



SKAGWAY DESTINATION GUIDE

OVERVIEW



Introduction

Located at the northern end of the Inside Passage, Skagway, Alaska, emerged in the late 1890s as a makeshift gold-rush town of tents and shacks with a population of 8,000-10,000 adventurers who arrived by boat with supplies for the hellish trek overland to the Yukon gold fields. Of course, the town had its temptations, too: painted ladies, gambling houses and 80 saloons. A famous person from that time is Jefferson R. "Soapy" Smith, a con artist who ran Skagway and swindled new arrivals out of their savings. (He was killed in a shoot-out in 1898.)

Today, Skagway's rushers arrive on cruise ships. Besides Juneau, Skagway is the most popular port in southeast Alaska. The town has become something of a gold-rush theme park: Much of Skagway has been painstakingly restored and designated as the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Although some may find Skagway overly cute and contrived (not to mention crowded when cruise ships are docked), the town can be a fun place to visit and relive the past with the friendly residents.

Sights—The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park with many of Skagway's gold-rush era buildings, exhibits and a free movie; vistas from the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad; turnouts on the Klondike Highway.

Museums—Gold-rush artifacts in Skagway City Museum; exhibits in the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad train depot; family possessions at the Moore Cabin; the Mascot, a restored 1910 saloon, for a look at Skagway's Klondike history.

Memorable Meals—The Skagway Fish Co. on the waterfront for fresh Alaska halibut and salmon; Starfire for spicy Thai cuisine; Olivia's Restaurant in the historic Skagway Inn for locally sourced seafood and produce.

Late Night—The Red Onion Saloon features a brothel museum, varied music and plenty of food; the Skagway Brewing Co. offers local microbrews and food; Eagles Hall has *Days of '98*, the state's longest-running play.

Walks—The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park's walking tour of downtown; Lower Dewey Lake and the Chilkoot trails.

Especially for Kids—Earning a Junior Trail Ranger badge at the National Park Service visitors center at Second and Broadway; the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Kids Itinerary," which involves walking, exploring, rides and ice cream.

The gateway to the Klondike is at the northern tip of Alaska's Inside Passage at the head of Lynn Canal. A triangle of flat land wedged between mountains on two sides and ocean on the third, Skagway still feels like a frontier town, with boardwalks and false-fronted buildings.

The Skagway River and the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad flank the town on either side. State ferries and cruise ships dock downtown, and you can walk anywhere in town, much of which is part of the historic district. The town is 15 blocks long and four blocks wide.

Both the railroad and the highway to Canada climb above the tree line in a few miles/kilometers, offering expansive views of the northern tip of the Inside Passage and the town hemmed in by ocean and snow-dusted mountains.

Skagway and Haines are the only two southeast Alaskan communities that are accessible via road from the rest of North America. Skagway is approximately 819 mi/1,318 km from Anchorage and 702 mi/1,133 km from Fairbanks. Even though Skagway is only 14 mi/22 km northeast of Haines, it's about a one-hour ferry ride and 359 mi/578 km via road.

Skagway, home of the north wind, began as a Tlingit hunting and fishing area at the head of a traditional trading route through the coastal mountains. Capt. William Moore of Canada homesteaded the area in the late 1880s and named it Mooresville. When gold was discovered in the Klondike in 1896, gold seekers steamed up the Inside Passage to Skagway.

From town, miners hauled the required "ton of goods" over the precipitous Chilkoot (the poor man's trail) or the White Pass trails through the mountains to the Canadian gold fields 600 mi/965 km inland. The "Golden Stairs" of Chilkoot Pass saw a long, black line of miners hiking, with heavy packs on their back, single-file up steps chopped into the snow. Some of these stampedees were forced to hike this trail as many as 30 times in order to transport their required gear. Dead Horse Gulch is a landmark reminder of the 3,000 horses that died crossing the White Pass Trail.

The trip got easier in 1900 with the construction of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad. It took brute strength, 450 tons of explosives and the lives of 35 men to complete this engineering landmark, a narrow-gauge railway that climbs from tidewater to 2,865 ft/888 m in 20 mi/32 km. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, the *Days of '98* show, and a train ride commemorate this era of Skagway's history.

The White Pass and Yukon Route website provides a chronology: <https://wpyr.com/history>.

Location

Most ships pull in at the railroad dock at the southeast end of Skagway. The dock can accommodate two large ships. A few feet/meters away is the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad station where passengers board vintage parlor cars for the train ride to the White Pass, a route followed by gold-rush prospectors headed for the Yukon in the 1890s. Next door, in the old depot, is the visitors center for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which offers information and guided walking tours.

The Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau is in the historic Arctic Brotherhood (A.B.) Hall, about two blocks from the dock, at Second and Broadway. Open daily 8 am-6 pm in summer; Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm in winter. Phone 907-983-2854. Toll-free 888-762-1898 for brochure requests. <http://www.skagway.com>.

Shore adventures can include a trip on the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, flightseeing, dogsledding, fishing, bike and Jeep adventures, panning for gold, or various historical or sightseeing hikes.

Shore excursions and their prices vary from cruise line to cruise line. Some may include lunch and drinks or additional stops. Check with your travel agent for additional information.

Potpourri

The Canadian government required gold-seekers to carry huge amounts of supplies, including 400 lb/141 kg of flour, 200 lb/90 kg of bacon and 100 lb/45 kg of beans.

In the late 1800s, Skagway was the largest city in Alaska because of the number of gold prospectors who passed through town. Now it is one of the least populated, with fewer than 1,000 residents.

The Golden Circle consists of Skagway, Haines, Whitehorse, Haines Junction and Juneau, the capital cities of the Klondike Gold Rush.

In mid-December, Skagway receives about 12 minutes of sunlight each day. In the summer, it receives about two hours of darkness per day.

The White Pass & Yukon Railroad is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (along with the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty and the Panama Canal).

Thirty-five men died building the White Pass & Yukon Railroad.

Soapy Smith and his crew used to feed the hungry and then rob them in their sleep.

In 1916, Skagway was coined the "Garden City of Alaska" because more than half of the residents had gardens.

Skagway was the first city incorporated in Alaska, on 28 June 1900.

SEE & DO

Sightseeing

There is much to see in and around Skagway. For the visitor who is short on time, we recommend one of the many organized tours available. A sightseeing opportunity that shouldn't be missed is a ride on the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad.

Historic Sites

From the harbor northeast along Broadway (the town's main street) are seven blocks of restored saloons and storefronts that are part of the Historic Park, much of which is owned by the National Park Service. Among the more interesting sights on Broadway are Soapy Smith's Parlor (where the "boss" of Skagway held court until he was shot), the Mascot Saloon (with exhibits on saloon life), the Golden North Hotel (now shops full of gold-rush-era furnishings and, reportedly, a friendly female ghost) and Eagles Hall (the state's longest-running play, *Days of '98*, is still performed there).

Gold Rush Cemetery

If you want to stretch your legs, walk 2 mi/3 km northeast of town to the Gold Rush Cemetery and visit the graves of notorious swindler Soapy Smith and the heroic town surveyor Frank Reid, who finally stopped Soapy with a bullet. Beautiful Reid Falls is behind the cemetery—well worth the short walk. Alaska Street and 23 Avenue, Skagway.
<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/cemeteries.htm>.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

This historical park's visitors center makes an excellent introduction to Skagway. To get a stirring account of gold-rush fever, take time to watch the center's excellent 25-minute movie, *Gold Fever: Race to the Klondike*, about Skagway's Klondike history. It's shown every hour except 10 am, when the rangers give a 30-minute talk on various topics. The National Park Service rangers also offer 45-minute walking tours of the town multiple times daily. May-late September daily 8:30 am-5:30 pm, October-April Monday-Friday 8 am-3 pm. 291 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-9200.
<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/visitorcenter.htm>.

Moore Cabin

Skagway's founder, Capt. William Moore, built this cabin in 1888, and it has been restored to its 1904 appearance. Also referred to as Moore Homestead, it documents pioneer life—many of the family's original possessions are on display. Tours of the cabin are available. Daily 10 am-5 pm late May-early September. Free. Fifth Avenue (between Broadway and Spring Street), Skagway.
<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/moorehomestead.htm>.

White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad

The most spectacular scenery in the area is from the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad, a narrow-gauge line built in 1898 that takes you on a scenic ride along the historic Klondike Trail. Ride in old-fashioned parlor cars as you climb to the 3,000-ft-/930-m-high summit of White Pass. Most visitors opt for the three- to four-hour summit loop that includes stunning views of Bridal Veil Falls in a 20-mi/32-km stretch past Dead Horse Gulch and Inspiration Point. Tickets are sold at the depot. 201 Second Ave., Skagway. Toll-free 800-343-7373.
<http://www.wpyr.com>.

Corrington's Museum of Alaskan History

Founded by a former Iditarod racer, this tiny museum houses carved walrus tusks and other artifacts that showcase the area's unique history. Open when cruise ships are in port. Free. Broadway and Fifth Avenue, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2579.
<https://skagway.com/listings/corringtons-museum-of-alaskan-history>.

