

the Dempster Highway Experience

> Dawson City Yukon to Inuvik, NWT
> The Only Highway in Canada
to Cross the Arctic Circle

highlights

Carving its way through the pristine wilderness of northern Canada, the Dempster Highway is the only year-round public highway that crosses the Arctic Circle. This well-maintained gravel road, which loosely follows old trapping and dog sled routes, spans 734.3 km (459 miles) from the North Klondike Highway (40.2 km east of Dawson City) to the modern Arctic service center of Inuvik in the Northwest Territories

The Dempster Highway traverses one of the most unique and beautiful landscapes in the world. Whether you drive a straight twelve hours to Inuvik or stop to soak up the scenery, hike the mountains or explore the towns ... you won't be disappointed; the Dempster Highway is a truly a trip of a lifetime!



>itinerary

day 1

- Visit Dempster Delta Northwest Territories Visitor Centre for information prior to your departure.
- 40 km south of Dawson City is Kilometre 0 of the Dempster Highway.
- Please note the interpretive signs at the entrance of the Dempster Highway.
- Ensure you are well prepared as next services are at kilometre 370.
- A leisurely drive of 71 km to Tombstone Campground and Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre (offering guided hiking and information on the flora and fauna of the Tombstone Mountain range)
- At km 74, the Tombstone Range Viewpoint offers views of the spectacular Tombstone peaks which were exposed as the sedimentary rock was eroded away. Tombstone Mountain was a landmark to the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and trappers. Today it is still a convenient reference for aircraft and hikers.
- Watch for interpretive signs reflecting historical events located en route to Eagle Plains
- Option: Overnight at Tombstone or Engineer Creek campground, or continue to Eagle Plains
- Tombstone Mountain range viewpoint to Eagle Plains, Yukon is 300 km
- Overnight Eagle Plains Hotel & RV Campground (full service hotel and service station)

day 2

- Travel to the Arctic Circle (36 km from Eagle Plains)
- From the Arctic Circle it is 37 km to the Northwest Territories border.
- Continue to Fort McPherson (55 km from the border)
- Visit Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas Factory
- Overnight at Nitainlaih Territorial Park where there are Gwich'in cultural interpretive displays at the Visitor Centre

day 3

- Fort McPherson to Inuvik, NWT is 115 km (En route cross the mighty Mackenzie River by free government ferry, open end of first week of June to October 15, 9:00 a.m. – midnight)
- There are two campgrounds in Inuvik to choose from (Happy Valley downtown, and Chuk Park, 3 km south of Inuvik) – Overnight Inuvik.

highlights

One of the most appealing aspects of the Dempster is the diversity of natural zones, or “ecozones.” Of the more than 1,300 species of plants found in the Yukon, nearly 1,000 can be found along or near this highway.

The Dempster Highway crosses two mountain ranges—the Richardson Mountains and the Ogilvie Mountains—cuts along the western border of the Tombstone Range, and at three points crosses the Continental Divide, separating the Pacific and Arctic drainage systems.

In the north, the Dempster crosses the Peel and Arctic Red rivers and borders the Mackenzie River Delta. The largest river in Canada, the Mackenzie River drains over 20% of Canada and is exceeded in the western hemisphere only by the Mississippi and the Amazon!

Note: 2004 marks the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Dempster Highway (named after Sergeant W.J.D. Dempster of the Northwest Mounted Police, who in the winter of 1910-11 was sent to search for the Lost Patrol)

Reference (for interpretive map of Dempster Highway):
www.inuvikinfo.com
www.yukoninfo.com

day 4

- Day tours available to Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik, NWT, and Herschel Island, Yukon
- Visit Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre for a complete list of activities.
- Overnight Inuvik, Land of the Midnight Sun

day 5

- Return trip to Dawson would take 12 – 14 hours, depending on road conditions
- Overnight Eagle Plains (half way point between Inuvik, NWT and Dawson City, Yukon)