



the Stampeders

VISITOR'S GUIDE

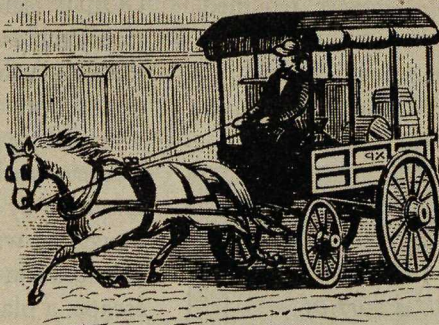
VOLUME 2, 2002



Welcome to Skagway

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska. Since its founding on June 30, 1976, this park has been a major player in a community enterprise to restore historic buildings and educate the public about the significance of the 1897-98 gold rush. In the process, the town has been revitalized as an attractive visitor destination sought out by those seeking a connection with Alaska's exciting frontier heritage.

The Stampeders of 1897-98 had many complex steps in a long and difficult journey to the Klondike. For most miners, the trip began in Seattle 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 Skagway Historic District, 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 U.S. 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.

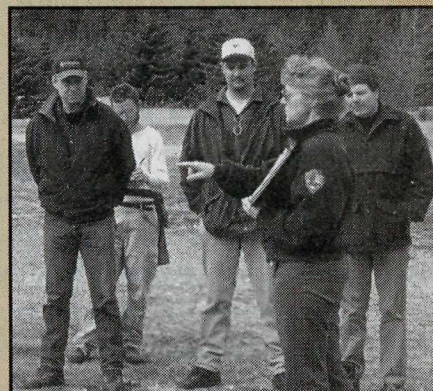
Please have a safe and enjoyable visit in Skagway and take advantage of the opportunity to visit other spectacular national parks in Alaska and throughout the nation.

—Bruce Noble

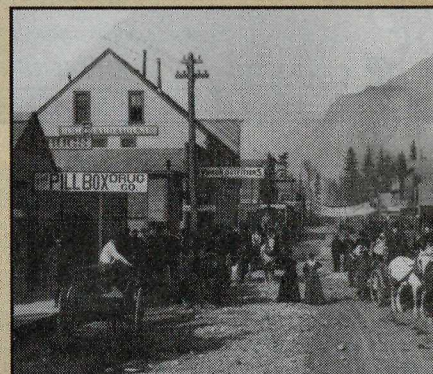
SUPERINTENDENT, SKAGWAY UNIT
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



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The Last Grand 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 Mason (Keish), 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 (Kaa Goox) and George Carmack spent the next two days investigating the creek. After staking their claims, Carmack and Charley headed downriver to Fortymile to register them with Canadian officials. Word of their discovery spread like wildfire. Within a fortnight, the creek of discovery, renamed Bonanza, was claimed from end to end, and a nearby stream was claimed and named Eldorado when its riches were revealed. Word of the 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 14; the S.S. *Portland* pulled into Seattle on the morning of July 17, 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 an area that few had even heard of and only a handful really knew.

Klondike gold fired the imagination of a restless western world. Wearied by economic depression, unsettled by industrialization and urbanization, and struggling with the social unrest caused by massive immigration to the new world, the Klondike 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. They were changed by exposure to the Native peoples. Success or failure, all were changed by their dream and the experience. The Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898 was truly the last grand adventure of its kind that the world will ever see.

The man who had a family to support who could not go was looked on with a sort of pity—The man who didn't care to leave his business or for other trivial reasons, was looked on with contempt as a man without ambition who did not know enough to take advantage of a good thing when placed within his reach; but the man who could go, and would go, and was going to the Klondike, the man who could not be stopped from going, by any means short of a wire cable anchored to a mountain, was a hero. He was looked up to; he was envied by everybody; he was pointed out in the streets.

J.E. Fraser

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 wild life 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 Vietnam 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.

Skagway was "little better than Hell on earth" and "about the roughest place in the world" —

Superintendent Sam Steele,
North West Mounted Police

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 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/>.

August 14, 1896

Gold discovered on Rabbit (later Bonanza) Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River, by "Skookum" Jim Mason, Dawson Charley and George Washington Carmack.

Gold Rush Timeline

Fall of 1896

Rush for the Klondike gold by those already within northern Canada and Alaska.



July 14, 1897

SS *Excelsior* lands in San Francisco with miners who had struck it rich in the Klondike gold fields.

