

DRIVE THE DEHCHO CONNECTION

The NWT's gateway to wilderness adventure is a road trip like no other



The Grand Canyon of the North. The crown-jewel of Canada's wilderness rivers. Whatever you call it, the South Nahanni River—and the larger Nahanni National Park Reserve—is the Dehcho's wild world to explore. Ancient canyons, rushing rivers, and towering spires are all well within reach from Fort Simpson. Fly over the Ram Plateau and touch down upstream of Virginia Falls to witness the river plunge nearly 100 metres, making Niagara look quaint by comparison. Continue on to Glacier Lake to marvel at the jaw-dropping Cirque of the Unclimbables, sheer granite spires that only a few have ever dared summit. Other flightseeing trips will bring you over massive tufa mounds or to Little Doctor Lake, where you can unwind at a scenic wilderness lodge by a lake you have all to yourself. For the full experience, take a guided tour down the Nahanni by raft, canoe or kayak to truly appreciate the scale of the river canyons and the wonder of remote wilderness adventure.



FORT LIARD, TANNA BROWN / NWTT



BLACKSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK, BEN WEILAND / NWTT



SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK, BEN WEILAND / NWTT



HAY RIVER, HANNAH EDEN / NWTT



ALEXANDRA FALLS, DARREN ROBERTS / NWTT



1. NWT-BC BORDER

When you cross the border, you have officially arrived North of 60.

2. FORT LIARD

This town of 400 absolutely teems with bison. Be sure to drop in at the Acho Dene Native Crafts store to pick up some local handmade Birch bark baskets.

3. BLACKSTONE TERRITORIAL PARK

On the shore of the Liard River, this scenic campground with 19 non-powered sites, showers and an interpretive centre is the ideal spot to stay on the Liard Highway for a peaceful night's sleep.

4. TO FORT SIMPSON

Take the free MV Merv Lafferty ferry across the Liard River to visit the beautiful and historic hub of the Dehcho Region, which also doubles as a launchpad for Virginia Falls flightseeing trips and unforgettable Nahanni National Park Reserve excursions. Spend a night at the Fort Simpson Territorial Park Campground, with its 21 powered and 11 non-powered sites, washrooms and showers.

5. JEAN MARIE RIVER

In this quiet community of 77 on the Mackenzie River's south shore, you're just as likely to hear Dene Zhati spoken around town as English.

6. SAMBAA DEH FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK

An all-service campground that includes stunning canyon trails that take you around the swift-moving Sambaa Deh Falls. The park also boasts 20 non-powered sites, washrooms, showers, prime fishing and even fossil hunting, upriver at Coral Falls.

7. TO DEH CHO BRIDGE/ YELLOWKNIFE

Take this turnoff to cross the Mackenzie River on the Deh Cho Bridge and venture into the North Slave region, with Yellowknife at the end of the road.

8. LADY EVELYN FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK AND KAKISA

A picturesque waterfall highlights this family campground, with 23 powered sites, washrooms and showers, near the small, lakeside Dene community of Kakisa. Fly-fish for Arctic Grayling in the spring by the day-use area at the highway turnoff.

9. MCNALLIE CREEK FALLS

A short walk from the highway, watch McNallie Creek plunge 17 metres into a gorge below from a viewing platform.

10. TO HAY RIVER/ FORT SMITH

Take this turnoff to explore the commercial fishing hub of Hay River on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, or Fort Smith and the many marvels of Wood Buffalo National Park.

11. TWIN FALLS GORGE TERRITORIAL PARK AND ENTERPRISE

Hear the roar from the highway, as the Hay River plunges over two sets of falls—the 32-metre drop at Alexandra and, just a short hike over a well-marked trail downstream, the tiered cascade of Louise Falls. Want to soak in the views? Stay the night at one of two campgrounds, with 40 powered sites.

12. NWT-ALBERTA BORDER

Grab a coffee at the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre and plan your upcoming adventure in the Northwest Territories if you're arriving from Alberta—or start dreaming of your next trip if you've just finished the Dehcho Connection.