

Hummer's **ARCTIC LURE**

2023 EDITION

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Editorial

I've spent enough consecutive summers working in the North to feel some memories start to blend. However, 2023 was a year that will stand out.

Last summer was one of the warmest we (Chummy included) can recall. It featured the earliest ice out in 17 years, which was an unfortunate precursor to a season with the most wildfires in recorded history in Canada. Though our lodges were, thankfully, not in any immediate danger (unlike in 2014), Yellowknife was, which snowballed into the evacuation of most of the NWT, including us.



On August 15th, the territorial government issued an evacuation notice for Yellowknife, abruptly ending our ability to bring people into the city. With the cancellation of all commercial flights into town, our season was at an end.

It took us a few days to get things organized amidst the chaos of a 20,000-person evacuation, but we convinced a Summit Air 737 from Alberta to land on Chummy's airstrip at Great Bear Lake Lodge on August 20th. That plane took the last of our guests and most of the staff south, making a pit stop in Yellowknife to pick up the folks of Great Slave Lake Lodge before continuing to Calgary. A few days later, the government sent another plane to Great Bear Lake Lodge, and the rest of the staff (except Chummy and his usual closing crew) were out.

In the end, things could have been a lot worse. We had seven great weeks of fishing, all our people stayed safe, and our lodges emerged unscathed. The season of fires cost us the muskox hunts, a couple weeks of Tree River exclusives, and some late season trips.

When I scroll through the news, it is easy enough to keep things in perspective; I know my worst summer up North would be a dream summer for most.

Hug & Release,

Chuk Coulter
General Manager





Sharing *Amazing Memories*

The Alabama Boys

In the remote wilds of Canada, where the vast skies merge with the deep waters of Great Bear Lake, lies a place that holds a special spot in my heart: Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge. My name is Walker, I've been part of an extraordinary journey, a tradition that my father, Lee, began years ago and passed onto me.

Each year, as the seasons shift, the call of Great Bear Lake beckons us back. It's not just the thrill of fishing that draws us; it's the profound connection with nature, a bond that deepens with every visit.

Our annual pilgrimage to the lodge is a journey filled with anticipation. The flight into this untouched wilderness, where the hustle of civilization fades into the serene beauty of the Arctic, feels like a passage to another world. Approaching the lodge, nestled at the edge of the treeline, we can feel the everyday world slipping away.

The lodge itself is a haven amidst the wild. The evenings by the fireplace, shared stories at the bar, and the friendly games of pool create a familial atmosphere. The comfort of the lodge, juxtaposed against the rugged wilderness, strikes a perfect balance between adventure and relaxation.

But the true enchantment lies on the waters of Great Bear Lake. Here, Dad and I have faced the legendary trout. These aren't just fish; they are titans of the deep, and each catch is a story in itself. The adrenaline rush of landing a 30-pound trout, and the awe of catching a record 52-pounder, transcend the act of fishing. It's a celebration of nature's resilience and beauty.

Guided by experts who are more friends than guides, we've explored the lake's hidden nooks, each spot revealing its own charm. These guides, with their rich stories and deep knowledge, have become an integral part of our experience.

Beyond the lake, the lodge offers excursions to places like the Tree River, showcasing the stunning beauty of the Arctic. These journeys into the wilderness offer glimpses into a world that few get to see.

Plummer's Lodge is more than a fishing destination; it's a place where life's walls and barriers dissolve, and nature's simplicity reminds us of what truly matters. It's about shared laughter, stories over exquisite meals, and serene nights under the Arctic sky. For Dad and me, it's a realm where time pauses, enriching our lives with each visit.

Ultimately, Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge isn't just about fishing or luxury. It's about the experiences that shape us, the bonds that fortify, and the unforgettable moments that reveal the beauty and wonder of our world. It's a testament to life being a tapestry of experiences, some so precious that they simply cannot be missed.

Walker H.



