

# Travel Yukon

The Yukon is home to epic landscapes, including the tallest mountain in Canada and the largest non-polar ice field in the world. Its highways make for scenic road trips, with driving on uncrowded routes to some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet. Wildlife viewing can include large mammals like moose, caribou, mountain sheep, black bears, grizzlies and wood bison.

Of course, the Yukon is also home to nature's most coveted light show: going aurora-hunting from the ground or by plane is a must-do experience. But it's not just wildlife and wilderness. Indigenous culture, a burgeoning culinary scene, thrilling outdoor adventures, historic sites and welcoming communities abound in the Land of the Midnight Sun.



CREDIT: ATSUSHI SUGIMOTO

## Astro Tourism

**Astro Tourism is now officially a thing! But with our clear, dark night skies and dancing northern lights, we've always been on trend. There has never been a better time for "astro tourism" in the Yukon, and here's why.**

**Solar Cycle 25** marks a roughly 11-year change in the sun's activity, which has been observed for centuries but was not clearly identified until 1843. During each cycle, levels of solar radiation and ejection of solar material, plus the number of sunspots, solar flares and coronal loops, fluctuate from a period of minimum activity to maximum activity (the "solar max"), and back again. The current solar cycle, number 25, began in December of 2019 and will reach its peak between 2023 and 2026. The uptick in solar activity during the solar max results in more aurora activity, making the current era a particularly good time for aurora viewing vacations.

While the northern lights are often associated with winter, fall in the Yukon is an equally magical time for aurora viewing. From August to October, the darkening skies of the Yukon are illuminated by the vibrant northern lights, set against the stunning backdrop of autumn colours.

### AURORA GROUP TOURS:

Guided aurora viewing from the ground happens at custom-built viewing sites. Warm up in the wall tent, around the campfire or with a hot drink while you await the natural light show.

[northerntales.ca](http://northerntales.ca) / [arcticrange.com](http://arcticrange.com)

### NEW FOR 2024

Epic North offers premium aurora viewing experiences from their newly built modern Aurora Basecamp (located just outside of Whitehorse), which can accommodate up to 16 guests, including insulated and heated washrooms.

[epic-north.com](http://epic-north.com)

### AURORA HUNTING:

Increase your chances of finding the northern lights by aurora hunting with an experienced local tour operator. Drive to where the skies are clear and the lights are strongest.

[seannorman.com](http://seannorman.com) /  
[nomadaexcursionsyukon.com](http://nomadaexcursionsyukon.com) /  
[whitehorsetours.com](http://whitehorsetours.com)

### AURORA 360 FLIGHT SPECIAL WITH NORTHERN LIGHTS RESORT & SPA:

Experience an all-inclusive adventure that includes dog sledding, snowmobiling, a visit to the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, and a soothing soak in the Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs. The highlight of the trip is the Air North Aurora 360 Flight to the Arctic Circle, providing a rare and spectacular view of the northern lights in their full splendour.

Available 2026 dates: From February 12-17, you'll spend four nights at the Northern Lights Resort and one night at the Best Western Gold Rush Inn in Whitehorse. Alternatively, from February 14-19, you can enjoy two nights at the Best Western Gold Rush Inn and three nights at the Northern Lights Resort.

[northernlightsyukon.com](http://northernlightsyukon.com)

### AURORA ICE FISHING:

Based in Whitehorse but operating across the territory, North Country Outdoor Adventures offers guided fishing, including fishing under the northern lights. Get on the ice just before sunset and spend the night catching fish under the dark sky, and with luck, under the aurora! Trips can include a shore dinner using the fish that you caught. All trips include local snacks, drinks, transport and a fun, easygoing atmosphere.

[northcountryyukon.ca](http://northcountryyukon.ca)

### NORTHERN LIGHTS IN KLUANE:

Experience guided aurora-chasing adventures in the Kluane region, surrounded by mountains and beneath the expansive dark sky.

