

Where forest and tundra meet

Step right into boreal, alpine and Arctic environments. At the south end of the park, forests follow the river valleys. Rainbows of alpine tundra carpet the slopes between dramatic rock formations. At the north end, a slender arm of Canada's Arctic reaches down into the park. In this treeless, windswept tundra, look for ground-hugging plants and unusual permafrost landforms such as pingos and palsas.

A variety of habitats means a diversity of life. Caribou, moose, Dall's sheep, grizzly and black bears, wolves, hoary marmots, pikas, shrews and voles all call

Cultural connections

At least 8,000 years of human history is preserved within the park's boundaries. This area is one of the most important cultural and hunting sites in the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

People have come to the Tombstone area for thousands of years. The open tundra landscape makes it easy to spot wildlife for good hunting. Nearby forests provide

Tombstone Territorial Park home. Along with subarctic mammals, the park harbours rare Beringian plants and insects found nowhere else on earth. Birders have spotted more than 148 species of birds. Arctic tundra breeders bump up against northern boreal species.

The continental divide cuts the park into two watersheds. To the south, the Klondike, Hart and Chandindu rivers feed the Yukon River watershed, whose waters eventually empty into the Bering Sea. The Blackstone River and its many creeks are part of the Mackenzie River watershed that flows north to the Arctic Ocean.

shelter and firewood. Dolly Varden and grayling provide a food supply even in winter.

Archeological sites tell us stories of look-out sites and ancient camps of caribou hunters. Signs remain of Hän and Gwich'in house pits, elevated pole caches, hunting blinds, tent frames and graves.

You are welcome here, but please respect natural, historical and cultural artifacts or sites and leave them undisturbed.

Hunting in the park



Visitors may encounter First Nation subsistence hunters or licensed resident hunters within park boundaries, usually in the fall. When you see hunters, please be respectful. You

are witnessing an important part of northern culture.

If you are a hunter, please respect other park users. Store meat and dispose of carcasses away from high use areas (i.e., keep it out of the campground).

Publications

- **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 Society

Maps

You can purchase maps at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.

1:50,000 scale maps

- **A Hiking Map of Tombstone Territorial Park**
- Government of Yukon
- **Tombstone River**
(sheet 116B/7)
- **Upper Klondike River**
(sheet 116B/8)

Contacts

- **Yukon Parks**
(Whitehorse)
867-667-5648, toll free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648
yukon.parks@gov.yk.ca
(Dawson City)
867-993-7714

Available at Department of Environment offices, Visitor Information Centres or from Yukon.ca:

- **The Dempster Highway Travelogue**
- **Birds of Tombstone Territorial Park**
- **Into the Yukon wilderness**
- **How you can stay safe in bear country**
- **Wildlife Viewing Guide**

- **North Fork Pass**
(sheet 116B/9)
- **Seela Pass**
(sheet 116B/10)

1:250,000 scale maps

- **Dawson**
(sheet 116B)

- **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in**
867-993-7100
trondek.com
- **Emergency**
RCMP Dawson
911 or 867-993-5555

Yukon.ca

A GUIDE TO

Tombstone Territorial Park

Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän "ragged mountain land"



Welcome

Yukon's Tombstone Territorial Park protects a unique wilderness of rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and abundant wildlife, all reflected in a rich First Nations culture.

The park is a legacy of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claims agreement and lies entirely within their Traditional Territory.

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre is a 1.5 hour drive from Dawson City, 7 hours from Whitehorse and 12 hours from Inuvik.

On the Yukon portion of the Dempster Highway, gas is available only at the junction of the North Klondike and Dempster highways and at Eagle Plains, 369 km further north. Food and lodging are only available at Eagle Plains Lodge.

Keep it wild

Plan ahead. Prepare to leave no trace.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces. Use existing trails and campsites. In pristine areas, spread out on durable ground.

Dispose of waste properly. Pack it in, pack it out. When outhouses are not available, cover human waste in a small hole 60 metres from water, camp and trails.

Leave what you find. Leave natural, historical and cultural artifacts undisturbed.

Make sure you have plenty of gas and a couple of spare tires.

