

# Into the Yukon wilderness

*What you need to know to travel safely  
and gently through the Yukon wilderness*



## INCLUDES

- Wilderness safety
- Bear safety
- Leave-no-trace checklist
- First Nations lands

**Yukon**

# *Into the* **Yukon wilderness**

*Welcome to Canada's Yukon. Some of you have come a long way to explore our territory, and some of you call it home. No matter where you're from, if you're going out into the wilderness, you'll need to be prepared.*

You're going to be a long way from help, so it's important that you bring along the right gear. If you run into any difficulties you'll have to rely on your own judgment and abilities because your cell phone won't work outside our communities and limited highway corridors. In many ways, you'll experience some of the same challenges on your wilderness journey as generations of First Nation peoples, old-time prospectors and trappers who came before you did. But there are some important differences.

Skookum Jim Mason, Jack London and Martha Louise Black didn't need a licence to fish or hunt. You do. You'll also have to follow the laws that apply to fishing, hunting and using the land. When you travel through the backcountry, you'll be expected to leave few signs of your passage. These things aren't difficult, but they require your commitment.

So plan the wilderness journey you've been dreaming about. Use this booklet as a starting point. Then visit bookstores, outdoor stores and online resources to find more information about wilderness trip planning.

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You can obtain copies of this publication by contacting:

Government of Yukon  
Department of Environment  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

867-667-5648  
Toll Free (in Yukon) 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648  
environmentyukon@gov.yk.ca  
**Yukon.ca/travel-safe-wilderness**

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# Wilderness safety

*In most cases, your backcountry trip will take you far from help and rescue. Be prepared to travel safely and handle any emergencies on your own.*

This section will help determine whether you are prepared for the wilderness. It is your responsibility to make sure you have the necessary skills, experience and equipment to have an enjoyable, injury-free adventure.

If you have any doubts about your abilities, consider a guided trip. There are many licensed wilderness guiding companies that can provide a safe, memorable experience. You can find a list of wilderness tourism operations in the *Yukon Vacation Trip Planner*, available at Visitor Information Centres and from **travelyukon.com**.

## Make sure you have the necessary backcountry skills

If you start a river trip or other expedition with no skills or experience, you're putting yourself and other members of your party at risk. The best thing to do is take a course in outdoor recreation skills, or learn from an experienced friend, before starting your trip. Outdoor recreation courses not only give you confidence, they also provide an opportunity to meet other responsible backcountry travellers. You can find out about these courses by contacting your local outdoor club.

# Travel smart in the Yukon outdoors

If you're going on any type of wilderness trip, you need to be prepared for adverse weather conditions and potentially dangerous wildlife encounters.

## Boating

If your trip involves any type of boat, you need to have the required safety gear in working condition. For more information call the Boating Safety Infoline at 1-800-267-6687, download the Discover Boating Safety app from your app store, or visit the Canadian Coast Guard website at [www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca).

If you will be paddling on a river, you need to know how to:

- deal with rapids, log jams and sweepers;
- prepare your craft for whitewater; and
- perform basic river rescues.

You also need to carry the appropriate rescue gear and life jackets to fit all members of your party.

## Hiking

If your trip involves hiking, you need to know how to:

- use a compass;
- make hazardous stream crossings; and
- negotiate terrain obstacles such as steep ridges, boggy areas and hummocky ground.

## Winter sports

If your trip involves skiing, snowmobiling or other snow sports, you need to know how to:

- identify whether you are in avalanche terrain;
- minimize your risk in these areas; and
- conduct a rescue.

The best way to learn these skills is to take an avalanche training course. Check avalanche conditions and discussions at [yukonavalanche.ca](http://yukonavalanche.ca). Remember, once out there, you're on your own.



## Survival kits

For all activities, take a basic survival kit in a daypack or belt bag. This will include:

- flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries;
- fire-making kit;
- signaling device such as a whistle;
- extra water and food;
- clothing to protect you from rain, wind and hypothermia;
- navigation and communication aids;
- first aid kit;
- emergency shelter (an orange tarp or blanket provides visibility);
- pocket knife;
- sun protection; and
- bear deterrent such as bear spray.

## Check beforehand

There are very few marked trails or boating routes in Yukon. You won't find warning signs before rapids, treacherous landscape features, or other hazards. Researching ahead of time may save your life.

- Pick up a guidebook at a Yukon bookstore for your route.
- Buy the topographic maps for your travel route well in advance. There is no guarantee that local vendors will have all maps you need. You can get maps from vendors across Canada and in other countries. For an up-to-date list and downloads, search for the Canada Map Office website.
- Talk to someone who has already travelled the route. Staff at Visitor Information Centres or Department of Environment offices may be able to help.

# Prepare for medical emergencies

Being prepared to treat injuries and illnesses is one of the basics of wilderness safety. Since you never know who will need care, all members should have these skills.

St. John's Ambulance and Red Cross offer first aid courses, including basic wilderness first aid training. Private companies offer advanced or specialized wilderness first aid courses. Check with your local recreation and safety organizations for contact numbers and addresses.

To prepare for medical emergencies:

- Be aware of each member's allergies, health problems or medical conditions, and ensure you have the equipment and skills to deal with them.
- Make sure that your first aid kit is waterproof, adequate for wilderness situations, and includes a wilderness first aid book.
- Be prepared to treat stings and insect bites. Some insect bites can cause strong reactions in those who have never been bitten.
- Know how to prevent, identify and treat hypothermia.
- Ensure that your group has adequate health insurance to cover medical treatment in Yukon.



