

# GoMedia **Canada 2020**

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## **Yukon Territory**

### **Dawson City (is) Cultural Gold!**

**September 13-18, 2020**

### **Theme**

The lure of gold drew thousands of men and women to the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. They arrived into what they thought of as a 'wilderness area' that was, and still is, the traditional home of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation people.

Step back in time and explore Dawson City, its National Historic Site Complex, rich Indigenous roots and culture, incredible landscape and modern day uniqueness.

In mid-September, the Klondike region is in full autumn bloom; the forests are bursting with colour, the mountains typically topped with new snow and, with luck, the night skies will be alive with dancing Northern Lights.

### **Description**

Dawson City was the epicentre of the greatest [gold rush](#) on earth, when in 1898, thousands of stampeders set out for the Klondike. Once known as the "Paris of the North", Dawson City still evokes iconic gold rush history with its wooden boardwalks and vintage false-front buildings.

While Western world views often refer to the Klondike Gold Rush as the beginning of the Yukon's history, the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#) people have lived in the region for thousands of years and countless generations.

Come experience the Klondike in person. You'll be up close and behind the scenes to learn about this incredible region with its colliding and combining of cultures, and the colourful people who call this amazing 'wilderness town' their home.

Autumn in the Yukon is short yet spectacular. You'll revel in the alpine tundra landscapes along the Dempster Highway and fly over the epic peaks of Tombstone Territorial Park. Wildlife abounds in this pristine wilderness and the natural splendour is truly jaw-dropping.

Activities in this tour include backcountry hiking and flightseeing amid epic scenery, wildlife viewing and explorations of both Indigenous culture and the Klondike Gold Rush history.

### **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 encounter hunting parties during the tour.
- Northern Lights viewing and flightseeing are weather dependent and not guaranteed.
- Participants must be in good physical condition and be able to be self-propelled. The tour components include hiking, significant walking, travel by boat, small plane and car/truck, navigating uneven surfaces and potentially unstable terrain, etc.
- During daytime activities, participants may only have access to rustic outdoor restroom facilities (i.e. outhouse).
- Some days include up to eight hours of travel by highway with intermittent stops along the way.

- This FAM tour is conducted in English; no alternate language interpretation is available.
- Limited or no cell and/or internet access on certain legs of the tour. Internet access can be expected in town and at accommodations and the speed may be significantly slower than what you're accustomed to.
- A credit card will be taken at the hotels upon check in to cover any personal incidentals such as long distance phone calls, laundry, movies, etc.
- Please advise of any food allergies or dietary restrictions.
- Participants must not have any writing, filing or communications deadlines during the dates of the tour. Participation requires focused attention at all times to the itinerary and spontaneous opportunities.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 – Sunday, September 13

- 12:05 pm Depart Victoria on Air Canada #8064, arrive in Vancouver at 12:35.
- 2:25 pm Depart Vancouver on Air Canada #8859.
- 4:45 pm Arrive in Whitehorse.
- Welcome to Whitehorse, 'The Wilderness City', and the Traditional Territory of the [Ta'an Kwäch'än](#) and [Kwanlin Dün First Nations](#). Transfers arranged to the hotel.
- 5:15 pm Check in to 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 Welcome dinner at [Wayfarer Oyster House](#) which was recently named one of the 2019 Top Ten New Restaurants in Canada by EnRoute magazine.
- Overnight Raven Inn, Whitehorse

### Day 2 – Monday, September 14

- Morning Breakfast
- 9:00 am We have planned the morning to explore the Whitehorse area so you can see the Yukon's Capital City before heading '[North to the Klondike](#)'.
- We'll visit the [S.S. Klondike National Historic Site](#), [Miles Canyon](#) and then drive the [Alaska](#) and [North Klondike](#) highways for a road trip that's likely to be glistening with golden autumn colours. On route to Dawson City, we'll travel along part of the historic [Dawson Overland Trail](#), the winter road, and cross and view the mighty [Yukon River](#) which served as the main transportation corridor until the 1950's.
- Driving time will be approximately six hours.
- Welcome to Dawson City! Check-in at [Aurora Inn](#) (or [sister property](#))
- 7:00 pm Dinner at Aurora Inn
- Evening On our first evening in Dawson City, we'll take in one of the evening shows at [Diamond Tooth Gerties](#), Canada oldest *legal* casino, and perhaps try our luck at the myriad games of chance and fortune. As night falls, we'll wander the dirt streets and wooden sidewalks of Dawson City, stroll along the bank of the Yukon River and adjust our clocks and minds to being in the Klondike.
- Since the North's [Midnight Sun](#) has faded by mid-September, if the skies are clear and the gods in our favour, we might be able to catch sight of the [Northern Lights](#)...from town!
- Overnight Aurora Inn, Dawson City

