



Nááts'ihch'oh

Trip Planner

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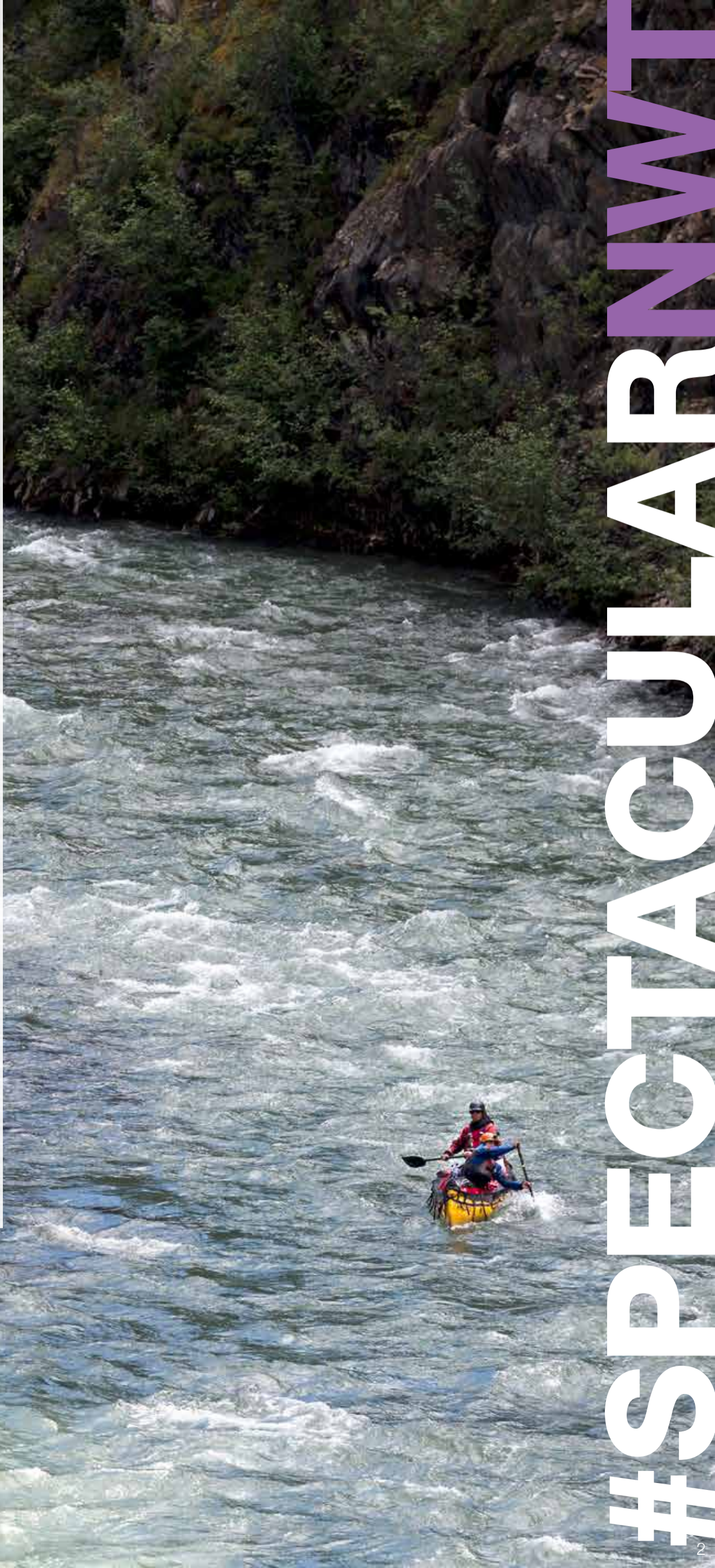
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#SPECTACULARNWT



THE MOUNTAINS HAVE KEPT THE MUSIC

Welcome to Our Home

"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. They still travel the land in the park, and welcome you to their home.



NÁÁTS'IHCH'OH

THE MOUNTAIN THAT IS
SHARP LIKE A PORCUPINE



Mount Nááts'ihch'oh (Mount Wilson)

Nááts'ihch'oh is the name of this mountain in the Shúhtagot'ine language. It refers to its unique shape - sharp and pointed 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. Here, their ancestors 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.

As we learn more about the park and its traditional place names, we will be adding these names to our maps and publications. If you have traditional place names to share, please let us know.