Sixty Years in the Making... and WORTH IT!



My home lake is Lake Nebo near West Fort Ann, NY. A 125 acre spring fed lake located just inside the southeast boundary of the Adirondack State Park. Our family has a place on the lake and we would spend summers there. Spring time was my favorite though. Shortly after ice out in April we'd start fishing. Dad would drop us off on the dock at our cabin and we'd fish the shoreline for Sunfish, Rock Bass and an occasional Largemouth Bass, while he would move out into the lake to go after the "big fish" – Lake Trout. For a few weeks in the Spring, before the water would warm, he would spin cast for them. After that, he would have to troll deep for them.

It was 1963 and I was 12 years old when I asked my father if I could start fishing with him. He said: "Sure, come on along." For the next several years he and I would spend hours spinning for Lakers in the Spring. It was about the only time I spent alone with my father. With 5 other siblings and him working a couple of jobs, his free time was limited.

During this time period Dad was a subscriber to Outdoor Life and Field & Stream. I read them from cover to cover including the ads. It was there I came across an ad boasting: "World Record Lake Trout – Great Bear Lake, NWT." Having been fishing for Lakers in a lake where the average size was about 2 pounds and a monster was 10 pounds, you can imagine just how stunned I was to see fish that big. I said to myself – "I'm going there someday."

Over the years I tried several times to make the trip. Something always happened to prevent it. Money, job, time off, family considerations and other reasons always put the trip on hold. Then everything seemed to come together in 2020. I booked a trip for myself and my son and had everything lined up except our airfare and ... Wham! COVID hit. We postponed to 2021 and postponed again to 2022. Then our son had his first child and we had to postpone to 2023. I was beginning to wonder if the universe had something against me.

But this story now has a happy ending with the 2023 booking ending with a successful trip. Sixty years after seeing those ads and making that promise to myself, I made it to GBL and the best part was I was able to bring my son along with me. What a great time we both had. Our guide, Terry, was outstanding and made the week memorable. We caught a lot of fish and, obviously, all of them were the largest Lakers I had ever caught. Though I didn't get any over 20 pounds, my son got two over 20 and, on Friday afternoon, with 3 hours fishing time left in the week he landed a 42 pounder. I couldn't have been happier if I caught it myself.

Everyone was great at the lodge, but I want to give special recognition to Brenda Prins at the Winnipeg office. She put up with me for three years and never got frustrated with all the changes I had to make. She was great.

It was a wonderful week and I'll treasure the memories forever. I also learned that even 60 year old dreams can come true.

Kevin N.





PLUMMER'S SPECIAL EVENT

SURVIVAL EXPEDITION

WITH

ALONE'S

SEASON 6 WINNER

JORDAN JONAS

Join Jordan Jonas, winner of season six of the History Channel's hit show "Alone" for a week-long adventure as he shares survival skills and wilderness techniques that enabled him to survive for 77 days on the unforgiving shores of Great Slave Lake.

As most know, seasons six and seven were filmed on Great Slave Lake, but many do not realize that the Alone contestants and crew were based out of our Plummer's Great Slave Lake Lodge. We had the production crew, producers, and safety team there monitoring the contestants until early January!

We are excited to welcome Jordan back as he hosts his survival workshop. Participants will fly to Great Slave Lake Lodge and join Jordan and his family for five days on the land as he teaches the proven skills used to survive outside and exposed in the North. They will spend 5 days living on the land while he shares the invaluable and proven skill set that helped him thrive, explore the tundra (including hikes to other contestants' locations), discuss the soft skills of survival, and more.

To close out the adventure, everyone will return to the lodge for a celebration dinner and spend the next full day on the water fishing with Plummers' guides, including a fantastic group shore lunch.

