.

THE MANTLE RESTAURANT
In the Days Inn, serves a delicious brunch on Sundays. 4401 50th Ave, 867-446-5812

QUARRY RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
New establishment with a steakhouse menu in the Chateau Nova hotel. 4571 48 Street. 867-766-6682. novahotels.ca/chateau-ova-yellowknife

STAKE
Yellowknife’s newest steakhouse. Casual dining and child friendly. 483 Range Lake Road, 867-920-2971. facebook.com/stakerestaurant

JA-PAIN
Japanese-style bakery featuring additive-free bread, pastries and coffee. 4905 50th Ave. 867-444-1200. facebook.com/japanese-bakery

K&M CONCESSION STAND
Turkish coffee and borek—a feta-and-parsley pastry—are on offer at this concession stand serving the Yellowknife Fieldhouse, along with traditional concession fare. 45 Kam Lake Road. 867-669-3457.

KOREA HOUSE
Downtown Korean barbeque for sit-down, take-out or delivery. The bibimbap is a local favourite. 5103 50 Street. 867-669-0188.

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STAKE
Yellowknife’s newest steakhouse. Casual dining and child friendly. 483 Range Lake Road, 867-920-2971. facebook.com/stakerestaurant

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**THE BLACK KNIGHT PUB**
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**COYOTE’S BISTRO ON FRANKLIN**
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**ELKS LODGE**
Play some pool and watch the game. Popular trivia night on Wednesdays. 4919 49 Street. 867-873-4563. ykelks.com

**HARLEY’S HARDROCK SALOON**
Nightly exotic dancing with a crowd that mixes old and young. 4919 48 St. 867-873-6789. facebook.com/harleyshardrocksaloon

**THE GOLD RANGE**
The iconic Yellowknife bar. What happens at the Range, stays at the Range. 5010 50 St. 867-873-4441.

**THE RAVEN’S PUB**
This dance club right in the heart of downtown plays all the new hits and the best of all genres at your request. Monday to Saturday nights. 5030 50 Street. 867-873-BEER (2337). nwtbrewingco.com

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Yellowknife’s very own brew pub. This popular Old Town establishment offers hearty meals and made-in-the-NWT suds. 3905 50 Ave. 867-873-8991. nwtbrewingco.com

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**SAM’S MONKEY TREE PUB**
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**DOMINO’S PIZZA**
Take-out and delivery. 100 Borden Drive. 867-920-2020. dominos.ca

**FAT BURGER**
Gourmet burgers and shakes. 100 Borden Drive. 867-920-2900.

**MCDONALD’S**
Take-out and sit-down. Two locations: 202 Old Airport Road. 867-873-9555; WalMart, 313 Old Airport Road. 867-873-9556. mcdonalds.ca

**PIZZA HUT**
Take-out and delivery. 312 Old Airport Road, across from Wal-Mart. 867-873-6700. pizzahut.ca

**QUIZNOS SUBS**
Take-out and sit-down. Two locations: 106-314 Old Airport Road, and in the Yellowknife Airport. 867-920-7827 quiznos.ca

**SUBWAY**
Take-out and sit-down. Two Locations: 5103 50th Street. 867-920-2727; 100 Borden Drive. 867-920-2700.

**BOOSTER JUICE**
Get a healthy smoothie or snack. 419 Byrne Rd., 873-3872.

**BRUNO’S PIZZA**
Pizza-by-the-slice at the counter, pizzas by the whole available for pick-up and delivery. Late hours make this a busy spot after the bars close. 5124 53 Street. 867-920-2130.

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**About the Authors**

Marty & Beth Seeley

Marty Seeley is a retired RCMP officer, a former Commissioner of the NWT, and a long-time resident of the Northwest Territories. Beth Seeley is a writer, designer, and artist who has lived and worked in the NWT for over 30 years. Together, they have written many books exploring the rich history and culture of the region.

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**About the Introduction**

This book is a valuable resource for anyone visiting or planning to visit the Northwest Territories. It provides a wealth of information about the region’s history, culture, and natural beauty, as well as practical tips for travelers.

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**About the Notes**

The notes section at the back of the book contains additional information and resources for further exploration of the Northwest Territories.

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**Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank the many people who contributed to the writing and production of this book. Without their help and support, this publication would not have been possible.

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**Index**

The index at the end of the book provides a comprehensive list of topics and subjects discussed in the book, making it easy to find specific information.

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**About the Publishers**

The Northwest Territories Press is committed to publishing books that explore the rich history and culture of the Northwest Territories. We are proud to present this book to our readers and hope that it will inspire them to visit and learn more about this unique region.

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TIM HORTONS
Take-out and sit-down, 309 Old Airport Road. 867-873-4999. Just take-out, 5022 49th St.

