

Nations

INDIGENOUS LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE 2022

EXPLORE

**Sustainability
in Indigenous
Tourism**

CULINARY

**Inside Nature's
Pantry**

RELAXATION

Take a Breath



INDIGENOUS
TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

THE MOUNTAINS,
THE PRAIRIES,
THE OCEANS,
AND ALL THAT LIES
IN BETWEEN.

EXPLORE DESTINATION INDIGENOUS



Jasper, Alberta

PHOTO: WARRIOR WOMEN



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Squamish Lil'wat
Cultural Centre, Whistler,
British Columbia

Ekosi, miigwech, tiawenhk, merci and thank you!

As President and CEO of the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and on behalf of our Board of Directors, I am excited to share with you our third edition of Nations Magazine.

As we are slowly rebuilding from the devastating impacts of COVID-19, Indigenous tourism is starting to witness small steps of recovery. By working together our hope is that our industry can once again thrive and return to pre-pandemic economic targets of \$1.9 billion of direct GDP contributions, 1,900 Indigenous tourism businesses and more than 40,000 Indigenous tourism employees by 2025.

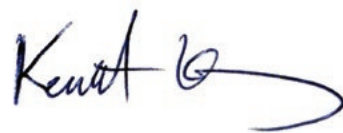
Demand for Indigenous tourism experiences continues to grow and the collection of professional tourism experiences and operators found within these pages is testament to the resiliency of our industry. As well, across society, we have seen attitudinal shifts that have moved closer to the perceived core values of Indigenous culture. Travellers recognize that participating in a Indigenous tourism experience demonstrates reconciliation in action by creating and expanding tourism with Indigenous Nations, while supporting self-determination for Indigenous businesses. Experiencing an Indigenous tourism experience firsthand is one way visitors can help our communities protect their land, traditions and way of life, while showing you care about Indigenous history and our impact on the economic growth of this country.

So please join us in exploring and supporting Indigenous tourism experiences across Canada. There is a shared understanding of the invaluable role Indigenous tourism plays in our economy and that only by working together can we pull through and create a sustainable industry that is resilient to future crises.

We are at a turning point and ITAC believes in our industry as one of the strongest platforms for Canadians to rally support around Indigenous communities. As we continue to mourn the children lost to residential schools and struggle to find a way to support reconciliation, Indigenous tourism plays a vital role in educating and sharing Indigenous Peoples culture.

The time is now to stabilize and grow Indigenous tourism in Canada and we are working tirelessly to champion, socialize and assist members. By taking the time to familiarize yourself with the tourism operators and business that make up one of the most dynamic Indigenous tourism industries in the world, you will help us build Indigenous tourism and culture back across the country stronger than ever before,

Thank you (maarsii)



Keith Henry

President & CEO
Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada



Welcome to the Home of The Original Original

BY ITAC'S MARKETING TEAM

If you look up the word 'Indigenous', you'll find it has many synonyms, including 'original.'

Many lay claim to being the 'original.' When someone makes that claim—to have been the first at something—we feel like we have something in common. We say to ourselves: this is a person who cares about roots. Someone who wants to know where things genuinely begin.

We value those things too.

In fact, with over 14,000 years of knowledge and 1,700 unique Indigenous experiences across Canada, we offer the most authentic and diverse experiences.

And we know, with a knowing smile, we've been at it longer than anyone else. We Indigenous People, on this our home and native land.

So when we decided to define who we are and what we represent, we dug deeply into our own story, what defines us and makes our experiences truly special.

Or, more succinctly:
The Original Original.

To find out more visit
TheOriginalOriginal.ca



A key component of The Original Original is a new brand mark that will help travellers better identify and book experiences from Indigenous owned tourism businesses across Canada.

The Original Original mark identifies that businesses have been vetted by ITAC including four key criteria: the business is at least 51 per cent Indigenous owned, it's a business that embraces the values of Indigenous tourism, it offers a market of expert ready experience, and is an ITAC member.

The Original Original logo artwork aims to explore the ethos of this very concept by placing two letter Os within each other, representing the world, as well as the cycle of life. At the centre of these circles is a fire symbol that possesses a single flame, but is divided into three parts. This distinction represents each of the three groups of Indigenous Peoples in Canada; First Nation, Métis and Inuit.

Through this branded seal, we aim to further develop wide-spread recognition of authentic Indigenous experiences across the country.



INDIGENOUS

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we thank our precious partners

Canada



DESTINATION
CANADA

TIAC AITC



WESTJET



WILDLIFE, NATURE & ADVENTURE

Step out into the wild and take in the beauty of the natural world through an Indigenous lens. From the seas, mountains, and rainforest to the prairies and the tundra, explore unique landscapes and experience the wonder of respectful animal encounters with your Indigenous hosts and guides.

The Great Canadian Safari

BY DEBBIE OLSEN

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE



PHOTO: SHEA WYATT

Knight Inlet Lodge,
British Columbia

My husband and I and our four children were gathered around an animal track that our Métis guide had pointed out as we walked through a forested area in the Canadian Rockies. She asked the children to guess what kind of animal had made the track and our kids were hunched over looking at it while they excitedly shouted out their guesses. We would have missed seeing the tracks and certainly wouldn't have understood the significance of them without a knowledgeable guide.

Indigenous Peoples have long had a deep connection to the flora and fauna found in their traditional territories. Protecting earth's biodiversity and conserving its resources is an essential part of the culture and the primary reason Indigenous Peoples have thrived on the land that is now known as Canada since time immemorial.

If you want to have an amazing wildlife experience, an Indigenous tour operator can help you see animals up close, teach you about them, share cultural traditions and help you really appreciate why conservation is so important. Here are some amazing Indigenous wildlife tours and safaris that will help you experience Canada's remarkable wildlife.



Bear Watching in the Essipit Innu Territory of Quebec

The black bear, called “Mashku” in the Innu language, is a sacred creature that is found in many stories, legends, and rites. It is believed to be one of the most intelligent mammals. **Lacs à Jimmy Outfitters** in Essipit Innu territory can take you on an excursion to see the sacred bears. Along the way, you’ll hear the legends of Mashku and learn why the bear matters to the Innu.

[vacancesessipit.com]

How to Watch Whales Breach at Eye Level in the St. Lawrence Estuary

The St. Lawrence Estuary is famed for whale watching. Between May and October, up to 13 different species of marine mammals can be seen in the estuary near the Essipit Innu territory in Quebec. From the safety and comfort of a zodiac boat, **Croisières Essipit** tours allow guests to watch humpbacks, minkes, belugas and other whales at eye level while experienced captains share their extensive knowledge about marine mammals.

[vacancesessipit.com]



Kayaking with Whales

If you really want to see the magnificent sea life of Quebec’s St. Lawrence Estuary, you can’t get much closer than paddling a kayak among the whales.

Mer et Monde Écotours offers guided sea kayaking tours and a range of accommodations. Whether you’re a novice or an expert paddler, guides will help you explore the waters that are teeming with sea life. You can also listen to whale song with a hydrophone. [meretmonde.ca]

British Columbia’s Floating Grizzly Bear Viewing Lodge

Knight Inlet Lodge is a remote floating resort in British Columbia that is only accessible by floatplane. It is in the traditional territory of the Da’Naxda’xw Awaetlala First Nation in the heart of some of Canada’s best grizzly habitat. The lodge offers land and marine-based grizzly viewing tours as well as whale watching, kayaking and interpretive nature hikes. Guests learn about the wildlife and the people who share the land.

[grizzlytours.com]



Knight Inlet Lodge

PHOTOS: MATHIEU DUPUIS (LACS À JIMMY OUTFITTERS), CROISIÈRES ESSIPIT (WHALE), SHEA WYATT (CUBS), JEANNE RONDEAU-DUCHARME (MER ET MONDE ÉCOTOURS)



Mer et Monde
Écotours



Haida Style Expeditions

Cultural Safaris with Haida Gwaii’s First Haida Owned and Operated Tour Company

You’ll probably see wildlife on a tour with **Haida Style Expeditions**, but that isn’t the focus of what this Haida-owned tour company offers. Cultural day trips take guests in zodiac boats to four ancient village sites which include SGang Gwaay Llnagaay (Ninstints) on SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It’s a chance to see ornately carved totem poles and learn about the culture of the Haida from those who know it best. [haidastyle.com]

Whales, Otters and Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest

Sea otters, humpback whales, orcas, Dall’s porpoises, Pacific white-side dolphins, Steller sea lions, bald eagles and seabirds occupy the coastal region of northern Vancouver Island. **Coastal Rainforest Safaris** takes guests to see these animals as well as bears and other wildlife in the Great Bear Rainforest. They offer immersive nature experiences that include a taste of the history, culture, and food of the Kwakwaka’wakw People.

[coastalrainforestsafaris.com]

Wildlife, Culture, and the World’s Fastest Navigable Tidal Rapids

The Gwa’sala Nakwaxda’xw Nation in British Columbia has been known to call Hardy Bay on northern Vancouver Island “God’s Pocket.” **K’awat’si Tours** can take you through the area to see eagles, bears, wolves, whales, porpoises, sea otters, and sea lions. They also offer tours to Nakwakto Rapids, the fastest navigable tidal rapids on earth. The Nation also owns the Kwa’lilas Hotel and offers unique cultural experiences.

[kawatsitours.ca]



Coastal Rainforest Safaris

The Grizzly Bears of Toba Inlet

From mid-August to October, the annual salmon run in B.C.'s Toba Inlet draws large numbers of grizzly bears. It's a cycle that has been taking place for thousands of years in the traditional territory of the Klahoose First Nation. **Klahoose Coastal Adventures** takes guests to viewing towers along the Klite River where they can safely see the bears feasting in their natural habitat.

[\[klahoosecoastaladventures.com\]](http://klahoosecoastaladventures.com)



Klahoose Coastal
Adventures



Sea Wolf
Adventures

The [Klahoose Wilderness Resort] is only accessible by boat or seaplane and provides a true off-the-grid wilderness experience from mid-May to mid-October.

Multi-Day Grizzly Bear Viewing from an All-inclusive Luxury Eco-resort

Owned by the Klahoose First Nation, **Klahoose Wilderness Resort** is an all-inclusive luxury eco-resort in the remote coastal wilderness of Desolation Sound, British Columbia. The resort is only accessible by boat or seaplane and provides a true off-the-grid wilderness experience from mid-May to mid-October. Guests can enjoy sea kayaking, heli-sightseeing, and boat excursions to a cultural centre. Multi-day grizzly bear viewing excursions in Toba Inlet are also available from mid-August to October. [\[klahoosecoastaladventures.com\]](http://klahoosecoastaladventures.com)

Dolphins, Whales, Bears - What Wildlife Means to the Musgamakw Dzawada' enuxw

From Port McNeill on northeastern Vancouver Island, **Sea Wolf Adventures** offers small group tours to the Great Bear Rainforest on B.C.'s mainland. Guests can see dolphins, whales, eagles, and bears and learn about the four tribes of the Kingcome people along the way. They also offer tours to First Nations communities in the Broughton Archipelago. Guests can visit the site of a former residential school, go into a longhouse, and see potlatch masks in the U'mista Cultural Centre. [\[seawolfadventures.ca\]](http://seawolfadventures.ca)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

ATLANTIC ADVENTURE

Famous for its awesomely rugged coastlines, friendly fishing villages and thousands of years of history, Newfoundland and Labrador is currently home to three distinct Indigenous groups—the Inuit, the Innu and the Mi'kmaq. Seafaring, artistic and very much in tune with this beautiful land, each has their own distinct culture. Come and enjoy, breathing in the sea breezes and walking in a land of legends.

BY TIM JOHNSON

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE



The Torngats,
Torngat Mountains National Park, Nain,
Newfoundland and Labrador



PHOTO: PAT MORROW

The Torngats

It's hard to imagine a more dramatic place than this. Sitting in the ultimate northern reaches of Labrador, the soaring, sculpted Torngat Mountains separate Ungava Bay from the North Atlantic. And from the moment you touch down at Base Camp, you'll experience the area's natural wonders, whether you're learning about how the Inuit have thrived on this land for generations, or getting up close (and personal) with the wildlife all around. Launch in a boat or lift off in a helicopter to encounter caribou, polar bears and wolves, as well as seals, whales and icebergs. Fish for arctic char, explore sod house villages and traditional hunting grounds, and feast on a meal of fresh seafood or game, cooked up over an open fire, on a rugged beach. [thetorngats.com]

The Jackladder Property Limited

Everything that matters is close, here. To the west, the land rises dramatically into the peaks and valleys and fjords of Gros Morne. Right close by, to the south, the beaches of Deer Lake. And stretching north, the two-lane ribbon of the Viking Trail, winding all the way to the far-flung tip of the Great Northern Peninsula. Or maybe—just stay right here, where you can connect with thousands of kilometres of ATV and snowmobile trails, or fish, swim and boat on the serpentine waters of Big Bonne Bay Pond, right across the road. Plus, one of the best moose burgers in the world, and a series of two-bedroom chalets, which feature creature comforts like leather sofas, satellite television and barbecues. [jackladder.ca]

From the moment you touch down at Base Camp, you'll experience the area's natural wonders, whether you're learning about how the Inuit have thrived on this land for generations, or getting up close (and personal) with the wildlife all around.

Traversing arctic alpine rises, volcanic landscapes, the plunging precipices of Western Brook Pond—an inland fjord—for more than three decades, this has been the specialty of Gros Morne Adventures.

