



Planning a trip to Tombstone Territorial Park

Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän – “Ragged mountain land”

December 23, 2021

All photos © Government of Yukon unless otherwise noted.

[Yukon.ca/parks](https://www.yukon.ca/parks)



Contents

Contents	3
Park overview	5
How to get there.....	5
Harvesting activities	6
Seasonal activities	6
Maps	8
Frontcountry facilities	9
Roadside facilities.....	9
Tombstone Interpretive Centre	10
Frontcountry camping.....	10
Visitor safety and emergency services	12
Visitor safety	12
Park alerts	12
Emergency medical services (EMS)	12
Emergency phone numbers	12
Bear safety.....	13
Bear-resistant food canisters.....	14
Park guidelines	16
Campfires.....	16
Travelling with dogs	16
Historical and cultural resources.....	16
Off-road vehicles	17
Wildlife sightings.....	17
Backcountry travel.....	17
Leave no trace	18
Permits and licences	19
Campground permits	19
Park permits	19
Wilderness tourism licence	20
Other permits.....	21
Helicopter use and flight guidelines	22
Day hiking opportunities	24
1. Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail.....	24
2. Grizzly Trail to Mt. Monolith Lookout.....	25



3. Edge of the Arctic Interpretive Trail	26
4. North Klondike Trail	26
5. Goldensides Trail	27
6. Hart River Winter Road	28
Backcountry travel	29
What to expect in the backcountry.....	29
Rules and regulations.....	31
Tips for a successful hike	32
Travel guidelines in Tombstone Wilderness Areas	32
Backcountry hiking routes and facilities	34
Backcountry campground facilities	34
Online reservations	34
Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake route description.....	35
1. Km 58.5 to Grizzly Lake.....	36
2. Grizzly Lake to Twin Lakes	38
3. Grizzly Lake to Divide Lake.....	38
4. Divide Lake to Talus Lake.....	39
Sample trip plan and checklist	41
Trip details:	41
What to bring: Suggested checklist for backcountry travel (mid-June to Mid Sept).....	42
Winter activities in Tombstone Territorial Park	44
Further resources	46



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 km² 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, Wi-Fi, 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 km north of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada on the Dempster Highway. The Dempster Highway is a gravel road starting 40 km from Dawson City, and is the only road in Canada that crosses the Arctic Circle. Park boundaries are between km 50 and km 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 it 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: [511yukon.ca](#) and [Road to Tuk Highway Conditions](#)

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

Harvesting activities

Visitors may encounter First Nations subsistence hunters or licenced resident hunters within park boundaries, usually in the fall. When you see individuals 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 April 29.
- Interpretive Centre opens May 14.
- 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. 25, campground un-serviced after October 2.

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.
- More information, including weather and park avalanche terrain guide: [Weather and Avalanche Information](#).



Frontcountry facilities

Roadside facilities

Park Portal Sign (km 50)

- Pullout.

Grizzly Lake Trailhead (km 58.5)

- Outhouse, bear-proof garbage bins, message board, parking, NO camping.

Tombstone Interpretive Centre (km 71.5)

- Interpretive displays, presentations and visitor services.
- Frontcountry and backcountry camping information, fishing permits.
- Trailhead for Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail and trail to campground.

Tombstone Mountain Campground (km 72)

- 12 walk-in, 35 pull-in, 1 pull-through, and 3 group use sites, outhouses, recycling and garbage bins, bear-proof food lockers, hanging food cache, picnic shelter, non-potable creek water.
- North Klondike Trailhead and “Edge of the Arctic” Interpretive Trail.

Tombstone Mountain Viewpoint (km 74)

- Parking, interpretive panels, bear -proof garbage bins.

Goldensides Mountain Trailhead (km 74.4)

- Bear-proof garbage bin, message board, parking.

Hart River Winter Road (km 78.2)

- Parking on west side of highway.

Two Moose Lake Wildlife Viewing Site (km 102)

- Viewing platform, interpretive panels, bear-proof garbage bins.



Blackstone River Rest Area (km 107.5)

- Outhouses, interpretive panels, bear-proof garbage bins.

Chapman Lake Interpretive Site (km 116)

- Interpretive panels, park portal sign, 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 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May 14 to September 25. The centre is a great base to orient yourself and get the most out of your stay. Interpretive displays 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 phone service or Wi-Fi here. This is a remote area – leave your cell phone behind and truly immerse yourself in the park!