TWO PARKS

ONE RIVER

- Mount Nááts'ihch'oh and the Moose Ponds

Nááts'ihch'oh

- Gahnîhthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake)

- Nájljicho (Virginia Falls)

Nahanni

- Nahanni Butte

Nahanni and Nááts'ihch'oh

The South Nahanni River flows through two parks and two Dene territories. Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve is a gift to the people of Canada from the Shúhtagot'ine, the Mountain Dene people of the Sahtu region. Nahanni National Park Reserve is the traditional territory of the Dehcho First Nations.

The boundary between the parks is the border between the Sahtu and Dehcho regions of the Northwest Territories. As you paddle from the Sahtu to the Dehcho, be sure to say Mahsi, the Dene word for thank you.



WHAT TO

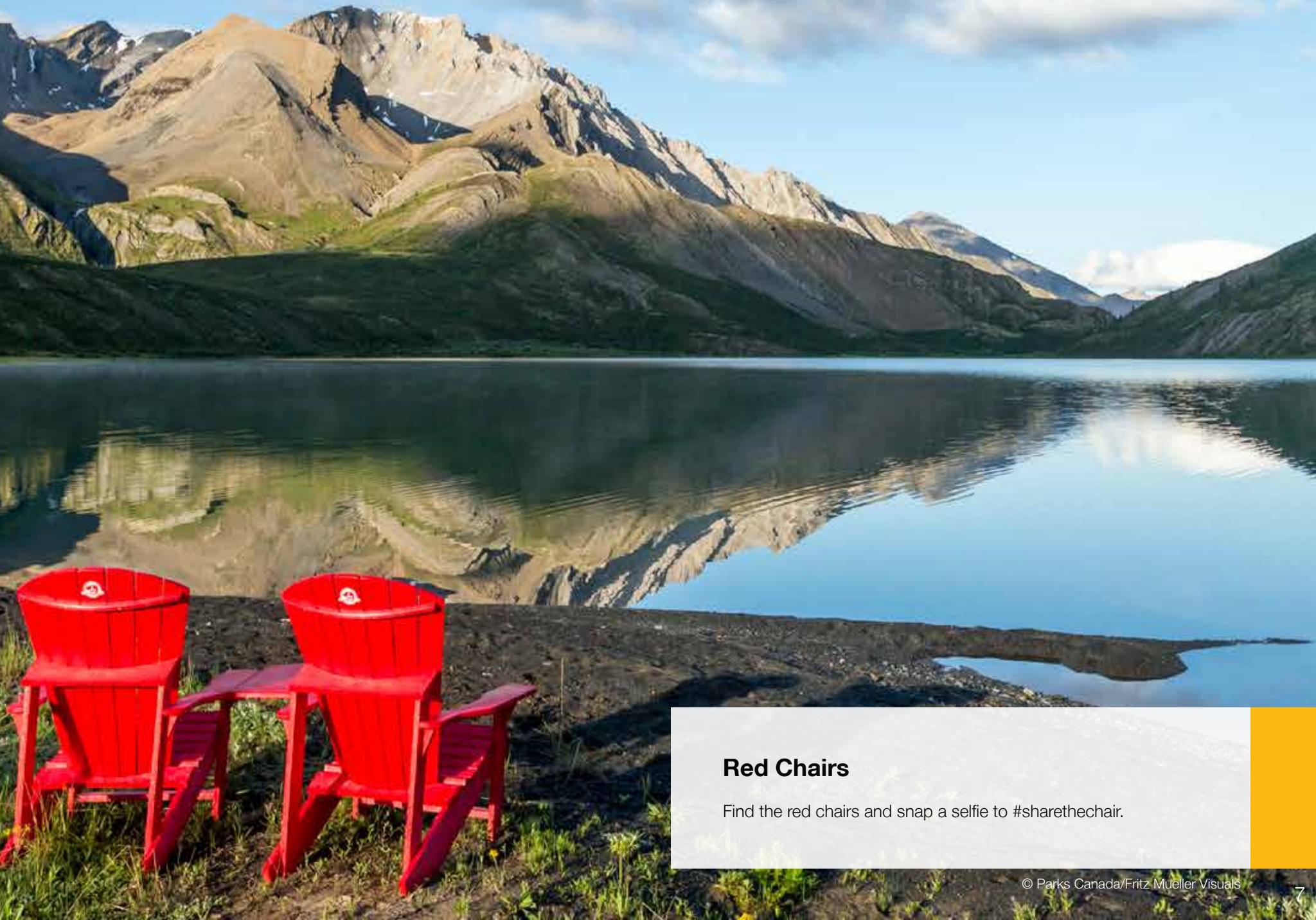
EXPECT



© Parks Canada/Fritz Mueller Visuals



#SHARETHECHAIR



Red Chairs

Find the red chairs and snap a selfie to [#sharethechair](#).

