

Northern Lights

[Whitehorse to Dawson City](#)

Begin your own "Klondike Trail of 98" journey from Whitehorse to Dawson City, passing through Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Fort Selkirk, and Five Finger Rapids, and imagine thousands of exhausted miners floating down the Yukon River to the Klondike. You'll see and experience the grit, heartache, and golden dreams of the Klondike Gold Rush when you arrive in Dawson City. Historic sites and interesting attractions are plenty in this authentic gold rush area. Spend a night or two in one of the town's several campgrounds or the Yukon Government Campground, which is just across the river by ferry. Visit the popular Goldfields or Tombstone Park on a sightseeing tour.

Driving Distance – 534 KM

[Dawson City to Fairbanks](#)

Before crossing into Alaska, take the free ferry across the Yukon River to the Top of the World Highway, where you can enjoy expansive views along this winding ridge-top road. Continue west on Highway 2 to Tok and Delta Junction, which is one of the two real towns between the US border and Fairbanks. The road from Delta Junction to Fairbanks leads to the Tanana River. Although the Alaska Highway officially ends at Delta Junction, you can meet residents of Fairbanks who would be claiming that the honour belongs to their region.

Driving Distance – 617 KM

[Fairbanks to Anchorage](#)

The fastest way to get to Anchorage from Fairbanks is via SR-3 - the George Parks Highway - which skirts the Denali National Park 193 km/121 mi south of Fairbanks. Denali National Park, with its 6 million acres, is Alaska's most spectacular park. If you're short on time and want a taste of Denali National Park's scenery, we recommend stopping by Talkeetna, a classic Alaska pioneer town halfway between Anchorage and Denali National Park. You're closer to Mount McKinley from here than you would be if you stood at the Denali National Park entrance. Talkeetna is a one-stop shop for some of Alaska's best flightseeing, fishing, and river tours. Talkeetna's rustic origins as an early supply station for miners and trappers have been preserved, with 15 of the town's 24 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many residents still live in log cabins or in the woods, without access to running water or electricity.

Driving Distance – 585 KM

[Anchorage to Tok](#)

Taking the Glenn Highway north-east towards Tok after spending time in Anchorage. This route, particularly between Anchorage and Glenallen, offers a much more scenic drive than the Parks Highway. The road passes through high alpine terrain and then close by the Matanuska Glacier where it winds through a deep canyon valley carved by the glacier's river. Wrangell-St Elias



National Park surrounds the northern portion of the highway from Glennallen to Tok, with vast tundra and taiga broken by high, craggy peaks. The Glenn Highway will return you to Tok, which is located at the intersection of the Alaska and Taylor Highways. The most widely accepted explanation for Tok's name is that it is derived from the Athabascan word for "peaceful crossing."

Driving Distance – 536 KM

Tok to Haines Junction

Take the Alaska Highway south from Tok and loop back to the Yukon via Tetlin Junction. The Alaska Highway runs parallel to the majestic outer rim of Kluane National Park from Beaver Creek to Haines Junction. Icefields and glacial valleys lie outside the front ranges, crowned by Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain. The highway snakes between a sweeping mountain range and Kluane Lake, the Yukon's largest lake. Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing are both located on the lake's edge. Explore the tempting deep blue glacier-fed lake's curving beaches. Haines Junction is a beautiful mountain village on the outskirts of Kluane National Park, making it an ideal base for day trips such as hiking, canoeing, and river rafting. Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak, can be seen from here.

Driving Distance – 481 KM

Haines Junction to Haines

Before you leave town fill up your tank with gas and take the Haines Highway to Haines, Alaska. When you get closer to the mountains, you'll see bald eagles soaring through the thermals that flow around the mountaintops you'll be passing through. Kathleen Lake, the Yukon's windiest lake, is about 20 kilometres from Haines Junction. Harlequins, northern pintails, American wigeons, lesser yellowlegs, and spotted sandpipers can all be seen when bird watching. Rainbow, lake trout, kokanee, and grayling can be caught with a fishing rod and a fishing licence obtained in Haines Junction. Stop for the night at Mosquito Lake State Recreation Site if you want to do some serious eagle spotting because you'll be right on the edge of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. Haines Hitch-up RV Park is a campground we recommend in Haines.

Welcome to Haines, Alaska, a 2,500-person town that has always served as a port on Portage Cove, the farthest point on the Inside Passage where you can sail. Downtown Haines has shopping and restaurants that serve halibut that is a week fresher than any you've ever had. The Alaska Indian Arts Center will allow you to meet and buy crafts from local artisans and carvers. Trek along the Takshanuk Mountain Trail or visit the Kroschel Films Wildlife and Educational Centre. There are many ways to enjoy this Alaskan town, including tours of the eagle preserve and surrounding area. Drive along the shore on Lutak Road for five minutes just before dusk (just follow the signs to the ferry terminal) and turn left when you enter the bridge. A weir across a river can be found just down this path. Park your RV and enjoy the display. Bears will come in from the other side of the river to feast on the salmon that has been slowed by the weir, and eagles will plunge into the water right in front of you. It's a breathtaking sight. Once you've had your fill of this coastal area, it'll be time to board the ferry and head to Skagway. It only takes an hour, but it will take you eight hours if you drive.

Driving Distance – 224 KM

Haines to Skagway

Skagway today, as it was in 1898, is a bustling town with false-fronted stores and boarded sidewalks. This town knows how to keep that Gold Rush era flavour alive. There are historic buildings, tours of graveyards, gold dredge exhibits and restaurants that sit right on the harbour. The White Pass Railway and Yukon Route has done a marvellous job of offering a breathtaking and authentic journey. People come from all over the world to experience this trip on a rail system that is considered one of the seven engineering wonders of the world. Visit the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Visitor Center to learn more about this era.

Driving Distance – 40 KM

Skagway to Carcross

It would be very easy to rush your journey back to Whitehorse - after all, the entire journey from Skagway is only 176 kilometers (112 miles). However, this is a trip you should take your time with, as there's a lot to see. Along your drive to Carcross, you'll get views of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad. There are several parking areas along the Klondike Highway with views of Pitchfork Falls and the railway. You'll come across the Captain William Moore Bridge, which spans a 110 foot/36m gorge and view the bridge, hanging glacier, Sawtooth Mountains and the gorge.

Carcross, your destination for today, has the oldest operating general store in the Yukon. If you feel like spending more time in this area, there's a Yukon government campground close by with picnic tables and fire pits where you can stay for a minimal fee (check season opening and closing times).

Driving Distance – 102 KM

Carcross to Whitehorse

Just out of Carcross you'll reach an important junction at Jakes Corner. This is where the Klondike Highway meets Highway 8 leading to Tagish, Atlin Road and the Alaska Highway. Here you can get gas and refreshments. Most Canadians have never heard of Carcross Desert - the smallest desert in the world at less than 260 hectares, which you'll be passing. Be sure to look out for the point of interest sign marking it. This desert is the remains of the sandy bottom of a glacial lake left after our last ice age. Along your way, be sure to pull into the rest area at Emerald Lake for a view of one of the most beautiful lakes in the Yukon. At the 128km/79.8mi marker, a side road leads to Lewes Lake, which is a great fishing spot. From Lewes Lake, it's an easy drive back into Whitehorse.

Travel Distance – 74 KM