

## Top 5 Park Activities



- Explore the salt-encrusted landscape of Canada's only Salt Plains.**  
Bask in their beauty from the top of the escarpment or hike down the trail to discover saline springs, brilliant white salt mounds, and a diversity of salt-tolerant plants and animal tracks!
- Bring the kids for some family-oriented fun!**  
Summer festivals not to be missed include The Pine Lake Picnic in July and the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Festival in August.
- Discover the lunar landscape at Grosbeak Lake.**  
Wander among the salt-eroded boulders left by glaciers long ago in this fascinating ecosystem.
- Dip your paddle during a wilderness canoe trip through the region's beautiful northern waterways.**  
Learn about Indigenous culture from the friendly folk that you might meet along the Athabasca, Peace and Slave Rivers. Take a side trip to historic Sweetgrass Station, a premium backcountry destination.
- View the bountiful wildlife**  
Whether you are travelling the winter road or hiking along a trail, be sure to bring your camera and binoculars! WBNP is home to many animals including wood bison, black bear, moose, wolf, lynx and many bird species including the elusive whooping crane.

## Pine Lake Camping and Accomodation

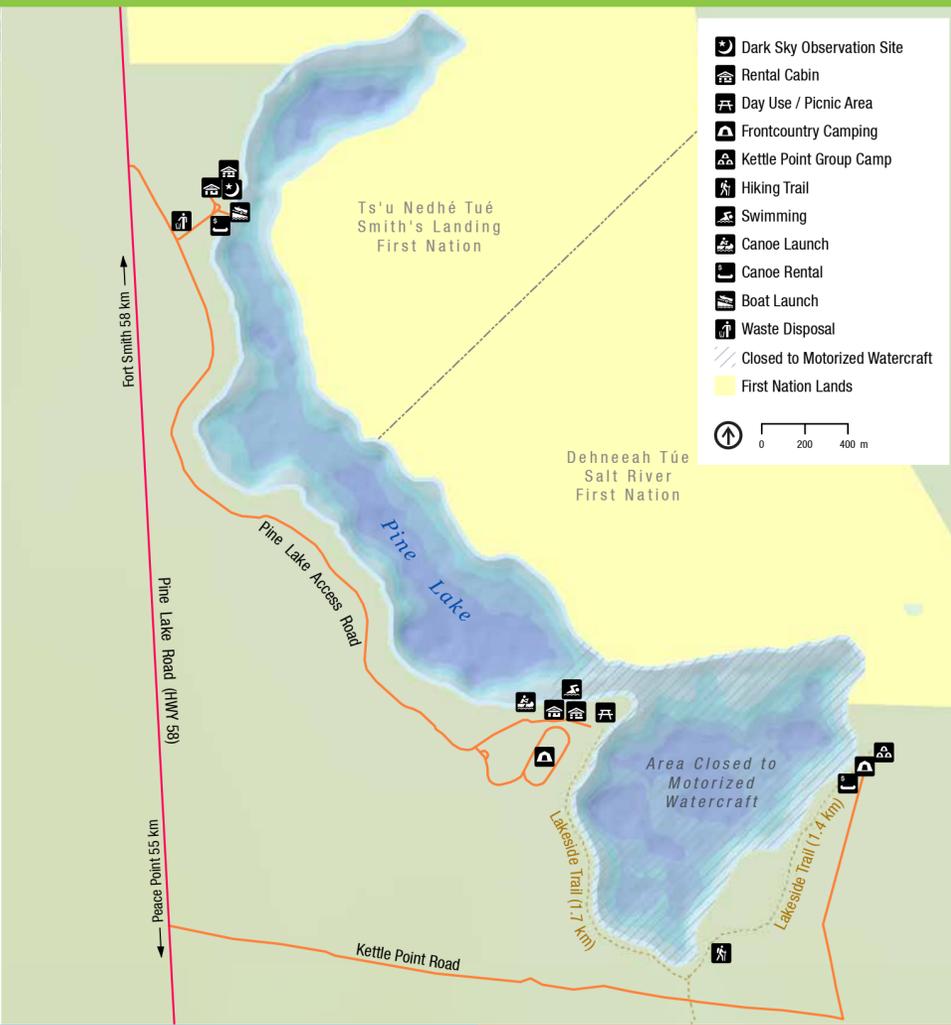


**Pine Lake Campground**  
Located 60 km south of Fort Smith, Pine Lake is one of the main recreation areas in WBNP. It offers 19 non-serviced sites each equipped with campfire pits or hibachis and a picnic table. Drinking water, firewood, outhouses and a playground can be found in the campground. Pine Lake Campground is open from the May long weekend to the end of September.