Fall 1897

"Stampeders" rush to the towns of Skagway and Dyea. Skagway's population booms from 5 to 5,000 in one month.

Winter 1897 - Spring 1898

An estimated 20,000 stampeders at Bennett and 10,000 at Lindeman build boats and wait for the Yukon River to thaw and break up.

May 29, 1898

Yukon River breaks up. Within 48 hours, 7,124 vessels leave Bennett for Dawson, 550 miles away.

Summer 1898

An estimated 40,000-50,000 people arrive at Dawson and 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 1898

First gold rush to Nome begins, signaling the end of the Klondike Gold Rush.

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, the gold rush thrust Alaska and Skagway into the world's consciousness. Skagway, at the foot of one of these two best passes between the civilized world and the gold fields, became indelibly stamped with the madness of the gold rush.

Ten years earlier, the Canadian government had sent expeditions to explore the country and determine the boundary between the U.S. and Canada. William Ogilvie of the Geological Survey of Canada sent 65-year-old Captain William Moore and Skookum Jim, his Tagish Native guide to investigate, and they confirmed a lower but longer White Pass route over the mountains.

Moore believed it was only a matter of time before there would be a large gold strike in the Yukon interior. A visionary, Moore saw Skagway as the link for gold seekers disembarking from steamships and then ascending the



By Bailey with permission Cynthia Taylor

mountains. He foresaw the day when a wagon road and possibly a railroad would be built over the steep coastal mountains, and he lived to see his dream come true.

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 headed north into the Yukon each spring, mainly traveling the Chilkoot Trail, a route used by the Tlingit and Tagish people as a trading route for hundreds of years. Few followed Moore's lead over the White Pass, but the Captain's dreams turned into reality in July 1897, after he had finished a small wharf, a sawmill, and had blazed a trail to the summit.

The news of Klondike gold ended the area's tranquility as hundreds of thousands of stampedeers dropped everything and headed north. Unfortunately, the magnitude of the event caught Captain Moore by surprise, and within a few weeks after the arrival of the first ship of stampedeers, a miners' committee platted a townsite over Moore's homestead. The captain managed to save only five acres of his 160 acre homestead for himself. After a long legal battle we won 25% of the assessed valuation of the property that had been taken from him.

Meanwhile, Skagway had become a city overnight. The S.S. *Queen* discharged the first 200 stampedeers at Moore's Wharf on July 29, 1897. Within a month, the tent town had grown to around 6,000 people. Tents gave way to simple wood frame shacks and then hotels, offices, theaters, saloons, and stores. By early 1898, Skagway was proclaiming herself the "San Francisco of Alaska" with a population of around 10,000. Across the fjord, Dyea competed as the primary gateway to the Yukon country, reaching to around 6,000 people during the hectic winter of 1897-98.

Most of the gold rush mob had no intention of staying for long, and hopeful stampedeers 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 port 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 Stampede quickly fizzled, Skagway has remained the gateway to the Klondike and the rest of the Yukon.



Winter & Pond Alaska Historical Society

Dyea - Start of the Chilkoot

For hundreds of years before the Klondike Gold Rush, the Chilkoot Trail was an important trade and travel route connecting the coastal Tlingits with interior Athabascan peoples. The trail was opened 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; by 1887, the population had grown to 138. In 1895 a thousand prospectors hiked over the Chilkoot Pass, and a post office

was established the next year.

When word of the Klondike gold strike reached the Outside in July 1897, the majority of stampedeers headed for the Chilkoot Trail because it was the best known route to the gold fields. Dyea quickly became a bustling town around 6,000 people.

After a tragic avalanche on the Chilkoot Trail in April 1898 killed more than 60 people, thousands of stampedeers switched to the White Pass Trail. With the ending of the stampede in the summer of 1898 and the completion of the railroad from Skagway over White Pass, Dyea faded. The 1900 census reported only 250 people in Dyea. By 1902 the post office had closed, and a year later the town had only three residents.

In 1915, Harriet Pullen established a dairy farm in Dyea which supplied the Pullen Hotel in Skagway with fresh dairy products for two decades. After that, the land lay fallow until 1976 when Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was authorized and purchased most of Pullen's old farmstead.

Today the historic town of Dyea is a major archeological site with thousands of artifacts and hundreds of ruins spread throughout the area. Ranger-led walks through the Dyea townsite are offered daily at 2 p.m. from June 2 to September 6. Enjoy your walk through the past but please do not disturb or remove any artifacts.