IT'S

EASY

TO VISIT

Planning a Trip Is Easy

Choose your destination. See pages 8-21 for ideas.

Contact us to make a plan. Outfitters and air charter companies can also help with details. See pages 27 and 28 for listings.

Make your reservations and go! You can register and get a park orientation by phone, or in person at the Parks Canada offices in Tulita or Fort Simpson.

PADDLE HERE

SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER



South Nahanni River

Guided trips starting at \$6,450

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 perfect for skilled paddlers.

The Rock Gardens are best run mid-June through July, before water levels drop. Plan for 7-9 days from Moose Ponds to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake) or 18-23 days to Nahanni Butte.

We recommend using the South Nahanni River Touring Guide (\$5.00) to navigate the river. Order your waterproof copy via e-mail nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca or phone 1-867-695-7750.





THE BROKEN SKULL RIVER

Broken Skull River

Guided trips starting at \$7,195

We don't know how it got its name or why you haven't paddled it yet. But we do know it's 150 kms of pure fun. Full of bouncy whitewater and epic scenery, the continuous Class I-II whitewater is perfect for experienced paddlers going on their first northern river trip.

Plan 6-8 days to paddle from Divide Lake to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake) on the South Nahanni River, or longer if you plan to paddle more. The best time to go is mid-June to mid-August.

Download your Broken Skull River Trip Planner here.

National Topographic System Maps

105 P/01, 105 I/16, 105 I/09, 95 L/12, 95 L/05





LITTLE

NAHANNI

RIVER



Little Nahanni River

Guided trips starting at \$4,950

Is this the Nahanni's *Scary Little Sister*? You decide. The Little Nahanni River is 85 kms of intense Class II-V whitewater. The best time to go is mid-June to mid-August. Plan for 11-14 days to canoe from Flat Lakes to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake) via the South Nahanni River. For a shorter trip, take 3-5 days to paddle from Flat Lakes to the Steel Creek confluence.

Coming soon! Little Nahanni River Trip Planner.

National Topographic System Maps

Shelf Lake - 105 I/01

Upper Hyland Lake - 105 I/02

Dozer Lake - 105 I/07



Nááts'ihch'oh

Black Wolf Creek

Nahanni

BLACK WOLF CREEK

Black Wolf Creek

Air charters starting at \$2450*

We've only paddled the upper reaches of Black Wolf Creek, but from what we saw, it looks exciting. From Grizzly Bear Lake, this whitewater creek eventually joins the Broken Skull River and the South Nahanni River.

Unknown difficulty. Unknown trip length. If you go on an adventure, let us know what you find!

*See page 30 for more information about air charter pricing.

National Topographic System Maps

95 L/12, 9 L/05, 95 L/06



O'GRADY

LAKE



Natla-Keele River Access at O'Grady Lake

Guided trips starting at \$5,900

Start your Natla-Keele River whitewater paddling trip on beautiful O'Grady Lake. Plan for 18-21 days to paddle the Natla-Keele River all the way to Tulita, NT on the Mackenzie River. Be sure to drop in our office to say "Hello!" when you get there.

63°00.44'N, 129°00.50'W

National Topographic System Maps

105 P/3, 105 P/2, 105 I/14, 105 I/15



HIKE HERE

GRIZZLY

BEAR LAKE



Grizzly Bear Lake

Air charters starting at \$2450*

For alpine adventurers, Grizzly Bear Lake is the Nááts'ihch'oh destination. Follow alpine streams to countless peaks, including the park's highest peak - just south of Grizzly Bear Lake. No matter how much time you have, there is a trip option to meet your needs. You can camp at Grizzly Bear Lake, or make a loop trek through the mountains to the northeast.

*See page 30 for more information about air charter pricing.

Grizzly Bear Lake: 62°41.25'N, 127°49.19'W

Highest Peak in the Park: 62°37.08'N, 127°48.43'W

National Topographic System Maps

Grizzly Bear Lake - 95 L/12

MARGARET

LAKE



Margaret Lake

For enthusiastic hikers who don't mind wet feet, Margaret Lake provides access to rarely seen alpine meadows.

62°36.26'N, -128°39.53'W

National Topographic System Map

105 I/10



HIKE THE

ALPINE

Nááts'ihch'oh
• Unknown Lake

Nahanni

Unknown Lake (*unofficial name*)

We don't know the name of this lake yet. If you do, please send us a note telling us about it. What we do know is that when we left Margaret Lake and flew over it, we instantly wanted to explore it. From the air, it looks like there are great campsites and access to the alpine where you could travel easily for miles. If you decide to hike here, we'd love to hear from you!

62°34.35'N, 128°31.58'W

National Topographic System Maps

105 I/10, 105 I/09

DIVIDE LAKE



Divide Lake

Air charters starting at \$2650*

Divide Lake is a great place to start an alpine trek to Grizzly Bear Lake, or just spend the day hiking above the Broken Skull Valley.

*See page 30 for more information about air charter pricing.

63°01.18'N, 128°10.63'W

National Topographic System Maps

Divide Lake - 105 P/01

RELAX

HERE



HOW FAR IS

TUFA?

Grizzly Bear Hot Springs

The moment you see it, you know it's special. Grizzly Bear hot springs is a delicate and beautiful spring. Fragile wildflowers and tufa formations surround the spring.

Please walk softly and visit carefully.

From the Broken Skull River, Grizzly Bear Hot Springs is a long 10 km hike up a creek bed. Be prepared for multiple creek crossings and bad jokes about the hike being TOO FAR or TU-FA.

62°40.28'N, 127°54.00'W

National Topographic System Maps

95 L/12

Nááts'ihch'oh

• Grizzly Bear
Hot Springs

Nahanni



SOAK

IN THE SCENERY

Broken Skull Hot Springs

Ready to relax in a perfect hot spring? Not too hot, not too cold, and only the scent of fresh mountain air... just a 2.5 km hike from the Broken Skull River.

62° 45.28'N, 128° 08.15'W

National Topographic System Maps

105 I/16



GETTING HERE IS

HALF

THE FUN

GO TO

TOWN



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
Canoe rentals

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
Canoe rentals

YUKON

Watson Lake Pop: ~800



Road access: year-round

DRIVE

HERE



Getting Here by Road

Drive to Fort Simpson, NT, or Watson Lake, YK

Whether you take the Mackenzie Highway and Liard Highway to Fort Simpson, or the Alaska Highway to Watson Lake, you're in for an epic road trip. From there, connect with your charter flights into the park.

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 a winter ice road from Wrigley. But, if you're paddling the Mackenzie River, be sure to drop in and say hello!

FLY HERE



Getting Here by Plane

Fly commercially into Yellowknife, NT then onto Norman Wells, Tulita, or Fort Simpson. Alternatively, fly into Whitehorse, YK. Once in these neighbouring communities, charter an aircraft into the park.

Airlines with scheduled flights to Yellowknife and Whitehorse:

- Air Canada
- Air North
- Canadian North
- Condor
- First Air
- Northwestern Air
- WestJet

Airlines with scheduled flights to Norman Wells or Fort Simpson:

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

FIND

YOUR WAY



Maps and Guides

South Nahanni River Touring Guide

All the river maps you need to paddle the South Nahanni River are in one booklet. To order your waterproof copy (\$5.00), e-mail nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca or phone 1-867-695-7750.

Little Nahanni River Trip Planner

Coming soon!

Broken Skull River Trip Planner

Download everything you need to plan a Broken Skull trip here.

National Topographic System Maps

Canada's National Topographic System maps are available for print-on-demand from your favourite map printers. To make ordering easier, we have provided the map numbers for the 1:50 000 maps throughout this planner.

Guides and Outfitters

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

Canoe North Adventures

1-519-941-6654

info@canoenorthadventures.com

www.canoenorthadventures.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

GO

GUIDED



FLOAT

AWAY

Flightseeing and Air Charters

Flightseeing tours starting at \$2450

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

North Wright Airways

Norman Wells, NT
1-867-587-2288
info@north-wrightairways.com
www.north-wrightairways.com

Alpine Aviation

Whitehorse, YK
1-867-668-7725
alpineaviation@gmail.com
www.alpineaviationyukon.com

Simpson Air

Fort Simpson, NT
1-866-995-2505
simpsonair@northwestel.net
www.simpsonair.ca

Wolverine Air

Fort Simpson, NT
1-888-695-2263
info@wolverineair.com
www.wolverineair.com

Summit Helicopters

Yellowknife, NT
1-855-355-5527
info@summithelicopters.ca
www.summithelicopters.ca

Kluane Airways

Kelowna, BC
1-250-860-4187
info@kluaneairways.com
www.kluaneairways.com

South Nahanni Airways

Fort Simpson, NT
1-867-695-2007
info@southnahanniairways.ca
www.southnahanniairways.ca



BOOKING IS

EASY

How to Book an Air Charter

Booking an air charter is easier than you think. The pilots know the lakes and mountains, and they'll help you plan where to put in, take out, and what kind of aircraft you'll need to make it happen. Book as early as you can to ensure your aircraft and dates are available.

