

# Planning a trip to Tombstone Territorial Park

Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän - "Ragged mountain land"

2026

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



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# Park overview

Where else in the world can you drive to where boreal forest meets both alpine and Arctic tundra? Tombstone Territorial Park protects 2,200 km<sup>2</sup> of unique wilderness at this continental zone of transition. Rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and a diverse host of flora and fauna are reflected in a rich First Nations culture. The Dempster Highway traverses the park south to north and provides an unequalled opportunity to view stunning arctic tundra landscapes and wildlife, as well as access to hiking.



The park is a legacy of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation's Land Claims Agreement and lies entirely within their Traditional Territory. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have used the area for over 8,000 years. The availability of raw materials for tools and the abundance of subsistence resources including caribou, moose, fish and furbearers gives it immense value. The area also was, and still is, used by the Tukudh Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in. Today's Indigenous people continue this ancient use of the land.

Tombstone Territorial Park is a remote area. Allow flexibility for delays. There are no coffee shops, food services, banking, RV dump stations, telephones or cell service. Come prepared! Bring extra fuel, at least one spare tire, and emergency equipment.

## How to get there

Tombstone Territorial Park is located 585 kms north of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada on the Dempster Highway. The Dempster Highway is a gravel road starting 40 kms from Dawson City and is the only road in Canada that crosses the Arctic Circle. Park boundaries are between kms 50 and 120 on this highway.

The Dempster Highway crosses the Arctic Circle (km 406) and ends in Inuvik, NWT (km 733). Road conditions can change drastically, ranging from very muddy and slippery to dry and dusty. Be prepared to pull over for approaching trucks and use highway pull-outs to safely stop and admire the view. On the lower Dempster, fuel is only available at Km 0 and 371. The newly completed "Road to Tuk" is an additional 149 kilometres and is the first all-weather road to Canada's Arctic Coast.

If you have any questions about travelling on to the Northwest Territories via the Dempster Highway, you can visit the NWT Visitor Information Centre in Dawson City. You can also give them a call at 867-993-6167 (May to September). The highway to Inuvik and beyond to Tuktoyaktuk is open year round although may have closures due to high winds, snowfall, flooding and seasonally at two river crossings.



## More information:

Park information, events, backcountry registration:

[Hike and camp at Tombstone Territorial Park](#)

Highway conditions: [www.511yukon.ca](http://www.511yukon.ca) and [Road to Tuk Highway Conditions](#)

Air travel, buses and vehicle rentals: [Tourism and Culture](#)

## Harvesting activities

Visitors may encounter First Nation subsistence hunters or licenced resident hunters within park boundaries, usually in the fall. When you see our friends or families hunting moose or caribou, please be respectful. You are witnessing an important part of northern culture.



**Traditional harvesting activities** such as subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and collection of medicinal plants are examples of harvesting activities that may occur year round throughout the park. The park has sustained the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation for many generations. Elders teach children traditional practices and stewardship through camps on the land. Please respect traditional activities and avoid disturbing or interfering with the rightful use of these resources.

For more information about First Nations history and culture please visit [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#), the Tombstone Interpretive Centre or the Dänoja Zho Cultural Centre in Dawson City.

## Seasonal activities

### Spring

- Frontcountry campground services open early May.
- Interpretive Centre opens May 16, 2026.
- Wildlife viewing, excellent birding.
- Limited hiking, some trails may still be closed due to wet, snowy conditions.
- Backcountry is closed.



## Summer

- Front and backcountry trails and campgrounds are open.
- Alpine flowers at their peak near summer solstice. Weekly interpretive programming and special events.
- Hiking, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, backcountry hiking.

## Fall

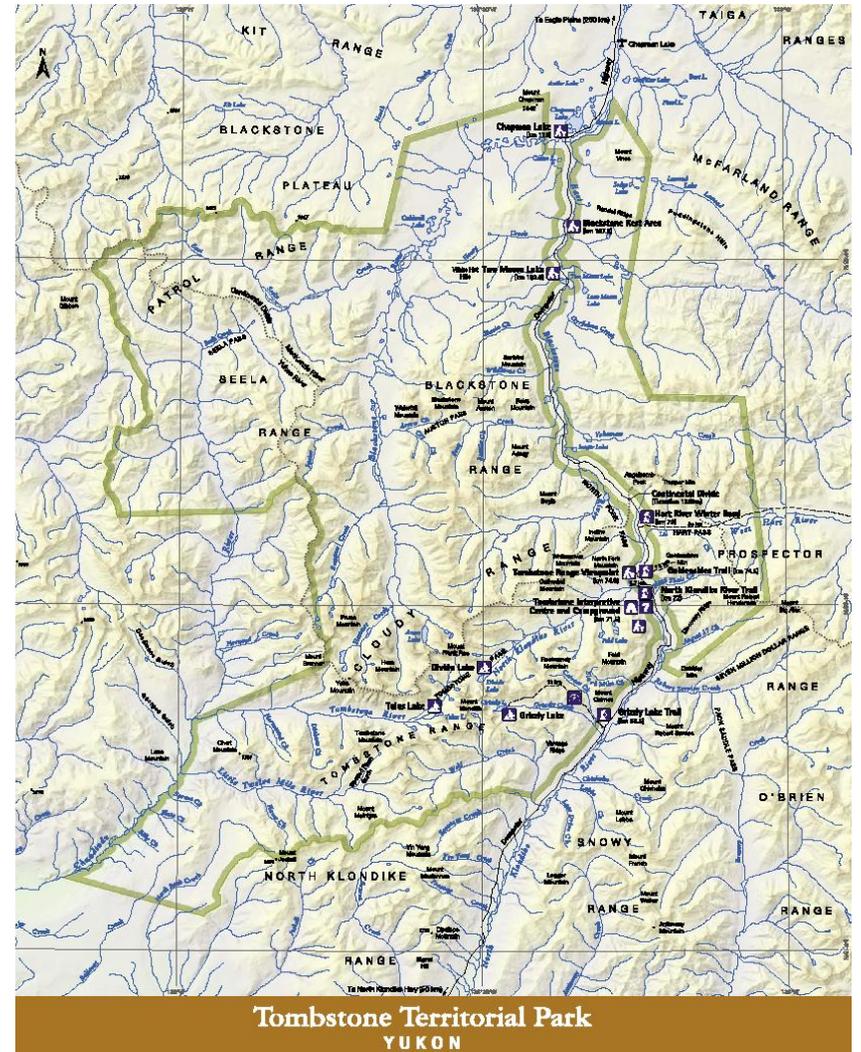
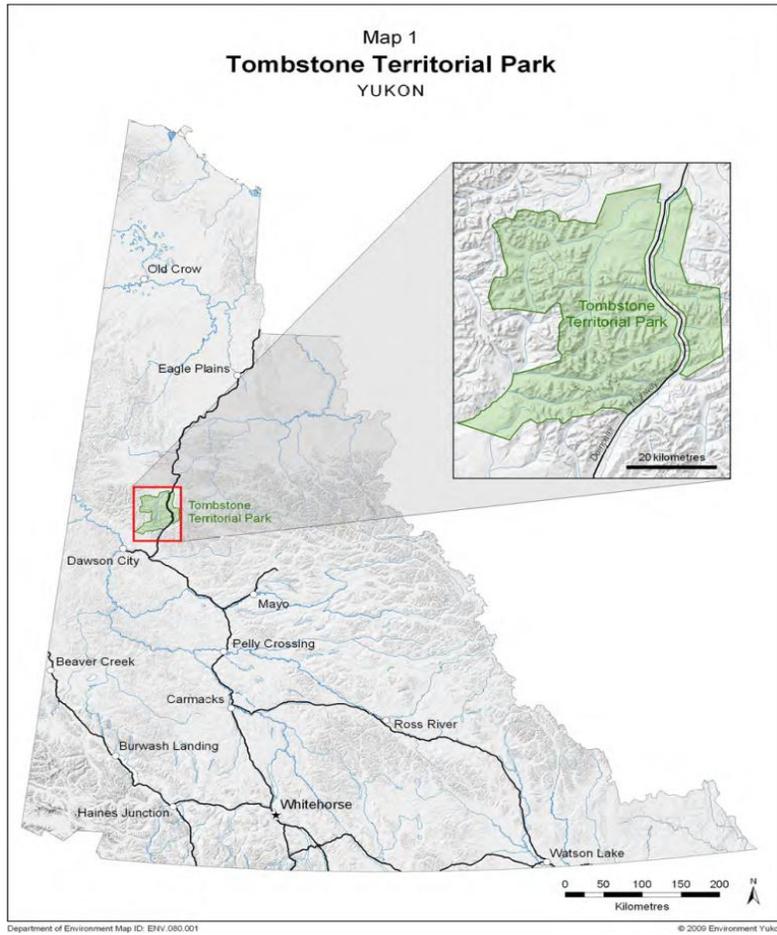
- Hunting season starts August 1 for licensed resident hunters; year-round for area First Nations. For information, see the [Yukon hunting regulations](#) summary.
- Fall is early, colours starting mid-August. Weekly interpretive programming and special events.
- Hiking, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing.
- Interpretive Centre closes Sept. 20, 2026, campground un-serviced after October 1, 2026.

## Winter

- Frontcountry and backcountry facilities un-serviced.
- Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, dog sledding.
- Use of snow machines in designated areas.
- Winter road conditions: [www.511yukon.ca](http://www.511yukon.ca).
- More information, including weather and park avalanche terrain guide: [Weather and Avalanche Information](#).



## Maps



[yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-tombstone-territorial-park-map.pdf](http://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-tombstone-territorial-park-map.pdf)



# Frontcountry facilities

## Roadside facilities

### Grizzly Lake Trailhead (km 58.5)

Day use area and trail with parking, picnic tables, outhouse and bear-proof garbage bins.

