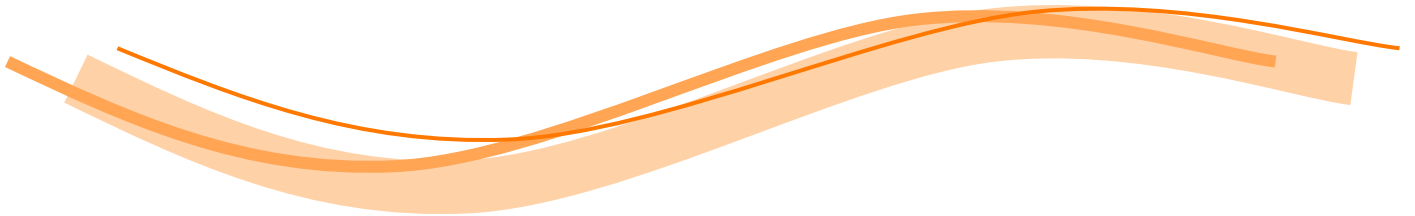




# **YUKON & AIR NORTH, Yukon's Airline**





<b>YUKON</b>	<p>The adventure of a lifetime is closer than you think...Visit the Great Canadian North and the unique, spellbinding, awe inspiring - Yukon. Picture a land in which you can climb North America's highest mountains; hike the world's largest non-polar glaciers; raft the whitewaters of renowned rivers; and fish for salmon and trout in crystal clear waters. You can even cycle and golf. Amid abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery, explore trails to historic Klondike Gold Rush sites. Experience ancient First Nations' cultures and set your spirit free in the land of the midnight sun.</p> <p>The Yukon is the ultimate road trip destination – an exhilarating combination of postcard scenery, historic communities, cultural attractions, soft adventure outings and interesting and friendly locals. Discover more at <a href="http://www.TravelYukon.com">www.TravelYukon.com</a> .</p> <p>To help make your dream trip a reality - choose one of Tourism Yukon's vacation packages, offering the best in Yukon itineraries from a day to a few weeks. Plan a Yukon vacation getaway from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary or Toronto and find optimal vacation value. Tourism Yukon provides a number of ways to assist you with booking your vacation package.</p> <p><b>Air North, Yukon's Airline</b>, has flown into the Yukon for over thirty-four years – making it easy and great value. Based in Whitehorse, Air North, Yukon's Airline connects the Yukon's capital city with Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton, Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik and Fairbanks. Right now a four segment air pass on Air North, Yukon's Airline is just \$849 plus tax. Check out <a href="http://www.flyairnorth.com">www.flyairnorth.com</a> .</p> <p>Experience the Yukon along with me on my <b>Travel Blog</b> from my trip there in September 2010: <a href="http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2010_09_01_archive.html">http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2010_09_01_archive.html</a></p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Northwest Canada. The territory is the approximate shape of a right-angled triangle, bordering the U.S. state of Alaska to the west for 1,210 km mostly along longitude 141° W, the Northwest Territories to the east and British Columbia to the south. Its northern coast is on the Beaufort Sea. Its ragged eastern boundary mostly follows the divide between the Yukon Basin and the Mackenzie River drainage basin to the east in the Mackenzie mountains.</p>

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<b>Geography</b>	The Yukon represents 4.8% of Canada's total land area. Mount Logan in the St. Elias Mountains in Kluane Park is the highest point in the Yukon and Canada, with an elevation of 5,959 meters (19,551 ft) above sea level. Total Area of the Yukon: 483,450 sq.km. Rivers: Donjek, Klondike, Liard, MacMillan, McQueston, Nisutlin, Peel, Pelly, Porcupine, Ross, Snake, White, Wind, and the Yukon. Lakes: Aishihik, Bennett, Dezadeash, Frances, Kluane, Kusawa, Laberge, Little Salmon, Marsh, Mayo, Quiet, Tagish, and Teslin.
<b>Name</b>	In the Athapaskan language, the word Yukon means <b>the great river or big river</b> . At 3,600 kilometres, the Yukon River is the fourth longest river in North America; the fifth largest in water flow and the last major river on the continent to be explored in the 1800's
<b>Population</b>	Total Population of the Yukon: 34,000 The City of Whitehorse: 22,879 Dawson City: 1,953 Watson Lake: 1,662 Haines Junction: 774
<b>Language</b>	Though officially bilingual (English and French) the Yukon Government also recognizes First Nations languages: Vuntut Gwitchin, Han, Northern Tutchone, Southern Tutchone, Upper Tanana, Kaska, Tagish, and Tlingit.
<b>Currency</b>	Canadian Dollar
<b>Tipping</b>	10-15%
<b>Government</b>	Yukon is a Territory within Canada and in 1979, a significant degree of power was devolved from the federal government and Commissioner to the territorial legislature which, in that year, adopted a party system of responsible government. The Yukon Act, passed on April 1, 2003, formalised the powers of the Yukon government and devolved a number of additional powers to the territorial government.
<b>Documentation</b>	None required for Canadians.
<b>Time zone</b>	Pacific Time, three hours behind EST, and the same as BC
<b>Health</b>	Don't forget out of province travel insurance.
<b>Safety tips</b>	As the distances in Yukon can be considerable between settlements, always ensure that you advise a third party of your travel plans.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	The Yukon has warm, sun-rich summers with average temperatures in July of 14 to 16C, and highs that can reach 35C. The average temperature in January is between -18 and -25C, though lows can reach -55C. Most of Yukon's climate is semi-arid, so snow and rainfall are light; on average there's just 26.8 centimetres of precipitation a year in Whitehorse, the capital.

