



Nááts'ihch'oh
National Park Reserve

2015 TRIP PLANNER



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#SPECTACULARNWT



Mackenzie Mountains in Nááts'ihch'oh

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Little Nahanni River



Plaque unveiling ceremony at Mount Nááts'ihch'oh

Welcome to Our Home

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“Nááts'ihch'oh” is the Shúhtagot'ine language description of this mountain and it refers to its unique shape, which is sharp and pointed on the top like a porcupine quill.

The Shúhtagot'ine believe that “Nááts'ihch'oh” is a place of strong spiritual power, which can be bestowed on newborn children. This location is believed to be the area where the ancestors of the Shúhtagot'ine would camp while travelling with moose skin boats to see Nááteho, the Nahanni prophet.

“Nááts'ihch'oh” is the name chosen for the National Park Reserve by the following Elders: Gabriel Horassi, David Yallee Senior, Maurice Mendo, Frederick Clement Senior, Frank Yallee, John Hotti, John B. Hetchinelle, James Bavard, Norman Andrew and Leon Andrew. Parks Canada acknowledges the contribution of these Elders to the creation of Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada and thanks them – Mahsi Cho.

NÁÁTS'IHCH'OH

HARD TO PRONOUNCE, IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET



Float plane at Grizzly Bear Lake

Trip Ideas

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Spirit of the Mountains Flightseeing Tour

See why Nááts'ihch'oh is the spirit of the mountains. Pack a picnic and fly over the South Nahanni River to Grizzly Bear Lake or Mount Nááts'ihch'oh.

Run the Nahanni's Best Whitewater

Escape on a paddling expedition down the entire South Nahanni River. Take a float plane to Mount Nááts'ihch'oh and the Moose Ponds. Have your helmet cam ready? The Rock Gardens are 50 kms of the South Nahanni River's most challenging whitewater. From Initiation to Graduation Rapids, you'll Thread the Needle and dodge boulders in the Massive Rock Gardens. Ready for take two? After Hollywood Rapids comes The Sequel.

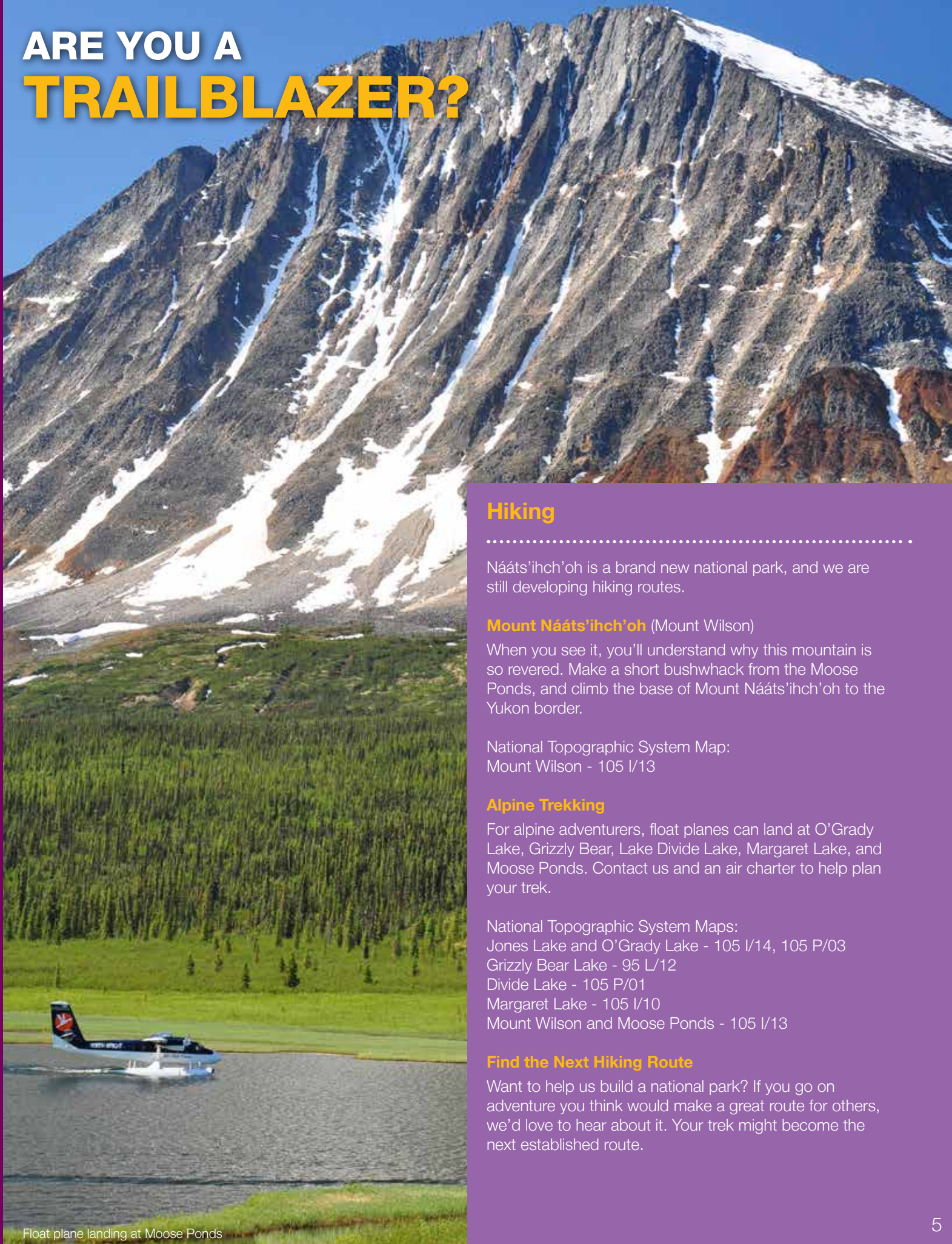
Paddle to the Cirque of Unclimbables

Get your pack-raft and climbing gear ready for an epic adventure. Drive the Nahanni Range Road to the headwaters of the Little Nahanni River. Paddle 90 kms of thrilling whitewater canyons before joining the South Nahanni River. From there, paddle to Glacier Lake and hike to the Cirque of Unclimbables. The view from the top of the Lotus Flower is one you'll never forget.

Blaze a Trail

Get your friends ready for the expedition of a lifetime. Pick a spot on the map, and go where the only trail is the one you make. Fly into a mountain lake, and make your way over the ridge into a pristine valley. Feel the thrill of going where few have gone before. Challenge yourself in uncharted territory and blaze the trail that others will follow. Let us know what you discover – your journey could become our next established route.

ARE YOU A TRAILBLAZER?



Hiking

Nááts'ihch'oh is a brand new national park, and we are still developing hiking routes.

Mount Nááts'ihch'oh (Mount Wilson)

When you see it, you'll understand why this mountain is so revered. Make a short bushwhack from the Moose Ponds, and climb the base of Mount Nááts'ihch'oh to the Yukon border.

National Topographic System Map:
Mount Wilson - 105 I/13

Alpine Trekking

For alpine adventurers, float planes can land at O'Grady Lake, Grizzly Bear, Lake Divide Lake, Margaret Lake, and Moose Ponds. Contact us and an air charter to help plan your trek.

National Topographic System Maps:
Jones Lake and O'Grady Lake - 105 I/14, 105 P/03
Grizzly Bear Lake - 95 L/12
Divide Lake - 105 P/01
Margaret Lake - 105 I/10
Mount Wilson and Moose Ponds - 105 I/13

Find the Next Hiking Route

Want to help us build a national park? If you go on adventure you think would make a great route for others, we'd love to hear about it. Your trek might become the next established route.



THRILLING WHITEWATER

South Nahanni River above Bailing Rapids

Paddling - South Nahanni River

Escape on a paddling expedition down the entire South Nahanni River. Take a float plane to Mount Nááts'ihch'oh and the Moose Ponds. Have your helmet cam ready? The Rock Gardens are 50 kms of the South Nahanni River's most challenging whitewater. From Initiation to Graduation Rapids, you'll Thread the Needle and dodge boulders in the Massive Rock Gardens. Ready for take two? After Hollywood Rapids comes The Sequel.

Guided trips are available.

Skill Level:

The Moose Ponds trip starts with over 50 km of continuous Class II – IV rapids known as the Rock Gardens. You'll need advanced paddling skills.

Best Time to Go:

This section of the South Nahanni River is best run mid-June through July. After August 1, navigating the Rock Gardens is tough due to low water levels.

Trip Length:

Most paddlers take 18 – 23 days from Moose Ponds to Nahanni Butte. Shorter trips are possible.

Put-in:

The Moose Ponds are accessible by air. Contact an air charter service to arrange your flight.

Take-out:

Most paddlers paddle all the way to Blackstone Territorial Park near Nahanni Butte. For a shorter trip, paddlers can take out via float plane at Gahn̓hthah Mie (Rabbitkettle Lake), or Náá'icho (Virginia Falls) on the South Nahanni River.

Registration:

Register with Nahanni National Park Reserve. Nahanni fees apply.

Publications:

To order your waterproof South Nahanni River Touring Guide (\$5.00), e-mail nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca or phone 1-867-695-7750.

PADDLE YOUR WAY TO THE CIRQUE OF UNCLIMBABLES



Little Nahanni River

Paddling - Little Nahanni River

Looking for a way to pack-raft to Nahanni's Cirque of the Unclimbables? Or an epic road and paddling trip with friends? The Little Nahanni River is a thrilling tributary of the South Nahanni River with road access from the Yukon.

Skill Level:

The Little Nahanni River is for expert whitewater paddlers. It's an exhilarating 90 km trip of Class II - IV rapids before it joins the South Nahanni River upstream of Island Lakes.

Best Time to Go:

Mid-June to mid-July. The Little Nahanni may not be navigable after mid-July due to low water levels.

Trip Length:

11-14 days from Flat Lakes to Gahnĭhthah Mĭe (Rabbitkettle Lake) via the South Nahanni River.

Put-in:

Paddlers usually put in at Flat Lakes, which are accessible by float plane.

If the Nahanni Range Road and Howard's Pass Road are open, adventurers with 4x4 trucks can also drive to Flat Lakes. The drive is over 300 kms of unpaved mine access roads. Take extra fuel; the nearest gas station is in Watson Lake, YT. Prepare for washouts, flat tires, and mechanical breakdowns. Watch for mining traffic.

Take-out:

Depending on how far you want to paddle, you can take out via float plane at Gahnĭhthah Mĭe (Rabbitkettle Lake), or Nĕĭĭĭcho (Virginia Falls) on the South Nahanni River.

Registration/Fees:

The Little Nahanni River also flows through Nahanni National Park Reserve. Nahanni fees will apply.

Publications:

We're working on a guide for the Little Nahanni River. If you would like to contribute, e-mail us at nĕĭĭĭchoh.info@pc.gc.ca

To order your waterproof South Nahanni River Touring Guide (\$5.00), e-mail nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca or phone 1-867-695-7750.

National Topographic System Maps:

Shelf Lake - 105 I/01
Upper Hyland Lake - 105 I/02
Dozer Lake - 105 I/07



WHAT'S YOUR EPIC STORY GOING TO BE?

A river that needs exploring in Nááts'ihch'oh

Paddling - Broken Skull River

Want to make your mark in the whitewater paddling world? We only know of a handful of people who have paddled the Broken Skull River... Even we haven't paddled it (yet). If you're looking to chart a new adventure, the Broken Skull River is it. Guided exploratory trips are available.

Skill Level:

The Broken Skull River is for adventurers comfortable paddling into the unknown. You are an expert paddler with advanced river reading and self-rescue skills.

Best Time to Go:

We're not sure yet. We'd guess mid-June to mid-July.

Trip Length:

We're also not sure yet. Could you make it from Divide Lake to Gahn'inthah M'ne (Rabbitkettle Lake) on the South Nahanni River in ten days? There's only one way to find out.

Put-in:

We're thinking of putting-in at Divide Lake, which is accessible by float plane. If you see another access point, give us a call.

Take-out:

Depending on how far you want to paddle, you can take out via float plane at Gahn'inthah M'ne (Rabbitkettle Lake), or Náá'icho (Virginia Falls) on the South Nahanni River.

Registration/Fees:

The Broken Skull River is in Nááts'ihch'oh. If you paddle down the South Nahanni River, Nahanni National Park Reserve fees may apply.

Publications:

We're working on a guide for the Broken Skull River. If you would like to contribute, e-mail us at naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca.

To order your waterproof South Nahanni River Touring Guide (\$5.00), e-mail nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca or phone 1-867-695-7750.

National Topographic System Maps:

Broken Skull River - 105 P/01, 105 I/16, 105 I/09, 95 L/12, 95 L/05



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

O'Grady Lake

O'Grady Lake to the Natla-Keele Rivers

Spend a few days in the park exploring O'Grady Lake before descending the Natla and Keele Rivers.

Skill Level:

You'll need advanced paddling and backcountry skills to take on the Natla-Keele, a remote Class II-III river. Guided trips are available.

Best Time to Go:

July and August.

Trip Length:

18-23 days including hiking at O'Grady Lake.

Put-in:

O'Grady Lake via float plane.

Take-out:

The community of Tulita on the Mackenzie River. Be sure to drop by our office and tell us about your trip.

Registration/Fees:

This trip is in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve and on territorial lands. No fees apply.

National Topographic System Maps:

Jones Lake and O'Grady Lake - 105 I/14, 105 P/03

THE MOUNTAINS HAVE KEPT THE MUSIC

Cultural Use

"It's almost like the mountains have kept the music. When you go up the river by boat you can feel the spirit of our ancestors and you can feel the powerful feeling from the mountains. It's so majestic. It's so overwhelming."

...And we've had stories about our people where they dance their drum dances. There are rings where they've worn into the ground. There are places where they used to dance after a good celebration and a good kill, or maybe after they'd built their mooseskin boat and they would celebrate."

- Ethel Blondin-Andrew

For generations of Dene and Metis people, Nááts'ihch'oh was and is a rich harvesting area. These traditional harvesters are still welcomed to the park.

Flightseeing and Air Charters

To book an air shuttle or take a flightseeing tour, contact:

North Wright Airways

Norman Wells, NT

1-867-587-2288

Info@north-wrightairways.com

www.north-wrightairways.com

FLY AWAY ON AN ADVENTURE





South Nahanni River above Bailing Rapids

Guides and Outfitters

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Looking for an expert to guide your next adventure?
Contact one of these outfitters:

Blackfeather, the Wilderness Adventure Company

1-888-849-7668
Info@blackfeather.com
www.blackfeather.com

Nahanni River Adventures

1-800-297-6927
Info@nahanni.com
www.nahanni.com

Nahanni Wilderness Adventures

1-888-897-5223
adventures@nahanniwild.com
www.nahanniwild.com



Getting Here

By Air

Fly commercially into a nearby community, then by air charter into the park.

Airlines with scheduled flights to Yellowknife and Whitehorse:

- Air Canada
- Air North (Whitehorse only)
- Canadian North (Yellowknife only)
- Condor (Whitehorse only)
- First Air (Yellowknife only)
- Northwestern Air (Yellowknife only)
- WestJet

Airlines with scheduled flights to Norman Wells or Fort Simpson:

- North Wright Airways
- Canadian North
- First Air
- Air Tindi

Park Office

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve's office is located in Tulita, NT. Nááts'ihch'oh is part of the traditional lands of the people of the Sahtu, and they chose Tulita as the park headquarters. The only road access is by ice road from Wrigley. But, if you're paddling the Mackenzie River, be sure to drop in and say hello!



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS

Mountains that need exploring in Nááts'ihch'oh

Reservations

To make a reservation, contact us at 1-867-588-4884 or naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca with this information:

- Type of trip (hiking, paddling, etc.)
- Trip itinerary (# days, route)
- Preferred trip dates
- Trip leader's contact information
- Group size (max 12)
- Air charter company (if needed)
- Whether you plan to visit Nahanni as well

Registration and Orientation

When you arrive and get your park orientation, we'll ask for this information:

- Group member names
- Communication equipment details (sat phone #, etc.)
- Emergency contact info
- Equipment descriptions (tents, canoes, kayaks)
- Trip itinerary and end date

Fees

We don't have a fee system set up *yet**. That's right, there are no fees to visit Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in 2015.

If visiting Nahanni National Park Reserve is part of your trip plan, fees do apply. See Nahanni's website for more information.

*We'll let you know when this changes.

SHARE A STORY...

Moss and rocks

Communities and Services

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tulita Pop: ~500



Air access: year-round
Road access: winter only

Norman Wells Pop: ~700



Air access: year-round
Road access: winter only

Nahanni Butte Pop: ~100



Air access: year-round by charter flight
Road access: to the Liard River then river taxi

Fort Simpson Pop: ~1200



Air access: year-round
Road access: year-round

YUKON

Watson Lake Pop: ~800



Road access: year-round



YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR HEADLAMP AT HOME

Safety and Comfort

Midnight Sun and the Northern Lights

You can probably leave that headlamp at home, but bring a sleeping mask. If you really want to see the northern lights, or aurora borealis, plan your trip for August when the skies are darker.