Mascot Saloon Exhibit

This restored 1910 saloon, filled with displays and exhibits from the early 1900s, shows visitors the seedy side of Skagway, when the town's high density of brothels, bars and gambling dens fostered notoriety as one of the hardest-drinking towns west of the Mississippi. May-September daily 8 am-5:30 pm. Free. Broadway and Third Avenue, Skagway. <https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/mascot.htm>.

Alaska Street and 23 Avenue

Skagway, Alaska

<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/>

291 Broadway

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-9200

<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/visitorc>

Fifth Avenue

Skagway, Alaska

<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/r>

201 Second Ave.

Skagway, Alaska 99840-0435

<http://www.wpyr.com>

Broadway and Fifth Avenue

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2579

<https://skagway.com/listings/corringtons-museum-of-alaskan-history>

Broadway and Third Avenue

Skagway, Alaska

<https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/historyculture/r>

Skagway Museum

This museum is located in the 1899 stone McCabe Building (also the city hall). The descendants of Skagway's first settlers meticulously preserved artifacts, photos and records of the town's history, and those items form the nucleus of the museum. Also on display are artifacts of the Native American tribes of southeast Alaska, as well as some Inupiat and Yup'ik Eskimo materials. Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm May-September. Call for an appointment in winter. US\$2 adults, \$1 children. 700 Spring St., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2420. <https://www.skagway.org/museum>.

700 Spring St.

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2420

<https://www.skagway.org/museum>

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

This place can only be reached by boat or plane May-September, but it is well worth a visit to see snow-covered mountain ranges rising more than 15,000 ft/4,650 m, coastal beaches, tidewater glaciers and deep fjords. Several companies offer flightseeing tours, another excellent way to see the park. Park headquarters are at Bartlett Cove in Gustavus, and the park's visitors center is located in Glacier Bay Lodge. Phone 907-697-2230. <http://www.nps.gov/glba>.

Skagway, Alaska 99826

Phone: 907-697-2230

<http://www.nps.gov/glba>

Recreation

The more adventurous might enjoy rock climbing along the White Pass Trail or exploring the ghost-town ruins of Dyea by bike or horseback. An Alaskan sled dog and musher's camp takes visitors for wheeled dogsled rides. Visitors also have the option of taking a helicopter flightseeing tour or dogsledding on a glacier. Other adventures combine wilderness or snowshoe hikes with helicopter flights.

Adventures by sea include catamaran whale-watching cruises, a Chilkoot Trail hike and floatplane adventure, fishing and kayaking.

Bicycling

Sockeye Cycle

Cyclists should enjoy Sockeye Cycle's five- or 10-day Canal Road Tour, which explores the Northeast Yukon Territory, or a self-guided, multiday tour of the Golden Circle, which includes Haines and Skagway. For those with limited time, opt for Skagway by bike, a one-and-a-half-hour ride for US\$55. April-September daily 9 am-6 pm. Rentals start at US\$12 per hour. 381 Fifth Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2851. <https://www.sockeyecycle.com>.

381 Fifth Ave.

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2851

<https://www.sockeyecycle.com>

Strolling through the flat streets of downtown Skagway is an easy trip back in time to the gold-rush days. See the walking tour suggestions at <http://skagway.com/walking-tour-and-trail-maps>.

Close to town are two short, easy hikes: Yakutania Point (1.6 mi/2.6 km round-trip) and Gold Rush Cemetery and Lower Reid Falls (4 mi/6.4 km round-trip). The Skagway Trail Map describes these and more challenging trails and access points. <http://skagway.com/walking-tour-and-trail-maps/trail-map>.

Chilkoot Trail

The 33-mi-/53-km-long Chilkoot Trail follows the route that prospectors took into gold country. The trail starts in the ghost town of Dyea, near Skagway. The hike takes a few days—it took gold-rush stampedees three months. But even a couple of hours can give you a sampling of the ruggedly beautiful land around Skagway.

On the sides of the trail, the National Park Service has preserved skeletons of boats, telegraph cables, cans, boots, stoves and other items that stampedees tossed along the way. It crosses the border between the U.S. and Canada, so you'll need to take a passport and purchase permits. Most hikers take the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad back to Skagway. Trail center Memorial Day to Labor Day daily 8 am-6 pm. Make reservations with both the U.S. National Park Service and Parks Canada. Second and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-9200. <http://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/chilkoottrail.htm>.

