

Klondike / Kluane Loop

From gold panning to glaciers, this drive packs many of the Yukon's premier historic attractions and natural wonders into one magnificent loop.

Driving Route

The route travels the North Klondike Highway from Whitehorse to Dawson City, then via the Top of the World Highway into Alaska, returning to Canada on the Alaska Highway. It then follows the Alaska Highway through Beaver Creek and Haines Junction to Whitehorse.

Itinerary Planning

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1 Whitehorse
Day 2 Whitehorse
Day 3 Dawson City
Day 4 Dawson City
Day 5 Beaver Creek
Day 6 Haines Junction
Day 7 Haines Junction
Day 8 Whitehorse

Duration:

8 days

Season:

Mid May - mid September

Total Distance:

1139km/707mi

Road Surface:

Paved (except some gravel on Hwy#9)



Days 1 & 2: 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.

Skagway, Alaska and the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

The two hour drive to Skagway Alaska, includes plenty of scenic stops - Emerald Lake, Tutshi Lake and the Carcross Desert - plus the historic village of Carcross. Skagway is a well-preserved gold rush town and major cruise ship port with plenty of attractions for visitors. The narrow gauge [White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad](#) is an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The track climbs 3000' in just 20 miles, through tunnels and across trestle bridges stunning scenic views.

Day 3: Drive from Whitehorse to Dawson City

Sights along the way...

Carmacks: [Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre](#) and the scenic riverfront boardwalk

Five Finger Rapids: A boardwalk and stairs lead down to the Yukon River for a view of these famous rapids.

Pelly Crossing: [Big Jonathan House:](#) The Selkirk First Nation cultural centre housed in a replica of Fort Selkirk's Big Jonathan House.

Distance: 535km/332mi 6 hours

Day 4: Dawson City

Dawson City still evokes the heartbeat of the greatest gold rush in history, with its boardwalks and vintage false-front buildings. First Nations cultural experiences and wilderness adventures are also part of today's Klondike experience.

Sightseeing

[Dawson City Museum](#)
[Discovery Claim National Historic Site](#)
[Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site](#)
[Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre](#)
[Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine Historic Site](#)
[Robert Service Cabin](#)
[Jack London Museum](#)
[Diamond Tooth Gertie's](#)

Activities

[Parks Canada Tours](#)
[Gold Panning at Free Claim #6](#)
[Klondike Spirit cruise on the Yukon River](#)



Suggested Day Tours

Tour the Goldfields

Visitors can spend the day exploring the goldfields with a visit to Dredge No.4 National Historic Site and the Discovery Claim National Historic Site. They can also try their hand at panning for gold.

The Stories of Dawson City

Many of Dawson City's historic buildings are managed by [Parks Canada](#) who offer a range of walking tours. From the Commissioner's Residence to the Palace Grand Theatre, interpretive guides bring to life the stories of Dawson. There are also poetry readings at the Robert Service Cabin or guided hikes that incorporate learning about the bard and listening to some of his poems. The perfect way to finish the day is at Diamond Tooth Gertie's to take in a can-can show.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Located about an hour north of the Dempster Corner turnoff, [Tombstone Territorial Park](#) is one of the Yukon's premier parks. It's a unique wilderness of rugged peaks, permafrost landforms and abundant wildlife. A good starting point is the Interpretive Centre, where interpreters offer local knowledge, park and travel information, special events and tips for wildlife viewing from the highway. The park is especially beautiful in late August when the fall colours appear.

Days 5 & 6: Drive from Dawson City to Beaver Creek and Haines Junction

A free ferry across the Yukon River connects to the Top of the World Highway. The drive loops through Alaska via the Taylor Highway (here you can connect through Tok for a few days in interior Alaska) and then back to the Yukon where travellers will re-enter Canada. The drive then continues along the Alaska Highway through a breathtaking landscape to Beaver Creek, Canada's westernmost community for an overnight stop. It continues through Burwash Landing (visit the [Kluane Museum of Natural History](#)) and Destruction Bay to Haines Junction.

Distance: Dawson City to Beaver Creek 446km/277mi / 6 hours Beaver Creek to Haines Jct: 298km/185mi 3.5 hours (depending on road conditions)

Sightseeing

[Kluane National Park and Reserve](#)
[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

Day 7: 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.

Day 8: Drive from Haines Junction to Whitehorse

Distance: 158km/98mi 2 hours



This route can be combined with:

[Golden Circle Drive](#)
[Silver Trail](#)

Alaskan Interior driving routes