

# the Klondike Trail

*Edmonton to the Yukon – follow the Overland Route of the Gold Rush!*

## highlights

Dreams of heading to the Yukon (and Alaska) began more than 100 years ago with the discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek in the Klondike. This started the Klondike Gold Rush, the largest of history's great gold stampedes. 100,000 fortune-seekers headed for the Klondike, including 1,500 who arrived by train and were outfitted with supplies in Edmonton.

Edmonton boasts one of Canada's top museums, historic Fort Edmonton Park where you can experience life in 1846, 1885, 1905 and 1920, and the world's largest shopping centre according to the Guinness World Records!

Dawson Creek is Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway into the Yukon!

With World War II, came the construction of the Alaska Highway. The original highway, little more than a rough trail of 2,450 km from Dawson Creek, BC, to Delta Junction and Fairbanks, Alaska was built in the remarkable time of 8 months, 12 days.

The Peace River bridge was one of the first goals of the Alaska Highway engineers in 1942

Visit Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies Regional District

Watson Lake is known as the "Gateway to the Yukon". The Visitor Centre is behind the "Sign Post Forest", a must-see on the Alaska Highway. Watson Lake



## itinerary

### day 1&2

- Start your adventure in Edmonton and plan to stay at least two days to experience the highlights of Alberta's capital
- Visit the Provincial Museum of Alberta and tour the renowned "Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture"
- Ride the historic Edmonton, Yukon and Pacific steam train at Fort Edmonton Park
- Pan for gold, paddle a canoe or take a paddlewheel riverboat on the North Saskatchewan river
- Enjoy the attractions and shopping at West Edmonton Mall
- Optional Afternoon: Elk Island National Park is just a short 45 minutes east of Edmonton – great for wildlife viewing and hiking!

### day 3

- Depart Edmonton for Slave Lake – a distance of 251 km
- En route north on Hwy 2 stop at Father Lacombe Chapel Provincial Historic Site, St. Albert
- Stop for a break at the Perryvale General Store and take the scenic route through the Tawatinaw Valley
- At Athabasca, enjoy the breathtaking view of the river valley, stroll the Riverfront trail with its colourful murals and interpretive signage, or take a jet boat ride on the Athabasca River
- Lesser Slave Lake, the largest car-accessible lake in Alberta, is encircled by sandy beaches and choice of accommodation and visitor services. Take in the view from atop Marten Mountain
- Overnight Slave Lake or camp in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park

### day 4

- Depart for Dawson Creek – a distance of 390 km (Option: Slave Lake-Grande Prairie-Dawson Creek – a distance of 451 km)
- Your route today passes several unique towns including Falher, the Honey Capital of Canada and McLennan, the Bird Capital of Canada
- Grouard was an important route during the Klondike Gold Rush
- Overnight Dawson Creek

is a key transportation, communication and distribution center for mining and logging in southern Yukon and is a major service area for tourism.

22km west of Watson Lake is the junction of the Stewart-Cassiar Highway #37 and the Alaska Highway.

Teslin Lake is one of the largest lakes in the territory and it's name comes from the Tlingit "Tes-lin-too" meaning long narrow lake.

Jake's Corner, is junction for Highway 7 and the Atlin Road (Atlin, BC, on the shore of beautiful Atlin Lake is a popular year-round destination)

The Carcross Cutoff is the junction intersecting the Alaska Highway #1 with the Klondike Highway #2, and your route to S.E. Alaska

Marsh Lake is the most northerly of the chain of lakes that extend from the pacific coast and from the headwaters of the Yukon River. In 1898, thousands of would-be miners followed this route on their way to the Klondike goldfields.

In April, plan a stop at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre on Marsh Lake – the "Celebration of Swans" event heralds the return of the Trumpeter and Tundra swans

Beautiful Miles Canyon is well worth a visit – a footbridge crosses the Yukon River and a two-km hike to the abandoned site of Canyon City which existed from 1897 to 1900 – it was a portage point around the rapids during the gold rush and the white rapids that existed then is how Whitehorse got its name.

The Yukon was named by a Hudson Bay Company trader . "Youcon" is Loucheaux Indian word meaning the "greatest river" or "big river"

## day 5

- Depart Dawson Creek for Fort Nelson – a distance of 454 km
- You will cross over the Peace River Bridge
- Stop en route at Fort St John in the low, rolling hills of the Peace River Valley
- Overnight Fort Nelson

## day 6

- Fort Nelson to Watson Lake – a distance of 531 km
- Muncho Lake is known for its beautiful deep green and blue water
- And plan a stop at Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park (a popular stop along the Alaska highway, the park is open year-round and it's only a short walk to the hot pools)
- Overnight Watson Lake

## day 7

- Watson Lake to Whitehorse – a distance of 455 km
- En route is the Upper Liard First Nation Village, Rancheria Hotel, Rancheria Falls, Walker's Continental Divide Lodge, Morley River Lodge, Dawson Peaks Resort and the first nation village of Teslin
- At Teslin, visit the Tlingit Heritage Centre
- You will pass by Jake's Corner, beautiful Marsh Lake and Meadow Lake Golf & Country Club before reaching the turnoff to Miles Canyon and Whitehorse
- Visit the Whitehorse Visitor Reception Centre for more information
- Overnight Whitehorse and plan to spend a few days