



Nááts'ihch'oh  
National Park Reserve

ŁÁHTANIŁI DEÉ

LITTLE  
NAHANNI

RIVER

Trip Planner



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Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada

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# THE MOUNTAINS HAVE KEPT THE MUSIC

## Welcome to Our Home

*It's almost like the mountains have kept the music...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 Métis people, Nááts'ihch'oh was and is a rich harvesting area. They still travel the land and harvest in the park, and welcome you to their home.

# NÁÁTS'JHCH'OH

THE MOUNTAIN THAT IS SHARP  
LIKE A PORCUPINE QUILL



## **Mount Nááts'jch'oh** (Mount Wilson)

Nááts'jch'oh is the name of this mountain in the Shúhtaot'ine language. It refers to its unique shape - sharp and pointed like a porcupine quill. The Shúhtaot'ine believe that Nááts'jch'oh is a place of strong spiritual power, which can be bestowed on newborn children.

Nááts'jch'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.

TWO PARKS

# ONE RIVER

- **Mount Nááts'jch'oh and Nááts'jch'oh Tué**  
(the Moose Ponds)

**Nááts'jch'oh**

- **Gahnĩthah Mje** (Rabbitkettle Lake)

- **Nájljcho** (Virginia Falls)

**Nahanni**

- **Nahanni Butte**

## Nahanni and Nááts'jch'oh

Tehjeh Deé, the South Nahanni River, flows through two parks and two Dene and Métis territories. Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserve is in the Sahtu Dene and Métis Settlement Area. 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. One river, two parks.

# ŁÁHTANIŁ DEÉ

# LITTLE NAHANNI RIVER

## Łáhtaniłj Deé (Little Nahanni River)

### Guided trips starting at \$5,250

Is this the Nahanni's *Scary Little Sister*? You decide. Łáhtaniłj Deé (the Little Nahanni River) is 85 km of intense Class II-IV+ whitewater. The best time to go is mid-June to mid-August. Plan for 8 -12 days to canoe from Flat Lakes to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake) via Tehjeh Deé (the South Nahanni River).

### National Topographic System Maps

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



WHAT TO

# EXPECT



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© David Lee



© David Lee



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© David Lee



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## What's in a Name?

Nááts'jhc'oh staff are working closely with Shúhtaot'ine Elders to identify place names within the park. Many of the names are traditional, such as the name for the park. Others are new names Elders would like us to use so that people are aware of the cultural importance of the land. In the case of Łantanj Deé (Little Nahanni River), the name roughly translates to "Connecting Flow River" as the river connects the two parts of the national park reserve.

ʔepé Njnarehǎ ʔetené is the name for Howard's Pass Access Road. The translation is Caribou Crossing Trail. Caribou seasonally migrate through this area; the Shúhtaot'ine name highlights this movement.

As we learn more about the park and its traditional place names, we will be adding these names to our maps and publications.



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YOUR

# STORIES

MATTER

## Getting To Know Łáhtanjł Deé (the Little Nahanni)

### Nááts'jhc'h'oh is a new national park.

Only a few groups paddle this river each year. If you go, please share your stories, photos, and GPS data with us. Your experiences will help us learn about the river and make this trip planner a better one.

### Łáhtanjł Deé (the Little Nahanni River) is intense whitewater.

If you're looking for 85 kms of thrilling paddling, you've found it. Łáhtanjł Deé (the Little Nahanni River) starts with some steep, creek, intense Class II-III whitewater, and keeps on ripping with plenty of Class III+ rapids until you reach Tehjeh Deé (the South Nahanni River).

Crooked Canyon has two Class IV features in it, very few eddies for scouting, and is very difficult to get out of if you decide you should have portaged.

Your final, really big challenge is The Step (Class IV-V). This rapid has an easy portage on river left.

**If you're unsure of your or your group's abilities** to navigate Crooked Canyon, we recommend that you plan to portage the entire canyon (approx 2.5 km). There is no portage trail, but you can make your way up to ʔepé Njnarehʔá ʔetené (Caribou Crossing Trail / Howard's Pass Access Road).