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	The central part of Yukon receives 165 mm of rain per year, less than Arizona.
<b>Today's weather</b>	11 degrees Centigrade and sunny with cloudy periods (23 April 2011)
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Summer for touring, fall for the colours in September and winter for the dog-sledding and winter activities.

<b>GETTING THERE</b>	<p>By road from Prince George, BC: 1535 km; from Edmonton 2000 km          By air from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton with Air North, Yukon's Airline.          By cruise ship from Vancouver          Infrastructure: 4700 km of road; 2500 hotel rooms; scheduled air and coach services</p>
<b>Flying time</b>	<p>From Vancouver to Whitehorse: 2.5 hours          From Toronto to Vancouver: 5 hours</p>
<b>Cities</b>	<p><b>Whitehorse:</b> Established as a trans-shipment point during the gold rush of 1898. Named by the gold miners who thought the rapids at Miles Canyon looked like the manes of charging white horses. Laid out on a level river shelf bordering a wide bend on the West Bank of the Yukon River, Whitehorse is the third largest city in Canada by area! Capital city of the Yukon Territory and thriving hub of the Canadian North, this place is still rooted tangibly in its spectacular landscape and storied history. The 27,000 people who live here are a heady mix of First Nation, Gold Rush descendants and more recent arrivals who have fallen in love with the Yukon. They all have stories to tell: Yukoners are as open and loquacious as Maritimers! Getting here is easy: after an early flight from Toronto to Vancouver and a perfect connection, you are in Whitehorse by early afternoon.</p> <p><b>Dawson City:</b> Population 1,818. 457 km from Whitehorse. Historic centre of the 1898 Gold Rush. Diamond Tooth Gerties Gambling Hall is Canada's first and most unique casino, an exciting entertainment experience that features casino gambling, live can-can girls and a complete food and beverage service, all presented in true gold-rush Klondike style.</p>
<b>Distances</b>	<p>Whitehorse to Dawson City: 538 km (6 hours)          Dawson City to Inuvik: 776 km (Dempster Highway)          Vancouver to Whitehorse: 2676 km</p>
<b>Ferries</b>	<p>Travel up the British Columbia and Alaska coasts through <b>the Inside Passage</b> with BC Ferries and the Alaska Marine Highway System to Skagway, Alaska. The Alaskan Inside Passage cruises also dock in Skagway, Alaska, only two hours by road from Whitehorse. Summer scheduled connections by coach run daily between Skagway and Whitehorse. Rail/coach combination excursions are also available.</p>
<b>Trains</b>	<b>White Pass and Yukon Route Railway:</b> One of the great scenic

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	<p>railways of the world, this narrow gauge railroad was built in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush. Roundtrip excursions are available from Skagway and train-coach service between Whitehorse and Skagway.</p> <p><b>A Personal Account on the White Pass and Yukon</b>  <i>Today's trip has it all: grand scenery, great history, fascinating characters and a rollicking good train ride! The Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 led miners to travel via the feared Chilkoot Trail up from the coast at Skagway and through the coastal mountains to a series of lakes leading to the Yukon River and thence to Dawson City. This railway was built in 1898 to 1900 by 35,000 men through ravines and mountains to carry the gold of the Klondike and those who sought it. Today it's one of the great rail journeys of the world: see my Top Ten list <a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/images/upload/ChrisFavouriteTrainJourneys.pdf">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/images/upload/ChrisFavouriteTrainJourneys.pdf</a> )</i>  <i>I boarded in Carcross, a tiny Yukon community, and the old carriages were soon rattling and rolling along the shores of Bennett Lake with snowcapped peaks rising above. The borders of the Yukon, British Columbia and Alaska all converge in this area. We stopped for lunch in the ghost town of Bennett, BC at the other end of the lake, where the Brakeman turned his hand to playing piano ballads. There was time in Bennett for me to hike a little of the northern end of the old Chilkoot Trail: a few minutes up the trail I was in glorious wilderness, a jumble of rock, tree, sky and racing river. Back on the train again, we continued to Fraser where I interviewed David Dobbs, the Conductor on the train, before returning to Whitehorse on the South Klondike 'Highway'. A memorable day.</i></p>
<b>Car Rental &amp; Driving</b>	<p><b>Dempster Highway</b> 740 km long, the Dempster is the only public highway in North America to cross the Arctic Circle.</p> <p><b>Alaska Highway:</b> 2275km from BC to Alaska – one of the world's great wilderness drives.</p> <p><b>Major land routes</b> include the Alaska Highway, the Klondike Highway (between Skagway and Dawson City), the Haines Highway (between Haines, Alaska, and Haines Junction), and the Dempster Highway (linking Inuvik, Northwest Territories to the Klondike Highway), all paved except for the Dempster. Other highways with less traffic include the Robert Campbell Highway linking Carmacks (on the Klondike Highway) to Watson Lake (Alaska Highway) via Faro and Ross River, and the Silver Trail linking the old silver mining communities of Mayo, Elsa and Keno City to the Klondike Highway at the Stewart River bridge. Air travel is the only way to reach the far north community of Old Crow.</p>
<b>Buses</b>	There are scheduled coach services between the main centres.
<b>RV Rentals</b>	The Yukon is rated as one of the <b>Top 5 World Destinations for RV travellers</b> with almost 5,000 km of well maintained highways.

