



Kluane National Park & Reserve of Canada



EXPERIENCE KLUANE

Whether for a day, a week, or a life-time, come enjoy the multitude of activities Kluane has to offer.

◆HIKING

One of the best ways to explore Kluane National Park and Reserve is on foot. The park offers many hiking possibilities ranging from easy strolls to multi-day expeditions requiring advanced skills.

◆KATHLEEN LAKE CAMPGROUND

A scenic campground, which features 39 sites as well as firewood, bear-proof storage lockers, and outhouses is open from mid-May to mid-September. Spectacular scenery and many recreational opportunities are within minutes of your campsite. Please bring water to the campground, as none is available on-site.

◆KATHLEEN LAKE DAY-USE AREA

A kitchen shelter, picnic facilities, boat launch, and wheelchair accessible trail are located on the shores of Kathleen Lake.



Photo: YTG Gov't

◆WATER TRAVEL

Canoeing or sea kayaking on Kathleen Lake is possible on a calm day. Paddlers looking to enjoy solitude may venture down Mush and Bates lakes to an area that receives fewer visitors.

Motor boating is permitted only on Mush and Kathleen Lakes. The use of high-efficiency engines is encouraged.



Photo: L.Gorecki

Rafting or kayaking down the Alsek, a Canadian Heritage River, can be the trip of a lifetime. Reservations are required. Consult the park website or staff for more information.

Caution: Strong winds occur suddenly in Kluane and water temperatures are frigid. Cold water drowning can occur in minutes

◆MOUNTAIN BIKING AND ROAD ACCESS

The Alsek Valley Road and the Mush Lake Road are commonly used for mountain biking. These roads are also accessible to motor vehicles with four-wheel drive.

Please note that ATVs are not permitted within the boundaries of the park except when used by local First Nations people for subsistence hunting.



Photos: YTG Gov't



HIKING IDEAS

Here are brief descriptions of some of the hikes in the park. Detailed descriptions for these and more trips are available at the visitor centres and the park website.

◆TRAILS AND ROUTES

Trails are marked and maintained by the park. Routes follow no formal trail and are not maintained. Visitors will need strong hiking and navigational skills to travel on Kluane's routes.

⇒EASY STROLLS

Rock Glacier Trail (0.5-2 hours)
Following boardwalks and rock-built pathways take you through wetlands, boreal forest and onto a rock glacier – eventually climbing to a beautiful view of Dezadeash Lake.

Dezadeash River Trail (1-2 hours)

This easy trail takes you through wetlands, meadows, and forest along the river. Benches and a wildlife observation platform are situated along the trail.

⇒DAY HIKES

St. Elias Lake Trail (2 - 4 hours)
A small lake nestled between mountains awaits you at the end of this trail. A primitive campground provides the option of an overnight trip.

Sheep Creek Trail (3-6 hours)

This trail climbs steadily to sub-alpine areas behind Tachal Dhal and offers views up the Ääy Chù (Slim's River) Valley.



Photo: YTG Gov't

Auriol Trail (4 - 6 hours)

From spruce and aspen forest, this loop trail climbs to the sub-alpine above Haines Junction. A primitive campground near the top can be used for overnight trips.



Photo: Yukon Gov't

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

✓**Stewardship - a shared responsibility**
This park is yours to discover and share. Whether you are picnicking at Kathleen Lake or climbing Canada's highest peak, you play an important role in maintaining the health of Kluane National Park and Reserve. Take only pictures, leave only footprints so those who follow may enjoy the same beauty that brought you here.

✓**The Southern Tutchone and the Land**

The park is found within the traditional territories of the Kluane First Nation and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. For these Southern Tutchone people, hunting and fishing spots, good campsites used by families for generations and places of historical significance form the basis of a deep relationship with this land. During your visit, you may encounter local First Nations people in pursuit of their traditional activities of hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering.



Elders Trudy and Grace setting a gopher snare.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Information on the park's natural and cultural history, services, trail and route descriptions, maps, fees, and much more is available:

- ⇒ on the park website www.pc.gc.ca/kluane
- ⇒ at the Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre in Haines Junction
- ⇒ at the Tachäl Dhäl Visitor Centre (summer season), or
- ⇒ by contacting the park:
Kluane National Park and Reserve
P.O. Box 5495, Haines Junction
Y0B 1L0, Canada
Phone (867) 634-7207 Fax (867) 634-7208
kluane.info@pc.gc.ca

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King's Throne Trail and Route (4-10 hours)
A climb up a rocky slope brings you to an alpine cirque offering a view of Kathleen Lake. Continuing past the cirque, along a ridge to the summit of King's Throne provides views of the icefields.

⇒MULTI-DAY HIKES AND ROUTES

Alsek River Valley Trail (1 - 3 days)
Positioned low in the valley, this old mining road takes you mostly through open terrain offering good wildlife viewing opportunities.

Ääy Chù (Slim's River) West Trail and Route (3-6 days)
Skirting the edge of the Ääy Chù (Slim's River), this trail provides access to a difficult route to the alpine plateau of Observation Mountain for a view of the Kaskawulsh Glacier.

Cottonwood Trail (4 - 6 days)

This trail travels through the boreal forest, across two alpine passes, through open meadows and along the edge of Kathleen Lake.

Dän Zhür (Donjek) Route (8 - 10 days)

Years of experience travelling in the wilderness and exceptional route-finding skills will allow you the opportunity to travel through the boreal forest, over alpine passes, beside the Donjek glacier, and along several waterways.

SAFETY

◆BE SELF SUFFICIENT

Be prepared to deal with emergencies. Assistance may be many kilometers and days away. Use of a map and compass is recommended in some areas. Do not rely on your cell/satellite phone to get you out of trouble. Coverage is variable throughout the park.

