



## Questions? Contact us! Kluane National Park & Reserve

P.O. Box 5495  
Haines Junction, Yukon  
Canada Y0B 1L0

**Email** [kluane\\_info@pch.gc.ca](mailto:kluane_info@pch.gc.ca)

### Park Phone Numbers

Main Switchboard: (867) 634 7250  
Fax: (867) 634 7208  
Haines Junction Visitor Centre: (867) 634 7207

### Check out our website!

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/kluane](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/kluane)

### Visitor Centres

Haines Junction is the primary staging area for activities in Kluane and is the site of the main park visitor reception centre which offers a myriad of displays and information. The Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Centre, located one hour north of Haines Junction along the Alaska Highway on the shores of Łù'àn Mǎn (Kluane Lake), focuses on Kluane's most abundant large mammal: Dall Sheep. Backcountry registrations and park information are also provided at both Visitor Centres.

#### Haines Junction Visitor Reception Centre

Open: Daily mid-May to early October  
Weekdays mid-October to mid-May

#### Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Reception Centre

Open: Daily mid-May to early-September

### Accessible Services

We are pleased to offer services and facilities to visitors with mobility, hearing and visual disabilities. For further information call (867) 634 7250.

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### How to Enjoy the Park

Kluane is a land of high mountains, ice fields and lush lower valleys offering many outdoor activities for people of all ages and abilities.



#### Interpretive Events

Park Interpreters are available to help you discover Kluane and its rich diversity. Interpretive Events will start in June and continue until late August. Detailed schedules are available at the Visitor Centres.

#### Interpretive Facilities

A viewpoint, 20km south of Haines Junction on the Haines highway, overlooks Kathleen Lake. Here you will also find the plaque commemorating Kluane and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska as a World Heritage Site. In the vicinity of the Dǎn Zhǔr Chù (Donjek River) bridge, 177 km north of Haines Junction, the peaks of Mount Steele, Mount Wood and Mount Walsh can be seen.

There are currently two self-guiding, interpretive trails in Kluane. The Rock Glacier trail, 45km south of Haines Junction on the Haines highway, takes you over the toe of a rock glacier and finishes up with a panorama of Dezadeash Lake. One kilometer north of the Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Centre is the trailhead for the Soldier Summit trail, which takes you to site of the official opening of the Alaska Highway in 1942.

#### Road Travel

Both the Alaska Highway and Haines highway skirt the boundary of Kluane National Park and Reserve and are open year round. Visitors can reach Haines Junction by driving west of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway (160-km) or north of Haines, Alaska on the Haines Highway (249 km). The town of Haines Junction offers all the amenities: restaurants, motels, hotel, grocery store, service stations, bakery, bank and a post office. Along the Alaska Highway and the Haines Highway there are a few service stations, restaurants and motels, some are open year-round.