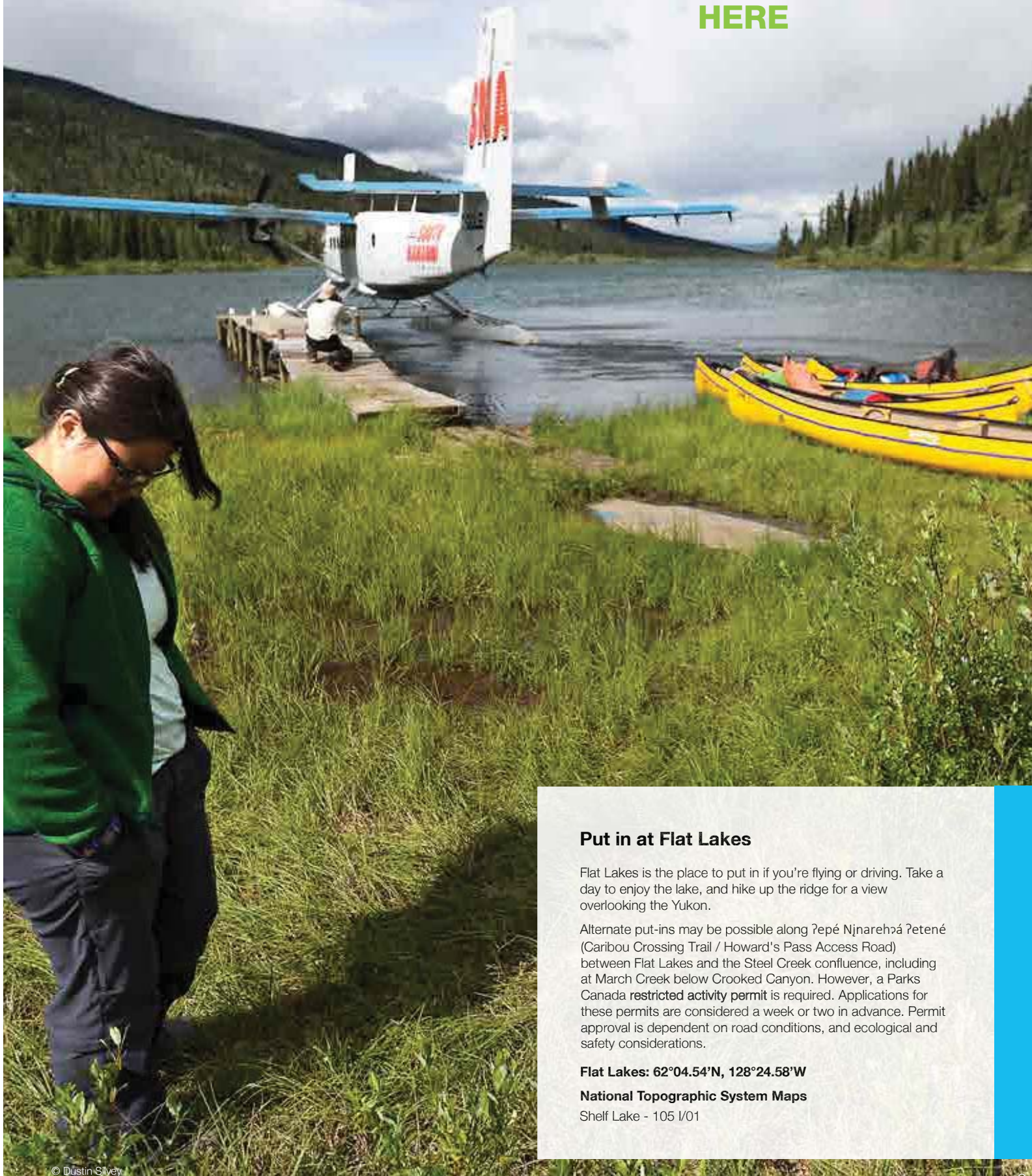
### Use this guide to supplement the information on the 1:50 000 National Topographic Service maps.

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.





# START HERE



## Put in at Flat Lakes

Flat Lakes is the place to put in if you're flying or driving. Take a day to enjoy the lake, and hike up the ridge for a view overlooking the Yukon.

Alternate put-ins may be possible along ʔepé Njnarehʔá ʔetené (Caribou Crossing Trail / Howard's Pass Access Road) between Flat Lakes and the Steel Creek confluence, including at March Creek below Crooked Canyon. However, a Parks Canada **restricted activity permit** is required. Applications for these permits are considered a week or two in advance. Permit approval is dependent on road conditions, and ecological and safety considerations.

**Flat Lakes: 62°04.54'N, 128°24.58'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Shelf Lake - 105 I/01

# ZENCHUK

CREEK



## Flat Lakes to Zenchuk Creek

If you're lucky, you'll see a moose. If you're even luckier, you'll paddle from Flat Lakes into táhtanjíj Dee (the Little Nahanni River) without dragging. If you're like most, you'll paddle and drag your boats towards Zenchuk Creek.

Be prepared to use your camp stove for cooking here. Firewood is limited.

**Zenchuk Creek: 62°06.40'N, 128°27.53'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Shelf Lake - 105 I/01



# HOOK CREEK

## Zenchuk Creek to Hook Creek

As a warm up for what's to come, the river continues to wind and build from swift current to Class I/II boulder gardens. If you stop at Hook Creek, hike up along the creek for beautiful views such as this one.

**Hook Creek: 62°08.85'N, 128°32.37'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Shelf Lake - 105 I/01, Upper Hyland Lake - 105 I/02

# STAIRCASE

## RAPIDS

### Hook Creek to Staircase Rapids

Are you ready for it? Hook Creek to Staircase Rapids is continuous Class II/III technical creeking. And that's just the warm up. Staircase Rapids is a 3 km long Class III+ creek style run. It can be difficult to find good places to stop, but take your time to scout these rapids. Be prepared for wood hazards in the river.

There is a good campsite river-right part way through the Staircase Rapids, and several good camping spots after the rapids.

**Staircase Rapids Start: 62°10.92'N, 128°38.89'W**

**Staircase Rapids End: 62°11.20'N, 128°42.75'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Upper Hyland Lake - 105 I/02



# A WILD RIDE

## Staircase Rapids to Crooked Canyon

From Staircase Rapids to Crooked Canyon, the river widens and slows. The most significant rapids on this stretch are two sets just downstream of the confluence with Fork Creek. Stay alert for wood hazards in the river, especially log jams near the confluence with Mac Creek.