[yukonguidedadventures.com](http://yukonguidedadventures.com)

### NORTHERN LIGHTS IN THE KLONDIKE:

Guides facilitate aurora viewing from an area outside of Dawson City, offering breathtaking views and stunning photo opportunities, plus lively cultural and historical nuggets on the region and the Klondike, throughout the night. A cozy campfire and heated wall tent warm the night, with hot drinks and a snack served around midnight.

[klondikeexperience.com](http://klondikeexperience.com)

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# Stay

## COMING SOON **HYATT PLACE:**

The brand-new Hyatt Place Whitehorse is scheduled to open in spring 2025. This 115-room, upscale hotel in the heart of downtown Whitehorse sets a new standard for hospitality in the Yukon. It will feature a lobby bar, full breakfast service, meeting space and many more amenities.

## **BLACK SPRUCE:**

A short drive from downtown Whitehorse, this “landscape hotel” is designed to blend seamlessly with the surrounding wilderness. Built sustainably, the four self-catered units feature Shou Sugi-Ban wood with modern interiors, including kitchenettes. Guests can enjoy a wood-fired sauna (reserve online) and optional guided tours of Whitehorse, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, or Eclipse Hot Springs, as well as ice fishing, snowshoeing, or aurora viewing. Ask about discounted Air North flights and Driving Force car rentals.

[yukonblackspruce.ca](http://yukonblackspruce.ca)

## **RAVEN INN & SUITES:**

Located in the heart of Whitehorse, Raven Inn & Suites is just a short drive from top attractions. This boutique hotel offers both traditional hotel rooms and apartment-style suites with fully equipped kitchens, living areas, and separate bedrooms, ideal for families or extended stays. Enjoy a meal at the Railwork Lounge, where chefs serve dishes like Gold Rush waffle sticks made with a 126-year-old sourdough starter.

[raveninn.com](http://raveninn.com)

## **SOUTHERN LAKES RESORT:**

Less than a two-hour drive from Whitehorse, this is your perfect base for exploring the Yukon’s rugged beauty. Picture yourself on your cabin balcony,

overlooking towering mountains and Tagish Lake, surrounded by pure nature and fresh northern air. In the summer, unwind in the new outdoor barrel sauna or join guided hiking, ATV, and fishing tours. This winter, book the new Family Retreat Cabin with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a private outdoor hot tub, and enjoy guided dogsledging and snowmobiling adventures.

[southernlakesresort.com](http://southernlakesresort.com)

## **MOUNT LOGAN ECOLOGE AND RETREAT CENTRE:**

Nestled at the foot of towering mountains near Kluane National Park and Reserve, Mount Logan Ecolodge offers rustic elegance with a homey feel. Recent renovations include a newly enclosed deck, now a cozy living and dining area with stunning panoramic views. Enjoy northern cuisine with gourmet breakfasts and three-course dinners made from locally sourced ingredients. Guided tours and activities are available year-round.

[mountloganlodge.com](http://mountloganlodge.com)

## **YUKON SPACES (DAWSON LODGE AND YUKON SPA):**

The owners of Dawson City’s top-rated accommodation in 2022 and 2023 (Dawson Lodge), opened Canada’s northernmost day spa in June 2024. The spa offers an outdoor swim spa, hot tub, and sauna for northern lights viewing, along with an indoor sauna, steam room, and sensory deprivation tank. Services include massage, acupuncture, advanced aesthetics, and holistic therapies. The onsite café serves an all plant-based menu. Enhance your stay with tours of the northern lights, Tombstone Territorial Park, and the Tr’ondëk-Klondike UNESCO World Heritage Site.

[yukonspaces.com](http://yukonspaces.com)

# Thrilling Adventures

Whether you’re looking to fill up a few hours or entire days, these businesses provide plenty of inspiration for your adventures and explorations.

