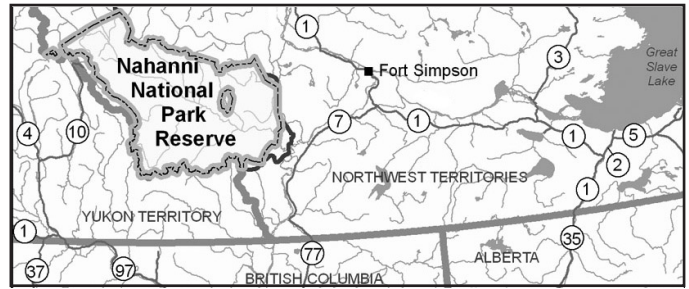




Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Nah?ą Dehé



Climate

Nahanni (Nah-hah-nee) is cold and dry with wide monthly temperature and precipitation variations. The mean January temperature is -24.4°C and the mean July temperature is 10.9°C . The average annual precipitation is 562 mm. Spring snowmelt occurs in early May in the lower reaches of the park but not until June or July in the upper reaches.

Geology

The South Nahanni River carves through four canyons, below rugged mountains and vast cave systems. Uplifted sedimentary rock formed most of the mountains, though the highest and most rugged peaks in the western part of the park are granite. Signs of past glacial activity are visible, though much of Nahanni remained unglaciated during the last ice age. The Gahnihthah (Rabbitkettle) tufa mounds are the largest freestanding calcium carbonate deposits in the northern world.

Location

Established in 1976, Nahanni National Park Reserve represents the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region. It is located in the southwest corner of the Northwest Territories in the traditional territory of the Dehcho Dene and protects most of the South Nahanni River and Flat River

watersheds. The park is located within the Taiga Cordillera, Taiga Plains and Boreal Cordillera ecozones.

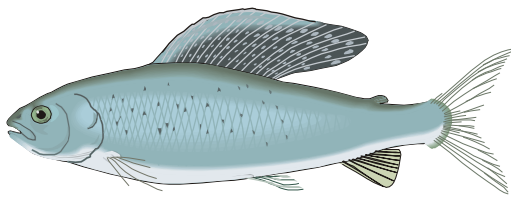
The South Nahanni River is a Canadian Heritage River, and in 1978 the park was among the first sites in the world to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cooperation between the Dehcho First Nations and Parks Canada led to the park's expansion in 2009 to 30,000 km², making it Canada's third-largest national park.

Vegetation

Alpine and boreal plant species combine to form a rich mosaic of vegetation. White spruce, lodgepole pine, aspen, poplar and birch are found in the valleys. Lichens are found in many of the older, wetter forests. At higher elevations, trees are replaced by shrubs like dwarf birch and bearberry. Almost 600 plant species have been recorded in the park including berries such as kinnikinnick and blueberry, and flowers such as the yellow monkeyflower, Nahanni aster (unique to the park) and Mackenzie orchid.





Wildlife

Nahanni's wildlife benefits greatly from habitat diversity within the park. The most successful species are those that adapt to the highly seasonal environment. More than 40 different mammals are found in the park including grizzly and black bears, wolves, woodland caribou, mountain goats, Dall's sheep, moose, shrews, voles, bats, squirrels, marmots, mink, marten, red fox, wolverine, lynx, muskrat, and beaver. There are about 180 species of birds, of which around 60 breed in the park. Bird species include Golden Eagles, Trumpeter Swans, Red-necked Grebes, and three species of loons. Sixteen fish species call Nahanni home, including arctic grayling and bull trout.

Activities

Nahanni is a highly desirable destination for outdoor recreation. The most popular activities are canoeing and rafting. The South Nahanni River is a famous wilderness river where paddlers can spend from one to three or more weeks travelling through an extensive canyon system.

The Cirque of the Unclimbables in the Ragged Range is well known throughout the rock climbing world for its granite spires and challenging routes. Backpacking along the Ram Plateau is another activity gaining in popularity.

Nahanni is a backcountry park and all overnight visitors require a reservation and must be registered with the park office.

Public access is restricted to aircraft or non-motorized boats; there is no road access. Float planes can be chartered from Fort Simpson (NT), Muncho Lake (BC), Watson Lake (YK), and Ross River (YK).

Flightseeing to Náìlìcho (Virginia Falls) is a popular activity for day visitors. Park staff offer interpretive walks to a spectacular viewpoint overlooking the falls.

For more information please contact:

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