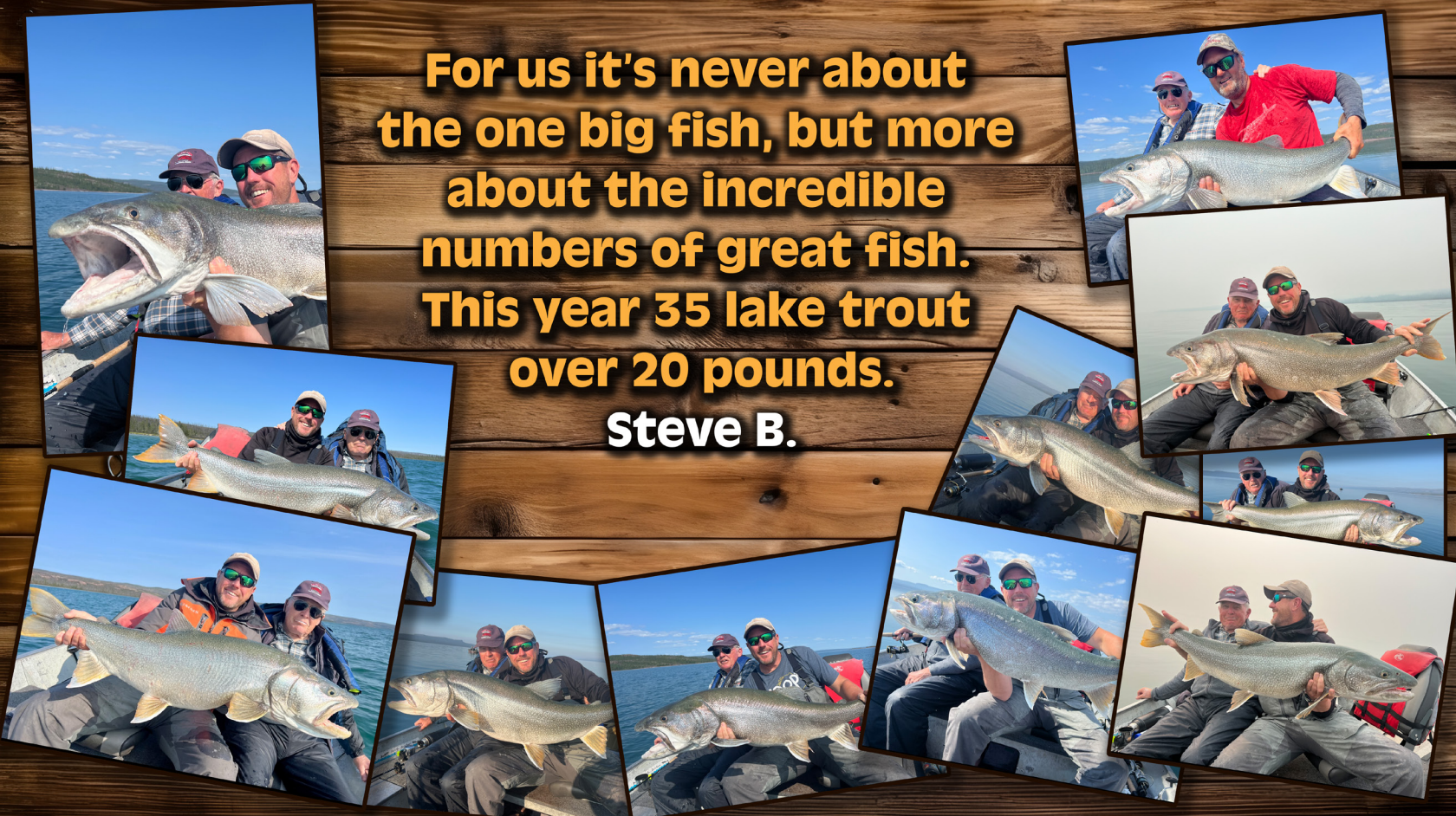
Space is extremely limited in this full week, hands-on adventure.

August 26 - September 2, 2024 \$5795 p/p.