## **MUKTUK ADVENTURES AND SKY HIGH WILDERNESS:**

Explore Yukon landscapes with Muktuk’s canine companions. Hike along the Takhini River and through the boreal forest, or try dog-powered fat biking in the fall. Sky High Wilderness Ranch, recently purchased by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, is located in the historically significant Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area. Enjoy hikes through the Fish Lake region and look for new cultural experiences coming soon.

[muktuk.com / skyhighwilderness.com](http://muktuk.com / skyhighwilderness.com)

## **TAGISH WILDERNESS KENNEL GLAMPING:**

Experience a unique winter camping adventure with two nights in a deluxe heated tent. Enjoy day trips with sled dogs, moonlit snowshoeing, meals, and an overnight guide.

[tagishlakekennel.com](http://tagishlakekennel.com)

## **TERRE BOREALE:**

Owners Milena and Max craft your dream adventure with nature leading the way. As Yukon’s first accredited B Corp tour operator and a Rainbow Registered company, they excel with small groups of six or less to minimize environmental impact. Their cuisine emphasizes local, organic ingredients with a zero-waste philosophy. Private groups can book a 5-day Winter Escape in February, featuring three nights at a fly-in remote lodge on a private island near Big Salmon Lake, with full catering and guided activities.

[terreboreale.com](http://terreboreale.com)



CREDIT: TAYLOR BURK

**BLACK SPRUCE**



CREDIT: YUKON SPA

**YUKON SPA**



CREDIT: PETE O'HARA AND JENNA DIXON

**SOUTHERN LAKES RESORT**



CREDIT: TAYLOR BURK

**ECLIPSE NORDIC HOT SPRINGS**

## **ECLIPSE NORDIC HOT SPRINGS:**

Eclipse, built on the historic Takhini Hot Springs site, blends Japanese, Turkish, and Nordic design for a unique Boreal experience. This adult-only luxury facility features four natural mineral hot spring pools with minimal chlorination, custom heated loungers, saunas, a steam room, Japanese clay tubs, cedar hot tubs, a cold plunge pool, a snow rolling area, fire bowls, and mud rolling. Guests can also enjoy barefoot walks around the property, along with complimentary yoga and meditation classes.

[eclipsenordichotspots.com](http://eclipsenordichotspots.com)

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# Indigenous Yukon

Elders say that the First Nations people have always been here. Origin stories tell of the beginning of time when Raven, Earth Mother and other powerful beings made the world safe for people, and oral traditions and archaeological evidence document the ways of Indigenous ancestors on this land for more than 12,000 years. They followed well-defined seasonal rounds, knowing the best places to hunt, fish and gather food and other resources needed throughout the year.

Today in the Yukon, 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations have signed Self-Governing Agreements. They are responsible for their own resource management, economic and social programs, combining traditional activities on the land with entrepreneurial and administrative skills in businesses, government and tourism. Visitors receive a warm welcome at all local First Nations regional cultural centres and festivals across the Yukon.

## YUKON FIRST NATIONS CULTURE AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION:

This group works on behalf of the Yukon's growing Indigenous tourism industry, representing tour operators, Cultural Centres, artists, festivals and other Indigenous experience providers. In 2023, YFNCT was proud to release "Walk With Us — Respectful Travel Guidelines," developed over three years with consultation by Elders and knowledge keepers, representing all eight language groups in the Yukon. These Guidelines, intended to help create awareness on how visitors and locals can travel with care and respect in the region while showing respectful curiosity about culture, heritage, the people, and the land, are a foundational piece of our tourism eco-system.

[yfnc.ca](http://yfnc.ca)

## EXPERIENCES

### CARCROSS COMMONS:

A treasure trove of artisans, a hub for magnificent carved totem poles, plus a restaurant, playground, and more make up this historic destination. The Tagish First Nation Carving Centre is a must-see, with lead carver Keith Wolfe Smarch heading the carving program and overseeing junior carvers working on a variety of items, including large poles. Watch them at work and learn about this unique art form.

