



Cruising the Yukon River



Miles Canyon

SUMMERTIME IN THE KLONDIKE

August 11, 2022 – 8 Days

Highlights of the Yukon Territory

*There's a land where the mountains are nameless,
And the rivers all run God knows where...
There's a land – oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back – and I will.*

So wrote Robert Service in *"The Spell of the Yukon"* in 1907. Today, 123 years after the Klondike Gold Rush started, the Yukon still extends a spell to its visitors. Wells Gray has offered tours to the Yukon for over 40 years, and Whitehorse and Dawson City are always memorable stops. This tour flies to Whitehorse, to Dawson City, and back to Victoria to eliminate road travel time. In both places, there is a great variety of exciting things to do: see native animals at Yukon Wildlife Preserve, soak in Takhini Hot Springs, tour one of the last stern-wheelers on the Yukon River, pan for gold at Claim #33, cruise the Yukon River on a paddlewheeler, and admire the ornate Palace Grand Theatre. After a week in the Yukon, you are sure to agree with Service's words: *"It's the beauty that fills me with wonder, it's the stillness that fills me with peace."*

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
30

9 Meals Included:

7 breakfasts, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,345 double/twin; \$3,885 single; \$3,215 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$180 discount on first 10 seats; \$90 on next 6

Experience Points:

Earn 75 points on this tour.

Redeem 75 points if you book by June 8, 2022.

Departure from: Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, August 11

Transportation is provided to Vancouver Airport where we meet the BC Interior travellers. Our flight on Air North leaves at 8 pm and arrives in **Whitehorse** at about 11 pm. Our hotel for three nights has an excellent downtown location.

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 2: Friday, August 12

Breakfast is included each morning. We explore the **MacBride Museum** which has a large collection of relics and photos from gold-rush days, including the log cabin belonging to Sam McGee about whom Robert Service, "Bard of the Yukon", wrote a famous ballad. Next, we go to the **Yukon Museum of Transportation** which brings vividly to life tales of bush pilots, captains on the Yukon River paddlewheelers, Klondike stampeders on the Chilkoot Trail, and Alaska Highway builders. The rest of the afternoon is leisure time and a welcome dinner is planned.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 3: Saturday, August 13

We learn about the native animals at the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve**, a unique 350-acre viewing facility featuring 12 major species of northern mammals such as Moose, Muskox, Mountain Goat, Wood Bison, Woodland Caribou, Elk, Lynx, Dall's sheep, and Stone's sheep, presented in their natural environments. Later, we relax in the soothing waters of **Takhini Hot Springs** with temperatures of up to 42°C. Takhini's beautiful new facility with three pools has been under construction since late 2020 and is expected to be open in spring 2022. During the return to the hotel, we stop at **Miles Canyon** and walk across the suspension bridge over the rushing Yukon River.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 4: Sunday, August 14

The restored sternwheeler **SS Klondike** plied the Yukon River downstream to Dawson City from 1937 to 1950. It is now a National Historic Site and a glimpse into the past of the North's transportation methods. Next, we visit the amazing **Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals who lived in a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as the



Bering Land Bridge. In mid-afternoon, we go to the airport and board an Air North flight. Our destination is **Dawson City**, the partly-restored town where the fabulous Klondike Gold Rush started in 1898. Once Dawson had a population of 30,000 people, but now it is home to a mere 800. We stay four nights at the Downtown Hotel. Like most Dawson buildings, the hotel is themed around the Gold Rush, but has all modern amenities. Facilities include the Jack London Grill and the Sourdough Saloon where you can be served the famous "Sour Toe Cocktail" (if you dare). Tonight, we go to **Diamond Tooth Gerties** for casino gambling and a vaudeville show.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Day 5: Monday, August 15

Discovery Days is the annual summer festival in Dawson and ends today. The schedule for 2022 has not been announced, but there may be a celebration event offered. A local guide accompanies us on a drive around Dawson City and up Bonanza Creek to the gold diggings. The gigantic **Dredge #4**, now a National Historic Site, is included and you can try panning for gold yourself at **Claim #33** (you keep what you find, even at \$1,700 an ounce).

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel

Day 6: Tuesday, August 16

In the morning, we visit the **Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre** to discover the history and culture of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. They were the first people of the Klondike, long before the influx of Gold Rush stampeders. This afternoon, we take a cruise on the Yukon River on board the **Klondike Spirit paddlewheeler**. Out of the dozens of paddlewheelers that once operated

during the Gold Rush, this is the only one that still offers cruises in the Yukon.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel



Day 7: Wednesday, August 17

Many buildings in Dawson have been faithfully reconstructed with the same appearance as a century ago. Other structures seem ready to fall down after years of neglect in the harsh Yukon weather. Parks Canada operates several attractions that help the visitor better understand what life in the goldfields was like. The **S.S. Keno** represents the fleet of sternwheelers that transported people and supplies in the Yukon for over half a century. Built in 1922 to transport silver, lead, and zinc ore from the mines on the Stewart River, the S.S. Keno was designed for travel to isolated places. We take a tour of this National Historic Site. Next is the **Palace Grand Theatre**

which was originally built by Arizona Charlie in 1899 and fully restored in 1962. The theatre boasts a beautiful lobby with a bar, a large dance floor and two levels of private box seating. The afternoon is free time and you may want to visit some of the other heritage attractions of Dawson City. A farewell dinner is planned this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Downtown Hotel



Day 8: Thursday, August 18

We bid farewell to amazing Dawson City. Our flight on Air North leaves for Vancouver at 11 am with a stop in Whitehorse. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Whitehorse
- Current air transport taxes and fees
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- Transfer from airport to hotel and return
- 7 nights of hotel accommodation and taxes
- 6 days of bus transportation in Yukon
- MacBride Museum
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve
- Takhini Hot Springs swim & towel rental
- Miles Canyon Suspension Bridge
- SS Klondike National Historic Site
- Beringia Centre
- Flight from Whitehorse to Dawson City
- Transfer from airport to hotel and return
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Goldpanning at Claim #33 on Bonanza Creek
- Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre
- Paddlewheeler cruise on Yukon River
- Tour of SS Keno National Historic Site
- Tour of Palace Grand Theatre
- Flight from Dawson City to Vancouver
- Gratuities for local guides & boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners

TOUR NOTES

TOUR 30 This is a Tour 30 departure, meaning the tour is limited to 30 participants, a more intimate travel experience.



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. The guided tours of the S.S. Keno, S.S. Klondike, Palace Grand Theatre, and Dredge #4 have many stairs to see everything. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a wheelchair in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. If Activity Level 2 could be challenging, you are urged to bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 8, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$180 discount on first 10 seats and \$90 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 8, 2022.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 6, 2022, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From May 7 to June 8, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From June 9 to July 8, the cancellation charge is 60% of tour fare. After July 8, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to airline fares and taxes, and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore, Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes until departure.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to a remote destination where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credits: Wikimedia (Yukon River cruise, Miles Canyon, SS Klondike, Dawson City, Palace Grand Theatre), Roland Neave (goldpanning)

Experience Points: This tour earns 75 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 8, 2022.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

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www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552