## Prepare for rescue if necessary

If you follow the basics of wilderness safety, chances are you won't need rescuing. But if a rescue is required, take the following steps to make sure it goes smoothly:

- Let someone know about your travel route, schedule, the number of people in your party and the color of tents, backpacks and other equipment. Then they can alert the authorities if you don't return as planned. You can create your own trip plan or fill out an online trip plan at [plan.AdventureSmart.ca](http://plan.AdventureSmart.ca).
- Carry signalling equipment such as a personal locator beacon (PLB) like a GPS locator or in-reach device, VHF or HF radio, signal mirror, whistle and flares. If you carry a PLB, you should know that once you turn it on, rescue efforts begin immediately and hundreds of person-hours and thousands of dollars may be involved.
- Don't rely exclusively on PLBs. Satellite coverage, topography and the weather can interrupt their signals.
- Remember that outside of Yukon communities, there is no cell service.
- Obtain insurance to cover a rescue because, depending on the circumstances, you may have to pay all or part of the rescue costs.
- Learn about the international distress signals for wilderness situations.
- Be aware that solo travelling means there will be no one to go for help if you are injured or ill, and travelling with one partner means the victim may have to be left alone while the partner goes for help.

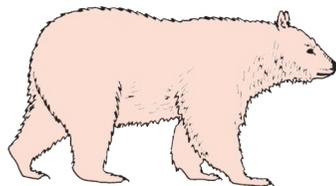
For more tips on wilderness safety and signaling equipment, visit [AdventureSmart.ca](http://AdventureSmart.ca).

# Bear safety

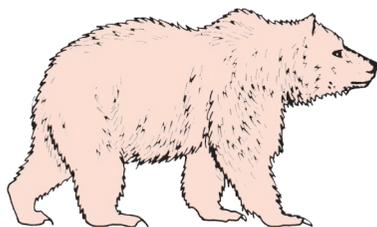
*Travelling in the Yukon wilderness involves certain risks, including the possibility of a bear encounter. Although the actual danger from bears may be small, it is real. The best defence is a cool head armed with good knowledge of bear ecology and behaviour.*

## Backcountry bear safety

- Stay alert and look ahead for bears and bear signs such as tracks, scat, fresh diggings or tree scratches.
- Choose routes with good visibility where possible.
- Make noise to let bears know you're coming, especially in thick brush, berry patches or near running water. Loud talking or singing is better than using bells.
- Travel in groups.
- Don't approach a bear for a better look or photo. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens.
- Choose a campsite well away from wildlife trails, spawning streams, signs of recent bear activity and bear foods such as berry patches.
- Pack your food in airtight containers, preferably bear-proof canisters. Pack out garbage in airtight containers or burn it and pack out unburned items.
- Don't bring greasy or smelly foods like bacon and canned fish.
- Cook and store food well away (200 m or 650 ft) from your camp, downwind if possible.
- At night, use a rope to hang your food from a tree, at least 2.5 m (8 ft) from the ground if possible.
- Bring a can of bear spray and other bear deterrents such as bear bangers or an air horn. Learn how to use it before your trip.



Black bear



Grizzly bear

Pick up *How you can stay safe in bear country* from any Department of Environment office and Visitor Information Centre, or get it from [Yukon.ca/stay-safe-bear-country](http://Yukon.ca/stay-safe-bear-country).

### **If you see a bear...**

Stay calm. Stop and assess the situation. Don't run, shout, or play dead too soon. An encounter is considered an attack only when the bear contacts you.

### **If the bear is unaware of you...**

Try to move away quietly without attracting its attention. Make a wide detour around the bear or wait.

### **If the bear becomes aware of you...**

Talk to it in a low voice. Wave your arms slowly. Back away. Don't run.

### **If the bear starts to approach...**

Stand your ground. Stay calm. Don't run away. If you're with others, group together. Prepare to use your bear spray. If you have a pack, keep it on. It may protect your head and neck. Watch the bear's behaviour to try to determine whether it's defensive or non-defensive.

If the bear appears stressed (yawning, huffing, moaning, barking, guttural sounds, salivating, paw swatting, a short charge), it is defensive. It may have cubs or a kill nearby. A defensive bear attacks to remove a perceived threat.

- Try to appear non-threatening.
- Talk in a calm voice.
- Start backing slowly away.
- If the bear keeps approaching, or even if it charges at you, stand your ground and keep talking. Fire a short burst of bear spray only if you think the bear will touch you.
- If the bear makes contact with you, fall on the ground and play dead. Drop to the ground, face down, hands clasped tightly over the back of your neck and legs slightly apart to prevent the bear rolling you over.
- When the attack stops, lie still and wait for the bear to leave.

If the bear does not appear stressed (intent on you with head and ears up, follows you and does not go away), it is non-defensive. It may be only curious, or it may be motivated by food and see you as prey.

- Talk in a firm voice.
- Move out of the bear's path.
- If it follows you, stop and stand your ground. You are now in real danger. Shout and act aggressively. Make yourself appear as large and threatening as you can and stamp your feet. Use your bear spray when the bear is within 5 m (15 ft). Direct it at the nose and eyes.
- If it attacks, fight back. Use any weapon you can on its eyes and nose. Don't give up!

If you kill a bear in self-defence, you must report it to a conservation officer as soon as practical.

# Leave-no-trace checklist

## Keeping Yukon green and pristine

This section will help you leave little or no trace of your travels through the backcountry. Our shared goal is to preserve high quality Yukon wilderness experiences for visitors and residents alike.

If you are new to Yukon or to backcountry travel, this guide will start you on the right track to making more conscious choices based on leave-no-trace principles.

## What does impact mean?

A human behaviour that changes the natural environment or others' experience of it is an "impact." The most obvious impact is garbage left in the wilderness. Another is the disturbed ground and damaged vegetation caused by too many people camping or travelling through an area. One often-overlooked impact is the way wildlife alters its behaviour once they are attracted by food humans carry into the backcountry, or the waste humans leave behind.

While some impacts involve damage to ecosystems, others damage the aesthetics of the wilderness. Toilet paper blown onto a riverside shrub may have little environmental impact, but it can ruin the pleasure of wilderness travel.

## The North American leave-no-trace movement

This checklist is one of many leave-no-trace guides produced by various organizations and governments throughout North America. Some of the content is unique to Yukon and is based on suggestions from local backcountry travellers. The general messages, however, are consistent with ideas promoted in other leave-no-trace literature.

The Government of Yukon has adopted the educational and ethical principles promoted by Leave No Trace Canada, Canada's leading proponent of leave-no-trace practices. Leave-no-trace is not a set of rules and regulations. It is a program that inspires people to respect each other and the environment.



# 1. Plan ahead and prepare

You should plan your trip well in advance. Planning to leave no trace is one step in the process. Many of these techniques are common sense; the rest will become habit with practice.

- Larger groups have larger impacts so plan on a small group size. Two to six people is ideal. If you can break a large group into smaller, independent groups that are well-separated, you will reduce the overall impact.
- Get together well ahead of your trip so that your entire group can discuss and plan leave-no-trace techniques.
- Plan meals so that you have enough food but little waste.
- Select items that aren't over-packaged. Eliminating bulky packaging reduces garbage. Repackaging in odour-reducing plastic bags or other airtight containers can reduce the weight and size of your pack, and lessen wildlife-attracting odours.
- Avoid bringing smelly, easily-spoiled foods that will attract scavengers. This includes fresh meat, fish and seafood. Small one-meal cans of such food are an option. Plan to burn the cans, then pack them out and deposit them at the nearest recycling bin or community recycling centre.
- It is good practice to pack out apples and orange peels and other remains from fruits and vegetables. These can become wildlife attractants, make small animals sick, and decompose very slowly in the North.
- Learn as much as you can about the region's wildlife so you will know how to minimize potential impacts. Read the many wildlife viewing publications available from **Yukon.ca** or pick up copies at Department of Environment offices and Visitor Information Centres.
- Read the appropriate sections of this booklet to find out about the laws that apply to travelling through First Nations lands.
- Choose travel and camping gear carefully, for both safety and minimal impact. Try to plan for all conditions and environments that you may experience.
- Use topographical maps to help you plan low-impact travel routes and campsites. Usually, 1:50,000 or 1:250,000 scale maps are best. Pay attention to the land.
- Pack a stove and enough fuel for reliable heat and minimum impact. If you do plan on a campfire, take a tarp for a mound fire, or carry a firepan.
- Bring an appropriate container if you decide to pack out your own feces.



## 2. Camp and travel on durable surfaces

### When hiking

For the hiker, most considerations relate to keeping ground vegetation healthy and intact so that plants recover quickly.

- Use existing trails. Trails are often used by wildlife, so be alert. Read the bear safety section on pages 7 and 8 for more information.
- When on a trail, hike single file to prevent widening the trail, even if it is wet or muddy.
- Where there are no trails, select a route over durable terrain such as gravel creek beds, sandy or rocky areas, or grassy vegetation. Try to avoid steep, loose slopes and wet terrain. If you must walk across vegetated areas, spread out to avoid creating new trails.
- In winter, snow and ice help ensure your tracks are gone after the next snowfall. Avoid water-laden soil in the alpine and during spring melt.

## When camping

Even an overnight stop can leave a lasting impression on the land and the next wilderness enthusiast. Keep the following suggestions in mind.

- Look for a campsite early so you can be selective.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activities where vegetation is absent or durable.
- Use an existing campsite instead of making a new one. Try to choose sites that are already impacted. If possible, leave the site cleaner than it was when you arrived. Cleaning up, reducing the number of fire circles, and encouraging regrowth in damaged spots all help make the site better for the next visitor.
- When choosing a new campsite, look for durable terrain. Bare rock, sand, fine gravel, snow and ice are the most forgiving surfaces and you can level or soften your sleeping surface with clothing and a good camping mat. When these are not available, plants that can best sustain the impact of camping are generally those living on coarse-grained, well-drained, level soils. A few examples are grasses, kinnikinnik, arctic willow and mountain avens.
- When travelling by water, consider camping on gravel bars or sandbars. Spring floods will purge these sites so that even slight traces of your camp will be removed. But remember, heavy rains can make some rivers rise quickly and dramatically, because landscapes containing permafrost or exposed bedrock cannot absorb much runoff.
- Try to keep access routes to water and other commonly used places as small as possible. Set up your tents with this in mind and vary your route between such areas. Wearing light runners or sandals in camp will also help to minimize impact and soothe sore feet.

