Welcome to Skagway

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska. 2001 is a particularly auspicious year in the history of the park since June 30 will mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the park. On that date, President Gerald R. Ford created the park by signing a bill sponsored by two prominent Alaskans, Senator Ted Stevens and Congressman Don Young. During the past quarter century, the park has been a major player in a community enterprise to restore historic buildings and educate the public about the significance of the 1898 gold rush. In the process, the town has been revitalized as an attractive visitor destination by those seeking tangible evidence of Alaska’s frontier heritage.

The Stampeders of 1898 had many complex steps in a long and difficult journey to the Klondike. For most, Seattle was an important transportation nexus where gold-seekers boarded ships for the voyage to Alaska. Today, the Seattle unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park commemorates the important contributions that city made to the quest for the Klondike. Upon reaching Alaska, those bound for the Klondike gold camps either disembarked at Skagway prior to crossing the White Pass or at Dyea to follow the Chilkoot Trail into Canada. In addition to the historic district of Skagway, White Pass, Dyea, and the Chilkoot Trail are important components of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park today. The Chilkoot Trail, jointly managed by the US National Park Service and Parks Canada, still thrills modern hikers with beautiful panoramas, steeply pitched inclines, and numerous artifacts discarded by the weary Stampeders during their arduous trek to the Klondike. (Please help us preserve those valuable artifacts by leaving them in place.) Trail hikers also discover that the park is not just about history, but also includes a treasure trove of plants, wildlife, and other natural features contained within a temperate rainforest ecosystem.

Please have a safe and enjoyable visit in Skagway and take advantage of the opportunity to visit other spectacular national parks in Alaska and throughout the nation.

—Bruce Noble
SUPERINTENDENT, SKAGWAY UNIT
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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Skagway, Gateway to the Klondike Page 4
The Last Great Adventure

The last grand adventure of the 19th century began August 14, 1896 on a small stream in the middle of the vast Canadian Yukon wilderness when gold was discovered on Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River. Skookum Jim, the Tagish Native who had led Captain William Moore over White Pass from Skagway nine years before, was the first to locate the yellow metal that started the stampede.

Jim and his companions Dawson Charley and George Carmack spent the next two days investigating the creek. After staking their claims, Carmack headed downstream to Fortymile to register them with Canadian officials. Word of their discovery spread like wildfire. Within a fortnight, the creek of discovery spread rapidly up and down the Yukon Valley and by Christmas most of the miners already in the region had deserted their diggings and converged on the Klondike and its tributaries.

Word to the Outside leaked out more slowly and the coming of winter made communications exceedingly difficult for the next eight months. However, in mid July “Klondike Fever” struck the Outside world with full fury when two steamships loaded with Klondike gold reached the West Coast. The S.S. Excelsior arrived in San Francisco on the evening of July 14th; the S.S. Portland pulled into Seattle on the morning of July 17th, 1897. Klondike miners on the two ships brought with them over three tons of gold. "GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!" screamed the headlines, and the world went mad over the news. Millions dropped every­thing to rush to a region that few had ever heard of and only a handful really knew.

Klondike gold fired the imagination of a restless western world. Weared by economic depression, unsettled by industrialization and urbanization, and struggling with the social unrest caused by massive immigration to the new world, the Klondike gold offered escape, a place where individuals could regain an identity lost in the anonymous hordes in factories and cities, and a place where people could gain the means for a better life.

Everyone who went north was changed by the journey. Whether their dreams were ended in a pile of sodden supplies sold at a loss in a rainy forest on the Alaskan coast, or whether they struggled all the way to the goldfields only to find that all the good claims had already been staked, all were transformed by the experience. They were changed by the hard, physical work of hauling gear through rugged mountain passes in the depth of a northern winter. They were changed by the overwhelming sense of awe inspired by a great and rugged land.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park offers many programs, activities and opportunities to learn about the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98, and to appreciate Skagway and the gold rush country. Here are the activities provided daily:

- Visitor Center open May 7-September 26, 8am-6pm in May and September; 8am-5pm in June, July, and August
- Visitor Information
- Exhibits and Museum
- Chilkoot Trail video
- Orientation Film— Days of Adventure Dreams of Gold at 8, 9, and 11am, 12, 1, 2, 4, and 5 (6 and 7pm)
- Ranger Presentations at 10am and 3pm

If you Only Have A Little Time

Skagway is a very busy place in the summer with lots of activities for everyone. Visitors usually find out quickly that there is just too much to do in one visit, so we've decided to suggest some ways you still get the highlights of a visit to Skagway and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, even if you only have a short time.