GASTOWN GRILL
Serving uptown and dedicated downtowners, this silver trailer in Gastown’s parking lot has legendary burgers and diner fare. Seasonal. 356 Old Airport Road.

MARY BROWN’S FAMOUS CHICKEN AND TATERS
The name says it all—you know what you’re getting at the city’s newest fried chicken joint. 350 Borden Dr. 867-920-6279.

ONE OF A THAI
Look for a bright red truck downtown for Thai cuisine influenced by owner Sousan Chanthalangsy’s mother’s recipes. In winter, YK Curling Club 867-445-8258.

EATING IN
Where we pick up everything from fresh fish to duck confit.

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YK Direct Charge Co-op (321 Old Airport Rd., 867-873-5770, Ykcoop.com) and Your Independent Grocer (two locations: downtown, 14 4910 50 Ave, 867-669-9100; uptown, 250 Old Airport Road, 867-766-3195, Yourindependentgrocer.ca)

BUCKLEY’S GREAT SLAVE LAKE FISH
Purchase fish from a truck year round. Barry Buckley 867-444-8195

KIM’S CONFECTIONARY
The unassuming convenience store is a hidden treasure chest full of Asian condiments, ingredients and frozen specialties. 5309 50 Street. 867-873-5100.

LUULZ MARKET
Gourmet grocery store in the Centre Ice Plaza with extensive deli section featuring European cheeses and meats. It also offers a wide range of organic, gluten-free and specialty ingredients, and prepared meals. 480 Range Lake Road. 867-873-2003.

NORTHERN FANCY MEATS
An independent butcher, Fancy Meats offers a fresh collection of cuts and prepared meats, along with pan-Arctic seafood and deli specialties. 314 Woolgar Avenue. 867-873-8767.

WEAVER AND DEVORE
The front of this YK staple is a mini-grocery store serving residents of Old Town and N’Dilo. 3601 Weaver Drive. 867-873-2219.

GREAT SLAVE FISH PRODUCTS
Pick up fresh fillets, whole fish and smoked fish from this truck, usually parked on 50 Ave., or from their floating barge on Yellowknife Bay. 867-873-9896 or 867-446-2953.
WHERE TO STAY

ANDERSON THOMSON TOWER/WATERMARK TOWER
Apartment-style hotel offers suites with kitchens in secure downtown buildings with fitness centres, in-suite office workspaces and wireless high-speed internet. 5300 49 Street/4503 52 Ave. 867-873-5701. Polardevelopments.com

ARNICA INN
Forty-two room inn between Old Town and downtown, with kitchenettes and air-conditioning available. 4115 50 Ave. 867-873-8511. 1-877-873-8511. Arnicainn.com

CAPITAL SUITES HOTEL
Furnished studios, 1, 2 bedroom and family suites for extended stays downtown. Also offers high-speed wireless internet, airport shuttle. 100-5603 50 Ave. 867-669-6400; 1-877-669-9444. Capitalsuites.ca

CHATEAU NOVA YELLOWKNIFE
Downtown hotel with a dining room and lounge. Ideal for meetings and conferences. 4571 48 Street, 867-766-6682, novahotels.ca/chateau-nova-yellowknife

DAYS INN AND SUITES
Large, comfortable rooms in the heart of downtown, with select suites offering kitchenettes, queen-sized beds and jacuzzis. 4401 50 Ave. 867-873-9700; 1-877-839-1236. Daysinnynw.com

DISCOVERY INN
Close to the city’s business and government centres, this hotel is also near to shopping facilities and restaurants. 4701 50 Ave. 867-873-4151. Discoveryinn.ca

THE EXPLORER HOTEL
Ideally located in the city core this 259-room hotel is close to all amenities. Featuring upscale dining options and expanded conference facilities. 4825 49 Street. 867-873-3531; 1-800-661-0892. Explorerhotel.ca

NORTHERN LITES MOTEL
Twenty rooms with microwaves and fridges. 5115 50 Street. 867-873-6023. northernlites@northwestel.net

QUALITY INN & SUITES YELLOWKNIFE
In the heart of downtown Yellowknife, close to shopping, dining and more. 5010 49 Street. 867-873-2601, Choicehotels.ca

SLAVE LAKE INN
Yellowknife’s newest hotel at the entrance to Old Town. 4105 50th Avenue. 867-920-5520

STANTON SUITES HOTEL

SUPER 8 YELLOWKNIFE
Located in Frame Lake South, this pet-friendly hotel is close to shopping, restaurants, Stanton Territorial Hospital and the airport. 308 Old Airport Road. 867-669-8888.