Wild Gros Morne

Zooming out in their zodiac onto the rippling waters of Bonne Bay, a saltwater fjord that slices through the heart of Gros Morne National Park, you'll be dwarfed by 360 degrees of marvels. Over here, the Martian expanses of the Tablelands, the earth's rusty mantle thrust up to the surface. Behind you, the bald eminence of the park's namesake peak. Rushing waterfalls, and green forest, and a lighthouse in the village of Woody Point. Spot playful otters, white-sided dolphins, humpback whales—and even an orca, if you're lucky. Take a culinary adventure, boiling up fresh seafood (paired with herbs from their garden) or foraging in secret spots for chanterelles. They also offer guided kayak tours, or you can try out a stand-up paddleboard. Or take a guided hiking trip to Big Lookout and right up to the summit of Gros Morne. [wildgrosmorne.com]

Pirate's Haven ATV Friendly RV Park, Chalets and Adventures

Windswept and wild, this southwest corner of the island is the Newfoundland of your dreams. Rugged sea cliffs, dropping away, suddenly, into the roiling waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence—stride to the edge, if you dare. Rushing rivers, packed with thousands of Atlantic salmon, those cold waters beckoning anyone in hip waders. A long Mi'kmaq legacy, with plenty of stories to tell. You can access it all here at Pirate's Haven. Hike and bike the network of trails, roar onto the timberland in an ATV—bring your own or rent one on-site. Learn to tie a fly, then cast a line for big fish. Then finish off the day by tucking into a meal of fresh lobster or cod, restoring your muscles in the on-site hot tub and sauna, and resting up in one of the chalets, which come equipped with a sprawling patio, cushy beds, and full kitchens. [pirateshavenadventures.com]



Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Tara Saunders,
Tourism Development Director,
Qalipu First Nation

Tara Saunders works as the Tourism Development Officer for the Qalipu First Nation which, with almost 23,000, is one of the biggest First Nations in the country. Tara currently oversees the implementation of the Nation's five-year tourism development strategy; Experience Qalipu. This strategy focuses on developing market-ready cultural experiences and other tourism products throughout the Mi'kmaq communities on the island of Newfoundland, connecting the visitor to the vibrant culture of the Mi'kmaq people and forming strong partnerships within the industry to lead to a strengthened economy and culture. Tara is a proud community member and is passionate to find strategic ways to work together to showcase all Indigenous communities of Newfoundland & Labrador to the world.

Gros Morne Adventures

Imagine it: boots tied tight, you stride those last few metres of the trail and emerge at a vista, the wonders of a UNESCO World Heritage Site at your feet. Traversing arctic alpine rises, volcanic landscapes, the plunging precipices of Western Brook Pond—an inland fjord—for more than three decades, this has been the specialty of Gros Morne Adventures. Finely crafted and carefully curated hikes. Stand-up paddleboarding and guided kayak trips on Bonne Bay, for every level of experience. A new adventure, discovering Mekapisk (Mi'kmaq for the Long Range Mountains) and learning about land and sea from an Indigenous perspective, finishing the day by making bannock and roasting capelin over a fire. Come for the day, and you may find yourself spending a whole week. [grosmortheadventures.com]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

Wild Gros Morne,
Shoal Brook,
Newfoundland &
Labrador



The Torngats



Pirate's Haven ATV
Friendly RV Park,
Chalets and Adventures,
Robinson,
Newfoundland &
Labrador



Gros Morne
Adventures

Nightlight

How to See the Northern Lights with an Indigenous Eye

Viewing the northern lights is all about vision. It's a dance that starts out slowly and progresses through a long dark northern night. Sometimes it looks like spotlights, other times ribbons of light swirl and twirl through the stars. On nights when the aurora borealis burns brightest, dramatic green and red waves of light cascade from one side of the horizon to the other in a soul stirring display. No matter how the aurora borealis presents itself, it needs to be seen with two eyes to be truly appreciated.

BY DEBBIE OLSEN

+ EXPLORE
FURTHER ONLINE



PHOTO: AURORA VILLAGE

Aurora Village,
Yellowknife,
Northwest Territories

Canada's Indigenous peoples have a unique way of viewing the world and all things in it—including the northern lights. The Mi'kmaw word, "etuaptmunk," means "two-eyed seeing." One eye sees using Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. The other eye sees with the strength of Western knowledge. The Mi'kmaw believe that we must learn to use both eyes together. If you see the northern lights without an Indigenous perspective, you are only using one eye and missing out on seeing a complete picture.

Why You Should See the Northern Lights in Canada

Canada is home to most of the world's best aurora-viewing locations. Between 80–90 percent of the accessible land inside the auroral oval, the region with the greatest geomagnetic activity and the brightest and most frequent northern lights displays, is in Canada. The combination of northern latitude and low light pollution make it one of the best places on the planet for viewing the aurora borealis or northern lights. Many different Indigenous groups live in Canada's northern reaches and each nation or group has its own beliefs and legends to explain the phenomenon of the northern lights. Exploring the legends and experiencing Indigenous culture is an important part of a Canadian northern lights viewing trip.

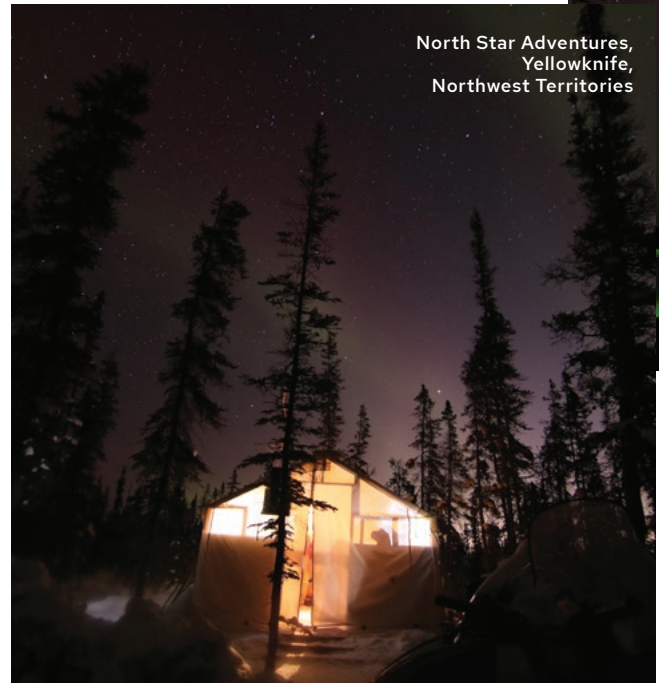
When to Book a Canadian Aurora Viewing Trip

The northern lights are most visible from mid-August to mid-April and the best time to view them is between 10 pm and 3 am. It's possible to see an aurora during other months of the year, but the best viewing occurs during those months. Dark, clear skies are essential for aurora viewing. Canada's far north is known as "the land of the midnight sun," because it doesn't get fully dark during the peak summer months. Certain websites recommend winter as the best time for aurora viewing, but some tour operators say otherwise. "The warmer the weather, the better the aurora," says Joe Bailey, owner of **North Star Adventures Ltd** in Yellowknife. "Warm weather is more conducive to aurora activity giving us stronger and brighter displays early in August and September, our summer Aurora season."

[\[northstaradventures.ca\]](http://northstaradventures.ca)

Where to See the Northern Lights in Canada

There are many locations in Canada where you can view an aurora, but locations inside the auroral oval provide the brightest and most frequent northern lights displays. Two of the best and most accessible places to see the northern lights in Canada are Yellowknife, Northwest



North Star Adventures,
Yellowknife,
Northwest Territories

Territories and Whitehorse, Yukon. Yellowknife has been dubbed the "Aurora Capital of North America," thanks to its prime location, clear skies, excellent northern lights tour operators, and frequent aurora activity. Travelers to Yellowknife have a 95% chance of spotting the northern lights. Whitehorse, Yukon—also inside the auroral oval—is another prime aurora viewing hot spot. The Yukon has famously dark skies, an abundance of clear nights, and excellent guides and tour operators. Both locations have large Indigenous populations who have lived on the land since time immemorial.

How to Increase Your Chances of Seeing the Northern Lights

Scientists have learned how to predict auroras based on the sun's activity, geomagnetic storms, and other factors. There are several websites that provide fairly accurate northern lights forecasts. **Aurora Forecast** is a good one in the Yukon and **Astronomy North** provides forecasts for Yellowknife. Booking your aurora viewing trip at the right time is essential. A darker sky is better for aurora viewing. Avoid booking during a full moon and make sure you get outside the city and away from ambient light to ensure better views. Booking a tour with an expert guide or a tour operator can also help.

[\[auroraforecast.com\]](http://auroraforecast.com) [\[astronomynorth.com\]](http://astronomynorth.com)



B. Dene Adventures,
Yellowknife,
Northwest Territories

Learning the Legends of the Northern Lights

For thousands of years, mankind has tried to explain the magical dancing lights of the aurora borealis and learning the legends of the lights is almost as fascinating as seeing them. An aurora tour with **B. Dene Adventures** in Yellowknife is also an Indigenous cultural experience where you can see the aurora borealis and learn the local legends. "The B. Dene Adventures camp is uniquely situated directly under the northern lights and aurora viewing is outstanding," says Bobby Drygeese, owner of B. Dene Adventures. "Our aurora tours are unique because they include traditional drumming, cooking fish over a fire and the sharing of our language and culture. Guests love speaking with our Elders and hearing the Dene legends and stories." [bdene.com]

How to go Aurora Hunting

You can stay in one place and wait for the northern lights to come to you, or you can go looking for them. When Joe Bailey started **North Star Adventures Ltd** in Yellowknife in 2007, he decided to go with the second option. Instead of staying in one place at a camp like other tour operators, he takes guests to several different locations looking for the best views and the best photographs. He calls it "aurora hunting" to pay homage to his Indigenous Dene ancestors. "We are the world's first aurora hunting tour company," Bailey says. "Aurora hunting is kind of like storm chasing. It's exciting." Changing locations can also improve the chances of seeing an aurora. It might be cloudy in one location and clear in another. While guests wait to see an aurora, Indigenous guides share Dene legends and stories. [northstaradventures.ca]

A Village with Heated Seats

If you want to watch the northern lights in comfort, **Aurora Village** outside Yellowknife is the place to go.

The Indigenous-owned village of 21 traditional teepees and hilltop viewpoints surrounds a pristine lake. You can warm up around a woodfire and enjoy hot drinks inside a cozy teepee while you wait for the northern lights to come out and dance. They also have heated outdoor seats that swivel to offer 360-degree views. [auroravillage.com]

Aurora Viewing by Dog Team

Before there were cars and snowmobiles, there were dogsleds. There was a time when most Indigenous People in the far north travelled by dogsled in winter. Nowadays it's not so common. **North of 60 Aurora Adventures Inc.** in Yellowknife offers one of the most unique aurora tours out there. Guests can travel by dogsled across a secluded frozen lake to watch the aurora. Hot beverages and Bannock are served in a heated teepee or trapper's tent at the end of the tour. [spectacularnwt.com/operators/north-60-aurora-adventures]

Dinner and a Shimmering Light Show

At a lovely cabin outside Yellowknife, **Bucketlist Tours** offers a delicious light midnight lunch with their small group aurora tours. Lunch includes homemade fish chowder, hot Bannock, coffee, and tea – including a variety of northern teas. While guests wait for the aurora to show itself, they can dress up in traditional northern clothing for photo ops. The company also offers a variety of other tours year-round. [bucketlisttour.com]

More Indigenous Experiences

Many Indigenous people reside inside the auroral oval and there is no shortage of amazing things to do during the day on a Canadian aurora viewing trip. If you are visiting in winter, consider taking a guided dogsled tour or try your hand at ice fishing. Drive on an ice road, visit an Indigenous village, go snowmobiling, shop for traditional handicrafts, and try local cuisine. If you visit during August or September, the early end of the aurora viewing season, you can enjoy guided wilderness hikes, wild buffalo viewing, canoeing, fishing, and a wide variety of Indigenous cultural experiences. Taking the time to see the northern lights and experience northern Canada with an Indigenous eye is an experience of a lifetime. It makes all the difference to use two eyes instead of one.

fish tales

Indigenous Peoples have been fishing and managing coastal ecosystems for millennia. Part of a deep relationship with the land and water, fishing is a source of food, wealth and connection. Intricately tied to identity, these Indigenous guides and outfitters share more than just fish tales with guests.

BY DIANE SELKIRK



PHOTO: DRIFT OUT WEST FLY FISHING

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE

Drift Out West
Fly Fishing,
Calgary, Alberta

Club Odanak is a lakeside camp located on the ancestral lands of the Atikamekw Nation near Croche River, Quebec. A traditional hunting and fishing camp, the resort welcomes both new and experienced anglers and provides everything from rowboats to fishing gear. After a successful morning on the water, ask the chef to cook up the brook trout you caught for your lunch. In the winter, ice fishing is available on the numerous small, boreal forest lakes. [clubodanak.com]

Spending the day with **Drift Out West Fly Fishing** on Calgary, Alberta's Bow River offers anglers a chance to see the meandering river from a new perspective. For Cree guide Quinn Soonias, the river is a sacred place—and along with teaching guests how to cast for brook, brown, rainbow, bull, and cutthroat trout, he points out traditional sights including a fascinating buffalo jump. The catch and release trips are for all skill levels and include all required gear. [driftoutwest.com]

The 80-kilometre stretch of water between Mission and Hope, British Columbia known as 'the heart of the Fraser River' is one of the most productive river channels in the world. This is where guides with **River Wrangler Sportfishing** seek out salmon and the famous sturgeon, the largest fresh water fish in North America. Once vital to the local First Nations (its meat was delicious and the scutes had many uses) the hard fighting sturgeon is a catch and release fish. [riverwranglersportfishing.com]



Club Odanak



Drift Out West Fly Fishing

Cast a line into the world-renowned Miramichi River system for an Atlantic salmon. Then discover the traditional ways to prepare your catch at **Red Bank Lodge** in Mi'kmaq country, New Brunswick. The cosy, 10-room Lodge offers getaways to guests interested in fishing and exploring Metepenagiag history. In addition to salmon, annual runs of smelt, gaspereau, shad, and striped bass were fished by the people who once lived in vibrant villages on the river banks.

[\[redbanklodge.com\]](http://redbanklodge.com)

One of the top salmon rivers in Canada, explore the Pinware River with **Big Land Fishing Lodge and Tours**. Located on the rugged southern coast of Labrador, the river sets you in a remote wilderness that's been home to Indigenous cultures for at least 9,000 years. You'll stay in comfortable cabins and take part in excursions fishing for salmon or trout, while also soaking up some of the region's fascinating maritime and Indigenous history.

