

Experience the wonders of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Canada's largest national park. Wood Buffalo National Park's rugged boreal forest landscape straddles Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Later in August when darkness returns, enjoy the wonders of the night sky in the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve.

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A UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The Far North Within Reach From Edmonton to Wood Buffalo National Park



DAY 1 EDMONTON TO HIGH LEVEL (738 KM)

- Visit the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation in Slave Lake.
- Hike the trails of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.
- Drive to Fort Vermilion, one of Alberta's oldest settlements. It has preserved many of its original buildings. Or visit the La Crete Mennonite Heritage Village in La Crete.
- Overnight in Fort Vermilion or High Level.

DAY 2 HIGH LEVEL TO TWIN FALLS GORGE TERRITORIAL PARK (264 KM)

- Visit High Level's Mackenzie Crossroads Museum & Visitor Centre.
- Welcome to the Northwest Territories! Stop at the 60th Parallel and pick up your "North of 60" certificate at the 60th Parallel Visitor Information Centre.
- Drive to Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park.
- Set up your campsite at Louise Falls Campground or overnight in Hay River.

DAY 3 TWIN FALLS TO FORT SMITH (305 KM)

- Watch Alexandra Falls tumble 32 metres into the Hay River. Then follow a 2-km interpretive trail along the Hay River Gorge and climb a spiral staircase at Louise Falls.
- Drive along paved highway to Fort Smith. Stop on the way to look at Wood Buffalo National Park's largest sinkhole. The 100-metre wide and 60-metre deep Angus Sinkhole formed when an underground cave collapsed.
- The Salt Plains turnoff near Fort Smith leads to a sweeping view of the 370-square kilometre Salt Plains. Follow a 350-metre trail down a steep escarpment and walk barefoot along a salt-encrusted landscape.
- Stop at the Fort Smith-Wood Buffalo National Park visitor centre in town to inquire about interpretive town walks or guided hikes in the park.



DAY 4 DISCOVER FORT SMITH

- Visit the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre to learn about the role the Thebacha region played as a gateway to the North.
- Take a self-guided tour of Fort Smith Mission Historic Park and what remains of the former Catholic mission.
- Hike down to the rocks at the Rapids of the Drowned to look for pelicans feeding in the Slave River.
- Enjoy a round of golf at the 9-hole Pelican Rapids Golf & Country Club, Alberta's most northern golf course.

DAY 5 EXPLORE WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

- Drive into Wood Buffalo National Park and hike the 2.2-km Salt River Meadows Trail which wanders beside a saline stream and into a meadow sprinkled with wildflowers.
- Book two nights in a former warden cabin beside Pine Lake. www.reservation.pc.gc.ca
- Walk the 6.2-km (return) Lakeside Trail. Then rent a canoe and glide along Pine Lake. Listen for the sound of loons and keep an eye out for a beaver lodge. Unplug your cellphone and tune in to Mother Nature.

DAY 6 EXPLORE WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

- Hike the 8.5-km Benchmark Creek Trail - or enjoy a 20-minute shortcut to the salt flats at Grosbeak Lake. Walk barefoot across this lunar landscape.
- Swim in the aquamarine waters of Pine Lake, which was created when several adjacent sinkholes fed from underground springs joined together.
- Enjoy a quiet evening relaxing at your cabin.

DAY 7 WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK TO HIGH LEVEL (570 KM)

- On your way to Hay River, stop at the Wetlands Pull-off and walk an interpretive trail leading to a boreal landscape.
- Book a tour at the Northern Farm Training Institute in Hay River to visit a working northern farm (Note: By appointment only).
- Visit Hay River's museum, Fisherman's Wharf and the beach on Vale Island.
- Overnight in Hay River or continue to High Level.

DAY 8 HIGH LEVEL TO GRANDE PRAIRIE (452 KM)

- Drive to Peace River and enjoy the views from the 12-foot Davis Memorial Site or take a short drive along the Shaftesbury Trail.
- Near Fairview, journey through fur trade, missionary and First Nations history while visiting authentic buildings in Dunvegan Provincial Park.
- Continue on to Grande Prairie, where a 40-foot Millennium Sundial stands outside the visitor centre. Then see how small you are next to a 10-foot Trumpeter Swan statue in Jubilee Park.
- Overnight in Grande Prairie.

DAY 9 GRANDE PRAIRIE TO EDMONTON (459 KM)

- Spend time at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. Sign up to help in the Fossil Preparation Lab or for a tour of the Pipestone Creek bonebed.
- For a taste of the unusual, visit a petting zoo or go for a hot air balloon ride.
- Return to Edmonton.