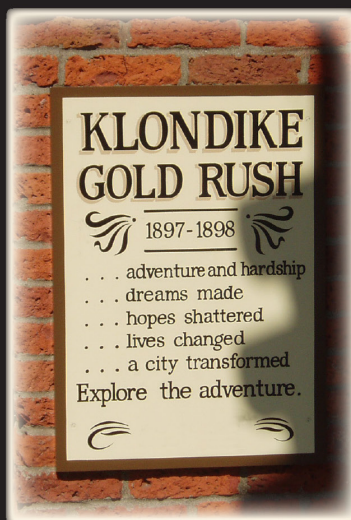




# Foundation Document Overview

## Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Alaska



### Contact Information

For more information about the *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Foundation Document*, contact: [klgo\\_ranger\\_activities@nps.gov](mailto:klgo_ranger_activities@nps.gov) or (907) 983-9200 or write to: Superintendent, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, P.O. Box 517, Skagway, AK 99840

## Purpose



*The purpose of KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is to preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, the historical structures, trails, artifacts and landscapes and stories associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.*



## Significance and Fundamental Resources and Values

**Significance statements** express why Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

**Fundamental resources and values** are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

**The Great Klondike Gold Rush:** Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park commemorates a great human drama that caught the attention of the world, and transformed the demographics, culture, and environment of Alaska and the Yukon.

- The Story Itself. . .and the Park's Capacity To Tell it
- Historic Integrity of Resources

**Ribbon of Sites:** Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park preserves an integral link in a ribbon of sites that connects the places, events, and resources of the Gold Rush, extending across the international border from Seattle to Dawson and beyond.

- Partners
- Ribbon of Sites
- Interpretation & Education



# Fundamental Resources and Values

**Explore the Past:** Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park provides outstanding and diverse opportunities for visitors to retrace the steps of the gold rush stampede, and in so doing, gain personal insight into the motivations, adversities, impacts and significance of the event.

- Skagway
- Dyea
- Chilkoot Trail
- Natural Setting
- Gold Rush Collections

**Historic Resource Preservation:** Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park fosters preservation of the resources within two National Historic Landmarks of two principal American boomtowns of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898, the most popular routes to the Klondike gold fields, and the most vivid reminders of the struggle and determination of the stampede.

- *In Situ* Artifacts & Archeological Resources
- Museum Collections
- The Scales and Golden Stairs
- Chilkoot Trail
- Dyea
- Skagway, Alaska
- White Pass Trail



**Natural Resources:** Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park fosters an understanding of the physical and biological processes, and associated unique flora and fauna of the Northern Lynn Canal, where subarctic, alpine, coastal, and boreal ecosystems converge within the Taiya and Skagway river valleys.

- Flora & Fauna
- Biogeography Gradient
- Dynamic Landscape



## Description

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was established on June 30, 1976, to preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, historic structures and trails associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. The park includes 13,191 acres in three units, Skagway, Dyea and Chilkoot Trail, and White Pass. It is the only NPS area authorized and established solely to commemorate an American gold rush.

In the late 1800s, gold was discovered in the Canadian Yukon, Klondike region, setting the stage for a great human drama that caught the attention of the world and transformed the demographics, culture, and environment of Alaska and the Yukon. From 1897-1898, tens of thousands of stampederers in search of gold swarmed to the gold fields through the small Alaskan cities of Skagway and Dyea. These gold rush boomtowns played a critical role in providing access to the goldfields of the Canadian interior via the White and Chilkoot Passes, and the upper Yukon River.

Relive the “Last Great Adventure” by visiting protected historical sites in Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory. In 1998 the international significance of the Klondike Gold Rush was officially recognized by Canada and the United States with the creation of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park. The site in Skagway, Alaska, represents the “Gateway to the Klondike” and preserves the setting of two Klondike Gold Rush boom towns and trails to the Yukon gold. Other units making up the international park include the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Seattle, Washington, and the Canadian parks. The Chilkoot Trail National Historical Site and Dawson Historical Complex National Historical Site make up two units in Canada.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Skagway is situated at the northernmost point of the Inside Passage in Southeast Alaska. Skagway can be reached by air with charter flights from Juneau and other southeast Alaska towns, by sea with daily trips in the summer by the Alaska State Ferry System, or land by accessing the Klondike Highway from Whitehorse Canada, although it requires international travel on the Alaska-Canadian Highway.

