



# Deh Cho Travel Connection

• OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ITINERARY •

Exploring the Deh Cho Travel Connection can be an adventure of a lifetime. Use this itinerary to plan your trip to make the most of the opportunity.

## DAY 1 GRANDE PRAIRIE AND FAIRVIEW

- Tour the Heritage Discovery Centre, a family friendly museum that depicts the history of Peace River country. Then take a picture of The Millennium Sundial outside.
- The Grande Prairie Museum captures some of the best historical memorabilia of northwestern Alberta.
- Hike some of the more than 20 km of trails in Muskoseepi Park or go mountain biking at the Nitehawk Recreation Area.
- Visit Historic Dunvegan Park 26 km south of Fairview on Highway 2. Interpreters guide visitors through 19th century log buildings at one of Alberta's earliest fur trade settlements.
- Overnight in Fairview, 103 km (64 mi) from Grande Prairie.



## DAY 2 GRIMSHAW AND PEACE RIVER

- Just north of Fairview, hike the 11-km trail in Cummings Lake Recreation Area past wetlands, boreal forest, a golf course, play fields and campground picnic areas.
- Drive to Grimshaw, Mile 0 of the Mackenzie Highway (51 km/31 mi).
- Wander around Historic Mile 0 Mackenzie Park and the Tom Baldwin Memorial Arboretum, where interpretive signs share the history of communities along the Mackenzie Highway.
- At Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park northwest of Grimshaw, enjoy a sandy beach, a bird viewing platform and 4.5 km of hiking trails. Visit Lac Cardinal Pioneer Village Museum, which depicts life from the 1920s to 1940s.
- Drive the 26-km Shaftesbury Trail and stop to explore the markers that share the area's rich mission and fur trading history. Then ride the Shaftesbury ferry across the Peace River.
- Enjoy a scenic view of the Peace River valley and the convergence of the Peace, Smoky and Heart rivers at the Sagitawa Lookout, just south of the town of Peace River on Highway 744.
- Visit the 12 Foot Davis Memorial Site in honor of Henry Fuller Davis, who struck it rich on a 12-foot gold claim in northern British Columbia in the 1860s.
- Overnight in Peace River.



## DAY 3 FALHER AND MANNING

- Take a side trip to the bilingual community of Falher, (70 km/45 mi) to see the world's largest bee in the "Honey Capital of Canada."
- Drive to Manning (107 km/67 mi from Peace River) and take a photo of the Manning Moose statue on the main street.
- Explore the Battle River Pioneer Museum (1 km east of Manning on Highway 691), which has a number of buildings as well as artifacts including an Albino Moose, the famous Windigo Moose Horns, a two-headed calf and a large display of farm machinery.
- Overnight in Manning.



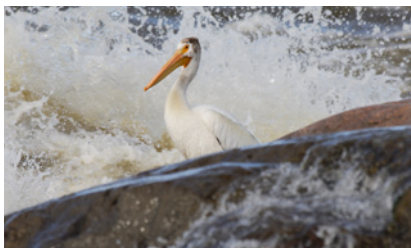
## DAY 4 LA CRETE, FORT VERMILION AND HIGH LEVEL

- Take the Tompkins Landing Ferry to the Mennonite agricultural community of La Crete (224 km/139 mi). Along the way, stop at the Buffalo Head Hills that loom 2,000 feet above the surrounding farmland.
- Drive north to Fort Vermilion (37 km/23 mi), a community that dates back more than 200 years. Many of its original buildings, including the Lean-to Museum and Archives, have been preserved.
- Head to High Level (77 km/48 mi) and stop by the Mackenzie Crossroads Museum and Visitor Centre.
- Rent a canoe or kayak and paddle Footner Lake, Hutch Lake or Hay River.
- Overnight in High Level.



## DAY 5 60TH PARALLEL AND HAY RIVER

- Drive to the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre and take your picture beside the exhibit's polar bear. Welcome to the Northwest Territories!
- Pull over south of Enterprise to watch Alexandra Falls make a mighty, 32-metre plunge over the Hay River. Walk the 2-km trail to Louise Falls and take the 138-step spiral staircase for a better view.
- When you reach Hay River on the southern shore of Great Slave Lake, walk along the beach at the Hay River Territorial Campground on Vale Island.
- Hike the Kiwanis Nature Trail or rent a canoe and paddle the Hay River.
- Take your picture downtown, next to the Inukshuk that was featured on a postage stamp.
- On your way to Fort Smith (268 km/167 mi), stop at the Angus Sinkhole and Fire Tower; this is one of Wood Buffalo National Park's largest sinkholes.
- Overnight in Fort Smith.



## DAY 6 FORT SMITH AND FORT PROVIDENCE

- Check out the exhibit at the Wood Buffalo National Park's office.
- Learn about the area's history at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre and during a self-guided tour of the former Oblate Catholic Mission at Fort Smith Mission Territorial Park.
- Hike down to the Slave River and Rapids of the Drowned to watch nesting pelicans.
- Just outside town, stop at the Salt Plains lookout where missionaries once collected salt to trade.
- Drive to Fort Providence (348 km/216 mi) and cross the mighty Mackenzie (Deh Cho) River on the Merv Hardie Ferry. Keep an eye out for Wood bison from the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary.
- Check out local crafts at the Snowshoe Inn.
- Overnight in Fort Providence.