Second and Broadway

Skagway, Alaska

Phone: 907-983-9200

<http://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/chilkoot>

Lower Dewey Lake Trail

This trail is an easy one-hour hike that leads, naturally, to Lower Dewey Lake, about 1 mi/1.6 km southeast of town. You can hike on a path that

Skagway, Alaska

circles the water (3.6 mi/5.8 km), and if you want to go farther, continue on the trail at the north end of the lake—it leads into higher country. Be aware that the trail is quite steep. The trailhead is at the edge of town—take Third Avenue east and cross the railroad tracks.

Nightlife

Skagway is certainly a small town, and nightlife options are therefore limited. The most popular option is a rowdy night at The Red Onion Saloon.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Red Onion Saloon

Claiming to have been Skagway's most exclusive brothel, the Red Onion Saloon is a renovated dance hall and bordello built in 1897. It serves sandwiches, pizza, chili, stew and nachos and a selection of Alaskan beers. You can tour the historic brothel; be sure to keep an eye out for Lydia, the resident ghost. April-October daily from 10 am. 201 Broadway (at Second Avenue), Skagway. Phone 907-983-2222. <http://www.redonion1898.com>.

201 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2222
<http://www.redonion1898.com>

Skagway Brewing Co.

Dating from 1897 and starting again in 2007, the Skagway Brewing Co. is a local hot spot with handcrafted microbrew beers and pub grub, including crab cakes, hot wings and Philly steaks. It offers a beer garden, brewers lounge and a private room for events. Year-round. Seventh Avenue and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2739. <http://www.skagwaybrewing.com>.

Seventh Avenue and Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2739
<http://www.skagwaybrewing.com>

Skagway Spirits

Enjoy craft cocktails made with gin or vodka distilled on-site using fresh and locally harvested ingredients. The casual, warm atmosphere makes it a charming spot to warm up from the cold. It is a few blocks from the heart of downtown and worth the walk off the beaten path. Ninth Street and Alaska, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2040. <https://www.skagwayspirits.com>.

Ninth Street and Alaska
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2040
<https://www.skagwayspirits.com>

Performing Arts

Theater

Days of '98 Show

This stage show about the notorious con man Soapy Smith is the longest-running show in Alaska. Takes place at Eagles Hall. Shows at 10:30 am and 12:30 and 2:30 pm mid-May to mid-September, and at 8 pm June-August. Sixth Avenue and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2545. <https://www.thedaysof98show.com>.

Sixth Avenue and Broadway
Skagway, Alaska
Phone: 907-983-2545
<https://www.thedaysof98show.com>

Spectator Sports

What Skagway lacks in regular sports teams, it makes up for in special events held throughout the year, such as the International Softball Tournament in July, the Klondike Road Relay (110-mi/177-km overnight race from Skagway to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory, Canada) and the Buckwheat Ski Classic in March.

The Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau keeps an up-to-date list of events at <http://www.skagway.com/events.html>.

Gold nuggets, jewelry, fur hats, train whistles, train T-shirts—Skagway's shops, both on and just off Broadway, are packed with such items. Many Skagway shops don't have set hours but vary according to cruise-ship schedules. Quite a few are open mid-May to mid-September and closed in winter.

Bookstores

Skaguay News Depot and Books

Named for the original Tlingit spelling of the city, this historic bookstore and newsstand has a good selection of Alaska and Yukon books, maps, calendars, magazines and out-of-town newspapers. Daily 9 am-6 pm in summer; Monday-Friday noon-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 1-4 pm in winter. 208-A Broadway St., Skagway. Phone 907-983-3354. <http://www.skagwaybooks.com>.

Skagway Museum Store

The shop offers books and gold-rush memorabilia. Daily in summer. 700 Spring St., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2420. <https://skagway.com/listings/skagway-museum-store>.

Corrington's Alaskan Ivory

Corrington's has a nice selection of objects made from walrus ivory, soapstone, gold and Alaska jade, as well as Lladro figurines and hand-carved antlers. Open in summer. 525 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2579. <https://skagway.com/listings/corringtons-alaskan-ivory>.

Kirmse's Curios

Cara Cosgrove has reopened the old Kirmse's Curios, a jewelry and watch-repair store from 1897, known for the two Alaska Native totems outside. Cosgrove sells locally crafted fine art and jewelry, specializing in fossil ivory carvings. Daily in summer. 500 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-3773. <https://skagwayshoretours.com/kirmses-curious>.

Lynch & Kennedy

Lynch & Kennedy specializes in Native American artwork, sculpture, prints, totemic rugs, knives, glass art, Alaska Native masks and jewelry. Monday-Friday 8:30 am-7 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8:30 am-5 pm. 350 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-3034. Toll-free 866-983-3034. <https://shop.lynch-kennedy.com>.