As you approach Crooked Canyon, keep your eyes peeled for a small bay / large eddy on river left. This is the best place to pull out to scout Crooked Canyon or start to portage.

**Mac Creek Bridge:** 62°12.75'N, 128°46.12'W

**Fork Creek Rapids:** 62°16.32'N, 128°49.12'W

**Crooked Canyon Portage Start:** 62°21.15'N, 128°49.84'W

**National Topographic System Maps**

Upper Hyland Lake - 105 I/02, Dozer Lake 105 I/7

# CROOKED

## CANYON

### Crooked Canyon

Once you're in, you're committed to running this dog leg canyon. We recommend pulling out to scout and/or portage in the large eddy river left before the canyon (coordinates are listed below). If you decide to portage along ʔepé Njnarehʔá ʔetenéʔ (Howard's Pass Access Road), you can put back in just downstream of the last ledge in Crooked Canyon, or follow the road to March Creek Bridge and put in upstream of the confluence.

Two significant ledges can create Class IV features in Crooked Canyon. Locations for scouting these features are listed below.

**Crooked Canyon Portage Start: 62°21.15'N, 128°49.84'W**

**Scout spot for first ledge: 62°21.62'N, 128°50.05'**

**Scout spot for second ledge: 62°21.99'N, 128°51.01'W**

**End of Crooked Canyon: 62°21.96'N, 128°51.11'W**

**March Creek Put In: 62°22.08'N, 128°51.55'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Dozer Lake 105 I/7

# STEEL CREEK

## Crooked Canyon to Steel Creek

After Crooked Canyon is a 2 km stretch of Class II rapids before the river slows near the confluence with Steel Creek. The confluence with Steel Creek is the last access point to ʔepé Njnahéʔá ʔetené (the Howard's Pass Access Road). If you need to take out here you can follow an old cart trail from river to the road. The trail is just upstream of the confluence.

Take note: the topographic map shows this cart trail continuing on the east side of the river towards Lened Creek. At best, this "trail" could now be described as twin game trails that fade in and out of visibility. If you were planning a hike to Dozer Lake or Lened Creek, be aware that it will be much more bushwhacking than it looks on the map.

If you're camping on the gravel bar just past the Steel Creek confluence on river right, we recommend an evening stroll along the game trail that runs along the river. This photo was taken from the trail, just downstream of the campsite.

**March Creek Rapids Start: 62°22.08'N, 128°51.55'W**

**March Creek Rapids End: 62°22.54'N, 128°52.41'W**

**Steel Creek Put In: 62°23.01'N, 128°52.91'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Dozer Lake 105 I/7



# THE STEP

## Steel Creek to The Step

Steel Creek to The Step is one of the prettiest stretches of Łáhtanjíj Deé (the Little Nahanni River), and it's full of thrilling rapids. Expect continuous Class II/III with boulders and standing waves for most of the 4 km leading to The Step.

Rated a Class IV+, The Step is one of Łáhtanjíj Deé's (the Little Nahanni's most famous features. You can line and/or portage around it on river left. Thrill seekers can also choose to put in after the first drop and run the lower part of The Step.

**The Step: 62°25.01'N, 128°52.10'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**

Dozer Lake 105 I/7



# ROLLER

COASTER



## The Step to Second Canyon

Second Canyon promises more Class III whitewater and fantastic photo opportunities. It's a fast, tight line and some big water, but if you're looking to capture exciting images of your trip, this is a great place to try.

Campsites are more difficult to find between Second Canyon and the confluence with Tehjeh Deé (the South Nahanni River). Be prepared to grab workable campsites when you can.

**Second Canyon Start: 62°26.32'N, 128°52.48'W**

**Second Canyon End: 62°26.45'N, 128°52.30'W**

# ALMOST

THERE

## Second Canyon to "Third Canyon"

A few trip reports reference varying locations as "Third Canyon." On our trip, we did not find a feature we'd call Third Canyon, though there are some sections of river with high walls on one side. The river widens as it nears Tehjeh Deé (the South Nahnni River). Expect long stretches of Class II to III+ rapids with sharp corners, boulders, and large wave trains.

# TEHJEH DEÉ

SOUTH

# NAHANNI

RIVER

# NAH?A DEHÉ

## Confluence to Moore's Hot Spring

Łáhtanjij Deé (the Little Nahanni) is 85 km of intense whitewater - and you made it! Now it's time to take a breather, admire the Vampire Peaks of the Ragged Range, and enjoy the relative calm of Tehjeh Deé (the South Nahanni River).

The traditional name of the river changes from Tehjeh Deé to Nah?a Dehé, as you leave Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserve in the Sahtu region and enter Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Dehcho. In this trip planner, we also transition from one name to the other as we pass the park boundary.

Moore's Cabin is worth a stop to see the collection of tiny paddles previous groups have left as record of their adventures. It is tucked in away from the river on river left, upstream of the hot springs. See the South Nahanni River Touring Guide for more information.