#### Flight-seeing

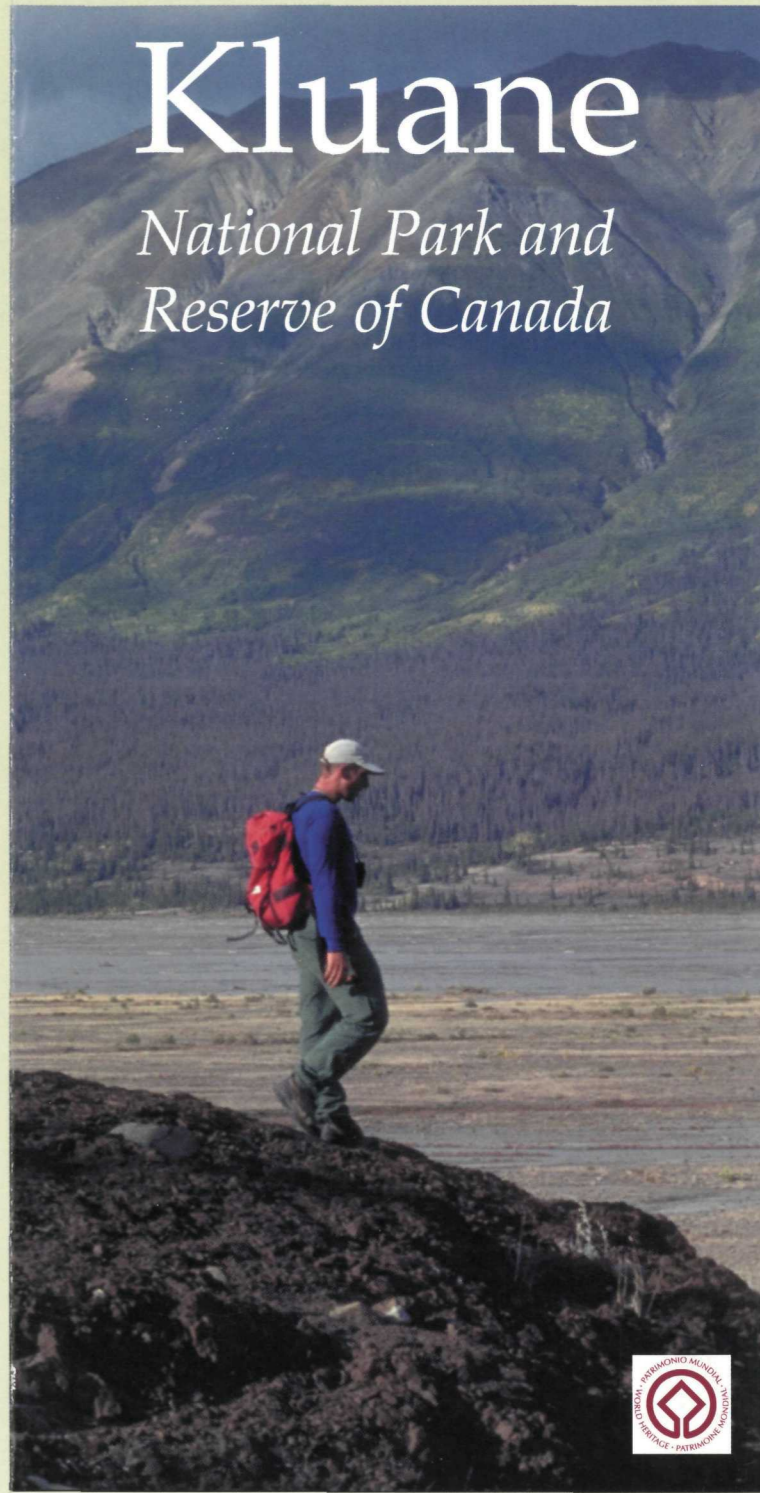
A fixed-wing or helicopter flight over the icy heart of Kluane and its majestic peaks is an experience few people ever forget. This is a good way to grasp how immense and powerful the Kluane landscape really is.

#### Trail Riding

Guided horseback trips are available in the Kluane area. The most popular area, locally known as the 'Alsek Pass' offers exceptional views of glacially scoured landscape.

#### Camping

Kluane National Park operates a scenic day-use area at Kathleen Lake, 26 km south on Haines Junction on the Haines Highway with kitchen shelter, boat launch and picnic facilities as well as a 39 site campground with pump water, firewood and sanitary facilities. There are several other campgrounds in the Kluane area which are managed privately or by the Yukon Government. Kathleen Lake Campground is operated by a self-registration system. Most campgrounds are open from mid to end of May to mid-September.



# Kluane

## National Park and Reserve of Canada



## Kluane National Park and Reserve Of Canada

Each national park in Canada is a public treasure that has been put aside to protect a significant example of the diverse natural regions of this country. Kluane's role is to protect an area of Canada's North Coast Mountains. Each of these natural regions across Canada can contain a number of ecoregions. Within the 21,980 km<sup>2</sup> (8487 mi<sup>2</sup>) that make up the park, there are two distinct ecoregions. The Mount Logan ecoregion, found in the park interior, is a land of precipitous, high mountains, including Canada's highest peak - Mount Logan (5959m/19545ft), and immense icefields and nunataks (small islands of life surrounded by ice). The south-east and north-east outer sections of the park protect the St. Elias ecoregion. This is a region of rocky peaks, lush alpine meadows and mountain slopes of willow and alder through which flow rivers from glacial melt waters to valleys below. Forests of spruce and aspen, grassy meadows and wetlands carpet the valleys. The varied habitats found in this region yield a diverse array of plants and wildlife and provide for a host of outdoor activities.



Parks Canada works hard to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of these areas while ensuring ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations. The staff at Kluane National Park and Reserve ask for your assistance in this endeavour.

## Ecological Integrity

For national parks to continue protecting Canada's wild places, their ecological integrity must remain intact - meaning that the structure and function of the ecosystems with their various wildlife habitats, are unimpaired by human activity and therefore likely to persist.



To fulfil its responsibilities in this regard, Kluane is taking a comprehensive approach that involves working with others toward a healthy, sustainable ecosystem. This requires an understanding of the human and naturally induced stresses that affect the Kluane ecosystem, and a recognition that the ecosystem is constantly changing. Kluane National Park and Reserve staff are working toward this goal by taking a holistic view of the natural environment, and ensuring that land use decisions take into consideration the complex interactions and dynamic nature of the park ecosystems, as well as their limited capacity to withstand and recover from stress.