You Say Tomato

A good but pricey natural-foods store with freshly baked bread and provisions for hikers. North Eden Cafe, located inside the store, offers wraps and range-raised buffalo burritos seasonally. Monday-Friday 10:30 am-7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-6:30 pm in summer; Tuesday-Saturday noon-6:30 pm in winter. State at 21st Avenue, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2784. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Shopping---Retail/You-Say-Tomato-136586883044441>.

Dedman's Photo Shop and Art Gallery

For the history buff, Dedman's Photo has old-time photos of Skagway. They aren't out on the counter for casual browsers, but if you're interested, ask and staff members will be glad to dust them off for you. The store also has shirts, lip balm, chocolate (try the Grizzly Bar) and other souvenirs plus an upstairs art gallery. Open in summer. Third and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2353.

Dejon Delights

A Haines family business, Dejon Delights sells smoked salmon and halibut, plus it gives free samples. You'll also find other Alaska foods (birch syrups, jams, salmon jerky, canned salmon), kitchen accessories, books and gifts. Daily in the summer. 387 Fifth Ave., Skagway. Toll-free 800-539-3608. <http://dejondelights.com>.

Klothes Rush Gifts

208-A Broadway St.
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3354
<http://www.skagwaybooks.com>

700 Spring St.
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2420
<https://skagway.com/listings/skagway-museum-store>

525 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2579
<https://skagway.com/listings/corringtons-alaskan-ivory>

500 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska
Phone: 907-983-3773
<https://skagwayshoretours.com/kirmses-curious>

350 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3034
<https://shop.lynch-kennedy.com>

State at 21st Avenue
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-2784
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Shopping---Retail/You-Say-Tomato-136586883044441>

Third and Broadway
Skagway, Alaska
Phone: 907-983-2353

387 Fifth Ave.
Skagway, Alaska
<http://dejondelights.com>

499 Broadway

Advertised as "Alaskan outfitters for trail, mountain and home," the Klothes Rush provides everything from everyday apparel to special clothing commemorating the Chilkoot Trail and other Alaska-themed gifts, including jewelry. Daily 9 am-7 pm May-September; Monday-Saturday 10 am-5:30 pm October-April. 499 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2370. Toll-free 800-664-2370. <http://www.klothesrush.com>.

Richters Jewelry and Curio

This store specializes in gold jewelry and moves a lot of gold. Open in summer. 220 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2424. <https://skagwayshoretours.com/richters-jewelry-curio>.

Rushin' Tailor's Quilt Alaska/Changing Threads

Alaska- and Northern-themed fabrics, quilt kits, patterns, Alaskan-dyed yarns, and needlepoint and other needle-art projects are available at this friendly store, which also includes Changing Threads. You can also find qiviut, wool from the undercoat of the musk ox. May-September daily 9 am-5:30 pm or later when cruise ships are in town; October-April Wednesday, Friday and Saturday noon-4 pm. 370 Third Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2397. <http://www.rushintailor.com>.

Taiya River Jewelry

Since 1976, Casey McBride has been designing beautiful pieces wrought from gold nuggets found by miners in the Yukon and British Columbia. Three other goldsmith designers also sell the creations at the store. Year-round. 252 Broadway, Skagway. Toll-free 800-943-2637. <http://www.taiyariverjewelry.com>.

The Mountain Shop

This shop does it all: It sells outerwear, clothing and footwear for outdoor activities, plus offers wilderness tours and rents climbing and paddling accessories. Monday-Friday 11 am-6 pm, Saturday 11 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm. 355 Fourth Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-3005. <https://www.packerexpeditions.com/outdoor-rental-equipment>.

The Train Shoppe

You can find White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad clothing, model trains, souvenirs and espresso at the Train Shoppe or the Little Caboose-on-the-Dock. Open in summer. 231 Second Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2217. Toll-free 800-343-7373. <https://wpyr.com/train-shoppe-2>.

Itinerary

Local Tours

There are several reputable tour operators in Skagway. (The visitors bureau has a list of fishing charters and wildlife and other tour outfits.)

Tour options run the gamut from train rides to horseback riding to rafting to dogsledding. Take in Skagway aboard a yellow 1920s-era bus and learn about the city's rowdy past from costumed conductors. Other options include touring a massive Klondike gold dredge and panning for the yellow metal, and visiting the gold-rush-era Liarsville Trail. You can also enjoy an Alaska garden, gourmet cooking and wine-tasting tour.

Various motorcoach tours take visitors across the scenic White Pass to Carcross and lunch in Canada's legendary Yukon Territory.

For a walking tour of historic Skagway sites, see <http://skagway.com/walking-tour-and-trail-maps/walking-tour-map>.

