

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010

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LIFE IN CANADA'S FAR NORTH



* This is #1

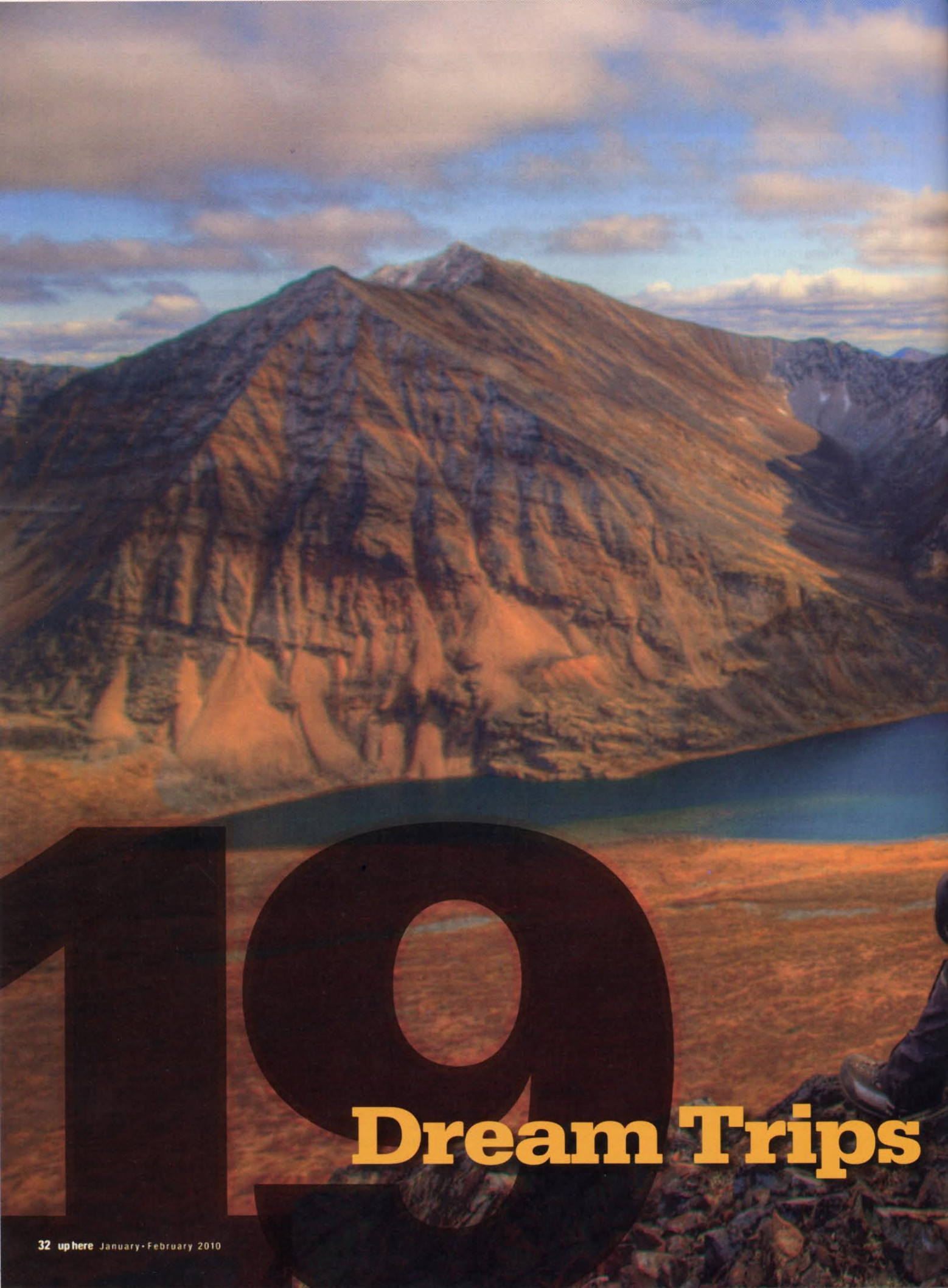
19 Dream Trips*

Some will break the bank. Others will break your back.
All will change your life. Here are the North's most epic adventures.



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Dream Trips



Some of these adventures will break the bank. Others will break your back. But if you're gutsy, flush or both, the North doesn't get more epic than this.



Northern B.C.

Downhill Slide

Catch a ride in a whirlybird to wicked off-piste skiing

Whistler is so last week. The future of skiing is, as the powderhounds say, out of bounds: in the big-mountain, backcountry terrain that you can't get to via the chairlift. And it's no surprise that some of the best free-range downhill in the world is around the northern British Columbia town of Atlin – also known as the Switzerland of Canada. Just south of the Yukon border, Atlin is a living ghost town: In 1898 it bustled with some 5,000 gold

18 COAST MOUNTAINS miners, but now it's

down to around 400

year-round residents. Those folks stayed for a reason: Atlin is the North's finest wilderness playground, flanked by a giant lake and girdled by mountains 2,800 metres high. Up among those peaks, the ski-runs are steep, the drifts are deep and just about the only way to reach it all is by chopper. **Klondike Heliskiing** is the only game in town. They'll pick you up in Whitehorse, ferry you down the highway to Atlin, load you in a helicopter and turn you loose in their exclusive ski area, boasting 5,000 square kilometres of terrain and more than 300 runs with names like "White Magic," "Yeti Woman" and "Tango Tango." Some of the runs drop 1,800 vertical metres, insuring that by the time you get to the bottom, your quads will be quaking – and your jaw will ache from grinning.

DREAMSCAPE: Duration: 1 week • Season: Winter & Spring • Cost: \$7,230-\$7,720 • Difficulty: Extreme • Departs: Whitehorse • More info: Atlinheliski.com



COURTESY ATLIN HELISKIING

Ski the slopes in B.C.'s Coast Mountains.