BLUE RAVEN BED & BREAKFAST
On Old Town’s Latham Island, overlooking Great Slave Lake, offers a crackling fireplace in winter, and a spacious deck in summer. Full breakfast. 37 Otto Drive (up the hill). 867-873-6328. Timacoto@me.com

ARCTIC CHALET B & B
Private entrance, hi-speed WiFi, cable internet, continental breakfast, fridge and microwave. 8 Glick Court. 867-8732498. Ihegeman@theedge.ca

BAYSIDE BED & BREAKFAST
In the heart of Old Town, on the shore of Great Slave Lake, features a popular café, a wrap-around deck and impressive view of the lake. Four rooms and a cabin, wifi and guest lounge. 3505 McDonald Drive. 867-669-8844. Baysidenorth.com

STANTON AVENUE BED & BREAKFAST
Licenced. Three queen rooms, one with full ensuite bathroom. Living/dining guest area. Continental breakfast. Near hospital and up-town shopping. Seasonal rate for airport limo pickup. 120 Arden Ave. 867-446-5656. ardenbnb.ca

BLUE RAVEN BED & BREAKFAST
Located in Frame Lake South, this pet-friendly hotel is close to shopping, restaurants, Stanton Territorial Hospital and the airport. 308 Old Airport Road. 867-669-8888.

Bed & Breakfast
Cozy comfortable rooms in and outside of town, fully licensed by the City of Yellowknife. For more information, visit www.spectacularnwt.com.

Arctic Chalet B & B
Private entrance, hi-speed WiFi, cable internet, continental breakfast, fridge and microwave. 8 Glick Court. 867-8732498. Ihegeman@theedge.ca

Bayside Bed & Breakfast
In the heart of Old Town, on the shore of Great Slave Lake, features a popular café, a wrap-around deck and impressive view of the lake. Four rooms and a cabin, wifi and guest lounge. 3505 McDonald Drive. 867-669-8844. Baysidenorth.com

Birches Bed & Breakfast
A comfortable home within walking distance of downtown, restaurants, art galleries and walking trails. 4 Ryon Drive. 867-444-2913. Bbcana.com/12945.html; birchesbandb@northwestel.net

Blue Raven Bed & Breakfast
On Old Town’s Latham Island, overlooking Great Slave Lake, offers a crackling fireplace in winter, and a spacious deck in summer. Full breakfast. 37 Otto Drive (up the hill). 867-873-6328. Timacoto@me.com

Affiliate locations
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Baker Lake, NU
Kimik Hotel
Kimmirut, NU

Grise Fiord Lodge
Grise Fiord, NU

Stay at an Inns North hotel
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Chesterfield Inlet, NU
Coral Harbour, NU
Gjoa Haven, NU
Hall Beach, NU
Igloolik, NU
Kugaaruk, NU
Naujaat, NU
Pangnirtung, NU
Pond Inlet, NU
Qikiqtarjuq, NU
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CITY GUIDE • DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE

WHERE TO STAY

BOB TURNER ENTERPRISES
B&B located in N’dilo. Aboriginal fishing and snowmobile tours on Great Slave Lake. 867-446-6502, rturner@theedge.ca

BUSY BEAVER BED & BREAKFAST
Uptown accommodations. Free airport shuttle and free parking. 177 Jeske Crescent. 867-446-5372. booking.com

DANH’S BED & BREAKFAST
Family friendly, free wi-fi and parking. 5018 Finlayson Drive. 867-446-0869, booking.com

EMBLETON HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST
Licenced B&B since 1999. Four private luxury studio suites with kitchens, bathrooms, massage tubs, computers, TV, internet, fireplaces, skylights and three private bedrooms with shared kitchen and living room. 5203 52 Street. 867-873-2892; 1-888-909-5203. www.embletonhouse.com

GREEN HAVEN GUEST HOUSE
Newly built home with spacious, upscale guest suites just a short walk from the downtown core. 5223 54 Street. 867-446-8322. greenhavenbnb.com

JENNY’S B&B
Single, twin and double rooms available in this downtown home include a spacious back deck and barbecue. Free parking available. 5102 52nd Street. 867-444-5456, 867-765-5456. yellowknifebnb.com

JENNY’S B&B
Single, twin and double rooms available in this downtown home include a spacious back deck and barbecue. Free parking available. 5102 52nd Street. 867-444-5456, 867-765-5456. yellowknifebnb.com

LOU & FRANCIS GUEST HOUSE
Queen suite and junior suite, free parking, wi-fi. 154 Hall Crescent. 867-446-1786, loufrancisproperties.com. admin@loufrancis.com

LUCY’S PLACE
Uptown townhouse accommodations. 133 Borden Drive/19 Butler Road, 867-446-5053, lucysplace@northwestel.net