Sharing *Amazing Memories*



**For us it's never about
the one big fish, but more
about the incredible
numbers of great fish.
This year 35 lake trout
over 20 pounds.
Steve B.**



Guest Quotes



I thought Al was the best guide I've ever had. I have been fishing in the north for over 10 years at many different lodges, and he was by far the best. He knew the lake very well, was an excellent fisherman and put us in great spots to catch big fish. I caught my personal best at 35 lbs this year.

Joe C

The bald guy with the clipboard looks malnourished.

George W.



I never knew trout were so much work and fun to catch. Catch them all day long.

Lonnie O



Phenomenal. I tell my buds to expect 30 fish per boat per day. I did not hit that for a couple as weather hindered us. Last day hit a honey hole and although it is not the right word "splayed" them. Never expected to catch 100 good sized trout on a day with a buddy and likely never will again.

Bob B.



Tristin was a super great guide loved having conversations with him and exploring new places to fish

Karen & Pete M.



We could have caught 100 fish a day anywhere on that lake.

Tom M.

Loved hanging out in the tackle shop with the guides, great stories.

David A.

The food and service was a highlight of the trip. Everything was excellent. Our group of 4 who had been to other fishing lodges together commented throughout our stay at how much better the quality, quantity and service was at Plummer's compared to other trips we've been on.

David Y.

6 trophies and 77 lakera in 4 days!! Beyond excellent!

Darin B.



Amazing trip! Thanks to everyone! It's Disneyland of the north!!! The happiest place on earth!

Cam P.



Josh was an amazing knowledgeable guide.

The rest of the guides in our group were the same. the shore lunches they prepared were the best I have had!

Craig S.

We asked for big fish; we not only caught many over 20# and several over 30#, but also caught great numbers. Great Slave Lake, Plummer's, and our guides delivered as promised.

John L.



There should be a note in the dining room saying "beware you are about to gain at least 5 pounds on this trip.

Chander C.



Crazy greasy grayling...

Reg E.

Brenda was friendly, very helpful and communicated well. It was great interacting with her.
Robert P.

The lake trout fishing at Slave is phenomenal.
Rob B.

Jonesy was a great fishing guide, we had a spectacular time. In a week he almost became part of the family.

Steve and Rebecca H.



Bob was awesome.
Daniel G.



I was totally impressed with Plummers, and this was my third time
Alan G



As a group of 4 we caught 185 lake trout, 35 pike and too many grayling to count. We all got fish over 35 pounds. Many 20s tons of teenagers. We also got 35 pike in 1 hour in a small river. It was beyond belief how good it was. And to think many experienced guides said this was a slow year!!! Wow. Would love to see a good year.

Best place to fish in the world, I have fished all over North America and there is no comparison, simply the best!

Bama

Thank you so much Terry and Christian I learned so much from my guides I had an awesome time.

Lorrie S

Ed was an excellent guide and I felt safe with him every day on such a big lake.

Richard O



Lodge needs stickleback gear. Being a premier sportfish, the Ninespine Stickleback is a valiant target.

Corwin A

Easy flight, lots of excitement with the group. When we arrived, the whole Team was smiling and helpful.

Mike H

Great Bear is my favorite trip, and I do a lot of trips! It is my fave because of the huge lake trout and char at the Tree. I love HUGE fish and no one has bigger fish than Bear!!!!

Ted C



We brought our own rods and after the first day realized we had better use Lodge rods, next time I would rely entirely on the Lodge rods.

Scott S.

Feature *Story*

Women in Fishing – *By Whitney Gouw*

I can't tell you how excited I am to become a guide at Great Slave Lake Lodge for the 2024 season. To have the opportunity to work on such an incredible body of water, with its world-class fishing, honestly feels surreal!

