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Five Places To Try First Nations Cuisine

Check out one of these popular spots across Canada

JUNE 18, 2015 - BY KAT TANCOCK



Throughout the country, restaurants and cafes are using local ingredients to showcase tasty indigenous cuisine.

Here are five places to try.

Salmon 'n' Bannock Bistro, Vancouver

Voted best dining experience during the 2015 Dine Out Vancouver Festival, this welcoming bistro focuses its lunch and dinner menus around wild fish, free-range game meat and fresh-baked bannock. Try the sockeye salmon gravlax with bannock crackers, or the elk burgers with sautéed mushrooms and alder-smoked bacon.

Kekuli Cafe, Merritt and Westbank, B.C.

"Don't panic, we have bannock" boasts this Interior B.C. cafe whose breakfast and lunch menus include options such as wild salmon "bannodict," a buffalo bannock burger with saskatoon berry barbecue sauce and a vegetarian bannock taco, all served with the classic fry-bread. To finish your meal, try a maple iced coffee, saskatoon berry tea lemonade or dessert bannock in flavours like maple walnut and lemon butterhorn.

Neechi Commons, Winnipeg







Founded as an aboriginal-owned co-operative, this north-end complex houses a supermarket, an arts store (with artisans often working on-site) and a casual lunch and brunch space featuring indigenous ingredients such as wild blueberries, Manitoba-caught fish and wild rice. Menu items include bannock pizza, pickerel or bison burgers, and a vegetarian "three sisters" soup with squash, beans and corn.

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Tea-N-Bannock, Toronto

Billing itself as "a taste of aboriginal Canada," this friendly cafe in Toronto's east end offers a dine-in or take-out menu packed with indigenous ingredients including salmon, buffalo, elk, blueberries and wild rice. The salmon or trout on fry-bread bun comes with a side of coleslaw and dill pickles, while the eight-ounce buffalo rib-eye steak is served with a bannock appetizer, sautéed wild rice and mushrooms, and mashed potatoes.

Restaurant La Traite, Wendake, Quebec

Less than 30 minutes from the core of Quebec City, the First Nations community of Wendake is a year-round tourist destination in its own right, with attractions including historical and cultural sites, walking and biking trails and canoeing or kayaking. Housed in the boutique Hôtel-Musée des Premières Nations, this cozy upscale restaurant creates dishes with ingredients from the northern forests it's surrounded by: a venison terrine with fiddleheads and wild mushroom tapenade, for instance, or brook trout with a cattail and corn crisp and warm sea buckthorn jam.





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