**Kettle Point Group Camp**  
This beautiful lakeside facility features a large, cozy log building, tenting area, beach, fire circle, firewood, picnic tables, an outhouse and a playground. The minimum group size is 8 people and reservations are required. Please call 867-872-7960.

**Pine Lake Rental Cabins**  
The Pine Lake Rental Cabins overlook picturesque Pine Lake. Enjoy the rustic style and cozy comfort of cottage living! Hiking, canoeing, swimming and dark sky gazing are all available nearby! Cabins can be reserved from the May long weekend to the end of September. Visit [www.reservations.pc.gc.ca](http://www.reservations.pc.gc.ca).

**Backcountry Camping**  
Wood Buffalo National Park is huge - a great way to really experience it is to get out into the backcountry. There are designated backcountry camping sites at Rainbow Lakes and Sweetgrass Station or you can take the less beaten path and find your own unique overnight destination. Make sure to register with the staff at the Visitor Centre.



## Contact Information

**WBNP Visitor Centre & Gift Shop – Fort Smith**  
867-872-7960  
[Wbnp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Wbnp.info@pc.gc.ca)

**WBNP Visitor Centre – Fort Chipewyan**  
780-697-3662

**Toll-free Parks Canada General Information Line**  
1-888-773-8888

**WBNP Information Hotline/WBNP Winter Road Hotline**  
867-872-7962

**Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Winter Road Information**  
780-697-3600

**WBNP Duty Officer**  
867-872-0404 (summer only)

**Emergency**  
1-867-872-0404 24-hour Emergency Parks Canada Dispatch

872-1111 RCMP – Fort Smith, NT  
9-1-1 RCMP – Fort Chipewyan, AB  
867-872-3111 Ambulance  
867-872-2222 Fire Department  
867-872-7700 GNWT Territorial Fire Centre

**Wood Buffalo National Park**  
PO Box 750  
149 McDougal Rd.  
Fort Smith, NT, X0E 0P0

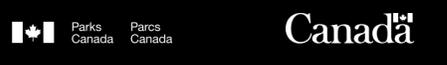
[parks.canada.gc.ca/woodbuffalo](http://parks.canada.gc.ca/woodbuffalo)

Share your visit  
**#WoodBuffaloNP**

**Pack up some food and head to the Park!**  
Enjoy your sandwich and some treats over an open fire at one of our scenic day use areas!  

- Salt River Day Use Area
- Pine Lake Day Use Area
- Salt Plains Day Use Area

 Weather not perfect? You will find picnic shelters at the Salt River and Pine Lake Day Use Areas.  
 Remember to pack up your garbage and make sure your fire is fully extinguished.



## Summer Programs



**Guided Hikes and Interpretive Programs**  
Regular scheduled programming occurs in June, July and August including guided hikes, canoe and campfire programs and special programming for children. Please check our Summer Program Guide to see what is offered during your stay.

**Festivals and Special Events**  
**Canada Day, July 1st, Fort Smith, NT**  
Wave to WBNP staff as you enjoy the parade and visit our Parks Canada booth at Riverside Park.

**Pine Lake Picnic**  
Corn-on-the-cob and hotdogs anyone? Bring the family for a day of games, food and fun held the second Sunday of July at the Pine Lake Day Use Area.

**Paddlefest**  
Look for the Parks Canada programs at this world class paddling event organized by the Fort Smith Paddling Club during the August long weekend.

**Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Festival**  
Prepare to be wowed at northern Canada's largest annual celebration of space and fun science! Don't miss this family event.

Visit the Visitor Centre for more information on summer events and activities.

Check the website for details:  
[parks.canada.gc.ca/woodbuffalo](http://parks.canada.gc.ca/woodbuffalo)



## Discover our Trails



Where would you like to hike today? To a lunar landscape; past sinkhole lakes in the boreal forest; or on Canada's only Salt Plains? There are a variety of unique options in the Park that will make your day! Be prepared with water, snacks, bug repellent, bear spray and binos!