### 3. Dispose of waste properly

Garbage is a major concern in the backcountry, but there are ways to dispose of almost everything.

- If you have a hot fire, burn paper garbage like toilet paper, pads and tampons to reduce odours that attract animals. Sift through the campfire ashes and pack out anything that remains.
- Pack out any garbage or toilet paper that you don't burn. Double- or triple-bag it to reduce odours. An airtight, reusable garbage container may be a better option.
- Don't bury garbage. Scavenging wildlife will dig it up, spread it around, and perhaps suffer injury or death from it. Pack it out.
- Make a final sweep before you leave camp. Small items like twist ties, small pieces of food or bits of plastic are easy to overlook. A fun challenge is to try to leave a camping site with no sign of you having been there.



**Commercial wilderness operators**

Commercial wilderness tourism operators must follow special regulations applying to leave-no-trace wilderness travel and waste disposal (Yukon Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act).

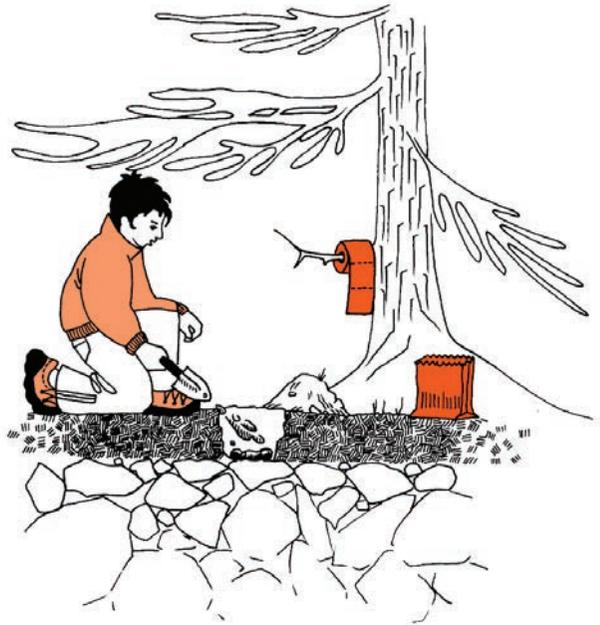
For more information, visit **Yukon.ca** or contact the Registrar by phone **867-667-5648** or email **yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca**.

#### Wastewater and waste food

- Plan to wash your dishes in a container, then drain the dishwater into a hole well away from tents and standing water. Remember to refill the hole with soil before you leave. Use a small strainer to catch food particles, which you can then pack out or burn. These steps can help reduce food odours, prevent contamination of water sources, and avoid unsightly scraps washing up on shorelines.
- You can also get rid of strained, soap-free wastewater in a swift-flowing river. Fling it far out into the current to ensure dilution. This is a better option than using a hole in the ground because it completely eliminates food odours.
- Another way to reduce food odours in camp is to have a meal stop well before you stop to camp. By keeping cooking odours, spilled food and dishwater well away from your campsite, you can avoid attracting scavenging wildlife.
- Avoid or minimize the use of soaps, toothpaste and shampoos. Biodegradable products are essential. Use them well away from water to avoid contaminating an otherwise pure lake or stream.

## Human waste

- Plan to use outhouses.
- When outhouses are not available, your toilet should be at least 60 m (200 ft) away from any body of water; even further if you are camped on a floodplain. You can dispose feces in a shallow, 15 cm (6 in) cathole dug in the soil with a small trowel. Choose a spot with rich soil and plants. When you're finished, add a bit of surface soil and stir with a stick to encourage decomposition. Use the remaining soil you have dug out to cover things afterwards and replace the cover of plants and turf. Pick a site well away from any other catholes and far from any campsite.
- Bacterial action in northern soils is much slower than in more southerly climates. Your organic garbage and human waste take much longer to decompose.
- Permafrost will slow decomposition. Try to choose toilet sites where permafrost is well below the surface, or absent, and where there is some depth of soil. South-facing, open slopes are a good choice.
- Consider stopping for bowel movements along your travel route rather than at your campsite. This will help reduce impacts at popular campsites.
- Put used toilet paper and feminine hygiene products in a paper bag and burn it in a campfire, or pack it out with your other garbage. You can also use naturally decomposing alternatives like moss, leaves, snow and grass.
- If your group is large and you must remain in one area for an extended time, dig a latrine or pack out your waste. The latrine should be approximately 30 cm (1 ft) deep and 60 m (200 ft) away from water. Throwing earth into it after each use will help decomposition and reduce odours. Better still, keep your group small, and change campsites on a daily basis.



## 4. Leave what you find

### Historic artifacts

- You must leave historic artifacts, archeological specimens, and fossils undisturbed. It is against the law to collect such items without a valid permit. You must report an accidental discovery of historic resources to the Cultural Services Branch, or to the appropriate First Nation if the find is on First Nation land. Record a GPS location if you can. For more information, contact the Cultural Services Branch at 867-667-5983, toll-free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5983, or email [heritage.resources@gov.yk.ca](mailto:heritage.resources@gov.yk.ca).

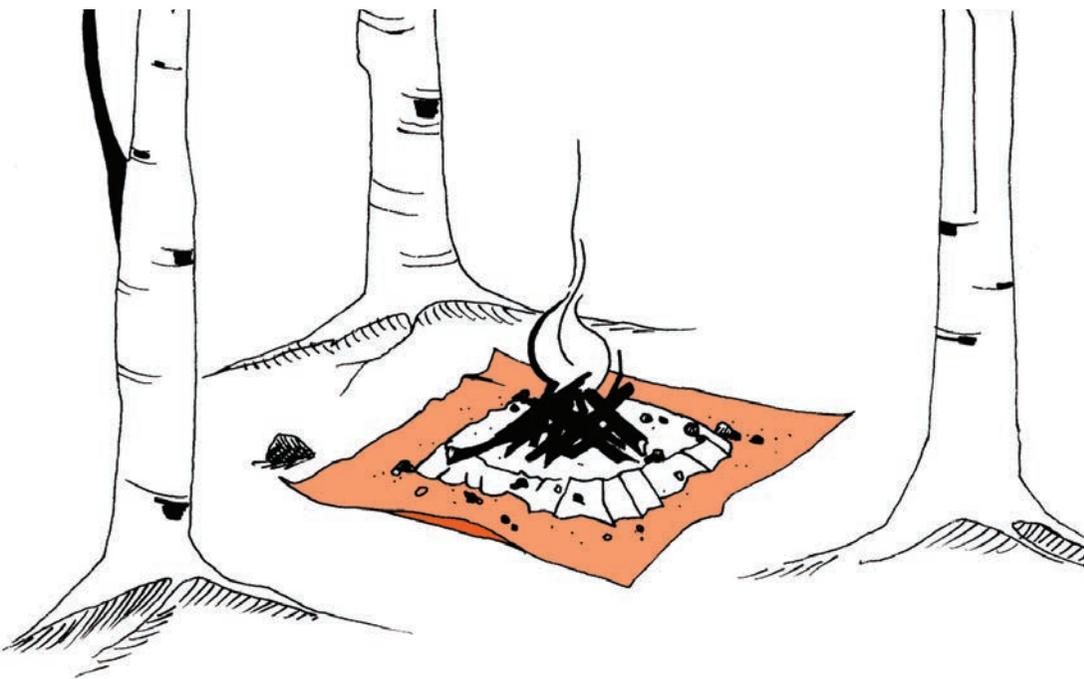
### Leave it natural

- Cutting trees, excessive berry or flower picking, digging trenches and building tables, shelters or other structures may diminish the next visitor's wilderness experience and may impact food and shelter that wildlife depend on for survival. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you found them.
- Avoid introducing non-native species.

### Garbage and litter

Dropping litter in the backcountry is an offence under Yukon's Environment Act.





## 5. Minimize campfire impacts

Yukon has abundant firewood in many places. But certain areas have lost part of that wilderness feeling because of blackened circles of rocks, other campfire-related debris and broken tree limbs.

Campfires also pose a risk of starting forest fires. Many fires start when travellers let their campfire get out of hand. Sparks, or fires that have spread underground through peat or roots, can smolder for days, weeks or months before erupting.

There are many types of inexpensive, lightweight, efficient and reliable backpacking stoves that can eliminate the need for campfires. Always carry one of these stoves so that you will have the option. You can also use a lantern to provide light. If it is safe to have a campfire, however, consider the following suggestions.

### Cutting trees

The only reason you may cut or damage a tree without a valid timber cutting permit is to build a campfire. You can only use dry or dead trees (standing or down).



- Campfires built directly on the ground will leave lasting scars. Fire destroys surface vegetation and sterilizes the soil. When considering whether or not to build a fire, ask yourself if it is necessary and what effect it will have.
- Use an existing fire circle. If there is more than one circle, eliminate the others if you can.
- Keep fires small.
- If you choose to build a campfire on an undisturbed site, consider using a firepan or making a mound fire. This is done by piling sand or gravel from a disturbed site on a large tarp. Make the pile about 20 cm (8 in) thick to prevent the heat from destroying underlying vegetation. When finished, put the sand or gravel back where it came from.
- Use only dead wood, preferably from fallen trees. The smallest, dead, dry branches from a spruce tree are great fire starters. Small pieces of dead, dry willow burn hot, with mild smoke. Collect only what you need, keep the fire small, and take your wood from different locations. Sawcuts on stumps are sure signs that someone has been there before, so be discreet if you do any sawing.
- Burn wood and coals down to ash. Stir and drench the site until you feel no hot spots with your hand. Collect any refuse, then scatter the cool ashes.
- Sandbars and gravel bars are ideal campfire sites if there is no flood threat. The remaining indications of your campfire will be washed away during high-water periods. You may still want to use a mound fire or firepan set upon rocks to minimize your impact on vegetation.
- Always use a stove in areas where fires are prohibited, where a fire danger exists, or where there is little dead wood available.
- A winter campfire can be a true no-trace fire if you build it on top of deep snow or ice. If small, the fire may not even reach ground level before fulfilling its purpose. The remaining ash you scatter will be covered by new snow in a few days.





## 6. Respect wildlife

Wildlife viewing is one of the thrills of backcountry travel. Give animals ample space and distance. Remain quiet and still to prolong your viewing opportunities and minimize the animal's stress.