See Yukon.ca/tombstone 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 use sites. Facilities include covered picnic shelters, a campfire presentation circle, non-potable water (boil before use), outhouses, picnic tables and firewood. Payment and self-registration are located at the self-registration kiosk in the campground. Sites are on a first come first serve basis. Cash is required for on-site payment. There are also [pre-pay options](#) before you arrive in the park.



Tombstone Mountain Campground is popular and fills up daily. Arrive early to secure a spot!

Camping fees

Individual and commercial campground permit fee (including GST):

- \$20 per day, per campsite (cash paid in the campground).
Yukon resident senior (65 years+) pay \$9 per day, per campsite.
- Daily pre-paid campground permits are \$18 (Yukon resident senior 65 years+ pay \$9) and are available at [vendors across the Yukon](#).

Yukon residents – annual campground permit

- Yukon residents can obtain a \$100 annual permit at [Get a camping permit](#), any Yukon Visitor Information Center, the Tombstone Interpretive Centre or from [a licensed vendor](#).
- The Annual permit is \$50 for Yukon resident seniors aged 65 years or over.
- If requested, annual permit holders must show a piece of government-issued ID to prove Yukon residency or eligibility for the senior fee discount.
- Everyone must register each stay.
- Annual campground permits cannot be used at backcountry campgrounds.

Fees for non-profit groups

- Fees may be waived **only** with written pre-approval from the Director of the Parks Branch.

* Campsites cannot be reserved in advance and stays must be limited to 14 nights in any 30-day period per campground. See additional rules at [Camping at Tombstone Territorial Park](#).

* Most roadside campgrounds are open April 29 to October 2. Visit Yukon.ca/camping 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, 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/camping

Emergency medical services (EMS)

Tombstone is a remote area and is serviced by medical services based 585 km away in Whitehorse.

Medevac crews (based in Whitehorse) consist of Critical Care Nurses, Critical Care Paramedics and Advanced Care Paramedics.

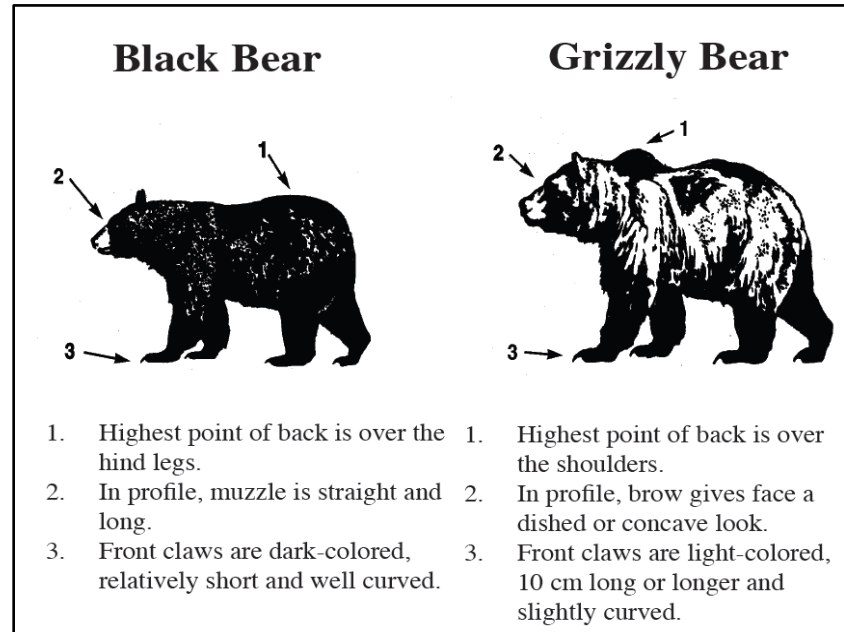
Emergency phone numbers

Medical emergencies	1-867-667-3333
Police / Search and rescue	1-867-993-5555
North Region Park Rangers	1-867- 993-7899 1-867-993-3877 (after hours)
Conservation officers	1-800-661-0408 (ext. 8005) toll free in the Yukon 1-867-993-5492 (local)
TIPP Line	1-800-661-0525
Forest fires	1-888-798-3473
Parks office, Dawson City	1-867-993-7714 or 867-993-6850
Parks office, Whitehorse	1-867-667-5648 1-800-661-0408 (ext. 5648) toll free in the Yukon

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. **Keep your pets on a leash at all times!**

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!

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 available in French / German) 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.

Bear-resistant food 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 canister at mec.ca, or Coast Mountain Sports in Whitehorse or rent from Klondikeexperience.com in Dawson or changinggear.ca 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.

Tombstone Territorial Park has a policy to relocate or destroy food-conditioned bears due to the high risk of danger associated with such bears. With the addition of only 2.5 lb. 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.**
- **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 easy access to food while on the trail.