The Dempster Highway crosses the Arctic Circle (km 406) and ends in Inuvik, NWT (km 733).

You can purchase topographic maps in Dawson City, Whitehorse or at the interpretive centre(see back page).



Minimize campfire impacts. Fires are not permitted anywhere in Tombstone's backcountry. Use lightweight camp stoves.

Respect wildlife. Observe from a distance. Never feed them. Keep pets on a leash.

Be considerate of others.

Facilities

Tombstone Interpretive Centre



km 71.5

Open mid-May to mid-September, seven days a week, including holidays. Connected to Tombstone Mountain Campground by a nature walking trail, the centre offers displays on the cultural and natural history of the park and highway. Centre staff offer free interpretive talks and walks on a posted schedule.

Tombstone Mountain Campground



km 72

Just north of the centre, the campground offers firepits, picnic tables, outhouses, water and a picnic shelter. All campers must register.



Backcountry camping



Registration is required for all backcountry camping in the park. Register backcountry trips at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.

Permits are required for the Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes backcountry campgrounds. These campgrounds have tent pads, cooking platforms, grey water disposal and outhouses. Permits are \$12. Reserve your campsite online at Yukon.ca. Attend a mandatory backcountry registration and orientation session at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. or 4 p.m. offered daily at the interpretive centre.

Follow leave no trace principles. For bear safety, separate camping, cooking and food storage by 100 meters. Store food and garbage in bear-proof containers, for loan at the centre.

We strongly advise you to leave a trip plan with a reliable friend or a family member. Include your planned routes and stops on a map, your expected date of return and when to notify the authorities if you don't show up. You can fill out an online trip plan at adventuresmart.ca.

Hiking



Hiking in Tombstone is no "walk in the park." Enjoying its incredible backcountry means taking responsibility for your own safety, and respecting the experience of others.

This is a remote park with few established trails. Even if you plan on a day hike, prepare for rough terrain and drastic weather changes. Read *Into the Yukon wilderness* and check the status of trails, weather and wildlife sightings at the centre.

Wildlife and you

Bears aren't the only wildlife attracted to human smells. Squirrels, ravens, gray jays (AKA "camp robbers") and marmots are notorious thieves. Help them stay wild and healthy by keeping your food and garbage secure.

Bear safety starts with the following basics.

Learn about bears and how to prevent negative encounters.

Keep attractants in your vehicle or in the food cache near the kitchen shelter. Put waste in the bear-proof garbage containers.

Food and garbage are major attractants. Never leave food, dishes, garbage, cosmetics or any smelly item where a bear could get it, especially in your tent. Store them in bear-proof containers away from your camp.

Pick up a copy of *How you can stay safe in bear country* at the centre, any Department of Environment office or a Visitor Information Centre. We strongly advise you read it. Ask to view the *Staying Safe in Bear Country* video.

