

Southern Lakes Circuit

This drive offers a network of deep blue lakes backed by coastal mountains and villages filled with artists, attractions and unforgettable history, all just a short drive from Whitehorse.

Driving Route

The Southern Lakes Circuit is comprised of four scenic highways joining the waterfront communities of Whitehorse, Mount Lorne, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Teslin and Atlin.

Itinerary Planning

Suggested Itinerary:

This itinerary can be either a “hub & spoke” based in Whitehorse or one of the other communities; or clients can stay in a different location along the way each night. The area has many lodges, cabins and B&B’s.

Duration:

4 days

Season:

Mid May - mid September

Total Distance:

Varies based on route. See community information below for distances from Whitehorse

Road Surface:

Paved



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.

Skagway, Alaska and the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

The two hour drive to Skagway, Alaska includes plenty of scenic viewpoints - Emerald Lake, Tutshi Lake and the Carcross Desert - as well as 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 with stunning scenic views.

Haines Junction and Kluane National Park and Reserve

Just a two hour drive from Whitehorse lies the wilderness playground of [Kluane National Park and Reserve](#), part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is an easy day trip or guests can plan to stay overnight in Haines Junction.

Villages of the Southern Lakes

The legendary Southern Lakes region holds countless stories — from its Tlingit and Tagish-speaking first peoples, to the stamperders heading to the Klondike, to the adventure-seekers of today. 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 rolling mountains. The area is easily accessible by road from Whitehorse.

Carcross

Originally called Caribou Crossing, this picturesque village is home to the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and offers a variety of visitor services, attractions and activities including historic buildings and bridges, day tours, retreats, bed and breakfasts, snack and gift shops. Carcross is widely known for its world-class mountain biking trails and scenic hiking opportunities.

Whitehorse to Carcross: 74km/46mi 1 hour

Sightseeing

Carcross historic buildings

[Carcross Commons](#)

[White Pass & Yukon Route Rail](#)

[Emerald Lake](#)

[Carcross Desert](#)

Activities

[Hiking](#)

[Mountain Biking](#)

[Caribou Crossing Trading Post](#)

Fishing



Mount Lorne

The hamlet of Mount Lorne offers bed and breakfasts, artists' studio tours and interesting local events. This community surrounding the scenic Annie Lake Road is home to an eclectic mix of residents including artisans, entrepreneurs and many Yukon dog mushers.

*Whitehorse to Mt Lorne: 38km/23mi
30 minutes*

Marsh Lake

Half an hour south of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway lies Marsh Lake, a rural community and popular destination for beach goers, birdwatchers, boaters and visitors. Marsh Lake area services include a private inn, a campground, bed and breakfasts and tour-guiding services.

Whitehorse to Marsh Lake: 54km/33mi 45 minutes

Tagish

The rural community of Tagish is situated around the Tagish (Six-Mile) River linking Marsh and Tagish lakes. The area is a popular cottage retreat with locals who congregate for trout fishing and summer holidays. Tagish is geared to water activities with visitor services that include a restaurant, café, campground, cabin rentals and guided fishing.

Whitehorse to Tagish: 103km/64mi 1 hour 15 minutes

Teslin

This scenic lakeside community on the Alaska Highway is the home of the Teslin Tlingit and a former Hudson's Bay Company trading post. Teslin has a general store, highway service centre, restaurant, motel, museum, RV campground, tours and cultural attractions. Teslin's seven-arched Nisutlin Bay Bridge is the longest bridge on the Alaska Highway.

Whitehorse to Teslin: 176km/109mi 2 hours

Sightseeing

[George Johnston Museum](#)

[Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre](#)

Atlin

Often called "Little Switzerland of the North," this remote community in northwestern British Columbia has accommodations, attractions and natural warm springs. Breathtaking Atlin Lake is the focal point of the town and Atlin Provincial Park is a wilderness destination for boaters, paddlers, hikers and heli-skiers. The Atlin area is home to the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and is accessible only through the Yukon.

Whitehorse to Atlin: 182km/113mi 2.5 hours

Sightseeing

Atlin Museum

[Atlin Provincial Park and Recreation Area](#)



This route can be combined with:

Golden Circle Drive

Klondike Kluane Loop