

Yellowknife

Northwest Territories

Canada 



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DE LA
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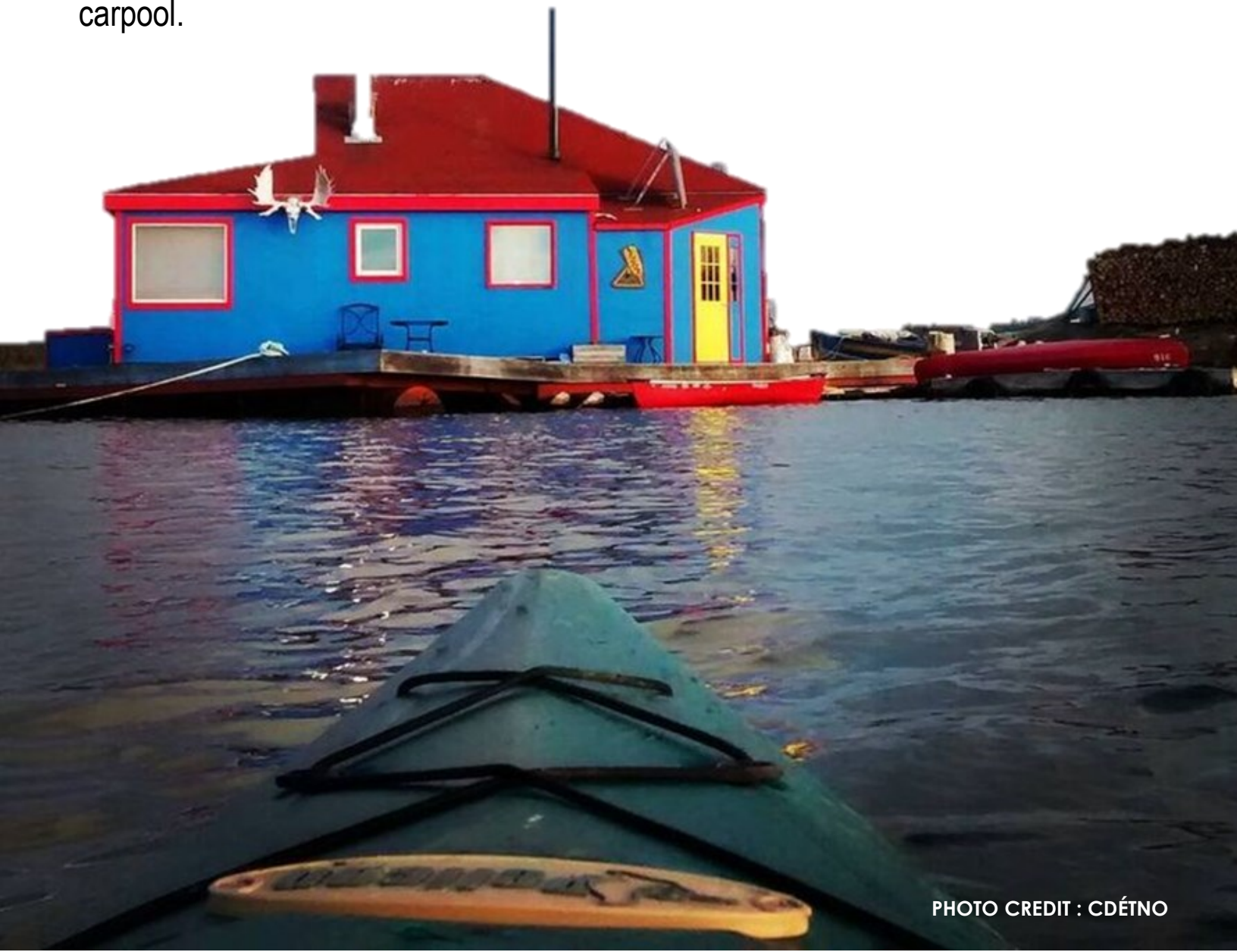
Welcome to Yellowknife...

Yellowknife is the capital city of the Northwest Territories and has a population of about 20 000 people. Situated on the banks of Great Slave Lake, Yellowknife has a temperature ranging from 5°C to 16°C from May to August. However, in the summer months, Yellowknife is the sunniest city in Canada, receiving an average of 380 hours of sun in the month of June alone. Oppositely, in December, the city receives but an average of 24 hours of sun; less than one hour per day. The northern lights are visible roughly 240 nights each year.



TRANSPORTATION

The best transportation options in Yellowknife are to walk, to take the bus, to take taxis, or to carpool with others. For the most part, everything is relatively close and within walking distance. However, walking is not always practical. Buses are available from 7:10 AM to 7:25 PM from Monday through Saturday. The bus fees are \$3 per ticket, or \$75 for a monthly pass. The bus [routes and schedules](#) can be found online. There are different taxi services in the city, but the best way to get around, and the least expensive one, is to make friends with whom you can carpool.



ACCOMMODATION

Searching for accommodation in the Northwest Territories can be difficult because most opportunities are communicated by word-of-mouth. We strongly suggest communicating with your employer as much as possible in regards to your accommodation. The employers know their area, and may have contacts in their network who are willing to rent out a room at a less expensive price than others. It is advised to avoid rental agencies because their services can be quite expensive.

The distance between work and home can have a considerable impact on your general experience with the program. Also, living with roommates or a host-family during your stay can contribute to the overall experience by helping to avoid isolation all while becoming more familiar with your second language.

Many residents leave for summer vacations, so house sitting, or pet sitting is an option. However, it is difficult to learn of these opportunities without being on-site. You can ask your employer about if they know of anyone needing these services.

