



Yukon

Yukon Guide



Yukon Quick Facts

Population

As of 2019 there were 41,352 people living in Yukon. Of those, 32,304 were living in the capital city of Whitehorse.

Capital City

Whitehorse is the major northern hub of Yukon surrounded by wilderness with the amenities of a city paired with the demeanor of a close-knit community.

Size: 482,443 square kilometer

Location

Yukon is one of three territories in Canada's north. It sits with Alaska to the west and the Northwest Territories to the east.

The Arctic Circle runs through the Yukon and the territory has 430 kilometers of shoreline along the Beaufort Sea.

Name

'The Land of the Midnight Sun' is a name given to Yukon in the summer time when there is almost 24 hours of daylight due to the territory's latitude. The name 'Yukon' comes from the native word 'Yuk-un-ah' which means, 'Great River' in reference to the Yukon River that is 3,600 kilometers long.



Climate

Most of Yukon has a dry subarctic climate. Whitehorse experiences average daily highs of 21C and average daily lows of -22C. Whitehorse has little precipitation with an average snowfall of 145 cm and 163 cm of rainfall. Yukon's dry, continental climate results in very low humidity, so summers can be hot and dry while the winter cold is less harsh than in damper climates.



Yukon Communities

Most of the population lives in Whitehorse, however Yukon has several thriving communities throughout the territory. From mountainous Haines Junctions to historic Dawson City, every community offers beautiful scenery and that unique northern hospitality. The following is a list of the Yukon communities, and more information can be found [here](#):

- [Beaver Creek](#)
- [Burwash Landing](#)
- [Carcross](#)
- [Carmacks](#)
- [Dawson City](#)
- [Destruction Bay](#)
- [Faro](#)
- [Haines Junction](#)
- [Ibex Valley](#)
- [Keno City](#)
- [Marsh Lake](#)
- [Mayo](#)
- [Mount Lorne](#)
- [Old Crow](#)
- [Pelly Crossing](#)
- [Ross River](#)
- [Tagish](#)
- [Teslin](#)
- [Watson Lake](#)
- [Whitehorse](#)

Heritage + Culture

Yukon is a place rich in culture, from First Nations traditions to the world's greatest gold rush, the stories left to be uncovered provide a feeling uniqueness that sets Yukon apart. Our tradition and history blends together with a vibrant contemporary arts and culture scene that contributes to the tight knit community feel that is present throughout the Territory.

First Nations: About one quarter of all Yukoners are of Aboriginal ancestry. There are fourteen Yukon First Nations groups along with eight language groups. Traditionally Yukon First Nations lived off the land, hunting and gathering, while today they play a significant part in Yukon society from governance and resource management to the economy and art and culture. For more information on First Nation Culture in Yukon you can head [here](#).

Art + Festivals: Yukon has a vibrant and thriving arts scene that shows through in the multitude of festivals, music, theatre and film events that happen throughout the year. The following is a snapshot of the events and festivals that happen in Yukon yearly:

[Adäka Cultural Festival](#)
[Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous](#)
[Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race](#)
[Available Light Film Festival](#)
[Arctic Winter Games](#)
[Frostbite Music Festival](#)
[Dawson City Music Festival](#)
[Dawson Discovery Days](#)
[Atlin Music Festival](#)

The [Yukon Arts Centre](#) is a 428-seat theatre that provides an exceptional experience for performers and audiences year-round. The Art Lover's Series showcases some of the most rewarding performances from the national art scene. From hip-hop to dance, from cutting edge theatre to national and international headliners, each new season surpasses the previous one.



Outdoor Activities



Land

With Yukon's vast wilderness it's no surprise that there is an abundance of outdoor activities at your doorstep. From stunning hiking in Kluane National Park to world class mountain biking in the community of Carcross, there is certainly no shortage of open-air adventures.



Hiking: Yukon's landscape was made for hiking. From iconic trails like the Chilkoot to unnamed mountains with nothing more than a small footpath, there is something for everyone. Kluane National Park near Haines Junction is home to Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain at 5,959 metres. For more information check out Yukon Hiking's [website](#).

Camping: Yukon has a long list of campgrounds great for the whole family. You can find the list [here](#).



Mountain Biking: Biking in Yukon has become a not-so-secret hotspot. With world class single-track biking at your door step it's no wonder the secret is out. There are trails throughout the territory, with Carcross and Whitehorse having some of the best. For more information head to Boreal Mountain biking's [website](#).

Golf: There are several golf courses throughout Yukon, with two in the capital of Whitehorse. With the midnight sun, it's a thrill to tee off late on a warm summer night.

Road Biking: Road biking is another popular activity in Yukon. With the [Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay](#) from every year in June, Whitehorse has a large cycling community.

Running: Running is a big contributor to Yukon's active community. The [Klondike Road Relay](#) is a yearly event with participants running through the night starting in Skagway, Alaska and finishing in Whitehorse. There are several other running events such as the [Yukon River Trail Marathon](#).

Water

Canoeing + Kayaking: Yukon has an abundance of must-do rivers for paddling in the summer months. The historic Yukon River can take you all the way to Dawson City. If you are more of a flat water enthusiast, there are several roadside lakes to choose from such as Kathleen, Tagish, and Chadburn lakes. With Alaska being our neighbour, sea kayak trips with stunning glaciers views, are also not uncommon.