- Never feed wild animals. Feeding wildlife is against the law, and it damages their health, alters natural behaviours and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Binoculars, scopes, and telephoto lenses (300 mm or more) are the best tools for observing wildlife. They allow you to watch an animal's natural behaviour from a safe distance. If the animal notices you, you are probably too close and causing undue stress, and you may be putting yourself and the animals at risk.
- Don't camp where there are obvious signs of wildlife use such as nesting, denning, feeding or rutting sites.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Keep a clean camp.
- Don't follow fleeing or retreating wildlife. You may be separating a mother from her young, depleting the animal's energy reserves and putting yourself in a dangerous situation.
- Be especially wary of what seem to be orphaned young. In all likelihood, the mother is nearby. Any attempts to help could provoke an attack from the mother. Under most circumstances, it is best to let nature take its course.
- Leash pets or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young and during winter.

## 7. Be considerate of others

Showing consideration for wilderness residents and other travellers helps make everyone's journey more enjoyable. Be courteous and yield to others on the trail. Camp away from trails and other visitors.

- Noise, and even the sight of brightly coloured tents and clothing, can detract from a wilderness experience. On the other hand, in some situations making noise will help avoid bear encounters. Brightly coloured gear may also be important in a rescue or an air pickup. Appropriate behaviour or gear depends on the circumstances.
- You may encounter hunters or trappers while out in the backcountry. Show respect and don't disturb any traps you find.
- The key is to keep others in mind when planning and travelling.



### Wilderness cabins

Most of the cabins you'll find in the backcountry belong to licensed trappers who use them during the winter trapping season. Don't disturb these cabins or any traps or equipment you find in wilderness areas. Chances are, someone is counting on that cabin being in good shape, and the equipment being in place, when winter returns.

## For more information

Leave-no-trace workshops and courses are offered in Yukon through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

Many excellent publications and websites are available to provide a more comprehensive understanding of leave no trace practices. Visit [leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca) for information from Leave No Trace Canada.



# First Nations Lands

*If you are anywhere in Yukon, you are on Indigenous traditional territory. Traditional territory is the area an Indigenous group or its citizens' ancestors traditionally used.*

Settlement Lands are parcels of land located within the traditional territories of First Nations with Final Agreements. Find out if you will be travelling through Settlement Lands. If you are not a citizen of that First Nation, learn and follow the rules that apply when you pass through their lands.

## Locating First Nations Settlement Lands

First Nations Settlement Lands are marked on detailed maps that you can view at all Department of Environment offices and at the offices of First Nations for their traditional territory.

## Travelling and camping on undeveloped Settlement Lands

The general right of access outlined below applies only to undeveloped Settlement Land. Undeveloped Settlement Land means any parcel not designated as developed by mutual agreement of the federal, territorial and affected First Nation governments. The presence or absence of structures doesn't necessarily mean the land is developed or undeveloped. It is your responsibility to find out the status of the land you want to access.

## Your rights

You have the right to enter, cross and stay for a reasonable period of time on undeveloped Settlement Lands for non-commercial recreation, including camping and fishing, subject to the responsibilities described below.

## Your responsibilities

When using undeveloped Settlement Lands, you must not:

- damage the land or structures;
- commit acts of mischief; or
- interfere with the use and enjoyment of the land by the First Nation.

A person who does any of these things is considered a trespasser.

## Waterfront right-of-way

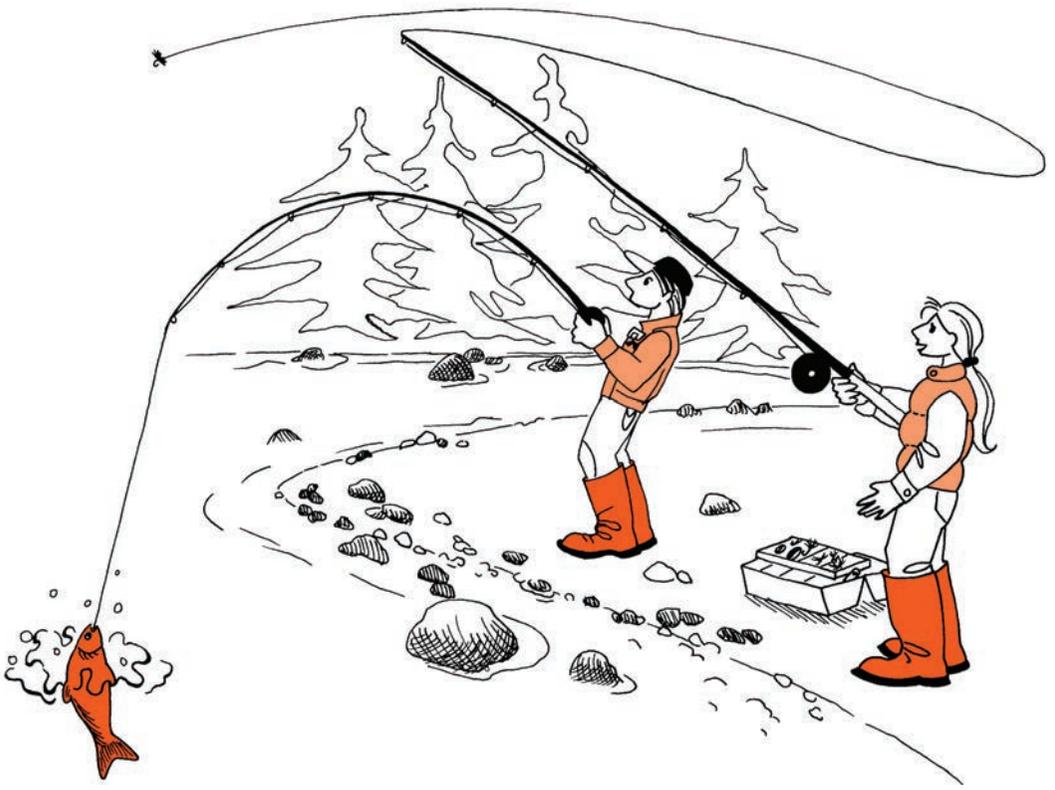
A waterfront right-of-way exists from the high water mark to a distance of 30 metres inland, along most navigable waterways, including those beside or within Settlement Lands. You have the right to stop over, camp and use dead wood to make campfires within a waterfront right-of-way.