A Ton of Goods

Seattle merchants were quick to discover that there was as 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/she 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 SS *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 stampedeers carried with them into the goldfields.

Food

- Bacon, 100-200 lbs.
- Flour, 400 lbs.
- Dried fruits, 75-100 lbs.
- Corn meal, 50 lbs.
- Rice, 20-40 lbs.
- Coffee, 10-25 lbs.
- Tea, 5-10 lbs.
- Sugar, 25-100 lbs.
- Beans, 100 lbs.
- Condensed milk, 1 case
- Salt, 10-15 lbs.
- Pepper, 1 lb.
- Rolled oats, 25-50 lbs.
- Butter, 25 cans
- Assorted evaporated meats and vegetables.



Equipment

- Stove
- Gold Pan
- Granite buckets
- Cups and plates (tin)
- Knives, forks and spoons
- Coffee/tea pot
- Picks and handles
- Saws and chisels
- Hammers and nails
- Hatchet
- Shovels
- Drawknife
- Compass
- Matches
- Small assortment of medicines

Clothing

- 1 heavy Mackinaw coat
- 3 suits heavy underwear
- 2 pairs heavy Mac trousers
- 1 dozen heavy wool socks
- 6 heavy wool mittens
- 2 heavy overshirts
- 2 pairs rubber boots
- 2 pairs heavy shoes
- 3 pairs heavy blankets
- 2 rubber blankets
- 4 towels
- 2 pairs overalls
- 1 suit oiled clothing
- Assorted summer clothing

Chilkoot Trail or White Pass Trail?

One man who had been upon both expressed himself thus,

Which ever way you go, you will wish you had gone the other.

Tappan Adney

Hiking the Chilkoot Trail

The Chilkoot Trail is one of only three glacier-free corridors to the interior between Juneau and Yakutat in Southeast Alaska. The challenging 33-mile trail is accessible only by foot. In 1897-98 it served as the pathway for over 20,000 stampeders 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 foot Chilkoot Pass via the "Golden Stairs," and ends 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 which 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, an award-winning publication produced by the Alaska Natural History Association in cooperation with Parks Canada and the National Park Service. Available at the National Park Service Visitor Center Information Desk (\$3.95). For a trail preview, watch the 13-minute Chilkoot Trail video shown at the National Park Visitor Center at 2nd and Broadway.

Public Archives of Canada

PLAN FOR YOUR RETURN from the trail. WP&YR train from Bennett. Local shuttle services available with prior arrangement from Dyea, Log Cabin or Fraser (see Trail Center).

READ THE CURRENT TRAIL REPORT Updated daily at the Trail Center, Visitor Center and Dyea Ranger Station.

SIGN THE CANADA CUSTOMS LOG at the Trail Center. Hikers are also required to check in with Canada Customs after departing the northern terminus of the trail. Southbound hikers must similarly report to U.S. Customs at the Skagway Port of Entry.

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 (before June 15) may require additional equipment, such as snowshoes, shovel, and an avalanche transceiver. 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.

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 Gold Rush - Photographs from 1896-99, by Graham Wilson. The great stampede as it appeared to the ordinary gold-seeker.

Chilkoot Trail, Heritage Route to the Klondike, by David Neufeld and Frank Norris. History of the trail and the First Nations people and stampeders who used it.

Skookum Stories of the Chilkoot and Dyea Trail, by the Carcross-Tagish First Nations. A depiction of the area's history and native culture, learned and passed on through storytelling.

Skagway in Days Primeval, by J. Bernard Moore. Diaries of the son of Skagway's founder.

The White Pass, by Roy Minter. Story of the construction and history of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway.

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

One Woman's Gold Rush, by Cynthia Brackett

Driscoll. Snapshots of Skagway, the Brackett Wagon Road and Atlin Trail in 1898-99.

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

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.

