



KLUANE NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE OF CANADA



Visitor Centres

Park information, exhibits and backcountry registration are available at both visitor centres.

Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre
This centre is located in the village of Haines Junction which is the primary staging area for activities in the park.

Open daily: mid May to late September
winter hours vary
Phone: (867) 634-7207

Tachàl Dhàl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Centre
This centre is located 75 km north of Haines Junction along the Alaska Highway on the shores of Kluane Lake, Łù'àn Mǎn.

Open daily: mid May to early September
Phone: (867) 841-4500

Questions? Contact us! Kluane National Park & Reserve of Canada

P.O. Box 5495
Haines Junction, Yukon
Canada Y0B 1L0
Phone: (867) 634-7250
Fax: (867) 634-7208
E-mail: kluane.info@pc.gc.ca
Website: www.pc.gc.ca/kluane

Related Information

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
Website: www.cafn.ca

Kluane First Nation (Łù'àn Mǎn Ku Dǎn)
Website: www.kfn.ca



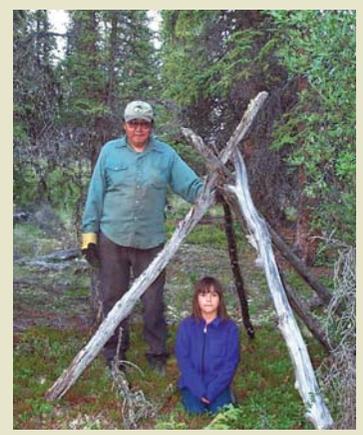
The History of the Southern Tutchone People

Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of the homeland of the Southern Tutchone people. Over thousands of years, *dän* (the people) have developed effective methods of surviving in this land of extremes. Elders recall a rich history which details events and places spanning many generations.



Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Elders

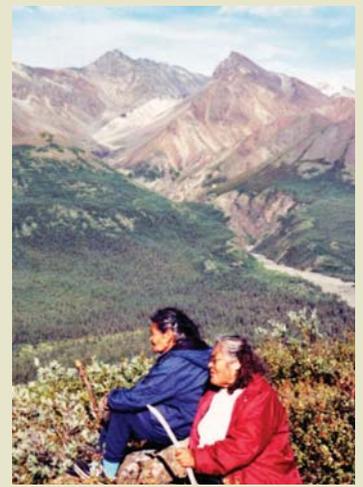
They once lived a nomadic lifestyle, travelling great distances, in order to take advantage of seasonal abundances of wildlife and plant species throughout their traditional territory. This lifestyle required developing a superior skill set of hunting and travelling techniques in an area of harsh climatic and geographic variations. The accuracy and depth of the Southern Tutchone language was key to the survival of the *dän*. Formal teachings as well as traditional stories told by Elders were and continue to be passed on orally. Place names and the stories associated with them were a source of critical knowledge; they identified where resources could be found, referred to past events, and described the terrain in a way that a traveller would have knowledge of a place without having been there before.



Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Elder and Youth

Southern Tutchone Culture

In 1943, the Kluane Game Sanctuary was established and First Nations were denied access to hunting, fishing and trapping in a significant portion of their traditional territory. This separation caused their special bond with those lands to break resulting in a great cultural and personal loss that has now affected five generations. Today, with the implementation of their land claim and the establishment of Kluane National Park and Reserve, they have reasserted their right to carry out traditional activities in the park and the surrounding Kluane Game Sanctuary lands.



Kluane First Nation Elders

Today, the Southern Tutchone people continue to maintain a rich culture based on strong ties with the natural world. Renewing their relationship with their traditional territory within the park, and providing direction in the management of the natural resources are high priorities for both Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation. This cultural reintegration will also help ensure that the First Nations' traditional knowledge of this region is recognized and carried forth into the future.



Kluane First Nation Youth



Kluane First Nation Youths

A National Treasure

Kluane National Park and Reserve, found in the southwest corner of the Yukon, is one of many national treasures that Parks Canada protects across the country. Canadian National Parks are created to protect areas that are representative of unique natural regions. Kluane National Park and Reserve represents the North Coast Mountains natural region. Within this 21,980 km² (8487 mi²) protected area are massive mountains, immense icefields and lush valleys, as well as a rich diversity of plant and wildlife species. This impressive natural landscape is part of the traditional territory of the Southern Tutchone people represented in the Kluane region by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Kluane First Nation. Today, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation and Parks Canada are jointly responsible for the management of the park's natural and cultural resources.