I started work with Plummer's as shore staff at Great Slave Lake Lodge two seasons ago. I was contacted by a guide from Great Bear who let me know about the opening and told me I should "absolutely take the job!" I decided to take a risk and the next thing I knew I was heading North. I spent my summer bartending, cleaning rooms, serving meals, washing dishes, and whatever else was needed to ensure all our guests had the best trip possible. Now, looking ahead to 2024, I'll be spending my summer on the water! I often think about how this opportunity has come to me, how different things would be had I succeeded in talking myself out of that first summer, and how I would have missed out on an incredible journey.

I didn't grow up fishing or hunting. I started to learn the very basics of fishing about 8 years ago, running a pickerel rig with weight and rocks as my rod holders! As any new angler can relate to, I battled through all my insane mess ups, money wasted, lessons learned and small successes... until I finally started catching fish. My confidence grew and grew until, finally, I knew that I (probably) would not starve to death if I got stranded in the middle of an ocean. (This is not to say that I wouldn't get scurvy and die anyway). I taught myself to hunt on the same timeline, with the end goal of being able to hunt and fish solo.



I learned many valuable lessons during the process of struggling and failing in fishing and hunting. I was initially extremely intimidated by the industry because I didn't find many female anglers to serve as my mentors to direct all my beginner questions at. However, when I look around these days, women are forging their own paths and making waves in the hunting and fishing world like never before. With a passion for the outdoors, they are breaking stereotypes and redefining what it means to be an outdoor enthusiast. From skilled markswomen to expert anglers, from hunting and fishing guides to running their own outdoor training groups, these women are not just keeping up with their male counterparts but often surpassing them with their dedication and expertise. As they embrace the thrill of the hunt and the serenity of the water, they are not only making an impact but also inspiring the next generation of women to join them in the great outdoors, proving that gender is no barrier to pursuing one's love for nature and adventure.

Recent statistics reveal a dynamic shift in the landscape, with female hunters on the rise, accounting for over 16% of the U.S. hunting population, and female anglers are accounting for approximately 38% of the fishing population, a notable increase over the past decade.

As Plummer's first female fishing guide, I feel that this push of women into the outdoor sport/activity realm is something positive. It's become less taboo, more mainstream, and something that isn't looked down upon as in the past.

As I look forward to the 2024 season, with so much joy and such a deep appreciation for the opportunity to break new ground, I extend a warm invitation to keep an eye out for me. You'll find me leading with passion and probably too much excitement, ready to share the magic of fishing in the pristine Arctic wilderness. Let's make this season a testament to the power of inclusion and the shared love of nature's wonders. Together, we'll create memories that endure, proving that the lake has no bounds, and neither does the pursuit of one's dreams.

@gouw.whitney



Lodge *Notes:*

Chummy's Thoughts

If you asked me 6 months ago if a fire hundreds of miles away from Bear Lake could shut down our season, I would have told you "No" and that you were crazy.

But that's what happened last summer.

The government shut us down for basically two years over Covid. Then, we finally got in one good season... and it looked like we were headed for another in 2023. The weather was great, the ice was out early, we had great staff and lots of happy customers, but we kept hearing about the wildfires to the south.

Sure, Slave Lake had a lot of smoke and there were a few days up at Bear where the Narakays disappeared, but never in a million years did I think the government would shut us down again.

Well, never say never.

I thought I'd seen it all in my years of running the camps, but I didn't see this coming. Once the evacuation notice for Yellowknife was issued, that was it. We couldn't move our people in or out or even get groceries. If we were still running the jet out of Winnipeg like the old days it might have been a different story, but with Yellowknife as our starting point we had no choice but to start making disappointing phone calls to customers, some of whom had been waiting for their trips for years (because the last big shut down)!

Of course, no one was surprised to hear the bad news; everyone we called assumed the camps had already burned down (based on the way the news was telling the story). They were surprised that our phone still worked! Everyone was happy to hear that we were safe and that the camps were never in any danger.

I guess the lesson is that no matter how old I get, I'll probably never have seen it all in the North.

We'll see what 2024 has in store for us.

