

# SEE THE AURORA THIS YEAR!

VISIT CANADA'S FAMOUS YUKON TERRITORY FOR A NORTHERN LIGHTS ENCOUNTER LIKE NO OTHER

Located in Canada's far west, the Yukon is renowned for its unrivalled year-round nature experiences, but nothing's quite as spectacular as a Yukon winter.

With average January temperatures of -18C, clear skies and plenty of snow, the scene is set for an enchanting, icy adventure. One of the territory's major drawcards is the aurora borealis, aka the northern lights, which appear when solar particles enter the earth's atmosphere and react with its magnetic field – illuminating the night sky like dancing watercolours.

And in the Yukon, you can see this incredible natural wonder in a few unexpected ways...

## FLY INTO THE AURORA

Air North recently held their first Aurora 360 flightseeing trip over the Yukon, taking passengers up into the aurora's oval for all-round views of the phenomenon. The flight lasted four hours and was a bit like being inside a lava lamp, with splashes of green and red lighting up the Arctic Circle's night skies around the plane – definitely bucket list-worthy! Keep an eye on flyairnorth.com for updates about their flightseeing trips for 2018.

## TEEPEES UNDER GREEN SKIES

Prefer to keep your feet on solid ground? Head to one of the local aurora viewing areas with Arctic Range Adventure. Their viewing base is located in a sprawling field just off the Alaska Highway, fringed by forest and completely free of light pollution (even though it's within easy cooee of downtown Whitehorse). Bonus: it's equipped with both teepees and yurts so you can go inside to defrost with a hot chocolate between sky-gazes. Visit arcticrange.com. Find out about more of the territory's aurora viewing opportunities at travelyukon.com.

Rachelle Mackintosh

Peep out of a teepee for a stunning view.

The Yukon belongs on every bucket list!

FROM AUSTRALIA, AIR CANADA FLIES TO WHITEHORSE VIA VANCOUVER. TO START PLANNING YOUR TRIP, VISIT [EXPLORECANADA.COM.AU](http://EXPLORECANADA.COM.AU).

Take an aurora flightseeing trip... or simply kick back and look up.

## SOAK UP THE GLOW

Another way to appreciate the aurora is to have a night-time soak in the Takhini Hot Pools and watch the skies. Rich in calcium, iron and magnesium, these natural hot springs are not only known for their therapeutic properties, they are also a toasty 37C. Even better, they don't stink of sulphur! The

pools are a 25-minute drive from Whitehorse and, while they're open to the public until late, a better idea is to rent them out with your mates. It's surprisingly affordable from \$200 for a party of one to four people and you'll have the place to yourself. Visit [takhinihotpools.com](http://takhinihotpools.com) for info.

Photos: Rachelle Mackintosh and courtesy of Takhini Hot Pools.