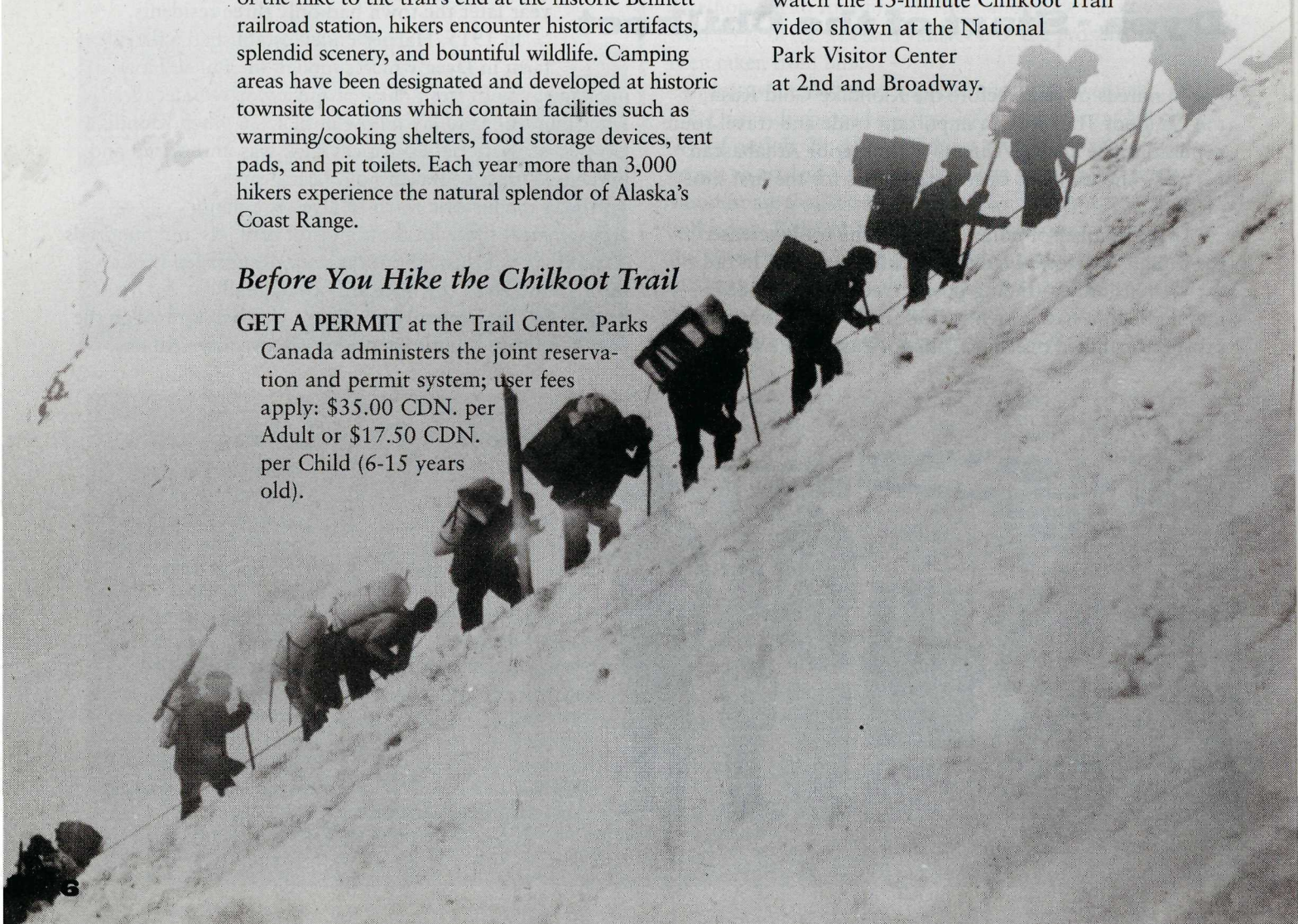
It's the great big broad land 'way up yonder,

It's the forests where silence has lease;

It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,

It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

Robert Service





Historic Preservation and Restoration



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 events of that time that present the spirit and flavor of the Klondike stampede.

In 1901, Ben Moore, son of Skagway founder Captain William Moore, set aside his father's cabin, the first structure in Skagway, "to preserve the building and contents in their entirety as a memento of the city." With the collapse of the stampede and the subsequent economic decline,