MABUHAY LAKESIDE MANOR
Views of beautiful Yellowknife Bay from home-style accommodations. Gourmet kitchen menu available. 4301 School Draw Ave. 867-445-2533. mabuhaymanor.ca

MYSTIC SKY B&B
Uptown accommodations with a private aurora viewing deck. 6217 Finlayson. 867-445-5399. darrenfilion@hotmail.com

NIVEN LAKE BED & BREAKFAST
Four room, one bedroom private home with laundry facilities, soaking tub, Wi-Fi and fridge, microwave. 152 Moyle Drive. 867-445-5239

NORTHERN STAR B&B
In Niven neighbourhood, rooms and suites with double or queen size beds and a private bath. Offers aurora and city tours. 224 Niven Dr., 867-445-9918, mail@northernstaraurora.ca

OLD TOWN BED & BREAKFAST
Located on Back Bay with aurora views. Two queen size rooms, separate entrance, private kitchen. Ski on the bay from the door or rent a canoe in summer. 34 Morrison Drive. 867-444-3434. oldtownbedandbreakfast@gmail.com.

SONNY AURORA & SUNSHINE B&B
Located down in the scenic and historic Latham Island neighbourhood. 8 Lessard Drive. 867-445-0151.

TIGA BED & BREAKFAST
Downtown, three bedrooms with queen size beds, private entrance. Complimentary Wi-Fi, breakfast items, and cooking privileges. 4610 49th Avenue. 867-920-2024. rosawahshee@gmail.com

YELLOWKNIFE TRAVELER’S LODGING HOUSE
Close to downtown, free continental breakfast. 867-873-3963. merzyl@yahoo.ca.

Rent a paddleboard and tour Old Town.©HARRY CHACE/GETTY IMAGES

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THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

AURORA BOREALIS
Tour guides can take you to some of the best places to see the lights, but you can also venture out on your own. On a clear night, head to a spot that isn’t too light-polluted, and just look up. Bring hot chocolate to keep you cozy.

BRISTOL MONUMENT
In honour of the North’s aviation history, the Bristol freighter—once operated by Wardair—now overlooks Highway 3 near Yellowknife Airport. In 1967, it became the first wheeled plane to land at the North Pole, and three years later, it was donated to the city as a monument. It’s been there ever since so visitors driving into the city know aviation is as foundational to the city as mining.

BUFFALO AIRWAYS
Book a tour to see the Northern airline’s fleet, made famous on the television show, Ice Pilots NWT. Call 867-873-6112 and ask for the Air-Wear store to book a tour. Available year-round at noon, Monday-Saturday. www.buffaloairways.com; buffalo@buffaloairways.com

DAY-USE AREAS
Picnic at one of the nearby day-use areas. Fred Henne is your closer option, or Yellowknife River or Pontoon Lake along the Ingraham Trail for some more privacy. On the Ingraham, cast a line or even have yourself a campfire at a day-use area and get a taste of northern isolation for beginners.

THE DUMP
Go scavenging for furniture or souvenirs at YKea—Yellowknife’s dump. Accessible by Highway 4, check the city’s website for scavenging hours.

INNER CITY TRAILS AND HIKES
One of a few walking trails maintained year-round, Frame Lake is a relaxed trail within the city. After that, check out Tin Can Hill, near the old Con Mine site.

HOUSEBOAT ALLEY
Start out on the water from Old Town’s public docks to reach the colourful houseboats of Yellowknife Bay. Our distinctive, floating community got its start in the 1970s, when local character Tim Shandrick parked his home in Yellowknife Bay. Today, owners live year-round, canoeing to the mainland in summer and walking on the ice starting around mid-November.

NWT DIAMOND CENTRE
Find out about the intricate steps that go into diamond mining and refining. Free diamond polishing demonstrations. 5105 49 Street. 867-920-7108.

NWT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Find out how decisions are made in the NWT and check out the unique territorial mace. The Cliff Café is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours Monday to Friday at 10:30 a.m.; self-guided audio tours available. 867-767-9130 x 12017. Assembly.gov.nt.ca

VERONICA LOPEZ AZOCAR
Yellowknife’s famous “Houseboat Bay” is actually on Yellowknife Bay.
OLD TOWN
For the architecture or history buff, check out Yellowknife’s historic lakefront district, Old Town. The Wildcat Café and Weaver & Devore are two founding businesses. Yellowknife’s first bank still stands, a little log cabin on Otto Drive. You’ll also glimpse the work of the city’s most famous architect, Gino Pin, who designed the futuristic townhouses on McDonald Drive as well as the “Eraser House” on Latham Island—its slanted shape mirrors the contours of the region’s early mine headframes.

PILOT’S MONUMENT
It’s got the best 360 degree view of the city year-round. You can watch floatplanes land and take off near the houseboats, right at the memorial for bush pilots past.

