

Floatplanes are a regular means of travel in Northern Saskatchewan.

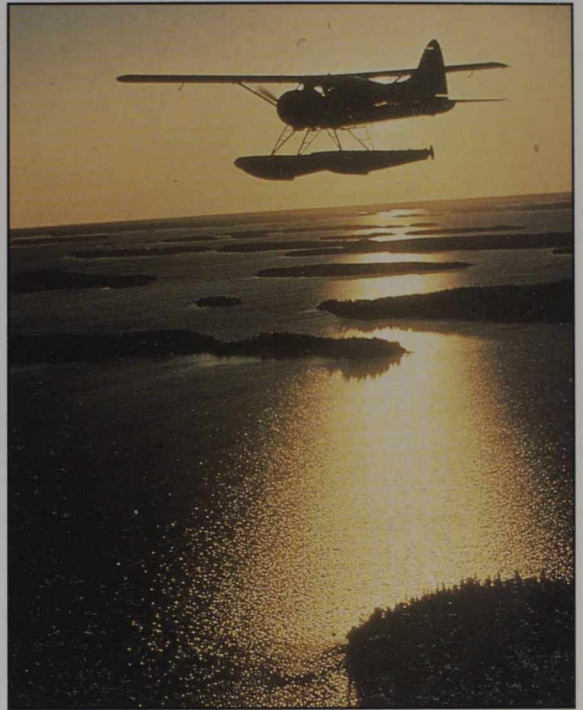
Naskapi are now inviting travellers to discover the far north of Quebec in winter as well as summer.

Proof of how serious native Canadians treat tourism is the recent acquisition of First Air by the Inuit (Eskimos) of Quebec. They already own Air Inuit which gives the Makivik Corporation a monopoly on air transportation above the 55th parallel. The Inuit are now ready to offer all levels of tourism services, while the Cree, who operate Air Creebec, serve those who wish to visit south-west Quebec and the James Bay territory.

Pushing further north and west is a 10 000 square kilometre area of pristine wilderness called Keewatin. For the Inuit, this land is more than a physical entity; it is part of life's definition itself. Whether you are on a point extending into the sea, atop a cliff overlooking Wager Bay, or on a hill in the central barrenlands beside one of Keewatin's wild rivers, the panorama of endless wilderness offers a sense of being in a magical place. Activities in this area include hunting by license and excellent fishing, such as that found in the Kazan River. Most people come to watch the wildlife however, including polar bears which can be seen swimming in Wager Bay. The best way of viewing the species endemic to the region is to visit the Thelon Game Sanctuary, created in 1927 with the original purpose of protecting the mainland muskoxen.

Because the Sanctuary is well removed from any community, it can only be reached by chartered aircraft, and the canoe is the best form of transportation through it.

Today the Thelon Game Sanctuary is still a haven for muskoxen. But more than that, it is a breeding ground for tundra-swans, peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, Arctic loons and many other species. Barren ground grizzly bears, Arctic fox, wolves and moose can all be found living in the area. Every spring and late summer the 300 000-strong Beverly caribou herd is seen migrating through the Sanctuary on its way to and from the calving ground, near the northeast corner. Thelon Game Sanctuary has preserved a complete, undisturbed ecological system just where the



transition from boreal forest to Arctic tundra occurs.

While visiting Keewatin, it is worth noting that the Inuit of the region have established themselves as skilled artists and craftspeople. From the traditional Inuit perspective, something was beautiful because it was useful. The same concern for craftsmanship and detail that were hallmarks of the past are ingredients in the work of today's artists. Variety is a strong feature of Keewatin arts and crafts. The range includes everything from carvings, wallhangings, printmaking, elaborately detailed parkas and jewellery, to duffle socks and mitts, crocheted hats, tools and other items. With few exceptions, they are still produced by hand, giving them a 'one-of-a-kind' look and feel.

Western Romance

For those of a truly active spirit the Rocky Mountains of Alberta are an adventure just waiting to happen. It's a place of western romance, where you can ride a horse through scenic mountain passes, or lounge on a cedar sun porch of a hospitable guest ranch. It's a place for excitement, where you can experience the thrills of a mountain climb, encounter the breathtaking speed of a raft trip through foaming white-water, go heli-fishing in a high mountain lake, or spend a day coasting downhill on a mountain bike. If golfing is your pastime, then Alberta sports some world class facilities at Kananaskis and Banff, but with the added attraction of unsurpassed scenery. And it's a place of timeless, limitless leisure, where you can meander through a dazzling mountain garden of alpine flowers.

Of the enormous range of holidays available in the Rockies, a typical holiday includes a 4-6 day full-circle trail ride which heads into Cascade Valley and includes stays at three base camps, Stoney Creek, Flint's Park and Mystic Valley.

KEEWATIN

A magical land

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Dog-sledding, Northwest Territories.

