

BASIC ITINERARY #1:

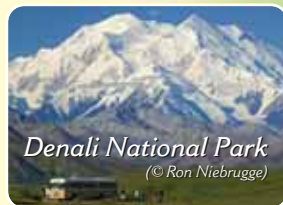
INBOUND: Alaska Highway via West Access Route

OUTBOUND: Inside Passage

The classic itinerary for Alaska-bound travelers on the West Access route is to drive the Alaska Highway one-way, and take the Alaska Marine Highway the other way via the Inside Passage from Haines, AK, to Bellingham, WA. The ferry portion of the itinerary requires advance reservations. Travelers should work backwards from their ferry departure date when estimating travel time for the driving portion of the trip.



Kluane Lake



Denali National Park
(© Ron Niebrugge)



Glenn Highway Scenic Byway



Signpost Forest



Barkerville

Depart Seattle on the West Access Route, but cross the international border at Blaine (instead of Sumas), and follow Highway 99 through Vancouver to Horseshoe Bay and the start of the Sea to Sky Highway. This stunning highway, a former logging road, is a slight twist in the traditional West Access approach to the Alaska Highway. And it is, indeed, a twisting road, but Highway 99 also offers an exciting route into British Columbia's Cariboo country. Stop at the historic Hat Creek Ranch before joining Highway 97 north of Cache Creek and continuing on to Prince George.

Leave BC's Cariboo country via the Hart Highway from Prince George. Take a Tumbler Ridge side trip to see Kinuseo Falls before continuing on to Dawson Creek, Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway. Head north on the Alaska Highway, allowing enough time to stop and enjoy wildlife viewing, rivers, historic lodges, beautiful Muncho Lake and Liard River Hotsprings. At Watson Lake, first stop in the Yukon, don't miss the famous Signpost Forest.

From Watson Lake, plan to stop at Teslin Lake for some fishing. Next stop is Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory and home to many of Yukon's best known attractions, including the SS Klondike, Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre and Miles Canyon. Side trips include scenic Atlin on Atlin Road and Emerald Lake and Caribou Crossing on the South Klondike Highway.

Driving north from Whitehorse, you'll visit Haines Junction, the Kluane Lake area and Beaver Creek. Just north of Beaver Creek you'll cross into Alaska at Port Alcan. Your first stop in Alaska will probably be Tok, which has all services and 2 visitor information centers. Delta Junction also has all services and is the official end of the Alaska Highway. Stop at Rika's Roadhouse just outside Delta Junction before driving to Fairbanks via the Richardson Highway.

Explore the many attractions of Fairbanks. Allow time for side trips to gold mines, hot springs, the trans-Alaska pipeline, the Arctic Circle and points North.

Plan on at least 2 days (or more) to drive the Parks Highway from Fairbanks to

Anchorage. There's quite a bit to see and do on this highway, from horseback riding to touring sled dog kennels. Denali National Park is the major attraction and a must stop. Side trips along the Parks Highway also include Petersburg Road and Talkeetna. Anchorage is a hub for all kinds of side trips, from Hatcher Pass Road to Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula.

From Anchorage, head out the Glenn Highway Scenic Byway, past Matanuska Glacier, to the Tok Cutoff. At Tok, go back down the Alaska Highway to Haines Junction, YT, then take the Haines Highway south to the port of Haines, where you'll catch the state ferry south to Bellingham, WA. If time allows, include stopovers at Southeast ports along the Alaska Marine Highway portion of your trip.

Inbound mileage: 2,701 miles

*Detail: Seattle to Dawson Creek 853 miles
Dawson Creek to Fairbanks 1,486 miles
Fairbanks to Anchorage 362 miles*

Outbound mileage: 771 miles. Ferry travel is 68 hours (about 3 days).

*Detail: Anchorage to Tok 328 miles
Tok to Haines 443 miles*

Major Attractions



Liard Hotsprings
(© Ron Niebrugge)

1. Sea to Sky Highway
2. Barkerville
3. Muncho Lake
4. Liard Hotsprings
5. Signpost Forest
6. SS Klondike
7. Kluane Lake
8. Fairbanks
9. Denali National Park
10. Glenn Highway Scenic Byway
11. Southeast Alaska/ Inside Passage

FOLLOWING THIS ITINERARY IN THE MILEPOST®

- West Access Route pages78 to 113
- Alaska Highway pages114 to 223
- Richardson Highway pages480 to 485
- Parks Highway pages416 to 378
- Glenn Highway pages342 to 304
- Alaska Highway pages208 to 189
- Haines Highway pages735 to 732
- Inside Passage pages731 to 682

NOTE: For reverse itinerary, read sections from bottom to top and reverse page numbers.

*Page numbers for major attractions and side trip options are found on the Contents page and/or in the Index.

BASIC ITINERARY #2:

INBOUND: East Access to Alaska Highway and Klondike Loop

OUTBOUND: Cross-Gulf to Yellowhead Highway and Icefields Parkway

A variation on the classic itinerary for Alaska-bound travelers on the East Access route: Drive the Alaska Highway one-way, and take the Alaska Marine Highway the other way, but you'll enter Alaska via the Klondike Loop and depart via the Cross-Gulf ferry from Whittier, AK, to Prince Rupert, BC. The ferry portion of this itinerary requires advance planning. Cross-Gulf sailings are less frequent than Inside Passage sailings, so check current summer schedules and time your itinerary accordingly.

Head up the East Access Route from Great Falls, MT, crossing into Alberta at Sweetgrass, MT/Coutts, AB, and driving north through the province's 2 largest population centers, Calgary and Edmonton, which between them boast a number of major attractions. From Edmonton, this historic access to the Alaska Highway swings northwest through canola fields and gas and oil patch activity to Dawson Creek, BC, Mile Zero of the Alaska Highway.

Head north on the Alaska Highway, allowing enough time to stop and enjoy wildlife viewing, rivers, historic lodges, beautiful Muncho Lake and Liard River Hot-springs. At Watson Lake, first stop in the Yukon, don't miss the famous Signpost Forest. Continue on to Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory and home to many of Yukon's best known attractions, including the SS *Klondike*, Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre and Miles Canyon.

Just northwest of Whitehorse, you'll turn off the Alaska Highway onto the Klondike Highway, which leads to the historic gold rush town of Dawson City. After exploring Dawson, line up early for the ferry ride across the Yukon River to the Top of the World Highway. The ride only takes a few minutes, but on busy summer days, Alaska-bound traffic can stack up. You'll also want to allow plenty of time to drive the Top of the World Highway; winding road and

gravel breaks make this scenic drive a slow one.

After crossing into Alaska, you'll junction with the Taylor Highway, which leads north to Eagle on the Yukon River and south through Chicken to the Alaska Highway. At Chicken, don't miss the Pedro gold dredge, Tisha's schoolhouse or Beautiful Downtown Chicken. The Taylor Highway into both Eagle and Chicken is winding gravel, so plan your driving time accordingly. The Taylor Highway from Chicken south to the Alaska Highway junction is paved, and it is only 12 miles from that junction to Tok.

Tok is an important service stop on the Alaska Highway and it is also decision-making time: Do you first head southwest on the Tok Cutoff/Glenn Highway to Anchorage, or continue on the Alaska Highway to Delta Junction and on to Fairbanks? Since any driving tour of Alaska should include Anchorage, Fairbanks and Denali National Park, it is really a question of timing. Events like Fairbanks' Midnight Sun Baseball Game on June 21st, or the mid-June Russian River red salmon run on the Kenai Peninsula, may influence how your trip plays out. Whichever route you choose, you'll need to plan your in-state travels so that you arrive in Whittier in time to catch your ferry.

Depart Whittier in the evening on the MV *Kennicott* Cross-Gulf trip, and arrive early in the morning 3½ days later at Prince Rupert, BC. Upon arrival in Prince Rupert, you'll head east on Yellowhead Highway 16 to Jasper and head back south on the Icefields Parkway to Banff, rejoining the East Access Route at Calgary to return to Great Falls, MT.

Inbound mileage: 2,846 miles
*Detail: Great Falls to Dawson Creek 873 miles
 Dawson Creek to Whitehorse 895 miles*



Major Attractions

1. Calgary
2. Edmonton
3. Mile 0 Alaska Highway
4. Liard Hotspings
5. Signpost Forest
6. SS *Klondike*
7. Dawson City
8. Fairbanks
9. Denali National Park
10. Anchorage
11. Inside Passage

FOLLOWING THIS ITINERARY IN The MILEPOST.

- East Access Route pages44 to 77
- Alaska Highway pages114 to 186
- Klondike Loop pages274 to 296
- Alaska Highway pages205 to 223
- Richardson Highway pages480 to 485
- Parks Highway pages416 to 378
- Seward Highway pages529 to 545
- Yellowhead Highway pages256 to 234
- East Access Route pages58 to 44

NOTE: For reverse itinerary, read sections from bottom to top and reverse page numbers.

*Page numbers for major attractions and side trip options are found on the Contents page and/or in the Index.

*Klondike Loop to Tok 510 miles
 Tok to Fairbanks 206 miles
 Fairbanks to Anchorage 362 miles*

Outbound mileage: 1,295 miles. Ferry travel is 80 hours (3½ days).

*Detail: Anchorage to Whittier 48 miles
 Prince Rupert to Jasper 682 miles
 Jasper to Calgary 245 miles
 Calgary to Great Falls 320 miles*

BASIC ITINERARY #3:

INBOUND: Inside Passage/Klondike Loop

OUTBOUND: Alaska & Cassiar highways to West Access

One leg of this itinerary combines ferry travel along the Inside Passage from Bellingham, WA, to Skagway, AK, with the Klondike Loop route into Alaska, while the other leg is an all-land route along the Alaska Highway, Cassiar, and Yellowhead highways to the West Access Route return to Seattle, WA. As with any itinerary involving ferry travel, decide on a date for the ferry portion of your trip and get your ferry reservations first. The Inside Passage summer sailings out of Bellingham, WA, with the Alaska Marine Highway System are very popular, so reserve space early. (See Ferry Travel beginning on page 28 for more details.)

This sample itinerary allows 8 to 10 days for exploring Southeast Alaska by ferry and road. Or you can choose to stay on the ferry for the 3-day trip from Bellingham to Skagway. Point-to-point ferry travel requires careful planning; see the ferry schedules beginning on page 778.

Ketchikan is first port of call in Alaska. The morning arrival allows you much of the day to explore the town and approximately 30 miles of road. The following day, take the Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA) from Ketchikan to Hollis on Prince of Wales Island, the third largest island under the American flag. Spend a full day exploring the island and return to Ketchikan and the mainline state ferry route the next day, or drive to Coffman Cove and take the IFA's northern service, which connects Coffman Cove with Wrangell and Petersburg 4 days a week.

Wrangell attractions include Chief Shakes Island and Tribal House in the harbor. If you have the time, book a boat trip with one of the local outfitters to Anan Wildlife Observatory to see the bears or up the Stikine River to see glorious scenery. If you are camping, experience one of the best campground views in Alaska at Nemo Point



Rika's Roadhouse

Recreation Area.

Depart Wrangell for Petersburg with IFA or the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry (the IFA ferry docks 25 miles south of Petersburg; the state ferry docks a short walk from downtown). Petersburg attractions include whale watching, sea kayaking and tours out to LeConte Glacier.

From Petersburg, take the ferry to Juneau, next stop on the mainline ferry route and Alaska's capital. Allow 2 days to see Mendenhall Glacier and other Juneau sights. The next day, take the fast-ferry service from Juneau to Skagway.

It is only a 2½-hour drive from Skagway, AK, to Whitehorse, YT, via the South Klondike Highway; a beautiful drive in good weather. After sightseeing Whitehorse, drive up the Alaska Highway a few miles and turn on to the North Klondike Highway to Dawson City, which forms the first part of the Klondike Loop. It is a day's drive from Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory, to Dawson City, first capital of the Yukon, longer if you allow time to hike down to Five Finger Rapids or take the Yukon River trip to Fort Selkirk.

You'll cross the Yukon River at Dawson City and follow the Top of the World Highway into Alaska, then the Taylor Highway south through Chicken and the historic Fortymile gold mining district to junction with the Alaska Highway just southeast of Tok. Head northwest up the Alaska and Richardson highways to Fairbanks. After taking in Fairbanks area attractions, drive down the Parks Highway to Denali National Park and Anchorage.

The outbound portion of this trip takes the Glenn Highway/Tok Cutoff from Anchorage to Tok. At Tok, take the Alaska Highway southeast to its junction with the Cassiar Highway, just 13 miles west of Watson Lake. Make the short drive into Watson Lake to see the Signpost Forest before heading south on Highway 37 into British Columbia. Cassiar Highway 37 is popular with motorists who have driven the Alaska Highway and are looking for an alternate route for the drive back. The Cassiar accesses Stewart, BC, and Hyder, AK, an

FOLLOWING THIS ITINERARY IN The MILEPOST.

- Inside Passage pages682 to 731
- South Klondike Highway pages 736 to 741
- Alaska Highway pages168 to 186
- Klondike Loop pages274 to 296
- Alaska Highway pages205 to 223
- Richardson Highway pages480 to 485
- Parks Highway pages416 to 378
- Glenn Hwy./Tok Cutoff pages ..342 to 304
- Alaska Highway pages208 to 158
- Cassiar Highway pages273 to 257
- Yellowhead Highway pages248 to 237
- West Access Route pages102 to 78

NOTE: For reverse itinerary, read sections from bottom to top and reverse page numbers.

*Page numbers for major attractions and side trip options are found on the Contents page and/or in the Index.

Major Attractions



1. Inside Passage
2. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
3. Whitehorse
4. Dawson City
5. Rika's Roadhouse
6. Denali National Park
7. Anchorage
8. Kenai Peninsula
9. Glenn Highway Scenic Byway
10. Stewart/Hyder
11. Fraser River Canyon/Hell's Gate

interesting side trip with glaciers (Bear and Salmon) and bear viewing (at Fish Creek).

The Cassiar junctions with Yellowhead Highway 16, which takes you east to Prince George, where you'll take the West Access Route south through the dramatic Thompson and Fraser River canyons to the international border at Sumas, then back down I-5 to Seattle, WA.

Inbound mileage: 1,195 miles plus 3 to 10 days ferry travel time.

*Detail: Skagway to Dawson City 442 miles
Dawson City to Fairbanks 391 miles
Fairbanks to Anchorage 362 miles*

Outbound mileage: 2,320 miles

*Detail: Anchorage to Tok 328 miles
Tok to Watson Lake 669
Watson Lake to Prince George 761
Prince George to Seattle 562*