Fishing + Hunting

Fishing: In Yukon you'll find some of Canada's best fishing for lake trout, arctic grayling, rainbow trout and salmon. With the hundreds of lakes in the territory, you will certainly find something to catch.

Hunting: With the vast wilderness in Yukon, comes home to a large amount of northern wildlife. Hunting for moose, dall sheep, caribou, grizzly and bison is a common activity for Yukoners. Keep in mind hunting is carefully regulated and outfitters follow a strict code of ethics.



Winter

Downhill Skiing + Snowboarding: There is something for everyone for skiing + snowboarding in Yukon. With [Mount Sima](#) just minutes from downtown Whitehorse to backcountry skiing on the Skagway and Haines summits there are ample opportunities for getting out there.

Cross Country Skiing: Right in Whitehorse city limits you can find [Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre](#) with an extensive 85 kilometres of ski trails that also function as walking, running and biking trails in the summer. Mount McIntyre is also home to the [Whitehorse Curling Club](#), [Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club](#) and [Tennis Yukon](#).

There are multitudes of outdoor activities during the Yukon winter. You'll see Yukoners out **snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, dogsledding, snowmobiling, and ice fishing**. Although the winters are long, that doesn't stop Yukoners from being adventurous outdoors.



Family Fun

Yukon and Whitehorse is an incredibly welcoming community for all ages, and specifically appealing to those with families and children. It has the feel of a small knit community with the amenities of a city and therefore is rich in opportunity for those raising families. The opportunities for learning in art, sport, and education are magnified due to the Yukon's population and abundance of resources.



Whitehorse Schools

[Grey Mountain Primary](#)

[Christ the King Elementary](#)

[Elijah Smith Elementary](#)

[Golden Horn Elementary](#)

[Hidden Valley Elementary](#)

[Holy Family Elementary](#)

[Jack Hulland Elementary](#)

[Yukon College](#)

[Selkirk Elementary](#)

[Takhini Elementary](#)

[École Whitehorse Elementary](#)

[Vanier Catholic Secondary](#)

[F.H. Collins Secondary](#)

[Porter Creek Secondary](#)

[École Émilie-Tremblay \(K-12 French\)](#)

[Wood Street Centre \(high school programs\)](#)

Whitehorse schools also offer different programs to suit different student's needs, such as the [Individual Learning Centre](#) which provides a self-paced and self-directed programming with one-on-one teacher assistance for grades 9-12. The Wood Street Centre also offers several programs such as the [Music, Arts and Drama](#) program for grade 9/10. [Wood Street Centre](#) also offers outdoor pursuits and experiential science programs for grades 9 to 11. Students are taken on several overnight camping/biking/canoeing/etc. trips throughout the semester which is part of teaching the school curriculum. [Yukon Sport School](#) is another option for high school students who want to spend half of their day on sport training and half day on academics.

Family Activities: There is never a shortage of family activities + events going on throughout the year in Whitehorse.

[Takhini Hot Springs](#) is located just outside the city limits of Whitehorse. It is locally run with two hot pools at different temperatures as well as a campground with over 80 sites. There is also a French restaurant located on site.

[Yukon Wildlife Preserve](#) is a unique wildlife viewing facility featuring ten major species of Northern mammals. There are self-guided or guided tours available.

[Canada Games Centre](#) is a multi-use, community sport, recreation and wellness facility. The CGC includes 2 ice rinks, an indoor soccer field, flexi hall, fitness gym and pool. The CGC is also home to the [Family Literacy Centre](#) which offers free, daily, drop-in programs with qualified staff that specialize in early childhood education and promote early reading and literacy skills.

[Fireweed Community Market Society](#) offers a weekly Thursday market in Shipyards Park from May to September. The market is the place to find a variety of locally produced foods and artisans.

[Arts in the Park](#) is a summer-long festival at LePage Park in downtown Whitehorse. Every lunch hour and Wednesday, young and old gather for a free concert showcasing performing and visual arts in the community. Wednesday afternoons are deemed as kids' day!

For more information on Yukon events head [here](#).



Sport and Recreation

Yukon is rich in opportunity when it comes to sports and recreation for children and adults of all ages. With many different sport clubs and organizations, and Yukon's small population, the experience of participating in sport in Yukon is definitely unique. The following is a list of the different sport organizations Yukon has to offer:

[Tennis Yukon](#)

[Basketball Yukon](#)

[Yukon Boxing](#)

[Softball Yukon](#)

[Polarettas Gymnastics Club](#)

[Volleyball Yukon](#)

[Yukon Backcountry Skiing](#)

[Alpine Skiing Yukon](#)

[Snowboard Yukon](#)

[Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club](#)

[Hockey Yukon](#)

Yukon Badminton Association

[Athletics Yukon](#)

[Yukon Academy of Martial Arts](#)

[Judo Yukon](#)

[Equine Association of Yukon](#)

[Squash Yukon](#)

[Arctic Edge Skating Club](#)

[Yukon Curling Association](#)

[Climb Yukon](#)

[Equinox Yukon](#)

[Cycling Association of Yukon](#)

[Yukon Soccer Association](#)

[Whitehorse Glacier Bears Swim Club](#)

[Synchro Yukon](#)

[Yukon Breeze Sailing Society](#)

We hope you found this guide helpful, if you have any other questions do not hesitate to contact your HR consultant. Welcome to the Yukon!