	Sunrise	Sunset
Jun 21	4:40 am	12:30 am
Jul 21	5:30 am	11:45 pm
Aug 21	6:50 am	10:15 pm

Weather

Nááts'ihch'oh is in the mountains. It can **snow at anytime**, and rain storms can cause **flash floods** in canyons and steep valleys.

	Low	High	And you can expect...
Jun	-5°C	25°C	Frost, snow, blazing sun
Jul	0°C	30°C	Hot sun, afternoon rainstorms
Aug	0°C	30°C	Hot sun, rain, and frost
Sep	-5°C	20°C	Frost and snow

Bugs

Bring your bug jacket, hat, and spray, or nerves of steel. You'll need them for our legendary blackflies, mosquitoes, and horseflies - a.k.a. bulldogs.

Bears

Yep. Black bears and grizzly bears live here. For more information, read **Bears and People** or call us. If you're flying, check with your airline before packing bear spray or bangers.

River Hazards

This isn't the place for rookies. You need advanced paddling, river reading, and **swiftwater rescue** skills.

Insider tip:

The water's cold. A wetsuit is okay, but a **drysuit** is better.

Drinking Water

It's a *really* long ride home if you get beaver fever (*Giardia*). Treat all drinking water.

Flight Delays

Weather can make flying in and out of the park tricky. Plan for a **flight delay** to be part of your adventure story, and bring extra food just in case.

Emergency Help

If you need urgent help, call us at **1-867-695-3732**, 24 hours a day, June 1 - September 30.

We might not be able to rescue you right away due to flight delays. Prepare to handle an emergency on your own. Bring a good first aid kit, and the skills to go with it.

Satellite phones, InReach, and SPOT Devices

Coverage can be limited in northern latitudes, canyons, and valleys. Know how to deal with your device's limitations. The Iridium satellite system currently has the most reliable coverage here.

Medical Help

We hope you don't need it. If you do, **nurse's stations** are in most communities. The closest hospitals are in Watson Lake and Yellowknife.

Veterinarians

If you're bringing your best friend, be extra cautious on the trail. The closest veterinarian is in Yellowknife.



YOU COULD BE HERE

Leave No Trace

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Visit in small groups.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, or dry grasses.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Use pit privies where available. When unavailable, deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 15 to 20 cm deep at least 70 metres from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 metres away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater. On big rivers, dispose of strained dishwater in the river.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove or firebox for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes. On big rivers, dispose of cool ashes into the river.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Others

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous.
- Let nature's sounds prevail.

www.leavenotrace.ca



NATURE'S CALLING

Gear Checklist

Camp Gear

- tarp
- tent
- water filter/purification system
- stove and fuel
- firebox
- cooking pot
- rope
- trowel and toilet paper
- food and lots of hot drinks (trust us)
- other stuff you need or want
- leash if you're bringing your pet

Personal Gear

- water bottle
- mug, bowl and spork
- knife
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- towel
- daypack
- sunscreen / sunglasses
- sleeping bag
- wallet / cash
- contact phone numbers
- trip plan
- camera

Safety Gear

- brain filled with experience
- satellite phone/InReach/SPOT
- headlamp/flashlight
- lighter/fire starting kit
- bear deterrent
- first aid kit
- extra food

Navigation

- maps and waterproof case
- watch
- GPS and compass
- binoculars

Repair Kit

- duct tape
- spare batteries
- silicon sealant
- heavy duty needle and thread
- ripstop nylon repair kit
- stove repair kit

Personal Clothing

- warm hat
- sun hat
- rain gear with hood
- shorts: quick dry
- pants: wool or fleece
- jacket: fleece
- sweater: light wool
- shirt/t-shirt
- long underwear
- gloves or mittens
- camp shoes
- swimsuit
- bug hat, jacket, and/or repellent

For Hikers

- backpack
- hiking boots
- blister kit
- trekking poles
- bear canisters

For Paddlers

- repair kit
- paddles
- whistle
- PFDs
- bailers, throw bags, and pin kits
- drysuit (best choice) or wetsuit
- paddling gloves
- canoe barrels/packs
- canoe/kayak/raft



READY TO MAKE A PLAN?