Chummy Plummer

3rd Generation Host & Proprietor



Guides' Corner

Lake Trout Nachos

by Matt Dick

When one thinks of nachos, fish is not often the protein that comes to mind. Lake trout with a bit of TexMex flair is a great change of pace to a classic.

Ingredients

- Nacho Chips (or thin slice some russet potatoes and fry them up!)
- Cheddar or Monterey Jack Cheese, Shredded
- 1 red onion
- 1 large tomato or 2 Roma Tomatoes
- 1 cup of Sour Cream
- Two limes
- Lake Trout fillets, cubed (1.5")
- Taco Seasoning (1 packet per fillet)
- Kosher salt
- Cilantro
- Oil

Instructions

Prep the salsa fresca by finely dicing the red onion and tomato(s). Coarse chop cilantro (If you don't like cilantro, substitute a finely diced mango or pineapple) and mix with onion and tomato. Season liberally with salt and the juice of one lime. Allow to marinate in the fridge for at least one hour (preferably overnight). Once fish is cleaned, prepare lime crema by adding the zest of one lime and the juice of one half lime to the sour cream. Mix well. Fry trout in oil until cooked halfway. Add taco seasoning and mix well being careful not to break up the fish too much and cook until done. Spread chips out on plate and put a thin layer of cheese on them. Place fish on top of the cheese and allow it to melt. Add salsa fresca and lime crema. Enjoy with beans and corns!



Cody's Famous Frank's Lake Trout

by Matt Dick

Ingredients

- Lake trout Fillets cut into cubes or strips
- Flour
- Frank's Red Hot Sauce
- Oil for Frying

Instructions



Fillet and debone Lake trout. Cut into 1-2" wide strips or cubes depending on preference. Heat 2-3"

deep of oil in large skillet. Put trout into large Ziploc bag and add a liberal amount of Frank's Red Hot to ensure all pieces are covered. Allow to marinate for at least ten minutes but no longer than an hour. Remove fish from the Franks and shake off excess liquid. Dredge into flour (a second Ziploc or small container works great) ensuring an even coating. Place fish pieces into hot oil (optimal temperature is 375°F) and fry until cooked. Remove from oil and serve with fries, corns and beans! *Note – the finished fish is not spicy as the heat is neutralized during frying.

Taco Seasoning

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground paprika
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano

Special Packages



Family Week

Great Bear Lake Lodge: July 26 - August 3, 2024
Great Slave Lake Lodge: July 22 - 29, 2024

This is the 18th year offering Family Week where one family member gets 25% off the price of their trip. Fathers and daughters, husbands and wives and Grandpas and their Grandkids continue to make this a trip worth remembering.



32nd Annual Dental Seminar

Trophy Lodge: June 30 - August 7, 2024

Join hosts Dr. Terry Donovan and Dr. David Hall as they head the annual dental convention. Earn up to 22 continuing education credits while fishing for Lake Trout, Northern Pike, and Arctic Grayling at one of the best fisheries on the planet. Only 22 spots are available for the best Dental Seminar offered anywhere and they fill up quickly. \$7595 per person for the full week of guided fishing and the daily lectures.



Fly Fishing Week

Great Bear Lake Lodge: August 2 - 9 & August 9 - 16, 2024

This package includes TWO nights at the Tree River as well as a remote Arctic Grayling flyout included in the price. The trip is scheduled to coincide with the Lake Trout moving up onto the shoals and the Arctic Char displaying their glorious spawning colors.

NOTE: You do NOT have to fly fish to take part in this package. \$8995 per person.



Musk Ox Hunt

Great Bear Lake Lodge and Grey Goose Outfitters:
August 16 - 23, 2024 & August 23 - 30, 2024

Our annual Musk Ox hunt is fast gaining a reputation as one of the premier big game hunts offered in North America. With the limited number of hunts we offer and the remarkable size of the animals in the Sahtu region, discerning hunters from across the continent are leaving thrilled every year. Nothing is wasted on this sustainable hunt, as any meat that is not taken by the hunters is distributed in the local community of Deline. Call for details and availability.