Mount Logan in the distance

'Kluane' - What's in a Name?

The Southern Tutchone name for Kluane Lake is "Lù'àn Mǎn" meaning "big fish lake". The coastal Tlingits, who were trading partners, called the area "ùxh-àni" meaning "whitefish country". The name 'Kluane' (pronounced 'Kloo-wah-nee') was derived from these two names by early settlers.

The Southern Tutchone language is a critical component in the lives of this region's first residents. The preservation of this language is important and its use throughout this brochure illustrates the long history Southern Tutchone people have in the park region.

Joint Stewardship

For national parks to continue protecting Canada's wild places now and for the future, their ecological integrity must remain intact. An ecosystem is considered to have ecological integrity if all the native components such as plant and animal populations are intact and natural processes (fire, insect outbreaks, predator-prey relationships) are left to persist.

To fulfill its responsibility in this regard, Kluane National Park and Reserve takes a comprehensive approach and works with others towards maintaining a healthy, sustainable ecosystem. The traditional knowledge of the Southern Tutchone people contributes to the maintenance of ecological integrity and is incorporated in the modern day management of the park. We are working together towards ecological integrity by ensuring that land use decisions take into consideration the complex interactions and dynamic nature of the park ecosystems, as well as their limited capacity to withstand and recover from stress.



Dall Sheep Rams (mǎy shayan)



Moose (kanāy)

The Land

Kluane National Park and Reserve is dominated by mountains and ice. The St. Elias Mountains, Canada's highest and most massive mountains are made up of two ranges. The Kluane Ranges, a chain of mountains averaging 2500 m, (8,000 ft) in height, parallels the highways. Beyond these, lie the rugged Icefield Ranges, containing Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan at 5,959 m (19,545 ft) in height.

Amid these ranges is a legacy of the last Ice Age – one of the largest non-polar icefields in the world. Massive quantities of snow fall, as moist Pacific air is forced over the high mountains. This snow builds up around the high peaks, continually pushing down, forming glaciers that flow down the valleys. Valley glaciers such as the Lowell and the Kaskawulsh connect the icefields with the rest of the park. Meltwater from these glaciers become rivers and lakes which are a source of life for an abundance of plant and wildlife species.

Plants

The climatic overlap of the pacific and arctic air masses over Kluane National Park and Reserve has resulted in one of the greatest diversities of plants and wildlife in northern Canada.

The park's vegetation is most typically representative of northern boreal forest. Approximately 18 percent of the park is vegetated and only seven percent is forested. This montane forest of white spruce (*ts'u*), trembling aspen (*t'ü*) and balsam poplar (*t'ü*) covers much of the lower valleys and slopes. Low-growing or stunted shrubs in the sub-alpine include willow (*k'äy*), dwarf birch (*tru*) and alder (*keshür*). Summers in the alpine are a flourish of colour, with over 200 varieties of flora.



Soapberries (*nighru*)

Today, as in the past, natural processes such as fire, flooding and outbreaks of insects and disease continually shape these vegetation communities and contribute to their diversity.

Wildlife



Grizzly Bears (*shǎr sho*)

The vegetation communities provide habitat for many species of wildlife. Grizzly bears (*shǎr sho*) are found throughout Kluane National Park and Reserve and the surrounding region. They are considered an indicator of ecosystem health. Other species such as wolves (*ägäy*), lynx (*nädäy*), mountain goats (*ambäy*), moose (*kanäy*), black bears (*shǎr zhi*) and Dall sheep (*mäy*), Kluane's most abundant large mammal, also inhabit the park and the surrounding area. The diversity of habitats, both inside and adjacent to the park, also contributes to a great variety of birdlife. Over 180 species have been reported, including trumpeter swans (*dägäy*) and populations of raptors such as peregrine falcons (*nàda*), gyrfalcons (*nàda*), and bald and golden eagles (*chùndäy* and *thäy*). The park's lakes and streams contain lake trout (*mbet*), northern pike (*tàte*), arctic grayling (*t'äwa*) and several other fish species. The kokanee (*sàchal*), a landlocked salmon are found in the Kathleen, Louise and Sockeye lake system. This unique species is the only naturally occurring population in any Canadian national park.