Visit backpackerscache.com or bearvault.com.



Park guidelines

Tombstone Territorial Park is a pristine and fragile environment and any impact on it lasts a very long time. Therefore, we have set out guidelines for its protection and to ensure visitor satisfaction.

Campfires

Campfires are only permitted in Tombstone Mountain Campground in designated fire pits from April 29 – October 2. Keep fires small and only after 4 p.m. Respect fire bans and never leave fires unattended. Campfires are not permitted elsewhere in Tombstone Territorial Park. There are no trees in the tundra! In wilderness areas, use lightweight fuel stoves for cooking.

Travelling with dogs

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

Dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times. Doggie bags are available at most trail heads. Please put dog feces in garbage bins. If traveling with dogs in the backcountry, pack out all dog feces or deposit feces only (no plastic) in backcountry outhouses.

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.



Off-road vehicles

No off-road vehicles are allowed in the park except along the Hart River Winter Road. For information on snowmobile use in the park visit pages 23 to 31 of the [Tombstone Territorial Park Management Plan](#).

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.

Backcountry travel

Go to yukon.goingtocamp.com to book your backcountry trip to Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes. All backcountry travel in Tombstone requires registration at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre where you will receive your backcountry camping permit. At the centre you will also receive updated information on weather, wildlife, leave no trace etiquette and area closures. [See page 29, Backcountry travel](#), for more information.

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 practise “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). Additional resources are [Leave No Trace](#), [WildWise](#) and [Heritage Guidelines](#).



Permits and licences

Campground 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. Camping permits and registration are required for all campgrounds. See [page 11, Camping fees](#), or [page 34, Backcountry campground permit fee](#) for more information.

Park permits

What is a park permit?

A park permit authorizes an individual, group, or organization to carry out a specific activity, development or use of a park or campground under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act (PLCA)* and outlines the specific conditions and regulations under which the activity may occur. Permits are necessary for aircraft landings within park boundaries, to reduce user conflicts, ensure quality visitor experiences and to safeguard the natural, cultural, and ecological integrity of the Yukon's territorial parks.

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 the Parks Branch. Refer to the five permit descriptions below:

1. Commercial recreation park permit

This permit applies to, but is not limited to, commercial guided wilderness tourism activities such as hiking, horseback riding, dog mushing, canoeing, kayaking, sport fishing, mountain biking, skiing, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing and photography.

2. Research and educational activities park permit

This permit applies to all research and monitoring activities, including but not limited to, collection of specimens, establishment of research plots, monitoring, surveying, inventory and other research. This permit also applies to educational activities and events associated with schools, colleges, universities or non-profit organizations, including field trips, field courses, workshops and public education events.

3. Land use or industrial development park permit

This permit applies to all other commercial, industrial and/or existing residential purposes.

4. Commercial filming and photography park permit

This permit applies to all commercial film productions or commercial photography shoots including filming/photography for motion pictures, documentaries, advertisements, or other commercial products (e.g., calendars, books, postcards, etc.).

5. Special event park permit

This permit applies to all private or community events such as cultural or community events, sporting events, school and youth groups, festivals, weddings and other large private events.

How much does it cost?

The park permit application fee is \$40. It is non-refundable and paying the fee does not guarantee that you will be issued a park permit.

How do I apply for a park permit?

Download the application form from [Get a park permit](#).

Or contact the Parks Branch at 1-867-993-7714, or ParkPermits@yukon.ca.

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 the 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

- Practise 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 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 licence, 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:

Parks Branch, Government of Yukon

867-993-7714, or 867-667-5648, toll free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648