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	<p>With 11 diverse highways and seven scenic drives to explore, Yukon is a road-tripper's dream. Drivers enjoy our well-maintained, open roads with plenty of room to relax and breathe in the crisp Yukon air. In Whitehorse you'll find RV, camper, trailer and vehicle rental agencies, and many Yukon communities have RV service stations.</p> <p>You'll find plenty of gas stations on most Yukon highways. When you're travelling on secondary roads, check where the next fuel stop is before setting out or carry extra fuel. Most Yukon roads are paved, and if you venture off main routes be prepared for hard-packed gravel roads and varying conditions. Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition—it's all part of your Yukon road trip adventure.</p> <p>At the end of the day, you'll pull into clean, well-maintained campgrounds in the most spectacular locations often with interesting wildlife viewing and hiking and fishing nearby. Most government campgrounds offer picnic tables, campfire pits, firewood, picnic shelters and outhouses, while private campgrounds offer more deluxe facilities for Yukon vacationers who like to be a little more pampered.</p> <p>Here are some sites to explore:</p> <p><a href="http://www.canadream.com">www.canadream.com</a>  <a href="http://www.cruisecanada.com">www.cruisecanada.com</a>  <a href="http://www.fraserway.com">www.fraserway.com</a></p>
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<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>During your Yukon visit, one thing you'll note again and again is how friendly and welcoming Yukoners are. The upbeat, positive Yukon spirit is most evident when you stay at our comfortable lodging and accommodation. Hospitality and generosity are the Yukon way; you'll leave with a warm heart and likely a story or two.</p> <p>Most Yukon lodging and accommodation is situated within a community, providing easy access to nearby dining and shopping. You'll find much accommodation is beside beautiful lakes, rivers and forest in the heart of spectacular Yukon wilderness. While an accommodation rating system for lodging properties is not mandatory in the Yukon, many businesses choose to participate in the national Canada accommodation ratings program, Canada Select.</p> <p>You'll experience the unique flavour of the Yukon at your hotel or motel while enjoying modern conveniences and luxuries. If you're looking for a more personal lodging experience, Yukon bed and breakfasts and Yukon hostels are sure to provide it. Your amiable hosts will help you discover the best local hideaways and other unique ways to experience all that is Yukon.</p>
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<b>TARGET GROUPS</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	Yukon is a surprisingly child-friendly destination, with excellent facilities and lots of interest for young kids, from engaging museums such as the

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	<p>Beringia Centre to the thrill of panning for their own gold samples. We travelled around Yukon a few years ago when our two boys were aged 8 and 3 and they had a wonderful time!</p> <p>Kids just can't get enough of the Yukon's outdoor adventures and fun, engaging activities. Come to the Yukon and share true wilderness with your children. Enjoy terrific wildlife viewing opportunities and learn fascinating stories of the Klondike Gold Rush and First Nations heritage. Create great family memories while camping, hiking or visiting museums and seek out kid-friendly fun like fishing, rock climbing and gold panning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Come face-to-face with a seven-foot grizzly at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History's Wild World Gallery, and share an interactive experience for the whole family in the Discovery Zone for Kids.</li> <li>- Take part in Yukon's family-friendly events and festivals like the Dawson City Music Festival, Yukon International Storytelling Festival, Sourdough Rendezvous and the Yukon Quest dog sledding race.</li> <li>- Embark on a Beringia Quest and discover the Yukon during the Ice Age. Make a fossil, throw an atlatl spear, hunt for mammoths and learn about the beasts of Beringia.</li> <li>- Step back in time to the days of the Klondike Gold Rush and try your hand at gold panning. Explore Bonanza Creek, and ride the Yukon River ferry at Dawson.</li> </ul>
<b>Teens</b>	<p>Lots of soft adventure activities for out-of-doors teens...hiking, mountain biking, rafting, rock-hounding and more.</p> <p>Visit the Canada Games Centre in Whitehorse. Shoot down the Excelsior waterslide, swing from Tarzan ropes and bounce through the Lazy River. Shoot some hoops and visit the wellness centre</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>What could be more romantic than a cosy lodge in this pristine part of the world, watching the play of the Northern Lights...</p>
<b>Seniors</b>	<p>Many seniors take plenty of time to see Yukon with RV's, driving up from Alberta or BC and looping round via Alaska in the summer months.</p>

<b>UNIQUES</b>	<p><b>Aurora Borealis:</b> great in winter, but you can see them in summer sometimes too; they are caused by huge explosions on the surface of the sun that send out streams of charged particles that interact with the Earth's upper atmosphere 100 km above.</p> <p><b>Midnight sun:</b> On June 21, summer solstice, the sun never sets in some parts of Yukon. All over the Territory you can read a book outdoors all night. The midnight sun makes for long summer days, and wondrous carmine and magenta sky-scapes that last for hours, rather than minutes.</p> <p><b>Old Crow:</b> Old Crow, home to the Vuntut Gwitchin, derives its name</p>
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	<p>from an Indian Chief, "Deetru` K`avihdik", which means "Crow May I Walk". Following his death in the 1870's, his people named the river, mountain and area in his honor, thus being the community of Old Crow. Old Crow is a small town of about 300 aboriginal people; known as the Vuntut Gwitchin. Located at the confluence of the Crow and Porcupine Rivers, Old Crow is an isolated community, being the only village in the Yukon Territory, which does not have road access. Old Crow is also the only Yukon community located north of the Arctic Circle. People in Old Crow enjoy long summer days and experience the short days of winter. Residents of Old Crow live in modern homes, have a store that provides groceries and necessities, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment, a Nursing Station, Bed n' Breakfast accommodations, First Nation Office, a Skating Arena, a Youth Centre, and a Community Centre, where residents hold potlatches, dances and entertainment for the community. It's a vibrant community full of character, soul and the necessary amenities to ensure your visit will be a memorable one. Air North fly to the community from Dawson City.</p>
<b>Surprising</b>	<p>Between the rock massifs of the St. Elias Mountains is one of the <b>largest non-polar icefields</b> in the world. Huge valley glaciers fill the gulfs between the peaks; the Hubbard Glacier is 112 kilometres long, the Lowell Glacier is 72 kilometres long and these glaciers may be 1.6 kilometres thick in parts.</p> <p>Tucked away in the south of the Yukon, the <b>Carcross Desert</b> is the world's smallest at 642 acres (260 hectares).</p>
<b>History</b>	<p>The Blue Fish Caves on the Bluefish River in the northern Yukon contain the <b>earliest evidence of human habitation in North America</b>. Today, some experts believe humans have lived in this region for more than 14,000 years.</p> <p><b>The Klondike Gold Rush</b> was the seminal event in Yukon's history. A party led by Skookum Jim Mason discovered gold on a tributary of the Klondike River in August 1896. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people braved numerous hardships to reach the Klondike gold fields in the winter and spring of 1897-1898 after the discovery became known in 1897. With the influx of American stampederers, the Canadian government decided to create a separate territory to better control the situation. The Yukon was officially established as a Canadian Territory on June 13, 1898.</p> <p><b>Dredge No.4, Dawson City</b> One of two dozen dredges that worked this area, Dredge No. 4 rests on Claim 17 Below Discovery on Bonanza Creek near the spot where it ceased operations in 1959. Dredge No. 4 is the largest wooden hull, bucket line dredge in North America and is a significant example of</p>

