

# Klondike Gold

## an 11 day Yukon Bike Tour



Back in the 1890s gold was discovered at Bonanza Creek in the Yukon Territory and the rush was on. Thousands of prospectors came to the seaport of Skagway to set out on the arduous journey over Chilkoot Pass, then by trail, wagon and riverboat to the gold fields around Dawson City. Later on trains and stagecoaches eased the journey and now we enjoy paved roads between the coast and Dawson City. It is these modern roads that lead our bike tour along this historic route.

Our journey travels in reverse, starting from the frontier town of Dawson City, whose downtown still reflects its wilder heritage. Pedaling south, we traverse miles and miles of untouched wilderness regions, thick forests of aspens and spruce, wide flowing rivers and distant mountain ranges. From time to time we encounter small towns and remnants of times past. Evenings find us bedded down at remote lodges and quiet campgrounds, enjoying the peace and quiet of the far north.

Venturing further south, we enjoy soaks in the hot springs at Takhini, old railtowns like Carcross, huge plate sized cinnamon buns from Braeburn Lodge and much more. Explore Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon on your day off and cycle through the treeless alpine landscapes of White Pass. Then finish the bike tour off with an exciting 7 miles, 3400 foot downhill run into Skagway Alaska. Your 12 day adventure finishes with a ferry trip through the Inside Passage to Juneau. A unique journey through history and nature.

### Day by Day Itinerary

**Day 1** - Your group will assemble at the Fairbanks Airport, where we board a short flight to Dawson City in Canada's Yukon Territory. Your guides will meet you at the Dawson City Airport and transfer to our hotel in this historic gold rush town. After prepping the bikes, the balance of the day is free to explore town. Welcome drinks and orientation will proceed dinner. (motel accommodations tonight)

**Day 2** - We will spend some more time in town this morning, a chance to explore what you might have missed yesterday. After a picnic lunch at the park downtown, we set out on our bike tour, pedaling a short distance to Dempster Corner where we camp tonight. Folks wanting a few more miles can take a spin up the Dempster Highway, which travels up past the Arctic Circle all the way to Inuvik in the far north. 25 mi / 40 km (breakfast on your own)

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**Day 3** - After yesterday's easy start, we bump up the mileage a bit, as there is not much civilization in this part of the Yukon. Our ride traverses the Tintina Trench, a major bird migratory route, through vast forested wilderness. Our goal for tonight is Stewart Crossing, site of one of the early trading posts in the gold fields. 72 mi / 116 km

**Day 4** - A more leisurely ride is in store today, as we roll through aspen and spruce forests enroute to Pelly Crossing, one of the only towns along this part of the highway. As is often the case, a "town" means a couple hundred residents, with a store, gas station and post office. The Selkirk Heritage Centre in town is a replica of houses from the old Fort Selkirk. 60 mi / 96 km

**Day 5** - Continuing south, our bike tour picks up the Yukon River, the major transport route during the Klondike Gold Rush. We'll visit Five Finger Rapids, a great hazard to gold rushers traveling down the river. Then continue on to Carmacks, a slightly bigger town where we bed down on the banks of the Yukon River. 66 mi / 106 km

**Day 6** - You probably have been hearing rumors during the ride from northbound travelers about the Braeburn Buns, well tonight we reach the Braeburn Lodge where you can confirm the rumors ... the cinnamon buns require two hands to hold them. Enroute, we pass by the ruins of an old roadhouse from the era of stagecoach travel. We roll a bit further down the highway to bed down near Fox Lake. 69 mi / 111 km

**Day 7** - Our last leg of the bike tour along the north Klondike Highway takes us past several scenic lakes, including Lake Laberge, where Sam McGee met his demise in the poetry of the Yukon bard, Robert Service. After several days on the road, our overnight stop will be a welcome taste of civilization, as we bed down in Whitehorse for two nights. 45 mi / 73 km (motel accommodations tonight, dinner on your own)

**Day 8** - A free day is in store, a chance to catch up with your journal, relax in the hot spring pools or perhaps go visit Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon Territory. As your crew needs to restock on food, you have the option to get shuttled into town and then ride home later in the afternoon. (motel accommodations tonight, all meals on your own)

**Day 9** - We pick up a short stretch of the notorious Al-Can Highway today. This road was built in a short nine months during World War II as an overland supply route to Alaska. traffic is a bit busy due to Whitehorse, but we have nice shoulders and smooth pavement. We will be turning south back onto the Klondike Highway a few miles past Whitehorse. Then rolling down to our overnight camp in historic Carcross. 47 mi / 76 km (breakfast on your own)

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**Day 10** - This morning explore old Carcross, dating back to the gold rush era. The old Yukon & White Pass Train station has become a museum and is well worth a stop. As we head further south the various lakes we pass are backed up by magnificent mountain landscapes, taking us to the top of White Pass, a barren alpine wonderland. From the pass it is a seven mile, 3200 foot descent to the US border and Alaska. We will celebrate the end of a great bicycle tour tonight in Skagway, a frontier port town whose historic town center is a popular destination for travelers. 65 mi / 105 km (motel accommodations tonight, dinner on your own)

**Day 11** - Skagway still has the feel of frontier days, with wooden sidewalks and frontier architecture. We have the day free to explore this popular city. For folks with an interest in trains, you can take a ride on the old White Pass & Yukon line, traveling up to Fraiser Pass through a beautiful valley. Or perhaps follow one of the local trails for a hike through coastal rainforest. We will gather evening for a final dinner in the far north together. (motel accommodations tonight, breakfast and lunch on your own) Day 12 - Morning comes early, as you have an 8 am ferry to catch, taking you through the Inside Passage to Juneau. Your guides will bid you farewell on the docks in Skagway. (all meals on your own)

### Dates & Prices:

Please check our website for the currently available dates and the applicable pricing.  
[http://www.pedalerspubandgrille.com/bike\\_tours/alaska/Klondike\\_Gold\\_Rush.htm](http://www.pedalerspubandgrille.com/bike_tours/alaska/Klondike_Gold_Rush.htm)

### Lodging:

Camping & Motels

### What's Included:

- 4 nights in motels (double occupancy)
- 6 nights in campgrounds
- Most meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) except as noted in itinerary
- Service of Team Pedalers Guide(s)
- Full Van Support
- Ferry: Skagway to Juneau
- Flight: Fairbanks to Dawson City
- Morning Route Notes

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### **Camping Equipment Rentals:**

For folks without suitable camping gear, we offer a camping package that includes a roomy Eureka Timberline tent, warm sleeping bag with flannel liner, inflatable ground pad and storage duffel. There is no extra charge for using our camping package (but no discount for using your own).

### **Meeting & Flights:**

Your group will meet in Fairbanks at the airport.

Fly into Fairbanks (FAI) before 9 am on Day 1

Fly out of Juneau (JNU) after 4 pm on Day 11

NOTE: The ferry from Skagway reaches Juneau at 1:30 pm. Shuttle vans and taxis are available for transfers to your hotel in downtown or the airport (at your own expense).

### **Route Conditions:**

The entire ride is on paved roads, some with nice pavement and wide shoulders. Traffic is moderate and very bike friendly. The route is suitable for performance road, sport road and touring bikes. Terrain is hilly, with one moderate alpine style climb.

### **Visas & Travel Documents:**

Passports are required for all guests. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended travel dates. Visas maybe necessary for folks other than US or Canadian citizens.