### Tädèhcha trail – Beaver Pond trail (km 71.5)

Trailhead with parking, outhouse and a bear-proof garbage bin nearby. 1 hour - 1.1 km return - easy.

### Tombstone Interpretive Centre (km 71.5)

Join us for wild mountain tea and plan your park experience. Park services, interpretive programs and exhibits, washrooms, parking, picnic tables, access to trails, Wi-Fi. Open everyday from mid May to mid September, 9am to 5pm.

### Tombstone Mountain Campground (km 72)

A campground with tenting, pull-in, pull-through, accessible and group sites. Facilities include parking, outhouses, recycling and garbage bins, bear-proof food storage, a kitchen shelter, interpretive hub, access to the Tombstone Interpretive Centre and trails.

### Tr'ondëk Do trail – Klondike River trail (km 72)

Trailhead located in the Tombstone Mountain Campground. Parking, picnic tables, outhouses, bear proof garbage bins nearby. 1 to 2 hours - 3.4 km return - easy.

### Dëchin Käk – Arctic Plain interpretive loop trail (km 72)

Trailhead located in the Tombstone Mountain Campground. Parking, picnic tables, outhouses, bear proof garbage bins nearby. 0.5 hours - 0.5km return - easy.

### Tombstone Mountain Viewpoint (km 74)

Spectacular iconic views of the North Klondike valley, Tombstone Mountain and nearby peaks. Viewpoint, parking, interpretive panels, bearproof garbage bins.



## Goldensides Mountain Trailhead (km 74.4)

Viewpoint, parking, information kiosk, picnic table and bear-proof garbage bin. 2 to 3 hours - 5 km return - moderate.

## Hart River Winter Road/trail (km 78.2)

Parking. Up to 6 hours - 20 km return - easy.

## Continental Divide (km 80)

Pullout. This point marks the boundary between the Yukon River and Peel River watersheds. Water flowing south eventually reaches the Bering Sea, while water flowing north drains into the Beaufort Sea.

## Two Moose Lake (km 102)

Viewing platform overlooking the lake with opportunities to see moose and birds. Interpretive panels, bear proof garbage bins.

## Blackstone Rest Area (km 107.5)

Rest stop with outhouses, interpretive panels, and bear-proof garbage bins.

## Chapman Lake - North Portal (km 116)

Interpretive stop with panels, a park portal sign, and bear-proof garbage bins.

## Tombstone Interpretive Centre

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre is at km 71.5 on the Dempster Highway. The centre is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from May 16 to September 20. The centre is a great base to orient yourself and get the most out of your stay. Interpretive exhibits and daily interpretive programs are offered during the operating season that celebrate the unique natural and cultural history of the park.



Park interpreters are here to help you understand, appreciate and take care of the park. This is where you will receive information about hiking or for your backcountry trip and it is where you can purchase guidebooks, maps, fishing licenses and other souvenirs. The centre is **cash only**.

Services include parking, toilets and interpretive trails. There is no cell phone service. This is a remote area – leave your cell phone behind and truly immerse yourself in the park!

See [Events](#) to check for special events at the centre.



## Frontcountry camping

**Tombstone Mountain Campground** is the only highway accessible campground in Tombstone. It is located at km 72 on the Dempster Highway. There are 12 walk-in tent sites, 35 pull-in sites, 1 pull through site, and 3 group campsites. Facilities include covered picnic shelters, a campfire presentation circle, outhouses, picnic tables and firewood. Obtain and pay for your campsite permits at the information kiosk in the campground.



50 per cent of campsites are first come, first serve. Online campsite reservations are now available for Tombstone Mountain Campground at [Campsite reservations | Government of Yukon](#).

**Tombstone Mountain Campground is popular and fills up daily. Reserve a spot online or arrive early to secure a spot!**

## Camping fees

Individual & commercial campsite permit fees

- Fees apply to obtain a campsite permit from May 1 to September 30. All fees include GST:
- Cash, paid on site: \$20
- Advanced payment by nightly camping voucher: \$18
- Advanced payment using the [reservation system](#): \$18
- An additional \$10 service fee applies to backcountry campground reservations
- Advanced payment by annual camping voucher (Yukon residents only): \$200
- Yukon residents ages 65 and over get a 50% discount on all campsite permits, camping vouchers and online reservations.
- Everyone must get a campsite permit each stay including outside the time period when fees apply.
- Annual camping vouchers cannot be used to obtain a campsite permit for backcountry campgrounds.

\* Most roadside campgrounds are open early May to end of September. Visit [Yukon.ca](#) for campground status.



## Visitor safety and emergency services

### Visitor safety

Tombstone Territorial Park is a remote area without food, gas or phone service. You must be completely self-sufficient and bring all required food supplies, water purification, survival, safety and emergency equipment with you. Leave a trip plan with a friend or family member and be aware that spot and satellite phone connection is not always reliable due to the large mountain ranges.

**Park alerts**      [yukon.ca/find-campground-or-recreation-site](http://yukon.ca/find-campground-or-recreation-site)

### Emergency medical services (EMS)

Tombstone is a remote area, and medical services are based 585 km away in Whitehorse.

### Emergency phone numbers

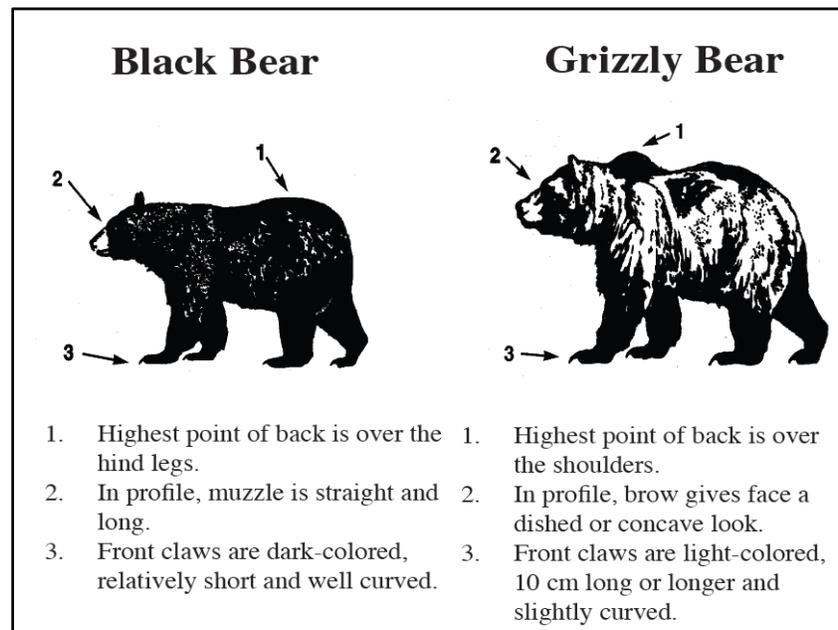
<b>Medical emergencies</b>	867-667-3333
<b>Police / Search and rescue</b>	867-993-5555
<b>North Region Park Rangers</b>	867- 993-7899 867-993-3877 (after hours)
<b>Conservation officers</b>	Toll free (in Yukon, NWT & Nunavut only) 1-800-661-0408 (ext. 8005) 867-993-5492 (local)
<b>TIPP Line</b>	1-800-661-0525 (in Yukon, NWT & Nunavut only)
<b>Forest fires</b>	1-888-798-3473
<b>Yukon Parks office, Dawson City</b>	867-993-7714
<b>Yukon Parks office, Whitehorse</b>	867-667-5648 Toll free (in Yukon, NWT & Nunavut only): 1-800-661-0408 (ext. 5648)



## Bear safety

### Be bear aware

- Be on the lookout for fresh bear tracks and signs, such as scat or rub trees.
- Avoid areas with circling ravens as this can indicate the presence of a carcass.
- If a bear is present, use extra caution.  
**Stay alert and don't camp in the area!**



### Reduce odours in camp

This includes items like toothpaste, sunscreen, creams etc.

Don't surprise a bear.

Scan the area before you begin walking. Shout or sing in forested areas or beside noisy streams. Stay alert and look all around you. **Domestic animals and livestock must be physically controlled at all times in all areas of the park unless authorized by a park permit.**

Carry bear spray.

Keep it easily accessible and know how to use it. Do not spray your tent or body with it. Bear spray is a last resort. It is designed to be sprayed directly into the bear's face from less than 5 metres away.

Don't approach a bear.



If you see a bear, do not approach for a better photo. Take a different route or leave the area.

Never eat or store food in your tent! All wildlife attractants must be stored in hard-sided bear-resistant canisters.

**In the backcountry**, keep items with odour in air-tight containers, such as Zip-Lock bags, and store in a park- approved hard-shelled bear-proof canister. Store the canister 100 m downwind from camp.

**In campgrounds**, never leave food, garbage or other attractants in your campsite unattended, even for a few minutes. Store these in bear-proof food lockers, food hangers, or in your vehicle. Do not bring food or attractants into your tent. A cooler or action packer is **not** bear proof!

## Learn more

Learn about bear behaviour before your trip and what to do if you see one. Check the wildlife sightings and bear information board at the Interpretive Centre. For more information read [How to Stay Safe in Bear Country](#) (also in German / French) and view the video *Staying Safe in Bear Country: A Behavioral-Based Approach to Reducing Risk* at any Yukon Visitor Information Centre, public library, Tombstone Interpretive Centre, or purchase a copy at [www.bearsmart.com](http://www.bearsmart.com).

## Bear-resistant food canisters

All wildlife attractants must be stored in hard-sided bear-resistant canisters. Yukon Parks approves hard shelled bear-resistant food canisters and not soft bags. These are **mandatory** for all backcountry travel to both protect wildlife and your food supply. Purchase your own at [mec.ca](http://mec.ca), or Coast Mountain Sports in Whitehorse or rent from [Klondike Experience](#) in Dawson or [Changing Gear](#) in Whitehorse.