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	<p>corporate industrial mining in Canada</p> <p><b>Robinson Roadhouse Historic Site</b> I even stumbled across my namesake's Yukon settlement that is now gentling merging back into the backwoods flowers and grasses...</p>
<b>Books</b>	<p>The poems of <b>Robert Service</b> are a must read item on any trip to the Yukon – see a few examples at the end of these notes.</p> <p>Famous American novelist, <b>Jack London</b>, depicted the Yukon &amp; Alaska area as an enticing, rugged, unspoiled area in his famous novel, Call of the Wild. Jack London's original cabin was located on the North Fork of Henderson Creek, 120km south of Dawson City, just prior to the gold rush of 1898. Replica &amp; museum in Dawson City. Open: Mid May- Mid September</p> <p>The <b>Pierre Berton</b> House is now officially the home of the Yukon's "Writer In Residence Program". Pierre Berton wrote a great history of the area in "Klondike"</p> <p>For travellers: <b>Frommer's Canada</b> has a valuable section on Yukon</p>
<b>Must Sees</b>	Kluane National Park, Whitehorse, Dawson City, The Top of the World Highway, Yukon wildlife, the aurora borealis.

<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Golf</b>	<p>Yukon's premier golf course is <b>Mountain View Golf Course</b> in Whitehorse. It's a full-service, 18-hole, RCGA par 72 rated course, with driving range, pro shop, lounge and snack bar; club and cart rentals available. Ten minutes from downtown Whitehorse. Open May 1 to September 30</p> <p>Mountain View Golf Club has been recognized as Canada's most Northern 18 Hole Championship Golf Course with grass tee to green. The Mountain View Golf Club is nestled along the banks of the prosperous Yukon River. With breathtaking views of surrounding mountain ranges, and unforgettable views of the colourful Yukon River. Although playable days are fewer than most, golf enthusiasts make up for them by taking advantage of the long hours of sunlight during the season. A typical season runs from May 1st through to the first week in October. From the end of May until the end of July golfers can play until midnight or later. A great layout, unforgettable scenery, a unique opportunity, and friendly staff are just a few of the things that await you at Mountain View Golf Club.</p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>You're hip-deep in a glassy Yukon lake at dawn surrounded by pink mountains. All around you, fish are surfacing for the morning's hatch. There's not another soul in sight. Your thermos is full of steaming java and your rod has seen steady action for over an hour. Does fishing in Canada—or for that matter anywhere—get any better than this?</p>

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	<p>From multi-day trips at top-notch Yukon fishing lodges to roadside angling adventures by RV or ice fishing in winter, a Yukon fishing experience is world-class. Enjoy some of the best fishing in Canada for <b>lake trout, northern pike, arctic grayling, whitefish, rainbow trout, inconnu, dolly varden and king, coho and sockeye salmon</b>. You'll find dozens of beautiful Yukon lakes and rivers to fish, most of them accessible by local roads. Or with a fly-in fishing charter, you can look forward to superb angling in more remote waters where you'll have the fish all to yourself.</p> <p><b>Klukshu Village:</b> Last year I visited a traditional sockeye salmon fishing camp of the Champagne-Aishihik First Nation of the Southern Tutchone people, just off the Haines Highway. The salmon were almost back to back in the stream by the camp – an amazing sight!</p>
<b>Climbing</b>	<p>At 5,959 metres (19,551 feet), <b>Mt. Logan is Canada's highest peak</b> and a notch on the belt of many accomplished mountaineers. But it's just one among many challenging peaks that draw mountaineers from around the globe to Yukon's icefields. Steele, St. Elias and Lucania are just a few of the plus 15,000-foot peaks that surround Logan in the heart of Kluane National Park.</p> <p>Don't take off your safety harness just yet. Yukon ranges offer mountaineering experiences where no climber may have yet gone. Set in landscapes that are almost medieval with unmatched scenery, you'll scale peaks found in North America's wildest regions. And for serious rock climbers, 3,000-foot vertical cliffs in the Cirque of Unclimbables, near the border of the Yukon and Northwest Territories are just a short flight away. I haven't climbed here, but I have flown around them with a Bush Pilot friend, and they are simply magnificent.</p>
<b>Hiking</b>	<p><b>Chilkoot Trail</b> National Historic Site protects the historic gateway to the Yukon once tread by Tlingit First Nation traders and Klondike gold rush prospectors. The Chilkoot Trail was designated a national historic site because of the role it played in the mass movement of people to the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush.</p> <p><b>Trekking:</b> there are plenty of incredible treks in the Yukon. Some are busier than others. But with so much wilderness here it's easy to get away from the crowds providing you know your way around a compass. And in some cases, it's worth putting up with a few other trekkers, because the experience is something you won't find anywhere else. The trek to Donjek Glacier and the classic hike up the Chilkoot Trail pretty much bracket the Yukon experience.</p> <p><b>The Rock Glacier Trail.</b> This trail off the Haines Highway has several interpretive signs along its length (0.8 km one way), and is a fairly easy</p>