Trumpeter Swan (*dägäy*)

Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada



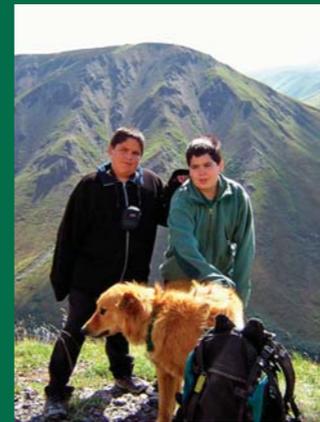
Mountaineering - Kluane Icefields Ranges



Kathleen Lake



Cross-Country Skiing



Kluane First Nation
North End of Park



Rafting - Alesk River



Hiking - Bullion Plateau

Yours to Explore!

The park is a wilderness that offers many outdoor opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. The most popular activities are day hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, mountaineering, camping, rafting, fishing and flight seeing. Winter recreation includes cross-country skiing, ice fishing, backcountry ski touring, dogsledding, and winter camping. All overnight trips in the park must be registered with park staff. Detailed recreation information is available in the park Recreation Guide or visit our website at: www.pc.gc.ca/kluane.

Interpretive Events

Park staff are available to help you discover the park and its rich diversity. Interpretive events start in June and continue until late August. Detailed schedules are available at the visitor centres.

Road Travel

Both the Alaska and Haines highways skirt the boundary of Kluane National Park and Reserve and are open year round. The highway corridor is serviced by a variety of highway and community-based visitor services and facilities including commercial and

Yukon Government campgrounds.

The experience of driving in this region is characterized by unending scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. A variety of useful information is available at roadside exhibits or along one of several short self-guided trails along the highways. Community-based Yukon Government, First Nations, and Parks Canada visitor centres, museums and attractions provide highway travellers with an opportunity to learn more about the park and the surrounding region.

Parks Canada Campground

Kathleen Lake is Kluane National Park and Reserve's focal point for highway accessible water-based recreation and vehicle camping. There you will find a scenic day-use area with kitchen shelter, boat launch and picnic facilities, as well as a 39-site campground with bear-proof storage lockers and outhouses. The Kathleen Lake Campground operates by self-registration on a first come-first serve basis from mid May to mid September.

Local Services

A number of businesses operate in the Kluane area providing a variety of services and activities. Detailed information may be obtained by contacting the Yukon Government, Department of Tourism & Culture. Phone: 1-800-661-0494, e-mail: vacation@gov.yk.ca or visit their website at: www.travelyukon.com.

Weather

The Kluane region can experience sudden and dramatic climatic contrasts due to its size, rugged terrain, and proximity to the Pacific Ocean. Rain or snow can fall at any time of the year and freezing temperatures are possible even during the summer. Be prepared for all weather conditions. For a detailed weather forecast inquire at the visitor centres; call (867) 668-6061 or visit the Environment Canada website at: www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca.

Keep the Wild in Wildlife!

