

Hiking in Kluane National Park and Reserve

Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with Wrangell St Elias and Glacier Bay in Alaska and Tatshenshini-Alsek in British Columbia. These regions collectively form the largest protected area in the world. It offers a wide selection of hiking options from easy to extreme, including day hikes and multi-day hikes. For serious hikers, a back-country experience offers the chance to explore longer routes through remote regions of the park, tent camping along the way. These journeys require navigation skills, backcountry acumen, and creek and river crossings. Alternatively, there are many day hikes to choose from and hikers can base themselves in or near Haines Junction and head out for a different hike each day.

Duration

1-10 days

Season

Mid-May to mid-September

Haines Junction

Kluane National Park and Reserve is located near Haines Junction. Just a 2 hour drive from Whitehorse, this picture-postcard village is the perfect base for hiking tours in the park. There are campgrounds, cabins, B&B's and hotels available.

Sightseeing

Kathleen Lake

Kluane Lake

Da Ku (Our House) Cultural Centre

Tachal Dhal Visitor Centre

Activities

Glacier flightseeing, Whitewater rafting on the Tatshenshini River, Hiking, Fishing

Kluane National Park and Reserve

The park is over 22,000 km (13,670 miles) and 82% of it is covered in mountains and ice. It is home to Canada's highest mountain and the largest massif in the world - Mount Logan. The largest non-polar icefields also lie within its borders.

Kluane is also a hub for wildlife - it is not uncommon to see grizzly or black bears, Dall sheep, caribou and moose as well as smaller mammals and plenty of birdlife. During summer there is an abundance of wildflowers and in the fall the aspen forests and tundra create an unforgettable display of colour.



Parks Canada maintains the park in a natural state, with very few manmade structures. Experienced hikers can journey deep into remote areas where there are only routes rather than trails. These trips involve no-trace camping and depending on the route, offer views of hanging glaciers, cirques and stunning mountain vistas in every direction. It's also possible to start some hikes further into the park with a floatplane, like the hike into the toe of the Donjek Glacier.

Yukon tour operators offer a range of Kluane hiking packages or they can help you build customized programs for your clients. In all cases your clients will be in the safe hands of a certified wilderness guide which is essential for exploring the park.

Day Hikes

Dezadeash River
3.5km (2.2 mi), or 5.5 km (3 mi) loop
1-2 hours
Easy

St. Elias Lake
7.6 km (4.8 mi) return
2-4 hours
Easy

Sheep Creek
10 km (6 mi) return
3 - 6 hours
Moderate

Bullion Plateau
24 km (15 mi) return
6.5 - 9 hours / Moderate

Auriol Trail
15 km (9 mi) loop
4-6 hours or overnight / Moderate

Shorty Creek
22 km (14 mi) return
6 - 9 hours / Moderate

King's Throne
10 km (6 mi) return
4 - 6 hours
Very Difficult

King's Throne Summit
6 km (3.8 mi) return from cirque to summit
(16 km (10 mi) return from trailhead to summit
2 - 4 hours
Very Difficult

Tachäl Dhäl Ridge
11 km (7 mi) loop
6 - 10 hours
Very Difficult

Mt. Decoeli Summit
18 km (11 mi) return
7 - 11 hours
Very Difficult

Multi-Day Hikes

Alsek Valley
58 km (36 mi) return
1-3 days
Easy

Mush Lake Road
52 km (32 mi) return
1-2 days
Easy

Ä'äy Chù (Slim's) West
45 km (27.4 mi) return from trailhead to Canada
Creek
3-6 days
Difficult

Cottonwood
85 km (53 mi) loop
4 - 6 days
Difficult

Ä'äy Chù (Slim's) East
46 km (28 mi) return
2 - 4 days
Difficult

Dän Zhür (Donjek)
96 km (60 mi) loop
8 - 10 days
Very Difficult

Observation Mountain Plateau/Summit
19 km (12 mi)
return from Canada Creek Campsite (end of Ä'äy
Chù (Slim's) West trail)
1- 2 days
Very Difficult

Kimberley Meadows
62 km (37 mi) loop
4 - 5 days
Very Difficult

Quill Creek
36 km (22 mi) return
2 - 4 days / Very Difficult



Consult Yukon Hiking and Parks Canada for latest trail descriptions and updates.

