

SKAGWAY

Port Guide



SKAGWAY AT A GLANCE

Founded: 1897; officially incorporated in 1900

Region: Skagway is located in a narrow glaciated valley at the head of the Taiya Inlet. It is in the Alaska panhandle 90 miles northwest of the capital city, Juneau.

Population: 968, but in the summer months, the population doubles for the tourist season. During the gold rush the population went as high as 10,000.

Climate: Skagway experiences a maritime climate. Average summer temperatures range from 45–67°F. Skagway receives less rain than is typical of southeast Alaska.

Language: English

Currency: U.S. Dollar



Red Onion Saloon

THE BEST OF SKAGWAY

Don't miss out on the top Points of Interest in this port —
 Book a Princess Excursion and experience them for yourself!

1 White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad

The "Scenic Railway of the World" links Skagway with Yukon, Canada. A 41-mile roundtrip offers an unforgettable journey to the summit of the White Pass at nearly 3,000 feet in elevation.

2 Outdoor Adventures

Enjoy what is truly an outdoorsman's paradise, with activities you won't find anywhere else. Go for a ride on a dog sled, horseback riding, hiking, river rafting, flightseeing, ziplining and more.

3 Klondike Summit

The Klondike Summit, also called the White Pass Summit rises 3,292 feet above sea level along the Klondike Highway. The journey, running parallel to the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, offers breathtaking views of waterfalls, glaciers, scenic vistas and glimpses of the original Brackett Wagon Road and Tormented Valley.

4 Gold Rush History

Relive the color and history of the Yukon Gold Rush. Tour the camps, pan for gold and meet a few costumed characters who'll show you what life was like during the boom-town days in the 1800s.

5 Yukon (Canada)

Yukon is a wilderness playground with an extensive network of waterways. On the scenic 65-mile drive from Skagway, the lush coastal landscape gives way to rugged wilderness. Its capital, Whitehorse, is the center for the Yukon's mining and forestry industries, and a welcoming spot for visitors.

6 Haines

Pristine beauty and an abundance of wildlife define Haines. Just 14 miles from Skagway by water, the town is renowned for huge convocations of bald eagles and one of the planet's longest fjords.

7 Red Onion Saloon

During the Gold Rush, the Red Onion Saloon was Skagway's most exclusive bordello. Now this colorful establishment is a bar and restaurant and a National Historic Building.

8 Dog Sledding

Meet professional mushers and their amazing canine companions in an introduction to Alaska's state sport. Take a flight to a glacier to experience flying over the snow, or visit the summertime training grounds for a ride in a wheeled sled.

Explore Skagway with a Princess Shore Excursion. Visit the Tour Office for more information.

SKAGWAY

A colorful town where the spirit of the Gold Rush shines everyday

In 1897 throngs of gold seekers poured into Skagway in search of the precious metal. At the time, Skagway was no more than a lawless jumble of tents but by the turn of the century it was a bustling town. Known for its magnificent scenery, pioneer spirit and vintage railroad, some say the real gold never left Skagway.

Golden beginnings

Surrounded by the Taiya Inlet and the Coast Mountains, Skagway sits atop the northernmost point of the Inside Passage in southeast Alaska. This distinctive geography made Skagway the perfect starting point for gold miners hoping to strike it rich in the Yukon where in August of 1896, gold was discovered!

The Klondike Gold Rush lasted just a few short years, during which time Skagway was a bustling boomtown with prospectors hungry to stake their claim.

In its heyday, this rough-and-tumble frontier port boasted more than 80 bars — including the Red Onion Saloon, Skagway's most infamous brothel. You can still visit the Red Onion today, and hear fantastic stories from the very special ladies dressed in authentic costume, who serve as your guides.

Nearby in small, scenic Haines, the Porcupine Gold Rush hit even closer to home. Prospectors flooded the tiny town as a strike was made a mere 36 miles away. Today folks flock to Haines for another reason... the bald eagles which are year round residents.



White Pass Rail

Living museum

No matter where you go in Skagway, you'll feel like you're stepping back in time. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park covers a six-block area where wooden sidewalks and

lovingly restored storefronts paint a colorful picture of the town's illustrious past.

The most photographed building is located on Broadway Street. Built in 1899, the unique Arctic Brotherhood Hall is the only remaining example of turn-of-the-century Alaska driftwood architecture. Grab your camera and be sure to check it out!

A visit to the Skagway Museum and Archives offers a variety of historical treasures and a walk along the scenic Chilkoot Trail is a unique opportunity to see relics from the past.

Many of the nature walks and outdoor activities in Skagway link to the town's fascinating past, but perhaps the most exciting one of all is a dog-sledding ride that has you traveling as the early settlers did.

For a slower pace and a rollicking good time, take a seat at the Liarsville Hippodrome and watch a melodrama that brings Skagway's golden history to life. Or try your luck panning for gold in warm-water troughs at the Klondike Gold Fields.

