

Silver Trail

The historic Silver Trail offers an opportunity to slow down, with placid lakes, rivers and streams dotting the landscape, along with relics from the Yukon's silver mining heritage. The route passes through moose habitat and offers scenic views of the Stewart River. A major tributary of the Yukon River, the Stewart lured prospectors to the area in the 1880's, which led to major mineral discoveries. Hiking and biking trails abound on the Silver Trail, often passing by old cabins and great fishing holes. Keno is also worth exploring, where the northern mining experience is still fresh.

Driving Route: Driving Route From Whitehorse to Stewart Crossing, then east on the Silver Trail to the historic frontier mining towns of Mayo and Keno. Continue on to Dawson City or return to Whitehorse

Itinerary planning

Day 1: Whitehorse

Day 2: Mayo

Day 3: Dawson City or back to Whitehorse

Duration

3 days

Season

Mid-May to mid-September

Total Distance

Whitehorse return: 812 km or 504 mi.

To Dawson City: 636 km or 395 mi.



Whitehorse

Steeped in culture and history, Whitehorse is a city with a vibrant arts community, world-class attractions, and top-notch tourism services. It offers the amenities of a big city, with an endearing small-town vibe.

Sightseeing

S.S. Klondike

Yukon Transportation Museum

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Kwanlin Dün Culture Centre

Old Log Church Museum

Whitehorse Trolley

Macbride Museum

Whitehorse Fish Ladder

Miles Canyon

Yukon Artists at Work Gallery

Outdoor Activities

Canoeing, Disc golf, Dog sledding, Fishing, Horseback riding, Kayaking, Mountain biking

Suggested Day Tours

Takhini Hot Springs Road

About 30 minutes from downtown Whitehorse, visitors can spend the day visiting the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, enjoying Eclipse Hot Springs, and savoring some locally roasted coffee.

Skagway, Alaska and the White Pass Yukon Route Railroad

The two hour drive to Skagway, AK includes plenty of scenic viewpoints: Emerald Lake, Tutshi Lake, the Carcross Desert and Bove Island. The historic village of Carcross is not to be missed. Skagway is a well-preserved gold rush town and major cruise ship port with plenty of things to do. The narrow-gauge White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad is a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The track climbs 3000 feet in just 20 miles, through tunnels and across trestle bridges with stunning scenic views.

Southern Lakes Region

Named for the interconnected lakes and rivers that form the headwaters of the mighty Yukon River, this region is also home to diverse landscapes, from desert dunes to snow-capped mountains. Villages to explore include Carcross, Mt Lorne, Tagish, Teslin, Marsh Lake & Atlin.

Drive from Whitehorse to Mayo

Sights along the way

Carmacks: Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre and the scenic riverfront boardwalk
Five Finger Rapids: A boardwalk and stairs lead down to the Yukon River for a view of these famous rapids.

Pelly Crossing: Big Jonathan House
The Selkirk First Nation cultural centre housed in a replica of Fort Selkirk's Big Jonathan House.
Stewart Crossing: Silver Trail Visitor Information Centre

Distance: 406km/252mi. approx 5.5 hours

Mayo

Mayo is a close-knit village on the Stewart River near its confluence with the Mayo River. Its name honours Captain Alfred Mayo, one of the Yukon pre-gold rush prospectors who later became a trader.

Sightseeing & Activities

Binet House Museum
Across the Stewart River, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is doing restoration work at its old village site
Stroll along the Mayo and Stewart rivers with viewing platforms and a commemorative cairn
Prince of Wales trail

Keno

Just 60 km past Mayo is Keno. Named after the popular gambling game, Keno is a rustic cluster of buildings and log cabins surrounded by active mining operations. The tiny hamlet is home to an eclectic mix of artists, miners and old-timers and offers several attractions including a mining museum and campground.

Sightseeing & Activities

Keno City Mining Museum
Signpost on Keno Hill
Wandering through the eclectic mining town



This route can be combined with Klondike Kluane Loop

Silver Trail Mining History

Though it never achieved Klondike-style fame, the Silver Trail has an equally long and colourful mining history. Starting in the 1880's, prospectors worked the Stewart River and endured hardships in remote creeks searching for gold and silver.

The town of Mayo was established in the early 1900's as a river settlement and supply centre for the Duncan Creek gold miners. By the 1920's, rich silver strikes on Keno Hill turned Keno into the centre of a booming mining district.

Sternwheelers transported bags of ore down the Stewart River until a road was completed in 1950. Between 1945 and 1989, the mine at nearby Elsa produced 150 million ounces of silver, 490 million pounds of lead, and 370 million pounds of zinc, and was a top silver producer in Canada.

Today, networks of marked trails surround Mayo and Keno Hill and the region is dotted with artifacts, aging buildings and old mining trails. Many of these "abandoned" mines are still privately owned and for safety should not be entered.

Drive from Mayo to Whitehorse or Dawson City

Distance: Mayo to Whitehorse 406km/252mi. approx 5.5 hours

Mayo to Dawson City 230km/143mi. approx 3.5 hours