**Confluence:** 62°28.57'N, 128°37.57'W

**Moore's Hot Spring:** 62°20.30'N, 128°08.00'W

# MOORE'S

## HOT SPRING

### Moore's Hot Spring to Píip'enéh íéetóó Deé (Broken Skull River)

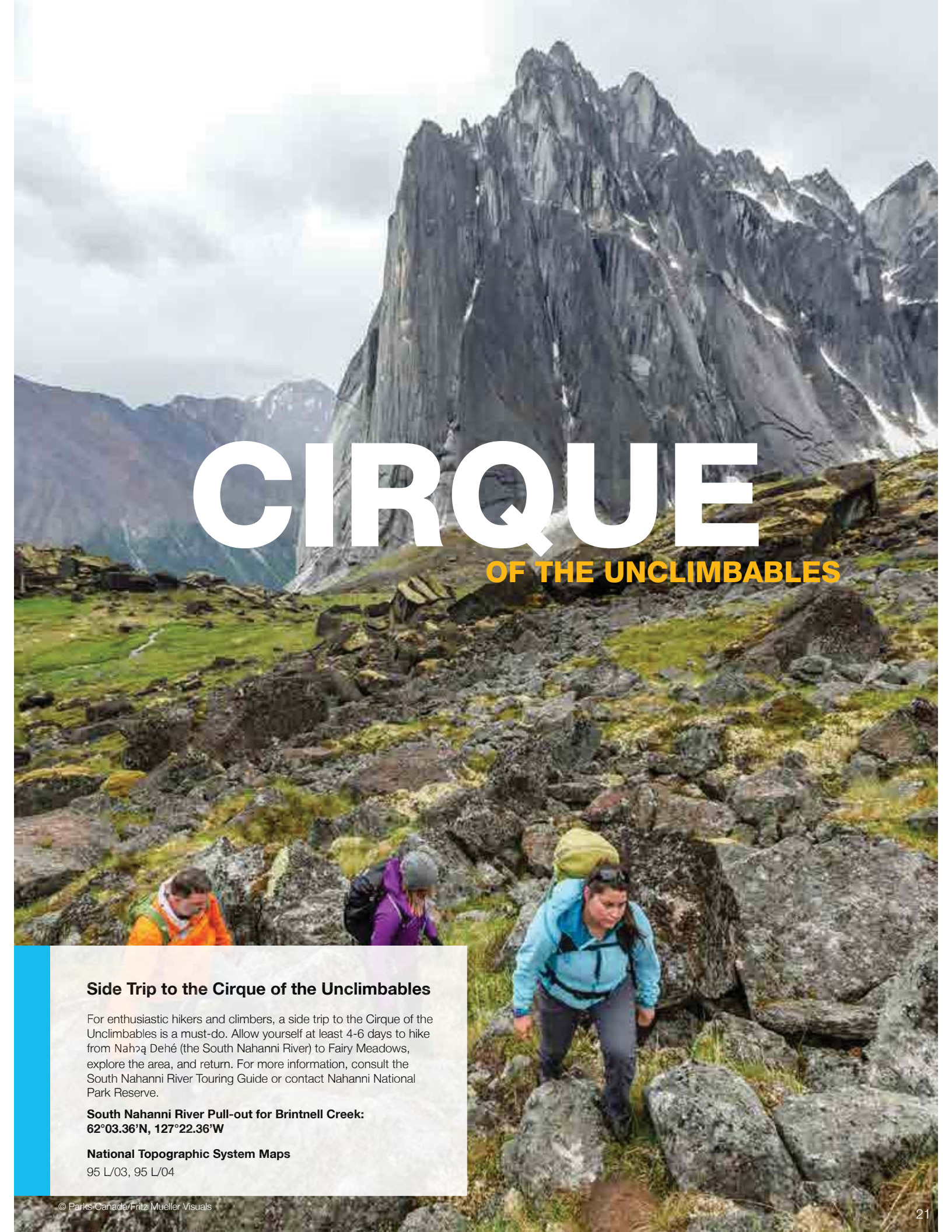
From Moore's Hot Spring to Corner Rapids, enjoy the steep grade of the river. Corner Rapids is a Class I/II rapid where Nahąą Dehé (the South Nahanni River) takes a sharp turn to the southeast. From there to Píip'enéh íéetoo Deé (the Broken Skull River), the river winds and slows.

We recommend using the South Nahanni River Touring Guide to navigate this stretch of river. You can order a copy from the Nahanni park office by emailing: [nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca)

**Corner Rapids Start: 62°23.72'N, 127°54.00'W**

**Corner Rapids End: 62°24.34'N, 127°52.80'W**

**Píip'enéh íéetoo Deé: 62°16.11'N, 127°39.01'W**



# CIRQUE

## OF THE UNCLIMBABLES

### Side Trip to the Cirque of the Unclimbables

For enthusiastic hikers and climbers, a side trip to the Cirque of the Unclimbables is a must-do. Allow yourself at least 4-6 days to hike from Nahᓂᓗ Dehé (the South Nahanni River) to Fairy Meadows, explore the area, and return. For more information, consult the South Nahanni River Touring Guide or contact Nahanni National Park Reserve.