Riding the rails

The discovery of gold in 1896 by George Carmack and three Native companions, Skookum Jim, Dawson Charlie and Kate Carmack is when the story of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad begins. Although only a few shiny flakes were found in Bonanza Creek, it was enough to start the stampede.

In 1898, at the height of the Klondike Gold Rush, The White Pass & Yukon Route Railway was built. In a mere 26 months, this narrow gauge railroad blasted through the rugged costal mountains to create "the railway built of gold."

Experience this engineering marvel yourself from the comfort of a vintage car, framed by panoramic windows. You'll retrace the route of the original White Pass Trail, climbing nearly 3,000 feet through 20 miles of steep grades and cliff-hanging turns while your train agent recounts fascinating local legends.

Glorious gardens

Most visitors to Skagway think of it as a gold rush town and are surprised to learn that the area is also known for spectacular botanicals and farms. During the summer of 1898, local residents took to farming and were delighted with the fruitful results. In 1910, Skagway was proclaimed the "Garden City of Alaska."

As you stroll the Historic District you can't help but notice the blooming flower boxes as well as the stately ash trees, but the most celebrated example of Skagway's agricultural history can be found at Jewell Gardens. Here you can walk among the lush botanicals and marvel at the variety of flowers and plants as well as enjoy a meal prepared with the bounty that thrives in the Land of the Midnight Sun.



DID YOU KNOW?

Local cuisine

Skagway hosts a variety of cuisines from seafood to Thai food and local brews to fresh grown produce. You'll be sure to find just what you're looking for at one of the many fine dining establishments or grab something to go for your afternoon tour at one of the local cafés.

What's in a name?

The name Skagway was not the original name of the town. The Tlingit people indigenous to the area originally named it Skagua (schkag-wah) and many stampeder spelled it "Skaguay." The post office changed it to Skagway in 1899. It has been spelled Cquque, Schkague, Shkagway, Schkawai and Skagwa. The name has many definitions, popularly it is thought to mean "windy place."

Bottoms up

"Ring this bell and without fail, you're buying the house a round of ale ... seriously." This song tells the truth. If you ring a bell at any number of the bars or saloons in Alaska, you just might have to buy a round for all the patrons.

Things that go bump in the night...

Once one of the oldest hotels in Alaska, the Golden North Hotel was also the most

haunted. The hotel's most famous resident was "Mary," a young woman who succumbed to pneumonia in Room 23 while waiting for her beloved fiancé, a prospector, to return with gold. Guests claimed to see her spirit in the room, with some even reporting the sensation of being awakened with the feeling that they were choking. Boo!

The sunshine state

With only 27 inches of moisture a year, Skagway is known as the "sunshine" capital of southeast Alaska. In fact, people from Canada's Yukon Territory visit Skagway regularly in the spring to escape the northern cold.

The legend of "Soapy" Smith

During the Gold Rush, criminals and con artists set up shop, the most notorious being "Soapy" Smith. Preying on the homesick, Soapy erected a fake telegraph company and charged \$5.00 to send a message home. The scam? The wire never left Skagway!

Historic railroad

The White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, an honor shared with the Eiffel Tower, the Panama Canal and the Statue of Liberty.

Gold Rush nuggets

If you're planning to seek your fortune in Skagway, it might come in handy to know a few key terms from the Klondike Gold Rush days: Claim Jumpers will steal your staked-out mining property before it has been officially recorded. A Grubstaker is a prospector who will exchange some of his profits for food and gear. And if you find a valuable vein of gold...well, that's a Bonanza. But make sure it's the real thing not Fool's Gold, also known as the mineral Pyrite.



Panning for gold

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Shore Excursions: Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to shore excursion tour ticket for the correct place and time. Your Shore Excursion staff will be at that location to assist you.

Docking: Your Princess ship docks within walking distance of downtown Skagway.

Proper Attire: During the spring, summer, and fall, dressing in layers is the key to being comfortable. A light shirt, short or long sleeved, makes an excellent first layer. Over that, a sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece pullover will provide warmth. The ideal outer layer is a light waterproof jacket. Layers should be easy to remove depending on weather changes and your activity. Due to Skagway's historic boardwalks, please wear comfortable walking shoes.

Transportation: A shuttle is available from the cruise ship pier to downtown Skagway for \$2 per person each direction or \$5 for an

all day pass, just look for the S.M.A.R.T. bus. Taxis are not available in Skagway.

Shopping: Just about everything Alaskan you can think of is available in Skagway.

Of special note are gold jewelry shops that offer jewelry made from real gold nuggets and a glass blowing studio where you can purchase locally made items. In addition to gold and glass, furs, local artwork, and miscellaneous trading post items, there are quite a few museums and other entertainment venues.

Tipping: 15% to 18% is customary. 20% if you had a great meal and outstanding service.