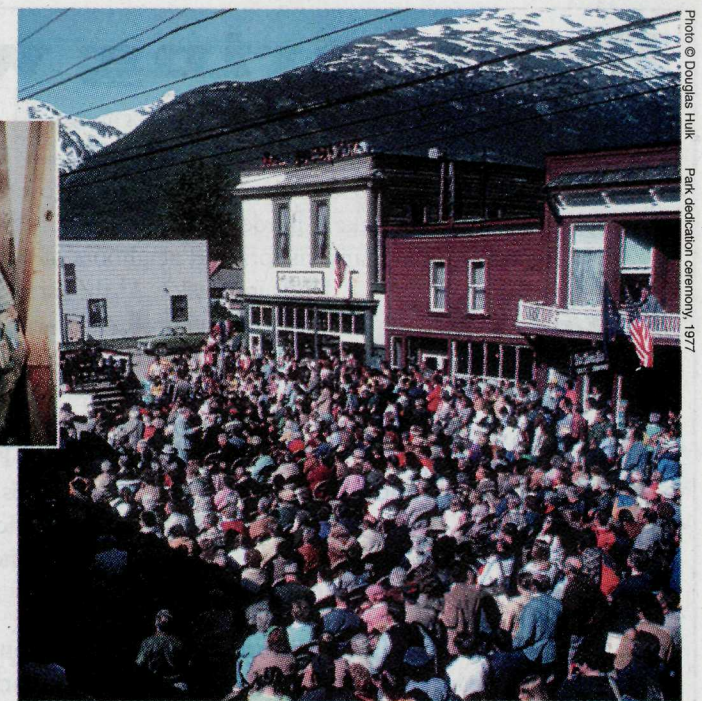
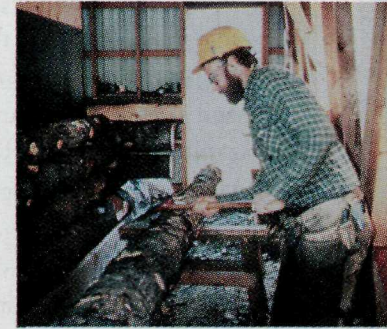
many gold rush era buildings were abandoned and later demolished. Many other buildings were threatened.

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, which held the property until 1976 when Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was created by the U.S. 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.



The Mascot Saloon

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 room, 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 authorized.

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.

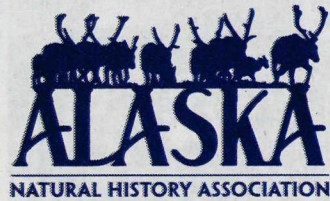
Newspapers from Skagway and Seattle were read out loud at the bar so everyone knew the happenings of the day. Later, a telegraph line brought in news and sporting events to the bar patrons. The hot and spicy free lunches served to the customers attracted business and encouraged miners to drink.

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. Non-profit 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 non-profit 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, including this Visitor's Guide
- EARNING vital financial support for educational and scientific programs
- OPERATING over 50 bookstores in public land visitor centers throughout Alaska

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

Toll-free 1-866-AKPARKS www.alaskanha.org

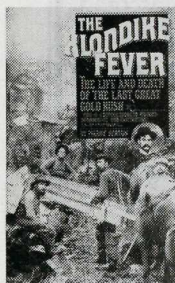
National Park Foundation

1101 17th Street NW, Suite 1102

Washington, D.C. 20036 www.nationalparks.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: www.alaskanha.org or call toll-free 1-866-AK PARKS or fax (907) 274-8343.



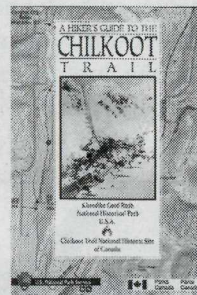
The Klondike Fever

By Pierre Berton

This thrilling story is at once first-rate history and first-rate entertainment. Incredible events occurred in North America after a steamboat docked at Seattle in 1897 containing two tons of pure gold. So frenzied was the dash for gold and so scant was information about conditions in the Klondike that the rush for riches became a kind of fabulous madness.

\$13.95

ISBN 0-88184-139-0

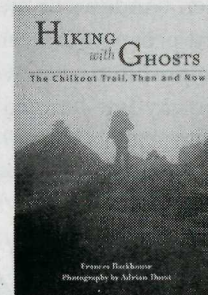


A Hiker's Guide to the Chilkoot Trail

This new, full-color map and trail guide identifies and describes historic landmarks and provides hiking and camping information. Produced by the Association with the National Park Service and Parks Canada.