Contact Us

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We'd love to hear from you...

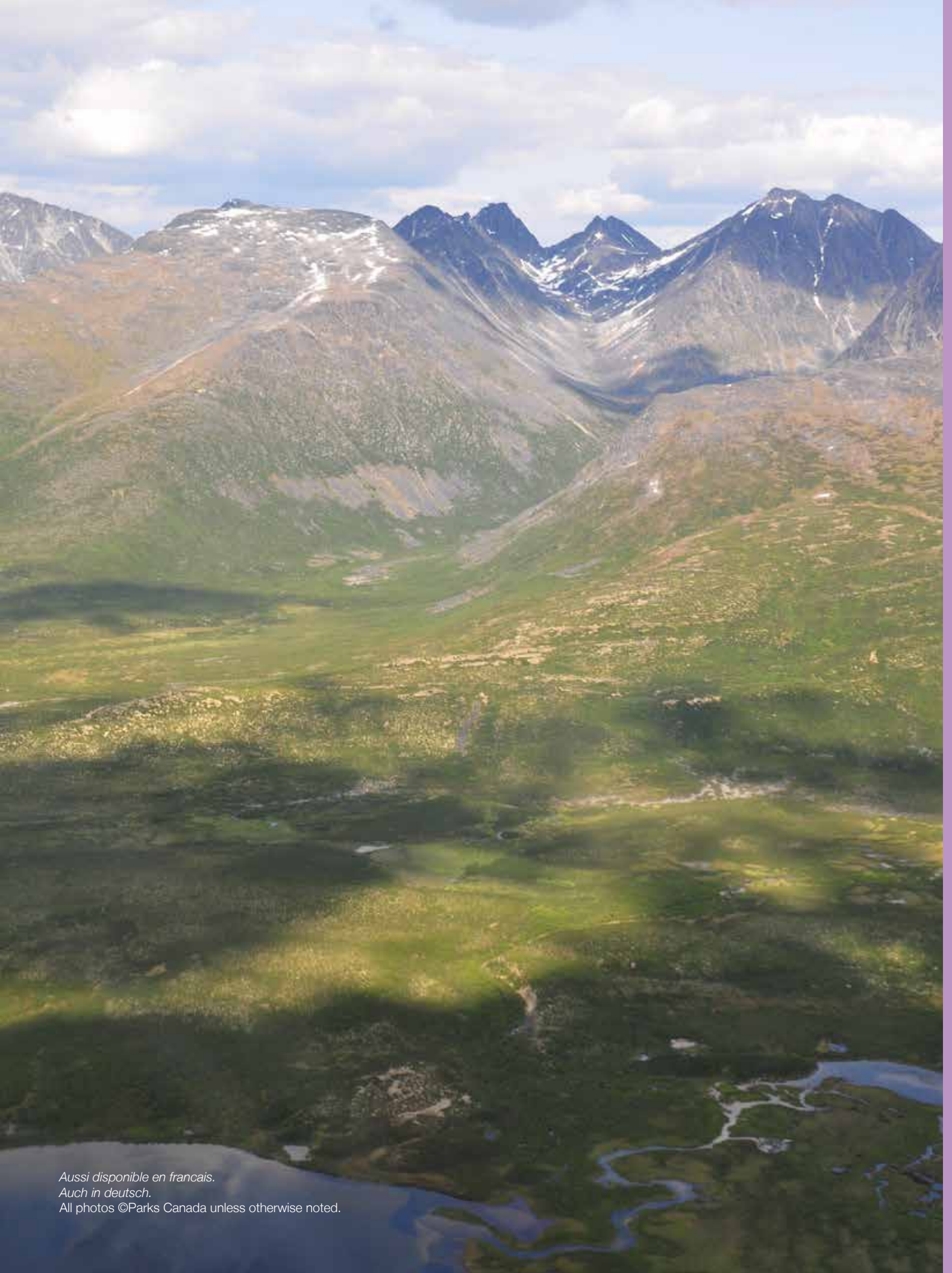
Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

Tulita, NT

1-867-588-4884

naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca

parkscanada.gc.ca/naatsihchoh



*Aussi disponible en français.
Auch in deutsch.*
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