[\[biglandfishinglodge.com\]](http://biglandfishinglodge.com)



River
Wrangler
Sportfishing



Big Land Fishing
Lodge & Tours

Frontier Lodge - Gateway to Thaidene Nene on the east arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories is an anglers dream. Home of the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nations, the protected Thaidene Nënë is a 6.5 million acre home to bears, wolves, moose, and muskox as well as trout, Arctic grayling and northern pike. Talented guides will help you fulfill your fishing goals, while the cook, who serves up trout chowder, smoked jackfish and trout sashimi will keep your belly full. [frontierfishinglodge.com]

Fish the canoe routes of the Anishnabek People of Manitoulin Island, in northeastern Ontario with **Wasse-Giizhik Tours and Accommodations**. Seasonal specialties include 'hard water' fishing on frozen in-land lakes for rainbow, lake trout or whitefish in winter; spring fishing on the famous rainbow trout run; and downrigging on Lake Huron for salmon or trout, or fishing for walleye, northern pike and musky on inland lakes in summer and fall. [wasstours.com]

Independent anglers will love **Secteur Tourilli**, a 98,000-acre territory with some of the best fishing in the Québec City region. Located in the welcoming Huron-Wendat territory, anglers fishing for brook trout and arctic char have a choice of day trips, overnight camping, chalet lodging (minimum two nights) or luxury heli fishing expeditions with a knowledgeable guide. Independent trips include the use of a small boat and information about the 50 fishable lakes. [tourilli.com]

Fish Mistassini Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Québec, that's been home to the Cree Nation since time immemorial. **Pourvoirie Camp Louis Jolliet** puts anglers in the heart of the boreal forest where you can fish for trophy-sized brook trout, lakers, pike and walleye. The camp's rustic cottages offer a cozy base for days spent fishing on the lake or on Rupert River with an experienced Cree guide. Not only will you catch fish—but you may develop a richer connection to this abundant landscape. [mistassinilake.ca]



Secteur Tourilli



Fishwheel Charter Services offers an immersive view of the Hän (People of the Yukon River) and the river that's been their home for millennia. Tommy Taylor is a Yukon First Nation tour guide, skilled historian and storyteller. His boat tour starts in Dawson City, Yukon and includes Moosehide village and Fort Reliance. For most guests, the trip highlight is a visit to Tommy's family fish camp, where you'll learn about fishing traditions and see a fascinating salmon fishwheel in action. [fishwheeltoursyukon.com]

Try your hand at catching one of the most remarkable fish in the world with **Great River Fishing Adventures**. You'll explore British Columbia's Fraser River while taking part in a catch and release sturgeon fishing trip: a fishery that's contributing to the protection of the species. The hard fighting fish are not just a blast to catch—but the individuals are tagged and tracked; a process that's produced data that's beginning to unlock the mysteries of the ancient species. [greatriverfishing.com]

[Frontier Lodge - Gateway to Thaidene Nene is] home of the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nations, the protected Thaidene Nënë is a 6.5 million acre home to bears, wolves, moose, and muskox as well as trout, Arctic grayling and northern pike.



Inuit-owned **Aventures Arctiques - Payne River** offers five-day trips to Nunavik, Quebec. Here you'll spend your days fishing for Arctic char and rainbow trout. Your Inuit guides are expert anglers who will teach you how they followed the fish along the rugged coast of Ungava Bay. Whether fly-fishing from a freighter canoe or from the exposed shoreline, this trip promises great fishing action as well as evenings in the comfortable lodge with the promise of fish tales and hearty meals. [aventuresarctiques.ca]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

Winter is Deeper

BY TRAVIS KLEMP

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE



PHOTO: TUNDRA NORTH TOURS

Tundra North Tours,
Northwest Territories



Many of the winter activities that we know today hold immense significance in past and present Indigenous cultures across the country. Take, for example, snowshoeing. A fun, active winter pastime for most but in reality, snowshoes perfected by Indigenous communities throughout history were absolutely essential to the survival and the growth of Canada.

Similarly, the building of an igloo to the Inuit communities in the northern parts of Canada is much more than an extremely sophisticated way to manage the harsh climate. For some, there are invaluable teachings to be shared from Elders to youth about what it means to build igloos and live off the land.

From dogsledding to ice fishing, these excursions were an extremely sophisticated means of survival for northern communities and today, while they are still survival techniques for some, there are opportunities for adventurers to take part in these activities through various Indigenous adventures and cultural organizations.

In Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, **Cree North Adventures** offers guests an authentic understanding of setting up a tipi or cooking over an open fire along the stunning Meadow River. These traditional, land-based activities help to preserve and enhance the Cree culture and create a further understanding of the people who live on the land in Northern Saskatchewan. [greenorthadventures.ca]



At **Voyages Eeyou Istchee Baie-James** in Quebec, you can have a similar connection to Cree culture and experience the uniqueness of each Nation across the country. From snowmobiling, hiking, canoeing and fishing, there are endless opportunities to learn from Cree guides about the beautiful scenery and water surrounding the Eeyou Istchee Baie-James region. Additionally, the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute provides a look at artifacts and historical items used in the area. [voyageseibj.com]

Temperatures drop significantly at **Inuit Adventures** in Baie-D'Urfé, Quebec. Dogsledding, polar bears and astonishing northern lights can all be found as you immerse yourself in the isolated Nunavik surrounding. Only accessible by plane, Inuit Adventures is a fully authentic, overnight experience that will transport visitors into a completely different way of life and help them connect to a culture that has cherished the western arctic land for thousands of years. [inuitadventures.ca]

In Inuvik, Northwest Territories, **Tundra North Tours** offers the second to none experience of following herds of up to 3,000 reindeer by snowmobile through the arctic landscape. The truly immersive experience is multi-sensory in allowing you to be at the head of a dogsled team, smoke fish, and share meals with Inuvik Elders while listening to their sacred stories and teachings. Connect with an environment that is natural, wild and uniquely respected at Tundra North Tours. [tundranorthtours.com]

Arctic Bay Adventures in Nunavut is one of those exceptional corners of the world that you cannot experience anywhere else. Baffin Island is surrounded by mountains and breathtaking hiking trails which are referred to in Inuktitut as Ikpiarjuk or “the pocket”. Multi-day excursions are offered to guests with opportunities to build igloos, spot narwhals and eat fresh-caught fish. Elders in the community graciously share their stories with visitors, allowing for even more connection to the land and water that surround you. [arcticbayadventures.com]

Churchill, Manitoba is known for its incredible wildlife and roaming polar bears and **Wapusk Adventures** allows you to engage with your surroundings via an award-winning dogsledding company founded by Dave Daley. Daley founded the world-renowned Hudson Bay Quest dog sled race and Wapusk Adventures won the Manitoba Indigenous Tourism award in 2019. You can also take part in snowshoe walks and unbeaten Aurora Borealis viewings. [wapuskadventures.com]

For years, James Allen has hosted unique healing and culture camps at **Shakat Tun Adventures** in the Yukon. Shakat Tun, or “summer trail”, allows visitors the opportunity to be fully involved in traditional practices such as beading, trapping, and drum-making. Nestled along Christmas Bay, below mountain peaks, and bordered by Kluane Lake, Shakat Tun is a cultural hub that helps people learn more about the original and current custodians of the land in the Yukon. [shakattunadventures.com]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.



Voyages Eeyou Istchee
Baie-James



Storyteller Profiles

Kylik Kisoun Taylor
Owner / Guide
Tundra North Tours

After moving from Ontario to the North aged 16, Tundra North Tours founder, Kylik Kisoun Taylor was fortunate enough to spend time with Inuit family members who were attuned to their Culture. Since then Taylor has forged ahead delighting visitors, creating culturally-based jobs for locals, and winning a solid reputation for excellence and a brace of awards along the way.



Things to do in (and around) Vancouver

You don't need to travel far outside the city to experience the liveliness of Indigenous cultures. See Vancouver and its surrounding area through the lens of local nations whose lands are rich with history, artwork and natural beauty.

BY CARA MCKENNA

+ EXPLORE FURTHER *ONLINE*



Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre



Bill Reid
Gallery of
Northwest
Coast Art

Stay alongside local artists at **Skwachàys Lodge**, a unique Indigenous hotel and gallery downtown. The space offers 18 boutique rooms, a gallery and a cozy gathering space where guests can unwind with coffee and bannock.

The rooms were each designed in collaboration with Indigenous artists, giving each one a special feel, says general manager Maggie Edwards. “Every single one of them is completely different,” she says. The space is also a social enterprise, with profits subsidizing 24 studio apartments on-site for Indigenous artists.

[\[skwachays.com\]](http://skwachays.com)

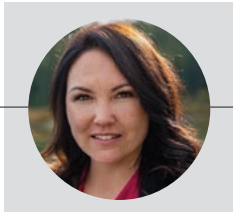
Those who enter **Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art** will be greeted by a towering totem pole carved by James Hart, featuring a depiction of a Wasgo, or Haida seawolf. The centrally-located space features a core collection of artwork by the famed artist Bill Reid—including his jewelry and brass carvings—and rotating special exhibits. Visitors can also browse the gallery shop, where profits support artistic and educational programs. It’s Canada’s only public gallery dedicated to contemporary Northwest Coast Indigenous art. [\[billreidgallery.ca\]](http://billreidgallery.ca)



Skwachàys
Lodge

[Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is] Canada’s only public gallery dedicated to contemporary Northwest Coast Indigenous art.

Paddle around the North Vancouver coastline in a traditional style ocean-going canoe with Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s **Takaya Tours**. Coast Salish guides offer cultural tours featuring legends and songs which showcase the rich history of Sel’ilw’et, or Burrard Inlet, where Tsleil-Waututh People have lived for thousands of years. Even though the longhouses that once stood there are now gone, guide T’uy’t’ananat-Cease Wyss says guests can “actually time travel, in a sense,” as they are immersed in stories and teachings. Takaya also offers rentals of kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards. [\[takayatours.com\]](http://takayatours.com)



Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Katie Johnson,
Director of Programs and Partnerships,
Yukon First Nations Culture
& Tourism Association

Since 2007, Katie Johnson has been an event planner and consultant for the Yukon First Nations tourism and cultural industries in the North. You will find Katie's accomplishments attached to the Yukon First Nations 2010 Project to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the creation of ADÁKA Festival, the Yukon First Nations Arts and Culture Strategy, the resurgence of the Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association and most recently as Lead Consultant for Our Voices, a group of Northern Indigenous emerging leaders from Yukon, Northwest Territories and Northern British Columbia, who have joined together with a shared common vision to create; "A world where northern Indigenous peoples hold up our youth and our culture."

**"Our guides share with their hearts. What we share is not written in a book. It's based on the oral traditions of our people which go back thousands of years."
–Candace Campo,
Talaysay Tours Operator**

Experience Vancouver's famous Stanley Park through the lens of Indigenous guides with deep connections to the urban rainforest with **Talaysay Tours**. The company offers walking tours through the park and surrounding area, where guides like Candace Campo (xets'emits'a) teach about plant medicines, tell stories about the land, and speak about contemporary Indigenous histories. Campo started the company back in 2002 as a way to share teachings about local ecology. She and her team also offer tours through the North Shore and Sechelt area. [talaysay.com]



Talaysay
Tours



Sidney Whale
Watching

Day Trips

Get up close with majestic humpback whales, splashing orcas, curious sea lions and other wildlife with **Sidney Whale Watching**. The company operates in WSA NEC territory near Victoria, about an hour and a half ferry ride away from Vancouver. Seek out local marine life on a three-hour whale watching tour on an aluminum vessel that takes guests through calm waters protected by the Gulf Islands. Guests can also book a private tour for a more customized experience. A portion of all profits goes towards conservation efforts.

[\[sidneywhalewatching.com\]](http://sidneywhalewatching.com)

The design of the **Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre** is based on a Squamish longhouse and features towering windows that showcase the surrounding forest. Located in the mountain town of Whistler—less than a two-hour drive from Vancouver—visitors are greeted by displays of canoes, detailed cedar carvings and geometric Coast Salish blankets. The centre also offers hands-on workshops, where guests can learn to create their own wool weavings, dreamcatchers, hand drums and more. For those who can't attend in person, the website features a virtual tour.

[\[slcc.ca\]](http://slcc.ca)



Squamish Lil'wat
Cultural Centre

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

Sustainability in Indigenous Tourism

In times where society is being challenged by climate change, political polarity, and economic uncertainty we find solace in Indigenous worldviews and the positive impacts Indigenous Peoples continue to make in the integration of people, planet, and profit.

BY GENEVIÈVE HUNEULT

+ EXPLORE
FURTHER ONLINE





PHOTO: SPIRIT BEAR LODGE

Since time immemorial, Indigenous Peoples have cared for and stewarded the ecological systems through holistic and balanced approaches. They care for themselves, their families, and communities through the deep connections with environmental systems and through a traditional ecological knowledge that considers seven future generations. Indigenous tourism businesses are perfect conduits in supporting those deeply rooted values. Not only are Indigenous tourism businesses led by Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit Peoples of Canada who embody holistic worldviews, but by operating a tourism business they offer visitors an opportunity to learn from and engage in responsible tourism behaviours.

Indigenous tourism businesses are leading a path in regenerative tourism and are taking measurable actions towards more social and ecological business practices.

Métis Crossing

Métis Crossing is the first major Métis cultural interpretive centre in Alberta and is a premier centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. Participate in guided cultural interpretive experiences, farm-to-table Indigenous-inspired culinary dining, and interpretive programming and tours of Bison, which were returned to traditional Métis lands.

A new partnership established by the Visions, Hopes and Dreams at Métis Crossing Wildlife Park provides an opportunity to regenerate an important grassland ecosystem. The partnership represents an important step towards reconciliation, and to welcome the return of heritage Bison species to traditional Métis lands. The return of these animals to traditional lands is symbolic of the connection between Indigenous Peoples and the land on which their ancestors once hunted and lived.

[\[metisecrossing.org\]](https://metisecrossing.org)



Métis Crossing

Participate in guided cultural interpretive experiences, farm-to-table Indigenous-inspired culinary dining, and interpretive programming and tours of Bison, which were returned to traditional Métis lands.

Point Grondine Park

Point Grondine Park (PGP) has over 18,000 acres of scenic natural wilderness, old-growth pine forest and stunning river vistas nestled between the Killarney and French River Provincial Parks. Enjoy the new A-Mik-Zii-Bi interpretive trail to learn about the rich history, medicines and connection that the Anishnaabek People have to the land.

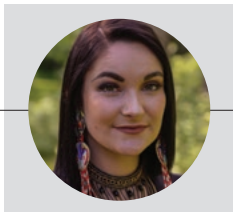
In 2020, PGP introduced the Amik Ziibii Interpretive trail as a way for visitors to learn about traditional plants and medicines that can be found along the trail. The park has collaborative programming with Ontario Parks where neighbouring Killarney Provincial Park users can take part in guided experiences at PGP to learn about the unique flora and fauna of the region.

[\[grondinepark.com\]](https://grondinepark.com)



Homalco Wildlife Tours LP

Homalco Wildlife & Cultural Tours and its staff have been the stewards of the grizzly bear population in their traditional territory of Bute Inlet for over a decade. The site's cultural and historical significance spans thousands of years, and today the community welcomes tours to view the bears, learn about their connection to the land and wildlife, and become immersed in the beauty of the inlet. Homalco established a conservation fee to further support the Homalco fish hatchery, in Orford Bay, in rebuilding native wild salmon populations to enhance healthy bear habitat, while also protecting the Indigenous roots, culture and food source of the Homalco First Nation. [homalcotours.com]



Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Mackenzie Brown,
Director of Industry Development, Indigenous Tourism Alberta

A First Nations Cree woman from the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Mackenzie is a performer, drummer, tourism entrepreneur, philanthropist, and advocate for at-risk youth in the Edmonton area. Aside from drumming and teaching around Alberta for the Northern Alberta Teachers Conference, the annual Jasper Dark Skies Festival, Youth Dream Catchers Conference, Canada Day, Aboriginal Day festivities, and more, Mackenzie is also an avid acrylic artist and traditional First Nations crafts artisan. She is the recent recipient of the 2019 Esquao Award for Children's Future, the 2019 Indigenous Woman of the year from the Alberta Assembly of First Nations, and Top 30 under 30 From Alberta Corporation for Global Cooperation 2020. She currently works with Indigenous Tourism Alberta as their Director of Industry Development.

Spirit Bear Lodge

Located in the Heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, Spirit Bear Lodge offers world-class wildlife tours and Indigenous cultural experiences that are second to none. Join a tour to have exclusive access to wildlife viewing areas and cultural sites within the Kitsoo Xai'xais traditional territory.

The Kitsoo Hydropower Project services the Kitsoo-Xai'xais First Nation community of Klemtu. It increases renewable energy generation and reduces the diesel dependency of the community while supporting population growth and economic opportunities. The Kitsoo and Xai'xais Peoples are committed to pursuing economic development opportunities that sustain the Klemtu community while protecting and enhancing the Kitsoo-Xai'xais culture and heritage. These projects are expected to reduce carbon emissions in Klemtu by about 11,160 tonnes over the hydropower facility's operating life. [spiritislandadventures.com]

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CULTURE & HERITAGE

Join us for genuine cultural experiences and build meaningful connections between our past, present and future. Hear stories, songs and legends that have been passed down through countless generations, take part in a cultural tour or workshop, and witness the intricate beauty of Indigenous arts and crafts.

Shared Traditions and Storied History

For many Indigenous communities across Canada, Traditional Knowledge and storytelling are vital for preserving culture, language, ways of being, and educating future generations while providing necessary connections to their ancestors. Whether they are creation stories, medicine teachings, or historical accounts of lived experiences, they have been shared for thousands of years, many without ever being transcribed.

BY TRAVIS KLEMP

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE



Carcross/
Tagish
Management
Corporation



Across the country, these traditions and stories are shared within communities by Elders. However, there are also many cultural centers throughout the country that are innovatively ensuring Traditional Knowledge is accessible to everyone.

Whether it be multi-sensory, full immersion cultural centers or archival museums you can experience the history of living, breathing cultures and gain a deeper understanding of the lands you inhabit.

Onhoüa Chetek8e Huron Traditional Site

offers an immersive view into the Huron-Wendat Peoples and their traditional ways of life through guided tours on foot and in canoes, medicine creation from deer leather and learn about the unique social organization of the Huron-Wendat People before colonization. End your visit with the outstanding closing Friendship Dance. [huron-wendat.qc.ca]

A similarly innovative experience lies at the **Maison de la Culture Innué**, also in the province of Quebec. As a place to learn about the Innu People of Ekuanitshit on traditional territory while gazing across the Mingan Archipelago. Explore the Innu-aimun language and culture of the Innu People at the site where they would come for the summers. Knowledge keepers graciously share artisanal and medicine teachings. [maisoncultureinnue.com]

Maison amérindienne at Mont-Saint-Hilaire focuses not only on the environment and museum but also on visitors' taste buds. Several traditional dishes and maple products help you learn about First Nations in this territory including the famous cassoulet, a slow-cooked stew made with beans simmered in earthenware containers with duck and fat. Temporary exhibits arrive each year to accompany the multiple permanent ones such as Water... To the Mouth, a look at the Indigenous usage of sap and origin of maple syrup long before the arrival of Europeans. [maisonamerindienne.com]



The traditions, language, art, and spirituality of the Anishinaabe People of the Mnídoo Mnising are celebrated at **The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation** on M'Chigeeng First Nation. While the 11,000 square feet of space may seem vast, it is overflowing with opportunities to learn about the Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being. From the museum, art gallery and healing lodge to the full immersion Ojibwe early learning program and first all Anishinaabe radio station, Gimaa Radio, there is something for every guest who visits. [ojibwe-cultural-foundation.myshopify.com]

Heading north to the Yukon, the **Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre** in Whitehorse was built in 2012 to honour and remember the foot trails of the Chu Níikwän (now Yukon River) that were drastically changed by the Klondike Gold Rush in the late 1800s. Now serving as one of the foremost convention centers in the Yukon, it also houses a public library and many cultural artifacts. Plan ahead for the Indigenous artists-in-residence who make the center their home for the summer months and take part in the Moosehide to Moccasins workshops. [kdcc.ca]



Storyteller Profiles

Rita Mestokosho,
General Manager
Maison de la
Culture Innué

Rita Mestokosho is a poet and writer from Ekuanitshit, an Innu community on Quebec's North Shore. A passionate activist, her work exposes her struggle for the preservation of her homeland, her first language and her Innu Culture. Rita has also published two books, contributes to several publications, anthologies and collective works.





La Maison amérindienne



Storyteller Profiles

**Candace Campo,
Owner / Operator
Talaysay Tours**

We get to introduce guests throughout the world and even our local community members to the rich history and culture of our people. We get to share our experiences on the land with our guests and those are special moments. It doesn't matter how many times you've done that tour, it's a unique experience that's shared together between host and guest."



The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

Whitehorse is also home to the **Carcross/Tagish Management Corporation** where you can visit the Haa Shagóon Hídi Learning Centre (the house of our ancestors). Visitors will be struck by the outstanding art and eight towering totem poles that greet you at the entrance. Be ready to head back outside after grabbing a cup of coffee because the interpretive walk along Nares Lake is essential. For those feeling even more adventurous, mountain biking and hiking trails take you onto the land and give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in your unbelievable, glacier populated surroundings. [destinationcarcross.ca]

Back in Quebec in Mi'kmaq territory, an environmental immersion experience is also offered at the **Gespeg Mi'kmaq Interpretation Site**. The North shore of the Gaspé Bay is absorbed by the forest and picturesque mountains and is where the interpretation site lives. Guided tours will take visitors on a journey from past to present and help illuminate the storied and beautiful history of the People of the sea, the Mi'kmaq. Permanent exhibitions share writings from the first missionaries and explorers as well as traditional clothing as hunting and fishing tools. [micmacgespeg.ca]



Gespeg Mi'kmaq
Interpretation Site

PHOTOS: SÉBASTIEN DESNOYERS (BOWLS), MAISON AMÉRINDIENNE (CANOE), INDIGENOUS TOURISM CANADA (STORYTELLER PROFILES RIGHT), AUDET PHOTO (INDIGENOUS WOMAN), DANIEL RAITI (STORYTELLER PROFILES LEFT)



Storyteller Profiles

David Daley,
Owner
Wapusk Adventures

Dave Daley says his favourite part about working in tourism is sharing his Indigenous culture, something he wasn't always able to do. "It wasn't fashionable to be Indigenous in the 60s and 70s. We always did things in secret or kept it within the family. Now we're free to share our culture. It's fun to be open!"



The archive at the **Native Museum of Mashteuiatsh** is equally as expansive. As one of the most comprehensive repositories for the preservation of Pekuakamiulnuatsh culture, the Native Museum of Mashteuiatsh provides visitors with a journey into the past lives of the Innu/Innu People as they nomadically navigated the land and waters of the region. Take in the temporary exhibits and permanent installation called The Spirit of Pekiakamiulnu or travel the interpretation trail and learn about food and medicine gathering deep in the boreal forest. [museeilnu.ca]

Abénaki
Museum

Further east in Prince Edward Island, the **Lennox Island Mi'kmaq Culture Centre** on the land and water that the Mi'kmaq People have treasured and cared for spanning 10,000 years, offers a natural beauty and environmental immersion. The Path of our Forefathers allows you to walk with those both past and present that have cherished the land and stop on the beach for the extremely unique experience of making Bannock and Clams in the sand along the shores of Lennox Island. From traditional storytelling, to rattle and drum making, to beach bark and porcupine quill work, there is a wide range of ways to learn about the culture on the island. [lennoxisland.com]

Lennox Island
Mi'kmaq Culture
Centre

The **Abénaki Museum** in Odanak, Quebec houses an astonishing 26,000 Indigenous artifacts and art celebrating and preserving the culture of the people – one of the eleven Algonquin speaking Peoples in Quebec. The collection includes everything from baskets weaved with the traditional K8wis, or “thorn” patterns, to beautifully sculpted items and traditional utensils used in the past. The uniquely stunning Wôbanaki: people of the rising sun permanent exhibit shares a journey explaining the Abenaki People's way of life and spirituality following the rhythm of the seasons and lunations. [museeabenakis.ca]

Abénaki
Museum

Allow the 40-foot statue of Glooscap to welcome you at the **Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre** in Nova Scotia. Engage all of your senses while learning about the Mi'kmaw connection to the Bay of Fundy through the handling of furs, porcupine quills, sweetgrass, and traditional instruments. The tremendously knowledgeable interpreters guide you through the culture's beautiful ways of life and changing relationship with European settlers. [millbrookheritagecentre.ca]



Blackfoot Crossing

Out west at **Blackfoot Crossing** in Southern Alberta, you can experience the place where Treaty 7 was signed and walk the sacred ground just as 10,000 Blackfoot warriors did in the past. The fully interactive historical park is a home for in-depth history and traditional practices of the Blackfoot People and Siksika Nation. Honoured Elders share traditional stories—an extremely moving experience—and Chief Crowfoot’s Tipi Village offers a glimpse at traditional practices such as tanning and smoking, dances, and tipi teachings. [blackfootcrossing.ca]

See and feel the history and living Culture of the Huron-Wendat Nation through powerful performances [at Huron-Wendat Museum.]

The **Huron-Wendat Museum** in Quebec is truly a conservatory for the preservation and enhancement of the Huron-Wendat culture. Although the museum opened in 2008, Wendat cultural agents have worked to preserve the continuity of the spirit of conservation and bring together artifacts that make up the museum’s collection today. A fully immersive experience is offered alongside the museum’s archives including a restaurant with culturally inspired dishes, a 4-star hotel, an art and craft boutique and the Nation Health-Spa overlooking the Akiawenrahk’ river. [hotelpremieresnations.ca]



Storyteller Profiles

**Marilyn Jensen,
Leader / Dancer
Dakhká Khwaán
Dancers**

“There are so many moments when we’re dancing, singing and drumming and as a group, we’re really interconnected and we sometimes go into another realm. And I’ll catch a glimpse of someone in the audience witnessing this and I can see that they are bawling. That their spirit has been touched as well as their heart.”



Huron-Wendat Museum

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

PHOTOS: BRADY MCCLUSKEY (KEYCHAIN), FRANÇOIS PILLON (ABÉNAKI MUSEUM), TRAVEL ALBERTA (PEOPLE DANCING), SIMON CLARK (HURON-WENDAT MUSEUM), AUDET PHOTO (TEEPES), SIMON SEES (STORYTELLER PROFILES)

TOURS with Indigenous Guides

Exploring Canada, it's important to remember that each place we visit, from coast to coast to coast, is the ancestral territory of the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples that call this land home. Deepen your understanding of local Indigenous communities by exploring with an Indigenous guide. Learn the stories of the land and its people; walk in ancient footsteps; discover modern flourishing Indigenous communities and experience their cultures first-hand.

BY NIKKI BAYLEY

**+ EXPLORE
FURTHER** ONLINE



Girth Hitch Guiding

Push your boundaries on a transformational trip to the mountainous terrain around Nordegg and Banff National Park, Alberta with the principal owner of Girth Hitch Guiding, and proud Métis man, Tim Taylor. Beginner climbers and experts alike can join Tim to share his passion for the mountains he calls home and learn the deeper cultural significance of seeing mountains not as something to be conquered but instead as ancient friends to discover and experience. Feel spiritually nourished and challenged to be your best self on a personalized immersive adventure.

[\[girthhitchguiding.ca\]](http://girthhitchguiding.ca)



Girth Hitch Guiding

Feel spiritually nourished and challenged to be your best self on a personalized immersive adventure.



Mahikan Trails

Mahikan Trails

Journey to the boreal forest in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains to join Brenda Holder, owner-operator of Mahikan Trails, on a journey exploring the woods through an Indigenous perspective. Following in the footsteps of her family lineage as a Cree/Iroquois Metis guide from the Kwarakwante lineage of Jasper, Brenda has a passion for sharing her culture. Feel the forest come alive as you learn the traditional use of medicinal plants, trees and flowers, and find a deeper connection through understanding the significance of the land and its animals. Leave with the gift of Traditional Knowledge. [\[mahikan.ca\]](http://mahikan.ca)

Elsipogtog Heritage Path

Walk with interpretive Knowledge Keepers on the Elsipogtog Heritage Path, New Brunswick. Begin your journey with a traditional greeting, then enter the community-raised teepee for a smudging ceremony with teachings that connect past ways to present life. Along the Heritage Path hear how Mother Nature's gifts are honoured to benefit the community. Book a hands-on basket-making session with a master crafter and learn how to make a traditional basket with dyed ash and sweetgrass decoration from material harvest to completion. Leave enriched with a deeper understanding and connection to Elsipogtog Mi'kmaq culture. [\[heritagepathtour.com\]](http://heritagepathtour.com)

Begin your journey with a traditional greeting, then enter the community-raised teepee for a smudging ceremony with teachings that connect past ways to present life. Along the Heritage Path hear how Mother Nature’s gifts are honoured to benefit the community.



Moccasin Trails

Moccasin Trails

Touch, smell, see, hear, and feel Indigenous culture both ancient and modern on the land and waters of the Shuswap and Okanagan territories with Moccasin Trails. Experience Secwepemcū’l’ecw culture on a guided adventure with a local Knowledge Keeper paddling the South Thompson and Adams Rivers in Kamloops along traditional river routes. Take a spiritual journey on Syilx Nation territory learning about native plants, talking with a local Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, visiting the Sncewips Heritage Museum, and feasting on Indigenous foods at the Kekuli Café before visiting the Indigenous World Winery. Truly experience diverse Indigenous cultures first-hand. [moccasintrails.com]



Warrior Women

Hear the heartbeat of Mother Earth with the Warrior Women who share their Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation culture through performance, workshops, and guided experiences in beautiful Jasper National Park. Gather by the firepit for an engaging conversation about Indigenous culture, learn songs and phrases in Cree, and hear legends, stories of the land, and drumming that touches your soul. Join an immersive, hands-on medicine walk and see the natural world around you through Indigenous eyes, learn to make salves, soaps and lotions and leave with new knowledge and products you made yourself. [warriorwomen.ca]



Under the Stump

Explore Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland, with the Perry family at Under the Stump, who call it their backyard, and gain an insight into Mi’Kmaq culture along the way. See how Newfoundland traditions blend with Mi’Kmaq culture on a Face ‘n’ Eyes tour—a Kitchen Party in the woods with storytelling, music and snacks. Learn the stories of Rita Rideout from hardship and resettlement to mussel picking in the ocean in Bakers Brook. Enjoy a gourmet picnic with Newfoundland musical favourites, play along and become an instant expert on the Newfoundland ugly stick or spoons! [grosmortheadventures.com]





Storyteller Profiles

**Brenda Holder,
Owner / Guide
Mahikan Trails**

"I specialise in Indigenous medicine, and I pride myself that I can take guests from around the world on a medicine walk and find them a plant they'll have at home. That connects with them on a profound level and can send them on a deep journey."



PHOTOS: MOCCASIN TRAILS (BOAT), WARRIOR WOMEN (WOMAN), KRISTEN HICKEY (COOK), MICHAEL STEMM (MUSHROOM), INDIGENOUS TOURISM CANADA (STORYTELLER PROFILES)



Warrior Women



Gros Morne National Park



Elsipogtog Heritage Path



Metepenagiag
Interpretive
Centre



Jasper Tour
Company



Storyteller Profiles

**Joe Urie,
Owner /
Head Guide
Jasper Tour
Company**

After 20 years in the guiding business, Joe Urie created the boutique multi-award-winning Jasper Tour Company in 2010 with a vision of reconnecting with his Métis heritage by telling stories to connect small groups of visitors to the natural beauty of Jasper.



Get a taste of "Ookdotaan" walking in the footsteps of their Ancestors, hearing stories handed down through generations, and gather fresh ingredients for tea, before sampling seasonal fish or summer game with wild rice.

Jasper Tour Company

Bring nature into your daily life after an inspirational half-day tour with Joe Urie, co-owner of the Jasper Tour Company on his traditional homeland in the shadow of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Join a small group of fellow adventurers and connect with each other and the natural world around you. Encounter animals such as deer, moose, black bears, wolves, marmots, pikas, eagles, grizzlies, and elk and hear stories of the region's First Peoples from Urie, who comes from a long line of proud Métis who lived and guided along the Athabasca River.

[\[jaspertourcompany.com\]](http://jaspertourcompany.com)

Metepenagiag Interpretive Centre

Immerse in 30 centuries of Mi'kmaq culture at the Metepenagiag Interpretive Centre; learn about its two National Historic Sites, and the stories and traditions of the people who have always called this place home. Get a taste of "Ookdotaan" walking in the footsteps of their Ancestors, hearing stories handed down through generations, and gather fresh ingredients for tea, before sampling seasonal fish or summer game with wild rice. Make a night of it and reconnect with nature, sleep soundly in traditional tipi with storytelling around the campfire.

[\[metpark.ca\]](http://metpark.ca)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

Pow Wow
in Wendake

From Pow Wow to Poetry

Witness Indigenous Cultures come to life at a Pow Wow or Cultural Festival this year. Immerse in a world where hip-hop moves blend with traditional fiddle music, where sequined shawls flutter as fancy dancers spin and the air is sweet with the scent of fresh-fried bannock. All are welcome...

BY NIKKI BAYLEY

+ EXPLORE
FURTHER ONLINE

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the [Adäka Cultural Festival] festival preserves and revitalizes arts and culture whilst inspiring local Indigenous artists and youth to celebrate and take pride in their heritage and communities.

Named after a sacred gathering place for ceremony and celebration the **Manito Ahbee Festival** celebrates Indigenous art, culture, music and heritage in Winnipeg –and beyond. Ignite your spirit as Métis Red River jigging meets hip hop moves. Discover Indigenous songwriters and musicians of tomorrow at showcase concerts; watch traditional dancers spin and kick in glittering regalia; read original stories from emerging talents and hear traditional myths and legends from Elders and storytellers. [manitoahbee.com]

For more than 30 years, Terres en Vues (Land InSights), the team behind **Présence autochtone**, the Montreal International First Peoples Festival, have been at the forefront of advancing Indigenous art and artists within Quebec. Creating important conversations around First Nations Culture, whether that's expressed through film or poetry, concerts or gastronomy, their 10-day festival in August brings an exciting wave of Indigenous creativity from the three Americas to Montreal each year. Join them for an artistic and cultural renaissance of First Peoples in Quebec. [presenceautochtone.ca]

Discover a treasure trove of rich Indigenous Cultures at **Kina8at**, a rare pearl deep in the heart of the Laurentians, perched on the side of a tranquil lake for canoeing, surrounded by wilderness with plenty of space for Anicinape Culture to flourish. Join the team for multi-night outdoor adventures learning forest survival skills, tending the sacred fire and receiving animal teachings, or visit for the day for Acokan art therapy learning traditional Indigenous crafts whilst on a journey of self-exploration. [kina8at.ca]



The 2022 **Adäka Cultural Festival** will take place from June 30 to July 7 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, showcasing the creative spirit of Yukon First Nations People. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the festival preserves and revitalizes arts and culture whilst inspiring local Indigenous artists and youth to celebrate and take pride in their heritage and communities. Through exploring elements of traditional and modern Indigenous visual and performing arts, fashion, food and more, the celebrations this year in the Yukon look to be unmissable. [adakafestival.ca]

For the past 15 years, storytellers and musicians have gathered in Natashquan, Quebec to share and celebrate Innu oral Traditions, and Acadian Culture. The **Innucadie Story and Legend Festival** showcases poetry, stories, myths and legends, alongside live music featuring drumming, violin, accordion and guitar. Taste fresh-smoked salmon and bannock with berry jam and larch tea; browse local artisan crafts such as caribou skin clothes and beaded moccasins, be part of an age-old oral tradition of sharing and passing down Traditional Knowledge. [innucadie.com]

Pow Wow season takes place from May through till September offering visitors the chance to connect with Indigenous Cultures at their most vibrant. Head to the heart of the Huron-Wendat community, just 20 minutes' drive from Quebec City to one of Quebec's largest **pow wows in Wendake** to tap your toes to the beat of the drums. Watch awe-inspiring drum and dance competitions, browse the artisan market, savour roasted game on a stick, learn more about living Indigenous Culture. [tourismewendake.ca/en/pow-wow/]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.



Indigenous Gift Guide

Indigenous art is a way of connecting to the artists, hearing their stories, listening to their passions, and seeing the world through their eyes. There are so many great galleries, artists, artisans and products that can be used, worn or displayed in so many different ways. Discover, learn, listen, view (and even purchase) beautiful art showcased from coast to coast to coast from First Nations, Metis and Inuit artists whose craft has been passed down through generations.

BY ANGELA RYDER

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE

Amy Willier

We were deeply saddened to share the tragic news that Amy Willier, a Cree artisan and entrepreneur, who ran Moonstone Creation in Calgary alongside her mother Yvonne Jobin, passed away in early 2021. Willier was a shining light in the Indigenous community, always excited to pass on teachings of traditional art and craft, a true champion of her culture.



Moonstone Creation

Moonstone Creation

Yvonne Jobin, the owner of Moonstone Creations, opened this family-run Indigenous art gallery in Calgary, Alberta with her late daughter, Amy Willier, which now represents over sixty Indigenous makers and artisans from across Canada, including the traditional art made and sold in-store. Moonstone Creations also offers online classes where you can learn to bead, sew moccasins, or make drums. Packages are sent to you with a video that allows you to learn about and make your product at your own pace. [moonstonecreation.ca]



I-Hos Gallery

I-Hos Gallery

I-Hos Gallery, located in Courtenay, British Columbia, invites you to browse their stunning collection of traditional and contemporary Northwest Coast art. First Nations culture is expressed through their art. "We are all different and have unique legends to share with those who stop to listen," says Romana Johnson, gallery manager. I-Hos Gallery directly deals with all of the artists featured throughout their gallery and website. The stories are authentic and the art is one-of-a-kind.

[ihosgallery.com]



Storyteller Profiles

Joe Bailey,
Owner / Guide
North Star
Adventures

Joe has a wealth of knowledge about the land and is an expert at chasing the Aurora thanks to his grandparents' teachings. "I was raised by my grandparents in the Northwest Territories until I was seven years old. My grandfather taught me how to read the weather so even on cloudy nights I can find the Aurora."



Aurora Heat

Aurora Heat

Located in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Aurora Heat produces handmade, natural and reusable hand, foot and body warmers from sustainably harvested sheared beaver fur. One dollar from every product purchased is contributed to on-the-land initiatives for Indigenous youth, educators and Knowledge Keepers. [auroraheat.ca]

PHOTOS: MIRANDA HAUGHIAN (MOONSTONE CREATION), AURORA HEAT (WOMAN WITH EAR WARMERS), I-HOS GALLERY (BASKET), ATELIER-BOUTIQUE ATIKUSS (WOMAN WITH HAT), RIVERGUIDES (STORYTELLER PROFILES), WANUSKEWIN (MOCCASSIN)



[At Atelier-Boutique Atikuss] learn about how they use natural materials from an environmentally-responsible hunt and support Indigenous women artists.

Atelier-Boutique Atikuss

Atelier-Boutique Atikuss

Slip your foot into something cosy! Visit Josée Leblanc at the Atelier-Boutique Atikuss in Quebec and learn about how they use natural materials from an environmentally-responsible hunt and support Indigenous women artists. Choose from custom-designed Hopeboots or select stylish moccasins to keep warm, year-round. [\[atikuss.com\]](http://atikuss.com)



Transformation Fine Art

Transformation Fine Art

Sophia Lebessis, owner of Transformation Fine Art, Calgary's first Inuk-owned Inuit art gallery, shares tradition, culture and motivation from an Inuit perspective. By appointment only, stop by this incredible gallery that showcases the Inuit's imagination through the next generation of art promoters.

[\[transformationfineart.com\]](http://transformationfineart.com)

Wanuskewin

The Wanuskewin gift shop houses authentic handmade items by artisans that represent First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples from coast to coast to coast. With a wide selection of unique products, they strive to celebrate Indigenous culture as it lives today. Wanuskewin supports fair-paid, skilled artists for their work. Purchases from their gift shop allow artisans to continue practicing their traditions and pass those teachings to the next generation.

[\[wanuskewingiftshop.com\]](http://wanuskewingiftshop.com)



Wanuskewin



CULINARY

Pull up a seat at one of the many Indigenous-owned eateries from sea to sea to sea. All across the country, authentic Indigenous chefs and culinary experts are cooking up delicacies that infuse modern recipes with traditional techniques and flair. Here, you'll find everything from cozy bistros and premade spice mixes to large catering operations and upscale restaurants.

Inside Nature's Pantry

BY SHEL ZOLKEWICH

+ EXPLORE
FURTHER ONLINE



Restaurant
Sagamité,
Wendake

The Sundance Tipi Taco has become the stuff of legend for Winnipeg diners. Slow-roasted maple chipotle chicken gets piled high on bannock and topped with local cheddar, red onion, roasted tomato and bean and corn salsa. It's just one of the plates that have made **Feast Café Bistro** the destination for Indigenous-inspired dining in Manitoba. Christa Bruneau-Guenther is the home cook turned owner and head chef of this thriving eatery. And it's her vision that has marked its success. "As we eat together, we honour our connections, preserve our history, and share our stories. We are fed in mind, body, and spirit," she says. [feastcafebistro.com]

Tucked along the eastern border of Ontario, historic Haileybury is the home of **L'Autochtone**, an Indigenous urban style bar and grill that has found the sweet spot between traditional ingredients and modern methods. Chef Gerry Brandon's menus start with walleye, duck and rabbit and transform them into sophisticated starters and mains. Peppered venison carpaccio has tenderloin rolled in cracked pepper, fennel, rosemary and chilli, seared, sliced and served on micro greens with roasted garlic olive oil and Parmigiana. The Colonizer Punch features Empress Gin and delicious St. Germain elderflower liqueur. [lautochtone.com]



At **Tea Horse Teas** in Northwestern Ontario, the iconic ingredient of wild rice is transformed into a soothing sip. Traditionally harvested wild rice, sourced directly from lakes in the area, is roasted then combined with selected teas to create three custom blends. Denise Atkinson and Marc H. Bohémier are committed to purchasing non-cultivated, natural wild rice and supporting Indigenous harvesters to preserve Indigenous food sovereignty and the ecosystem in which it grows. Among their offers is ManoominCha Dark, a blend of hojicha, a roasted green tea, and wild rice to create a complex and full-bodied mocha-flavoured experience. [teahorse.ca]



Nk'Mip Cellars,
Osoyoos,
British Columbia



Restaurant
Sagamité,
Wendake

For more than a decade, **Restaurant Sagamité** has been transforming traditional ingredients into Michelin-worthy meals at this Quebec City institution. Cold smoked trout, venison in puff pastry and a parmentier of wild turkey—a casserole of leeks, potatoes, Perigord sauce and candied cranberries—are just a sampling of the snug space that encourages conversations over fine food. Named for the squash, corn and red bean soup with game that's at the heart of Wendat culinary culture, Niva and Steeve Wadohandik Gros-Louis continue to lead the Indigenous culinary charge. [sagamite.com]

Indigenous World Winery draws on the rich lands of the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys to bring world-class British Columbia wines to the table. The province's first fully Indigenous-owned winery is courtesy of Robert and Bernice Louie who have found a way to connect the ancient Okanagan Syilx culture with the region's thriving wine scene. The Hee-Hee-Tel-Kin Red blend, named for their youngest son Trenton features notes of cloves, sweet plums and vanilla. The traditional name of the wine translates into a *mystical high-country stag with large antlers*. [indigenousworldwinery.com]



Indigenous World Winery,
West Kelowna,
British Columbia

Nk'Mip Cellars celebrates a passion for nature by showcasing both the landscape and the products it produces.