Alaska Garden Gourmet

This escorted Alaska garden tour and hands-on seafood-cooking demonstration ends with a light meal crafted from the garden's ingredients at Olivia's Restaurant in the historic Skagway Inn. You leave

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2370

<http://www.klothesrush.com>

220 Broadway

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2424

<https://skagwayshoretours.com/richters-jewelry-curio>

370 Third Ave.

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2397

<http://www.rushintailor.com>

252 Broadway

Skagway, Alaska

<http://www.taiyariverjewelry.com>

355 Fourth Ave.

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-3005

<https://www.packerexpeditions.com/outdoor-rental-equipment>

231 Second Ave.

Skagway, Alaska

Phone: 907-983-2217

<https://wpyr.com/train-shoppe-2>

655 Broadway

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2289

with recipes and seeds for your own garden. US\$90. 655 Broadway (at Seventh Avenue), Skagway. Phone 907-983-2289. Toll-free 888-752-4929. <http://www.skagwayinn.com/garden.php>.

Alaska Travel Adventures

Tours include a Jeep Klondike adventure, gold-rush trail and a Liarsville camp salmon bake. Tours operate May-September. Liarsville Gold Rush Trail \$59 adult. Toll-free 800-323-5757. <http://www.bestofalaskatravel.com>.

Frontier Excursions and Adventures

Tours range from the Summit & City (city, cemetery and White Pass summit overlook) to the White Pass train and highway combination to the river float and White Pass to custom luxury-SUV charter tours. City and summit US\$55; scenic float and White Pass US\$112 adults; charter luxury SUV US\$100 per hour. Call for train and highway combo pricing. Phone 907-983-2512. Toll-free 877-983-2512. <http://www.frontierexcursions.com>.

Jewell Gardens and Garden City Glassworks

The organic flower and vegetable garden tour explains why Skagway is called Alaska's garden city. There's also a glassblowing theater demonstration. Mid-May to mid-September; lunch available at Poppies 11 am-3 pm daily. US\$12.50 adults. Klondike Highway, Mile 1.5, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2111. <http://www.jewellgardens.com>.

Skagway Streetcar Co.

This company provides theatrical drivers in gold-rush-era costumes who take you around town. The two-hour tour leaves from the pier at 8:30 and 10:45 am and 1:15 and 3:30 pm May-September. US\$40 adults. 270 Second Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-2908. <http://www.skagwaystreetcar.com>.

Southeast Tours

One package includes a sightseeing tour of historic Skagway and the White Pass summit area. The tour crosses the border with Canada, so all participants must have a passport and photo ID. Options include a Skagway city tour (US\$55), a Yukon sightseeing tour (US\$75) and a six-hour Deluxe Yukon Tour (US\$105) through the White Pass Summit to Canada's beautiful Emerald Lake. Phone 907-983-2990. <http://www.southeasttours.com>.

Temsco Helicopters

A helicopter glacial tour and dogsled ride on the Denver glacier has to be one of the most dramatic Alaskan adventures. US\$509. You can also do a helicopter glacial discovery tour for US\$319. Ore dock (on the waterfront), Skagway. Phone 907-983-2900. Toll-free 866-683-2900. <http://www.temscoair.com>.

<http://www.skagwayinn.com/garden.php>

Skagway, Alaska 99840

<http://www.bestofalaskatravel.com>

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2512

<http://www.frontierexcursions.com>

Klondike Highway, Mile 1.5

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2111

<http://www.jewellgardens.com>

270 Second Ave.

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2908

<http://www.skagwaystreetcar.com>

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2990

<http://www.southeasttours.com>

Ore dock

Skagway, Alaska

Phone: 907-983-2900

<http://www.temscoair.com>

DINING

Dining Overview

Many of Skagway's restaurants are open only in the summer—they're definitely geared to tourists. Prices are high, and waits can be long if several ships are in port at the same time.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$25; \$\$\$ = US\$26-\$40; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$40.

Olivia's Bistro

Located in the historic Skagway Inn, this restaurant features creatively prepared fresh Alaskan seafood and tapas, including chicken pot pie,

Seventh and Broadway

Skagway, Alaska 99840

halibut chowder, and fresh-from-the-garden rhubarb crisp. Cooking courses also available. \$-\$\$\$. Seventh and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2289. Toll-free 888-752-4929. <http://www.skagwayinn.com/olivias.php>.

Phone: 907-983-2289
<http://www.skagwayinn.com/olivias.php>

Asian

Starfire

This traditional Thai restaurant serves excellent curries and other familiar favorites. May-September daily 11 am-9 pm. Fourth and Spring streets, Skagway. Phone 907-983-3663. <http://www.starfirealaska.com>.