Getting Here

Getting to Plummer's can seem like a daunting task, but it is far easier than many people think. Start with a call to our office and our staff will help you book, plan and set up your trip.

Every trip to Plummer's begins in the historical city of Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. Our guests must arrive in Yellowknife the night before their fishing starts; our private charters into our lodges leave in the morning.

If the airlines cooperate, getting to Yellowknife has never been easier, with daily flights from several major Canadian airlines (West Jet, Air Canada, Canadian North, Air North and First Air). Flights to Yellowknife connect through Vancouver (British Columbia), Edmonton or Calgary (Alberta), and are direct from any of those cities.

Regardless of the airline or route you choose, a Plummer's representative will greet you at the airport in Yellowknife to ensure a smooth start to your trip.

As always, we are happy to help you coordinate travel plans for your upcoming arctic adventure.



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Our *Lodge Network*



Great Bear Lake Lodge

PLUMMER'S GREAT BEAR LAKE LODGE is on the Dease arm of Great Bear Lake. Our two Turbine Otters are stationed here, making it the only lodge that offers daily fly-outs to otherwise inaccessible hot-spots around the region, including the Tree River.

The 2024 season here begins June 28 and ends end of August. Seven-day trips. New for 2024 is the changeover day. All trips will be Friday to Friday.



Trophy Lodge

PLUMMER'S TROPHY LODGE is located on the Smith Arm of Great Bear Lake. One of our smaller lodges, Trophy Lodge only has 22 anglers a week.

The 2024 season here begins June 30 and ends in early August. Seven-day trips. Sunday to Sunday.



Tree River Outpost

PLUMMER'S TREE RIVER OUTPOST is in Nunavut. This famed river flows into the Arctic Ocean, is home to the largest Arctic Char on the planet and has been featured in media worldwide. It is offered as an overnight trip from Great Bear Lake Lodge or as a seven-day package from Great Bear (five days on the Tree River).

The seven-day package is only offered at the end of the season. August 17-24, 2024.



Great Slave Lake Lodge

PLUMMER’S GREAT SLAVE LAKE LODGE is the original Plummer’s Lodge. Located in Talttheilei Narrows on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, it is well known for consistently having some of the most amazing fishing in the NWT, often within sight of the lodge!

The 2024 season here begins June 24 and ends in early September. Three, four and seven day trips. Monday to Monday, Monday to Friday and Friday to Monday.



Arctic Circle Outpost

PLUMMER’S ARCTIC CIRCLE OUTPOST is on the McTavish Arm of Great Bear Lake. This is the only lodge that is self-guided. Guests are provided with boats equipped with 20 hp outboards and sonar units. There is a camp manager on site to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

The 2024 season here begins June 28 and ends end of August. Seven-day trips. Friday to Friday. Arctic Circle guests fly in and out of Great Bear Lake Lodge and have another floatplane flight to get them to the outpost.



2024 Season Prices

Great Bear Lake Lodge (Fri-Fri)	7-Day	\$7495
Trophy Lodge (Sun-Sun)	7-Day	\$7995
Arctic Circle Outpost (Fri-Fri)	7-Day	\$5695
Great Slave Lake Lodge (Mon-Mon)	7-Day	\$5795
Great Slave Lake Lodge (Mon-Fri)	4-Day	\$3995
Great Slave Lake Lodge (Fri-Mon)	3-Day	\$2495
Tree River Outpost Exclusive	7-Day	\$8995

These packages include return air transportation from Yellowknife to the Lodges, all meals including daily shore lunch, lodge accommodations, daily maid service and fully guided fishing. (One professional fishing guide for every two guests – excluding Arctic Circle self-guided trips).

Please call 1.800.665.0240 for up-to-date information.



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