In Osoyoos, British Columbia, the hot, long and dry summers make for excellent vineyards. And it's here that North America's first Indigenous-owned winery was born. **Nk'Mip Cellars** celebrates a passion for nature by showcasing both the landscape and the products it produces. Wine tastings, show-stopping dinners and an ever-growing list of awards underlines an undeniable love of the land. Their estate wine, Qwam Qwmt (pronounced kw-em kw-empt), translates to *achieving excellence* and is produced in very limited quantities sourced primarily from the finest grapes grown on the 40-year old Inkameep Vineyards. [nkmipcellars.com]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.

*my love for my
people is stronger
than anyone's hate*



THE
ORIGINAL
ORIGINAL

**+ EXPLORE
FURTHER** ONLINE

Scott Iserhoff
Chef at Pei Pei Chei Ow



Recipe

Takwakin Three Sisters Salad

Combining traditional and modern tastes

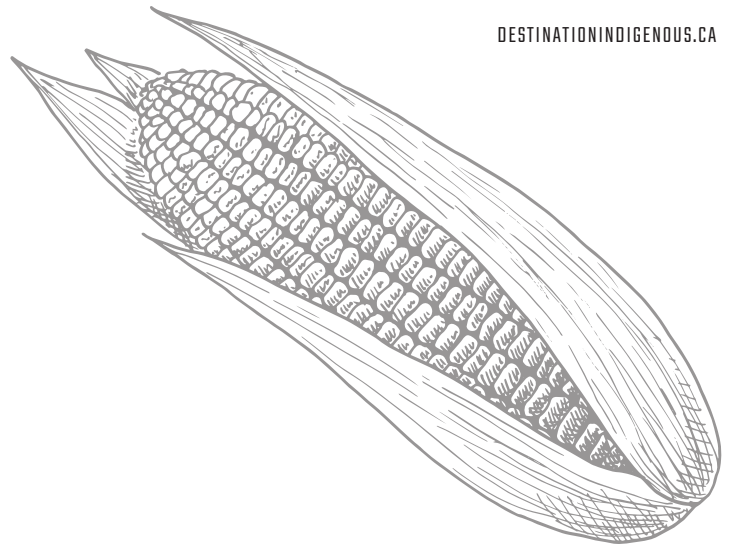
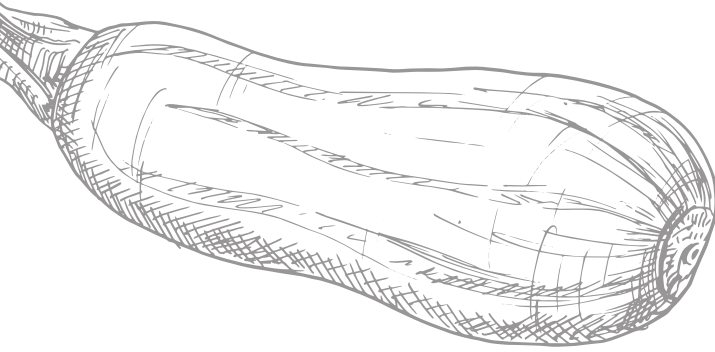
BY SHEL ZOLKEWICH

Scott Iserhoff's Takwakin Three Sisters Salad is a crowd-pleaser for diners lucky enough to be treated to a meal catered by Pei Pei Chei Ow, his Edmonton, Alberta-based operation.

"The distinct flavours and textures of the ingredients make it work," said the Omushkegowin (Swampy Cree) chef. "I use a honey lemon vinaigrette that brings the dish together." And those ingredients are critical. The three sisters—corn, beans and squash—are common among many Indigenous cultures. Planted together, the beans use the corn stalks to climb and grow while the squash provides ground cover to retain moisture.

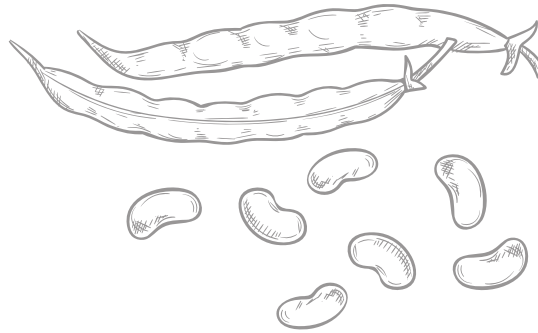
"These three foods not only work together as they grow, but also when being consumed," Iserhoff said. "Squashes contain a multitude of vitamins, iron, fibre and antioxidants, while beans contain protein, fats and immune-boosting nutrients. Corn provides potassium, healthy sugars, carbs and other elements."

The highlights of Iserhoff's catering menu include bannock bites with duck liver with black currants, crispy sage and black currant balsamic vinegar, ribs marinated in three berries barbecue sauce and Kukom's blueberry cheesecake. His use of ingredients is governed by the calendar. "I usually enjoy working with what is available seasonally in order to be more sustainable. In the fall, it would be the Three Sisters and root vegetables."



Takwakin Three Sisters Salad

(TAKWAKIN MEANS AUTUMN IN OMUSHKEGOWIN)



Ingredients

Salad

- 1 medium butternut squash
(about 4 cups)
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 2 cups white kidney beans
(soaked overnight or canned beans)
- 2 cups corn, fresh, frozen or canned
- ½ cup chopped parsley
- Salt to taste

Vinaigrette

- 1 cup canola oil (or substitute
with grapeseed or olive oil)
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 2 tbsp honey

Method

Place soaked beans in a pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer for 45 minutes. Do not salt the water!

Once the beans are done (they should be soft and delicate but not falling apart), salt the water to your liking and set the pot to the side, this will allow the beans to absorb some bean liquid instead of drying out by straining them right away.

Preheat the oven to 375 °F. Peel and remove seeds from butternut squash. Cut into ½ inch cubes and season with salt, drizzle with canola oil and toss. Layer squash onto a parchment paper-covered baking tray and roast for about 25 minutes.

Note: I like getting some char on the squash as it adds more sweetness to the dish.

If you're using frozen corn, blanch it in boiling water, strain, place in an ice bath and strain again. There's nothing worse than having excess water in your salad. In the summer, I like to use grilled fresh corn on the cob.

Strain beans and let them cool in the fridge.

For the vinaigrette, combine oil, fresh lemon juice and honey and mix together with a hand blender to emulsify the dressing. Or use a tightly sealed jar and shake vigorously.

In a large bowl, combine roasted squash, beans, corn, parsley and half of the dressing. Toss well. If the salad looks dry, add more of the dressing. Season with salt.





From rustic camping and upscale glamping to lakeside cabins, luxurious resort spas, casinos and golf courses, authentic Indigenous accommodation and relaxation options offer something for every vacation. No matter whether you want to get away from it all or be at the heart of the action, you'll feel at home with your Indigenous hosts.

ACCOMMODATION & RELAXATION

+ EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE



THE ORIGINAL ORIGINAL

Haida House,
British Columbia

Take a Breath

For Indigenous Peoples in Canada, relaxation and wellness are often rooted in a deep relationship with the land, air and water. It's a connection that promotes peace through meaningful encounters with the natural world. With one of these seven operators, a deeper sense of wellbeing is just a reservation away.

BY DIANE SELKIRK

Immerse yourself in Haida culture with a getaway to **Haida House at Tllaal**, British Columbia. Set between the banks of the Tlell River and the eastern beaches of Graham Island, a stay here will give you incomparable access to windswept beaches, untouched sand dunes, silent forests and a serene river. Be sure to take one of Haida House's cultural excursions before wrapping up each day with a delicious dinner followed by a peaceful night in the lodge or one of the new oceanfront cabins. [haidahouse.com]

PHOTOS: HAIDA HOUSE (LEFT PAGE AND GROUP); KYLER VOS (HOTEL)



Haida House at Tllaal



Ocean House at Tlaga Gawtlaas

Connect further with Haida culture by choosing a package that includes nights at **Ocean House at Tlaga Gawtlaas**. Located in a secluded section of Naikoon Provincial Park near Gaw Tlagee *Old Massett*, you'll spend your days exploring important heritage sites, learning traditional skills or hiking stretches of beach. Visit the spa for a healing treatment using locally-made, all-natural products. After an incredible dinner, spend some time in the lounge where you may get to hear the mesmerizing drumming and song of a Haida singer. [oceanhouse.ca]

Soaking away your troubles is something that literally happens at **Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort** in British Columbia's Kootenay region. After you've settled into a room with gorgeous lake or forest views, slip into a robe and take the short walk to the hot springs. The highlight is a soak in the sacred Spirit Water of the Ktunaxa People in the natural cave. Softly lit, the flowstone and stalactites shimmer magically in the steam. Don't miss dining on Indigenous-inspired regional cuisine at Ktunaxa Grill—one of the best-regarded restaurants in the area.

[\[ainsworthhotsprings.com\]](https://ainsworthhotsprings.com)



Michela Carriere,
Aski Holistic
Adventures

The highlight is a soak in the sacred Spirit Water of the Ktunaxa People in the natural cave. Softly lit, the flowstone and stalactites shimmer magically in the steam.

Healing and learning are the focus of a stay at **ShaMaSha**, a retreat located in the seaside village of George's Brook, Newfoundland. Founder Daphne March says the goal of a stay is to enhance your connection with others and the land through healthy eating, meditation, yoga, hiking, and traditional Mi'kmaq teachings and practices. Your day may start with a sunrise meditation and include a walk on the picturesque hills above Smith Sound. It continues with nurturing meals, and a peaceful overnight stay.

[\[shamasha.ca\]](https://shamasha.ca)

Bear River First Nation in Digby County, Nova Scotia is the proud new owner of **Digby Pines Golf Resort & Spa**. The community says the historic resort, which was once an important place for traditional practices, is going to evolve into a destination resort that captures the spirit of Mi'kmaq culture. Guests can play the 18-hole golf course, swim in the heated pool, relax in the spa or explore the extensive grounds while enjoying the views of the Annapolis Basin. [\[digbypines.ca\]](https://digbypines.ca)



Hôtel-Musée
Premières Nations

Discover the warm welcome of the Huron-Wendat reserve of Wendake with a stay at **Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations**. Set in a wooded area, the hotel is serene and inviting. Enjoy sublime dining at La Traite, which offers Indigenous-inspired cuisine including home-smoked fish and the flavours of juniper, birch syrup and cedar jelly. Don't miss a visit to the spa where treatments include time in the outdoor Nordic baths. Sleep well after finishing your evening with traditional stories inside the longhouse.

[\[hotelpremieresnations.ca\]](http://hotelpremieresnations.ca)

Enjoy sublime dining at **La Traite**, which offers **Indigenous-inspired cuisine including home-smoked fish and the flavours of juniper, birch syrup and cedar jelly.**



Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Daphne March, Board of Directors, NLITA

Daphne March is a strong Mi'kmaq woman from Gillams, NL. A mother of two children, Stephen and Rebecca, she owns and operates four-star accommodations and specializes in hospitality and wellness. She is also the founder of the ShaMaSha Project, (currently under development) which is an art and healing retreat. Drawing from her roots, Daphne organizes culinary and outdoor experiences to help her guest reconnect with nature. As a member of the board of directors of NLITA, Daphne has contributed to the development of a five-year strategy to preserve, support, and promote indigenous culture as a tourism asset for the province.

Fall asleep in a teepee in the Northern Saskatchewan wilderness with **Aski Holistic Adventures**. Discover the healing powers of nature with a customized outdoor adventure led by Cree-Métis guide, Michela Carriere. Whether you're interested in discovering local medicines and plants, canoeing, forest bathing or learning about the birds, plants and animals of the river delta, these year-round experiences draw on Indigenous knowledge and provide a deeper connection to the land.

[\[askiholisticadventures.com\]](http://askiholisticadventures.com)

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More than just a Stay

Check into these hotels, resorts, chalets, ranches and campgrounds and find culture, history and so much more—plus a truly excellent night's sleep.

BY TIM JOHNSON

+ EXPLORE
FURTHER ONLINE



Kluskap Ridge RV
and Campground,
Englishtown,
Nova Scotia

Gramable Stays

Keep your phone and camera ready at this diverse selection of properties to capture amazing experiences that will light up your social media accounts.