When you request a quote, have this information ready:

- Date and time (if) you want to fly into the park
- Date and time (if) you want to fly out of the park
- Name of the location where you want to be taken
- Name of the lake/location if you want to be picked up
- Number of passengers
- Any special equipment (canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Any special flightseeing route or added stops

The “**Air charters starting at**” prices listed in this guide are based on flying two people and lightweight camping gear in a Cessna 185 aircraft at November 2015 fuel prices. Prices will vary based on the size of your group, your equipment, the aircraft required, and fuel prices.

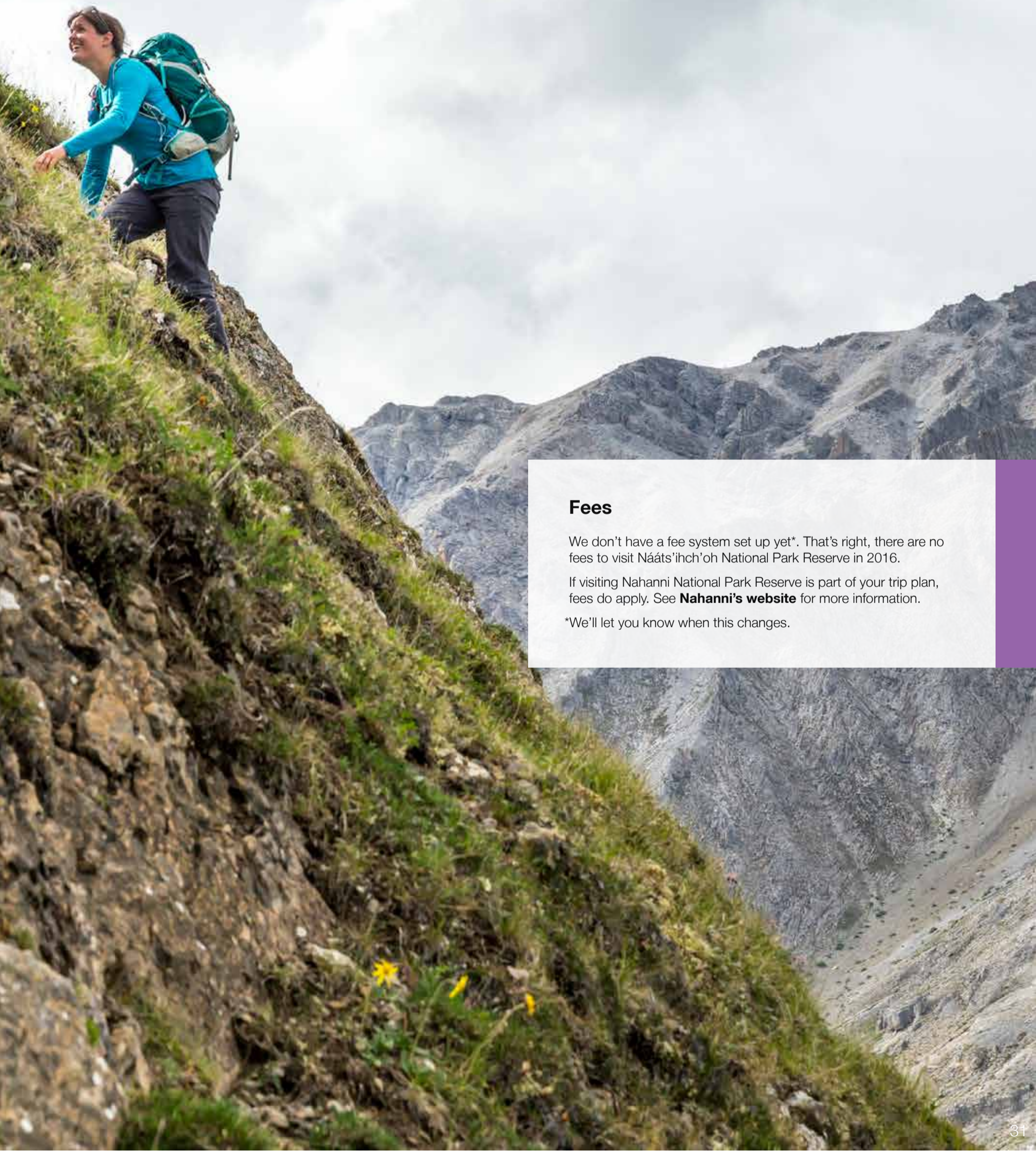
Flight delays are part of the adventure.

