



Nahanni National Park Reserve
Nah?á Dehé
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COME CELEBRATE!

NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE—2011 TRAVEL MEDIA STORYLINES!

NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE WAS EXPANDED IN 2009 TO 30,052 SQUARE KILOMETRES – NEARLY THE SIZE OF VANCOUVER ISLAND. THIS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS NOW CANADA'S THIRD LARGEST NATIONAL PARK. GUIDEBOOK PUBLISHER FROMMERS NAMED NAHANNI ONE OF THE TOP DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD TO VISIT IN 2011.

PADDLE THE LEGENDARY SOUTH NAHANNI

Ancestors of the Dene have lived and hunted in the area for thousands of years. Late Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau was so enthralled with the South Nahanni River during his 1970 visit that he decided to create a national park. Learn about the legends of the Nahanni as you follow the paddle strokes of Metis prospectors Willie and Frank McLeod, whose bodies were found in 1908 in what is now known as Deadmen Valley. Hear about gold prospector Albert Faille and adventurer R.M. Patterson, who travelled the river in the 1920s. From 1940 to 1971, Mary and Gus Kraus lived at Kraus Hotsprings in what is now Nahanni National Park Reserve.

CHURN THROUGH THE FLAT RIVER

Paddle the Flat River, the second largest river in the park and South Nahanni's main tributary. This trip offers whitewater challenges ranging from Class II - Class V rapids. With an average gradient of 2.28 m per kilometre, it's 60% steeper than the South Nahanni. Much of the gold prospecting in the 1930s focused on this river and its tributaries. Head to Seaplane Lake, portage around the Cascade-of-the-Thirteen-Steps and past hoodoos opposite the Caribou River. You will reach the confluence with the South Nahanni River after 4-5 days.

FLY OVER NAH?A DEHÉ - NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Nah?á Dehé is the name the Dene people have given to the South Nahanni River and area. Flightseeing tours start from the gateway community of Fort Simpson, a Dene village of about 1,200 people where Pope John Paul II made a historic visit in 1987. Before climbing aboard a bush plane with Simpson Air (www.simpsonair.ca), South Nahanni Airways (www.southnahanniairway.com) or Wolverine Air (www.wolverineair.com), get your camera ready. You'll need it to record some of the stunning views you'll see on this daytrip as you fly over the park. Admire the majestic Nahanni mountain range and the stunning Ram Plateau. Stops can include a short hike near Virginia Falls (which are twice the size of Niagara Falls) and Glacier Lake to see the Cirque of the Unclimbables - one of the best places to rock climb.

Three licensed operators offer rafting and paddling trips: Black Feather (www.blackfeather.com), Nahanni River Adventures (www.nahanni.com) and Nahanni Wilderness Adventures (www.nahanniwild.com). However, 40% of our visitors take self-guided trips into the park.

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COME CELEBRATE!

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK—2011 TRAVEL MEDIA STORYLINES!

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK IS CANADA'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK – BIGGER THAN SWITZERLAND, IN FACT. SPRAWLED ACROSS NORTHERN ALBERTA AND THE SOUTHERN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, THIS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OFFERS VISITORS A VARIETY OF ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES AND BACKCOUNTRY TREKS INTO THE HEART OF THE PARK.

SWEETGRASS STATION: GIVE ME A HOME WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

For a multi-day backcountry experience, paddle your own canoe and make the 12-kilometre hike to Sweetgrass Station in the southern portion of Wood Buffalo National Park. Families lived here from the 1950s to 1977 as part of a large-scale bison management program. The residents and many of the buildings they used are gone, but a restored warehouse, artifacts and corrals that once held bison remain. Keep an eye out for herds of bison who still call this area home. Grade 7 & 8 students from Fort Smith come here each September on a multi-day class trip to learn about the park and themselves.

MEET THE MATING BALLS OF RED-SIDED GARTER SNAKES

Red-Sided Garter snakes in Wood Buffalo National Park emerge from their most northerly hibernaculum each spring to mate and munch. Curious onlookers at the Salt River Day Use Area watch as writhing snakes form into balls as up to 30 males woo a single female. Once the honeymoon is over, the snakes slither off to feed at their summer grounds. Then they return in September to prepare for their winter snooze.

TOUCH AND TASTE MOTHER NATURE'S HANDIWORK

Have you ever swam or paddled in a sinkhole? Tasted salt in its natural setting? Set eyes on strange-looking rocks that have been shaped by salt and frost? Wiggled your toes in mud that turned your feet red? Watched a bison roll around on its back in the sand? Seen a bear lope across the highway? Experience that at Pine Lake, the Salt Plains, Grosbeak Lake and other unique spots in Wood Buffalo National Park.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY: TURNING 90

Wood Buffalo National Park was created in 1922 to protect the last free roaming herds of wood bison in northern Canada. It has since become a critical habitat for the endangered whooping crane. This grande green dame, which was the first national park in northern Canada, turns 90 in 2012.

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