This not only benefits you but also helps keep bears and other animals from becoming conditioned toward backpackers as a food source. Bears who learn that backpackers carry easily accessible food can become increasingly aggressive in raiding backpackers' equipment.

Food conditioned bears may have to be relocated or destroyed due to the high risk of danger associated with such bears. With the addition of only 2.5 lbs., you can do your part to save the bears. These canisters are also useful for protecting your food from gnawing rodents and other furry creatures who would rather chew through your backpack than dig up a tuber. They can also be used as a handy backcountry chair.

## How it works:

Store all food, toothpaste, sunscreen, bug spray and anything else that smells in the canister. Store the closed container in a bear proof locker or, if not available, 100 metres away from your sleeping area. If a bear finds it, do not risk provoking the bear by attempting to take the

container away from the bear. These containers easily withstand a bear's pawing, chewing and kicking. The bear will eventually lose interest in it and leave it alone.

- **This canister is not smell proof or waterproof. Keep food in Ziplock bags within the container to reduce odours and keep food dry.**
- **Weight:** 2.5 pounds
- **Dimensions:** 8.8" diameter x 12" long; walls 3/16" thick.
- **Capacity:** If using dehydrated food, this canister holds approximately 6 person-days of food (i.e., 3 people for 2 days; or 2 people for 3 days; or 1 person for 6 days; etc.)
- **Transportation:** It is designed to fit in a backpack, preferably vertically, for access to food.



Visit <http://www.backpackerscache.com/> or <https://bearvault.com/>



## Park Rules and Regulations

### Tombstone Territorial Park specific rules

The Tombstone Park Management Committee asks that visitors show respect for the park and the homeland of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Visitors must follow all park specific rules in addition to the rules under the Parks and Land Certainty Act and its regulations.



## Welcome to / Bienvenue à Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän Tombstone Territorial Park



### Tombstone Territorial Park specific rules Règlements spécifiques du parc territorial Tombstone

- 

A permit is required for all overnight camping, not just in the campgrounds.  
Il est obligatoire de détenir un permis pour faire du camping, et ce, dans l'entière du parc.
- 

All excrement from domestic animals must be picked up and disposed of in a garbage bin.  
Tous les excréments d'animaux de compagnie doivent être ramassés et jetés à la poubelle.
- 

Domestic animals and livestock must be physically controlled at all times in all areas of the park unless authorized by a park permit.  
Les animaux de compagnie et le bétail doivent être contrôlés physiquement en tout temps dans tout le parc, à moins qu'un permis n'autorise le contraire.
- 

From May 1 to September 30, a campfire may only be made within a designated fire ring.  
Du 1er mai au 30 septembre, il n'est permis de faire un feu que dans les foyers aménagés à cet effet.
- 

Off-road vehicles are prohibited, except on the Hart River Winter Road/Trail.  
Les véhicules hors route sont interdits, sauf sur la route d'hiver de la rivière Hart.
- 

Livestock, including horses, are prohibited on designated hiking trails and designated routes.  
Le bétail, y compris les chevaux, est interdit sur les sentiers et les parcours de randonnée désignés.
- 

Flying drones in the park is prohibited, unless authorized by a park permit.  
Il est interdit de piloter un drone dans le parc, à moins d'avoir un permis.

Learn more  
Pour en savoir plus



The Tombstone Park Management Committee asks that visitors show respect for the park and the homeland of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Visitors must follow all park specific rules in addition to the rules under the Parks and Land Certainty Act and its regulations.  
Le Comité de gestion du parc Tombstone demande aux visiteurs de faire preuve de respect envers le parc et la terre natale des Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Les visiteurs doivent respecter tous les règlements propres au parc, en plus de ceux prévus par la Loi sur les parcs et la certitude des terres et son règlement.

## Travelling with dogs

Domestic animals and livestock must be physically controlled at all times in all areas of the park unless authorized by a park permit. An animal is physically controlled if the animal is on a leash held by a person; securely tethered to an immovable stationary object; or, confined within a camping accommodation unit, crate, vehicle or other thing capable of keeping the animal confined. Doggie bags are available at most trail heads. All dog excrement must be packed out or deposited down the outhouse hole. Do not put the bag down the outhouse hole.



Due to the sensitive habitats and relatively short summer season, it is very important to reduce disturbances by dogs to wildlife.

Dogs may carry diseases and parasites that can endanger wildlife and humans. Dogs **must** be leashed at all times to reduce impacts to plants, animals and other hikers. Animals have a very short season to prepare for winter. It is important that wildlife conserve and use their energy gathering food and raising young rather than spending the afternoon running away from our amused pets.

## Historical and cultural resources

There are many historical and cultural resources in the park. It is illegal to damage or remove any of them. Please treat all sites with the respect they deserve and leave them as is.

Visit [Heritage Guidelines](#) for information.



## Wildlife sightings

Keep your distance from **all** wildlife. Do not feed wildlife and do not let your pets harass them.

Use binoculars and spotting scopes for closer study. This is to protect you and to protect their wildness. If you find bones or antlers, please leave these in place. Many animals gnaw on these to provide much needed calcium and other nutrients. We invite you to share all your wildlife sightings with park staff. Information you provide is valuable for data purposes.

Visit [Wildlife Viewing](#) for more information on wildlife viewing tips and etiquette.

## Leave no trace

### What is leave no trace?

It means exactly what you might think! To enjoy your wilderness or outdoor camping adventure to the fullest and afterwards leave no sign that you were ever there.

### Why is it important?

Wilderness travel is becoming increasingly popular. More visitors result in more impact. Using Leave No Trace practices will protect the unique features and wilderness of the Yukon. If you are doing a wilderness trip you must practice “leave no trace” principles.



Alpine, subalpine and areas of permafrost are among the most fragile ecosystems due to severe weather conditions, soil instability and a short growing season. What may seem like a harmless activity can cause long term damage.

### Keep it wild:

1. **Plan ahead and prepare** to leave no trace.
2. **Travel and camp on durable surfaces.** Use existing trails and campsites. In pristine areas spread out on durable ground. Avoid walking or camping in fragile, wet meadow areas.
3. **Dispose of waste properly.** Pack it in, pack it out. When outhouses are not available, cover human waste in a small “cat” hole at least 60 m from water, camp and trails.
4. **Leave what you find.** Leave natural, historical and cultural artifacts and sites undisturbed.
5. **Minimize campfire impacts.** Use stoves or designated fire rings in Tombstone Mountain Campground. Outside of Tombstone Campground use lightweight camp stoves. Fires should only be used for emergency situations.
6. **Respect wildlife.** Observe from a distance using binoculars or scopes. Never feed them. Keep pets on a leash and under control at all times.
7. **Be considerate** of other visitors and residents. Many folks come for solitude and tranquility.

For Yukon-specific tips on how to leave no trace, read [Into the Yukon Wilderness](#) (also in German, French and Japanese) and visit [Yukon.ca](#). Additional resources are [Leave No Trace](#), [WildWise](#) and [Heritage Guidelines](#).

# Permits and licences

## Camping permits

Tombstone Territorial Park has only one highway accessible campground, the Tombstone Mountain Campground (km 72 Dempster Highway), and three hike-in backcountry campgrounds at Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lakes. Campsite permits are required for all campgrounds. See [page 11, Frontcountry camping fees](#) for more information.

Fees are \$ 20/site, \$18/site if purchased online.

A general permit is required for all overnight camping outside of campgrounds. There are no fees for a General Permit. For more information on park permits go to:

<https://yukon.ca/en/doing-business/permits-and-licensing/get-territorial-park-permit>

## Park permits

### What is a park permit?

A park permit is a permit required to engage in certain activities, uses, occupation and developments within Yukon territorial parks, including, but not limited to:

- taking-off or landing of an aircraft, and flying a drone
- commercial filming or photography
- research and educational activities
- exploration for or harvesting of natural resources
- occupation and development of land
- commercial recreation
- special events, gatherings or programs
- recreational activities by large groups of people
- camping

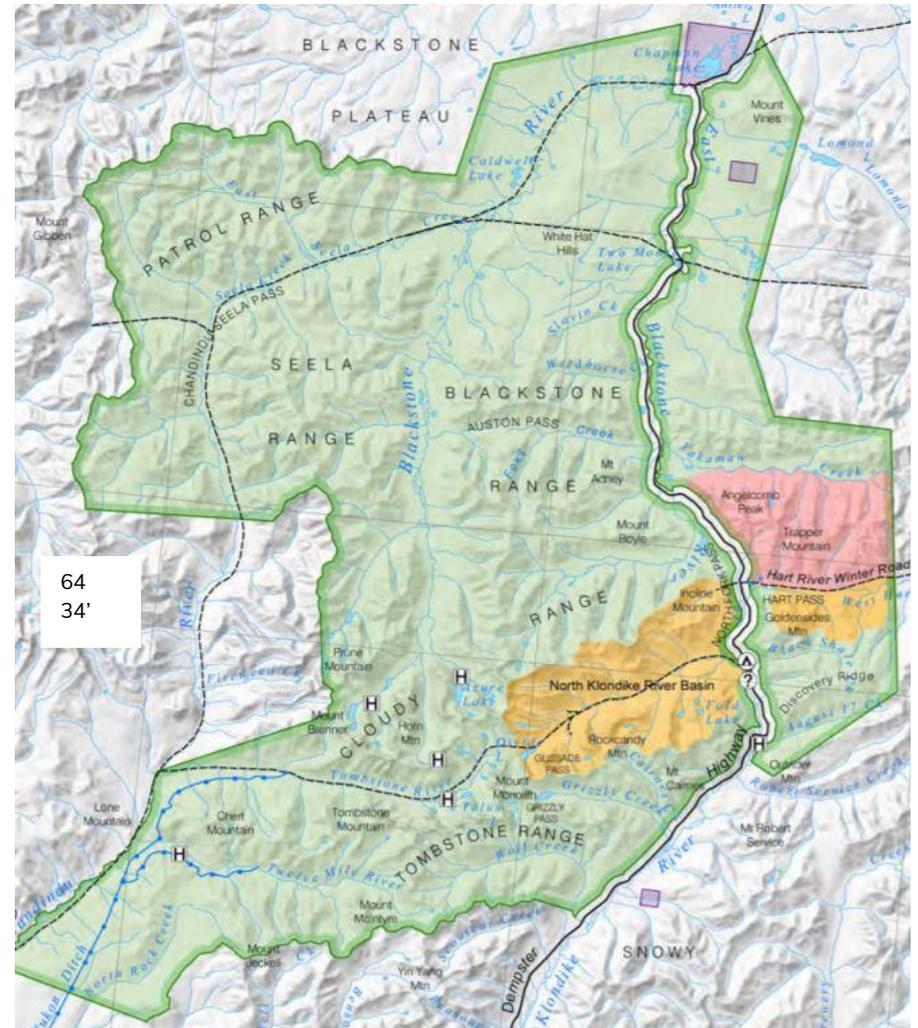


## Helicopter use and flight guidelines

Helicopters require an aircraft park permit to land within park boundaries and must abide by Federal Standards (500 ft. above the ground, unless during an emergency). Environment Canada has strict guidelines on flying in known caribou and sheep habitat. For information, read [Flying in caribou country](#) and [Flying in sheep country](#).