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	<p>hike with a 300-foot elevation gain. The trail begins as a raised boardwalk through a marshy area, then enters a spruce/poplar forest. It then climbs onto the toe of the rock glacier, from where you get an expansive view of Dezadeash Lake. The trail as far as the top observation area is graded rock that provides good footing. It is possible to continue up the rock glacier but the hiking is more difficult due to both the grade and the loose rock. I hiked this trail last year (2010) so I can personally recommend this as an excellent alternative to the longer and more challenging hikes in this area.</p> <p><b>The King's Throne: A Personal Account</b></p> <p><i>My spirit of wonder got me up there - a tough three hour slog from the trailhead on Kathleen Lake in Kluane National Park, through lush woods speckled with bright red, orange and yellow berries and up a moonscape rock glacier into a majestic cirque, surrounded on three sides by soaring cliffs streaked with snow. Then a knife-edge ridge curling upwards around the King's Throne to the summit where I sat mesmerised.</i></p> <p><i>A throne fit for a king indeed. Beneath the brightly coloured, but very tattered, Tibetan prayer flags on the summit cairn stretches an endless array of mountain peaks in Kluane National Park – a chaotic jumble of snowcapped peaks and ridges rearing ever higher into the clouded horizon above which Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain, shimmers.</i></p> <p><i>Immediately below me on the northern side is an intensely blue lake that changes hue as the sunshine plays with the reflected clouds on its waters. An island lies like a Caribbean mirage amidst the reflected peaks all around. A delta of yellow and green intrudes into the lake from the west and the distant roar of its waters is the only sound to reach this mountain top of shattered rocks. Distantly, two Dall sheep move across a scree slope and a ptarmigan scuttles among the sharp rock fragments – but otherwise I am alone on the King's Throne, for a few moments, master of all I survey.</i></p> <p><i>The sun and shade patterns on the mountainsides chase each other over fall's brilliant yellows and a breeze now plays with the prayer flags beside me. I am loathe to leave this miraculous vista and I look for an excuse to linger for a few more minutes. There are not many moments in our busy, busy world to savour such a landscape, such quietude, such immense personal space. Such moments are precious and treasured. Here on the King's Throne in Kluane, Yukon Territory I have found my personal bit of space and time that will sustain me for a long while to come.</i></p>
<b>Mountain biking</b>	<p>In the Yukon there are hundreds of kilometres of long abandoned mining and logging roads to challenge you. But there are some</p>

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	<p>challenges, like the Dempster and the Canol, that you just won't find anywhere else. The <b>Dempster Highway</b> is really a gravel road that travels 720 kilometres from Dawson City to Inuvik. Along the way the road traverses two mountain ranges, the Continental Divide and expansive valleys, plateaus, plains and arctic tundra. Just past the halfway point, it crosses the Arctic Circle. And the Dempster is a ride in the park compared with the <b>Canol Heritage Trail</b>. This rugged route was cut through sub-alpine wilderness in World War II to service a long-gone pipeline.</p>
<b>Kayaking and rafting</b>	<p>When it comes to whitewater, the Yukon has it all and in most places you'll have it all to yourself. The <b>Tatshenshini</b> is a world-class river roiling with Class III and Class IV rapids and, when you come up for air, you'll be surrounded by some of the most dramatic scenery anywhere. The Tat is just the start of the Yukon's famous whitewater. The <b>Alsek</b> is a Canadian Heritage River that courses through rugged Kluane National Park past calving glaciers, tossing up a succession of Class IV challenges. The <b>Firth</b>, another Class IV river, tumbles north through remote Ivavik National Park to the Beaufort Sea, sweeping past canyon walls and arctic tundra dotted with caribou and musk ox.</p> <p><b>Float Trip: A Personal Account</b>  <i>This is a rafting trip for softies...A gentle float down the icy Dezadeash River near Haines Junction, with Paddle Wheel Adventures, a creation of Lee and Tiffany Drummond, a young couple who have clearly fallen under the spell of the Yukon – see their website at <a href="http://www.paddlewheeladventures.com">www.paddlewheeladventures.com</a> . We put in on a quiet bend of the river and for the next couple of hours we drifted gently down this spectacular river, guided expertly by our Guide Richard Anderson, a former Yorkshireman who prepares Yorkshire pud in his wilderness camps!</i>  <i>It's an idyllic time, relaxing and enchanting in equal measure, with no sign of humanity anywhere at all. The sun is warm, the mountains of Kluane are bright on the skyline and nature seems close and benign. Although Richard has had close encounters here with grizzlies and moose, today we see only beaver dams, kingfishers and a bald eagle soaring against the backdrop of distant snowfields. There is a comfortable silence save for Richard's occasional paddling and the ripples on the river...</i></p>
<b>CULTURE</b>	<p>The First Nations – Northern and Southern Tutchone, Tlingit, Tagish, Kaska, Tanana, Han, Gwitchin – are an important part of Yukon culture. When you travel throughout the Yukon, remember that there are two separate worlds woven together here—one modern, the other ancient. You can learn about First Nations cultures at the cultural/heritage</p>