Be aware, however, that some Settlement Lands along rivers extend through what would otherwise be the waterfront right-of-way, and may be closed to public camping and fishing. These are identified on [Yukon.ca/lands-closed-fishing-shore](https://www.yukon.ca/lands-closed-fishing-shore).



**For more information**

Visit a **Department of Environment** office or the **First Nation office** for the traditional territory where you will travel to find out more.



# Fishing, hunting and firearms

## Fishing at a glance

You need a valid Yukon angling licence if you want to fish in Yukon for all species except salmon. To fish for salmon, you'll also need a Salmon Conservation Catch Card.

When you buy your licence you will receive a copy of the Yukon fishing regulations summary. The regulation booklet is available in English, French and German, and includes illustrations of all Yukon fish species. You must follow the catch limits and all other regulations described in the booklet.

Angling licences are available online at [Yukon.ca/yukon-fishing-licence](http://Yukon.ca/yukon-fishing-licence), at Department of Environment offices, and most highway lodges, sporting goods stores and convenience stores throughout Yukon.

# Hunting at a glance

You need a valid Yukon hunting licence to hunt in Yukon. When you get your licence, you will receive a copy of the Yukon hunting regulations summary. You must follow all the regulations described in the booklet. Hunting licences are available online at **Yukon.ca/yukon-hunting-licence** and at Department of Environment offices.

Residents may purchase a Yukon resident big game hunting licence once they have lived in the territory for one year. This allows you to hunt big game and small game species. Resident hunters born after April 1, 1987 must successfully complete a recognized hunter education program to hold any hunting licence.

Non-residents may purchase a licence to hunt small game and migratory birds. Migratory bird hunting permits are available at postal outlets throughout Yukon.

For a non-resident to hunt big game (moose, caribou, bison, mountain sheep, mountain goat, deer, elk, black bear, grizzly bear, wolf coyote and wolverine), they need to be accompanied by a resident hunter with a special guide licence or a licensed big game guide employed by an outfitter.

## For a list of game outfitters

Contact the **Yukon Outfitters Association** at **867-668-4118**, email **info@yukonoutfitters.net** or visit **yukonoutfittersassociation.com**.



## Firearms at a glance

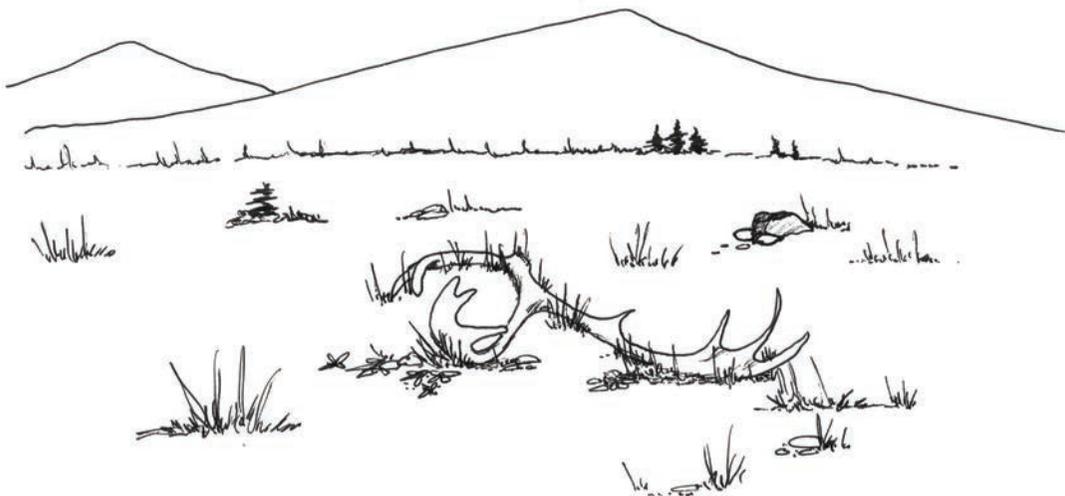
A firearm is not a necessary piece of equipment for a Yukon wilderness journey. In fact, many Yukon residents and visitors do not carry a firearm on their canoe trips and hiking trips. It's a heavy item, you can't use it to "live off the land" and, in the hands of someone who is not well-trained in its use, it can be a lethal accident waiting to happen. Firearms are not allowed inside Kluane, Ivvavik and Vuntut national parks except when carried by First Nations and Inuvialuit exercising their harvest rights.