## Designated landing sites

All aircraft require an aircraft park permit to land in Tombstone Territorial Park and can only use designated landing sites south of 64°34' Parallel). There are no designated landing sites north of 64°34', outside the Dempster Highway corridor. Inquire with Yukon Parks about park permit requirements for these areas.



## Drone Use

Flying drones in the park is prohibited, unless authorized by a park permit.

Landing site	Location	Notes
Syenite Lake	64° 28' 09.58"N 138° 43' 37.51"W	Located at the headwaters of the West Blackstone
Tombstone Valley	64° 25' 10.9"N 138° 35' 07.6"W	1 km NW of Talus Lake <b>Landing near campground is not permitted</b>
Azure Lake	64° 29' 09.7"N 138° 35' 32.4"W	Access unpredictable due to high mountain weather. Site is located above tree line in a steep north facing valley. <b>Camping not permitted</b>
Gravel pit at Km 67.5 Dempster Highway	64° 27' 56.85" N 138° 12' 19.81" W	This is an active gravel quarry; vehicle parking is not permitted.

## Do I need a park permit?

If you are uncertain as to whether you require a park permit for an activity, or for general inquiries about park permits, please contact Yukon Parks. Refer below to the descriptions of different types of park permits (excluding campsite and general permits):



## 1. Commercial or large group recreation park permit

You will need this permit if you are:

- a commercial operator or an organization guiding recreational activities; or
- a group of more than 12 undertaking recreational activities in a park.

These recreation activities include but are not limited to:

- hiking;
- camping;
- mountain biking;
- paragliding or hang gliding;
- horseback riding;
- dog mushing;
- canoeing or kayaking;
- sport fishing;
- skiing;
- snowmobiling and;
- wildlife viewing

### Exceptions

You do not need this permit if you are a commercial operator or an organization guiding recreational activities if all of the following conditions are met.

1. The activity is undertaken by an individual alone or as part of a group consisting of 12 or fewer individuals.
2. The activity is undertaken in a recreation park, a day use area or a campground other than a backcountry campground.
3. The activity is undertaken between 7 am and 9 pm.
4. The activity is not more than four hours long.
5. The activity is not undertaken on more than seven days in a row.
6. The activity is not undertaken on more than 14 days within any 28-day period.

If you are a commercial operator you also need a [wilderness tourism licence](#) to work as a wilderness tourism operator in the Yukon, even if your activity does not require a park permit.

## 2. Research or educational park permit

This permit is required by researchers, universities, other governments, educational institutions (including elementary and high schools) for research or educational activities including but not limited to:

- collecting samples;
- creating research plots;
- monitoring;
- surveying;
- inventorying;
- field trips;
- field courses;
- workshops; and
- public education events.

You also need a [scientists and explorers licence](#) to do research in the Yukon.

### **3. Land use park permit**

You need this permit for:

- land occupation
- land development
- industrial development
- natural resource exploration
- commercial harvesting of natural resources.

### **4. Commercial film and photography park permit**

You need this permit to do film and photography activities in a Yukon territorial park for which expectation of, or gain or profit (monetary or otherwise) including, but not limited to:

- motion pictures;
- documentaries;
- advertisements; and
- other commercial products such as calendars, books, postcards, etc.; and
- social media if you are promoting products or places.

### **5. Special event park permit**

You need this permit to hold an event or activity that:

- may impact or interfere with the normal operation of the park or the public's normal use and enjoyment of the park;
- requires the exclusive use of an area of the park; or
- involves conduct that does not normally take place in the area of the park where the event or activity will occur.



## 6. Aircraft park permit

You need this permit for;

- taking off or landing an aircraft (including, but not limited to paragliders, parasails and base jumping); and
- flying a drone in areas where a permit is required.

How much does it cost?

A \$40, non-refundable, application fee is required.

How do I apply for a park permit?

1. Choose the appropriate [park permit application](#).
2. Submit your completed application.  
Email: [parkpermits@yukon.ca](mailto:parkpermits@yukon.ca)  
In person: Yukon Parks Branch offices in [Dawson](#), [Inuvik](#) or [Whitehorse](#).  
Fax: 867-393-6223  
Mail:  
Government of Yukon  
Parks Branch (V-4)  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

## Wilderness tourism licence

Who requires a wilderness tourism licence?

- Anyone who takes clients into the Yukon wilderness in return for a fee or reward.
- Yukon wilderness is identified as stepping outside the highway right-of-way. As a result, highway van tours, or campground visits do not require a licence.

Requirements to acquire a licence

- Registered business in Yukon Territory.
- Workers Compensation coverage.
- Public Liability Insurance.
- Guides must have standard first aid and level “C” CPR.
- \$100 annual licencing fee.

## Requirements to maintain a licence

- Practice leave-no-trace travel including proper waste disposal.
- Submit trip and rental reports.

## How long is this licence valid?

- May 1 – April 30 of the following year.

Visit <http://wtay.com/> and visit [Apply for a wilderness tourism licence and submit trip reports](#) for more information.

## Other permits

Additional permits may be required under other legislation or regulations. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all relevant permits have been acquired before beginning any activity (e.g., *Scientist and Explorers License*, *Dempster Highway Development Area Permit*, *Wildlife Act Permit*, etc.). When these permits or licences are needed, copies will be required to support Park Permit approval.

For more information on required permits and licences, please contact:

Yukon Parks, Government of Yukon

Email: [ParkPermits@yukon.ca](mailto:ParkPermits@yukon.ca)

Phone: 867-667-5648, toll free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648

Website: [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca)

# Day hiking opportunities

There are **five established day hiking trails** in Tombstone Territorial Park. Please stay on the trails to minimize impacts to the sensitive alpine tundra.

## Day hikes summary

Trail name	Start point on Dempster Highway	Hiking time (one-way)	Distance (one-way)	Level
1. Tädèhchą - Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail	Km 71.5	1 hour	1.1 km	Easy
2. Grizzly Trail to Monolith viewpoint	Km 58.5	2-3 hours	3 km	Difficult
3. Dëchin Käk - Arctic Plain Interpretive Loop	Km 72	0.5 hour	0.5 km	Easy
4. Tr'ondëk Dq' - North Klondike River Trail	Km 72	1-2 hours	1.6 km	Easy
5. Goldensides	Km 74.5	2-3 hours	2.5 km	Moderate
6. Hart River Winter Road	Km 78	Up to 6 hours	10 km to park boundary	Easy



## 1. Tädèhchą -Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail

- Distance: **900 m (one-way)**  
Time: **30-45 minutes (one way)**  
Difficulty: **Easy**  
Start point: **Tombstone Interpretive Centre (km 71.5)**



### Description:

This trail is located within walking distance of the Tombstone Mountain Campground and Tombstone Interpretive Centre and leads to a series of wetland ponds created by the efforts of local beavers. The trail is hardened with gravel and is fairly wide and flat, making it possible for rugged outdoor wheelchairs. Sections of boardwalk cover wetter areas.

Natural artists have been busy along this trail, so keep your eyes open! Ten interpretive panels along the trail depict the wildlife, geology and cultural history of the area. Several park benches offer places to rest or to just sit and listen to the sounds of nature. A viewing platform at the end of the trail is a great place to stop and look for wildlife. Continuing on the old gravel roadbed for 100 m and on to the highway will take you to a beaver pond and lodges where chances of seeing the master builders at work are good.

Even though this trail is very near the Tombstone Interpretive Centre and staff accommodation, bears and other wildlife frequently travel through the area. **Always** remember to sing, whistle, shout or make some other sort of human sounds to alert wildlife of your presence and avoid conflict.

## 2. Grizzly Trail to Mt. Monolith Lookout

- Distance to lookout: **3 km (one-way)**  
Time: **1 ½ hours – 2 hours (one way)**  
Difficulty: **Moderate to Difficult**  
Start point: **Km 58.5 Dempster Highway**



### Description:

Many people are surprised at the level of difficulty on this trail! It is well defined and flat in the beginning through mature boreal forest. There are a few sections of boardwalk and stairs in wet areas. On September 4th, 2013, an extreme wind event caused a widespread blow down of trees over 200 years old. Some wood has been cut and removed by park staff to reduce chances of wildlife-human conflict, but much of it remains. This example of a natural forest disturbance is a great opportunity to view the early stages of forest succession.