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	centres in many Yukon communities, like Danoja Zho Cultural Centre in Dawson, Big Jonathan House in Pelly Crossing, Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre in Teslin, the Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre in Carmacks, and the Da Ku Centre in Haines Junction.
<b>Arts</b>	The Yukon celebrates a dynamic arts culture, steeped in tradition and open to contemporary forms, inspired by the wild places. There are numerous art galleries, craft fairs, murals, sculptures and art studios.
<b>Music</b>	<p>Theatre, dance music and story-telling are all thriving in Yukon</p> <p>July 15-17, 2011: 33rd Annual <b>Dawson City Music Festival</b>: A three day celebration of music and dancing under the midnight sun. Folk, rock blues, world beat, traditional, jazz, hip-hop and more. Canada's "tiny, perfect music festival presents three days of wildly diverse music in six venues around the tiny town of Dawson City, Yukon, in Canada's far North. Small but mighty, the Festival has developed a reputation for unparalleled intimacy, uniqueness, production quality, and hospitality. Visitors to the Festival enjoy the opportunity to see some of Canada's musical heroes alongside newer and Northern talent in an astonishingly intimate setting, and to celebrate the joys of music and community under the midnight sun. Rock, blues, country, world-beat, old-time, jazz, children's music... the Festival has something for everyone!</p> <p><a href="http://www.dcmf.com">http://www.dcmf.com</a></p>
<b>Museums</b>	<p><b>Yukon Beringia Centre, Whitehorse</b>: Imagine a world where the vast steppe stretches unbroken as far as the eye can see. Envision a place where predators of staggering proportions compete with human hunters for food. Picture a land where the animals and plants struggle to survive in the cold, dry treeless expanse. The Beringia Centre is a perfect first stop to get an overview on how the Yukon came to be so central to the peopling of the Americas. I was able to try my hand at the atlatl, an ancient throwing spear used for hunting – there need be no concern for Yukon wildlife on my account!</p> <p><b>MacBride Museum</b> in Whitehorse recreates an early Whitehorse log building with a sod roof and much of the history of the township. It uses a fun and folksy approach to telling the history of the Yukon, both natural and human.</p> <p><b>S.S. Klondike</b>: the largest stern-wheeler to ply the Yukon River, this landmark attraction in Whitehorse has been lovingly restored and is open for tours. Riverboats used to churn the waters of this river and the S.S. Klondike is a well-preserved example and national Historic Site of Canada. My guided tour was effective in helping me visualize the days not so long ago when the wharf in Whitehorse was festooned with riverboats large and small en route to the goldfields.</p>
<b>Festivals</b>	Northern festivals are times of enthusiasm and release for Yukoners. Visit Yukon during the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous, Dawson Discovery Days, Klondike Outhouse Races, Yukon International

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	Storytelling Festival, Yukon Quest Dog Sled Race, Frostbite Music Festival or Dawson City Music Festival.
<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	Watson Lake: Signpost Forest Mountains: 20 summits over 14,000 feet; Logan (19,551 ft); St. Elias (5489m), Lucania (5226m)
<b>Hot Springs</b>	Most of the streams, rivers and lakes you'll be encountering on your Klondike adventure are too chilly for anything more than a swift dip. But just outside of Whitehorse, you'll find the <b>Takhini Hot Springs</b> where the water is always 35C. It tends to be comfortably crowded, but this is the swimming hole for the whole territory. If you're looking for a more private dip, there's another hot spring about 193 kilometres northeast of Keno. The locals scoot up here by snowmobile during the winter and they would be happy to have you join them. Because there's no road, it's a long hike up in summer.
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>One of the great wildlife experiences in Canada is to view the migration of Yukon's Porcupine caribou herd and discover their connection to the First Nation way of life.</p> <p><b>There are 165,000 caribou; 10,000 black bears; 6,500 grizzly bears; 22,000 mountains sheep; 70,000 moose; wolves, muskoxen; and 227 bird species</b></p> <p>If you're looking for a wildlife vacation, where better than one of the wildest places in the world to see caribou, moose, bears, sheep, birds and hundreds of other northern species? Join a wildlife safari to the Yukon, home to species of international significance including 30 per cent of Canada's grizzlies, the Porcupine caribou herd and peregrine falcons, and seasonal home to millions of migratory birds.</p> <p>Whether you're an ardent birder or a casual wildlife watcher, the Yukon's flyway comes alive as trumpeter swans, geese, sandhill cranes and other migratory birds travel to and from nesting grounds. Birders converge in the Yukon to search for species including harlequin duck, northern hawk owl, wandering tattler, gyrfalcon and three kinds of ptarmigan.</p>
<b>Parks</b>	<p><b>National Parks</b>  Kluane National Park: 22,015 sq.km.  Ivvavik National Park: 10,170 sq.km.  Vuntut National Park: 4,387 sq.km.</p> <p><b>Territorial Parks</b>  Herschel Island Territorial Park: 116 sq.km.  Tombstone Mountains Territorial Park: the newest park in Yukon</p> <p><b>Kluane National Park</b> - A gem in the family of Parks Canada's national treasures, Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada covers an area</p>