Weather can make flying in and out of the park tricky, and flights are regularly delayed. Your pilots have the experience to decide when it's safe to fly. Plan for a **flight delay** to be part of your adventure story, and bring extra food just in case.

IT'S THE

BEST TIME

TO GO



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 2016.

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.

BOOK

YOUR TRIP

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

If you are taking a guided canoe trip, the company you have booked with will make the necessary reservations.

A person wearing a bright green jacket and a pink hat is looking at a large map spread out on the ground. In the background, other people are visible in a mountainous landscape under a clear blue sky. The word "PLACES" is written in large white letters across the middle of the image.

PLACES

TO GO

Registration and Orientation

You can register in person at our Parks Canada office in Tulita or Fort Simpson, or by phone. 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

CAMP

HERE



CHILL

TIME



Choosing a Campsite

Nááts'ihch'oh has no established campsites; you choose where to camp. When choosing a site, please follow Leave No Trace principles:

- Camp on durable surfaces, including rock, gravel, or dry grasses.
- Good campsites are found, not made.
- Keep campsites small and in areas where vegetation is absent.



COOKING AND

CAMPFIRES

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 in the river.

TAKE ONLY

PHOTOS



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.

Leave your campsite as pristine as you found it.

YOUR

HEADLAMP

WILL BE LONELY

Midnight Sun and the Northern Lights

You probably won't use your headlamp, but you'll want a mask for sleeping under the midnight sun.

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

WHATEVER

THE WEATHER

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. Make your trip a fun one - be prepared for all conditions.

	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



WHERE THE
WILD
THINGS ARE

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, 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.

BEARS

LIVE HERE

Bears

Yep. Black bears and grizzly bears live here, and they especially like the Broken Skull River valley and hot springs. For more information, read **You Are In Bear Country** or call us. If you're flying, check with your airline before packing bear spray or bangers.



IT'S JUST YOU

OUT HERE



Emergency Help

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

You are responsible for your own safety. Prepare to handle an emergency on your own. Bring a good first aid kit, and the skills to use it. Keep in mind, our resources are limited and we might not be able to rescue you right away due to flight delays.

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.

NO PLACE FOR

ROOKIES



River Safety

This isn't the place for river rookies. Make sure you and your group have the wilderness paddling, river reading, and swiftwater rescue skills to tackle these challenging rivers. Or, consider a guided trip with one of our outfitters.

Insider tip:

The water is really cold, and you don't want hypothermia. A wetsuit is okay, but a drysuit is better.

CRYSTAL CLEAR

WATERS



Drinking Water

It may look crystal clean, but it's a *really* long ride home if you get beaver fever (*Giardia*).

Treat all your drinking water.

KEEP IT

PRETTY



Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

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, use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater, or on big rivers, pour strained dishwater into the river.

ARE YOU

READY?

Gear Checklist

Camp Gear

- tarp
- tent
- water filter/purification system
- stove and fuel or firebox
- cooking pot
- rope
- trowel and toilet paper
- biodegradable soap
- food and lots of hot drinks
- 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, pad, and mask
- wallet / cash
- contact phone numbers
- trip plan
- camera and spare batteries

Safety Gear

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

Navigation

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

Repair Kit

- duct tape
- spare batteries
- silicon sealant
- needle and thread
- tent 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
- underwear and socks
- gloves or mittens
- camp shoes
- swimsuit
- bug hat, jacket, and repellent

For Hikers

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

For Paddlers

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



WANT

HELP

PLANNING?



Contact Us

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve
Tulita, NT
1-867-588-4884
naatsihchoh.info@pc.gc.ca
parksCanada.gc.ca/naatsihchoh
www.facebook.com/ParksCanadaNWT

*Aussi disponible en français.
Erscheint auch in deutsche.*