THE PRINCE OF WALES NORTHERN HERITAGE CENTRE
The museum houses artifacts and collections from across the Northwest Territories and has rotating exhibits throughout the year. Donations are welcome on entry. Tours available Fridays at 11:45 a.m. In July, tours run M-W-F at 11:45 a.m. 867-873-7551. pwnhc.ca

TOBOGGANING
Grab a sled and head to one of the city’s toboggan hills. Don’t forget the hot chocolate. Located at 51 Ave between 54 St. and 56 St.; and Parker Park, off Finlayson Drive North.

OUTDOOR MINING HERITAGE MUSEUM
Visit the Giant Mine site near the Great Slave Cruising Club and public boat launch. Here, you can find ore cars and train tracks, loading machinery, old photos from the mine’s heydays and more. Pack some snacks and enjoy them at the nearby picnic tables.

SWIMMING
There’s too much fresh water around to not jump right in! You can’t swim in Frame or Jackfish Lake, but Long Lake is great, as are Great Slave and the larger Ingraham Trail lakes.

SOMBA K’E CIVIC PLAZA
All kinds of free events are held here beside City Hall in the summer, from outdoor movies and markets, to live performances and drop-in yoga classes.

Journey through NWT culture and heritage at the museum

Open daily from 10:30am to 5pm, Thursdays until 9pm
Open statutory holidays June to September

Restaurant hours
Monday to Friday 10:30am to 4:30pm
Reservations: www.flavourtrader.com

www.pwnhc.ca
867.767.9347
Yellowknife has a rich and diverse arts scene. Dive in!

PUBLIC ART
There are more than 100 pieces of public art located downtown and in Old Town. They range from massive sculptures to unique wall murals, to painted benches, utility boxes, lamp posts and dumpsters. Overhead lightpost banners celebrate our arts, too.

The brochure Art Walk Yellowknife, available at the Visitor Centre, is a detailed guide to viewing and buying art in the city. Don’t miss: Two unique sculptures in Somba K’e park - the dancing drummers called United in Celebration by Francois Thibeault, and Elon, the muskox with a coat of living plants, a gift from Quebec. Four interesting attractions at McAvoy Rock in Old Town - the hands on the rock, a raven and a bronze sculpture and steel teepee. Artists are Armand Vaillancourt, John Sabourin, Sonny MacDonald, and Eli Nasogaluak. Underfoot, there’s a stone dragonfly by Diane Boudreau. There are two impressive mosaics - one on the Bromley Building on 50th Avenue and 52nd St. called Northern Strata by Dot van Vliet and Norma Hislop, and one called Summer Flies By on the historic Canadian Pacific Airways Building on Wiley Road near the Wildcat by Dot van Vliet and Vicki Tompkins. Some of the larger wall murals are Charlie Delorme by Terry Pamplin on the Somba K’e Dental Centre, The Thelon on 50th Avenue’s Swap Shop by Lauren Sinnott, and The Tribute to Gold and Diamonds on the Coldwell Banker Building.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS
The (free) Yellowknife Soundwalk recalls some of the romance of buildings in Old Town, including some with a less than upright past. Favorites include the first Toronto Dominion Bank, on Otto Drive, the Wildcat Café on Wiley Road, the old Bay store and Bullock’s restaurant. There’s a fine view of Old Town as it was in the little park at the far side of the McMeekin causeway. These and others were designated historic sites by the Yellowknife Heritage Committee.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

ARTLESS COLLECTIVE
Northern film collective that organizes the annual Dead North Film Festival. info@artlesscollective.com

ASSOCIATION FRANCO-CULTURELLE DE YELLOWKNIFE
Cultural shows for Yellowknife’s large francophone population. 867-873-3292. afcy.info

NORTHERN ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE (NACC)
Home to most stage plays, and many local and touring music performances. Box office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11-6; Sat 12-6. 4701 52 Ave., 867-766-6101. naccnt.ca

OLD TOWN GLASSWORKS
Purchase retail items or sandblast your own original designs onto glass, turning recycled wine bottles into cups, vases and unique mementos. Pre-booking required. 3510 McDonald Drive. 867-669-7654. oldtownglassworks.com

PRINCE OF WALES NORTHERN HERITAGE CENTRE (PWNHC)
The museum exhibits art from or relating to the NWT. 4750 48 Street. 867-873-7551. pwnhc.ca

If Yellowknife was distilled into a flavour, it would be the mouth-watering taste of smoked fish.
GALLERIES & ART

AURORA EMPORIUM ART GALLERY
A source for Northern art in many forms. 4701 50 Ave. 867-688-0111. facebook.com/auroraemporiumartgallery

NORTHERN IMAGES
Traditional arts and crafts, Inuit carvings and prints. 4801 50 Ave. 867-873-5944. northernimages.ca

OLD TOWN GLASSWORKS
Locally-made and recycled glassware. Two-hour stenciling workshops available. 3510 McDonald Drive. 867-669-7654. Oldtownglassworks.com

SIGNED
Signs, digital printing plus items featuring P'tarmi the Ptarmigan. 5024 51 St. 867-920-0770. janet@signedyk.com

FROZEN ROCK STUDIO
Stone carvings. Call first, 6 Coronation Drive. 867-446-7753.