**Two Hours**

1. Go to the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Center at Broadway and Second Avenue and watch the free 30 minute film, Days of Adventure Dreams of Gold to learn what the rush was all about;
2. Visit the park Museum and see what the stampeders had to do to get to the gold fields.

**Park Activities**

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park offers many programs, activities and opportunities to learn about the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98, and to appreciate Skagway and the gold rush country. Here are the activities provided daily:

- Visitor Center open May 7-September 26, 8am-6pm in May and September; 8am-5pm in June, July, and August
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- Ranger Presentations at 10am and 3pm

**Gold Rush Timeline**

- August 16, 1896 Gold discovered on Rabbit (later Bonanza) Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River, by "Skookum" Jim, Dawson Charley, and George Washington Carmack.
- Fall of 1896 Rush for the Klondike begins for within northern Canada and Alaska.
- July 14, 1897 S.S. Excelsior lands in San Francisco with 68 miners who held gold by three feet and struck it rich in the Klondike gold fields.
- Fall of 1897 "Stampeders" rush to the towns of Skagway and Dyea. Skagway's population swells from 3 to 5,000 in one month.
- Winter, 1897-98 An estimated 20,000 stampeders spend the winter at Bennett, and 10,000 at Linderman, building boats and waiting for the Yukon River to thaw and break up.
- May 29, 1898 Yukon River breaks up. Within 48 hours, 7,124 vessels leave Dyea and 1,000 gold seekers leave Dawson. 550 miles away.
- Summer 1898 An estimated 40,000-50,000 people arrive at Dyea and waiting for the Klondike gold fields.
- August 1898 Most stampeders give up and head for home after finding all the gold-bearing lands have been claimed. The next gold rush to Atlin, British Columbia, begins.
- Fall of 1898 First gold rush to Nome begins, signaling the final end of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Come and see my trained trout.

Martin Itjen

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Eight Hours

1. Do everything on the 2 hour list plus:
2. Go on a ranger-led walking tour of the Skagway Historic District or hear a ranger presentation in the Park Visitor Center;
3. Visit the City Museum at Seventh Avenue and Spring;
4. Visit the Moore Homestead at Fifth and Spring and learn about the founding of Skagway and early Skagway society.

**Four Hours**

1. Do everything on the 2 hour list plus;
2. Go on a free ranger-led walking tour of the Skagway Historic District or hear a ranger presentation in the Park Visitor Center;
3. Visit the City Museum at Seventh Avenue and Spring;
4. Visit the Moore Homestead at Fifth and Spring and learn about the founding of Skagway and early Skagway society.

**Eight Hours**

1. Do everything on the 4 hour list, plus:
2. — Go on a 2-1/2 hour motorboat over White Pass, or
   — Go on a 3-1/2 hour train trip over White Pass, or
   — Go to Dyea and join an NPS ranger on a Dyea Townsite tour, or
3. — Go on an excursion into the countryside by airplane, helicopter, vehicle, raft, bicycle, horse, or hiking trail.
Skagway - Gateway to the Klondike

Skagway exploded into prominence in July 1897 when news of the Klondike Gold Rush reached the outside world. Within months of the announcement, gold rush ships appeared in Sitka and Skagway, spreading the news of a huge strike in the Yukon territory. The news of the Klondike Gold Rush reached the outside world. Within months of the announcement, gold rush ships appeared in Sitka and Skagway, spreading the news of a huge strike in the Yukon territory. The news of Klondike gold ended the area's tranquility and hopeful stampeders quickly headed north. The trail was opened to whites for the first time in 1880. Following his dreams, Captain Moore and his son J. Bernard established a homestead in the Skagway Valley in 1887. For a decade, a growing number of gold prospectors followed Moore's lead over the White Pass, but the Captain's dreams turned to reality in July 1897, after he had finished a small wharf, a sawmill, and had blazed a trail to the summit.

