

Long before Alexander Mackenzie travelled west of the Rocky Mountains in search of a navigable route to the Pacific Ocean, the Nak'azdli had their home here. Part of the Dakelh or Carrier people, the Nak'azdli Nation depended mainly on salmon for sustenance over the long winters. It was in their territory that Simon Fraser built the first trading post, Stuart Lake Outpost, in 1806. The post formed an important part of the North West Company's expansion west of the Rocky Mountains.

Simon Fraser, John Stuart and those that accompanied them, found this area rich in all kinds of fur-bearing animals. Once established, the post became an important trading place for the Dakelh.



Stuart Lake Outpost was renamed Fort St. James in 1821 with the amalgamation of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. What you see is the fourth building phase of the Fort in its original location. As a place for trade, the post was alive and active until 1952.

Today, local natural resources are still used for the livelihood of the economy, whether in a traditional or modern sense. The Dakelh and others hunt, fish and pick berries to help sustain themselves over the winter months.



World Class Chicken Racing

Flock to the famous chicken races held daily on a special track in a lakefront field at Fort St. James. Bet your chicken bucks on a top-flight bird and get pinned with a winner's button.

Escape the Fort Challenge

Can you make it out of New Caledonia alive? Search the entire fort grounds with clues like "where is A.C. Murray now?" Hit the bullseye and play a game of graces.

Home Stretch Diner

Sit back and let our friendly staff serve you mouthwatering homemade dishes. Our lakefront views are the perfect accompaniment to great food.



Fort St. James National Historic Site



Également offert en français



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Historic Buildings

Home to the largest group of original log buildings representing the fur trade in Canada.

General Warehouse and Fur Store (1888-1889)

The warehouse sheltered or accommodated the trade goods for Fort St. James and the surrounding outposts. Furs were stored in this building where they were baled for their journey to Victoria. The warehouse is one of the finest surviving examples of a Red River frame fur trade building in Canada.

Fish Cache (1889) Dried salmon and bacon were stored here for company employees and the Carrier people. An adaptation of the traditional Carrier fish cache, the building is raised by four corner elevated posts to deter predators.

Men's House (1884) The men's house was a residence for company employees, pack train hands, boat crews and visitors. The building also served as an early schoolhouse and as a private residence in the 1930s and 1940s.

Trade Store (1884) This was the commercial centre of the post where furs were traded for many goods displayed inside. The building also served as the first post office in the area until fire destroyed it in 1919. The building that stands today is an authentic reconstruction to the 1896 period.

Officer's Dwelling House (1883-1884)

This house was the residence for the factor in charge of the post. Although it underwent many changes over the years, it has been restored to the period of A.C. Murray's occupancy in 1896.

Home Stretch Diner Enjoy a delicious meal at the Home Stretch Diner, while feasting your eyes on one of the most spectacular lake views in British Columbia.

Fort St. James National Historic Site



Hours: Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7 days a week, from Victoria Day Weekend,
Close Labor Day weekend

Legend

- 1 General Warehouse and Fur Store
- 2 Fish Cache
- 3 Men's House
- 4 Trade Store
- 5 Officer's Dwelling House
- 6 Play House
- 7 Home Stretch Diner
- 8 Parking Lot
- * Visitor Centre

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