There are over 50 km of maintained hiking trails in the park and endless wilderness areas to explore.

A.	Karstland Trail:	780 m loop
B.	Salt River Meadows Trail:	2.2 km loop
C.	Salt Pan Lake Trail:	7.0 km one way
D.	Benchmark Creek Trail:	8.5 km one way
E.	Grosbeak Lake Trail:	4.0 km loop
F.	Rainbow Lakes Trail:	6.0 km one way
G.	Lakeside Trail:	3.1 km one way
H.	Lane Lake Trail:	6.5 km one way
I.	Sweetgrass Trail:	14.0 km one way

For detailed information on WBNP Hiking Trails please see our Hiking Trail Brochure.

**Trail Safety:**

- Register at the WBNP Visitor Centre prior to all overnight backcountry trips.
- Trails are not patrolled; use at your own risk.
- If you plan to venture off the Park trail system, make sure you have a compass, a map of the area or a GPS.
- Watch your step on slippery paths and boardwalks.
- Respect area and trail closures.
- Wildlife encounters are possible, please use caution!

## Stargazing at its finest!



- Venture into the Park to view the stars and northern lights - Wood Buffalo National Park is the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve. Aurora are at their peak in late summer and throughout the fall and winter. Come and experience it for yourself!**
- Explore the wonders of the night sky in the Great Northern Discovery Dome, Parks Canada's portable planetarium - a virtual tour not to be missed!**
- Join us at the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Festival in late August - a weekend of wow-inspiring fun and learning for novice stargazers, seasoned astronomy buffs and families! Registration is required.**



## Exploring the Waterways



Bring your own canoe or rent one from the WBNP Visitor Centre in Fort Smith, NT and paddle your way around the gentle aquamarine waters of Pine Lake.

Multi-day canoe or boat trips are a true wilderness adventure when travelling on one of the Park's mighty northern rivers. Backcountry experience is highly recommended.

Don't forget to wear PFDs at all times and carry a whistle, floating rope and bail-out device while on the water. Canoes can be rented at the WBNP Visitor Centre in Fort Smith. Contact 867-872-7960 for more details.



## Wildlife Viewing



**Keep your camera and binoculars handy, or just enjoy the moment! Whether you are a birdwatcher or animal lover, wildlife sightings tend to happen randomly, anytime and anywhere - year round!**



**Wildlife Viewing Tips:**

- Dawn and dusk are the best times to view wildlife. Many animals may be hiding in among the trees during the hot days of summer.
- Drive slowly on the Park roads where you may witness bison and bears traveling. Black bears love to visit the green ditches in the spring time! To get an off-road wildlife experience, go for a hike! Just be sure to use your wildlife safety skills!
- Head to the wetlands! This park is full of birds, especially during spring migration!
- Be patient! Stop and look around, kick back and wait to see what will wander by.

**Stay Safe and Protect Wildlife**

- Keep at least:**
  - Three bus lengths (30 metres/100 ft.) away from moose and bison
  - Ten bus lengths (100 metre/325 ft.) away from bears
- Travelling in groups and making noise will let wildlife know you are nearby.
- Carry bear spray and noisemakers to deter bears.
- Do not approach bison. They are at their most dangerous during the rutting season from mid-July to September and females can be protective of their young in early spring.
- If you see wildlife along the roads, stop at a safe distance and stay in your vehicle until they leave the area. Do not try to herd, harass or feed wildlife.
- Late summer and early fall is bison mating season; be especially careful around bison at this time.
- If you encounter bison or moose on a trail make yourself known by singing a song or whistling a tune. Walk slowly around them at a safe distance or return the way you came.
- Do not feed wildlife;** they have a greater rate of survival and are healthier when they feed on natural food.
- Keep pets on-leash at all times.
- Read the Bear Safety guide brochure.



# Sweetgrass Station



## A Premier Backcountry Destination

Trek deep into the heart of the Peace-Athabasca Delta to historic Sweetgrass Station which was a bison management station from the 1950s to the 1970s. A small settlement of workers and their families was established and there is still evidence of the past including historic bison corrals, heritage buildings and a sidewalk!