Most of the gold rush mob had no intention of staying for long, and hopeful stampeders quickly headed north. The local merchants were just as mobile, and when the ice broke on the Canadian lakes in late May 1898, many of them headed over the passes and on to Dawson. Skagway's deep water and the completion of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway provided the stability Skagway needed to survive. Dyea, however, died a quick death because it lacked a good harbor and an easy passage over the Coast Mountains. Although the Klondike Stampedes quickly fizzled, Skagway has remained the gateway to the Klondike and the rest of the Yukon.

Dyea - Start of the Chilkoot

For ten years before the Klondike Gold Rush, the Chilkoot Trail was an important travel route connecting the coastal Tlingits with interior Athapaskan peoples. The trail was open to whites for the first time in 1880. As the number of non-Natives on the trail increased, the Tlingits started a lucrative packing business. In the early 1880s only a trading post served Dyea, and in 1887, the population had grown to 138. In 1895 a thousand stampeders headed for the Chilkoot Pass, and a post office was established the next year.

A Ton of Goods

Seattle merchants were quick to discover that there was much, and sometimes more money to be made by outfitting Klondikers as there was in digging gold out of the frozen Yukon muck. Because food supplies in the Yukon were limited (and toward the end of winter could not be bought for any amount of money), the North West Mounted Police refused to allow anyone into Canada unless he carried a year's supply of food and equipment. A year's "outfit" might range from $300 to $2,000, depending on how much an individual wanted to spend and how much cash he had on hand. Most of the money went to Seattle businessmen, and less than two weeks after the Portland docked, Seattle merchants had already sold an estimated $325,000 worth of goods, and the miners were still lining up at the doors.

Though it is impossible to provide a complete inventory of the typical miner's outfit, the following listing and the accompanying illustration will convey some idea of the type and amount of food, clothing and equipment the stampeders carried with them into the goldfields.
Hiking the Chilkoot Trail

The Chilkoot Trail is one of only three glacier-free corridors between Juneau and Yakutat in Southeast Alaska. The challenging 33-mile trail is accessible only by foot, and in 1897-98 served as the pathway for over 20,000 stampers through the Coast Range to the gold fields of the interior. The three to five day trek begins in the lush vegetation of the Pacific Coast Rainforest in Dyea, continues over the daunting 3,525’ Chilkoot Pass via the “Golden Stairs,” and ending in Canada’s Boreal Forest at Lake Bennett. From the beginning of the hike to the trail’s end at the historic Bennett Railroad station, hikers encounter historic artifacts, splendid scenery, and bountiful wildlife. Camping areas have been designated and developed at historic townsite locations and contain facilities such as warming/cooking shelters, food storage devices, tent pads, and pit toilets. Each year more than 3,000 hikers experience the natural splendor of Alaska’s Coast Range.

Before You Hike the Chilkoot Trail

GET A PERMIT at the Trail Center. Parks Canada administers the joint reservation and permit system; user fees apply: $35.00 CDN. per Adult or $17.50 CDN. per Child (6-15 years old).

A reservation fee of $10.00 CDN. per person is also collected.

Make reservations by calling Parks Canada at: 867-667-3910, or toll free 1-800-661-0486 (from Canada & U.S. mainland)
www.parkscanada.pch.gc.ca

READ THE HIKER’S GUIDE TO THE CHILKOOT TRAIL. Available at the National Park Service Visitor Center Information desk.

For a trail preview, watch the 13-minute video Chilkoot Trail video shown at the National Park Visitor Center at 2nd and Broadway.

Make reservations by calling Parks Canada at:
867-667-3910, or toll free 1-800-661-0486 (from Canada & U.S. mainland)
www.nps.gov/klgo/home.htm.

LEAVE NO TRACE—USE GOOD JUDGEMENT—ENJOY YOUR HIKE

A Klondike Book List

The Klondike Stampede, by Tappan Adney. Chronicles the gold rush through the eyes of an experienced and competent journalist.

The Klondike Fever, The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush, by Pierre Berton. The definitive account, written by one of Canada’s greatest historians.

The Klondike Quest, A Photographic Essay, 1897-99, by Graham Wilson. The great stampede as it appeared to the ordinary gold seeker.

Skookum Stories of the Chilkoot and Dyea Trail, by Frank Norris and David Neufeld. History of the trail and the First Nations people and stampers who used it.

Diaries of the son of Skagway’s founder.

Skagway In Days Primeval, by Howard Clifford. A history of Skagway and some of the people who made the history.

