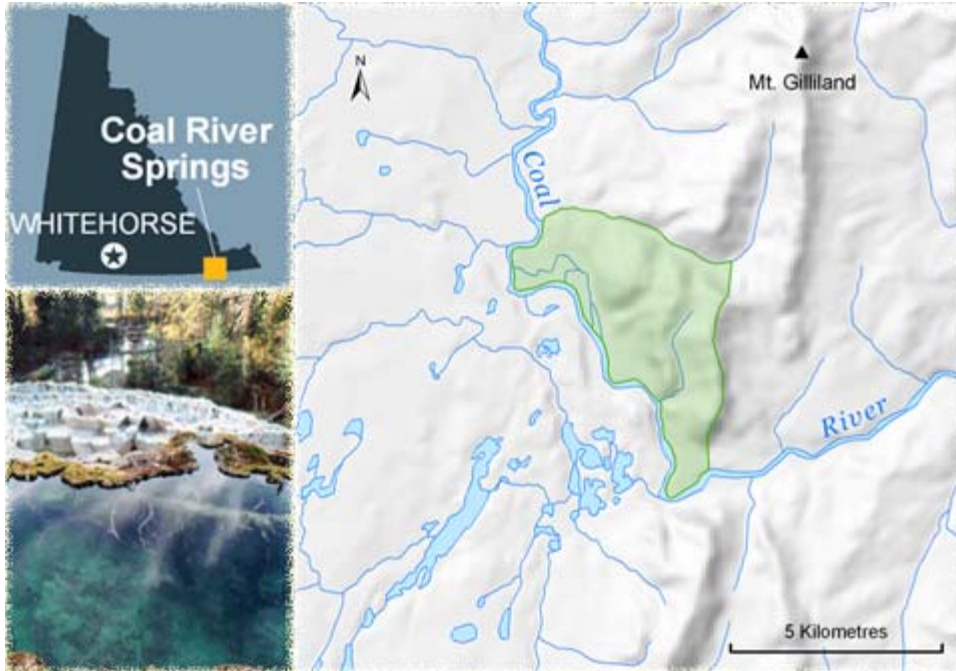


Coal River Springs Territorial Park – Visitor Information



Getting There

With protection of the reserve as the primary purpose of the park, access continues to be restricted by the difficulties of wilderness travel in an isolated region. Whitewater canoeists or rafters can line upstream on the Coal River from tributary streams and lakes accessed by floatplane from Watson Lake. Once on the river, boaters are committed to a week-long trip with grade III-IV rapids further downstream. Take-out is at the Alaska Highway where it crosses the Coal River in British Columbia.

It is possible to bushwhack from a rough mining exploration/logging road to the banks of the Coal River. To do this, you must negotiate a hilly, two kilometre maze of large diameter, wind-thrown, fire-killed trees. At this point you may be blocked by the river, fordable only in the low water of late summer and, even then, potentially dangerous.

Other access is by helicopter from Watson Lake. This is usually a one hour return flight.

Visitor Guidelines

Coal River Springs Park was established as an ecological reserve to protect its fragile tufa formations. These features cannot survive heavy use. Viewing of the unique physical and biological features of the springs is the primary focus of visitor use.

The spring formations are extremely vulnerable to the activities of park visitors. Please follow these simple rules:

- The springs are cold, not hot, as one might have mistakenly anticipated by the term thermal springs. Any type of bathing or swimming will damage the delicate chemistry of the water and its biological components. Please avoid any contact with the water.
- Stay on designated trails and avoid walking on the formations.
- Keep a clean camp by using the facilities located 200 metres east of the main formations.
- Take all your garbage out with you when you leave.
- Use a camera or sketch pad to capture memories of your visit and leave the flowers and tufa for others to enjoy.