GALLERY OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN
NWT Diamonds, fine Inuit and Dene art, and northern apparel. 5005 Bryson Drive. 867-873-8064.

HOLE IN WALL YARNS
Uniquely northern, the wool from muskoxen called qiviut. Located in the Quilted Raven.

THE QUILTED RAVEN
Northern fabrics, patterns and supplies. 5003 53 Street. 867-920-0303. Thequiltedraven.com

THE CABIN
Giftshop with a wide variety of Northern items. Yellowknife Airport 867-873-2369.

VISUAL EFFECTS
Custom framing and traditional arts and crafts. 4905 48 Street. 867-873-3536, visual-effects.ca.

YELLOWKNIFE BOOK CELLAR
Your best source of literature from—and about—the North. 4923 49 St. 867-920-2220. yellowknifebooks.com

EACH PIECE OF ART TELLS A STORY

NWT Arts connects you with that story

In stores and galleries, the NWT Arts logo identifies authentic Northwest Territories arts and fine crafts created by artists registered with the NWT Arts Program. Artists create one-of-a-kind handmade pieces that capture their northern spirit and share their unique stories of living in Canada’s Northwest Territories.

Look for authentic NWT art at these local businesses:

Aurora Emporium Art Gallery
4701 Franklin Avenue

Aurora Village Trading Post
4705-50 Avenue

Down to Earth Gallery
5005 Bryson Drive

Erasmus Apparel
4602-50 Avenue

Northern Images
4801 Franklin Avenue

Fiddles and Stix Music Centre
5018-52 Street

Fireweed Studio (Seasonal)
4807-52 Street

Frozen Rock Studio
5 Coronation Drive

Gallery of the Midnight Sun
5007 Bryson Drive

Just Furs
3602 Franklin Avenue

Mother Earth Rocks
3608 Franklin Avenue

The Cabin
1 Yellowknife Highway

The Quilted Raven
5003-53 Street

Visual Effects
4905-48 Street

Yellowknife Book Cellar
4921-49 Street

Yellowknives Dene Artisan Shop
113 Kam Lake Road (in the community of Dettah)

Connect with artists and learn

Where to Buy NWT Art nwtarts.com

YW-Art-Guide-Years-2018-page-074.jpg

Yellowknife Artists Left to Right: Sarah Cleary | Alex Dethgorals | Cheryl Thomas
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WHERE TO SHOP
From crafts and souvenirs to homeware and outdoor gear.

HARLEY'S SHIRT SHACK AND YELLOWKNIFE TATTOO
Clothing from the legendary Harley's Hard Rock Saloon, plus a tattoo parlour. 4919 48 St. 867-873-8731.

ICELINK
High-end clothing and accessories for women, from gowns to yoga apparel. 50/50 Mini Mall, 5004 50 Ave. 867-873-3033. Facebook.com/iceblinkyellowknife

LA DEE DAH BOUTIQUE
A new fashion and accessories boutique for women. Centre Ice Plaza. 867-874-4747.

OVERLANDER SPORTS
All kinds of sporting, lifestyle and camping gear can be purchased here. Also seasonal gear rentals. 4909 50 Street. 867-873-2474. overlandersports.com

QUALITY FURNITURE
Yellowknife furniture and home decor. 4610 50 Ave. 867-873-2004. Qualityfurniturenwt.com

ROY'S AUDIO VIDEO UNLIMITED
Cellphones, Big screen TVs and cameras. Lower level YK Centre Mall 867-873-5441. Roysaudio-video.ca

THANH DAT CLOTHING
4802 50th Avenue. 867-920-4840

WEAVER AND DEVORE TRADING LTD.
Yellowknife's oldest general store, and one of its first businesses, offers outdoor camping, hunting, fishing and boating equipment and clothing suited to this subarctic climate. 3601 Weaver Drive. 867-873-2219. Weaverdevore.ca

FABRIC ◆ KITS ◆ NOTIONS ◆ PATTERNS ◆ BOOKS ◆ CLASSES
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We have over 2000 bolts of fabric including: Northcott, Princess Myra, Island Batiks and Kaffe Fassett. We also carry a large selection of notions, books, kits, and more!