## Cultural Landscape

Kluane National Park and Reserve is the homeland of a unique culture that goes back at least 10,000 years. This is traditional territory of the Southern Tutchone people. The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kluane First Nation continue to carry out their traditional activities such as hunting and trapping in the Kluane region. When the park was first proposed in 1943, First Nations were excluded from their traditional hunting grounds, but today, through the implementation of land claim provisions, they are re-discovering their



past after an absence of 50 years from the park. The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kluane First Nation are now recognized as having direct management interest within Kluane National Park & Reserve and are jointly responsible for the management of all natural and cultural resources in their traditional territory.

The Southern Tutchone people of this area have a rich culture based on strong ties with the natural world. As each of us are part of this world, knowledge and respect for the land should guide everything we do inside or outside the park.

## A UNESCO World Heritage Site

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 Provincial Park, form the largest international protected area in the world. These parklands are recognized and protected under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention as an outstanding wilderness of global significance.



## Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Alsek River is well known for its natural and cultural heritage. Its rugged glacial valleys are home to golden eagles, mountain goats and the largest stable population of grizzly bears in Canada. Sand dunes and glacial till provide a contrasting environment amidst the diverse vegetation found here. Breathtaking vistas of glaciers such as the Lowell and Fischer offer the visitor rare glimpses into the heart of Kluane. In 1986, the Alsek River in Kluane was named a Canadian Heritage River because of its outstanding examples of northern natural heritage.



## Keep the Wild in Wildlife!

The chance to observe wild animals as they go about their natural lives is one of the most fascinating experiences that Canada's national parks have to offer. Along with this opportunity, however, comes the responsibility to treat wild animals with the respect they deserve, and need.



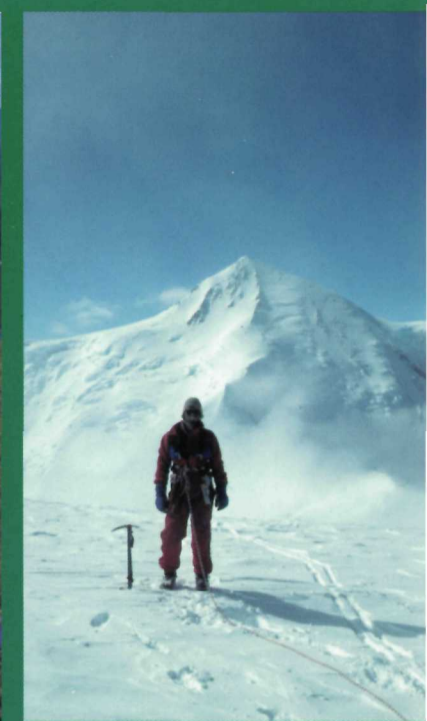
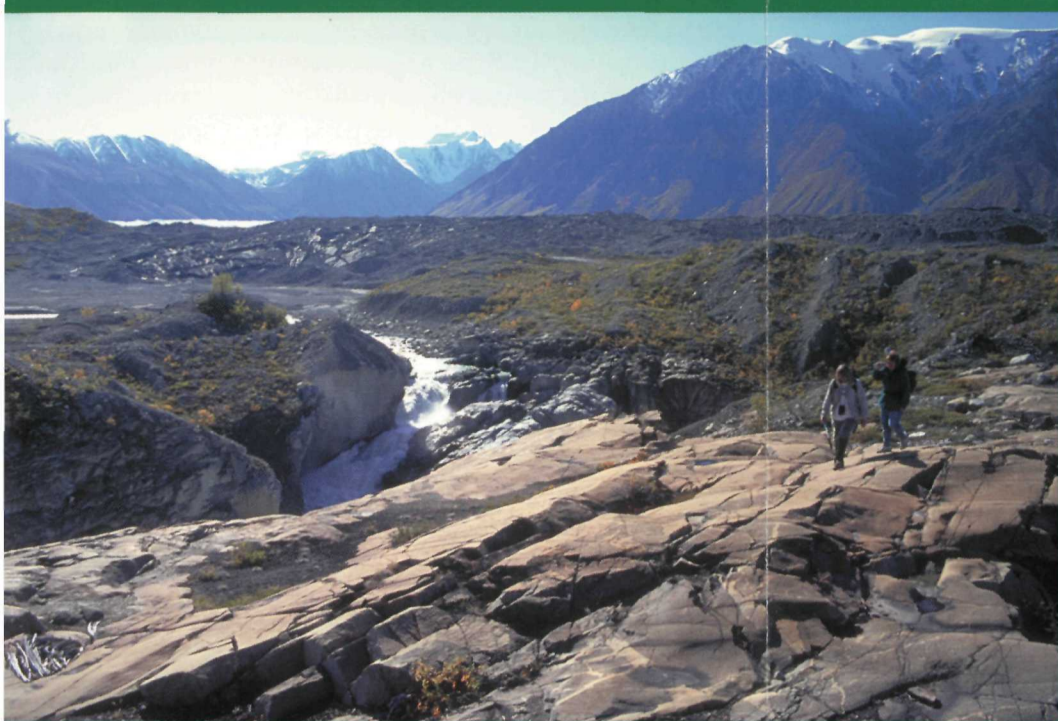
### Driving