Many roots, rocks and slippery sections make for slow going in the first section of the trail. After about 1.5 km, there is a widened area by Cairnes Creek. This is the last water source for 4.5 km, so fill up your water bottles! Remember to treat your water. After this point, the trail starts gaining substantial elevation and the vegetation changes from towering forest to dense willow and dwarf birch. The trail is strenuous and continuously climbing, but don't lose hope – the view is worth the effort!

Upon reaching the lookout, you are rewarded with breathtaking views of Mt. Monolith and the surrounding panorama. Views of both Grizzly Valley to the south and Cairnes Valley to the north are possible. At this point you can return the way you came, or continue up the ridge to the trail's summit for another challenging 1.5 km. There are great vantage points along the ridge offering stunning mountain views. It is not advisable to push on all the way to Grizzly Lake if you are on a day hike, more than 8.5 km further (see [backcountry trail section](#) for description, distances and times).

**Please note:**

- You will **not** be able to see Tombstone Mountain from this vantage point.
- You may encounter marmots and ground squirrels who will be mesmerized by your snack bag and terrified by your dog – please resist the temptation to feed them. You may even see the collared pika; a small alpine denizen related to rabbits and hares.
- Domestic animals and livestock must be physically controlled at all times in all areas of the park unless authorized by a park permit. Sing, yodel, tell knock-knock jokes or otherwise make noise to avoid bear encounters, especially while in thick willows where visibility is limited, or when close to noisy creeks.

### 3. Dëchin Käk - Arctic Plain Interpretive Loop

Distance: **0.5 km loop**  
Time: **30 minutes**  
Difficulty: **Easy**  
Start point: **Tombstone Mountain Campground, km 72**

A great introduction to tundra and sub-alpine habitats, this is an enjoyable evening stroll from the campground with great views. The short loop begins 100 metres down the North Klondike Trail. Children love this undulating loop with lots to discover.

### 4. Tr'ondëk Dq' - North Klondike River Trail

Distance: **1.6 km (one-way)**  
Time: **½ hour – 1 hour (one way)**



Difficulty: **Easy to Moderate**  
Start point: **Tombstone Mountain Campground**

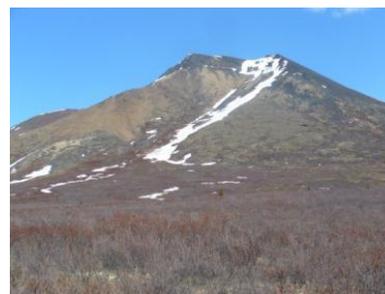
**Description:**

This is a great trail for those looking for an authentic Tombstone Territorial Park experience right outside their tent or motorhome. Whether you are seeking an early morning walk, afternoon hike, or evening stroll, this relatively easy trail provides beautiful views of the area. The trail begins in the Tombstone Mountain Campground, between Sites 18 and 19. The first 500 metres of the trail is level and graveled as it passes through poplar forest by the North Klondike River. This section can be very wet at times.

The trail rises into dwarf birch offering views of the valley and surrounding mountains. It is used by wildlife, so establish your presence by making noise to avoid surprising bears or moose. The final 500 metres of the trail descends into willow to the braided section of the North Klondike River. This portion of the trail has sections of boardwalk and seasonal snow patches. The braided section of the river is a fun place to explore and may still be covered in aufeis (overflow ice) well into July. The trail continues a short distance past this to a look out and rest stop before returning. A short Interpretive Loop Trail **Dëchin Käk - Arctic Plain** near the beginning is an opportunity to learn more about the transition from the boreal forest to the sub-arctic on this self-guided interpretive trail. The North Klondike River is often used as a “highway” by wildlife. Making some form of noise (clapping, practicing different accents, debating, singing etc.) is recommended to prevent any surprise encounters.

## 5. Goldensides Trail

Distance: **2.5 km (one way)**  
Time: **1 hour - 1 ½ hour (one way)**  
Difficulty: **Moderate**  
Start point: **Km 74.5 Dempster Highway**



**Description:**

Turn right off the Dempster Highway at Km 74.5, just north of the Tombstone Mountain viewpoint. A parking area is immediately to your right. The route follows a microwave tower station access road for the first km. This is followed by a foot trail through low-lying dwarf birch gradually getting steeper. The trail leads to the top of a shoulder of the mountain. Stay on the trail and avoid walking on delicate meadow areas. The trail is hardened with gravel and boardwalk in moist areas. Along the trail hikers have spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, including the North Klondike Valley, Mt. Chester Henderson, Fold Mountain and the Blackstone Uplands. This is also an excellent vantage point to spot wildlife on the ridges and



valleys below. There's generally always a good stiff breeze blowing which helps to keep the bugs at bay.

**Please note:**

Marmots, ground squirrels and ptarmigan are often encountered on the trail which provide great viewing opportunities. Having your dog on a leash ensures that both you and the wildlife can go about each other's day undisturbed. This trail does NOT lead to the summit of Goldensides Mountain.

## 6. Hart River Winter Road

Distance: **9.5 km to Park boundary**  
Time: **up to 2-4 hours (one way)**  
Difficulty: **Easy to Moderate**  
Start point: **Km 78 Dempster Highway**



**Description:**

The Hart River Winter Road is intended for winter use and begins near the summit of North Fork Pass and heads 100 km east to a mineral exploration site abandoned in the late 1960s. To access this trail, there is a parking area located on the west side of the highway at km 78 on the Dempster Highway. There is no trailhead signage here, but the trail begins almost directly across the highway - you can't miss it. The ambling dirt track follows the valley bottom and maintains a fairly level grade. Aside from the Dempster Highway, this is the only place in the park suitable for mountain biking or ATV-ing. ATVs, motorbikes and bicycles must remain on the road surface.

As you continue, you are bordered by dense clusters of willow and dwarf birch. Views of the surrounding mountains are excellent including Trapper Mountain to the north (important Dall sheep habitat) and Blackcap and Goldensides Mountains to the south.

The road can be **very** muddy throughout spring, summer and fall. It is also widely used by animals making it an ideal place to spot animal tracks of moose, caribou, bear, wolf, fox and ptarmigan. The highest point of the Hart road is located at Hart Pass about 5 km in. This is a great place to stop and scan for wildlife with binoculars or a spotting scope. The Park boundary is located about 9.5 km from the start of the road. The road descends from the pass into the West Hart Valley and is usually much wetter and rougher, often impassable, from this point on.

In the fall, the Hart River Winter Road becomes a popular transportation route used by resident and First Nation hunters. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other local First Nations have hunted caribou and other animals in the area for thousands of years and the hunt is an integral part of



their culture. Wildlife harvested within park boundaries continue to feed both indigenous and other local families today and allow the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to practice their timeless traditions.

**Please note:**

- The road is very rough and muddy. Do **not** attempt to drive it with a car or truck.
- Hunting season begins August 1st of each year. The Hart Road is a commonly used access route for hunters. Please stay alert for hunting activity, including gut piles which may attract bears. Watch for circling ravens as this often indicates carcasses nearby.



# Backcountry travel

## What to expect in the backcountry

**A permit is required for all overnight camping, not just in the campgrounds.** All overnight backcountry trips require you to get a permit at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre where you will also receive current weather, wildlife and safety information. Backcountry travel in Tombstone is no walk in the park! When you travel into the park's wilderness you are on your own and you must be self-sufficient. Prepare for rough terrain, drastic weather changes and wildlife encounters. Many people come back from the Tombstone backcountry reporting that nothing prepared them for the level of difficulty they encountered.

**If you are not prepared, don't go.**

### Terrain

In mountainous areas, expect steep elevation changes, sharp, slippery, unstable rocks, and side-hilling. This terrain involves travel over tundra tussocks, rock glaciers, talus slopes and rockslide areas. Some travel will require the use of your hands, and many visitors suffer from blisters. It is important to wear well worn- in, comfortable hiking boots. Don't try breaking in new boots in Tombstone!

### Route-finding

Tombstone Territorial Park is a remote park with only **one backcountry route** accessing Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake Backcountry Campgrounds. Route finding and mapping skills are essential.

### Fires

**From May 1 to September 30, a campfire may only be made within a designated fire ring.** To preserve the integrity of our sensitive alpine and tundra environments, fires are not permitted anywhere in Tombstone backcountry during that timeframe except in the case of emergencies. Only gas stoves may be used.

### Visitor safety

Mountain travel is dangerous, and hazards do exist. Spotting hazards and assessing their risk is your responsibility. Yukon Parks staff are not responsible for initiating search and rescue. Leave a trip plan with a reliable friend or family member before you depart. Include your planned routes, expected return date and when authorities should be notified if you don't arrive home as scheduled. There is no cell service and satellite service is unreliable. If you have an emergency, it is unlikely you will receive immediate medical attention.

## Weather and seasonal conditions

Season	Time of year	Trail status	Weather and terrain	Backcountry campground status
<b>Spring</b>	May to June/early July	May be closed due to weather or wildlife	Snow conditions	Closed
<b>Summer</b>	July to mid-August	Open	Possible snowfall and freezing temperatures	Open
<b>Fall</b>	mid-August to September	May be closed due to weather or wildlife	Possible snowfall and freezing temperatures	May be closed due to weather or wildlife
<b>Winter</b>	late-September to May	Closed	Snow cover and freezing temperatures	Closed



Hiking Grizzly Trail – July 2015



## Camping in Backcountry Campgrounds

### Dates

Backcountry campgrounds are open July 1 to September 8, 2026, depending on weather and site conditions. Reservations open March 4 at 9 am.

### Book your campsite online

You need to make an online reservation to secure sites at the three backcountry campgrounds in Tombstone Territorial Park. Early reservations are recommended to ensure availability.

Go to campsite reservation system - <https://yukon.goingtocamp.com/>

1. You can view maps and campsite availability without signing in. To reserve a campsite or view or change your reservation, you need to sign in or create a new account.
2. Select the dates and campsites you want. You cannot reserve the Divide Lake or Talus Lake sites for your 1st night of camping because they're too far to reach on day 1.
3. Pay by credit card to complete your reservation.
4. Bring this with you to the Interpretive Centre where you'll receive your campsite permit.
5. Reserving your backcountry trip does not initiate Search and Rescue if you are overdue.

### Plan your trip

#### Orientation video

Before you begin your trip you and all members of your party must watch our [backcountry orientation video](#), either online before your arrival or at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.

#### Bear-resistant canisters are mandatory

All wildlife attractants must be stored in hard-sided bear-resistant canisters. We approve the use of hard-shelled bear-resistant food canisters not soft bags. Bear-resistant food canisters are mandatory for all backcountry travel to protect wildlife, you and your food supply.

You must purchase or rent your own canisters before you arrive.

#### Weather and road conditions

There are no weather stations for Tombstone Territorial Park; however you can check the weather forecast for [Mount Frank Rae](#) (elevation 1,500 metres) and [Environment Canada's](#) current weather, warnings and forecast for the Dempster Highway (for conditions north of Eagle Plains, Dempster Highway kilometre 446).

You can find the current Dempster Highway road conditions at Yukon 511.

#### Getting your campsite permit

To receive campsite permits, all hikers must do so in person at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre. Registration times are 9 am, 10 am, 11 am and 12 pm (noon), for same day departures,

and 4 pm for next day departures. Bring your bear-proof canisters to verify all attractants are stored properly.

### **Trail and backcountry information**

When you're hiking and camping in the park, you should adhere to [leave no trace principles](#). Prepare for rough terrain, drastic weather changes and wildlife encounters. Parks Branch staff are not responsible for initiating search and rescue.

Grizzly Lake Trail is the only maintained trail for accessing the backcountry area of the Grizzly Lake, Divide Lake and Talus Lake campgrounds. The trailhead is at kilometre 58.5 of the Dempster Highway.

Tenting in these valleys is restricted to your reserved tent pads only.

In addition to the park rules, the following are in place for the facility backcountry campgrounds (Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lakes):

- Food and cooking are only allowed in the cooking shelters.
- All wildlife attractants must be stored in hard-sided bear-resistant canisters
- Grey water must be disposed of in the grey water barrel provided.
- Pets must be leashed or tethered at all times. All dog excrement must be packed out or deposited down the outhouse hole. Do not put the bag down the outhouse hole.
- Fires are prohibited. Only gas stoves may be used.
- It is unlawful to discharge a firearm in a campground.
- Flying drones in the park is prohibited, unless authorized by a park permit.

Keep in mind the following:

- Camping is only permitted on designated tent pads.
- Each permit allows the use of one tent per tent pad.
- Maximum of two people per tent.
- Do not cook on tent pads or near tent.
- Camping is limited to two consecutive nights at any one of the three backcountry campgrounds.



## Backcountry hiking trail, routes and facilities

Overnight camping reservations required to camp at Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake backcountry campgrounds. Opening and closing dates for these campgrounds vary from year to year depending on weather and snowpack. Advanced reservations are required to secure camping spots. Backcountry campground facilities

Site Name	Tent Pads	Outhouse(s)	Shared Cooking Platform(s)	Grey Water Disposal
Grizzly Lake	17	2	2	yes
Divide Lake	10	1	1	yes
Talus Lake	10	1	1	yes

## Online reservations

Reservations for Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes backcountry campsites must be made online at <https://yukon.goingtocamp.com/>.

### Reservation and cancellation policy

- Online reservations can be booked up to 12:00 noon of the day of departure.
- You will be prompted to watch the backcountry orientation video which ALL members of your party must watch.
- Refunds are based on when you cancel, with respect to 12 noon on your scheduled arrival date. A 75% refund is available if you cancel 3 days (72 hours) prior to your reservation start date. A 50% refund is available if you cancel between 24 and 72 hours (time starting at 12 noon) prior to your reservation start date. A refund is not available if you cancel less than 24 hours before your reservation start date and we encourage you to cancel your reservation in order to make the site available for other campers.
- Be sure to bring your confirmation letter with you and register your trip at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.

### Backcountry camping fee

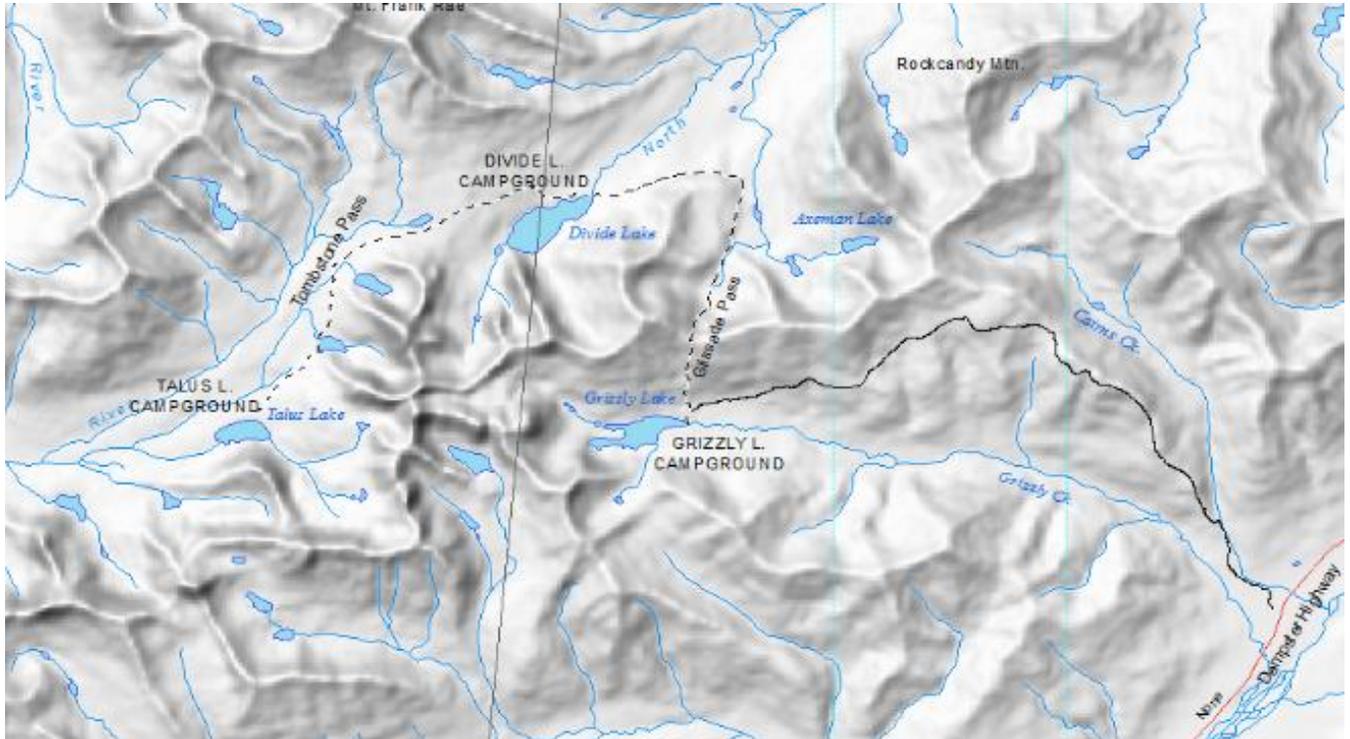
- \$18 per night per tent
- Annual camping vouchers cannot be used to pay for backcountry campgrounds.



## Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake trail and route description

The designated trail and designated route from the Grizzly Trailhead to Talus Lake Campground via Grizzly Lake, Glissade Pass and Divide Lake is 24 km one-way, and 48 km return. A minimum of three to four days is recommended for this trip.

### Map - Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lakes Area



Backcountry trail or route section	Hiking time (one-way)	Distance (one-way)	Level
1. Grizzly Lake Trailhead to Grizzly Lake (designated trail)	7-10 hours	11.5 Km	Difficult
2. Grizzly Lake to Divide Lake (designated route)	4-6 hours	6 Km	Very difficult
3. Divide Lake to Talus Lake (designated route)	2-3 hours	6.1 Km	Moderate

## 1. Trail head to Grizzly Lake

Total Distance: **11.5 km (one way)**

Type: **trail**

Time: **7-10 hours**

Difficulty: **Difficult**

Start point: **Km 58.5**



### Description:

Many people are not prepared for the level of difficulty they encounter on this trail. The first 3 km to Mt. Monolith Lookout is a popular day hike. The trail is well defined and flat for the first km but be prepared for uneven ground, with roots, rocks and potential muddy sections. Km 1.5 is a resting spot where you can fill your bottle for the last time before the trail starts to climb. Be sure to treat it! From here it's a steady and relentless climb through willow and dwarf birch and then finally through rocky terrain to the Mount Monolith Lookout. Be on the lookout for pikas and ground squirrels among the rock boulders. At km 3, you are rewarded with magnificent views up the valley to Mount Monolith.

After the Lookout, **the trail continues along the ridge**. Be careful at this point as many guidebooks incorrectly advise hikers to stay on the left side of the mountain which leads into thick willows in the valley bottom. Instead, follow the trail UP the steep rocky slope onto the ridge. The trail is marked with rock cairns; just make sure you stop and look for the trail if you can't spot it right away.

The trail summit is at approximately km 4.5. Views of the entire Grizzly Valley and Grizzly Lake are possible. This is a good destination for longer day hikes. The only water source is at km 6.1 (halfway point). You will encounter a large grassy saddle. At the far side of the saddle there is a



creek which flows under the rocks. You may have to walk about 50 m downhill from the trail to access open water.

After the saddle you will cross a large talus slope. Take care when the rocks are wet. After the talus slope you will see Marmot Meadows (2.7 km long). This section of the trail is relatively easy walking. This is prime marmot, ground squirrel and pika habitat which makes it **critical that all dogs remain on a leash**.