ACCOMMODATION

For more information, you can also consult the CDETNO (Le conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest), the FFT (La Fédération Franco-Ténoise), as well as the local media outlets: Radio Taïga, the “L’aiglon” newspaper, and the Facebook group [Yellowknife Accommodations](#). Again, the price of rent in the Northwest Territories is more expensive, in comparison with the rest of the country, so your employer remains the best source of information in your search for room and board.



LAWS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

In the Northwest Territories, the age of majority is 19 years old.

[Information about Health and Safety Laws in the Northwest Territories](#)

MEDICAL INSURANCE

For Quebecois students, please note that your Quebec health card will not cover fees in other provinces and territories. If you have to see a doctor, you will be charged, in which case there is always a possibility of being reimbursed by your health insurance later on. However, we do recommend that you get complementary coverage to manage any possible expenses during your stay.

For students from other provinces, your health card can be used in the Northwest Territories. However, certain services can be more expensive than in your native province, risking that they may not be covered entirely by your medical plan. It is advised to verify with your province what is covered, and what is not, when travelling out-of-province.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

June

Miner's picnic

To celebrate the mining history in the Northwest Territories, with a barbecue!

Beer Barge

Discover Yellowknife's history, complete with music and storytelling.

Canadian North Midnight Sun Golf Classic

A golf tournament at midnight? Bring it on!

Yellowknife Farmers Market

Every Tuesday evening from 5:15 PM to 7:15 PM all summer.

National Aboriginal Day (June 21)

Canoe rides, storytelling, throat singing, traditional games, artists and more.

Yellowknife summer solstice festival

Where music and culture meet community spirit.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

July

Annual Ability cup regatta

A race at the Cruising Club! Free admission, a barbecue and lots of fun for everybody.

Folk on the Rocks

A weekend of both northern and international music, as well as crafts, handiwork, and food!

Theatre on the Lake

As the only theatre festival in the Northwest Territories, Theatre on the Lake offers a unique experience showcasing local authors and actors.

Old Town Ramble & Ride

A festival unlike any other! Come out to meet merchants, artists and musicians from Old Town.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

August

Endless Summer Sundays

Celebrate summer in Yellowknife by listening to the works of local musicians.

Happy Daze in BehchokQ

Competitions, tournaments, dances, and more, just one hour from Yellowknife.

September

Festival of the midnight sun

Music, art and pizza!

Yellowknife International Film Festival

Watch some films, participate in some workshops and discussions and learn more about cinema.

SPORTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The city of Yellowknife has a lot of clubs and community leagues for sports such as volleyball, soccer, dance, rock climbing, and many others. These leagues have a very inviting atmosphere for all, whether you are a sports-fanatic or you just feel like trying something new! Here is a link to all the city's [sporting clubs](#).

There are a few fitness gyms in Yellowknife, such as Breakaway Fitness, Just Fitness, Yellowknife Racquet Club and more. Other popular activities include swimming, running and paddle boarding.



FOOD AND GROCERY

The cost of food in the Northwest Territories is much higher than elsewhere in Canada, so we advise you to bring some common commodities with you.

The CO-OP, Glen's Independent Grocer, and Trevor's Your Independent Grocer are among the more common grocery stores. Luluz Market offers some organic, and even gluten-free products. It is also possible to order dry foods from [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca).

PARKS

Frame Lake

Niven Lake

Fred Henne Territorial Park

Prelude Lake Territorial Park

Hidden Lake Territorial Park

Reid Lake Territorial Park

LOCAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Down to Earth Gallery

Aurora Emporium Art Gallery

Gallery of the Midnight Sun

NWT Diamond Centre

RESTAURANTS

Bullock's Bistro

Everybody's favourite place!

Zehabesha Traditional Ethiopian Food

For a little international taste

Dancing Moose Café

The perfect place to eat in Old Town

The Woodyard Brewhouse & Eatery

If you're feeling like a good beer, and \$5 tacos on Tuesdays

Museum Café

Local dishes served at the museum. What better way to learn about northern culture?

Wildcat Café

A place with historical significance, and with food? Yes, please!

The Fat Fox Cafe

Come in for a meal, or just a good cup of coffee

ADVICE FROM PAST YCW STUDENTS

« The most important thing is to have a positive attitude.»

« The key to appreciate your stay is to avoid staying home. The rest comes naturally. From mid-June to mid-August, I did not have one free night! »

« Say yes every time someone suggests an activity! »

« Do not be afraid to talk to new people, and to keep contact with them, they are super welcoming and will not hesitate to take you along fishing, even if they've only known you for two days. »

« I consider myself to be someone who integrated quickly in the community, through sports. There are all kinds of leagues and anyone can play, men, women, young, old etc. It's very social and an excellent way to meet people. »

SOME PRACTICAL ADVICE

Tourism companies offer a variety of interesting activities, but often, these same activities can be done with local friends at a less expensive price.

The announced temperatures are often not as bad as they seem because of the dry air in Yellowknife. Although the summer months are warmer, a crisp cold can still be present. If you are prone to dry skin, it is advisable to bring or buy some lotion and lip baum.

Bring clothing for all seasons. Many, if not most, of the activities in the Northwest Territories are outdoors, so it is essential to be well equipped. A jacket and windbreaker are practical for colder days, while lighter clothing will be required for hot summer days that can reach up to 30°C. Sports clothing and sunglasses should also be on your packing list.

FAVOURITES

- ♥ Bullock's Bistro
- ♥ Folk on the Rocks
- ♥ Black Knight Pub
- ♥ The Northern Lights
- ♥ Explorer Hotel
- ♥ The people
- ♥ The museum
- ♥ The legislative building
- ♥ Fishing in the East Arm
- ♥ Canoe-camping
- ♥ The Kakisa River and the Evelyn Falls

HAVE FUN IN YELLOWKNIFE!

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