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HOURS OF OPERATION
Mon.–Fri. 10am – 5:30pm
Sat. 10am – 5pm
Closed on Holiday weekends

Centre Square Mall
5022-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT
(downtown, behind the Adam Dental Clinic) 867.920.0303

Arctic Jewellers 669-8884
Aurora Advance 873-2503
Diamond Nails 766-2457
Rogel’s Barber Shop 873-4166
Northern Transitions 873-9908
Ogre’s Lair Game Shop 444-8526
Reddi Mart 873-9844
Yellowknife Public Library 920-5642
Tim Hortons 920-4666
Wild + Fur

SHOPPING
From boutique clothing to camping and household goods and furnishings.

BIJOU BOUTIQUE
Women’s clothing and accessories, gift items. 50/50 Mini-Mall, 5004 50th Avenue. 867-766-2456. Bijouboutique.yk@gmail.com

DOWNTOWN LIQUOR STORE
5108 49 St. 867-920-4977. Liquor Shop and cannabis retail, 100 Borden Drive 867-669-7467.

FOR WOMEN ONLY
Women’s clothing and accessories. Scotia Centre. 106-5102 50 Ave. 867-873-9613. Forwomenonlyyk.com. forwomenonly@theedge.ca

FOR MEN ONLY
Men’s clothing and accessories. Lower Level YK Mall #22, 4802 50 Ave. 867-873-5940. formenonlyyk.com

SHOPPING
From Yellowstone’s unique general store.

Ships at Yellowknife’s unique general store.

JIMMY TOMPSON
5022-49th Street
For leasing inquiries contact:
Carol-Ann Colpitts 306-337-1900
Carol-Ann.Colpitts@Colliers.com

867-873-9802
WHERE TO SHOP

PETS

BOREALIS KENNELS & PET SPECIALTIES
Pet food, toys and accessories. 50/50 Mini Mall, 5004 50 Ave. 867-873-3688 or 8 Nahani Drive 867-873-3818. borealis kennels@theedge.ca

GREAT SLAVE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Pet food, toys and accessories. 129 Kam Lake Road. 867-873-2579.

YELLOWKNIFE VETERINARY CLINIC
308 Woolgar. 867-873-2579

DRUGSTORES

THE MEDICINE SHOPPE
314 Old Airport Rd. 867-920-7775. Medecineshoppe.ca

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
4911 49th Street. 867-873-4055; 1-800-746-7737 Shoppersdrugmart.ca

SUTHERLAND’S DRUGS
Pharmacy, health supplements, gift items, magazines, and a friendly four-legged staff. 4910 50th Avenue. 867-873-4555. Sutherlandsdrugs.ca

GIFTS

Local gifts, keepsakes and mementos

ARCTIC JEWELLERS
Gold nugget jewellery and Canadian diamonds. Centre Square Mall, 5022 49th Street. 867-669-8884. arcticjewellers.com

LAKE AWRY CAP & CREST
Apparel and souvenirs bearing the “Ragged Ass Road” logo and more. YK Centre Mall. 4509 48th St. 867-873-6999. lakeawry.com

LULUZ MARKET

High-end kitchenware and specialty ingredients. 480 Range Lake Rd. 867-873-2003.

NORTHERN SOUVENIRS
A wide range of souvenirs. 4905 48 Street. 867-873-9696. northernsouvenirs@gmail.com

NORTHERN TRANSITIONS
Custom parkas and Northern arts and crafts. Centre Square Mall, 5014 49 Street. 867-873-9908. Northerntransition.ca

UP HERE STORE
Home of Up Here magazine, and Up Here Business offers unique t-shirts and hoodies. #102-4510 50 Ave. uphere.ca

PLACING GUIDE

Create your own take-home souvenir at Old Town Glassworks.
TOUR EXCURSIONS

Total wilderness is just a bushplane ride away.

AIRLINES AND FIGHT SEEING

ACASTA HELIFLIGHT
Helicopter City Tours. 867-873-3306. info@acastaheliflight.com

AHMIC AIR
Flightseeing tours and charters. 867-920-4400. Ahmicair.com

AIR TINDI
Flightseeing tours and charters. 1-888-545-6794, 867-669-8200. Airtindi.com

HOARFROST RIVER HUSKIES
Small plane charters, fly-in outdoor adventures, dogteam expeditions. 778-330-0904. Hoarfrostriver.ca
base@hoarfrostriver.ca

SUMMIT AIR
Flightseeing tours and charters. 1-866-709-7717; 867-873-4464. Flysummitair.com

FISHING LODGES

AYLMER LAKE LODGE
Lake trout and Arctic grayling fishing. 780-513-9723 Aylmerlakelodge.com
info@aylmerlakelodge.com

BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE & CONFERENCE RESORT
Access to Blachford, Magrum and Grace lakes, trout and pickerel fishing, summer and winter. 867-873-3303. Blachfordlakelodge.com

ENODAH WILDERNESS TRAVEL/ TROUT ROCK LODGE

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS

8-4905 48th St. Tel: 867.873.9696
northernsouvenirs@gmail.com
FRONTIER FISHING LODGE
Guided fishing. 1-877-465-6843.
Frontierfishinglodge.com

HEARNE LAKE LODGE
Guided fishing tours. 867-679-0390. gofishingcanada.com

LAC LA MARTRE ADVENTURES
Three-day and week-long fishing trips. 1-877-335-8855; 1-810-334-9381. Nwtfishing.com

NAMUSHKA LODGE
Self-catered lodge 33km by air from Yellowknife 868-920-2495
info@namushkalodge.com

PETERSON’S POINT LAKE LODGE
Trophy trout, Arctic photography workshops. 867-920-4654.
peterson@ssimicro.com, Petersonspointlake.com

PLUMMER’S GREAT SLAVE LAKE LODGE
Three, four, and seven-day fishing packages. 204-774-5775.
Plummerslodges.com

SANDY POINT LODGE
Fishing, hiking, golfing, berry-picking. 1-867-874-2303. Spl.yk.com

TROPHY LODGE
Fishing on Great Slave Lake’s East Arm. 867-873-5420. Trophylodgenwt.ca

TRUE NORTH SAFARIS
Fly out fishing on Mackay Lake. Two lodges. Wildlife viewing at at Aurora Bear camp. 867-873-8533. info@truenorthsafaris.com

YELLOW DOG LODGE, INC.
Sport fishing, canoeing, hiking, aurora viewing. 1-403-668-9936.
Yellowdoglodge.ca

YELLOWKNIFE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Trophy fishing, birding and photography. 867-444-8320. Yellowknifeoutdooradventures.com
ykoutadv@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS TOURS/OUTFITTERS

BOREALIS BIKE TOUR
Discover Yellowknife with a guided fat bike tour. 867-447-0037, www.borealisbiketours-unlimited.com

BUCKET LIST TOUR
Specializing in intimate aurora, city tours and regional tours for small groups with our own luxury bus. 867-445-8405 Tracy@bucketlist-tour.com

JACKPINE PADDLE CO.
Canoe and kayak tour packages for Great Slave Lake, Thelon River and Sahtu region. Paddle instruction, courses, rentals, youth programs. Camping gear rental packages. 1-800-508-0662, info@jackpinepaddle.com

NARwal
NORTHERN ADVENTURES
Tours, instruction and canoe and kayak rentals at daily, weekly and monthly rentals. 867-873-6443. Narwal.ca or outdoors@narwal.ca

ARCTIC TOURS CANADA
4916-49th St, 2nd floor, Yellowknife, NT
1-867-446-7335
info@arctictourscanada.ca

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84 CITY GUIDE • DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE

DISCOVER OUR YELLOWKNIFE • CITY GUIDE 85
When you’ve only got so much time between meetings, meetings and more meetings, there are a few Yellowknife musts to squeeze in. No booking, time commitment or gear necessary.

**BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING:**
Snap a selfie under the temperature display sign at YK Centre. It’s not uncommon for the digital thermometer to read temps below -30C or plus 30C, which is sure to give you something to brag about when you get home.

**ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK:**
Watch the sunrise over Yellowknife Bay. Grab a coffee at one of our top-notch shops, choose your vantage point (we’d suggest Pilot’s Monument or Twin Pine Hill) and be dazzled.

**IN THE EVENING:**
**Hike up Pilot’s Monument.** You’re probably waiting for a table at Bullock’s Bistro anyway, so you’ve got the time. If it’s fall, winter or spring, and you save the climb for after dinner, you might even see the Northern lights.

**Take a stroll through the eclectic shacks in the Woodyard and continue through Old Town for a few more vantage points of Houseboat Bay.**

**And while you’re in Old Town, head into Down to Earth Gallery, the Gallery of the Midnight Sun, Mother Earth Rocks, Just Furs or Old Town Glassworks to pick up a Yellowknife souvenir. And take home a growler from The Woodyard Brewhouse & Eatery, home to the NWT Brewing Co., the territory’s lone brewery.**

When you’ve only got so much time between meetings, meetings and more meetings, there are a few Yellowknife musts to squeeze in. No booking, time commitment or gear necessary.

**Check out the museum.** If you’ve got more time to take in all the exhibits, great. But if lunch is all you’ve got, make the most of it at the restaurant.

**HERE FOR WORK?**

**Frank Hurcomb**

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