Banks: Wells Fargo Bank is located at the corner of 6th & Broadway.

Post Office: The U.S. Post Office is located at 6th & Broadway, next to Wells Fargo. Generally open Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm. Closed 11:30am to 12:30pm for lunch.

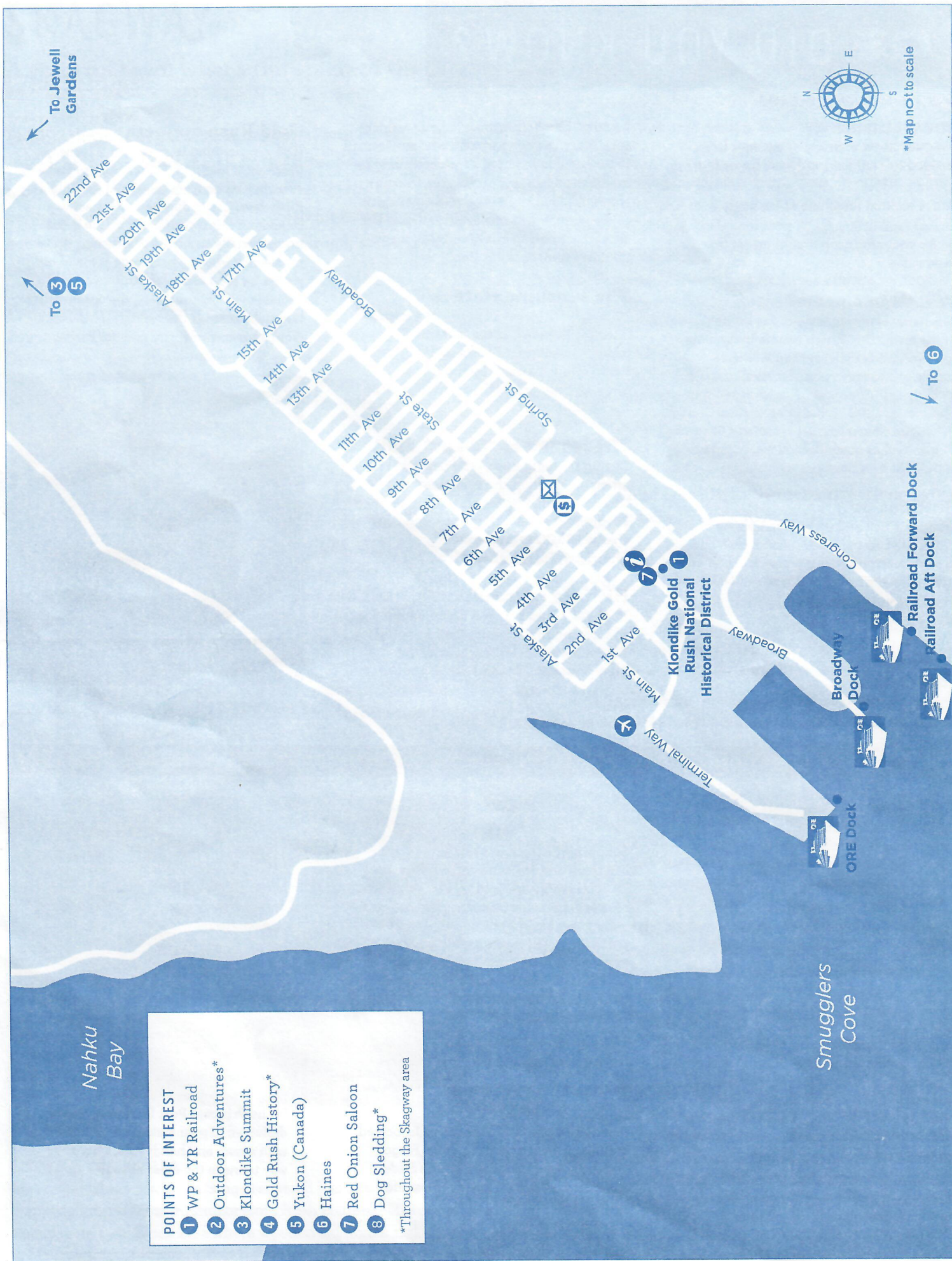
Visitor Information Center:

Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau
245 Broadway Street. Located on Broadway between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

Princess Cruises Port Agent: In case of an emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska
Tel: 907-983-2815

Discover some of the best places to shop, as well as terrific deals in the **Princess Port Shopping Guide** delivered to your stateroom. Complete with a map and handy tips, it's a great way to make the most of your time in port.



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 WP & YR Railroad
- 2 Outdoor Adventures*
- 3 Klondike Summit
- 4 Gold Rush History*
- 5 Yukon (Canada)
- 6 Haines
- 7 Red Onion Saloon
- 8 Dog Sledding*

*Throughout the Skagway area