After marmot meadows, the trail gradually descends to the lake. Side hilling will be required. Be cautious on the scree slopes, boulder fields and short willow sections encountered before you reach the lake. Take care when crossing Grizzly Creek, particularly when water levels are high.

It usually takes around 7-10 hours to hike all the way to the lake. Some people have done it in four hours and some in 12 hours depending on your pace, physical condition, ability, weather and trail conditions.

**Facilities:**

Two outhouses, 17 tent pads, 2 cooking platforms, grey water disposal.

**Please note:**

- Camping at Grizzly Lake requires campsite permits (\$18/night/tent).
- The trail does **not** follow the valley bottom – it follows the ridge then descends near the lake.
- Do **not** attempt to go along the valley bottom – it is extremely brushy with a high risk of wildlife encounters.
- There is limited water along the trail – km 1.5 and 6.1 only.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times for bear safety and to prevent harassment of wildlife.

**Day trips from Grizzly Lake**

Hiking in any direction from Grizzly Lake requires good route-finding skills. There are no formal trails or routes, and the terrain is rough and slow going, over unstable or slippery rocks, especially when wet.

## 2. Grizzly Lake to Twin Lakes

Distance: **6 km round trip**  
Type: **route**  
Time: **6 hours**  
Difficulty: **moderate to difficult**  
Start point: **Grizzly Lake campground**



### Description:

Go to the outhouses at Grizzly Lake to find the route across to the south side of the valley and ascend Grizzly Pass. The route up the pass is on the **right (west) side** of the creek. Trails on the left side are game trails and are on unstable scree slopes. You will come to a small alpine pond. From this point start ascending the ridge to the Twin Lakes Viewpoint. Once at the top, side-hill the ridge to the right (southwest) of the pass until you have a nice view of the whole valley, and you can choose where to descend from this point. Follow the ridge down until you have a good view of the gully to the immediate right. It is a steep descent on shale so take precautions when going down. It is best to return by the same route as the ridge is **very** rocky and covered with large loose boulders making climbing up (or down) very difficult and unsafe. **Camping is not permitted at Twin Lakes.**

## 3. Grizzly Lake to Divide Lake

Distance: **6 km one way (from Grizzly Lake)**

Type: **route**

Time: **4-6 hours**

Difficulty: **Very difficult**

Start point: **North side of Grizzly Lake**



### Description:

Ascend Glissade Pass on the north side of Grizzly Lake. When you are in the campground, backtrack past the creek and you will come to a boulder field. The route follows the right side of this field and continues up the slope to the pass. Glissade Pass is a grassy patch at the top visible from the campground and is a 1-2 hour strenuous climb. The view down the other side can be daunting. It is extremely steep with unstable shale and loose rock. Large unstable snow patches can linger into mid-July causing seasonal closures. Stay together as a group to avoid the danger of dislodged rocks that gain speed as they tumble.

Once at the bottom of the pass, stay to the left of the creek and waterfalls and look for rock cairns to Divide Lake. Stay below the inviting bench which ends abruptly on cliffs (on your left) and above Axeman Creek (on your right), and the trail will soon become obvious. On the return

### Please note:

- Camping at Divide Lake requires campsite permits (\$18/night/tent).
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times to prevent harassment of wildlife.



trip, climbing back up Glissade Pass can be daunting, very steep and loose. Choose solid ground when possible and the smaller shale which allow boot purchase when climbing.

**Facilities:**

1 outhouse, 10 tent pads, cooking platform, grey water disposal

## 4. Divide Lake to Talus Lake

Distance: **6 km one way (from Divide Lake)**

Type: **route**

Time: **3 - 4 hours**

Difficulty: **Moderate**

Start point: **West side of Divide Lake**



**Description:**

The route between Divide Lake and Talus Lake starts at the south end of the Divide Lake camping area. Follow the path west through the willows towards Tombstone Pass. Tombstone Pass is located in the bottom of the Valley. Look for a small path and rock cairns, which will take you up out of the willows to the top of the pass. Once on top of Tombstone Pass, you will encounter open tussock tundra with some small tarns or ponds. It can be quite moist around the ponds, so aim your route towards the bottom of the scree slope to the south of the ponds. Continue west across the pass. The route may be hard to find from here on so look for rock cairns to find the way.

**Please note:**

- Camping at Talus Lake requires campsite permits (\$18/night/tent).
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times to prevent harassment of wildlife.

**Facilities:**

1 outhouse, 10 tent pads, cooking platform, grey water disposal.

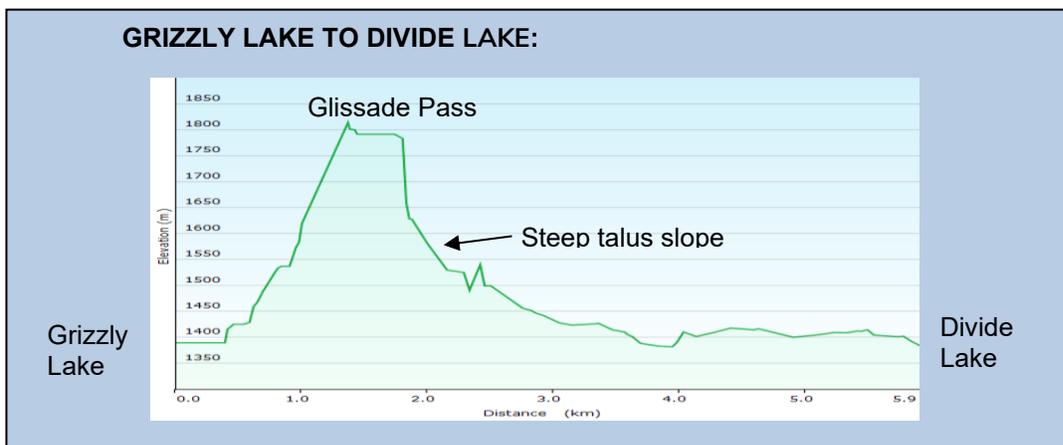
**Day trips from Talus Lake:**

There are many possibilities for day trips from Talus Lake. Explore the base of Mount Monolith, the valleys toward Mt. Frank Rae, or follow the valley to the base of Tombstone Mountain (6 km one-way).

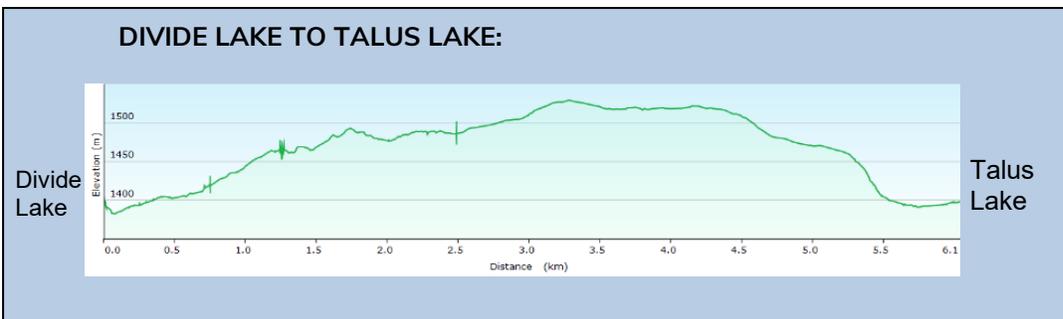




Average 7 – 10 hours (one-way). Strenuous with steep, unstable terrain (boulder fields, side-hilling, talus slopes), elevation changes, minimal water, exposed to weather.



Average 4 - 6 hours (one- way). Strenuous with unstable terrain (extremely steep talus slopes on Divide side of Glissade Pass).



Average 2 – 3 hours one-way. Route is in the bottom of the valley and crosses the Continental Divide / Tombstone Pass.



## Non-facility Backcountry Camping

**A permit is required for all overnight camping in Tombstone Territorial Park, including areas outside of designated campgrounds. This applies to licenced harvesters too not just recreational hikers.**

General permits are issued on a **first come, first served** basis. Some areas may not be available for overnight camping.

When applying for a permit, be prepared to inform Parks staff of your planned itinerary. If your first choice is not available, consider alternative options that may work for you based on your timing, the type of trip you are seeking, and the terrain you do or do not want to encounter.

Non-facility areas are not managed in the same way as designated campgrounds. There are no tent pads, shelters, or food storage infrastructure. Impacts in these areas are greater than in managed areas of the park.

Remember the following:

- A permit is required for all overnight camping, not just in the campgrounds.
- All wildlife attractants must be stored in hard-sided bear-resistant canisters.
- Domestic animals and livestock must be physically controlled at all times in all areas of the park unless authorized by a park permit. All excrement from domestic animals must be picked up and disposed of in a garbage bin.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles
- Travel in small groups, 6 people or less
- Be fully self-sufficient and prepared for changing conditions

To apply for a **general permit** for overnight trips in undesignated non-facility areas of Tombstone Territorial Park email [parkpermits@yukon.ca](mailto:parkpermits@yukon.ca)

## Tips for a successful hike

- This area is covered by 1:50,000 topographic maps 116B/7, 116B/8, 116B/9 & 116B/10 and the Tombstone Hiking Map. The hiking map can be purchased at Mac's Fireweed Bookstore in Whitehorse, or online at [Mac's Books](#).
- Keep your pack as light as possible while ensuring you have the essentials to stay warm and comfortable. Choose lightweight gear and food and limit the number of 'luxury' items. Remove packaging. Use the suggested packing list at the end of the document to help ensure a safe, comfortable journey.

- For detailed information about travelling safely and gently through Yukon, read [Into the Yukon Wilderness](#) (also in French, German, and Japanese). Printed copies are also available at the Interpretive Centre.
- Leave a detailed trip plan with a reliable friend or family member.



