

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



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