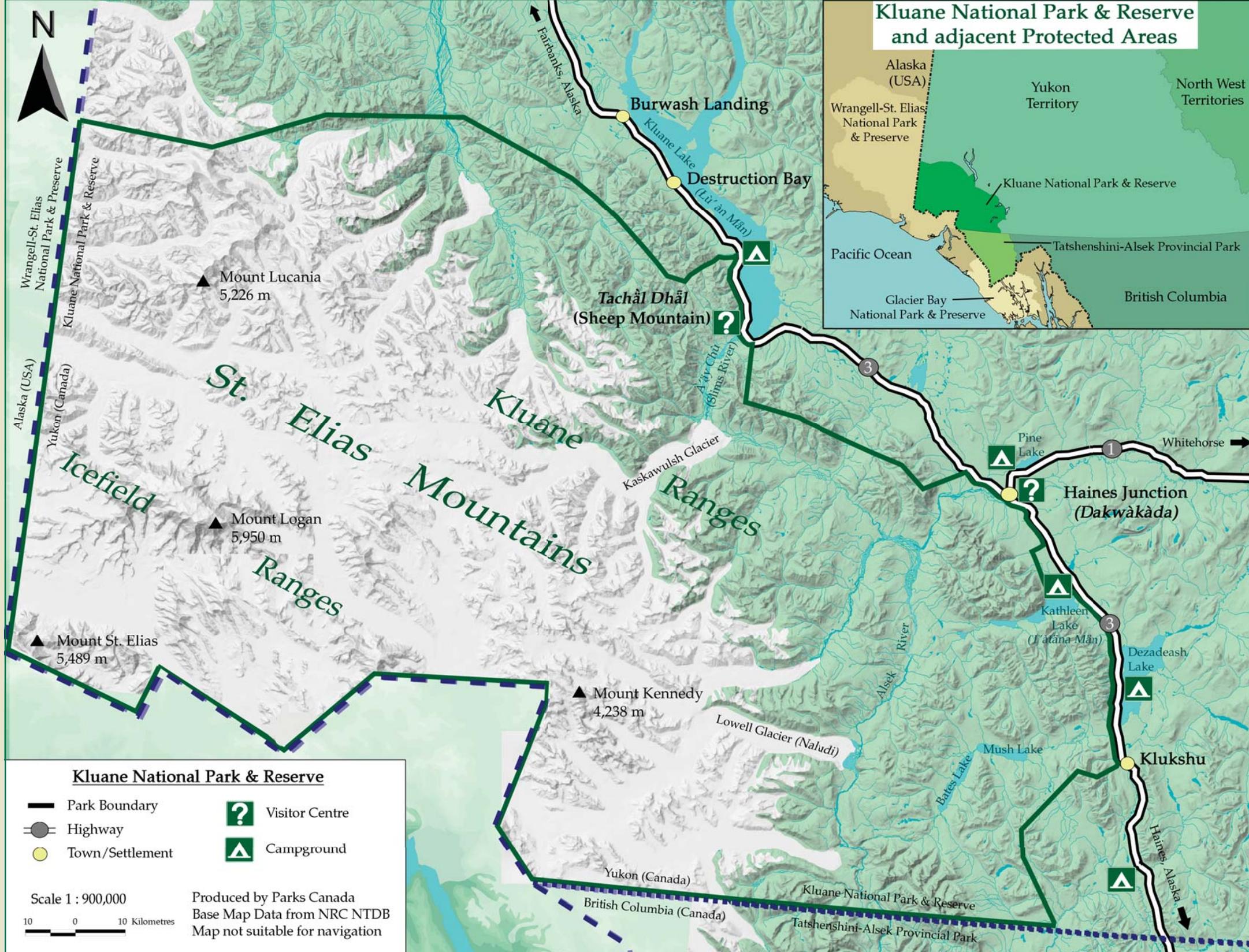
The chance to observe wild animals is one of the most fascinating experiences that Canada's national parks have to offer. Along with this opportunity, comes the responsibility to give the wildlife the respect they deserve and the space they need.

People harass wild animals unintentionally by getting too close. When animals become accustomed to being around people they lose their natural fear, and may become a threat to humans. The habituation of wild animals sometimes leads to them having to be destroyed. Although wildlife generally prefer to avoid humans, some animals may charge and even attack people if they are surprised, or if they feel their young or food are being threatened. Stay alert, never approach or feed wildlife and keep pets on a leash at all times. Keep at least 30 metres (the length of 3 buses) away from animals and stay in your vehicle at all times. The best thing you can do for the animals is to take a quick look and move on.

The 'You are in Bear Country' brochure, available at the visitor centres, provides important information about travelling and camping in bear country.

Please, do your part to limit human impact on wildlife and help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to see wildlife that is truly wild.





An International Treasure

Four contiguous national and provincial parks straddle the international border and protect different regions of the St. Elias Mountains. The Yukon's Kluane National Park and Reserve (21,980 km²), Alaska's Wrangell - St. Elias (52,600 km²) and Glacier Bay National Parks (13,360 km²) and British Columbia's Tatshenshini-Alsek Park (9,580 km²), form the largest international protected area in the world, covering 97,520 km². These parklands are recognized and protected under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention as an outstanding wilderness of global significance.



Alsek River

The Alsek River is well known for its natural, cultural and recreational values. Its rugged glacial valleys are home to golden eagles, mountain goats and grizzly bears. Sand dunes and glaciers provide a contrasting environment amidst the diverse vegetation found here. In 1986, the Alsek River in Kluane National Park and Reserve was named a Canadian Heritage River because of its outstanding examples of northern natural heritage.



Alsek River