Painted Warriors

Here, it's all about the land—and reconnecting people to it. Situated on 80 acres in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, this rambling ranch weaves together the owners' Cree, Ojibway and Mohawk heritage to give visitors the chance to fire an arrow, navigate by shadow stick, track animals, or join the chef to gather wild plants for the night's dinner (which you can also help prepare). No matter what you choose, you'll have plenty to share around the campfire when you gather for hot berry soup and bannock before curling up for the night by a crackling woodstove under cozy blankets in one of their glamping tents. Sleep tight, under a million stars. [paintedwarriors.ca]

Moon Gate Guest House

When you arrive at this five-bedroom retreat set on the bends of the Whitemouth River, all you have to do is exhale, and enjoy. About an hour outside Winnipeg, this former egg grading station and wooden stir-stick factory is solar-powered, and free from distractions like internet and television. Read a book in the riverside gazebo, grill at the fire pit, cleanse body and mind in the dry heat of their Finnish sauna, then gather in the great room and kitchen for a grand meal. Full and happy, you'll awaken to birds chirping outside your window in the morning. [moongateguesthouse.ca]



Chalets de
L'Anse-à-Jos

Kluskap Ridge RV and Campground

Set on a peaceful ridge along the world-famous Cabot Trail, where the stunning Cape Breton Highlands meet the sea at St. Ann's Bay, Kluskap brings together Mi'kmaq, Acadian and Gaelic cultures. Listen to Indigenous Elders as they share their stories, take part in a session of traditional drumming, or step-dance to the sounds of Celtic fiddlers. And enjoy some good old-time family fun, too, whether making arts and crafts, swimming in the heated pool, playing a little basketball, or just relaxing in a comfortable chair overlooking the soaring scenery. Then bed down, in a variety of accommodations, from a trailer in the fully serviced RV sites to a glamping tent, handsomely outfitted with a king-sized bed. [kluskapridge.ca]

Lil Crow Cabin

Surrounded on three sides by the peaceful waters of the Bay of Quinte, these four cabins, located on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, each offer their own unique experience. Owned and operated by internationally recognized stone carver and musician David R. Maracle (whose work has been collected by everyone from Nelson Mandela to the Japanese emperor) and his wife, Kimber Lee, each space has been touched by artistry and care. Paddle a canoe or kayak, or just hang out in the main, super-cool retro cabin, which comes complete with a screened-in gazebo, kitchen and breakfast nook, and a big, beautiful hot tub.

[lil-crow-cabin.business.site]

Lodge on the Point

The simple pleasures are often the finest. Here on Manitou Lake in the wild country of Northern Ontario, you can relax in an off-the-grid, solar-powered authentic 1940s cedar lodge nestled into the province's highest hills (plus three cottages, and three cabins). All of it juts into the placid waters on a three-acre peninsula. Launch from the private dock and fish for lingcod, northern pike, green bass and lake trout. Wander into the evergreen forest and breathe the fresh air. And keep your eyes peeled for all sorts of animals, from wolves to black bears, lynx and loons. [lodgeonthepoint.com]

Camping Tadoussac & Camping Le Tipi

Two separate spots on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, both of these campgrounds offer amazing ways to experience both land and water. Camping Tadoussac sits near the end of the Saguenay Fjord—some four kilometres wide with sides rising a dizzying 350 metres. A total of 191 campsites (plus five safari tents, and a cabin) climb a hillside overlooking the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park, which is filled with super-rich sea life, a perfect place to drop a line for three-dozen species of fish, sea kayak or go whale-watching to spot breaching humpbacks and charming belugas. Or explore the forest a little further up the shore at Camping Le Tipi, surrounded by verdant woods and a web of hiking trails in the Innu community of Essipit. [vacancesessipit.com]

Chalets de l'Anse-à-Jos, de l'Anse-à-Yves et Chalets Shipék / Anse-à-Yves Cottage Rentals

As it flows to the ocean, the St. Lawrence River broadens, at the Innu community of Essipit becoming like a great inland sea. Perched atop a rocky rise, the five red-roofed, A-frame Anse-à-Jos chalets take in the sweeping, spectacular view. Whales flip their fins, maybe saying a little hello as they swim by. A little higher up the ridge, three Anse-à-Yves cottages invite you to wrap your hands around a cup of coffee and take in the majesty of nature from a wrap-around porch. And closer to the tourist attractions at Tadoussac, the chalets at Shipék (which means "saltwater" in Innu) offer cozy accommodations, including private balconies and even fondue pots. [vacancesessipit.com]

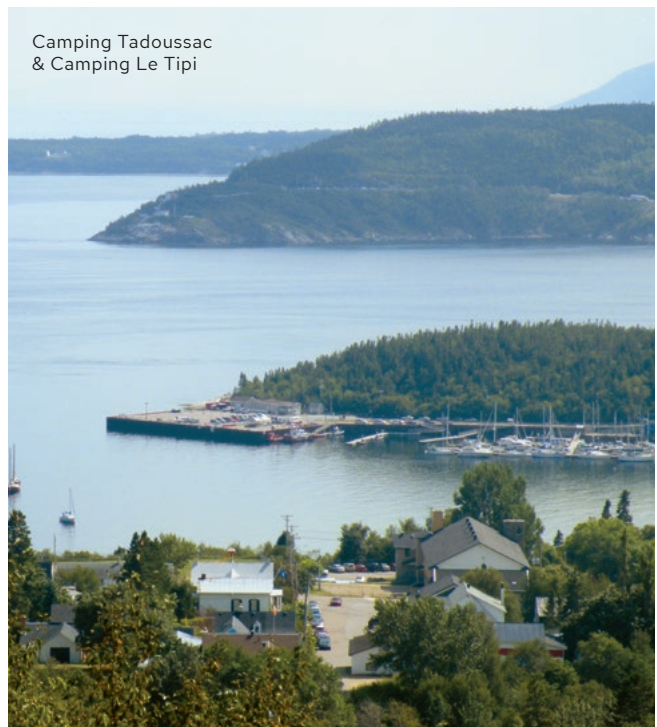


Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Kimberly Kaniehtéhawe Cross, Tourism Development Agent, Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center.

Kimberly Kaniehtéhawe Cross is the Tourism Development Agent at the Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center. Working alongside the Tewatohnni'saktha Business Services Team for the past 8 years and now with the Marketing & Tourism team, she leads the tourism initiatives, strategies and promotions for Kahnawà:ke. Kimberly has a background in travel & tourism from Dawson College and a Bachelors in Leisure Sciences from Concordia University. Looking forward she hopes to drive the tourism development in Kahnawà:ke with their new 3-year strategic plan, and work collaboratively with the community, businesses, artisans, attractions, and organizations to become market and export ready to the world.

Camping Tadoussac & Camping Le Tipi





Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Dave Laveau, Executive Director,
Indigenous Tourism Quebec

Hailing from the Huron-Wendat community of Wendake, Dave Laveau is the Executive Director of Indigenous Tourism Quebec since 2010. Under his leadership, the Indigenous tourism industry in the province has made remarkable progress and is now one of the tourism priorities of Quebec's government. Dave Laveau is also the founding member of the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC). In May 2018, the Regroupement des jeunes chambres de commerce du Québec (RJCCQ) awarded him with the Executive of the Year Award at its annual gala. A few weeks earlier, the media Canadian Traveller also honoured him by being named one of Canada's 40 most influential players in the tourism industry under the age of 40.

Domaine Notcimik

Fresh air, simple pleasures and deep culture—all of these are available in abundance in the region of La Mauricie. And they can be best enjoyed at Notcimik, where you can fish or paddle out in a canoe or kayak on the shimmering waters of the Bostonnais River and Lake Kitikan, plus a network of streams. Hike (or, in winter, snowshoe) along trails through the woods. Or just relax and have a barbecue feast, setting up a picnic on the shores. Learn lessons from the forest around the campfire, then bed down in a teepee, tent, or prospector tent. [domainenotcimik.com]

Hébergement Aux Cinq Sens

Beautiful during the day, this spot in Quebec's rolling Eastern Townships is—if possible—even more stunning at night. Sitting inside the world's first International Dark Sky Reserve, you can enjoy the Milky Way and other stellar wonders from the relaxation of a double hammock, as well as one of five tents suspended between trees. Their five yurts have each been named and themed for a different sensory experience. And under the sun, learn about this land and its rich Huron-Wendat legacy by signing up for a nature walk adventure or a sweat lodge. [auxcinqsens.ca]



Chalets de L'Anse Ste-Helene

Driving the Gaspé is a lovely experience, a two-lane highway looping between blue sea and green mountains. And on its southern side, these graceful chalets provide unparalleled views of lovely Chaleur Bay, complete with all the comforts of home (including satellite TV and a full kitchen). Or—even better—sleep in La Grande Hermine. A stay you won't soon forget, this, a replica of the largest ship sailed by explorer Jacques Cartier, includes two separate sleeping quarters (one in the bow, the other in the stern), plus a kitchen and living room. [chaletsdelansestehelene.ca]

Silver Muskie Lodge

A paradise for anyone who loves casting a line for big fish, anyone who loves the great outdoors will love this Northern Ontario Lodge. Located on Redgut Bay, part of Rainy Lake, they've been welcoming guests since 1955. Reel in pickerel, northern pike and, of course, muskie. Hike backcountry trails, water-ski, swim or kayak, or boat around to spot the ultra-rich birdlife, from bald eagles to geese, herons and gulls. Or just kick back and enjoy the comforts of the lodge, perhaps painting a perfect landscape (with art supplies provided on-site), walking the sandy beach, or swinging in a hammock under a blue sky. [silvermuskielodge.com]

Hidden Gems

Seek, and you will find truly special places, like these accommodations—a little off the beaten path, and always worth the trip.

Historic Lund Hotel

Here at Klah ah men on the Salish Sea, for thousands of years, the Tla'amin People came together to fish, hunt and gather—and to share their stories and culture. Once a thriving village and a winter refuge to launch canoes, you can still experience this long and fascinating history at the Lund Resort. From the moment you check-in, you'll be surrounded by Coastal Salish artwork, from murals hanging in the rooms to ceremonial garments housed in shadow boxes in the restaurant. Enjoy a foraged, slow-cooked feast here at the tip of the Sunshine Coast., plus, a beer on the back patio, a boat ride into a wonderland of mountains and sea, and, of course, a good night's rest, surrounded by all those stories. [lundresort.com]

Natakam Condo-Hotels

It's the ultimate wilderness luxury—sitting out on your own private balcony, perhaps surrounded by family and friends, and spotting the blow and splash of a big whale down below. Situated on a pretty promontory above the broad sweep of the St. Lawrence River in the Innu village of Essipit, these super-comfortable one-and-two-bedroom condo units can sleep as many as six. Hike and bike on nearby trails, take a paddle on the river, then settle back for a low-stress evening, watching the day fade over the river, which is full of playful marine mammals, before retreating inside, to the warmth of a fireplace, for the night. [vacancesessipit.com]



Kwa'lilas Hotel

Tsa-Kwa-Luten, The Ocean Resort at Cape Mudge

From the moment you arrive, you'll know this place is special. Long home to magic, mystery and legends, this spot on Quadra Island—the largest of the Discovery Islands—is surrounded by lush, towering forest, skirted by dark, swirling tidal pools, and buttressed by the rise of summits all around. Step into the Grand Hall of the main lodge, with its soaring ceiling supported by Douglas-firs and staff will greet you with a traditional 'Gila Kasla' welcome. Then, whether you're staying in a room in the lodge, with a Jacuzzi tub and fireplace, or at a beachfront cottage, you'll spend your time amongst orcas, ospreys, eagles, and legends. [capemudgeresort.bc.ca]

Natakam
Condo-Hotels

Kwa’lilas Hotel

A bastion of peace amidst the wild adventure of northern Vancouver Island, Gaw’sala-’Nakwaxda’xw Elders named this hotel, built out of cedar in traditional big house style, “a place to sleep.” Spend hours on land and sea around Port Hardy, searching for orcas and porpoises and stellar sea lions, taking a cultural boat tour that races the Nakwakto Rapids and shares the stories of Tremble Island, or learn traditional drum-making and cedar-weaving skills. Then, come back to dine on cuisine with an Indigenous twist at ‘Ha’mé restaurant, curling up afterward in a luxurious suite surrounded by masks, murals, and other stunning art pieces. [kwaililashotel.ca]



Quaaout Lodge and Spa at Talking Rock Golf Resort

The beauty here is just the beginning. Sitting on a broad stretch of sandy beach on the shores of Little Shushwap Lake overlooking rugged mountain splendour, you may be tempted to just retreat to your private patio and relax. But there’s plenty here to keep you busy. In addition to 18 holes on one of the top public courses in Canada, the team will lead you on a berry-picking trip or a “walk the lands” or ethnobotany tour, the latter explaining the importance of local plants for food and medicine. Learn to paint a pictogram, take part in a traditional smudge, and try your hand at making a drum. Then tuck into a big dinner back at the lodge, where the emphasis is fresh and local, and the specialties include venison and salmon.

[quaaoutlodge.com]

Aurora Inn

The place where the endless tundra meets boreal forest and the Churchill River empties into vast Hudson Bay, Churchill is a town surrounded by boundless natural wonders. Most famous, of course, are the world’s largest land-based predators, here in the Polar Bear Capital of the World, but you can also snorkel with beluga whales, ride behind a dogsled, and marvel at the shimmering spectacle of the northern lights. Then come back and relax in the spacious suites at the Aurora—each of the two-story units includes a kitchenette, plus a separate sitting area and bedroom.

[aurorainnchurchill.com]

Siwash Lake Wilderness Resort

Recognized by National Geographic, this is one of Canada's top ranch experiences—a place where you can ride like a cowboy during the day, then retire back to the lodge for a massage and a soak in a wood-fired hot tub. Sprawling over 10,000 acres, all levels can learn and enjoy horseback riding, or take your pick of other outdoorsy pursuits, everything from catch-and-release fly fishing in a rushing stream to white-water rafting through Wells Gray National Park. And after watching the light fade over the lake and surrounding meadows, enjoy a farm-to-table dinner, then retire to a sound sleep in the main lodge, or in one of the four ultra-luxe tents at Siwash Star Camp. Here, the light of a billion stars in a dark sky preserve shine through a special skylight built into the prospector tents. [siwashlake.com]

Stikine Valley Inn

As they say, getting there is half the fun. Driving the stunning wilderness of northwest BC, navigate down through the Stikine Canyon, sheer volcanic rock walls falling away to the cold flow of the river below. Arriving in Telegraph Creek, which was once the final stop for riverboats navigating inland, you'll find a warm Tahltan welcome and ultra-comfortable accommodations. Dine on delicious comfort food and then relax in the deluxe kitchenette suite, which includes satellite television, kitchen, queen bed and high-speed internet.