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 forests where silence has lease;
It’s the beauty that fills me with wonder,
It’s the stillness that fills me with peace.

Tappan Adney

Robert Service

CHILKOOT TRAIL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Before leaving Skagway for the Chilkoot trailhead in Dyea, be sure you have everything you will need to complete your hike safely. There are no stores, services or telephones in Dyea or along the trail. Early season hikers (<June 15) may require additional equipment, e.g., snowshoes, shovel, avalanche transceiver, etc. For a complete listing of necessary equipment, refer to the Hiker’s Guide to the Chilkoot Trail and the park website at www.nps.gov/klgo/home.htm.

Sending mail is impractical; it’s better to have it with you. The Skagway Post Office and Canada Post Office are open daily.

You can write 50-100 letters to family and friends during your trip. Mail is collected at the Chilkoot Trail video shown at the National Park Visitor Center at 2nd and Broadway.

The Klondike Story, by Howard Clifford. A history of Skagway and some of the people who made the story.

One Woman’s Gold Rush, by Cynthia Brackett

Driscoll. Snapshots of Skagway, the Brackett Wagon Road and Atlin Trail in 1889-99.

The Spell of the Yukon and Other Verse, by Robert Service. Unforgettable images of the land up yonder and the spell of the Yukon.

The Spell of the Yukon and Other Verse, by Robert Service.
Part of the National Park Service's Congressional mandate was to purchase and restore historic structures in Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and tell the stories behind them, the characters, and the events of that time that present the spirit and flavor of the Klondike stampede and the subsequent economic decline, many gold rush era buildings were abandoned and later demolished. Many other buildings were threatened.

Local efforts to create a national park began in the early 1930s but failed. However, national sensitivity for historic preservation was developing and in 1935 and 1966 Congress passed legislation calling for the identification, protection, and enhancement of historic properties. The Skagway and White Pass National Historic Landmark was designated on June 13, 1962. This enabled local property owners to obtain federal and state historic preservation loans, grants, and tax relief. Buildings along Broadway were repainted, shops were reopened, and a city museum was established.

In 1969, the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway donated its old Broadway Depot and General Office buildings to the National Park Foundation, who held the property until 1976 when Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was created by the US Congress. The park was dedicated in 1977, and park staff was hired and land and 15 buildings purchased.

Historians, Archeologists, Historical Architects, Museum Curators and a construction staff all worked hard to preserve these buildings. In all, the NPS has invested over $20 million on these properties. Restoration of the buildings was completed in 2000. These buildings are now used for museums, exhibits, offices and staff housing, and eight are leased to private interests for compatible commercial purposes under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Annual lease payments help offset the costs of painting, repairing, and maintaining these and other historic buildings in the park. The Historic Building Leasing Program is now in its fifteenth year of helping to preserve some fine old buildings while reducing the federal budget, and keeping the streets of Skagway just that much livelier! Look for the brass plaques near the entrances describing the construction date and original use.

Historic Preservation and Restoration

Opened in 1898, the Mascot Saloon was one of eighty saloons then in Skagway. In 1899 the imposition of a $1,500 license fee closed most of Skagway's saloons, but the Mascot's new owners paid the fee and expanded their popular business. The Mascot offered cigars, a club, broom, locally brewed pilsner beer, and free foods. The Skagway Daily Alaskan newspaper describes fights, drawn pistols, and broken windows at the Mascot.

The Mascot remained prosperous even after the gold rush. However, the prohibition movement gained strength and a new Skagway law banned the sale of all but medicinal alcohol. On August 21, 1916 the Mascot Saloon closed for good. It soon reopened as a drug store, specializing in cough syrup and operating into the 1940s. The National Park Service acquired the Mascot in 1976 when Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was established.

The Mascot has been restored to its 1912 appearance when it was a fancier bar than most. The bottles on display are the brands distributed by the Mascot. Women and children were required to use a separate entrance and not allowed to socialize with the men at the bar. Cigars were sold from a glass case near the door.

Doors behind the bar led to the adjacent business and provided access to an area reserved for gambling. No chairs or tables were provided. Patrons had to stand to drink and socialize. A bar rail, brass spittoons, and bar towels were provided for customer use. A center for information and activities around Skagway, the Mascot also allowed weary stampeders to "flop" their bedrolls down on the floor to sleep before setting out on the trail.

