

# GoMedia Canada 2020

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## Yukon Territory

## Celebrating Yukon Indigenous Culture

September 13-18, 2020

### Theme

Elders say that the First Nations people have always been here. Origin stories tell of the beginning of time when Raven, Earth Mother and other powerful beings made the world safe for people. Oral traditions and archaeological evidence document the ways of indigenous people in the Yukon for more than 12,000 years.

In this tour, you will experience the warm hospitality and rich cultures of the [14 Yukon First Nations](#) with abundant opportunities to listen, learn and celebrate their culture.

### Description

The experiences in this tour will immerse you in Yukon First Nation culture and provide a look into their past, present and vibrant future. Activities may include traditional First Nation wilderness camps and villages, cultural centres, artistry and storytelling. All activity day tours are indigenous-owned and operated.

Yukon's fall season is short but spectacular. In September, the trees are ablaze with autumn colour, the mountains are often capped with fresh snow, and with luck, the night skies are alive with dancing northern lights. September is an ideal time for wildlife viewing. Mountain sheep, grizzly and black bears, moose and foxes abound and can often be viewed and photographed safely from the roadside especially in [Kluane National Park](#).

### Considerations

- Yukon First Nations have lived in this region for thousands of years. They practiced traditional ways of living off the land and some First Nations (and non-First Nations) residents still live a subsistence lifestyle. Respect for the land and for animals is deeply rooted in First Nation culture. Hunting, fishing and trapping are very much a way of life for many Yukoners. Participants of this tour need to be comfortable with and open to hearing about these ways. September is also hunting season and it's possible that we might observe signs of moose harvest on our travels.
- Northern Lights viewing weather dependent and not guaranteed.
- Participants must be in good physical condition and able to be self-propelled in a variety of circumstances. Tour components include walking, navigating uneven surfaces and potentially unstable terrain, etc. One activity requires being comfortable in rough off-roading which includes a creek crossing in the vehicle.
- During daytime activities, participants may only have access to rustic outdoor restroom facilities (i.e. outhouse).
- Most tour days include one to two hours of driving on a highway with intermittent stops along the way.
- There is limited or no internet access on certain legs of the tour. Internet access can be expected in accommodations and the speed may be significantly slower than what you're accustomed to.
- There is very limited or no cell service/reception outside of communities. Some cell service providers don't operate in the Yukon so participants should check on this in advance with their provider.
- A credit card will be taken at the hotel(s) to cover any personal incidentals such as long distance phone calls, movies, mini-bars, etc.
- This tour is conducted in English; no alternate language interpretation is available.

- Participation on this tour requires focused attention at all times to the itinerary and spontaneous opportunities. It is expected that any writing, filing or communications deadlines during the dates of the tour will not affect participation in the full itinerary.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 – Sunday, September 13

- 12:05 pm Depart Victoria International Airport on Air Canada #8064.
- 4:45 pm Arrive in [Whitehorse](#), “The Wilderness City, and the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än and Kwanlin Dün First Nations.
- 5:15 pm Check in at the [Raven Inn](#), Whitehorse’s new boutique hotel. Whitehorse’s first new hotel in decades, the Raven Inn was crafted to reflect the latest hospitality trends while respecting the rich historical and natural legacy of the Yukon. This 50-room property features a historic rail-themed bar and lounge and an outdoor hot pool overlooking the Yukon River.
- 7:30 pm Kick off the tour with a welcome dinner at [Wayfarer Oyster House](#), recently named one of the Top Ten New Restaurants in Canada by enRoute magazine.
- Overnight Raven Inn, Whitehorse.

### Day 2 – Monday, September 14

- Morning Breakfast.
- 9:00 am Meet *Who What Where* Tours in the hotel lobby for a half-day [Carcross/Southern Lakes tour](#). This morning’s tour features stunning mountain vistas that include Emerald Lake (the most photographed lake in the Yukon!), Carcross Desert, and the historic Village of [Carcross](#) - the traditional territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. Visit Master Carver [Keith Wolfe Smarch](#) in the carving shed and learn about the tradition and artistry of his craft.
- Lunch Enjoy a picnic lunch at [Conrad Campground](#) overlooking Tagish Lake.
- Reunite with your Tourism Yukon guide for the afternoon. Delve into the incredible story of [Singletrack to Success \(S2S\)](#), the local Carcross/Tagish First Nation youth who built and continue to maintain the world-class mountain biking trails on Montana Mountain, a sacred site of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- 5:00 pm Check in to the [Inn on the Lake](#) located on the shores of beautiful Marsh Lake.
- Evening Enjoy meeting other Lodge guests at the communal dining table. Following dinner, the evening is yours to enjoy. Rest, work or take a soak in the outdoor hot tub. Be sure to check the night skies for the aurora’s spectacular light show.
- Overnight Marsh Lake.