Visiting Sweetgrass is a true backcountry adventure. It involves a drive from Fort Smith to the Peace River, a boat or canoe trip to Sweetgrass Landing along the Peace River, and a 14 km hike inland to Sweetgrass Station. When you arrive, you can pitch a tent in the meadow or make yourself comfortable in a warehouse, a heritage building now restored and renovated for a cozy accommodation option – cots and wood stove included! For more information and to register for your backcountry permit, please contact the WBNP Visitor Centre at 867-872-7960.

# Unique Characteristics



- Important cultural landscape for 11 distinct Cree, Chipewyan and Métis groups who continue their traditional harvesting activities in the park
- Represents the Northern Boreal Plains Natural Region of Canada
- At 44,741 km<sup>2</sup>, it is Canada's largest national park; 2nd largest in the world!
- Three special designations - the park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it's the only national park in the world with two Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Significance); and it's the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve

# Winter Activities



## Tour the Winter Road

Explore a road made of ice and snow connecting the communities of Fort Chipewyan, AB and Fort Smith, NT. Beautiful scenery and winter wildlife viewing at its best!

## Snowshoe or Ski a Hiking Trail

Why wait for summer? Don a pair of snowshoes or skis and explore the Park in all of its frosty glory!

## Aurora Viewing

Wood Buffalo National Park is the largest Dark Sky Preserve in the world and one of the premier places to see the northern lights. You will have plenty of "space" to enjoy them!

## Skating

Bring your shovel and clear off your very own ice skating "pond". Pine Lake often freezes into a perfect ice skating surface.

## Winter Picnic

Warm up by the campfire or inside the kitchen shelter with a hot drink and snack at the Salt River Day Use Area.

# Wood Buffalo National Park Road Trip

Take a break from driving and see what these diverse points of interest have to offer:

- Angus Sinkhole Day Use Area**  
Peer into one of the Park's largest sinkholes, 100 metres across and 60 metres deep. It formed when the roof of an underground cave collapsed.
- Nyarling River Pull Off**  
Find out why the Nyarling River disappears to flow underground for 26 kms through karst terrain. Take a short interpretive trail down to a peaceful area overlooking typical habitat for the endangered whooping crane.
- Wetlands Pull Off**  
Take a short interpretive trail down to a peaceful area overlooking typical habitat for the endangered whooping crane.
- Salt Plains Lookout and Day Use**  
Enjoy the scenic vista of the Salt Plains. Follow the trail down the escarpment to explore this fascinating salt-encrusted landscape.
- Parson's Lake Road**  
Take a detour on this 57 km single lane dirt bush road which leads to the Parson's Tower viewpoint deep in the boreal forest and bison territory. The road can be impassable when wet and 4-wheel drive is recommended when the road is open. Road closures occur periodically due to fallen trees and washouts.
- WBNP Visitor Centre and Gift Shop**  
Visit the Visitor Centre to get acquainted with the Park, plan your stay and pick up some memorabilia. Friendly and knowledgeable staff are available to assist with making your stay both memorable and meaningful!
- Salt River Day Use Area**  
Bring a picnic and enjoy the view of the Salt River cliffs or gear up for one of several hikes that start here.
- Pine Lake Day Use Area**  
Enjoy the sandy beach, swim or paddle in the aquamarine waters of Pine Lake. This uvala was formed when several sinkholes merged together.
- Kettle Point Group Camp**  
More than just a group camp, Kettle Point is located in a quiet spot on the shores of Pine Lake. It has a log shelter, lots of space for tents, a private beach, fire circle, firewood, picnic tables and a playground.
- Peace Point Reserve**  
Home to Mikisew Cree First Nation, this spot provides boat and canoe access to the Peace River.
- Moose Island**  
Drive across the Peace River on the ice road in the winter at Moose Island. This winter river crossing spot is also a popular boat and canoe launch in the summer.
- Fort Chipewyan Visitor Centre**  
This small fly-in community, the oldest in Alberta, is the gateway to the Peace Athabasca Delta, one of the largest inland freshwater deltas in the world and a RAMSAR site (Wetlands of International Significance). The WBNP Visitor Centre offers visitor information, a small gift shop, backcountry registration services and a small exhibit area. Access to Fort Chipewyan is by air from either Fort McMurray, AB or Fort Smith, NT. There is winter road access from mid-December to mid-March. Contact the WBNP Visitor centre in Fort Chipewyan for more information.