Newspapers from Skagway and Seattle were read out loud at the bar so everyone knew the happenings of the day. Later, a telegraph line brought in news and sporting events to the bar patrons. The hot and spicy free lunches served to the customers attracted business and encouraged miners to drink.

National Park Service archaeologists have found many artifacts from the saloon, and some are displayed in exhibits there. You may take photographs in the Mascot, and we hope you enjoy the exhibits and the rest of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.
Partnering with the Park

Alaska is a naturally beautiful place. This beauty emerges from Alaska's extensive public lands—approximately 80% of the state. Shrinking government budgets make it harder and harder to offer services to the many visitors and neighbors of public lands in Alaska. At the same time, more people come every year increasing demand. Nonprofit organizations, such as the Alaska Natural History Association and the National Park Foundation, help fill these gaps and provide either direct services or vital support for ongoing educational experiences that people enjoy in our public places.

The Alaska Natural History Association is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to sharing the natural and cultural history of Alaska's amazing lands by:

- ENHANCING visitor experiences through information, exhibits and displays
- PUBLISHING books and other educational materials
- EARNING vital financial support for educational and scientific programs
- OPERATING over 50 bookstores in public land visitor centers

No matter where you live—no matter how often you visit—membership with the Alaska Natural History Association is a great way to show your passion and commitment to Alaska's parks, forests and refuges.

For more information contact:
Alaska Natural History Association
750 West Second Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
907.274.8440 www.alaskanha.org

Available from the Alaska Natural History Association Catalog

Look for these and other wonderful sources of information about the cultural history of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and Southeast Alaska in the Association's catalog and website:

- **Southeast Alaska Early Photographs of the Great Land**
  - Step back in time and experience historic Southeast Alaska in this collection of 125 archival photographs.
  - $12.95
  - ISBN 0-9681955-4-7

- **A Hiker's Guide to the Chilkoot Trail**
  - This new, full-color map and trail guide identifies and describes historic landmarks and provides hiking and camping information. Pre-produced by the Association with the National Park Service and Parks Canada.
  - English
  - ISBN 0-930931-95-1
  - French
  - $18.95
  - ISBN 1-05122-270-2

- **Children of the Gold Rush**
  - By Claire Lookabill Murphy and Jane L. Haigh. This charming book describes in individual stories, vintage photographs and historic memorabilia, what life was like for these indentured children in the early days.
  - $14.95
  - ISBN 1-57-965-257-0

- **The Klondike Gold Rush: Photographs from 1896-1899**
  - These 125 archival photographs document the Klondike Gold Rush and tell the day-to-day story of the rudimentary Stan­dley. This is the Official Book of the Klondike Gold Rush Centennial.
  - $9.95
  - ISBN 0-868

- **Hiking with Ghosts: The Chilkoot Trail, Then and Now**
  - Author Frances Backhouse and photographer Adrian Dorst hiked the ardu­ous 50-km Chilkoot Trail and wrote this book to share the natural beauty of spectacular mountain scenery while reflecting on the how the First Nations people used the trail before the Gold Rush.
  - $18.95
  - ISBN 0-930931-95-1

- **The Klondike Gold Rush: Photographs from 1896-1899**

- **Great Tales of the Gold Rush**

- **Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, Ketchikan**
  - (907) 228-6220

- **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, Juneau**
  - (907) 586-8800

- **Petersburg Visitor Information Center**
  - (907) 772-5934

- **National Cabin Reservation System**
  - http://www.reserveusa.com

- **Tongass National Forest website**
  - http://www.fs.fed.us/tongass

Thanks for choosing Skagway as a vacation desti­nation. Our little town offers many opportunities for exploration and experiences in an unmatched setting. But Skagway is much more than a summer place, with activities and events to help residents and visitors pass the time all year long.

In March, the annual Buckwheat Ski Classic finds Nordic skiers from Canada, Europe and America competing over a course designed for the lazy, the infirm and a few who are fast. Entrants choose from 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-kilometer trails, and the emphasis is just plain fun. Also in March, the Windfest Celebration is named for Skagway's famous winds, and offers the last "mostly locals" party before prepa­rations begin for the frastic summer season.

Skagway Welcomes You

In October you may want to consider our "Abduct and Release" paranormal symposium, when UFO investigators and leaders in the field of psychic phenomena convene to town.