## DAY 7 YELLOWKNIFE

- Continue your journey to Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. Take a city tour or a self-guided walking tour of Old Town including Bush Pilot's Monument, the Wildcat Café, Ragged Ass Road and views of Yellowknife Bay.
- Learn about the territory's consensus politics during a tour of the Legislative Assembly. An exhibit at the Rio Tinto's downtown location explains how northern diamonds are mined.
- Cast a line during a fishing trip and shore lunch on Great Slave Lake.
- Hike out to Cameron Falls.
- Overnight in Yellowknife



## DAY 8 FORT SIMPSON

- On the way to Fort Simpson (368 km/229 mi), stop at Sambaa Deh Falls for a short hike to the gorge.
- Take a jet boat tour on the Mackenzie River in Fort Simpson or an afternoon flightseeing tour to Virginia Falls in Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- A self-guided walking tour includes prospector Albert Faille's Cabin, the Papal Grounds, and Fort Simpson Heritage Park, a likely location of the first trading post.
- Overnight in Fort Simpson.



## DAY 9 FORT LIARD

- Heading south toward the British Columbia border, stop at the Acho Dene crafts store in Fort Liard to check out the locally made Dene birch bark baskets for which this community is best known. Walk along the pretty Petitot River.
- Stop at the Liard River Hot Springs (about 240 km/150 mi north of Fort Nelson), where American soldiers who were building the Alaska Highway went for a soak.
- Overnight in Fort Nelson. Welcome to British Columbia and the historic Alaska Highway



## DAY 10 FORT NELSON AND FORT ST. JOHN

- At the Fort Nelson Heritage Museum, see some of the equipment that was used to build the Alaska Highway and the largest operational classic car collection in BC.
- Take a photo of the Alaska Highway Veterans and Builders Memorial.
- Drive to Fort St. John (377 km/236 mi) and stop by the Fort St. John North Peace Museum for a slice of local history.
- Ten minutes north of Fort St. John, paddle 13km/9mi on Charlie Lake and fish as you go. Visit the memorial on Charlie Lake to 12 U.S. soldiers who drowned in 1942 while building the Alaska Highway.
- Overnight in Fort St. John.



## DAY 11 TAYLOR, DAWSON CREEK AND POUCE COUPE

- At Taylor, see the World's Largest Golf Ball.
- Climb Taylor Hill, made famous by the "Village on a Diet" TV series.
- Drive a loop of the original Alaska Highway 15 miles/24km before Dawson Creek and over the Kiskatinaw Bridge. It's one of North America's longest curved wooden bridges and the only original Alaska Highway bridge over which you can still drive.
- Continue on to Dawson Creek. Explore the Visitor Centre/Railway Station Museum in a historic train station. Visit the Dawson Creek Art Gallery in a renovated 1930's grain elevator next door. Take a photo of the Mile 0 Cairn & Arch – the exact historical location of Mile 0 as staked by the US army.
- With brochure in hand, enjoy a self-guided walking tour that interprets the city's history through historic photos, interpretive panels and wall murals.
- At Alaska Highway House, see how the highway was built and hear the stories of the soldiers who were there.
- Take a short drive and get up close to the turbines of Bear Mountain Wind Park.
- Grab a detailed trail map at the visitor centre and hike, bike or rock climb on Bear Mountain.
- In Pouce Coupe (10 km/6 mi south of Dawson Creek), visit the town museum in the 1930 railway station building and pick up a walking tour brochure. Stop in at the Hart Hotel pub to see its charming 1928 period style decor and hand carved life-sized statues.
- Overnight in Dawson Creek.



## DAY 12

### CHETWYND, HUDSON'S HOPE AND TUMBLER RIDGE

- Take Highway 97 South to Chetwynd (86 km/54 mi) for a self-guided walking tour of the community's more than 85 original chainsaw carvings.
- Head north on Highway 29, to Hudson's Hope (65 km/40 mi). At the Hudson's Hope Museum, explore the rich fur trade, pioneer and First Nations histories as well as dinosaur bones, skeletons and fossils.
- Drive (22 km/14 mi) west to the W.A.C. Bennett Dam - one of the world's largest earth-filled dams - for an underground tour, a visit to the interpretive centre, a lakeside picnic or a paddle on the man-made lake.
- Return to Chetwynd on Highway 29 and drive on to Tumbler Ridge to discover rare palaeontology finds during a visit to the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery and a Trackway Tour.
- Drive (60 km/36 mi) south to Monkman Provincial Park to see the 60-metre/197 ft high Kinuseo Falls. Take a jet boat tour or paddle the river below the falls in your own canoe/kayak. Hike one of the area's trails, ranging from short, easy hikes to advanced multi-day wilderness trips.
- Overnight in Tumbler Ridge.

## DAY 13

- Return to Dawson Creek via Highway 52 and then on to Grande Prairie via Highway 2.
- Welcome back to Alberta and the conclusion of your Deh Cho Travel adventure!



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