Fourth and Spring streets
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3663
<http://www.starfirealaska.com>

Cafes & Tearooms

Bites on Broadway

This place has an array of pastries and breakfast options, as well as a variety of sandwiches, in addition to its operation as a bed and breakfast. 648 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2166. <http://www.bitesonbroadway.com>.

648 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska
Phone: 907-983-2166
<http://www.bitesonbroadway.com>

Glacial Smoothies and Espresso

This cafe offers daily soup and baked goods along with espresso, smoothies, sandwiches and ice cream. Monday-Saturday 6 am-5 pm, Sunday 7 am-4 pm. \$. 336 Third Ave., Skagway. Phone 907-983-3223. <https://www.glacialcoffeehouse.com>.

336 Third Ave.
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3223
<https://www.glacialcoffeehouse.com>

Kone Kompany

In summer, there's almost always a line at this shop, which serves homemade fudge, crispy cones and Dreyer's ice cream. Seasonal. \$. 499 Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-3439. <http://www.konekompany.com>.

499 Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3439
<http://www.konekompany.com>

Skagway Fish Co.

This is a true Alaskan seafood restaurant with checkered tablecloths and rock 'n' roll music. It is noted for its great halibut-and-chips. Daily for lunch and dinner mid-May to October. \$-\$\$\$\$. 201 Congress Way (on the waterfront overlooking the Small Boat Harbor), Skagway. Phone 907-983-3474. <https://www.facebook.com/skagwayfishco>.

201 Congress Way
Skagway, Alaska 99840
Phone: 907-983-3474
<https://www.facebook.com/skagwayfishco>

SECURITY

Personal Safety

The crime rate in Skagway is negligible. But use common sense: Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Dahl Memorial Clinic, on 14th Avenue between State Street and Broadway, offers medical care. Phone 907-983-2255. After hours, call 911.

Although Skagway is seldom plagued by insects, mosquitoes and other flying critters can be bothersome, so carry a good insect repellent on hikes, preferably one containing deet as an active ingredient. Don't drink untreated water from lakes or streams. No matter how pristine the area seems, people and animals may be upstream, and it's not wise to take the chance. And always be aware of the possibility of encountering a bear. If you do, don't approach it, don't run and try to avoid quick actions that may alarm it. Inquire locally for details on recent bear activity and more advice on how to behave around the animals.

Skagway is one of the most accessible communities in southeast Alaska. The terrain is flat, and the historic downtown is compact. Although boardwalks and some stores will be a challenge, the streets are wide and most visitors are on foot. SMART, the local transit authority, provides an accessible bus. State ferries, cruise ships and the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad provide accommodations for wheelchairs. Don't forget to obtain the necessary permits and pay reservation fees if you plan to hike the Chilkoot Trail.

Do cross the Yukon Suspension Bridge over the white waters of the Tutshi River. It is located about 30 mi/48 km from Skagway.

Do ride the legendary White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, known as the "toughest 110 miles of track in the world."

Do look for mink, great blue herons, kingfishers, seals, otters and whales.

Do visit the Gold Rush Cemetery and find Soapy Smith's tombstone.

Don't use an umbrella if you want to blend in with the locals. Because of the afternoon breezes, it will probably blow away anyway.

FACTS

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 995.

Time Zone: 9 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-9 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 907, area code for all of Alaska;

Currency Exchange

Wells Fargo has an office with an ATM at the corner of Sixth and Broadway. Phone 907-983-2264.

Skagway has a 3% sales tax and an 8% bed tax. May-September, the sales tax increases to 5%.

In restaurants, leave 15%-20% unless exceptional service warrants more.

Weather

Skagway's maritime climate features cool summers and mild winters. Average summer temperatures range from 45-67 F/7-19 C and winter temperatures average 18-37 F/-8 to 3 C.

Skagway gets less rain than most southeast Alaskan communities, with an average annual precipitation of only 26.5 in/67 cm. Annual snowfall is also light: 49.1 in/125 cm.

This "home of the north wind" has winds from the south in summer and from the north in winter at a mean wind speed of 15-22 mph/24-35 kph. Most people visit in summer; others prefer the quieter seasons of early May or mid-September when golden leaves transform the gold-rush town.

Layering is the key to comfort in southeast Alaska. Start with short- or long-sleeve shirts and long pants; add a fleece vest, sweater, hooded sweatshirt or light jacket; and finish with comfortable waterproof boots or shoes and rain gear for misty, drizzly days.