[travelyukon.com/en/discover/yukon-story/the-master-carver/](http://travelyukon.com/en/discover/yukon-story/the-master-carver/)  
[destinationcarcross.ca](http://destinationcarcross.ca)

### EPIC NORTH:

Whitehorse-based Epic North has introduced a new 8-day/7-night tour, "The Spirit of the North — A Yukon Adventure with Indigenous Cultural Experiences." This tour, running May through September, highlights Yukon First Nation cultures and explores Carcross, Kluane National Park and Reserve, and Dawson City, offering a deep dive into the region's rich history and heritage.

[epic-north.com](http://epic-north.com)

### FISHHAWK CHARTERS:

Experience world-class sport fishing at Teslin Lake, surrounded by pristine wilderness and abundant wildlife. Guided by Kayne Geddes, a local expert and Tlingit First Nation member, you'll fish for lake trout, Northern pike, Inconnu, and grayling while learning about the area's Indigenous culture, history, and stories.

[indigenouslyukon.ca/things-to-do/operators/fishhawk-charters](http://indigenouslyukon.ca/things-to-do/operators/fishhawk-charters)

### LONG AGO PEOPLES PLACE:

This recreation of a traditional First Nations Village, located just off the Alaska Highway near Champagne (between Whitehorse and Haines Junction), has been educating visitors from around the world since 1995 about Southern Tutchone history and culture. Tour traditional living structures, tools and hunting recreations, partake in a medicinal plant tour and talk, and enjoy bannock and tea while chatting with hosts Harold Johnson and Meta Williams.

Open year round (in winter, by appointment).

[yukonfirstnationculture.com](http://yukonfirstnationculture.com)

### NORTHERN NOMAD:

Led by sustainability expert Candace Dow, this Indigenous-owned eco-tourism company offers multi-day adventures focused on wellness, nature, and Indigenous experiences. In winter, enjoy "pod cabin" accommodations with activities like yoga, snowshoeing with horses, or night skiing under the aurora. In June, experience Glacier Flow, a yoga and ski adventure in the St. Elias Mountains of Kluane National Park and Reserve, with a base-camp near Mount Logan, Canada's tallest peak. In July, join the Cassiar Cleanse, a yoga and horse-back adventure in the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena in southern Yukon and northern BC.

[northernnomadoutdoors.com](http://northernnomadoutdoors.com)

### TUTCHONE TOURS:

Offers a Full-Day River Boat Tour from Minto Landing to the historic Fort Selkirk, as well as a Two-Night Weekend Tour from Friday to Sunday, all-inclusive. Each option features a one-hour boat ride to spot mountain Dall sheep, moose, and other wildlife along the riverbank. Guests will also learn about the history and culture of the Northern Tutchone people with local Indigenous guides.

[tutchonetours.com](http://tutchonetours.com)

### WHO WHAT WHERE TOURS:

This local and Indigenous-owned company offers year-round, licensed tours, including tours of Whitehorse, Carcross/Southern Lakes, a Yukon Waterways: Miles Canyon & Emerald Lake adventure, and more.

[whitehorsetours.com](http://whitehorsetours.com)

### TRANSFORMATIONS ALONG THE CHU NIKKWAN (YUKON RIVER)

Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm starting at the Visitor Centre June through August. Join Amber Berard-Althouse on this free weekly walk and learn about the Yukon First Nations People and the history of the Yukon. Amber is a Citizen of the Kluane First Nation and her passion for medicinal plants often plays a part in her tours.

In winter, private tours are available by appointment.