\$3.95

English
ISBN 0-930931-35-1
French
ISBN 0-930931-36-X

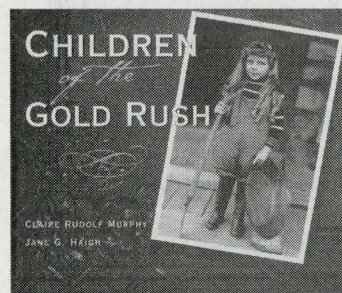


Hiking with Ghosts: The Chilkoot Trail, Then and Now

Author Frances Backhouse and photographer Adrian Dorst hiked the arduous 53-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 1-55192-276-2

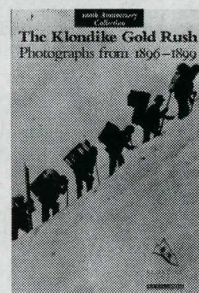


Children of the Gold Rush

By Claire Rudolph Murphy and Jane G. Haigh. This charming book describes in individual stories, vintage photographs and historic memorabilia, what life was like for these indomitable kids a century ago.

\$14.95

ISBN 1-57-98-257-0



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 ordinary stamper. This was the official book of the Klondike Gold Rush Centennial.

\$9.95

ISBN 0-9681955-0-4

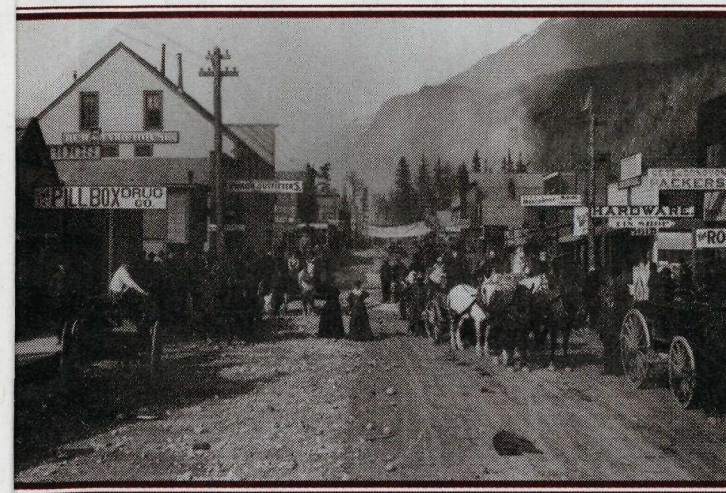


The Tlingit: An Introduction to Their Culture and History

This introductory book about the Tlingit Indians, written by Wallace M. Olsen, is extremely thorough. It covers the geography, origin, history, language, culture, beliefs, and art of the Tlingit. The book also contains charts, maps, illustrations and a recommended reading list for those who want to know more.

\$12.50

ISBN 0-9659009-0-8



The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Skagway Welcomes You

Thanks for choosing Skagway as a vacation destination. Our little town offers many opportunities for exploration and experiences in an unmatched setting. 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 frantic summer season.

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

In December, our traditional Victorian Yuletide, known throughout Alaska and the Yukon, 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. Website: www.skagway.org

There's the right way, the wrong way, and the Skagway.

—Anonymous

(The spectacle of Skagway) looked like "a nest of ants taken to a strange country and stirred with a stick."

—John Muir

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 stampede had to do to get to the gold fields.
- 3 Walk up and down *Broadway* and enjoy the historic architecture and shops.
- 4 Visit the restored *Mascot Saloon* at Broadway and Third. For other opportunities, stop at the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau, across the street from the Visitor Center.

Four Hours

- 1 Do everything on the two hour list.
- 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 to learn about the founding of Skagway and early Skagway society.

Eight Hours

- 1 Do everything on the four hour list, plus
- 2—Go to *Dyea* and join a Ranger on a Dyea Townsite tour, or
 - Go on a 2-1/2 hour motor tour over *White Pass*, or
 - Go on a 3-1/2 hour train trip over *White Pass*, or
 - Go on an excursion into the countryside by airplane, helicopter, vehicle, raft, bicycle, horse, or hiking trail.



The Moores - Skagway Pioneers

In 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 coastal mountains. Captain William Moore labored for a decade, building a wharf, a 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-sai-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 Moore began building the larger home now known as the Moore House. The home was built in stages around the cabin as the Moore family grew to include three children. A kitchen and porch were added, then a parlor. In 1900 the log cabin was moved west of the house, to be replaced with three new rooms.

Bernard Moore deliberately preserved the cabin because he believed in the importance of tourism for Skagway's future. In 1901, a Skagway newspaper wrote "The rooms still contain the old crude furniture...which Mr. Moore used during his first

years in Skagway, and he intends to preserve the building and contents in their entirety as a memento of the city."

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 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 10a.m.-5p.m.