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	<p>of 21,980 square kilometres. It is a land of precipitous, high mountains, immense icefields and lush valleys that yield a diverse array of plant and wildlife species and provides for a host of outdoor activities. Kluane National Park and Reserve is also home to Mount Logan (5959 m/19,545 ft), Canada's highest peak. Yukon's Kluane National Park and Reserve, along with Alaska's Wrangell - St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Park and British Columbia's Tatshenshini Alsek Park, form the largest international protected area in the world.</p> <p><b>Ivvavik National Park</b> - Ivvavik, meaning 'a place for giving birth, a nursery', in Inuvialuktun, the language of the Inuvialuit, is the first national park in Canada to be created as a result of an aboriginal land claim agreement. The park protects a portion of the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd and represents the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta natural regions.</p> <p><b>Vuntut National Park</b> - Vuntut National Park was established in 1995 after extensive negotiations through the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation's Final Land Claims Agreement between the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow and the Government of Canada and the Yukon. Vuntut, which means "among the lakes" in the Gwitchin language, encompasses 4,345. sq. km of wilderness in the northwestern corner of the Yukon Territory.</p>
<p><b>Flight-seeing: A Personal Account</b></p>	<p><i>There are no roads in Kluane National Park, no easy way to see the glaciers and peaks reaching nearly 20,000 feet...except by taking to the air. So I took the 'Grand Mountain Tour' with <b>Sifton Air</b> who specialize in giving travelers a bird's eye view of one of the greatest wilderness areas in Canada. The pilot, Taylor Morrison, looked too young to drive, let alone fly, but he proved to be skilled and knowledgeable in the mountains.</i></p> <p><i>We took off from Haines Junction, flying north and west with Kloo Lake on our right and the turquoise blue of Kluane Lake ahead. A banked left turn took us up the Kashkawulsh River valley to the great Kashkawulsh glacier with its precisely defined dark moraines striped against the white glacier ice. Into the heart of the St Elias Range, Mount Logan the highest peak of all is mantled with wisps of cloud in the distance before we banked left again over ice fields and across to Dusty Glacier which tumbled in part over a 500 foot high icefall into the Lowell Glacier below. It was a heavenly, other-worldly maze of peaks, ridges and glaciers. Down the Lowell Glacier to where its snout disintegrates into Lowell Lake with icebergs floating clear from the ice edge. Finally a turn north up the Alsek River valley and back to Haines Junction which seemed lush and tropical after the ice kingdom we had been flying over for the past 80 minutes. I am left with a mesmeric collage of images: serrated arêtes with glacier ice hanging from their walls; glacier crevasses filled</i></p>

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	<i>with melt-water of the most vivid blue; sinuous moraines reflecting the flow patterns of the glaciers; melt-water rivers braided into hundreds of channels each reflecting the sun.</i>
<b>Rockhounding</b>	For those that like to collect a stony souvenir of their trips, Yukon has some unique opportunities to take home something special. You can still pan for gold in several localities, especially of course in Dawson City. There are several rock shops specializing in some of the minerals that are unique to this region and there are Agate Trails in Carmacks where you can search for these semi-precious gems of nature yourself.

<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	Enjoy the hand-crafted goods, fine cuisine and friendly atmosphere of the Yukon's world-class dining and shopping destinations. Caribou Crossing Trading Post in Carcross: A gourmet shopper's delight with hundreds of unique Yukon-made products, including hand-carved antler & horn, fur items, wood burls, antiques, gems & minerals.
<b>Nightlife</b>	Whitehorse offers numerous pubs and evening rendezvous options, whilst Dawson City features the old-time delights of Diamond Tooth Gertie's Casino with nightly shows featuring the Diamond Girls.
<b>Casinos</b>	<b>Diamond Tooth Gertie's Casino</b> in Dawson City: Gertie and her Goldrush Girls perform three different shows nightly and you can try your hand at blackjack, roulette, poker and slot machines.

<b>CUISINE</b>	
<b>Food</b>	Take your pick from a range of local foods and beverages: Arctic char, wild berry jams and jellies, smoked salmon, beer, coffees, teas, and pure spring water. If you're looking for something more familiar, Whitehorse has several international fast food outlets.
<b>Drink</b>	The <b>Yukon Brewing Company</b> in Whitehorse is an award-winning brewery that has scheduled tours with free samples!
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>Klondike Rib and Salmon in Whitehorse:</b> Dine in the oldest operating building in Whitehorse, Yukon. Try their muskox, caribou, bison and fresh northern fish. "True Northern Flavour" with good ol' Yukon hospitality! <b>Klondike Kate's in Dawson City:</b> eat in a 1904 authentic gold rush era building – good food with a friendly atmosphere

<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	Phone for brochures at: 1-800-661-0494 for Yukon Tourism or online at <a href="http://www.travelyukon.com/plan-your-trip/free-vacation-planner">http://www.travelyukon.com/plan-your-trip/free-vacation-planner</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.travelyukon.com">www.travelyukon.com</a> for Yukon Tourism

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	<a href="http://www.flyairnorth.com">www.flyairnorth.com</a> for Air North, Yukon's Airline
<b>Prize Trip 2011</b>	A fabulous seven day Yukon Self-Drive Adventure Trip for two with six nights hotel accommodations, round trip air fare, rental vehicle and all breakfasts, guided outdoor activities and attraction passes.

