

Romance may be in the stars for you in the Yukon

BY MAX HARROLD, THE GAZETTE JULY 27, 2012



The Yukon tourism website has information on many summer, fall and winter package deals to Canada's northwestern territory. Several include guided outings to see the majestic Northern Lights, with a camp-out in a heated tent or in a log cabin.

Photograph by: Robert Postma, Yukon government

Yukon vacation savings

The Yukon tourism agency's website has a range of affordably priced packages in this northwestern territory. The current summer packages run until early- or mid-September. For example, you could book the Log Cabin Romance package at the Frances Lake Wilderness Lodge, available for stays now through Sept. 19 for \$150 per cabin, per night, or \$750 for five nights (single or double occupancy). The rate goes down to \$130 per cabin per night if you book 11 nights or more.

The deal includes a private log cabin with a well-equipped kitchenette, propane, firewood, bedding and towels, a canoe with paddles and life vests, the use of angling gear and a fishing rod and transfer

by boat to the lodge and back. The package does not include meals (and you have to bring your own food).

The lodge, about 300 kilometres east of Whitehorse, is accessible via the Campbell Highway. For more information on this lodge, visit franceslake.ca.

If you're planning ahead and feel like a fall or winter adventure, consider the Discover the Yukon Weekend Getaway Package, an all-inclusive deal for \$579 per person (based on double occupancy; taxes and fees included) that flies you round trip from Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver to Whitehorse via Air North and includes two nights of accommodation in your choice of five Whitehorse hotels.

Optional extras include a one-night guided excursion to watch the northern lights, including hot drinks, snacks by a campfire and a stay in a heated tent or log cabin for \$125 per person (double occupancy) or the half-day Takhini Express dogsledding trip with a guide and your own team of four to six huskies for \$185 per person. For more on this package, visit flyairnorth.com/DealsAndNews/YukonFallGetaways.aspx.

For more package ideas in general to visit the Yukon, go to travelyukon.com.

Insight into North America

Insight Vacations is offering \$400 savings per couple (\$200 off per person) on its premium escorted trips in late 2012 and 2013 in Canada and the United States if booked by Tuesday. The offer applies to travel between Nov. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2013. The company's new trips include Cape Cod, Chicago, Nashville, Memphis and a Mississippi River cruise.

Popular outings that are covered as part of various packages include wine tastings in California's Napa Valley, a Cajun and Creole cooking master class in New Orleans, a cocktail-making lesson in Hawaii and a tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland. Travel is by road, rail and boat, and accommodations are in upscale or luxury hotels.

Full payment is required by Tuesday. For more information about these deals, visit insightvacations.com/ca/offers. While you're there, check out the company's last-minute deals page, which includes savings on trips to Europe and North America.

BritRail upgrade deal

BritRail is offering a free upgrade to first class for travel at any time in 2013 when you purchase four- or eight-day BritRail Flexi passes by Aug. 31 of this year. The discount amounts to a savings of \$150 to \$224 per person.

The pass enables you to travel in first class on BritRail's network and visit any destination it serves in England, Scotland and Wales. Travel must, however, take place within a two-month period at some point during 2013.

For more information, visit britrail.com/passes/britrail-pass

Bahamas discounts

Tourism officials in the Bahamas are offering visitors a \$350 discount on stays of six nights or more or \$200 in savings for stays of four or five nights if you book by Aug. 20 for travel Aug. 10 through Dec. 26. The offer applies on air-inclusive vacation packages flying from Canada or the United States with a stay at one of the Bahamas' participating hotels in the chain of 16 islands or island clusters. The list of hotels is available at bahamas.com. For more information on travel packages, activities and accommodations, please visit Bahamas.com or join Facebook.com/VisittheBahamas or follow twitter.com/VisittheBahamas.

New Hampshire resort

The Buttonwood Inn on Mount Surprise in North Conway, N.H., is offering its Attitash and Wildcat Summer Fun Lodging Packages until Sept. 30. The deals start at \$239 per room for two nights for the Wildcat package and \$279 per room for two nights for the Attitash package (based on double occupancy). The rates include two nights of lodging at a Select Registry Inn on the mountain, full gourmet breakfasts each morning, afternoon tea and cold beverage service with baked treats each day.

There are also tickets for a full day of fun at Attitash with the Attitash package (which includes "unlimited use of the Mountain coaster, Alpine slide, Aquaboggan waterslides, Sidewinder waterslide, Buddy Bear's playpool, scenic chair ride, EuroBungy trampoline, climbing wall and mountain biking") or two tickets for the gondola ride and lunch at Wildcat restaurant with the Wildcat package.

Both packages also come with dining and shopping coupons. To book, visit buttonwoodinn.com/Wildcat-Fun-Lodging-Package.html or call 1-603-356-2625.

Finnair round-trip specials

Finnair is offering attractive round-trip fares from Toronto's Pearson airport this summer to several destinations and from New York's JFK airport to Bangkok and Hong Kong for travel now through March 31. Round-trip flights from Toronto to New Delhi now through Sept. 9, for example, start at \$1,099. From Toronto to Beijing, the fare starts at \$1,379.

The airline also has discounted summer fares from Toronto to Bangkok (\$1,379), Budapest (\$1,150), Helsinki (\$1,050) and Warsaw (\$1,150), among other places. For more on the flights from Toronto, visit finnair.com/CA/GB/offers.

Flights from New York JFK now through March 31 start at \$1,085 to New Delhi and \$1,259 to Bangkok. For more on those, visit finnair.com/US/GB/offers.

mharrold@montrealgazette.com