**South Nahanni River Pull-out for Brintnell Creek:**  
**62°03.36'N, 127°22.36'W**

**National Topographic System Maps**  
95 L/03, 95 L/04

# FINISH HERE?



## **Píjip'enéh téetóq̄ (Broken Skull) to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake)**

Float down Nahą Dehé (the South Nahanni River) to Gahnjthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake). Get an air charter out of the park from here, or continue down the river to Nájjocho (Virginia Falls) or Nahanni Butte.

**Gahnjthah Mje: 61°57.68'N, 127°13.17'W**

GETTING HERE IS

# HALF

THE FUN



GO TO

# TOWN



## Nááts'j'ch'oh Park Office

Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserve's office is located in Tulita, NT. Nááts'j'ch'oh is part of the traditional lands of the people of the Sahtu. The only road access is a winter ice road from Wrigley. But, if you're paddling the Deho (Mackenzie River), be sure to drop in and say hello!

## 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.

### Drive to Flat Lakes

The Alaska Highway connects to the Robert Campbell Highway and the Nahanni Range Road and ʔepé Njnahéʔá ʔetenéʔ (Howard's Pass Access Road - HPAR) where you can put in at Flat Lakes. HPAR is a mining access road, there may be industrial traffic or closures. Access to HPAR in Nahanni and Nááts'ihch'oh requires a restricted activity permit. Please contact either park for more information.

You'll need four-wheel drive, extra gas, and a sense of adventure. This route is over 300 km of unpaved roads - and the closest gas station is in Watson Lake, Yukon. These are primarily mining access roads with no services, so be prepared for washouts, flat tires, and mechanical breakdowns.

We recommend you bring:

- A satellite telephone – there is no cell service on this road
- A VHF radio with the LADD1 (Yukon Highway #10-Nahanni Range Road) and LADD2 (Howard's Pass Access Road) channels to communicate with truck traffic
- At least one spare tire and a tire repair kit
- Vehicle repair kit and the skills, knowledge and abilities to repair your vehicle
- Camping gear
- Extra food and water in the event weather or other natural factors lengthen the planned duration of your trip

Contact us for advice and **updated road conditions** before you head out.

● Winnipeg

● Whitehorse  
● Tulita  
● Nááts'ihch'oh  
● Nahanni  
● Fort Simpson  
● Yellowknife  
● Watson Lake  
● Edmonton  
● Vancouver  
● Victoria  
● Seattle  
● Calgary  
● Regina

● Jackson  
● Salt Lake City

● Denver

● Minneapolis

● Chicago

● Toronto

● Ottawa

# 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/or Whitehorse:

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

Airlines with scheduled flights to Norman Wells:

- North Wright Airways
- Canadian North

Airlines with scheduled flights to Fort Simpson:

- First Air
- Air Tindi

# FIND

YOUR WAY

## Maps and Guides

### 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.

### South Nahanni River Touring Guide

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

## Guides and Outfitters

**Guided trips starting at \$5,250.**

Contact one of these outfitters for more information.

**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

GO

# GUIDED

FLOAT

# AWAY



## Air Charters

Contact one of these companies to book an air shuttle to Flat Lakes.

