

Golden Circle Drive

One of the most popular driving routes in the Yukon, this spectacular mountain drive takes travellers on a grand tour through picturesque Yukon towns, alpine passes and Southeast Alaska.

Driving Route

From Whitehorse the route travels the South Klondike Highway to Skagway, Alaska through the scenic White Pass. A ferry connects to Haines, Alaska and the drive continues on the Haines Road and Alaska Highway through Kluane country and back to Whitehorse.

Itinerary Planning

Suggested Itinerary:

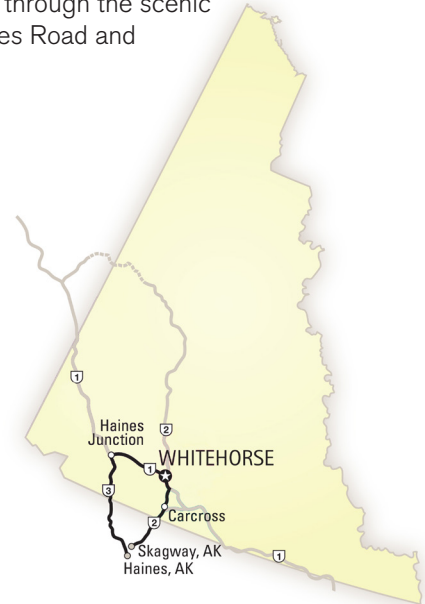
Day 1 Whitehorse
Day 2 Skagway or Haines
Day 3 Haines Junction
Day 4 Whitehorse

Duration:
4 days

Season:
Mid May - late September

Total Distance:
579km/360mi

Road Surface:
Paved



Day 1: Whitehorse

Steeped in culture and history, Whitehorse is a contemporary place with a vibrant arts community, world-class attractions, and top-notch tourist services. It offers all the amenities of a big city, with an endearing small-town personality.

Sightseeing

[S.S. Klondike National Historic Site](#)
[MacBride Museum of Yukon History](#)
[Yukon Transportation Museum](#)
[Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre](#)
[Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre](#)
[Old Log Church Museum](#)
[Waterfront Trolley](#)
[Whitehorse Fish Ladder](#)
[Copperbelt Railway and Mining Museum](#)
[Miles Canyon](#)
[Yukon Artists at Work Gallery](#)

Activities

Hiking
Dog sled kennel visits and hiking with huskies
Mountain Biking
Canoe/kayak the Yukon River
Play a round of golf at midnight
Horseback Riding
Fishing

Suggested Day Tours

Takhini Hot Springs Road

About half an hour from downtown Whitehorse, visitors can spend the day visiting the [Yukon Wildlife Preserve](#), soaking in the [Takhini Hot Springs](#) and enjoying some locally roasted beans in one of the local coffee shops.

Southern Lakes Region

Named for the interconnected lakes and rivers that form the headwaters of the mighty Yukon River, this region is also home to diverse landscapes, from desert dunes to snow-capped mountains. Villages to explore include Carcross, Mt Lorne, Tagish, Teslin, Marsh Lake & Atlin.

Day 2: Drive from Whitehorse to Skagway, AK

Sights along the way...

[Emerald Lake](#): A favourite stop for photos

[Carcross Desert](#): The world's smallest desert, but not really a desert... its actually the remains of an ancient lake.

[Carcross](#): Originally called Caribou Crossing, this historic village is also known for its world-class mountain biking trails and scenic hiking opportunities. The cluster of historic structures in the heart of Carcross includes some of the Yukon's oldest buildings including the Matthew Watson General Store. Other attractions include the Carcross Commons, White Pass & Yukon Route railroad depot, the Caribou Hotel Historic Site, sternwheeler S.S. Tutshi's remains, Skookum Jim's house and the Carcross/Tagish carving studio. Carcross Historic Buildings Walking Tour brochures are available at the Carcross Visitor Information Centre.

[Yukon Suspension Bridge](#): A pedestrian cable suspension bridge across the Tutshi River Canyon

Distance: 180km/112mi 2.5hours

Skagway

Skagway was the gateway to the Klondike gold fields – from here, prospectors hiked the Chilkoot Trail to Bennett Lake and then navigated the Yukon River to Dawson City. Today, Skagway is a well-preserved gold rush town and major cruise ship port with plenty of attractions for visitors.

Sightseeing

[Red Onion Saloon](#)
[Skagway Museum & Archives](#)
[Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park](#)
[Dyea Townsite](#)

Activities

[White Pass & Yukon Route Rail](#)
Walking Tours
Guided Bus Tours
Shopping



Haines Junction

A picture-postcard village at the edge of Kluane National Park and Reserve, Haines Junction boasts a wilderness adventure playground in its backyard.

Sightseeing

[Kluane National Park and Reserve](#)
[Kathleen Lake](#)
[Kluane Lake](#)
[Dä Ku \(Our House\)](#)
[Tachäl Dhäl Visitor Centre](#)
[St. Elias Convention Centre](#)
[Long Ago People's Place](#)

Activities

Glacier Flightseeing
White Water Rafting on the Tatshenshini River
Hiking in Kluane National Park & Reserve
Fishing

White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

No visit to Skagway would be complete without a ride on the [White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad](#). Built in 1898 to service the Klondike Gold Rush, this narrow gauge railway is now an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The track climbs 3000' in just 20 miles, through tunnels and across trestle bridges with stunning scenic views. There are a range of tour options available between Skagway and Carcross.

Day 3: Ferry from Skagway, AK to Haines, AK

Alaska Marine Highway (AMH) operates the vehicle ferry service between Skagway and Haines, Alaska. The trip takes approximately one hour. The ferry schedule can be found at [Alaska Marine Highway](#). It is recommended that bookings are made well in advance.

Drive from Haines, AK to Haines Junction

The Haines Road re-enters Canada and passes through the alpine heights of Haines Pass and past breathtaking views of Tatshenshini-Alsek Park and Kluane National Park and Reserve to Haines Junction.

Sights along the way...

[Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, Haines, AK](#)

The area along the Chilkat River flats, alongside the Haines Road, is critical habitat for bald eagles and the best place to observe eagles.

Klukshu Village, Haines Road, Yukon

A seasonal First Nations fishing camp.

Million Dollar Falls, Haines Road, Yukon

In addition to a government run campground, there are walking trails, and a network of boardwalks and observation decks for viewing the falls.

Distance: 241km/150mi 3.5 hours

Kluane National Park and Reserve

A dramatic landscape of broad, lush valleys and monumental mountain ranges, [Kluane National Park and Reserve](#) is the Yukon's component of the largest internationally protected area in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan, and the largest icefields outside of the polar caps, the park offers a range of hiking trails from short walks to multi day treks, as well as rafting trips and glacier flightseeing from Haines Junction.

Day 4: Drive from Haines Junction to Whitehorse

Distance: 158km/98mi 2 hours



This route can be combined with:

Klondike Kluane Loop
Southern Lakes Circuit