# **RECREATION GUIDE**



Parks Canada / F. Mueller

#### **Time to Explore**

Kluane National Park and Reserve is a spectacular natural area with so much to discover. Whether you are here for a day, a week or a lifetime you can enjoy the many recreational options the park offers.

- · Hike for an hour, a day or a week
- Mountain bike an old mining road or a long distance trail
- Camp at the campground or in a wilderness backcountry location
- Tour both visitor centres and learn about the landscape and its residents
- Take a leisurely afternoon paddle or raft for days on the beautiful Alsek
- Attend an interpretive program around an evening campfire
- · Cast your fishing line from the shore or from your boat

#### A Homeland

Much of Kluane National Park and Reserve has been homeland to First Nations for thousands of years. The park is located within the traditional territories of the Kluane First Nation and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. These First Nations are involved in park management both as staff and through a cooperative management agreement. During your visit, you may encounter local First Nations people engaged in their traditional activities of hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering.



**Visitor Centres** 

The Kluane National Park and **Reserve Visitor Centre** in Haines Junction, houses numerous exhibits, both hands on and digital, that are a must to explore. An HD video gives visitors a chance to see the diverse landscapes, including Canada's highest peaks and immense glaciers, found here.

There is a small visitor centre at Thechàl Dhâl, 72 kms north of Haines Junction, that provides opportunities to learn about Dall

sheep and the surrounding area. Staff are available at either centre to help you plan your stay and travel safely and gently on this land.



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#### Kathleen Lake

Kathleen Lake located 26 kms south of Haines Junction is a perfect place to spend some time. The area offers a scenic waterfront day-use area with kitchen shelter, boat launch, trailheads and picnic facilities, as well as a 38-site campground with potable water, firewood, bear-proof storage lockers and outhouses.

Most of the campground operates on a first come first serve basis. Reservations are available for the two group campsites and the five oTENTik sites (fees apply).

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Overnight Trips - Between April 1 and November 15, you must register with the park before going on an overnight trip and de-register when you return (fees apply).

#### **Bear Resistant Food Canisters**

are required for overnight trips in most areas of the park between April 1 and November 15, and are available upon registration. Contact staff for a complete list of approved containers.

Pets can harass wildlife or other visitors if they are unrestrained, and therefore must be kept on a leash at all times.



**Fishing** in the park requires a Kluane National Park and Reserve fishing license. Specific regulations, allowed tackle, and catch limits apply.

#### **Possession of Firearms**

outside of a motor vehicle is prohibited in the National Park & Reserve, except for certain First Nations groups engaged in subsistence harvesting.

**Do Not Remove** or disturb anything that is part of the natural ecosystem or cultural heritage of the park.

Motor Boats are only allowed on Kathleen and Mush Lakes.

**Leaving No Trace** of your trip helps keep Kluane in its natural state. Pack out all garbage and left over food. Choose durable surfaces for camping and use a stove instead of a campfire. Dispose of strained grey water at least 100 m from water sources. When no outhouse is available. bury human waste at least 100 m from water, camps and trails.



### STAYING SAFE



Be Prepared - You are responsible for your own safety. Make a trip plan which includes some extra time. Emergency assistance may be significantly delayed due to remoteness and weather. Cell phones are out of range in most areas of the park. For longer trips, visitors are encouraged to carry a satellite phone or messenger.

Be Bear Aware - Most incidents occur when bears are surprised, particularly when protecting cubs or food. Learn about being safe in bear country by reading the park safety brochure, watching the safety video and talking to staff.

Wildlife - Use caution around all wildlife and do not feed or approach them. Wildlife may become aggressive if they feel their food, young or space is being threatened.

**Animal Carcasses** are occasionally encountered in the park. If you encounter one, note the location, leave the area immediately, and report it to park staff.





Creek Crossings - Most creeks in the park do not have bridges. Water levels change dramatically throughout the summer and even over the course of a day. Cross creeks early in the day when water levels tend to be lower. If a creek crossing appears too difficult do not cross. Park staff can provide information on crossing creeks safely.

**Drinking Water -** Avoid contracting water-born diseases such as giardia by treating all drinking water that you obtain from natural sources.

**Campfires** are allowed in most areas unless there is a fire ban. Never leave a fire unattended, and extinguish it completely. If building a fire in the backcountry, keep it small and burn only dead and downed wood. Do not burn food or garbage - pack it out. Report all wildfires immediately.

Cold Water - Lakes in Kluane are very cold. Sudden winds can make travel in rough water very dangerous. Always wear approved floatation devices, travel early in the morning when water is calmer and stay close to shore.

**Hypothermia** occurs when your body loses more heat than it produces. Hypothermia can be life threatening and can occur at any time of the year. Look at the forecast, plan for poor weather, and wear layered clothing to stay warm and dry.



**Avalanche** - During winter, spring and early summer, avalanche potentials exist in certain areas. For more information on how to recognize and travel safely in avalanche terrain contact Avalanche Canada.

### TRAIL or ROUTE

**Trails** are marked and maintained by the park.

Routes are not marked or maintained in any manner.

Good navigational skills are required for all routes and some trails.



## **ACTIVITY RATINGS**

**Easy:** well-marked trail, no or easy creek crossings, little to moderate elevation gain.

**Moderate:** well-marked trail, moderate to considerable elevation gain, possible creek crossings

**Difficult:** some marked trail, some route finding might be required, moderate to considerable elevation gain, possible creek crossings, possible terrain hazards (i.e. downed trees, slides, rocky terrain, rock fall)

**Very Difficult:** generally unmarked and unmaintained, route finding skills required, considerable to major elevation gain, terrain hazards (i.e. downed trees, slides, rocky terrain, rock fall) challenging creek crossings.

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### **EMERGENCY CONTACT - 24 HOUR**

1-877-852-3100 (toll free) or 1-780-852-3100

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **Summer Season:**

- Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre in Haines Junction (867) 634-7207
- Thechàl Dhâl Visitor Centre (867) 841-4500

### **Year Round:**

Kluane National Park and Reserve Box 5495, Haines Junction Yukon, Canada, YOB 1L0 (867) 634-7250

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