Fax: 867-993-6548

Email: ParkPermits@yukon.ca

Helicopter use and flight guidelines

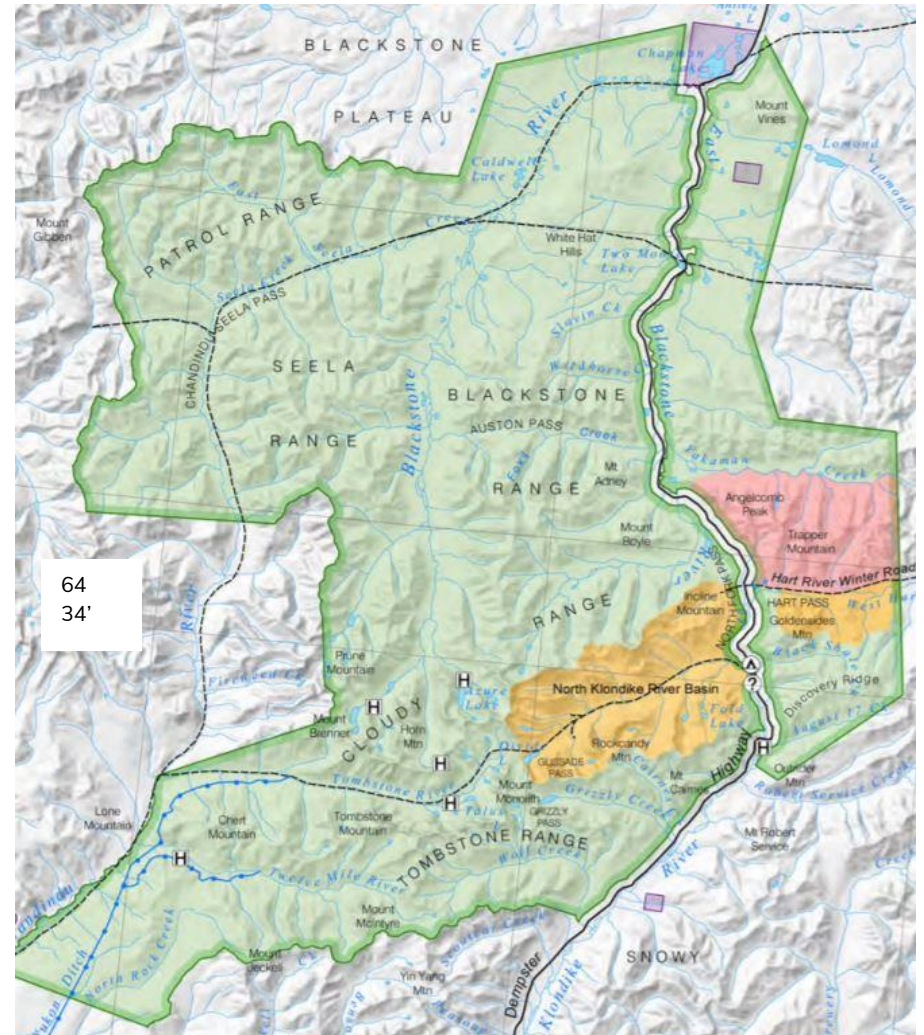
Helicopters require a permit to land within park boundaries, and must abide by Federal Standards (500 ft. above the ground, unless during an emergency). Environment and Climate Change Canada has strict guidelines on flying in known caribou and sheep habitat. For information, read [Flying in caribou country](#)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

Designated landing sites

All aircraft require a 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 the Parks Branch about park permit requirements for these areas.

Drone Use

The Government of Yukon does not promote the use of UAVs or drone filming. These activities are not permissible in Yukon territorial parks.



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 Landing near campground is not permitted
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. Camping not permitted.
Gravel pit at Km 67.5 Dempster Highway	64° 27' 56.85" N 138° 12' 19.81" W	This is an active gravel site, parking is not permitted.



Day hiking opportunities

There are six 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. Beaver Pond	Km 71.5	1 hour	1 km	Easy
2. Grizzly Trail to Monolith viewpoint	Km 58.5	2-4 hours	3 km	Moderate to Difficult
3. Edge of the Arctic Interpretive Trail	Km 72	0.5 hour	0.5 km	Easy
4. North Klondike	Km 72	1-2 hours	1.6 km	Easy to Moderate
5. Goldensides	Km 74.5	2-3 hours	2.5 km	Moderate
6. Hart River Winter Road	Km 78	Up to 3 hours	9.5 km to park boundary	Easy

1. 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 4, 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 on page 36](#) 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.
- Dogs **must** be on a leash at all times. 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. Edge of the Arctic Interpretive Trail

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. North Klondike 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 **Edge of the Arctic** 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 kilometre. 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 1 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

All backcountry trips require registration at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre where you will receive your permit and 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.

Avoid Fires

To preserve the integrity of our sensitive alpine and tundra fires are not permitted anywhere in Tombstone backcountry. Use a small campstove instead.

Visitor safety

Mountain travel is dangerous, and hazards do exist. Spotting hazards and assessing their risk is your responsibility. Parks Branch staff are not responsible for initiating search and rescue. Leave a trip plan with a reliable friend or family 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
Spring	May to June/early July	May be closed due to weather or wildlife	Snow conditions	Closed
Summer	July to early August	Open	Possible snowfall and freezing temperatures	Open
Fall	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
Winter	late-September to May	Closed	Snow cover and freezing temperatures	Closed



Hiking Grizzly Trail – July 2015



Rules and regulations

The following rules are in place for all backcountry in the park

- For all backcountry trips in the park it is required to register at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Watch our [backcountry video](#) with all members of your party to better prepare.
- Acquire all required permits for backcountry travel throughout the park.
- A reminder that park approved bear-resistant canisters are mandatory (see page 14).
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Fires are not permitted. There is no firewood in the tundra. Use a camp stove to reduce impacts.
- Stay on designated trails and flagged routes where available. When no obvious route is available, choose durable ground and spread out to prevent creation of new trails.
- Pack out all garbage, and carry out extra food.