### YUKON ROOTS

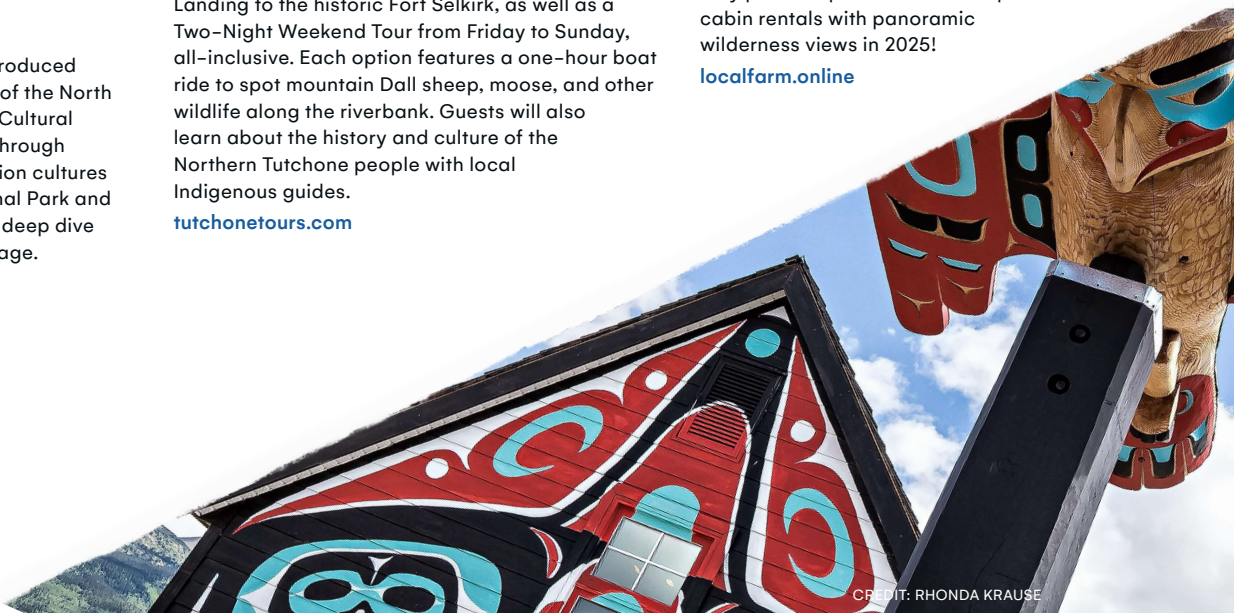
Founded in September 2024 by Nicole Nielsen, a Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Citizen, and her husband, Reuben, Yukon Roots offers guided hiking, boating, fishing, and sightseeing tours around Whitehorse, Carcross, and Haines Junction. Lifelong Yukoners, Nicole and Reuben share their love for the land through authentic, guided experiences that connect visitors to the beauty and spirit of the Yukon.

[yukonroots.com](http://yukonroots.com)

### TAKHINI RIVER RANCH

Scott and Jackie Dickson, longtime Yukoners, own this working ranch on Ta'an Kwäch'an territory in the Takhini River Valley, located just outside of Whitehorse. Scott, a Ta'an Kwäch'an Council Member and trained butcher, oversees the farm-to-table process—from growing feed and raising animals to processing meat on-site. Their popular meat pies, smokies, and jerky, made with Yukon-sourced ingredients, are sold in Whitehorse and online. Known for their "Pigs and Rigs" catering, they plan to open a new event space and cabin rentals with panoramic wilderness views in 2025!

[localfarm.online](http://localfarm.online)



# Festivals & Fun Facts

The Yukon draws crowds from all over the world — and not only for its epic landscapes, outdoor adventure, and aurora viewing, but also for its year-round festivals. Summer in the territory is a blast, with the midnight sun and endless festivities. When the cool weather rolls in, the party keeps going with dog sled races, music and film festivals, hockey tournaments, and more — there's something for everyone!

## ADAKA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Every June, the Adäka Cultural Festival in Whitehorse lights up with First Nations storytelling, singing, artwork, dancing, and drumming. Hosted by the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, it's a celebration of Indigenous cultures from Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Alaska. Dive into vibrant performances, workshops, artist demos, and cultural presentations, and connect with Indigenous traditions and perspectives.

[adakafestival.ca](http://adakafestival.ca)

## PRIDE FESTIVAL

Yukon's Pride Festival, hosted by Queer Yukon, happens in Dawson City, Whitehorse, and Watson Lake from late June to mid-August. With events like Drag Queen brunches and Queers & Beers brewery gatherings, it's all about celebrating the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with fun and flair.

[queeryukon.com](http://queeryukon.com)

## THAW DI GRAS

Come March, Dawson City heats up as the ice melts! Thaw di Gras is a one-of-a-kind spring carnival with adult tricycle races, road hockey, dog sled races, log tosses, and snow sculpture competitions. It's the ultimate end-of-winter party.

[dawsoncity.ca](http://dawsoncity.ca)

## YUKON RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL

Beat the cabin fever blues every February at the Yukon Rendezvous Festival in Whitehorse. From the elegant Rendezvous Queen events to the wacky Sourdough Sam contest, this festival is packed with quirky competitions like chainsaw chucking and dog howling. Celebrate the Yukon's vibrant culture with traditional games, dog sledding, snow carving, and, of course, sourdough pancake breakfasts. Sourdough bread, a gold rush staple, takes centre stage in this festival that's all about the spirit and history of the North.

[yukonrendezvous.com](http://yukonrendezvous.com)

## DAWSON CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since its humble beginnings in 1979 with a jam session on a West Dawson farm and a dance at Diamond Tooth Gertie's, the Dawson City Music Festival has become a legendary event. Taking place over several days in July, the festival is famous for its intimate setting, grassroots vibe, and fabulous Klondike hospitality.

[dcmf.com](http://dcmf.com)

- › THE YUKON IS ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, BUT THE YUKON HAS A POPULATION OF 46,000, WHILE APPROXIMATELY 40 MILLION PEOPLE RESIDE IN CALIFORNIA.
- › THERE ARE TWICE AS MANY MOOSE AS PEOPLE IN THE YUKON.
- › THE YUKON IS SITUATED DIRECTLY UNDER THE AURORA OVAL, THE AREA SURROUNDING EARTH'S GEOMAGNETIC NORTH POLE WHERE AURORA ACTIVITY IS BEST AND BRIGHTEST, FROM LATE AUGUST TO MID-APRIL.
- › THE YUKON HAS CANADA'S TALLEST MOUNTAIN, THE COUNTRY'S SECOND LONGEST RIVER, AND THE LARGEST NONPOLAR ICEFIELD IN THE WORLD.
- › GOLD WAS DISCOVERED IN AND SURROUNDING THE KLONDIKE RIVER IN 1896 AND RESULTED IN THE HISTORIC KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH BETWEEN 1896 AND 1899.
- › THE 458-MILE UNPAVED DEMPSTER HIGHWAY IS THE ONLY PUBLIC ROAD IN CANADA THAT CROSSES THE ARCTIC CIRCLE AND IS OPEN YEAR-ROUND.
- › SMALL BUT MIGHTY! ALTHOUGH THE YUKON IS 1/3 THE SIZE OF CANADA'S LARGEST PROVINCE, QUEBEC, IT BOASTS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN ALL OF CANADA.



CREDIT: CATHIE ARCHBOULD

## Tr'ondëk-Klondike UNESCO Designation

In 2023, a Yukon locale earned a coveted spot on the esteemed United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage site is comprised of eight distinct heritage locations in the Dawson City area: Fort Reliance; Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile); Ch'édähdëk Tih'an K'et (Dënezhu Graveyard); Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine; Tr'ochëk; Dawson City; Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it (Moosehide Village); and Jëjik Dhä Tthe Zra'y Kek'it (Black City). These sites collectively total 334 hectares of land.

The unique cultural makeup of the region is the product of the coexistence of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and settlers over the last 150 years. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experience and adaptation to European settler colonialism marked the landscape with distinct cultural heritage attributes that remain to this day.