① WATERFALLS ROUTE ①

Head east on NWT Highway 1 along a wilderness route that boasts a truly impressive series of waterfalls. Be sure to have your camera ready.

NWT/Alberta Border 60th Parallel Visitor Centre — KM 0
The giant interpretive sign at the 60th parallel is the first thing you'll see when entering the NWT at the Alberta border. Take a photo, then pop into the visitor centre to view the exhibits and swap stories with friendly staff. If you don't want to leave just yet, pitch a tent in the park's campground.

Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park — KM 72
Just outside Enterprise, marvel at the Hay River as it plunges more than 30 metres over roaring Alexandra Falls. A clearly marked forest trail will bring you to Louise Falls, a scenic tiered cascade. Stop for a picnic in the day-use area or stay overnight at the two separate campgrounds located here.

Enterprise — KM 83.2
Situated beside the Hay River canyon at the junction of NWT Highway No. 1 and No. 2, Enterprise is a small community within hiking distance of Alexandra and Louise falls. Find out why locals call their home "the handshake of the North." To visit Hay River or to continue on to Wood Buffalo National Park, turn onto NWT Highway No. 2 and follow the signs.

McNallie Creek Falls — KM 119.8
This modest picnic area includes a short trail leading to a lookout platform that provides a spectacular view of 17-metre high McNallie Creek Falls and surrounding gorge.

Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park — KM 167.1
A picturesque crescent waterfall is the jewel of this Territorial Park, located just outside the quaint community of Kakisa. With over 20 powered campsites, this is an ideal place to go for a swim, do some fishing or set up camp for the night.

Kakisa River Bridge Picnic Area — KM 168.8
This popular day-use area just off the highway swells with anglers after the Kakisa River opens up and Arctic Grayling make their annual spring run.

Wallace Creek — KM 289.4
This pretty rest spot includes a short, 15-minute forest walk north to a small waterfall.

Sambaa Deh Falls Territorial Park — KM 325
This phenomenal territorial park includes a network of trails that takes you along the dramatic canyon walls overlooking the rushing Sambaa Deh Falls. Fish for Arctic grayling and pickerel, or take the 1.5-kilometre hike upriver to go fossil hunting at Coral Falls.

Note: The kilometre designations used for this route begin at the Alberta-NWT border.

② HERITAGE ROUTE ②

Take the Heritage Route north from Fort Simpson to Wrigley and travel through a beautiful region of forested hills, mountain foothills, and crystal-clear lakes and rivers.

Liard River Ferry Crossing and Campsite — KM 456.4
Roll onto the MV Lafferty, a free ferry that crosses the Liard River from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. every day from late May to late October.1 In the winter, you can drive the ice crossing over the Liard River.

Fort Simpson — KM 471.3
The largest centre in the Dehcho region, Fort Simpson sits on an island at the confluence of the Liard and Mackenzie rivers. Explore the town's Dene culture and fur trade history at the Visitor Information Centre and along the riverfront.

Fort Simpson is also the gateway to Nahanni National Park Reserve, home to Virginia Falls, one of North America's most impressive waterfalls. The roadless park can be explored by canoe, raft, or kayak, or from the air on a flightseeing tour, with charter flights departing from Fort Simpson.

Fort Simpson Territorial Park — KM 474
Overlooking the Mackenzie and Liard River confluence, this scenic territorial park is within walking distance of downtown Fort Simpson. It's also near the Flats, a long-time gathering area for Dehcho Dene. Today, it features a giant teepee commemorating Pope John Paul II's 1987 visit.

Mackenzie River Ferry Crossing — KM 550.5
Continue on NWT Highway No. 1 to cross the Mackenzie River (N'Dulee) on the MV Johnny Berens. This ferry runs daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. from late May until late October.[1]

Willowlake River — KM 625
A Northwest Company fur trading post, Fort Alexander was located nearby from 1817 to 1821. The Willowlake River winds its way from the Horn Plateau in the east to the Mackenzie River.

Wrigley — KM 690
Tucked into the Franklin Mountains, Wrigley is scenic and serene, with a traditional lifestyle that revolves around trapping, hunting and fishing. NWT Highway No. 1 ends here. In the winter, an ice road north opens to connect Wrigley to Norman Wells and the other Sahtu communities up the Mackenzie Valley.

Note: The kilometre designations used for this route begin at the Alberta-NWT border.

[1] Please double-check ferry crossing hours of operation at NWT visitor centres, drivenwt.ca, or by calling 1-800-661-0750.

⑦ LIARD TRAIL ⑦

This gateway to the Dehcho region makes an ideal detour for wilderness adventure off the Alaska Highway. There may be times when the Liard Trail (NWT Highway No. 7) has more bison on it than vehicles.

BC/NWT border — KM 0
Cross over the 60th parallel. From here, it's just 137 kilometres to the Alaska Highway.

Fort Liard — KM 37.6
Considered "the tropics of the North" because it often has the warmest weather and best growing conditions in the Northwest Territories, Fort Liard is one of the oldest continuously settled areas in the territory. Keep an eye out for bison, which are known to roam the town and even rub up against buildings.

Nahanni Butte — KM 138.9
Looking west you will see the location of the winter ice road that leads 22.3 km to Nahanni Butte. This small Dene community, at the confluence of the South Nahanni and Liard Rivers, is accessible in summer by boat, floatplane or wheeled plane. Contact the Nahanni Butte Dene Band to arrange a boat taxi (867) 602-2900.

Blackstone River Day-Use Area — KM 145.9
Between two bridges, you'll find a nice fishing spot and picnic area.

Blackstone Territorial Park — KM 150.3
With a picnic site, full camping facilities, boat and float plane dock, and a visitor centre on the Liard River banks, Blackstone provides a wonderful break in your travels. Interpretive displays, a small library and plenty of travel information are offered here.

Poplar River Crossing — KM 219.7
Stop here for some good Arctic grayling fishing in the spring.

Junction of NWT Highway No. 1 and NWT Highway No. 7 — KM 471.3

Note: The kilometre designations used for this route begin at the B.C.-NWT border.

LEGEND

ESSENTIAL AMENITIES
- Accomodation
- Campsite
- Powered Campsite
- Store
- Restaurant
- Showers
- Washrooms
- Drinking Water
- Gasoline
- Wifi

VISITOR SERVICES
- Medical Services
- Police
- Airport
- Visitor/Information Centre
- Automotive Services
- Bank

UTILITY
- Dump Station
- Firewood

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES
- Golf
- Boat Launch
- Fishing
- Picnic/Day Use Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Fishing
- Trails
- Lookout
- Playground
- Interpretive Displays

ROUTE GUIDE
- Paved road
- Unpaved road
- Winter road access
- Point of Interest
- Frontier Trail (Highway 3)
- Wood Buffalo Route (Highway 5)
- Ingraham Trail Route (Highway 4)
- Great Slave Route (Highway 6)