In addition to the above rules, the following are in place for Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lakes areas:

- Reserve online at yukon.goingtocamp.com to secure your spot. A popular area, it books up fast!
- Camping is only permitted on designated tent pads.
- Each permit allows the use of one tent per tent pad.
- Do **not** cook on tent pads or near tent.
- Maximum of three people per tent.
- Camping is limited to three consecutive nights at any one of the three backcountry campgrounds.
- Grey water disposal: Dispose dish water, cooking water, and toothpaste in the grey water barrel to reduce impact on water bodies and avoid attracting wildlife. Always ensure the lid is replaced after use. Open barrels can fill with rainwater very quickly and must be removed via helicopter when full.



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, online at [Mac's Books](#) or at the Interpretive Centre for \$20.
- 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 following suggested packing list 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.

Travel guidelines in Tombstone wilderness areas

There are many backcountry opportunities in Tombstone for those who are experienced, well prepared and self-reliant.

Register your trip

Visit the Tombstone Interpretive Centre to register your trip and to receive updated information on weather, wildlife, leave no trace etiquette and area closures.

Mandatory bear-resistant food canister use

Park approved bear-resistant canisters are **mandatory** for all backcountry travel to protect wildlife and your food supply ([see page 14](#)). Plan ahead. Rent or purchase **before** you arrive.

Reduce your impacts – Practise leave no trace

Travel on hardened surfaces like talus and dwarf birch rather than delicate meadow areas.

Spread your impact! If there is more than one person in your group take different footsteps to avoid the cumulative impact of many footsteps. Learn more at Yukon.ca/travel-safe-wilderness.

Avoid wildlife encounters

Travel in areas with high visibility such as dwarf birch or alpine tundra. Avoid dense willow. When visibility is reduced, make noise by talking, singing, or simply shouting "Hey bear!" Do not camp or hike where visibility is low or along wildlife travel routes, such as near lakeshores, streams or trails. Learn more at [Stay safe in bear country](#).

Please note

- Mandatory registration and use of park-approved bear-resistant food canisters are required for all backcountry travel in Tombstone Territorial Park.
- Register at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre prior to your trip and receive up-to-date information on trail conditions, closures and wildlife activity.
- Registration is used for park management purposes and does not initiate search and rescue.



Backcountry hiking routes and facilities

Overnight camping reservations and permits are required to camp at **Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes 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	14	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 yukon.goingtocamp.com. The reservation fee of \$10 per transaction is non-refundable.

Reservation and cancellation policy

- Online reservations can be booked up to 24 hours before the trip.
- You will be prompted to a backcountry orientation video which ALL members of your party must watch.
- Cancellations within 72 hours (3 days) before your trip are eligible for a 75 per cent refund. If you cancel your reservation after this window there will be no refund and your space will become available for other backcountry campers to reserve.
- Be sure to bring your confirmation letter with you and register your trip at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.