### North Wright Airways

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

### Simpson Air

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

### Summit Air

Yellowknife, NT  
1-855-355-5527  
info@flysummitair.com  
www.flysummitair.com

### Kluane Airways

Finlayson Lake, YK  
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

### Alpine Aviation

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



BOOKING IS

# EASY

## How to Book an Air Charter

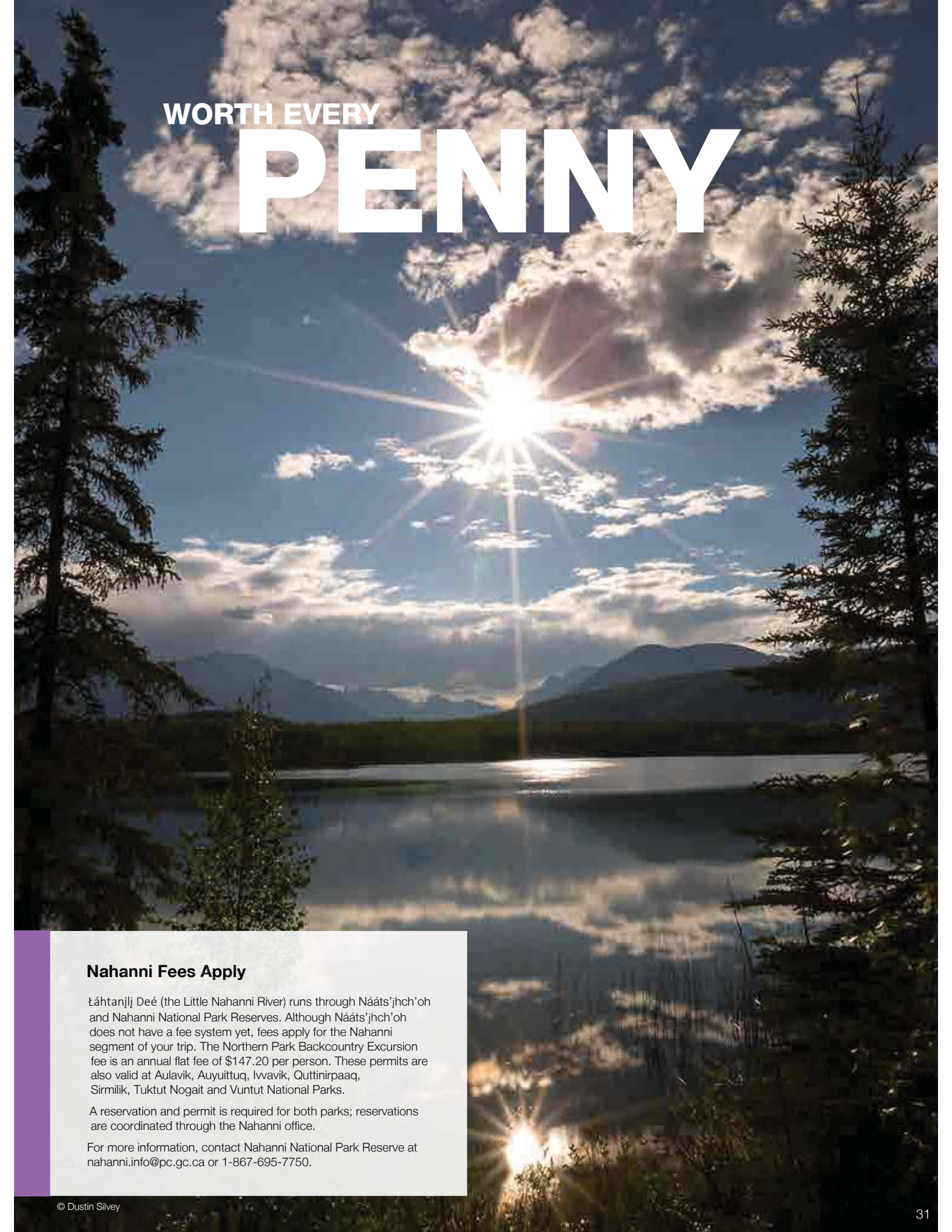
Don't worry - booking an air charter is easier than you think. The pilots know the lakes and mountains, and they'll be able to let you know if your plan is a good one. They'll also help you figure out what type of plane you'll need to get you where you want to go. Book early for the best availability.

### When you call, 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 lake/location where you want to be dropped off. For the Little Nahanni trip, specify Flat Lakes located at 62°04.54'N, 128°24.58'W.
- Name of the lake/location if you want to be picked up
- How many passengers you'll have
- Any special equipment you'll have (canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Any special flightseeing route or added stops

### 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.



WORTH EVERY

# PENNY

## Nahanni Fees Apply

Łáhtanjij Deé (the Little Nahanni River) runs through Nááts'j'ch'oh and Nahanni National Park Reserves. Although Nááts'j'ch'oh does not have a fee system yet, fees apply for the Nahanni segment of your trip. The Northern Park Backcountry Excursion fee is an annual flat fee of \$147.20 per person. These permits are also valid at Aulavik, Auyuittuq, Ivavik, Quttinirpaaq, Sirmilik, Tuktot Nogait and Vuntut National Parks.

A reservation and permit is required for both parks; reservations are coordinated through the Nahanni office.

For more information, contact Nahanni National Park Reserve at [nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:nahanni.info@pc.gc.ca) or 1-867-695-7750.

# BOOK

YOUR TRIP

## Reservations

To make a reservation, contact Nahanni National Park Reserve with this information:

- Type of trip (paddling)
- Trip itinerary (# days, route)
- Preferred trip dates
- Trip leader's contact information
- Group size (max 12)
- Air charter company

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



# PLACES

TO GO

## Registration and Orientation

Once your reservation is confirmed, and you have your permit confirmed, you are almost set. Just before your trip starts you need to call or drop-in to the Nahanni National Park Reserve office to register that you are about to enter the parks. When you register, we'll ask for you to confirm this information:

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

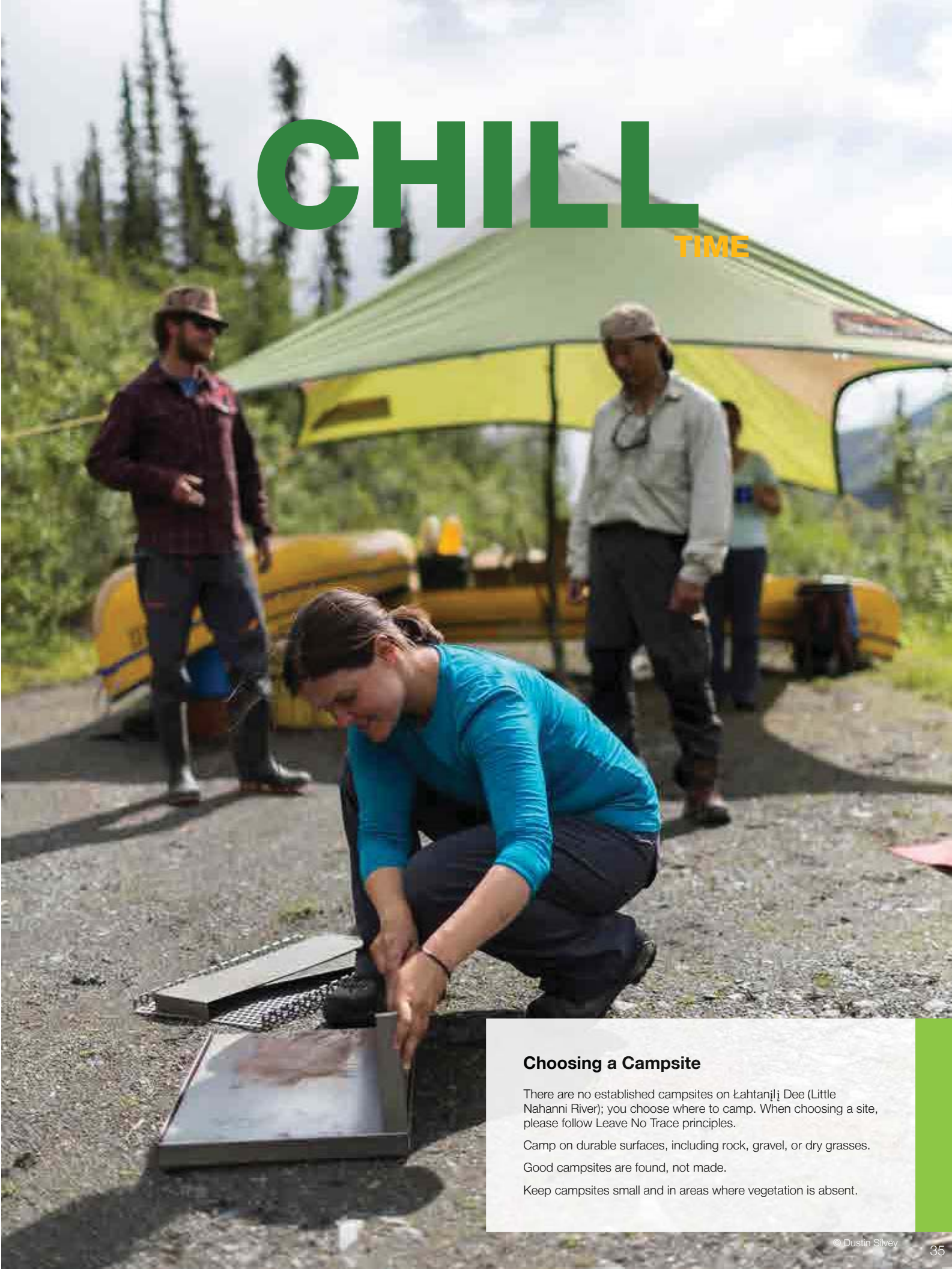
At this time, we'll give you our latest wildlife, forest fire, and river conditions, as well as confirm the steps you need to take to de-register.



# CAMP HERE

# CHILL

TIME



## Choosing a Campsite

There are no established campsites on Łahtaniłı Dee (Little Nahanni River); 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.

	<b>Sunrise</b>	<b>Sunset</b>
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'j'ch'oh and Nahanni are 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.

	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>And you can expect...</b>
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

