

The Deh Cho Connection

Distance: 1800 km / 1125 miles

Recommend 7–10 days

This amazing route circles through remote and rugged northern parts of two provinces and one territory. It's a trip made in heaven, for those looking to get off the beaten path. For camping, fishing, hiking or a cultural experience it's a true escape. Connect to the Deh Cho at Dawson Creek. The "Connector" shares the Alaska Highway, from Dawson Creek to just beyond Fort Nelson. This historic community has re-located five times since it was established in 1805. Turn at the Liard Hwy #77, and go north to Fort Liard in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The highway is newly hard-surfaced to the NWT border.

From there, be prepared for gravel conditions. At Fort Liard, NWT the highway follows the Liard River, and connects to the Mackenzie Hwy NWT #1. A side trip Fort Simpson (with a flight seeing trip over Nahanni National Park) is highly

recommended. The NWT portion of the Mackenzie Hwy is dubbed the Waterfalls Route. Both Sambaa Deh and Kakisa Territorial Parks have camping, fishing, trails and waterfalls. Reconnect to pavement at the junction of Hwys #1 and #3 and consider a trip north to historic Yellowknife (allow a few days). Return to Hwy #1 other NWT side trips include Hay River, on Great Slave Lake, Fort Smith and Wood Buffalo National Park. Near Enterprise, view the falls at Twin Falls Gorge Park. Head south to High Level on the Alberta portion of the Mackenzie Hwy #35. See the Mackenzie Crossroads Museum in Manning. Northern agricultural landscapes and communities mark the remainder of the Deh Cho Trail through the Alberta Peace River Country and back to Grande Prairie Alberta's bustling northern hub. From there it is an easy drive back to friendly Dawson Creek BC.