Backcountry campground permit fee

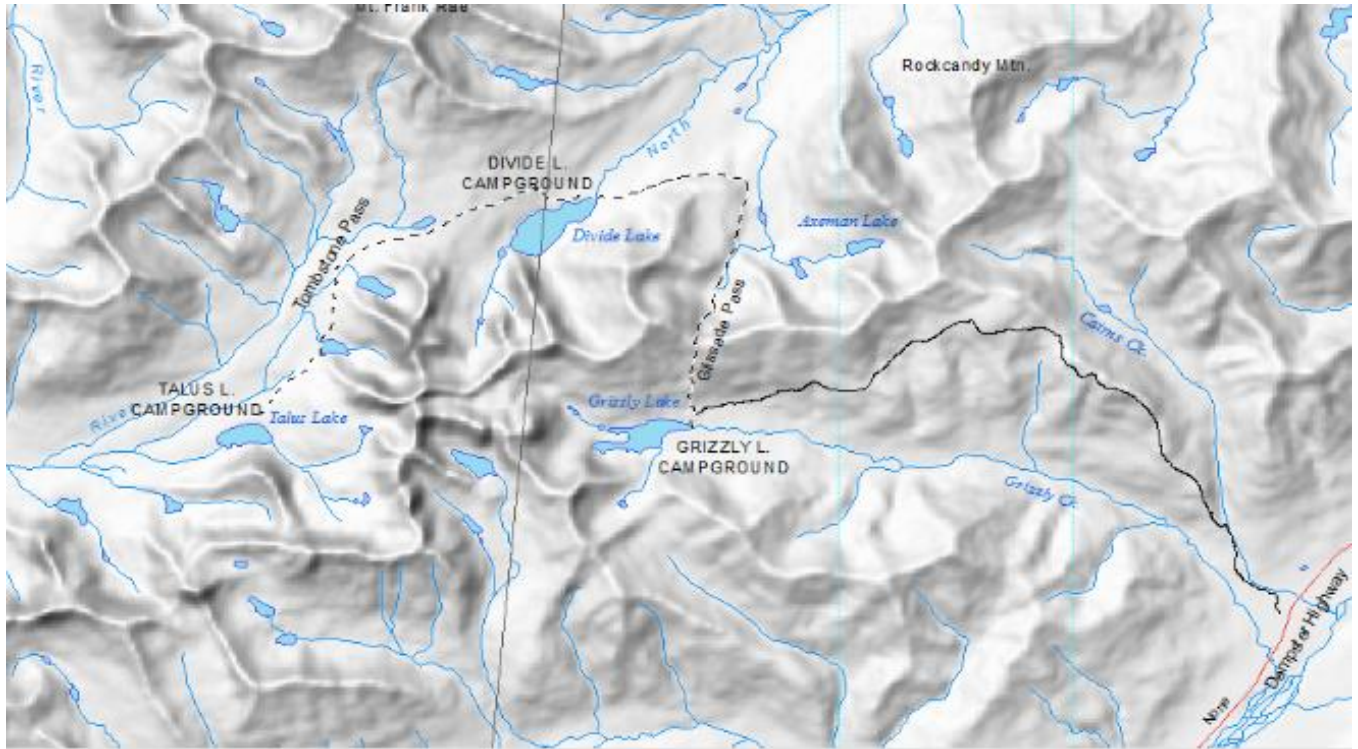
- \$18 per night per site
- Annual campground permits cannot be used in backcountry campgrounds.



Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lake route description

The 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 route section	Hiking time (one-way)	Distance (one-way)	Level
1. Grizzly Lake Trailhead to Grizzly Lake	7-10 hours	11.5 Km	Difficult
2. Grizzly Lake to Divide Lake	4-6 hours	6 Km	Difficult to Extreme
3. Divide Lake to Talus Lake	2-3 hours	6 Km	Easy to Moderate

1. Km 58.5 to Grizzly Lake

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

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 three kilometres 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 guide books 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 green flagging or 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, 14 tent pads, 2 cooking platforms, grey water disposal.

Please note:

- Camping at Grizzly Lake requires backcountry campground permits (\$18/night/site).
- 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 kept on a leash at all times for bear safety and to prevent harassment of wildlife.

A note on tent pads

The tent pads at Grizzly, Divide and Talus Lakes are 8 feet by 8 feet, suitable for a two person tent or a small three person tent. Bring extra cord to tie down your tent and tent fly.

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
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)
Time:	4-6 hours
Difficulty:	Difficult/Extreme
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 one to two 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 and green flagging 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 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.

Please note:

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

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)**

Time: **3 - 4 hours**

Difficulty: **Easy to moderate**

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



Description:

The trail 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, green flagging 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 green flagging and rock cairns to find the way.

Please note:

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

Facilities:

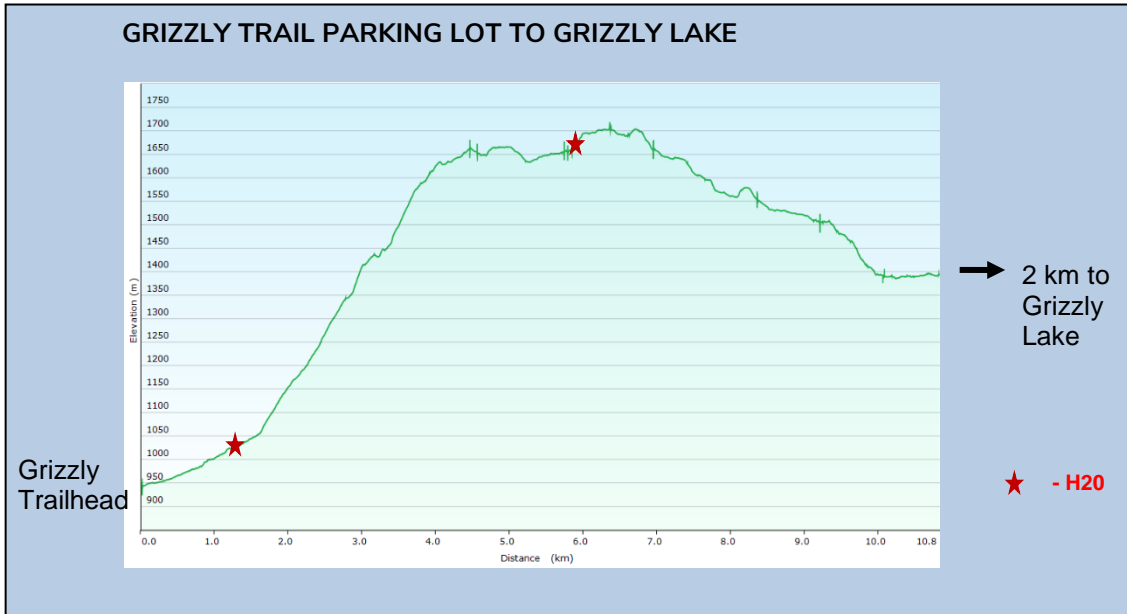
1 outhouse, 10 tent pads, cooking platform, grey water disposal.



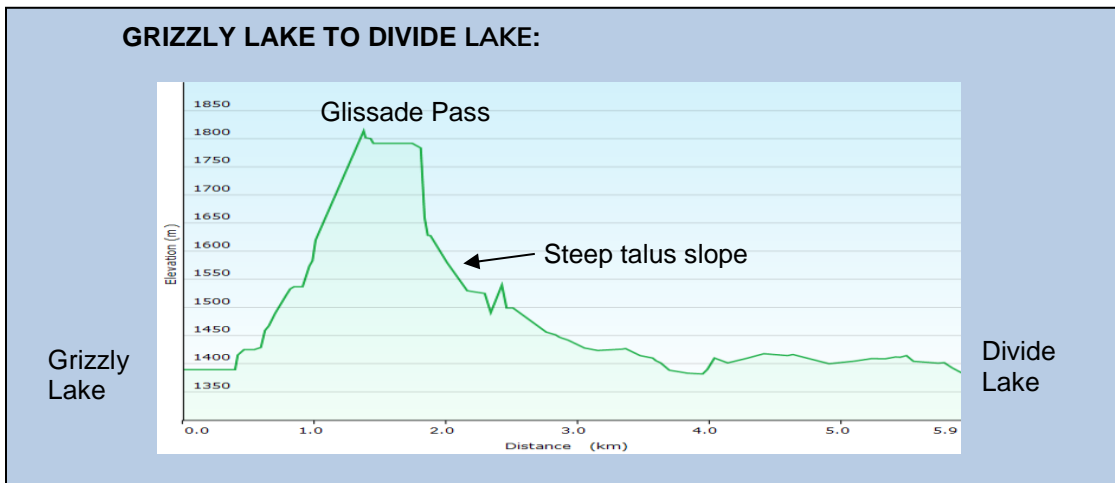
Day trips from Talus Lake:

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).

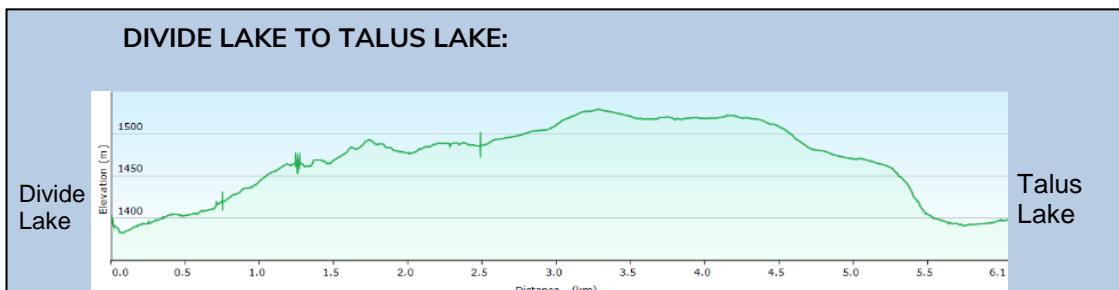
Backcountry trail elevations to Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes



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).



Sample trip plan and checklist

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

Trip details:

Startday.....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

.....

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				
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 underwear
- 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 and 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

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 – and with proper planning and self-sufficiency – the experience can be magical.



Avalanche safety

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 yukonavalanche.ca for more information.

Check the weather

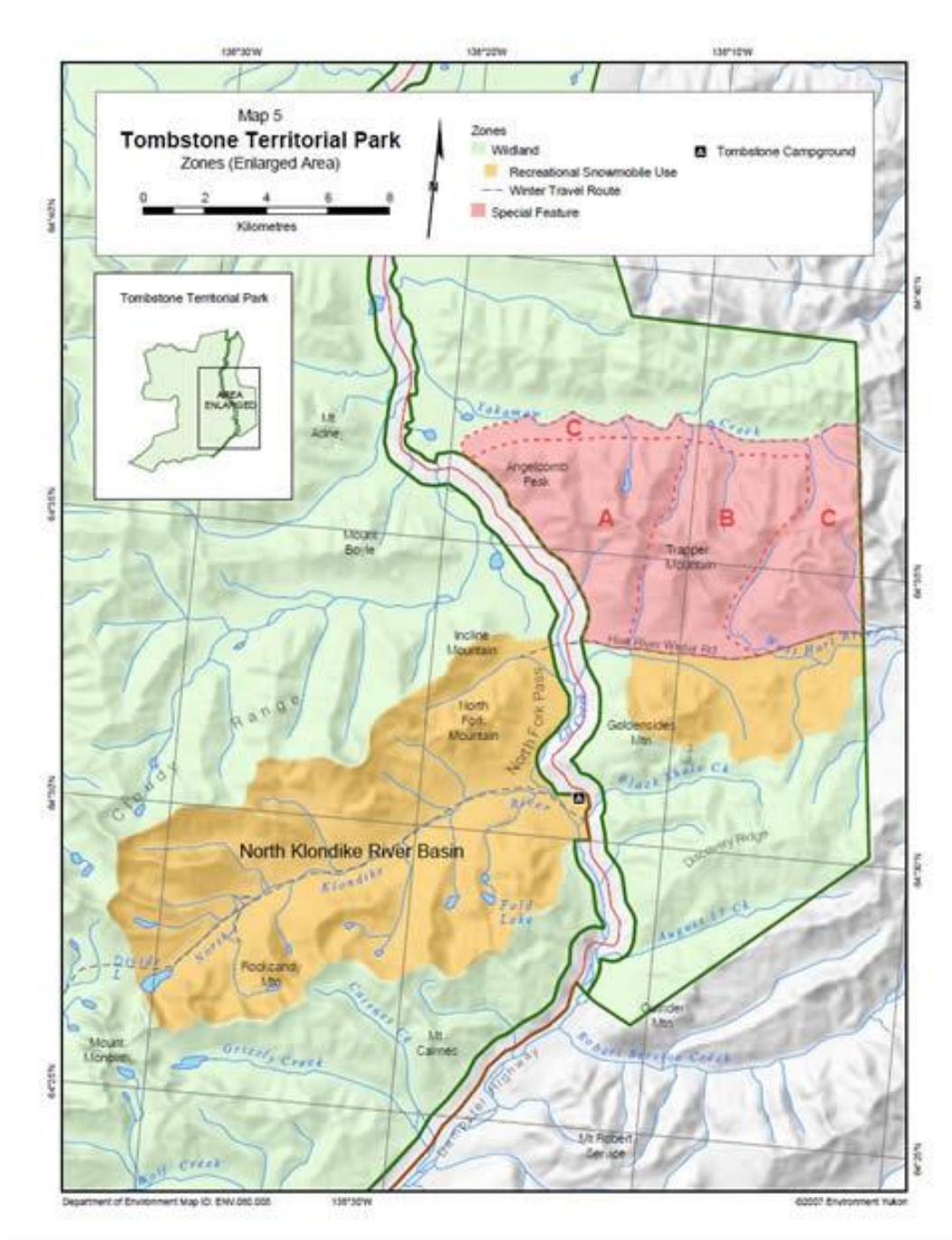
Check the weather for [Dawson City](#) and [Dempster Highway](#). For a true mountain forecast check the [forecast for Mt. Frank Rae](#). Drive for winter road conditions. Check highway conditions at www.511yukon.ca.

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 1-867-993-7899.





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.

- *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
- Visit Yukon.ca/documents for a full list of government brochures.

DVDs

- *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 purchase at bearsmart.com.

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 Dobrowolsky

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.

- *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

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in: www.trondek.ca

Yukon Hiking yukonhiking.ca

Yukon Road Conditions: 511yukon.ca

Dempster weather: weather.gc.ca/city/pages/yt-4_metric_e.html