<b>AIR NORTH, YUKON'S AIRLINE</b>	<p>Air North, Yukon's Airline, has flown into the Yukon for over thirty-four years – making it easy and great value. Based in Whitehorse, Air North, Yukon's Airline connects the Yukon's capital city with Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton, Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik and Fairbanks. Right now a four segment air pass on Air North, Yukon's Airline is just \$849 plus tax. Check out <a href="http://www.flyairnorth.com">www.flyairnorth.com</a> .</p> <p>Air North, Yukon's Airline is genuinely proud to show you the country they call home and they offer unique, northern hospitality. They are dedicated to the provision of reliable business services and understand the importance that travellers place on air travel that is safe, convenient and affordable.</p> <p>With their head office located in Whitehorse, Air North, Yukon's Airline connects the Yukon's capital city to 3 major gateway cities via Boeing 737-200 non-stop service between Whitehorse and Vancouver daily; and direct service between Whitehorse, Calgary and Edmonton year-round.</p> <p>Hawker Siddeley 748 turbo prop scheduled service is offered between Whitehorse and Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik and Fairbanks, Alaska</p> <p>Getting on board with Air North, Yukon's Airline is simple: you can make reservations with your local travel agent or by calling them in Whitehorse at toll free at 1-800-661-0407. Booking an e-Ticket online is quick and simple by going to their web site at <a href="http://www.flyairnorth.com">http://www.flyairnorth.com</a> .</p>
<b>Destinations</b>	Whitehorse, Dawson City and Old Crow in Yukon Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton as gateways Inuvik in NWT, and Fairbanks in Alaska.
<b>Air Pass</b>	<p><b>Canada's Arctic Circle Air Pass</b></p> <p>With excellent value and flexibility, Canada's Arctic Circle Air Pass lets you see the North up close and experience the thrill of visiting some of our most historic and culturally diverse communities of both the Yukon and Northwest Territories.</p>

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	<p><b>9 destinations with 2 airlines and up to 45 days travel, all for 1 low price from \$879.</b></p> <p>The Six Destination stops are: Whitehorse, Dawson City, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Hay River.</p> <p>The gateway cities are Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton</p>
<b>Weekend Packages</b>	<p>Air North's "<b>Summer Gateway Getaway</b>" is a great value way to add on a quick vacation to the Yukon when you are out west in BC or Alberta perhaps visiting friends or family.</p> <p><b>Three day Getaways from Vancouver are just \$399</b> (+ fees and taxes of \$172) per person, based on double occupancy.</p> <p>This includes: Round-trip airfare from Vancouver to Whitehorse with two nights' accommodation for travel between May 20 – Sept. 12, 2011 Similar Getaways from Calgary and Edmonton are just \$20 more.</p>
<b>Fair Price Guarantee</b>	<p>"At Air North, Yukon's Airline, we are committed to superior service at a fair and reasonable price. Our fares reflect our cost of flying, and we do everything possible to deliver our product to you, our customer, on every flight, every day. From time to time we find that market pricing is less than consistent. If you are able to find a better price, please let us know and we will do our very best to match."</p> <p>Joseph T. Sparling, President, CEO Air North, Yukon's Airline</p>
<b>Aircraft</b>	<p>They presently operate 1 Boeing 737-500, (1) Boeing 737-400, (3) Boeing 737-200's and (4) Hawker Siddeley Turboprop aircraft.</p>
<b>Luggage Specials</b>	<p>Canoes and bicycles are carried by prior arrangement and additional fees</p>
<b>Deals</b>	<p>Check the Air North, Yukon's Airline website for their special deals, Currently (20 April 2011) they are offering <b>one-way specials of just \$195</b> from Vancouver to Whitehorse and \$215 from Edmonton or Calgary to Whitehorse.</p>

<b>Robert Service</b>	<p>Called the Bard of the Yukon, Robert Service (1874-1958) arrived in Yukon in 1904 and wrote some of Canada's best known and loved poetry in Dawson City.</p> <p>For over twenty years Tom Byrne entertained thousands of people with his spellbinding performances at the Robert Service cabin in Dawson City where "The Bard of the Yukon" wrote many of his famous Northern poems. The 1999 season saw Tom's show in a new location on Front Street in Dawson City.</p> <p><b>The Spell of the Yukon</b></p> <p>I've stood in some mighty-mouthed hollow</p>
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That's plumb-full of hush to the brim;  
I've watched the big, husky sun wallow  
In crimson and gold, and grow dim,  
Till the moon set the pearly peaks gleaming,  
And the stars tumbled out, neck and crop;  
And I've thought that I surely was dreaming,  
With the peace o' the world piled on top.

The summer -- no sweeter was ever;  
The sunshiny woods all athrill;  
The grayling aleap in the river,  
The bighorn asleep on the hill.  
The strong life that never knows harness;  
The wilds where the caribou call;  
The freshness, the freedom, the farness --  
O God! how I'm stuck on it all.

The winter! the brightness that blinds you,  
The white land locked tight as a drum,  
The cold fear that follows and finds you,  
The silence that bludgeons you dumb.  
The snows that are older than history,  
The woods where the weird shadows slant;  
The stillness, the moonlight, the mystery,  
I've bade 'em good-by -- but I can't.

There's a land where the mountains are nameless,  
And the rivers all run God knows where;  
There are lives that are erring and aimless,  
And deaths that just hang by a hair;  
There are hardships that nobody reckons;  
There are valleys unpeopled and still;  
There's a land -- oh, it beckons and beckons,  
And I want to go back -- and I will.

There's gold, and it's haunting and haunting;  
It's luring me on as of old;  
Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting  
So much as just finding the gold.  
It's the great, big, broad land 'way up yonder,  
It's the forests where silence has lease;  
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,  
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

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### **The Cremation of Sam McGee**

There are strange things done in the midnight sun  
By the men who toil for gold;  
The Arctic trails have their secret tales  
That would make your blood run cold;  
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,  
But the queerest they ever did see  
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge  
I cremated Sam McGee.

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