In December, our traditional Victorian Yuletide is known throughout Alaska and the Yukon, and provides a great opportunity to start the Christmas season and get into the Christmas spirit. Come back to Skagway in the off-season! For more information contact the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau at POB 1025, Skagway, AK 99840 or call 1-888-762-1898.

Park Neighbors

**Tongass National Forest** is the largest in the nation with 17 million acres, or slightly larger than West Virginia. The Tongass is rich with magnificent scenery, vast forests and abundant natural resources. It is a land of mountains, glaciers, waterways and thousands of islands. The Tongass National Forest offers a broad range of recreational opportunities such as glacier helicopter flights, hunting, fishing, kayaking and other adventure sports. The Forest Service also offers access roads, 450 miles of trails, canoe routes, caves, camp­grounds, recreational cabins and Visitor Centers. The Forest Service also partners with the Alaska Marine Highway System ("ferries") to provide information and interpretation to passengers travelling along these "floating visitor centers."

**Alaska Public Lands Information contact:**

- **Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, Ketchikan**
  - (907) 228-6220

- **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, Juneau**
  - (907) 586-8800

- **Petersburg Visitor Information Center**
  - (907) 772-5934

- **National Cabin Reservation System**
  - http://www.reserveusa.com

- **Tongass National Forest website**
  - http://www.fs.fed.us/tongass

**While most of the Tongass is wild by any measure, Congress has designated 19 areas totaling 5.8 million acres as Wilderness, to be preserved forever. The Tongass also manages the wild and spec­tacular Admiralty and Misty Fiords National Monuments.**

Hundreds of species of terrestrial and marine wildlife, fish and shellfish abound, including bald eagle and brown bear. Visitors can experience close encounters with both black and brown bears at Pack Creek in Admiralty National Monument, Fish Creek near Hyder, and Anan Creek near Wrangell.
I 1887 Captain William Moore arrived in Skagway, then ascended and named the White Pass. He believed there would be a gold strike in the Yukon interior. He saw Skagway as the gateway for gold seekers arriving on steamships, then ascending the mountains over a trail he would build. He also saw the day when a railroad would be built over the steep continental mountains. Captain William Moore labored for a decade, building a wharf, sawmill, a trail, and he saw the railroad built. Also in 1887, Captain Moore and his son J. Bernard built the log cabin at 5th and Spring. They used the cabin only seasonally until 1896 when Bernard and his Native wife Klinget Say Yet, whom he called “Minnie”, moved in, installed a floor, doors and windows, and chinked the logs to keep the cold Skagway winds out. Inside they built crude furniture and covered the walls with newspapers of the late 1880s and 1890s, many of which can still be seen through the cabin windows. In the summer of 1897, Bernard and Minnie left Skagway in 1906, divorced, and rented the house to Herman and Hazel Kirmse. The Moores died outside Alaska, and after Herman died in 1912, Hazel purchased the house. Over the years, Hazel Kirmse and her children placed a fireplace in the parlor, widened doorways, and added a bathroom and indoor plumbing. However, underneath everything the original paint, wallpaper and siding were intact. Herman and Hazel Kirmse acquired the Moore house furnished, including an upright piano. Elinor Dusenbury, a friend of the Kirmses from Haines, often visited them in Skagway. On her visits in 1939, Elinor began composing the music that later became the music to the Alaska State Flag Song. This piano is on loan from the Alaska State Museum and on exhibit in the Moore house. The National Park Service purchased the house and cabin from the Kirmse in 1979, and in 1985 work began on the cabin to restore it to its 1904 appearance, the apex of the Moore’s work on the property. Restoration of the Moore House was begun in 1995 and completed in 1997 in time to mark its 100th anniversary. Portions of the interior of the home today are much as they were when the Moores lived there. Visit the restored Moore House at 5th Avenue and Spring Street to see how the family lived. A User Fee of $2 for adults and $1 for children and seniors is charged, and the facility is open daily from 10am-12pm and 1-5pm.

Canada’s National Parks and Historic Sites in Yukon are part of national system of heritage places offering unparalleled experiences and quality services. From the vibrant and colorful Klondike Gold Rush to the pristine wilderness of Kluane, national parks and national historic sites in the Yukon have it all! While traveling across the Yukon you will find one or more of our National Historic Sites along any major road. In Whitehorse be sure to visit the S.S. Klondike, a restored sternwheeler representative of steamers and other vessels that traveled the Yukon River since 1866. In Dawson City, take a guided tour of this historic townsite, visit the restored Moore House at 5th Avenue and Spring Street to see how the family lived.

Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park

When the commercial usefulness of the Chilkoot Trail ended with the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway in 1900, people began hiking the Chilkoot Trail solely for recreation. It was in the early 1960s that increased interest in the route caused Alaska prison inmates to be assigned the task of reopening it. Yukon Corrections started a similar trail project later in the decade. At the same time both the US and Canadian park services began work commemorating the Klondike Gold Rush at sites from Seattle to Dawson.

Work on a grand international historic park was seriously underway by the spring of 1968. The central feature of this park was the Chilkoot Trail and the gateway town of Skagway. By 1970 both countries had committed themselves to “the protection of the unspoiled and remarkable historic and scenic attractions of both [the US and Canadian] Trails by the acquisition of land from skyline to skyline on the Chilkoot Trail from Skagway to Bennett.” A joint effort for historic park development was maintained through the next three decades. Originally focused upon a shared signage and marking system, this fruitful cross-border partnership has expanded to include the coordination of public safety measures for hikers, a reservation system and a co-authored history of the trail. More recently, the US National Park Service and Parks Canada have cooperated in the establishment of a jointly staffed Trail Center in Skagway. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Bill Clinton proclaimed the international historical park in a joint statement on August 5, 1998 and a colorful, international ceremony held in Skagway, Alaska, aboard a historic train, and in Bennett, British Columbia, celebrated the achievement of Klondike Gold Rush International Historic Park. This is the world's only International Historical Park, truly “one-of-a-kind”.

The Moores – Skagway Pioneers

Herman and Hazel Kirmse acquired the Moore house and cabin from the Kirmses in 1979, and in 1985 work began on the cabin to restore it to its 1904 appearance, the apex of the Moore’s work on the property. Restoration of the Moore House was begun in 1995 and completed in 1997 in time to mark its 100th anniversary. Portions of the interior of the home today are much as they were when the Moores lived there. Visit the restored Moore House at 5th Avenue and Spring Street to see how the family lived. A User Fee of $2 for adults and $1 for children and seniors is charged, and the facility is open daily from 10am-12pm and 1-5pm.

Canadian Neighbors

Dredge No 4, the largest of its kind in North America, or better yet, go for tea and a chat with Martha Black at the Commissioner’s Residence. While Vuntut and Ivavik National Parks are remote and accessible by air only, Kluane offers spectacular roadside viewpoints, interpretive exhibits and trails. Be sure to visit the information centers in Dawson City, Haines Junction, and Whitehorse. Ask for a vacation planner to assist you in making the most of your visit. For more information contact Parks Canada, 300 Main Street, Room 205, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2B3, Telephone (867) 667-3910.

The Moores – Skagway Pioneers

Herman and Hazel Kirmse acquired the Moore house and cabin from the Kirmses in 1979, and in 1985 work began on the cabin to restore it to its 1904 appearance, the apex of the Moore’s work on the property. Restoration of the Moore House was begun in 1995 and completed in 1997 in time to mark its 100th anniversary. Portions of the interior of the home today are much as they were when the Moores lived there. Visit the restored Moore House at 5th Avenue and Spring Street to see how the family lived. A User Fee of $2 for adults and $1 for children and seniors is charged, and the facility is open daily from 10am-12pm and 1-5pm.
Welcome to Seattle

Welcome to the Seattle Unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, the starting point of the stampede to the Yukon's Klondike Gold Fields. The National Park Service is honored to play an important role in helping to protect the historic settings of the gold rush, the Pioneer Square Historic District and portions of Skagway, Alaska. We hope that you will take some time to enjoy the various programs at the park and all of the services Pioneer Square has to offer. This year we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the park and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the visitors, supporters, and friends who have made Klondike Gold Rush an important part of this community. The park ranger and staff are committed to the mission of the National Park Service in preserving the natural wonders and historic places of the United States for the public's enjoyment. Klondike Gold Rush is a special place that we hope you can enjoy and help us preserve for future generations.

Have a great experience at the park!
—Willie Russell
SUPERINTENDENT, SEATTLE UNIT
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Seattle Park Activities

From June 17 to September 3 the park offers several audiovisual and ranger-led programs. These programs tell the stories of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98.