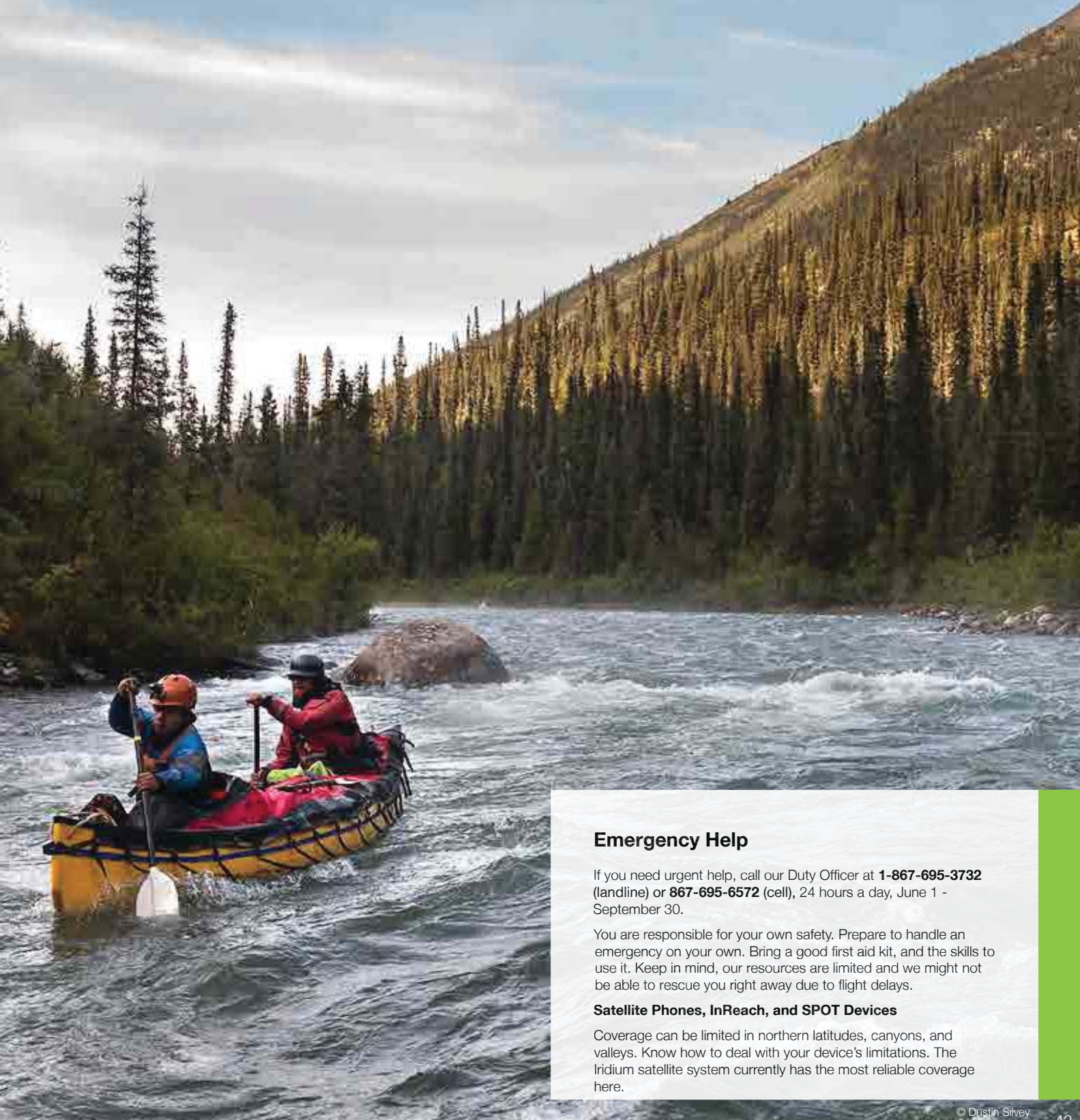
## Bears

Yep. Black bears and grizzly bears live here, and they especially like the river valleys 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** (landline) or **867-695-6572** (cell), 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 this challenging river. Or, consider a guided trip with one of our outfitters.

## Flash Flooding

Rain upstream can raise water levels suddenly - even if it is not raining where you are. Choose your campsites accordingly, and secure your boats each night.

## Strainers and Sweepers

Wood hazards such as strainers and sweepers are common on Łáhtanjíj Deé (the Little Nahanni River), and river-wide log obstructions are often reported by paddlers. Make sure you and your group are confident and competent in avoiding these hazards.

## Insider tip:

The water is really cold, and you don't want hypothermia - wear a drysuit.

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 60 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. Dispose of strained dishwater in the river or scatter it.

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
- first aid kit
- extra food

### Navigation

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

### Repair Kit

- tuck tape / sheathing 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
- canoe barrels/packs
- canoe with spray deck/kayak/raft





Climbers and packrafters Chad Lorenz, Mike McCartan, Wade Landon, and Dan Hoffman graciously let us crash their campsite one night. Thanks again! ©David Lee

# SOMEONE'S

## GOTTA DO IT

### A Personal Thank You

Here's the thing about working in a new national park - someone's gotta explore it and figure out what's there. I was lucky enough to make this my work, but you wouldn't be reading this without the incredible team of people that made it happen. July 23 - August 6, 2015, these folks joined me on a river none of us knew much about. It was an adventure we'll remember for a long time...

Dustin Silvey of [www.dustinsilvey.com](http://www.dustinsilvey.com), thanks for jumping into the deep end with this one.

David Lee of The Passionate Paddler, thanks for being an awesome paddling partner - especially down Backwards Rapids.

Vanessa Murtzell of Nahanni National Park Reserve, thank you for being the smile that brightened those first seven days of rain.

Ken McDiarmid of Blackfeather the Wilderness Adventure Company, thanks for keeping us safe on the river.

Pablo Vermeulen of Blackfeather the Wilderness Adventure Company, thanks for going big everytime.

A big thanks to those that shared their knowledge of the river. Armin Johnson, Greg Whiteside, Charles Kalinsky, and Milosz Pierwola, thank you for sharing river notes and giving us your maps(!); Mike Fischesser thanks for your Łáhtanjíj Deé (Little Nahanni) stories and advice; Laani Uunila for sharing her river notes while taking care of newborn twins; Chad Lorenz, Mike McCartan, Wade Landon, and Dan Hoffman for sharing their campsite and trip plans around the campfire; and Hans Baer and Drake Hocking for sharing your epic tales of paddling fiberglass canoes down Łáhtanjíj Deé (the Little Nahanni River) in 1972!

Additional thanks to: Julie Warnock and Northwest Territories Tourism for helping with accommodations for Dustin and David; Wendy Grater and Blackfeather, the Wilderness Adventure Company for setting us up with expert guides and delicious food; David Hibbard of Nahanni Wilderness Adventures for pre-trip advice; Becky Mason for sharing her story of paddling it with her dad in the early 1980s; and Tom Grundy for his Cirque Adventure 2005 online trip report that has inspired many climbers and packrafters to paddle Łáhtanjíj Deé (the Little Nahanni River).

Lyn, Winter 2016

Trip planner produced by Nááts'įrth'oh National Park Reserve. Updated March 2018.

WANT

# HELP

PLANNING?



## Contact Us

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*Aussi disponible en français.*