Wildlife and scenic viewing



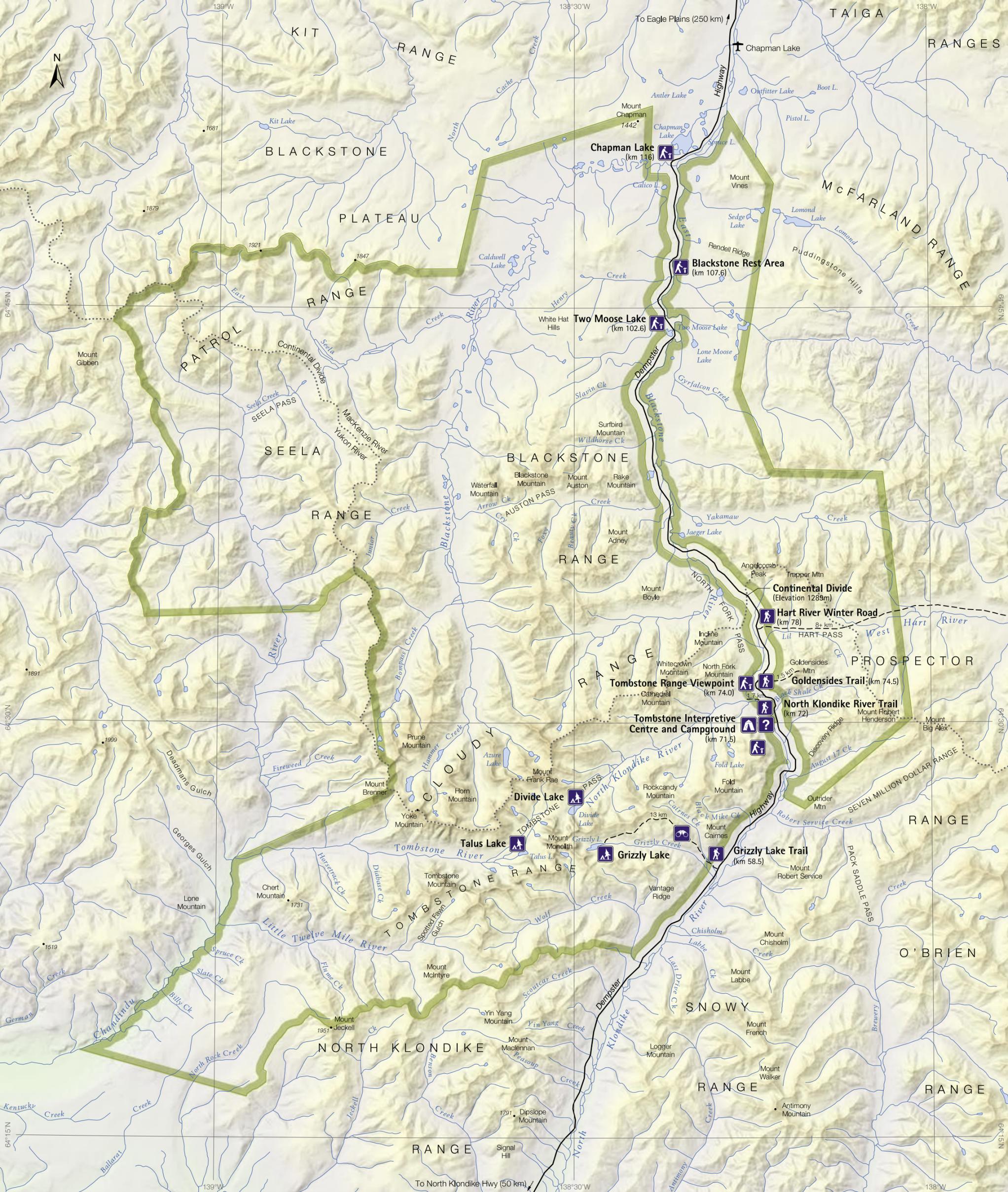
Several scenic viewpoints and wildlife viewing sites are found along the Dempster Highway corridor within Tombstone Territorial Park. Consult the *Dempster Highway Travelogue* or the *Wildlife Viewing Guide*. Even a short hike off the highway can provide you with spectacular views.

Drivers are often surprised by fox, ptarmigan, grouse, caribou and moose running onto the road. Please drive slowly enough so you can pull over and stop safely. Use binoculars, spotting scopes or telephoto lenses to get a better look.



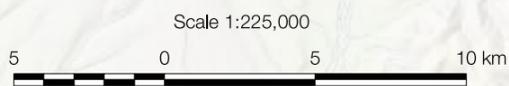
Trailhead	Hwy km	Duration (return)	Distance (return)	Level
Grizzly Lake Trail to viewpoint	58.5	2-4 h	6 km	M-D
North Klondike River Trail	72	1-2 h	3.2 km	E
Edge of the Arctic Interpretive Trail	72	0.5 h	0.5 km	E
Goldensides Mtn. Trail	74.5	1-3 h	3 km	M
Hart River Winter Road	78	up to 6 h	up to 19 km	E-M
Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail	71.5	1 h	1 km	E &

Difficulty Level: E Easy M Moderate D Difficult



Tombstone Territorial Park

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|--|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Interpretive centre | | Park boundary |
| | Territorial campground | | Dempster Highway |
| | Backcountry campsite | | Trail |
| | Trailhead | | Continental divide |
| | Interpretive panel | | Airstrip |
| | Viewpoint | | Elevation (metres) |