



TARTAN RAPIDS

Highlights:

A trip to Tartan Rapids is a must for those with some whitewater experience. Though the rapids are short, there are enough rocks and eddies to practice most whitewater maneuvers.

For birdwatchers, bald eagles are often spotted near the rapids.

From late July to mid-August, berries flourish in this area. A search along the shoreline and at the sides of the portage trail could yield raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, cranberries and black currants.

Itinerary:

Drive 17 km east of Yellowknife on the Ingraham Trail. Turn left at the Cassidy Point turnoff and travel 2 km to Prosperous Lake. The canoe route begins there on the left-hand sandy shore. The route ends at Yellowknife River Day Use Area, an 11 km drive back along the Ingraham Trail. Parking is available at both locations.

Alternately, canoeists may prefer to paddle back to their vehicles at Cassidy Point after visiting Tartan Rapids.

After loading the canoes at Cassidy Point, paddle along the west shore of Prosperous Lake for 2.5 km to the top of Tartan Rapids.

Warning: Though paddling the length of the shoreline is a less direct route, it is by far the safest. Because of its size, sudden wind changes can cause Prosperous Lake to become whitecapped in minutes, creating hazardous canoeing conditions for even the most experienced paddler. (cont)

TARTAN RAPIDS

Duration & degree of difficulty:

Distance:	13 km
Average Trip Time:	5-6 hours
Portages:	1
Longest Portage:	100 m

Paddling to the Rapids is straightforward; however stay near the shoreline of Prosperous Lake as sudden wind changes can cause hazardous wave conditions.

The Rapids themselves will vary with water levels, season, and your skill level.

If you are unsure of either your abilities or the conditions, play it safe and take the portage.

Nearest camping:

Prelude Lake Territorial Park is 14 km east of Cassidy Point on the Ingraham Trail.

Fred Henne Territorial Park is located in Yellowknife, 9 km from the Yellowknife River Day Use Area.



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Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

Find out more about Northwest Territories parks and canoe routes at:
www.itl.gov.nt.ca/tourismparks



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INGRAHAM TRAIL ♦ CANOE ROUTES

Tartan Rapids

and Yellowknife River



A Day Trip
With River Travel
& Whitewater



Itinerary (cont):

All canoeists should land at the portage and scout the rapids before attempting to run them. The portage trail is along the left bank and is approximately 100 m in length. It allows novice paddlers to avoid the rapids and still enjoy the scenery.

Despite their meek appearance, Tartan Rapids can be very dangerous. The force of the water is strong enough to capsize a canoe - or wrap it around a rock. The most dangerous point in the rapids occurs at the top, where the water slams forcefully against the rock cliff. Dangerous undertows result. If you are unsure of your ability, play it safe - take the portage trail.

An excellent picnic site can be reached by climbing the cliffs at the foot of the rapids. There is a hiking trail that leads northeast from the picnic site to the top of a high cliff that overlooks most of Prosperous Lake. The short hike is certainly worth the effort.

Either return via Prosperous Lake to Cassidy Point or continue down the sheltered, meandering Yellowknife River for 10 km to the Yellowknife River Day Use Area.



Tartan Rapids and Yellowknife River Canoe Route

This is a wilderness canoe trip and is not entirely predictable. Routes are not maintained on a regular basis. Changes in weather or water level, overgrown trails, and many other risks could affect the accuracy of the information in this brochure. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety.