



Skagway, Alaska Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Alaska's Famous Gold Rush Town



Step off your cruise ship and travel back to the days of the **Klondike Gold Rush**. Nestled at the northern end of the Inside Passage, Skagway is one of Alaska's most visited cruise ports and one of its most historic communities. With fewer than 1,000 year-round residents, this small town welcomes hundreds of thousands of cruise visitors each summer who come to experience its fascinating history, breathtaking mountain scenery, and legendary railroad.

During the gold rush of 1897-1898, more than 100,000 hopeful prospectors passed through Skagway on their way to the Yukon in search of fortune. Today, beautifully preserved buildings, wooden boardwalks, and historic storefronts make it feel as though little has changed in more than a century.

Whether you're riding the world-famous White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, exploring the historic downtown, or venturing into the Canadian Yukon, Skagway is one of Alaska's most unforgettable cruise ports.



Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Skagway has several cruise piers, including:

- Railroad Dock
- Ore Dock
- Broadway Dock

Depending on where your ship docks, downtown is typically a **5 to 15-minute walk** or a short shuttle ride away.

The cruise port is easy to navigate, and most major attractions are within walking distance.



Explore Historic Downtown



Downtown Skagway is part of the **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park**, and strolling through town feels like stepping into the late 1800s.

Highlights include:

- Historic wooden boardwalks
- Restored Gold Rush-era buildings
- Museums
- Local boutiques
- Restaurants
- Saloons
- Visitor Center

Don't miss Broadway Street, the heart of Skagway's historic district.

★ Top Things to Do

🚂 White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad



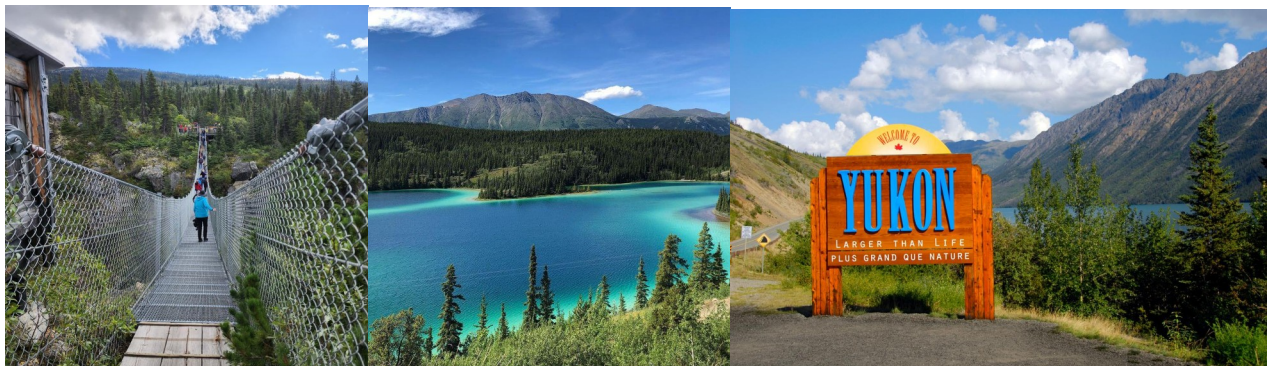
This is **the signature excursion in Skagway** and one of the most famous train rides in the world.

Built in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush, the narrow-gauge railroad climbs nearly **3,000 feet** in just 20 miles, passing:

- Deep gorges
- Waterfalls
- Mountain lakes
- Historic trestle bridges
- Sheer cliffs

Whether you choose the round-trip train or a combination bus-and-rail excursion into Canada, this is one excursion I recommend booking early. It often sells out months in advance.

🚌 Yukon Adventure Tours



Many excursions travel beyond the White Pass Summit into Canada's Yukon Territory.

Popular stops include:

- Emerald Lake
- Carcross
- Yukon Suspension Bridge

- Scenic overlooks
- Wildlife viewing

Important: Most travelers will need a valid passport for excursions that cross into Canada.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park



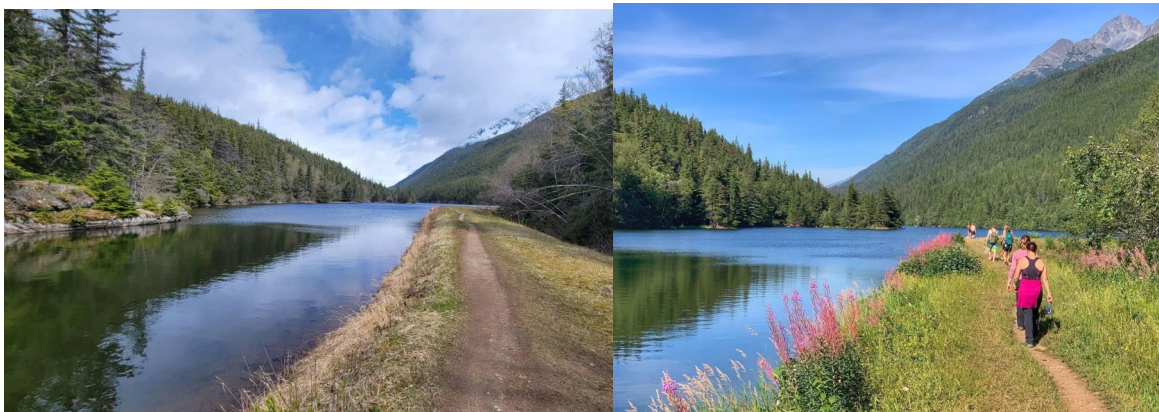
Learn about the incredible journey of the stampeders who risked everything during the Gold Rush.

The Visitor Center features:

- Historic exhibits
- Ranger programs
- Interactive displays
- Original Gold Rush artifacts

Admission is free and well worth your time.

Lower Dewey Lake Trail



If you're looking for a peaceful hike close to town, this scenic trail is an excellent choice.

You'll enjoy:

- Forest scenery
- Mountain views

- Quiet lake
- Wildlife opportunities

A great option if you've already explored downtown.



Outdoor Adventures

Skagway offers plenty for adventure lovers.

Popular excursions include:

- ATV tours
 - Dog sledding (seasonal helicopter excursions)
 - Ziplining
 - Hiking
 - Cycling
 - Floatplane tours
 - River rafting
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Wildlife



Keep your eyes open for:

- Brown bears
- Black bears
- Mountain goats
- Bald eagles
- Moose
- Dall sheep
- Marmots

Wildlife sightings are especially common along the White Pass route.



What to Eat

Don't miss:

- Fresh Alaska salmon
- Halibut
- Fish & chips
- Reindeer sausage
- Seafood chowder
- Wild berry desserts

Several locally owned restaurants are located along Broadway Street.



Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- Gold Rush memorabilia
- Alaska Native artwork
- Ulu knives
- Handmade jewelry
- Yukon souvenirs
- Smoked salmon
- Local fudge

Downtown Skagway offers a wonderful mix of locally owned shops and specialty stores.



Weather

Summer temperatures generally range from:

50–65°F (10–18°C)

Expect:

- Cool mornings
- Mild afternoons
- Occasional rain

Dress in layers and bring a waterproof jacket.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Walking
- Shuttle buses
- Excursion transportation
- Taxi

Downtown is compact and very pedestrian-friendly.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Waterproof rain jacket
 - ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
 - ✓ Binoculars
 - ✓ Camera
 - ✓ Passport (if traveling into Canada)
 - ✓ Small backpack
 - ✓ Layered clothing
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Hidden Gems

If time allows, explore:

- Reid Falls
- Lower Dewey Lake
- Historic cemeteries
- Small local museums
- Scenic harbor viewpoints

These quieter spots offer a different perspective on Skagway beyond the busy main street.



Premium Travel Group Tip

If this is your first visit to Skagway, **the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad should be at the top of your list**. It is one of the most iconic rail journeys in North America and consistently ranks among the best shore excursions in Alaska.

If you choose an excursion into the Yukon, don't forget your passport. Missing that one document could mean missing one of the best adventures of your cruise.



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Why Visit Skagway?

Skagway perfectly combines Alaska's breathtaking natural beauty with one of the most fascinating chapters in North American history. Whether you're riding the legendary White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, standing where Gold Rush stampedeers once began their journey, or simply enjoying the charm of this beautifully preserved town, Skagway offers an experience that captures the adventurous spirit of Alaska like few other places can.



Joe's Logbook

If I could only recommend **one excursion** in Skagway, it would be the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad—without hesitation.

It's one of those experiences that lives up to every expectation. As the train climbs through the mountains, you'll cross towering trestle bridges, wind past waterfalls, and enjoy views that are simply unforgettable. Every time I see photos from that journey, I'm reminded why it's considered one of the world's great scenic railroads.

After your excursion, don't rush back to the ship. Take time to wander Broadway Street, visit the National Historical Park, and imagine what this town looked like during the Klondike Gold Rush. It's incredible to think that more than a century ago, thousands of hopeful prospectors stood on those same streets chasing dreams of striking it rich.

Skagway isn't just another cruise port—it's a place where history and breathtaking scenery come together to create one of Alaska's most memorable destinations.