### Day 3 – Tuesday, September 15

- Breakfast at Aurora Inn
- 9:00 am Today we'll discover some of the breadth and depth of Dawson City.
- During our time in the [Dānojà Zho Cultural Centre](#) we will start to build an understanding of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation culture and traditions. As we learn to listen carefully, speak and move with intention, practice respect and come to acknowledge the importance and value of honouring Elders and their wisdom, we begin to get a sense of a culture unlike our own that offers significant benefits for its citizens and ourselves.
- Afternoon As we stroll along the boardwalk-lined streets and explore Parks Canada's [Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site](#) we will try to grasp the magnitude, ingenuity and significance of the Klondike Gold Rush. 'Gold Fever' was real and many of the tall tales we'll hear might sound like fiction, but only real life can be this bizarre. Although the peak of the rush lasted a mere three years, the impacts are still felt to this day, from Dawson City all the way to Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle and San Francisco and Hollywood. The Disney 2020 release of [Call of the Wild](#) is the most recent 'big screen' production that focuses on the Klondike.
- 6:00 pm Dinner at [The Drunken Goat Taverna](#)
- Evening This evening we'll gather on top of [Midnight Dome](#) to soak up the last of the sunlight and see if we can fit together the experiences of the day into a single landscape that appears below us.
- Overnight Aurora Inn, Dawson City

### Day 4 – Wednesday, September 16

- 8:00 am Breakfast at a local café.
- Full Day We'll walk to the river and meet our guides from [Fishwheel Charters](#) who operate year-round tourism experiences steeped in the Hän people's traditions. Boating downriver to Moosehide, we will come to understand how the river was the highway for centuries before a 'rush' of any kind came to this land.
- Moosehide is an Indigenous settlement, created in 1897 as the Gold Rush began to impact the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people who lived in the area that was quickly becoming Dawson City. First Nations people called this 'home' for many generations and today it is still alive and hosts the bi-annual [Moosehide Gathering](#).
- In this 'modern-traditional' setting we will try to understand the impact of the gold rush on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people and see how ancestors' wisdom has served their nation.
- Returning upriver, we'll venture 'across the river' to travel a short section of the [Top of the World Highway](#), which winds along the top of a mountain range, and experience West Dawson, a modern day, counter-culture community with unique and unexpected variations in lifestyle, even compared to the 'easy life' in Dawson City.
- 7:00 pm Dinner
- Evening After dinner we will gather by the river and reflect on the day. The rest of the evening is yours to continue to explore Dawson City, and relax. .
- Overnight Aurora Inn, Dawson City

## Day 5 – Thursday, September 17

7:30 am Breakfast

Day Today we will take a day tour and head even further north, guided by [Klondike Experience](#) to [Tombstone Territorial Park](#), a park that was created under the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement](#) and is co-managed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Yukon Government's Department of Environment. This iconic area boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in the Central Yukon and attracts visitors from around the world.

We will travel the famous [Dempster Highway](#) by vehicle - the only all-season road in Canada to cross the Arctic Circle and connect to the Arctic Ocean (but don't worry, we won't go *that* far north today!). We'll hike one of the many incredible mountain sides within the park and go flightseeing over the park! And best of all, with NO wi-fi or cell signal until we return to Dawson, we can fully immerse ourselves in the grandiose scenery.

7:00 pm Dinner

Evening Our last evening in Dawson City is unstructured. Free time to explore.

Overnight Aurora Inn, Dawson City

## Day 6 – Friday, September 18

8:00 am Breakfast and check-out from Aurora Inn.

9:00 am Depart Dawson City for the airport.

Enroute, we'll visit [Goldbottom Mine Tours](#) of [Dredge #4 National Historic Site](#) and the [Klondike Gold Fields](#).

11:30 am Check in at Dawson City airport.

12:25 pm Depart Dawson City on [Air North](#) Flight #308.

1:35 pm Arrive in Whitehorse.

TBD Depart Whitehorse – Air North flight #577 or Air Canada flight #8858

TBD Arrive in Vancouver and continue on connecting flights home.

\*Overnight accommodation in Vancouver can be arranged if early morning departures are preferred.

## Recommended items to bring

- Clothing layers; September in the Yukon brings a change in seasons and unpredictable weather. Prepare for anything from +20 C to freezing at night. Dressing in layers gives maximum flexibility to adapt to whatever weather we encounter during the tour.
- Good walking shoes or hiking boots (bring lighter footwear for evenings if you like; hiking boots will be 'acceptable fashion' at all restaurants and evening activities).
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and rain jacket and rain pants.
- Gloves or mitts, lightweight long underwear, mid-weight socks (higher wool content is better than cotton), fleece jacket, hiking pants and windproof jacket.