◆WILDLIFE

Use caution around all wildlife and do not stress them by getting too close. Wildlife may become aggressive if they feel their food, young or space is being threatened.



Photo: D.Morris

◆HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia occurs when more heat escapes your body than your body can produce. Even in the summer, this can be a life-threatening risk. Ask park staff or consult the website for information on how to prevent and recognize hypothermia.

◆WATER QUALITY

Avoid contracting water born diseases such as giardia by treating all drinking water you obtain in the park.

◆CREEK CROSSINGS

There are no bridges across most of the creeks and streams in the park. Water levels change dramatically throughout the summer and even over the course of a day. If a creek crossing appears to be difficult, do not attempt it. Consult park staff or the website for suggestions on how to cross creeks safely.

◆ANIMAL CARCASSES

If you encounter an animal carcass, note the location, leave the area immediately, and report it to park staff. The carcass may be the remains of an animal kill or remnants of a First Nation hunt.

LEAVE NO TRACE

✓**Plan Transportation**
Trailheads for park trails are situated along the Alaska and Haines highways and can be difficult to reach without a vehicle. Public transportation is not available in the area, and the nearest vehicle rentals are in Whitehorse.

✓**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
✓**Stay on the trail**
Avoid shortcutting between trail switchbacks as this damages both the soil and plant life, leaving the area more susceptible to erosion.

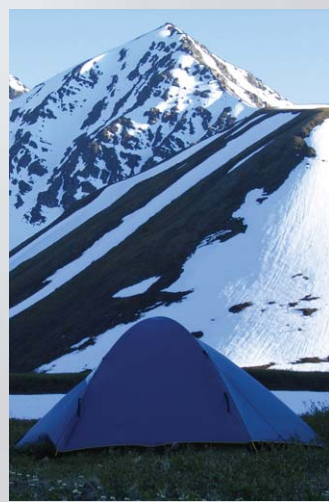


Photo: E. Hansen

✓**Campsites**
Good campsites are found not made. Keep campsites small and off the trails. Choose areas with good visibility and durability such as open areas on rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.



✓**Obey closures and camping restrictions**
Areas may be permanently or temporarily closed for safety or environmental reasons. Check at the visitor centres for more information.



Photo: A. Crawshaw

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

✓**Pack it in, Pack it out**
Pack out all trash and leftover food. Buried litter and leftover food will be easily discovered by wildlife.

✓**Solid human waste**
Use outhouses where they exist. Otherwise, choose a site at least 100 meters from water, camps and trails. Deposit and cover solid human waste in a hole deep enough that the next rain will not wash it away. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

✓**Grey water**
Whether washing yourself or your dishes, use and dispose of water at least 100 meters from streams or lakes. Avoid or minimize the use of any type of soap - even biodegradable soap is harmful to the natural environment.



Photo: Yukon Gov't

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

✓**Honour the past and future**
Leave cultural and natural artefacts for others to discover and enjoy. If you find an artefact, please note the location, leave the artefact in place and notify park staff. It is illegal to remove or damage anything that is part of the natural ecosystem or cultural heritage of the park.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

✓**Stoves and Campfires**
Use a lightweight stove for cooking. If you must have a campfire, check that there is no fire ban. Keep it small using only "dead and down" sticks that can be broken by hand. Leave no trace of your fire. Where no fire ring exists, burn to ash and bury the ashes.

Forest Health

While spruce beetles occur naturally in Kluane, the number of trees killed by a recent beetle outbreak and the resulting heightened fire risk is unprecedented. Never leave a campfire unattended and extinguish it completely before departing. Parks Canada is currently establishing ways to safely restore and maintain the park's fire-adapted boreal forests.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

✓**Bears**
To avoid startling a bear, make noise while hiking, stay alert, keep your camp clean, and keep pets on a leash. Read *You are in Bear Country*, and *How you can stay safe in Bear Country*, watch *Staying Safe in Bear Country* (all available at the park visitor centre) and consult with park staff for more information.

✓**Wildlife viewing**

Your interactions with wildlife have lasting impacts. To observe wildlife in their natural state, use binoculars or spotting scopes from a distance, and never follow or approach them.

✓**Pets**

Pets must be kept on a leash at all times in the park. Your pet may be happier if left at home. Unrestrained pets may harass other visitors, wildlife and provoke animal attacks.



Bear Proof Canister

✓**Food**

Never feed wildlife and always keep food and garbage stored where animals cannot access it. Never leave a pack with food unattended. To reduce bear-human encounters, the use of bear resistant canisters is mandatory in certain areas and recommended in all areas. These are available for loan upon registration (deposit required).

LEAVE NO TRACE



Photo: A. Crawshaw

✓**Plan Ahead and Be Prepared**
✓**Select a trip which suits your group**
Consider your experience, equipment, interests, and time available. Consult park staff for advice.

✓**Register prior to your departure**
For your safety, and to help maintain the wilderness nature of the park, you must register at one of the park visitor centres before and after an overnight trip into the park. Fees apply. Trail conditions and weather reports are available.

✓**Fishing Permits**
A Kluane National Park and Reserve fishing permit is required to fish in the park. Permits may be purchased from the visitor centres, and from some local businesses. Help protect fish populations by respecting fishing regulations.

✓**No firearms**
Only Southern Tutchone people whose traditional territory lies within park boundaries and who are engaged in subsistence hunting may carry firearms outside a vehicle.

✓**Topographic Maps**
Many trails and most routes require the use of topographic maps. Trail and route descriptions found on the website detail which maps cover a particular area. Maps are available at the visitor centres in limited supply.