



Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours

Golden Circle Adventure

7 days from Whitehorse

Itinerary at a glance:

Day 0: Arrival in Whitehorse

Day 1: The Yukon - Emerald Lake, Carcross, Mountain Biking, and World's Smallest Desert Visit

Day 2: Skagway - Rock Climbing, Historic Dyea Bike Ride, Chilkoot Trail Hike and Taiya River Scenic Float

Day 3: Juneau - Helicopter Glacier Hike and Whale Watching

Day 4: Haines - Full Day Sea Kayaking and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting

Day 5: Haines - Klukwan Native Village Tour, Rafting on Chilkat River, and Coastal Hiking

Day 6: The Yukon - Alpine Tundra Hike, Kathleen Lake and Kluane National Park Visitor Center Visit en route to Whitehorse

Day 7: Departure from Whitehorse

Day 0: Arrival Day in Whitehorse

Upon your arrival into Whitehorse, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. After you are settled, you will meet with your guide and travelling companions to discuss the itinerary. Time will be confirmed. On this arrival day, you will have free time to enjoy the Capitol of the Yukon. Your guide will let you know at what time to meet the next day to start your adventure through Alaska and the Yukon.

Meals on your own.

Day 1: The Yukon - Emerald Lake, Carcross, Yukon Mountain Biking, World's Smallest Desert, en route to Skagway

After breakfast, we will begin our beautiful day with a stroll along the Yukon River Boardwalk and through downtown Whitehorse. After stretching our legs, we will hop in the motor coach and begin our scenic drive to the coastal Alaskan town of Skagway. We will visit Miles Canyon for a wilder view of the Yukon River, the spectacular turquoise-hued Emerald Lake, the world's smallest desert — the Carcross Desert, just one square mile in all — and just down the road, we will enter the town of Carcross on the banks of Lake Bennett. Our next activity will be a mountain biking adventure on the world-famous Montana Mountain trail network. Set in some of Canada's most beautiful scenery, these professionally built trails snake their way down the mountain and finish at the edge of Bennett Lake. Then, we will leave Canada behind as we journey up to White Pass. We will make multiple stops throughout the scenic ride down the pass, ensuring ample photo opportunities of beautiful alpine lakes, hanging glaciers, towering snow-capped peaks, and a photo opportunity at the "Welcome to Alaska" sign. Our ride continues through the U.S. Border station, before arriving into Skagway, the Garden City of Alaska. Once we settle in the hotel, you will have free time to wander through the streets of Skagway.

Included: B-L.

Day 2: Skagway - Rock Climbing, Ghost Town Bike Ride, Chilkoot Trail Hike and Taiya River Scenic Float

Today we will embark on a rock-climbing adventure in the hills that inspired Jack London's book, *The Call of the Wild*. This adventure tour is perfect for those looking for their first climbing experience, or for experienced climbers looking for a challenge. No climbing is required. After a climbing introduction from



Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours

our professional climbing guides, we will rope up and start climbing the clean granite with stunning aerial views of the Skagway River, The White Pass Yukon Route Railway, and the surrounding wilderness. After lunch, we will drive to the gold rush ghost town of Dyea, where we will pick up our bike and ride through the lush rainforest, visit historic ruins, and pass by the famed Chilkoot trailhead. Keep an eye out for eagles, salmon, bears, colorful wildflowers, sweeping seascapes and scenic mountain views! Next, we will follow the footsteps of the 1898 gold rush stampeders as we hike the first two scenic miles of the historic Chilkoot Trail and experience Alaska's majesty with a gentle float down the Taiya River.

Included: B-L.

Day 3: Juneau - Helicopter Glacier Hike and Whale Watching

We will have an early start as we board the Fjordlands ferry for a very scenic transfer to Juneau. Not only is this a beautiful boat ride – we will whale watch along the way! The waters around Juneau are known for pods of humpback whales and orcas; keep your eyes peeled! This is great way to see Alaska's Inside Passage: some of the wildlife you may encounter are whales, a stellar sea lion rookery, harbor seals, nesting bald eagles, and porpoises. You will also get the chance to snap some pictures of Eldred Rock Lighthouse, the oldest original lighthouse in Alaska. Upon our arrival at the dock in Yankee Cove, a motor coach will be waiting to take us to our adventure on the Blue Glacier. We will take a helicopter out to the beautiful glacial ice, where we will have several hours to trek around and explore this natural phenomenon with our professional glacier guides. In the afternoon, we will board a catamaran boat to journey on to Haines. Sit back and relax in the heated cabin, or head out to the top deck to enjoy all the majestic mountains of the Lynn Canal and the amazing wildlife that Alaska has to offer. Once the catamaran docks in Haines, a motor coach will be waiting to transfer us to the hotel. Once, there you will be at your leisure to explore the beautiful fishing town of Haines for the rest of the day.