Days of Adventure, Dreams of Gold (27 minutes) uses historic photographs to provide an overview of the Klondike Gold Rush. Narrated by Hal Holbrook, the program follows the stampede north to Skagway, then the arduous journey over mountain passes and down the Yukon River to Dawson City and the gold fields. Open captioned for the hearing impaired (10:30, 1:30, 3:30).

Seattle Gateway to the Goldfields (15 minutes) This slide program focuses on the role that Seattle and Pioneer Square played as the chief outfitting and transportation center during the Klondike Gold Rush. Historic and contemporary photographs help the visitor understand the pivotal role Seattle played in preparing the stampeders for their journey north (9:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30).

Hiking the Chilkoot Trail (15 minutes). For many of the stampeders headed to the Klondike Gold Fields, crossing the Chilkoot Pass was the defining experience of their journey. Today the Chilkoot is one of the most popular trails in Southeast Alaska. This slide program gives potential hikers a taste of what it is like to hike over this historic trail. Open captioned for the hearing impaired (12:00).

Gold Panning Demonstrations (15-20 minutes) illustrate historic prospecting techniques used by the stampeders in the Klondike gold fields (1:00, 3:00).

Walking Tours of Pioneer Square Historic District (60 minutes) Rangers take visitors on a stroll through the historic district, recounting the role that the neighborhood played in the development of early Seattle and the Klondike Gold Rush. The tour is wheelchair accessible (10:00).

Ranger Programs (25 minutes) are offered every day during the summer and tell stories of the people and events of the Klondike Gold Rush (11:30).

The park is located in historic Pioneer Square in downtown Seattle, accessible from Interstate 5 and Highway 99 and close to METRO bus routes and the waterfront trolley. Admission is free and open daily from 9:00 to 5:00. Street parking is available and is free on Saturdays and holidays. For more information contact Klondike Gold Rush NHP, 117 S. Main Street, Seattle WA 98104, or at (206) 553-7220 or visit our web sites www.nps.gov/klse and KLSE_Ranger_Activities@nps.gov.

Acknowledgements

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Working for the National Park Service

Every year, more than 270 million people from the United States and other countries visit national park areas. In the 16 national park areas in Alaska, visitors can float rivers, hike trails, be surrounded by Gold Rush and Russian-American history, explore rugged coastlines and learn about important parts of our American heritage. Serving these visitors, helping to protect park resources for the future and teaching the stories contained in national parks is a tremendously rewarding career choice. The National Park Service employs both a permanent and seasonal workforce of about 20,000 people in the 386 park units across the United States and in several central administrative offices.

In Alaska and elsewhere in the country, National Park Service positions include jobs such as rangers, biologists, archaeologists, engineers, administrative technicians, firefighters, managers, mechanics, pilots and education specialists. A similar variety of seasonal jobs are also filled each year, most often during the summer. There are also special programs for hiring high school and college students, and for volunteers.

Employment information for specific parks is available from the administrative staff at that park. For information on jobs around the country, the Park Service website http://www.nps.gov/personnel/index.htm is a good starting place. Seasonal employment application procedures are outlined at http://www.sep.nps.gov/.

What is a National Park?

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service, a new agency in the Department of the Interior, responsible for protecting the 40 national parks and monuments then in existence and those yet to be established.

The Service is mandated by the 1916 law “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The National Park System has grown to some 386 units with more than 83 million acres in 49 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. The first national park pre-dates the National Park Service. In 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park “as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”

The founding of Yellowstone began a worldwide national park movement. It has been said that the Constitution and the National Park System are America’s two greatest contributions to the world. Today more than 100 nations contain some 1,200 national parks or similar preserves.

Today’s national park system still contains famous “outdoor” parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite, but has grown to embrace the larger history of the United States with sites such as the birthplace and home of Martin Luther King Jr., the Statue of Liberty, the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and Thomas Edison’s laboratory.

Alaska contains two-thirds of the acreage of the National Park System, and includes the nation’s largest national park — Wrangell-St Elias — with about 13.2 million acres, or more than six times the size of Yellowstone. Alaska’s 15 park units also represent a great sweep of history, from archaeological sites in the Northwest that chronicle activities of North Americans from more than 10,000 years ago to the Russian colonial period at Sitka National Historical Park and the 1897-98 gold rush at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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