

# WATERFALLS AND WILDLIFE

## TRAVEL ITINERARY JUNE – SEPTEMBER



JERRY PAINEZ / NWTT



DAVE BRUSHA / NWTT

### DAY 1

#### AFTERNOON/EVENING ARRIVE IN YELLOWKNIFE

[YELLOWKNIFE.CA/VISITORS](http://YELLOWKNIFE.CA/VISITORS) · [NORTHERNFRONTIER.COM](http://NORTHERNFRONTIER.COM)

Set in the wondrous natural surroundings of Great Slave Lake, Yellowknife, Diamond Capital of North America™ is a remarkably modern city with a population of 19,000. A city where you can experience rustic nature and traditional culture without forgoing urban amenities. Whether you are golfing under the midnight sun, fishing for world class trophies or watching the creation of a brilliant northern diamond, we know you'll enjoy the character of our city and feel the warmth of our Northern hospitality.

#### OVERNIGHT YELLOWKNIFE

SPECTACULAR  
**NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES**

  
Northwest Territories  
CANADA

[TRAVELTRADE.SPECTACULARNWT.COM](http://TRAVELTRADE.SPECTACULARNWT.COM)

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### DAY 2

#### MORNING CAMERON FALLS TOUR 4-5 hours

Drive 45 minutes outside of Yellowknife along the Ingraham Trail. Learn about the local mining history from gold to diamonds, see the local landscapes and wildlife, and stretch your legs on a moderate hike to Cameron Falls.

#### AFTERNOON DRIVE FROM YELLOWKNIFE TO FORT PROVIDENCE 4 hour drive, plus stops

Travel down Highway 1, the Mackenzie Highway, and skirt the edges of Great Slave Lake on your way to the shores of the Mackenzie River. The landscape will transform as you make your way toward Fort Providence, from rocky hills and stubby trees to flatter terrain with densely packed trees. Be sure to keep your camera ready for your own wood bison photo- these large mammals spend their free time along the sides of the highways. Be careful, sometimes they move onto the roadways too.

#### WELCOME TO FORT PROVIDENCE

Wood Bison from the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary sometimes wander the streets and graze contentedly on local lawns. The community grew on the banks of the mighty Mackenzie River around a mission school and a large farm. There's a craft store at the Snowshoe Inn where you will want to seek out the fine examples of moosehair tufting created by the craftswomen in this area.

#### OVERNIGHT FORT PROVIDENCE

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### DAY 3

#### MORNING

#### DRIVE FORT PROVIDENCE TO FORT SIMPSON

5 hour drive, plus stops

Your day begins with a scenic drive west along the Mackenzie Highway. Be sure to stop at Sambaa Deh Falls, a highlight along the route to Fort Simpson. These falls are an important and historic part of the fur trade route, the series of dangerous falls once forced travelers on an extended portage. You can view the falls from the bridge, take a short hike to the gorge and inspect the many fossils throughout the area. Sambaa Deh Falls are located just outside the community of Jean Marie River.

#### WELCOME TO FORT SIMPSON

[FORTSIMPSON.COM](http://FORTSIMPSON.COM)

Fort Simpson's origins as a community began in 1803 as Fort of the Forks. Fort of the Forks existed solely as a fur trading site and was situated near what is now known as Fort Simpson. The Village of Fort Simpson became a permanent settlement July 1822 when the Hudson's Bay Company began construction of a trading post named for the Governor of Rupert's Land, George Simpson.

In present times, Fort Simpson is best known as the Gateway to Nahanni National Park Reserve and is home to 1,300 people. You can also try a historic walking tour covering prospector Albert Faille's cabin, the Papal Grounds, and Fort Simpson Heritage Park, a likely location of the first trading post. The village's visitor information centre has displays on the history, culture and geography of the region. High quality Dene crafts are available, from clothing to unique wall decor featuring fine beadwork, moosehair tufting and quillwork.