### Day 3 – Tuesday, September 15

- Breakfast at the Lodge and check out.
- 9:00 am Depart for [Kluane National Park](#) via the Alaska Highway (Drive time: 2 ½ hours to Mount Logan Lodge)
- Kluane National Park is co-managed by the Champagne Aishihik and Kluane First Nation, and Parks Canada. It’s home to Canada’s tallest peaks and the world’s largest non-polar ice fields. Kluane abuts three other large protected areas: Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks in Alaska and British Columbia's Tatshenshini-Alsek Park. Together, the parks have been

declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and they form the largest internationally protected area in the world.

- 10:30 am On route, we will stop at [Long Ago People's Place](#)-Kwäday Dän Kenji. Your hosts are Meta Williams and Harold Johnson. Meta is a member of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and Harold is a member of Champagne and Aishihik First Nation. They will welcome and invite you to learn about the traditional ways that Yukon First Nation people lived off the land.
- Lunch Enjoy a homemade lunch with traditional bannock and storytelling in the outdoors. Afterwards, we will discover local medicinal plants used by their ancestors to treat ailments.
- 1:00 pm Learn about the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation with a tour of [Da Ku Cultural Centre](#), followed by a performance by the [Dakwäkäda Dancers](#). Based in Haines Junction, the Dakwäkäda Dancers have been teaching the tradition of song and dance to the young people in Southern Tutchone and Tlingit cultures for more than 20 years.
- 4:30 pm Meet your hosts Roxanne and David Mason and check-in to [Mount Logan Lodge](#) for a two-night stay in this cosy and unique lodge that borders Kluane National Park. Traditional lodge rooms, a yurt, tipi, school bus and a 1900's old prospector cabin are among the accommodation options. \*Note: the prospector cabin, tipi, bus and yurt are outdoors with outdoor restroom facilities (outhouse).
- 7:00 pm Dinner at the Lodge featuring Roxanne's delectable dishes infused with local ingredients including vegetables from her garden and greenhouse.
- An evening to enjoy your surroundings of the lodge, outdoor sauna, hot tub, and night skies (and aurora if we're lucky!).
- Overnight Mount Logan Lodge, Haines Junction.

#### **Day 4 – Wednesday, September 16**

- 8:00 am Breakfast at the lodge. Roxanne's hot breakfasts are fabulous!
- 9:00 am Drive to "Allenville" (Drive time: 45 minutes and 20 minute offroad ride into the camp)
- This is a full-day excursion to [Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp](#) with your hosts James Allen, former Chief of the Champagne Aishihik First Nation and his wife Barb.
- Lunch We'll have lunch together, tour the camp and spend the day there to listen, learn and take in the spectacular views of Christmas Bay, Kluane Lake and Sheep Mountain.
- Afternoon Activities may include traditional trap-line tour, shoreline fishing and storytelling. \*Note: the excursion into the Camp requires rough off-roading which includes a creek crossing in the vehicle. There's no Wi-Fi, cell service or running water at the camp, and restroom facilities are outdoor (outhouse).
- 5:30 pm Return to Mount Logan Lodge for dinner and overnight. (Drive time: 65 minutes)
- Overnight Mount Logan Lodge, Haines Junction.

#### **Day 5 – Thursday, September 17**

- Morning Breakfast at the Lodge.
- 10:00 am Depart for Whitehorse.
- 12:00 pm Lunch.

1:00 pm	We'll visit local shops and galleries that showcase First Nations artistry, and stop in to the MacBride Museum's First Nations Gallery which explores First Nations stories from the beginning of the province's history to the present.
4:30 pm	Return to and check in to the <a href="#">Raven Inn</a> where you'll have free time.
7:00 pm	Farewell dinner.
Overnight	Raven Inn, Whitehorse.

### **Day 6 – Friday, September 18**

Morning	Breakfast at the hotel, or packed to-go. Check-out of hotel.
Departures	Transfers to the airport will be provided throughout the day based on individual flight times. For early morning departing flights, Raven Inn provides a hotel shuttle.

## **Recommended items to bring**

- Although recent Yukon Septembers have been quite sunny with moderate temperatures, the weather is unpredictable. Be prepared to dress in layers for cooler temperatures and evenings.
- Sturdy walking shoes or boots.
- Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen.
- Gloves or mitts.