Canadian Neighbors

Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites in Yukon are part of a 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 have traveled the Yukon River since 1866. In Dawson City, take a guided tour of the historic townsite,

visit 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 Ivvavik 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 2B5, Telephone 867-667-3910.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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. A colorful, international ceremony was held in Skagway, Alaska, aboard a historic train, and in Bennett, British Columbia, celebrating the achievement of Klondike Gold Rush International Historic Park. This is the world's only International Historical Park, truly "one-of-a-kind."

The poor ginks have just got to spend it, they're that scared they'll die before they got it all out of the ground.

Diamond Tooth Gertie

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. The park rangers 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



Unknown credit at present

Seattle Park Activities

From June 16 to September 2 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 (30 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 stampede for their journey north (9:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30).

Hiking the Chilkoot Trail (13 minutes). For many of the stampede 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 stampede 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 9:00a.m to 5:00p.m. Street parking is available and is free on Sundays and holidays. For more information contact Klondike Gold Rush NHP, 117 S. Main Street, Seattle WA 98104, or at (206) 553-7220 or visit www.nps.gov/klse

Seattle and the Klondike Gold Rush

On July 17, 1897, newsboys from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* hawked their newspapers crying out the day's headline "Gold! Gold! Gold! Gold! Sixty-Eight Rich Men on Steamer *Portland*!" When the *Portland* tied up to Schwabacher's wharf later that day, thousands of people watched the weary Klondike miners unload their golden cargo onto waiting wagons. News of the discovery quickly spread and the Klondike Gold Rush was on! While the Klondike gold fields lay 1,500 miles north of the



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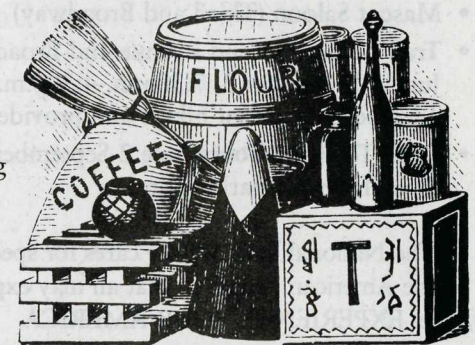
city, Seattle emerged as the chief outfitting and transportation center for the stampede.

Thousands of people flocked to Seattle's commercial district, Pioneer Square, to prepare for the arduous trip north. Newly completed transcontinental trains delivered the prospective miners on the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Canadian Pacific railroads. As the closest, largest American commercial center to the gold fields, Pioneer Square offered all of the services a stamper needed—steamship ticket agents, grocery stores, hardware outlets,

clothiers, even sled dogs and pack horses. Thousands of miners purchased "outfits" costing millions of dollars in the opening months of the gold rush.

Seattle's proximity to the gold fields and its transportation links were important advantages that no other city could offer. Merchants and city boosters created a Bureau of Information to promote the services that the merchants of Pioneer Square offered the stampede. Seattle newspaperman Erastus Brainerd spearheaded the promotional effort, purchasing advertising in weekly and daily newspapers across the county and mailing press releases thinly disguised as information circulars to publications across the country. Brainerd also secured help from the *Post-Intelligencer* to print and distribute advertising inserts to people traveling into Seattle. These efforts secured Seattle's position as the primary outfitting center for the Klondike Gold Rush.

In the aftermath of the rush, Seattle had earned a reputation as the premiere commercial center of the Pacific Northwest. Business success fueled explosive growth and the city's population swelled from 42,000 people in 1890 to over 80,000 by 1900. With the tax revenues that poured into the city's coffers, Seattle built a comprehensive fresh water and sewer system, and funded a sweeping construction project. In 1909, Seattle commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush with the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition, announcing to the world that Seattle had truly become the Queen City of the Northwest.