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### DAY 4

#### MORNING

#### **VIRGINIA FALLS TOUR IN NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE** 6-8 hour tour

Bring your packed lunch/dinner and hop on board a DeHavilland Beaver plane to fly into Nahanni National Park Reserve. Fly over spectacular sights such as the Ram Plateau and learn about the legends behind Deadmen Valley, Headless Range, Funeral Range, Death Lake and Crash Lake. Watch for wildlife such as Dall's Sheep and mountain caribou on the slopes below. Land on the South Nahanni River at the top of Virginia Falls- these falls are twice the height of Ontario's Niagara Falls and the water plunges 92 metres into the canyon below. Parks Canada staff will guide you on a hike through breathtaking scenery around the falls. Learn about the Dene people and their beliefs about the massive rocky outcrop situated prominently in the middle of the falls.

#### OVERNIGHT

#### **FORT SIMPSON**



### DAY 5

#### MORNING

#### **SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF FORT SIMPSON** 1 hour tour

Tour around to see one of the most northern grass golf courses and to find out about the history of the peoples of the Fort Simpson area. Learn about the local characters such as prospector Albert Faille who explored this area long before the village of Fort Simpson was established.

#### AFTERNOON

#### **JET BOAT TOUR ON MACKENZIE RIVER** 4 hour tour

Get out on the Mackenzie (or Deh Cho) River, Canada's longest river. Travel in a jet boat with a local Aboriginal guide who will show you the highlights of the area from a different perspective. Get swept up in the fascinating local stories and way of life.

#### OVERNIGHT

#### **FORT SIMPSON**

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### DAY 6

#### MORNING

#### DEPART FORT SIMPSON TO DRIVE TO HAY RIVER

6 hour drive, plus stops

Along the way you will pass a number of beautiful waterfalls. Plan to stop at Lady Evelyn Falls first. It's a hotspot for fishing- cast for Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, and Pickerel/Walleye. Further down the road, just past the village of Kakisa, is where you will find McNallie Creek Falls. Follow the 0.3 km trail to this 17 metre waterfall. Stick to the established path as you walk alongside the surrounding cliffs.

***Suggestion:** Pack a lunch from Ft. Simpson- enjoy a picnic at one of the waterfalls*

#### WELCOME TO HAY RIVER

HAYRIVER.COM

Hay River is the gateway to the southern shore of Great Slave Lake. Sandy swimming beaches, a fascinating river delta and some fine fishing await visitors here and are equally enjoyed by the 3,700 town residents. Hay River is where goods bound for Mackenzie River and Arctic communities are loaded onto seagoing barges for the long trip to the Beaufort Sea. There is a freshwater seaport atmosphere with barges, working tugboats and huge shipyards. Hay River has a fishing fleet which harvests whitefish, trout and cod from Great Slave Lake. On summer Saturdays you will find a market on Vale Island featuring these fine eating fish. Hay River is earning title to "Whitefish Capital" for its year round harvest.

#### EVENING

#### LEISURELY CANOE THE HAY RIVER

2 hour tour

Set off on your river adventure from beside the beautiful Hay River Golf Course. Follow the Hay River as it makes its way into Great Slave Lake. Watch for local wildlife and enjoy the dappled shade offered by the tall deciduous trees.

#### OVERNIGHT

#### HAY RIVER

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### DAY 7

#### MORNING VISIT ALEXANDRA AND LOUISE FALLS JUST SOUTH OF ENTERPRISE

Pull over at Alexandra Falls and witness the mighty 32-metre plunge over the Hay River. Two viewing platforms give you an incredibly close encounter. Don't miss the 2 km trail that winds past spectacular flora and 400 million year old limestone formations before witnessing the three-tiered beauty of Louise Falls. We suggest the 138-step spiral staircase to get a better view.

#### AFTERNOON BOAT TRIP ON GREAT SLAVE LAKE 4 hour tour

Boat on the 5th largest lake in North America and try your hand at sport fishing for local species such as Northern Pike, whitefish and pickerel. See the local commercial fishery and try a northern shore lunch too.

#### OPTION 1: EVENING FLIGHT TO YELLOWKNIFE OVERNIGHT YELLOWKNIFE

#### OPTION 2: OVERNIGHT HAY RIVER DEPART FOR YELLOWKNIFE ON EARLY MORNING FLIGHT

### DAY 8

#### DEPART YELLOWKNIFE