Included: B - L.

Day 4: Haines - Full Day Sea Kayaking and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting

After a continental breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to the Port of Chilkoot for the ocean kayak trip of a lifetime. We will kayak for several hours in our tandem kayaks along the Lynn Canal outside of Haines. We will stop off at remote beaches to enjoy a waterside picnic-style lunch and stretch our legs as we explore this beautiful fjord. After this fun full-day adventure, we will pay a visit to the Port Chilkoot Distillery, renowned for their nationally award-winning spirits and local ambiance. You will learn about the history of the distillery, visit the barrel room, take a private tour of their facility and sit down for 3 different tastings of fine, crafted spirits paired with locally inspired tapas-style food.

Included: B-L.

Day 5: Haines - Klukwan Native Village, Chilkat River Float, and Coastal Hiking

Today we will experience the native culture of the Tlingit people on this unique visit to Klukwan, the mother village of the Tlingit Nation, located 22 mile north of Haines. For hundreds of years the Chilkat Tlingit have lived off the bounty of this special place and their close connection to the land will be further revealed throughout our visit. Their Heritage Center provides access to art treasures that have previously not been available to the public. The Whale House collection, uniquely displayed in its place of origin, allows entrance to the Chilkat's distinctive ethnic landscape. Before departing Klukwan, we will enjoy a picnic lunch while overlooking the glacially fed waters of the Chilkat River. There will also be time to visit



the gift shop, where local native arts and crafts can be purchased. Leaving Klukwan we will float through the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. We will enjoy a scenic float trip (no whitewater) through the Chilkat Valley with great photo opportunities for Eagles and other wildlife amidst the grandeur of glaciated snow-capped peaks. We will spend 2 ½ to 3 hours on the water before returning to Haines. Once back in town, join a spectacular hiking adventure that immerses you in the incredible beauty of Southeast Alaska, where you will be surrounded with amazing mountain and ocean views. From the trailhead, spend the next 2.5 to 3 hours hiking, surrounded by views of towering, snow-capped mountains and Lynn Canal. We will share with you our knowledge of the area's flora and fauna, and the amazing glacial history of Alaska. You may see eagles, waterfowl, whales, seals, bears and moose. Each group is outfitted with binoculars to maximize your opportunities to see up-close the wildlife and the spectacular mountain and river scenery.

Included: B-L.

Day 6: The Yukon - Alpine Tundra Hike, Kathleen Lake, and Kluane National Park Visitor Center visit en route to Whitehorse

Today we will drive up the Haines Highway towards Canada and pass through the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. Passing through the Canadian border we gain elevation and travel above tree-line before arriving at our trailhead. Towering peaks loom above in all directions. There are fantastic views of glaciers, cascading waterfalls, and wide expanses of alpine tundra. During the peak of the summer, there are a multitude of wildflowers. Golden eagles, ptarmigan, snowshoe hares, grizzly bears, and other wildlife frequent the area. Your guide will choose from a variety of trails and routes to best fit guest abilities. We will hike in the alpine tundra above Haines Pass; the exact route will depend on weather conditions and group ability, but wherever we go, we will enjoy gorgeous views and wandering trails. Once we return from our hike, we will hop back in the vehicle and head towards Haines Junction, where there are fantastic views of glaciers, cascading waterfalls, and wide expanses of alpine tundra. We will stop at Kathleen Lake for a picnic-style lunch by the crystal-clear waters rimmed by snow-capped mountains. In the village of Haines Junction, we will visit Kluane National Park Visitors Center for the natural and cultural history of this beautiful land. We will continue our 2-hour picturesque drive to Whitehorse. Once we reach the capital of the Yukon, you will have time to enjoy and explore Whitehorse.

Included: B-L.

Day 7: Departure from Whitehorse

Our guide will let you know of the time for your transfer to the airport. If time allows, you are free to visit Whitehorse at your leisure.

Included: B

Note: While not included in the cost, our guides can facilitate group dinners at our favorite spots in town.

Weather delays and associated considerations: Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours may change the scheduled itinerary due to weather, conditions, or operational conflicts. If, for any reason, one of the schedule itinerary elements is unable to operate as planned, we will implement alternate tour programming which may involve alternate locations and/or different activities.