[stikinevalleyinn.com]

Appalachian Chalets & RV

As they like to say here, all trails lead to their door. Situated in the highlands of Western Newfoundland, where the green line of the Long Range Mountains meets the blue of the Bay of Islands, this is a prime location for ATV enthusiasts, who can access hundreds of kilometres of trails right here. Snowmobilers use the same paths in the winter, and hikers and bikers have a whole additional set of trails to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Then, return to your own self-contained chalet for some rest—backed by hillside forest, the curve of colourful units include stylish, fully-equipped kitchens, barbecue pits, wifi and high-definition television.

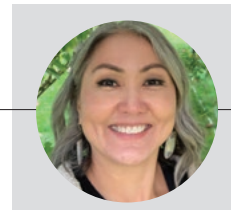
[appalachianchaletsrv.ca]



Castaways Cottages & Campground

Set well north of the 60th parallel on the southern shores of the world's tenth-largest lake, those who come to this corner of the Northwest Territories will experience all the marvels of the true north. In the summer, you won't want to leave the beach under 24 hours of sun, while in the winter, heading to bed will be difficult, with the Aurora Borealis pulsating in the skies above. Thrill at reeling in the world's largest lake trout (as well as arctic grayling and northern pike), walk through the forest, breath in the fresh air, then bed down in a cozy cottage, outfitted with all the comforts of home.

[castawayscottagesnwt.com]



Leaders of the Indigenous Renaissance

Francine Douglas,
Coast & Mountains Specialist, Indigenous Tourism BC

Stó:lō from Sts'ailes Nation in Southern BC and Tsimshian from Metlakatla Nation in Northern BC, Francine values the cultural teachings that she has learned from her family. Francine works with Indigenous Tourism BC, a provincial body mandated by the First Nations Leadership Council in BC to promote and develop Indigenous tourism experiences.

As the VCM Indigenous Tourism Specialist, Francine applies her expertise and cultural learnings towards advancing Indigenous tourism, primarily by providing responsive and respectful regionally specific programs, services and projects. She supports the awareness about the value of Indigenous cultural tourism among industry partners and Indigenous communities, policymakers and organizations, subsequently helping to cultivate new market demand. Destination development is a key component of the role, with an overarching goal of attracting visitors by offering authentic and compelling Indigenous tourism experiences.

Grey Eagle
Resort &
Casino

Casino Stays

Here's the deal—while you can gamble at each of these hotels, they offer so much more, hotels and resorts that form whole destinations packed into one property.

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino

Located on the south-western edge of Calgary in the Rocky Mountain foothills, this glittering, Vegas-style resort is perfect to explore both city lights or sylvan pleasures. Zip around trails on mountain bikes (they're provided to guests free of charge) or head to the surrounding slopes to fish, hike, ski, or just simply explore. But you may be tempted to just relax and stay right on-site and enjoy the hotel. Top-name acts (including Diana Ross and Jay Leno) play at their event centre, and, in addition to a casino with 900 slot machines and 40 table games, you can splash around the indoor pool, and dine on standout cuisine, in five different venues—dishes take advantage of the local bounty of ingredients and boast authentic Indigenous touches. [greyeaglecasino.ca]

Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino

Alberta's only casino the Rockies, you'll find soaring mountain views here in Kananaskis, just over half an hour west of Calgary. Try your hand at a variety of table games, plus 250 slot machines, a poker room and off-track betting. And at this beautiful "basecamp of the Rockies," enjoy the indoor pool, hot tub and waterslide, as well as two dining venues that feature upscale local specialties cooked with an Indigenous influence. Start with a three sisters salad served with bannock, then proceed to elk or mountain pickerel. Rooms are lovely, too, with deep-soaker tubs, big TVs, cushy furnishings and plush duvets. [stoneynakodaresort.com]

Stoney Nakoda
Resort & Casino

River Cree Resort and Casino

Just five minutes from the West Edmonton Mall, you can make a whole weekend out of a visit to River Cree. The area's biggest casino, play at 1,350 slot machines and some 40 table games. Then stay for the entertainment—everyone from ZZ Top to Howie Mandel have taken the stage here. And nine separate dining venues serve up everything from steaming meatballs and pasta at Italia to a legendary brunch at The Kitchen, where you can try their six different variations on eggs benedict. Then sleep tight in one of their 249 rooms and do it all again, tomorrow. [rivercreeresort.com]

St. Eugene Golf Resort and Casino

Walking up the front steps to check-in, you'll enter an imposing 1910 brick building, which once housed the St. Eugene Mission, a residential school. Now transformed into an upscale resort, it's owned and operated by the Ktunaxa Nation. Before you do anything else, take a tour with a Ktunaxa Elder, who will share knowledge and stories of their 10,000-year history in this area, as well as the history of how the Nation marshalled the resources to purchase this property and turn it into a place of hope. You can also play traditional games, learn beading in a workshop, and tuck into Indigenous-inspired meals at Numa, their signature restaurant. Play golf under the soaring majesty of Fisher Peak, swim year-round in the heated pool, and relax in the sauna and steam room. [steugene.ca]

Meetings and Events

Looking for an excellent place to lay your head when your working, visiting or taking part in an event? These hotels have got you covered.

Best Western Plus Sawridge Suites

It's all about comfort, and a really excellent location—just seven minutes' drive north of central Fort McMurray, this stylish hotel is located right on Highway 63, saving you plenty of drive time. Pets are welcome, and once you reach the end of your day, you won't need to travel any further. There's a bright, 24/7 grab-and-go market, plus a fully-equipped fitness centre that includes two steam rooms. And the suites here are extraordinarily well-appointed, with plenty of space plus separate sitting areas, kitchenettes and ergonomic workstations.

[\[sawridge.com/our-hotels/fort-mcmurray\]](http://sawridge.com/our-hotels/fort-mcmurray)

Peavine Inn and Suites

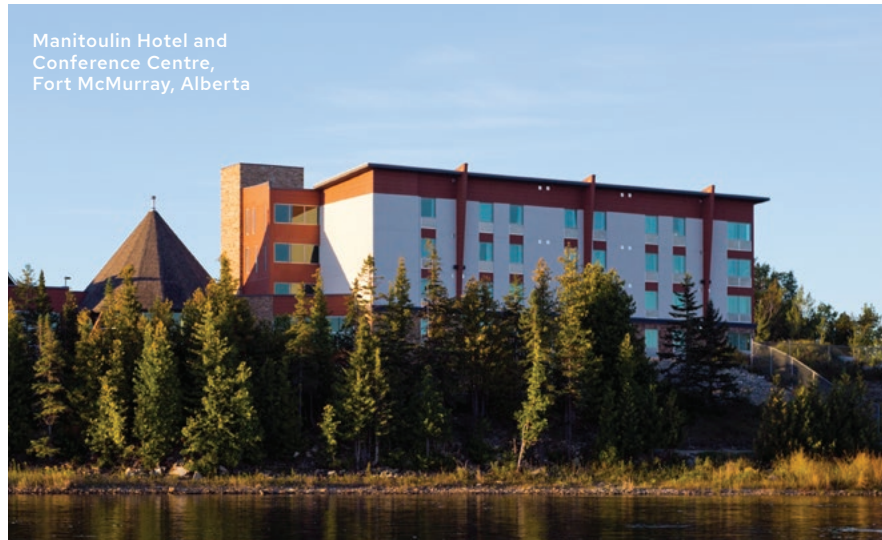
Located in High Prairie, this is a land of big lakes. Head to Lesser Slave Lake, which stretches for more than 100 kilometres, to fish, swim from one of the beaches or bird-watch—the waters here are a favourite place for migratory species to alight. Then return to the 88 deluxe rooms and suites at this lovely hotel. Enjoy the indoor pool, hot tub and waterslide, bed down for a good night's sleep on a cushy pillow-top bed, then awake to a steaming, hot breakfast.

[\[peavineinnandsuites.com\]](http://peavineinnandsuites.com)

Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre Edmonton South

Just a twenty-minute drive from all of the city's biggest attractions (including Old Strathcona and the West Edmonton Mall), this full-service hotel is named after the Sawridge Cree First Nation, who own and operate a number of businesses in the province, including a group of hotels. Enjoy one of the 136 updated guest rooms with queen or king-sized beds, a large fitness centre and a robe waiting for you, on the bed, after a long day of touring or doing business. All within 20 minutes of Edmonton's international airport.

[\[sawridge.com/our-hotels/edmonton-south\]](http://sawridge.com/our-hotels/edmonton-south)



Manitoulin Hotel and
Conference Centre,
Fort McMurray, Alberta



The Westin
Calgary Airport

The Westin Calgary Airport

There’s truly nothing better than a really good airport hotel, a place for rest after (or before) a long journey. At this Westin, you’ll find everything you need for an ultra-comfortable stay, and so much more. For example, a series of striking photographs across the property featuring Blackfoot culture, curated by Bert Crowfoot, a multimedia journalist with Siksika Nation, who own and operate this five-storey hotel. And in addition to cushy rooms and a pool and fitness centre, you can dine on quality Canadian cuisine at the on-site 671 Kitchen and Bar. Feast, tour, and recharge before your next adventure. [westincalgaryairport.com]

Microtel Inn and Suites—Fort McMurray

Although many come to Fort McMurray to work, there’s plenty of opportunities here to play. Head to local parks for thrilling experiences like zooming through the forest on a zipline or slaloming down a ski slope, plus swimming, rock-climbing and so many other adventures. Then relax at the end of the day at the Microtel, where you can recline in the hot tub, or just head back to the finely appointed rooms, all of which feature a flat-screen HDTV, microwave and mini-fridge, air conditioning and a dedicated workspace. [wyndhamhotels.com/fr-ca/microtel/fort-mcmurray-alberta/microtel-inn-and-suites-by-wyndham-fort-mcmurray/overview]



Microtel Inn and Suites—Fort McMurray

Paddle out on the water, learn drumming and traditional teachings, or take a guided nature hike, perhaps to the tumbling cascades of Bridal Veil Falls.

Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre

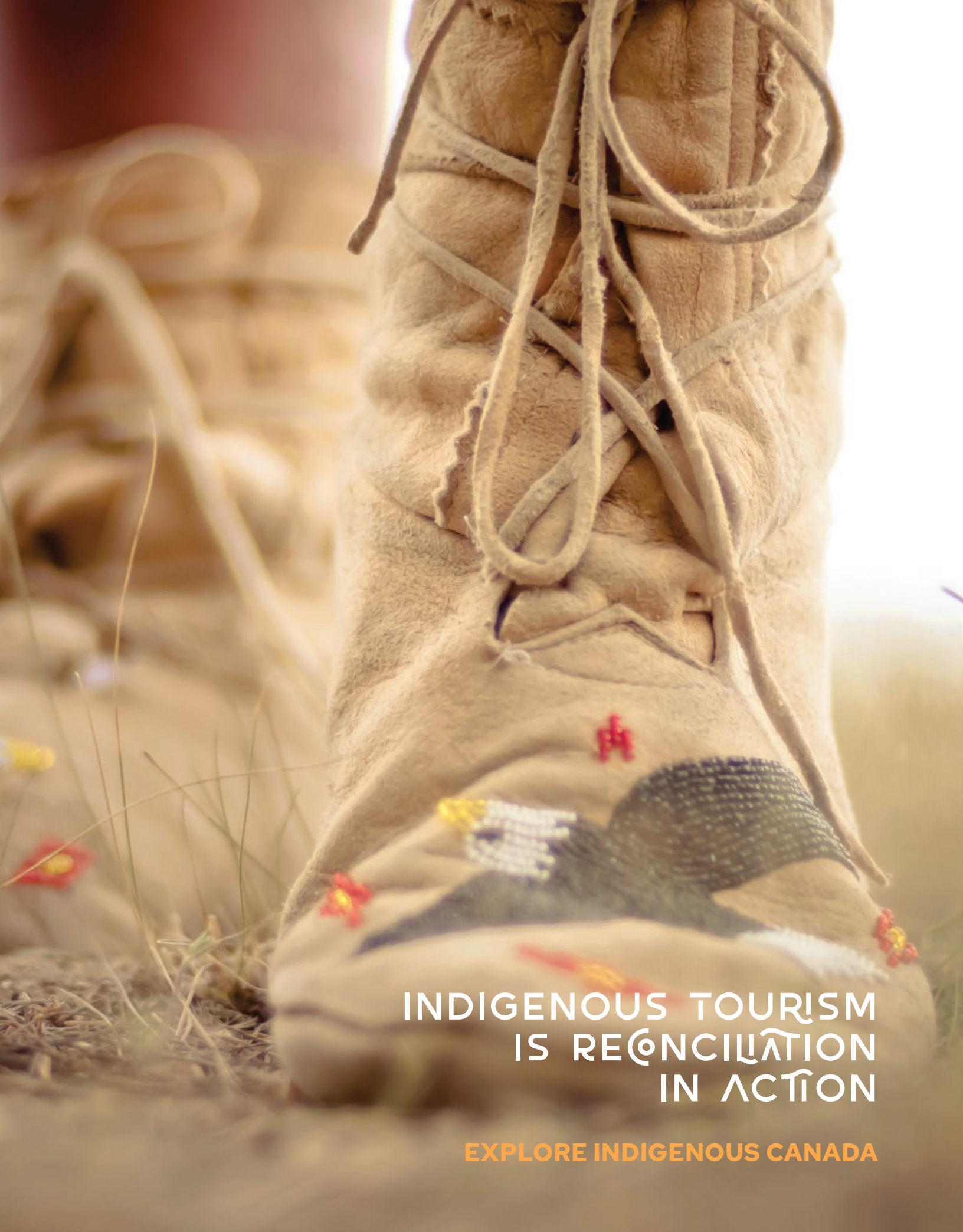
A massive island—the largest lake island in the world, so big it has some 100 lakes of its own—Manitoulin is a storied place. Bobbing in Lake Huron, it feels like a far-flung place even for Ontarians. This upscale hotel, lining the pristine waters of the lake’s North Channel, offers amazing opportunities to access all the best of it. Paddle out on the water, learn drumming and traditional teachings, or take a guided nature hike, perhaps to the tumbling cascades of Bridal Veil Falls. Then tuck into local cuisine at North 46—pan-fried rainbow trout, Manitoulin whitefish, maybe an Anishaabe taco—with expansive views of the LaCloche Mountains, before retiring to a room decorated with a First Nations motif.

[manitoulinhotel.com]



Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may be closed or operating outside of normal business hours. Please call before visiting. Thank you.



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