

Mountain Wilderness Alaska Highway - Wildlife Goldrush History

Discover the vast, untouched wilderness of the Yukon and Alaska via the famous Alaska Highway, returning through the spectacular Inside Passage to Vancouver Island and onto Vancouver. Wildlife sightings are highlights together with the history of the Alaska Highway and the Gold Rush.

Option: RV rental in Calgary or Edmonton, Alberta. Link up with Day 3.

Note: Ensure that the Alaska and BC Ferry schedules and reservations are confirmed prior to building the rest of the trip.

Follow Itinerary 1 Vancouver to Prince George.

ITINERARY AT-A-GLANCE

- Prince George Dawson Creek Fort Nelson
- Muncho Lake Watson Lake Whitehorse
- Dawson City Tok Fairbanks Beaver Creek
- Skagway Alaska State Ferry System
- Prince Rupert BC Ferries Port Hardy
- Nanaimo Vancouver

NORTHERN British Columbia

ALASKA HIGHWAY, YUKON, ALASKA, Inside passage

18 Days PLUS 2 Days (Vancouver - Prince George)

DAY 1 & 2

Prince George to Dawson Creek:

406km/244mi

Prince George, the largest city in Northern British Columbia, offers the amenities of a city centre, while offering instant access to nearby wilderness and outdoor activities. From Prince George, head north to Chetwynd. Stop to see the impressive collection of more than 50 chainsaw carvings. Continue on Hwy 97 to Dawson Creek, "Mile O" of the historic Alaska Highway. Allow enough time to explore the Alaska Highway House for an introduction to the highway's fascinating history. Day trip from Dawson Creek to explore the Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark and see the Dinosaur Discovery Center Continue on Hwy 29 to Hudson's Hope to visit the WAC Bennett Dam — the largest dam of its kind producing about 25% of BC's power. Overnight Dawson Creek – 2 nights.

DAY 3

Dawson Creek to Fort Nelson:

460km/276mi

Start your journey on the famous Alaska Highway towards the Yukon and Alaska —this 2,395-kilometre (1,488-mile) historical highway borders some of the world's last untouched wilderness. Admire Kiskatinaw Bridge a side trip just north of Dawson Creek — one of the largest curved wooden bridges in the world. Stop at the welcoming visitor centre in charming Taylor or lunch Fort St. John and visit the North Peace Fort St John Museum. In Fort Nelson (Mile 300 of the Alaska Highway) visit the Fort Nelson Heritage Museum. Fort Nelson is the gateway to the vast Muskwa-Kechika

Management Area —the "Serengeti of the North" —known for its unspoiled wilderness and prolific wildlife.

Overnight Fort Nelson.

DAY 4

Fort Nelson to Muncho Lake: 190km/114mi

This drive features some of the most beautiful scenery in the province. Stone Mountain Provincial Park offers breathtak-ing views and remarkable wildlife-viewing opportunities, as well as a wide range of recreational activities including hiking trails that are suitable for most hikers. Stop for lunch at the fantastic waterfront wilderness lodge at Muncho Lake Provincial Park—the lake is tinted jade green by copper oxide leeching out of the lake bedrock. Guided tours into the backcountry include fishing, boating and hiking.

Overnight Muncho Lake.

DAY 5

Muncho Lake to Watson Lake:

215km/130mi

Located 60 km north of Muncho Lake, Liard River Hot Springs Park offers a welcome break for the Alaska Highway traveller. The boardwalk trail, that passes through a unique wetlands environment and boreal forest, leads to Canada's second largest hot springs. Continuing north, watch for herds of Wood Bison grazing along the roadway. Cross the BC border into the Yukon at Mile 620 and stop at the Sign Post Forest which displays thousands of signs from all over the world.

Overnight Watson Lake, Yukon Territory.

ITINERARY

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALASKA HIGHWAY, YUKON, ALASKA, INSIDE PASSAGE

DAY 6

Watson Lake to Whitehorse:

453km/272mi

At Watson Lake see the Northern Lights Discovery Centre — a unique experience that allows visitors to learn more about the famous aurora borealis (northern lights). The Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre is a must see. Whitehorse, the entertainment and service hub of the Yukon, showcases attractions such as the SS Klondike Sternwheeler, the McBride Museum and The Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre. Explore the many art galleries, quirky restaurants and gift shops. Overnight Whitehorse.

DAY 7

Whitehorse to Dawson City:

535km/321mi

Dawson City was founded during the world-famous Klondike Gold Rush when gold-seeking pioneers flooded into the area to make their fortune in the Klondike gold fields. The city still has the look of the gold rush days. Experience these days on a tour of the gold fields and mines. Overnight Dawson City.

DAY 8

Dawson City to Tok, Alaska:

181km/109mi

From Dawson City drive the Top of the World Highway into Alaska. Check road conditions and allow for the short ferry crossing from Dawson City. Tok is known as the "Dog Capital of Alaska," with a heavy influx of both breeders and mushers (dog sledders). Overnight Tok.

DAY 9

Tok to Fairbanks:

350km/210mi

Drive from Tok to Delta Junction, the official end of the Alaska Highway. Overnight Fairbanks.

DAY 10

Fairbanks

Sights include the replica Gold Rush street at Pioneer Park, Pioneer Museum and a half-day cruise on the Discovery III Riverboat. Denali National Park is also just a short drive, where you can witness the splendour of Mt. McKinley and enjoy bus tours into the park or backpacking adventures. Overnight Fairbanks.

DAY 11

Fairbanks to Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory:

530km/318mi

Beaver Creek is very isolated and the most westerly settlement in Canada; it serves mainly as a service area for the Alaska Highway. Overnight Beaver Creek.

DAY 12

Beaver Creek to Skagway, Alaska:

611km/367mi

Skagway enjoys a rich gold rush past and is often called the gateway to the Klondike. If time allows, add another day in Skagway and take the White Pass Rail tour a spectacular three hour journey and engineering feat. Overnight Skagway.

DAY 13 & 14

Skagway to Prince Rupert via Alaska Marine Hwy

The Alaska State Ferry system is an extensive network linking communities together. A trip on the ferry is an adventure itself allowing trav-ellers to

reconnect with BC in a relaxing way. Overnight Prince Rupert.

DAY 15 & 16

Prince Rupert

Aside from being a renowned fishing town, Prince Rupert is home to the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. Bear viewing is best until August - after August, humpback whale watching is at its prime. Visit The Museum of Northern BC, The North Pacific Historic Fishing Village -a National Historic Site and Cow Bay, the main tourist area on the waterfront. Overnight Prince Rupert - 2 nights.

DAY 17

Prince Rupert to Port Hardy/

BC Ferries: 507km/314mi

Early morning departure to spend the day (15 hours) enjoying the scenic Inside Passage that winds its way through the coastal Great Bear Rainforest, on its way to Port Hardy. Watch for breaching whales and appreciate the scenic fjords. Overnight Port Hardy.

DAY 18

Port Hardy to Vancouver:

410km/246mi

Port Hardy is known for its Aboriginal shops and art galleries. Grizzly bear viewing trips are available to nearby Knight Inlet. Head south on Hwy 19, stopping in Comox, Qualicum Beach or Parksville for lunch then continuing on to Departure Bay in Nanaimo to connect with BC Ferries to Vancouver. Overnight Vancouver.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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