

# Kluane National Park & Reserve Hiking

*Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with Wrangell-St Elias and Glacier Bay in Alaska and Tatshenshini-Alesk in British Columbia. These regions collectively form the largest protected area in the world.*

## Duration

1 - 10 days

## Season

Mid May -  
mid September

## The Journey

Kluane National Park and Reserve offers a wide selection of hiking options from easy to extreme; from a day hike to a multi-day trek. For serious hikers a true back-country experience offers the chance to explore one of the longer routes through remote regions of the park, tent camping along the way. These journeys require map reading and navigation skills as well as crossing creeks or rivers without bridges. Alternatively, there are many day hikes to choose from and hikers can base themselves in or near Haines Junction and head out for a different hike each day.



## Haines Junction

Kluane National Park and Reserve is located near Haines Junction. Just a 2 hour drive from Whitehorse, this picture-postcard village is the perfect base for hiking tours in the park. There are campgrounds, cabins, B&B's and hotels available.

## Sightseeing

[Kathleen Lake](#)

[Kluane Lake](#)

[Dä Ku \(Our House\)](#)

[Tachäl Dhäl Visitor Centre](#)

[St. Elias Convention Centre](#)

## Activities

Glacier Flightseeing

White Water Rafting on the Tatshenshini River

Hiking in Kluane National Park & Reserve

Fishing



## About Kluane

The park is over 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> (13,670 miles) and 82% of it is covered in mountains and ice. Its home to Canada's highest mountain and the largest massif in the world - Mount Logan. The largest non-polar icefields also lie within its borders.

Kluane is also a hub for wildlife - it is not uncommon to see grizzly or black bears, Dall sheep, caribou and moose as well as smaller mammals and plenty of birdlife.

During summer there is an abundance of wildflowers and in the fall the aspen forests and tundra create an unforgettable display of colour.

Parks Canada maintains the park in a natural state, with very few man-made structures.

Kluane is a dream hiking destination, offering an alpine and sub-alpine landscape for hikers of all levels. Beginner to intermediate hikers will have easy access to a wide range of trails which Parks Canada has graded according to length and difficulty (see below).

Experienced hikers can journey deep into remote areas where there are only routes rather than trails. These trips involve no-trace camping and depending on the route, offer views of hanging glaciers, cirques and stunning mountain vistas in every direction. It's also possible to start some hikes further into the park with a floatplane ride - one such route is the Donjek which brings hikers to the toe of the Donjek Glacier.

Yukon tour operators offer a range of Kluane hiking packages or they can help you build customised programs for your clients. In all cases your clients will be in the safe hands of a certified wilderness guide which is essential for exploring the park.

Find out more at [Yukon Wild](#).

## The Trails

For detailed information on each of the hikes listed below, visit the [Parks Canada](#) website.

### Day Hikes

Dezadeash River  
3.5km (2.2 mi) loop, or 5.5 km (3 mi) loop  
1 - 2 hours / Easy

St. Elias Lake  
7.6 km (4.8 mi) return  
2-4 hours / Easy

Sheep Creek  
10 km (6 mi) return  
3 - 6 hours / Moderate

Bullion Plateau  
24 km (15 mi) return  
6.5 - 9 hours / Moderate

Auriol  
15 km (9 mi) loop  
4-6 hours or overnight / Moderate

Shorty Creek  
22 km (14 mi) return  
6 - 9 hours / Moderate

King's Throne  
10 km (6 mi) return  
4 - 6 hours / Very Difficult

King's Throne Summit  
6 km (3.8 mi) return from cirque to summit  
(16 km (10 mi) return from trailhead to summit)  
2 - 4 hours / Very Difficult

Tachäl Dhäl Ridge  
11 km (7 mi) loop  
6 - 10 hours / Very Difficult

Mt. Decoeli Summit  
18 km (11 mi) return  
7 - 11 hours / Very Difficult

### Multi Day Hikes

Alsek Valley  
58 km (36 mi) return  
1-3 days / Easy

Mush Lake Road  
52 km (32 mi) return  
1-2 days / Easy

Ääy Chù (Slim's) West  
45 km (27.4 mi) return from trailhead to Canada Creek  
3-6 days / Difficult

Cottonwood  
85 km (53 mi) loop  
4 - 6 days / Difficult

Ääy Chù (Slim's) East  
46 km (28 mi) return  
2 - 4 days / Difficult

Dän Zhùr (Donjek)  
96 km (60 mi) loop  
8 - 10 days / Very Difficult

Observation Mountain Plateau/Summit  
19 km (12 mi)  
return from Canada Creek Campsite (end of Ääy Chù  
(Slim's) West trail)  
1- 2 days / Very Difficult

Kimberley Meadows  
62 km (37 mi) loop  
4 - 5 days / Very Difficult

Quill Creek  
36 km (22 mi) return  
2 - 4 days / Very Difficult