You won't need heavy down coats in summer, but you should take a water-resistant jacket and shorts in case the sun shines. Attire is casual. In the winter, we recommend that you wear spikes or some form of grip for the bottom of your shoes because of the ice on the ground.

Telephone

Public phones are difficult to find. Cellphone coverage is generally good in town but sporadic along the highway.

Dial 1 + 907 (the all-Alaska area code) to dial Skagway from outside the city; drop the prefix when making local calls.

Skagway Ports of Call offers wireless internet service, money orders and Western Union. Second Avenue and State Street. Phone 907-983-3398.

Free Wi-Fi is available at the Skagway Public Library (769 State St.).

The post office is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm. It's at the corner of Sixth and Broadway. Phone 907-983-2330.

Be sure to pick up a copy of *Skagway* from the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau. The *Skagway News* is published twice monthly on the second and fourth Friday and also publishes a community calendar, available

online. Phone 907-983-2354. <http://www.skagwaynews.com>.

Transportation

Downtown Skagway is compact and easy to negotiate on foot.

Sitka Cabs serves the Skagway area. Phone 907-747-5001.

Another option for getting around is a van shuttle provided by Skagway Municipal and Regional Transit's SMART. It runs from the ship to shops at the north end of town for US\$2 or US\$5 all day, and a wheelchair-accessible bus is also available. Phone 907-983-2743. <http://www.smart-ak.com>.

Bicycles are perfect for getting around town and into the countryside.

The city's airport (SGY) is located in town along the Skagway River.

Travel by water to Haines and Juneau is available year-round from the Alaska Marine Highway System state ferry. Alaskans call them the "blue canoes." Located on the dock at the ferry terminal. Prices vary according to vehicle size. You can also walk on. Phone 907-983-2941. Toll-free 800-642-0066. <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.shtml>.

Summers only, Alaska Fjordlines offers the Fjord Express to Juneau, leaving Skagway at 8 am and returning at 8:15 pm. No vehicles. US\$165 round-trip or US\$120 one-way. Office in Haines. Phone 907-766-3395. Toll-free 800-320-0146. <http://www.alaskafjordlines.com>.

The Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry provides 45-minute trips between Haines and Skagway in summer, US\$35 one-way, US\$72 round-trip. Located at the Small Boat Harbor, Skagway. Phone (Haines) 907-766-2100. Toll-free 888-766-2103. <http://www.hainesskagwayfastferry.com>.

Car

There are a handful of car rental companies in Skagway. DIYJeep Tours offers two- or four-door Jeeps for US\$140-\$180 per day. Phone 907-983-3512. Toll-free 877-983-5337. <https://www.diyjeptours.com>.

Other good options for roadtrippers hoping to explore the greater Skagway area are Alaska Motorhome Rentals (phone 907-983-3333, toll-free 800-323-5757), Avis Rent A Car (phone 907-983-2247) and Sourdough Vehicle Rentals (phone 907-983-2523).

You must be at least 25 years of age with a government-issued ID to rent a car in Alaska.

For More Information

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau

The bureau is located two blocks from the cruise-ship dock in the historic Arctic Brotherhood Hall, a unique structure sporting 8,833 pieces of driftwood on the front facade. Daily 8 am-6 pm in summer. Second and Broadway, Skagway. Phone 907-983-2854. Toll-free 888-762-1898 to request a visitor guide. <http://www.skagway.com>.

Second and Broadway

Skagway, Alaska 99840

Phone: 907-983-2854

<http://www.skagway.com>

EVENTS

Calendar

Skagway offers a handful of events throughout the year that will interest visitors. The Buckwheat Ski Classic, a cross-country ski race to British Columbia, is cause for celebration in March. June festivities include a marathon and summer solstice celebrations. Fourth of July festivities include food, a parade, fireworks, international softball tournament and a ducky derby. Skagway's infamous con man, Soapy Smith, gets an annual wake in early July, when the cast of *Days of '98* cast leads residents and visitors in a toast to the man.

Summer is abloom in Alaska, and the Eastern Star Flower Show in mid-August showcases Skagway's beautiful gardens. In September, Skagwayians gear up for the Klondike Trail of '98 International Road Relay, a 110-mi/177-km footrace to Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory. And to wrap up the year, the city puts on an annual quilt retreat in October, and a White Pass and Yukon Route Santa Train (<http://wpyr.com>) and Yuletide Ball in December.

The Skagway Arts Council sponsors the Skagway International Folk Festival in April and the North Woods Writers Symposium in June.
<http://skagwayartscouncil.blogspot.com>.

The Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau maintains an up-to-date list of events at <http://www.skagway.com/events>.