# Sample trip plan and checklist

Use this checklist to plan your trip and leave it with a responsible friend or family member.

## Trip details:

Start .....day.....month.....time.....

Intended return.....day.....month.....time.....

Notify RCMP if not back by.....day.....month.....time.....

Purpose of trip.....

Intended route (include return route as well)

.....  
.....  
.....

Contact info for leader.....

.....  
.....

Maps used (numbers) .....

Satellite Phone number or other satellite communication device IM address

.....

Vehicle(s)	Make	Colour	Licence plate	Location
------------	------	--------	---------------	----------

.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Brief Description of Equipment (Colour of tents, jackets, and packs)

.....  
.....  
.....



	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Last name				
First name				
Gender				
Age				
Height				
Weight				
Hair and skin colour				
Medical conditions				
Physician				
Hat colour				
Coat colour				
Shirt/sweater				
Pant colour				
Footwear type				
Language				

## What to bring:

### Suggested checklist for backcountry travel (mid-June to Mid Sept)

- Rain/wind gear/gaiters
- Maps
- Compass/GPS/Personal Locator Beacon (e.g., SPOT), extra batteries
- Matches/lighter (in a waterproof container)
- Water bottle
- Water filter or treatment tablets



- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Toiletry kit (incl. personal medications)
- First aid kit
- Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Fire starter (for emergency only)
- Bear spray and bear bangers
- Hat, balaclava/scarf, gloves (even in summer we can have near-freezing temps and snow)
- Thermal base layer
- Quick dry pants & shirts – try to stay away from cotton which is cold when wet!
- Change of clothes (at least 3 complete sets)
- Extra socks (**no cotton!**)
- Light shoes (for camp and creek crossings)
- Sturdy waterproof hiking boots
- Bear resistant canister for food, toiletries
- Cook stove & fuel
- Dense high calorie food (try to stay away from strong smelling food like cheese/sausage)
- Cookware (incl. sieve or spatula to strain food particles from grey water)
- Large waterproof bags to keeping things dry inside your pack
- Extra Zip Lock bags (for packing out garbage, incl. toilet paper and feminine products)
- Tent with a rain proof fly
- Small tarp
- Extra pegs
- Spare rope/line
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Survival kit with whistle



# Winter activities in Tombstone Territorial Park

**A permit is required for all overnight camping, not just in the campgrounds.** Though park services like the Tombstone Interpretive Centre close during the winter, there are many ways to enjoy Tombstone Territorial Park when it's covered in a blanket of snow. Whether you're snowshoeing, dog sledding, skiing, snowmobiling or viewing wildlife –with proper planning and self-sufficiency – the experience can be magical.



## Avalanche safety

<http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/brochures.php> Avalanches occur regularly in the park. Know the conditions before you go. View the park avalanche terrain map at [Park Avalanche Terrain Map](#) and check weather and snow conditions for the period leading up to your trip. There is no substitute for good training and good judgment. Visit [www.yukonavalanche.ca/](http://www.yukonavalanche.ca/) for more information.

## Check the weather

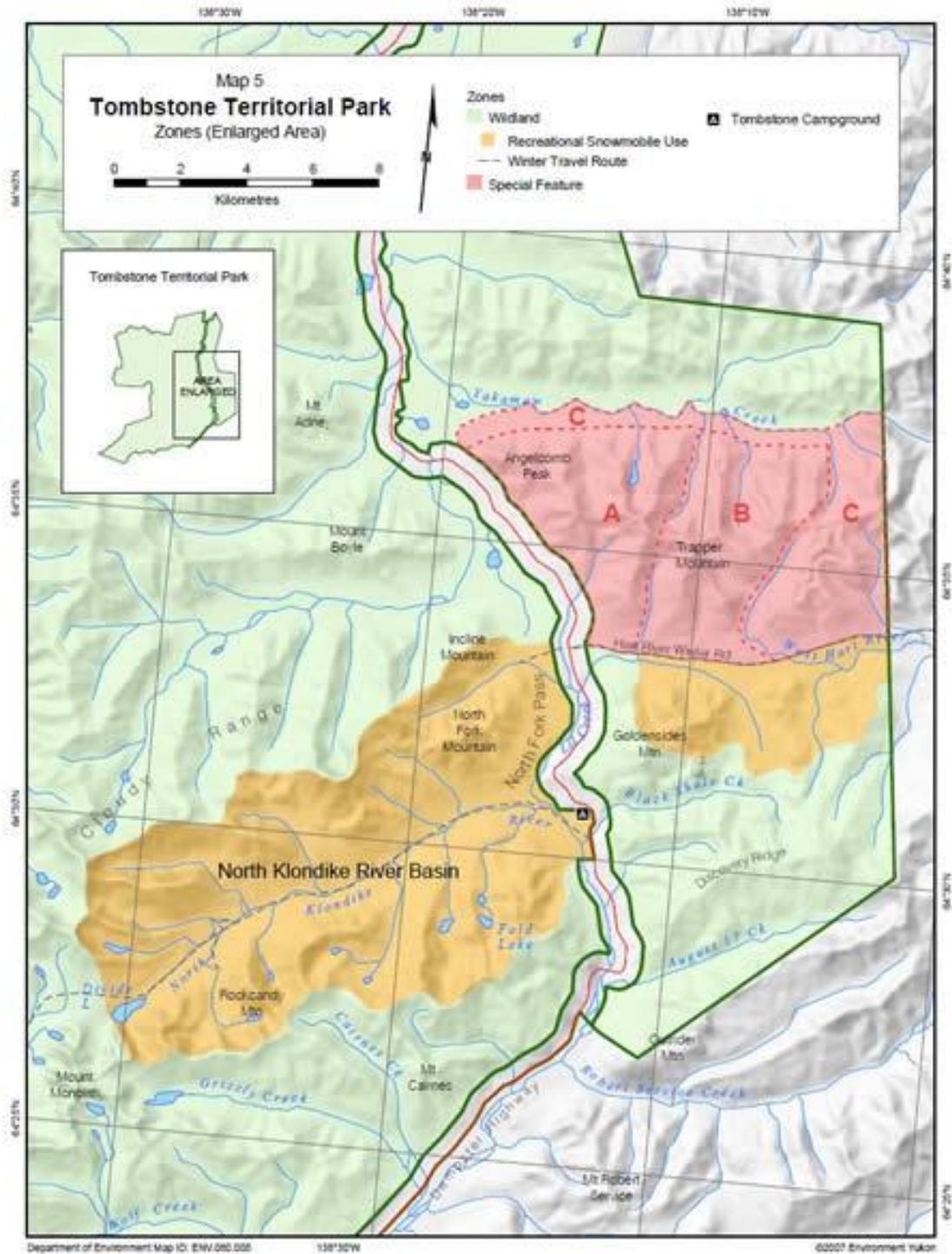
Check the weather for [Dawson City](#) and [Dempster Highway](#). For a true mountain forecast check the [forecast for Mt. Frank Rae](#). ). Drive for winter road conditions. Check highway conditions at [www.511yukon.ca](http://www.511yukon.ca).

## Know where you can go

Most of the park is managed as Wildland Zone for non-motorized recreation to preserve its undisturbed natural landscape and offer peaceful backcountry experiences. During winter however, and when snow is deep enough to protect the fragile ground cover, recreational snowmobiling is allowed in the “Recreational Snowmobile Use” sub-zone (North Klondike River basin and an area south of the Hart River Winter Road) as well as along specific winter travel routes. **Snowmobile use** is restricted to this zone and travel routes in order to protect winter sheep, raptor, ptarmigan and their sensitive habitats.

For more information on winter activities in Tombstone call 867-993-7899.





# Further resources

To help you with leave no trace principle #1 – plan ahead and prepare – we recommend the following books, brochures, maps and websites:

## Brochures

Available at Yukon Visitor Information Centres, the Tombstone Interpretive Centre or [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca).

- *A Visitor's Guide to Tombstone Territorial Park*
- *Yukon Fishing Regulations Summary* (Also available in French)
- *Birds of Tombstone Territorial Park*
- *How you can stay safe in bear country* (Also available in French and German)
- *Into the Yukon Wilderness* (Also available in French, German and Japanese.)
- *Tombstone Park (avalanche) Terrain Guide* (for winter travel)
- *Yukon Wildlife Viewing Guide* (Also available in French and German)
- Yukon Wild booklets: flowers, birds, bats, butterflies, bears, amphibians, fishes, ungulates

## Videos

- *Staying Safe in Bear Country: A Behavioral-Based Approach to Reducing Risk*. We strongly suggest you view this informative video at any Yukon Visitor Information Centre, public library, Tombstone Interpretive Centre, or [online](#) here.

## Books

- *Along the Dempster: An Outdoor Guide to Canada's Northernmost Highway*, Walter Lanz
- *Birds by the Dempster Highway*, Bob Frisch
- *Yukon's Tombstone Range and Blackstone Uplands: A Traveler's Guide*, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- *Hiking in the Yukon*, Curtis Vos
- *The Dempster – Canada's Road to so much more*, Friends of Dempster Country
- *Hammerstones: a history of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in*, Helen Dobrowsky

## Maps

The following 1:50,000 scale maps for backcountry hiking are available for purchase at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre, Mac's Fireweed in Whitehorse or online at [yukonbooks.com](http://yukonbooks.com).

- *A Hiking Map of Tombstone Territorial Park*, Yukon Parks, or
- *Tombstone River* (sheet 116B/7); *Upper Klondike River* (sheet 116B/8); *North Fork Pass* (sheet 116B/9); *Seela Pass* (sheet 116B/10)

Use the Tombstone Park brochure or Dawson 1:250,000 scale map (sheet 116B) for a park overview.

## Websites

Government of Yukon: [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca)

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in: [www.trondek.ca](http://www.trondek.ca)

Yukon Road Conditions: [www.511yukon.ca](http://www.511yukon.ca)