Many people harass wild animals unintentionally by getting too close and pursuing them for photos. Please keep your distance. How close is too close? Stay back at least 30 metres (the length of 3 buses) from most animals and stay in your vehicle if you see a bear. Never feed wildlife. Human food isn't good for them. Feeding wildlife is unlawful in national parks. National parks are here to protect wildlife, not to stress these magnificent residents. The best thing you can do for the animals? Take a quick look and keep driving. Be sure to read the [You are in Bear Country](#) brochure available at the Visitor Centres.

### Walking, Hiking and Camping

Wildlife generally prefer to avoid humans. However, some animals may charge and even attack people when surprised, or if they feel you are threatening their young or their food. Stay alert, never approach or feed wildlife, and keep pets on a leash at all times. The ["You are in Bear Country"](#) brochure, available at the Visitor Centres, provides important information about traveling and camping in bear country.

# Kluane National Park and Reserve



## Hiking

Hiking is the most popular activity in Kluane with trails for novice walkers right up to the most experienced hikers. Whether you want a 15 minute self-guiding interpretive trail or a 5 day excursion over mountain passes and roaring creeks, Kluane has it!

Park staff will be able to provide information on various hiking opportunities and can make recommendations based on your interests. If you would like to experience Kluane on foot, but lack experience, you might find a guided trip more comfortable. All overnight trips in the park must be registered at the Visitor Centre in Haines Junction or at the Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Centre.

Trailheads can be difficult to get to without a vehicle since there is no public transportation to park trailheads.

## Mountain Biking

A number of old mining roads in the Kluane area are ideal for mountain biking, particularly the Alesk Trail and Mush Lake Road. Since you will be travelling quickly and quietly, try to avoid surprising bears. Make noise!

## Mountaineering

Kluane is renown for its many challenging climbs that attract skilled mountaineers from around the world. All climbing parties must apply a few months in advance of their trip and all climbers are required to register. Interested parties should request the mountaineering pamphlet and video on preparing for a mountaineering expedition.

## Winter Recreation

Winter is more than a comfortable season for iceworms! The longer days of February and March are generally the best months for winter recreation. Cross-country skiing is particularly popular in the area south of Haines Junction. There are also possibilities for icefishing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, snowmobiling (limited to certain areas) and winter camping. All overnight trips must be registered with parks staff.

## Alesk River

Rafting down the Alesk is another way to explore Kluane. Both private and commercial rafting groups can enjoy the awesome wilderness of glaciers and grizzlies with

minimal disruption. To ensure the ecological integrity of the area there is a limited number of trips permitted. There are a number of commercial companies who offer 3 to 14 day trips down this spectacular river. Private parties must contact the park in advance.

## Boating & Canoeing

Motorized boats are permitted on Kathleen Lake and Mush Lake. Canoeing possibilities in the park are limited to the major lakes, which should always be treated with caution. Always stay close to shore as strong winds occur suddenly and without warning, and water temperatures are extremely cold.

## Fishing

A National Parks fishing permit is required for angling in Kluane. One-day, 7-day and annual licenses may be purchased at the Haines Junction Visitor Centre or at some of the businesses in the Kluane region.

## Commercial Operations

A number of businesses operate in the Kluane area providing a variety of services and activities. Detailed

information on these and other aspects of the Yukon may be found in the Yukon Visitor Guide. Further information may be obtained from your travel agent, commercial guidebooks, or by contacting: Tourism Yukon, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C6. Phone: (867) 667 5340, Email: info@touryukon.com

## Weather

The Kluane region can experience sudden and dramatic climatic contrasts due to its size, rugged terrain, and proximity to the Pacific Ocean. Rain or snow can fall at any time on the year and freezing temperatures are possible even during the summer. The best way to deal with the weather is to prepare for all conditions. For a detailed weather forecast, check at one of the visitor centres, call: (867) 668 6061 for a weather report, or find [www.weatheroffice.com](http://www.weatheroffice.com) on the internet.

