

Surprisingly it is a dry world with very little rain or snowfall. This is due mainly to the high barrier presented by the St. Elias Mountains, separating the Yukon from the Northwest Territories. With many peaks topping 3 000 m — including Mount Logan, at 6 050 m, Canada's highest — the St. Elias Range cuts off moist air from the Pacific.

Winter and summer are the only true seasons with the transitions between them being so brief as to be negligible. Above the Arctic Circle the sun vanishes for weeks or months during winter, but this "long-night" is seldom completely dark. The northern lights (aurora borealis) often give a pervading luminosity, and the glitter of the stars combined with bright moonlight provides enough light for almost all normal activity, including hunting. During summer, this same area becomes the famous "land of the midnight sun" with continuous sunlight hours for about the same period as the night.