If you decide to bring a firearm for hunting or for protecting yourself from bears, you will have to follow Canada's strict firearm control laws including the following:

- When not in use a firearm must be unloaded and kept separately from the ammunition. You must:
  - › store it in a locked container;
  - › fit it with a trigger lock, or
  - › remove the bolt.
- You must store ammunition separate from the firearm, unless you keep both items in a locked container like a gun locker. These storage laws do not apply when you are in a remote wilderness location.
- You must always transport firearms unloaded. If you leave it in a vehicle, you must lock it in the trunk if there is one, or keep it out of sight in the locked vehicle. If you can't lock the vehicle, someone must be with the firearm.
- In a remote wilderness area, you can leave a firearm unattended as long as it is out of sight and trigger locked. If you need the firearm as defence against predators, you do not have to lock the trigger.
- The laws described here apply to hunting rifles and shotguns only. Handguns and other restricted weapons are subject to additional laws.



**For more information**  
Call the **RCMP Canadian Firearms Program**  
toll free at **1-800-731-4000**.



# Wildlife parts

The only wildlife part you can keep without a permit are naturally shed antlers.

If you want to keep any part of a wildlife carcass you find, you must bring the item to a Department of Environment office and ask for a permit to keep it. Wildlife parts include antlers, hides, claws, teeth, meat and any other part of a wildlife carcass.

A conservation officer will ask a few questions and if everything is in order, they will issue a permit.

## Taking them out of Yukon

You must get an export permit from a Department of Environment office before you take any wildlife parts out of Yukon. You'll also need a special CITES permit to take any part of the following species out of Canada: grizzly bear, polar bear, black bear, wood bison, wolf, lynx or otter. Many countries, such as the United States and Germany, have their own import requirements for wildlife parts. Check with the importing country for details.

Different rules apply for purchasing or selling wildlife parts, or products made from wildlife parts. See [Yukon.ca/wildlife-parts](http://Yukon.ca/wildlife-parts) for more information.

# Contact

## Department of Environment offices

### Whitehorse

10 Burns Road  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

867-667-5652  
environmentyukon@gov.yk.ca

### Carmacks

110 Nansen Road

867-863-2411

### Dawson City

Dawson City Museum  
Second Floor

867-993-5492

### Faro

336 McQuesten Road

867-994-2862

### Haines Junction

109 Pringle Street

867-634-2247

### Mayo

Government of Yukon  
Administration Building,  
Centre Street

867-996-2202

### Ross River

Across from the Dena General Store

867-969-2202

### Teslin

Km 1246 Alaska Highway

867-390-2685

### Watson Lake

1010 Centennial Avenue

867-536-3210



# Visitor Information Centres

## Whitehorse

100 Hanson Street  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

867-667-3084  
vic.whitehorse@gov.yk.ca

## Beaver Creek

On the Alaska Highway

867-862-7321

## Carcross

Carcross Commons

867-821-4431

## Dawson City

At the corner of  
Front and King Street

867-993-5566

## Haines Junction

In the Da Kų Cultural Centre

867-634-2345

## Watson Lake

At the junction of the Alaska and  
Robert Campbell highways

867-536-7469



For tourist information  
867-667-5340  
1-800-661-0494 (toll free in Yukon)  
vacation@gov.yk.ca  
travelyukon.com

National Parks  
pc.gc.ca

## First Nations offices

### **Council of Yukon First Nations**

867-393-9200 (Whitehorse)

### **Carcross/Tagish First Nation**

867-821-4251 (Carcross)

### **Champagne and Aishihik First Nations**

867-634-4200 (Haines Junction)

867-456-6888 (Whitehorse)

1-866-803-2697 (toll free)

### **First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun**

867-996-2265 (Mayo)

### **Kluane First Nation**

867-841-4274 (Burwash Landing)

1-866-558-5587 (toll free)

### **Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

867-633-7800 (Whitehorse)

### **Liard First Nation**

867-536-5200 (Watson Lake)

### **Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation**

867-863-5576 (Carmacks)

### **Ross River Dena Council**

867-969-2277 (Ross River)

### **Selkirk First Nation**

867-537-3331 (Pelly Crossing)

### **Ta'an Kwäch'än Council**

867-668-3613 (Whitehorse)

### **Teslin Tlingit Council**

867-390-2532 (Teslin)

867-456-4806 (Whitehorse)

### **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in**

867-993-7100 (Dawson City)

1-877-993-3400 (toll free)

### **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

867-966-3261 (Old Crow)

867-633-2911 (Whitehorse)

### **White River First Nation**

867-862-7802 (Beaver Creek)

1-866-862-9736 (toll free)

# Protect Yukon wildlife

24 hour • Anonymous • Rewards available



## How you can help

If you see or suspect someone is violating our hunting, fishing or environmental laws, don't confront them and risk an unpleasant reaction. That's a job for conservation officers. You can help by watching carefully and recording the facts including:

- date and time;
- location;
- number of people involved;
- description of the people;
- description of the vehicle and licence plate number; and
- details of the violation or activity.

As soon as you can, call the **TIPP line** at **1-800-661-0525** and report the details of the offence. You'll be helping our conservation efforts and you may be eligible for a reward.