Acknowledgements

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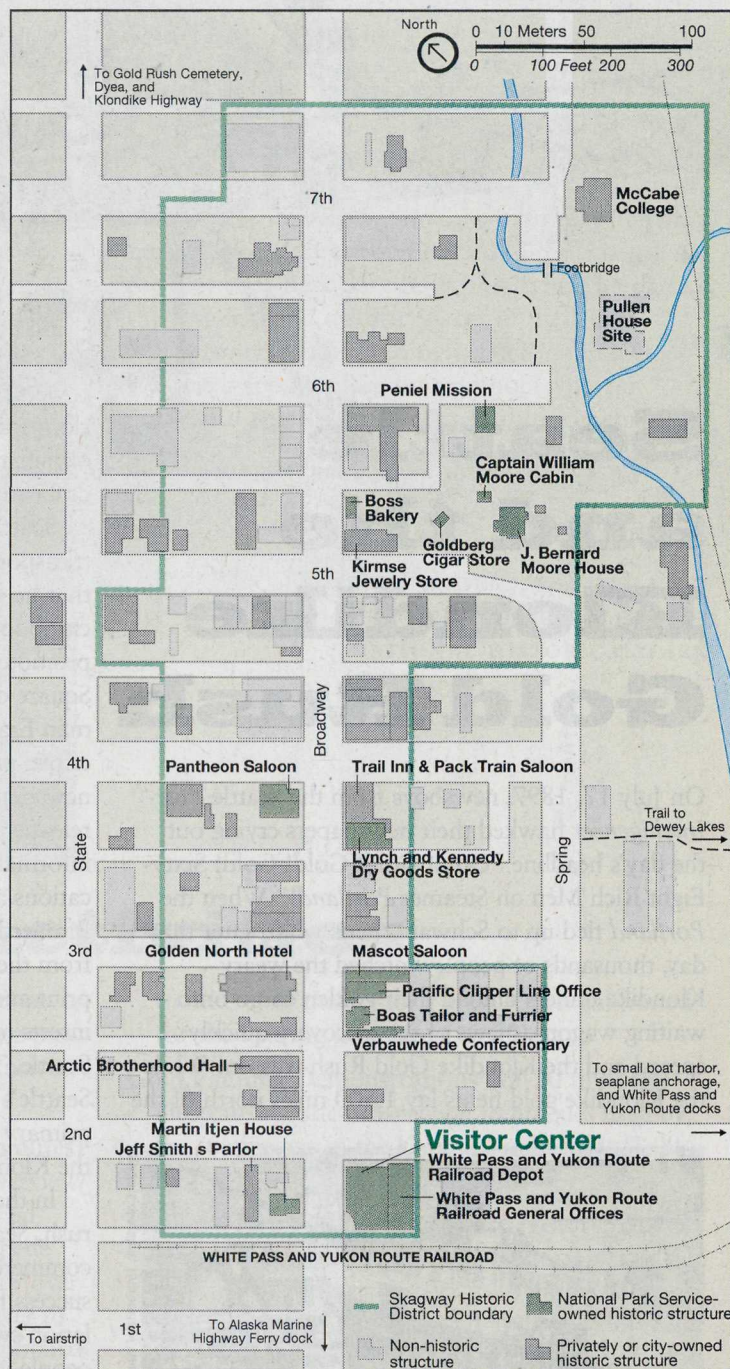
Park Activities

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

- Visitor Center open May 8-September 25, 8a.m.-6p.m.
- Visitor Information
- Exhibits and Museum
- Chilkoot Trail Video
- Orientation Film— *Days of Adventure Dreams of Gold* at 8, 9 and 11a.m.; 12, 1, 2, 4, and 5p.m.
- Ranger Presentations at 10a.m. and 3p.m.
- Ranger-led Walking Tours of Skagway Historic District at 9, 10 and 11a.m.; 2, and 3p.m.
- Junior Ranger Program
- Special Presentations and Exhibits (ask for details)
- Educational and Interpretive Materials
- Historic Moore Homestead (Fifth Avenue and Spring) open May 19-September 13, 10a.m.-5p.m. Fee Area—\$2 or \$1/< 16yrs or > 62yrs
- Mascot Saloon (Third and Broadway) 8a.m.-6p.m. daily
- Trail Center (Second Avenue and Broadway) open June 1-September 2, 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m. to issue Chilkoot Trail permits, orient hikers and provide trail information.
- Dyea Townsite Tours June 2-September 6, 2p.m. Meet at Dyea Townsite parking area.

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

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
P.O. Box 517
Skagway, Alaska 99840
(907) 983-2921 or (907) 983-9232
www.nps.gov/klgo/home.htm



For more public lands information contact:

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, Ketchikan
907-228-6220

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, Juneau
907-789-6640

Petersburg Visitor Information Center
907-772-5934

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

Tongass National Forest website
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/> **

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers
www.nps.gov/aplic

Ketchikan 907-228-6214

Anchorage 907-271-2737, TDD 907-271-2738

Fairbanks 907-456-0527, TDD 907-456-0532

Tok 907-883-5667

The Alaska Travel Industry Association
907-646-3310 or www.travelalaska.com