

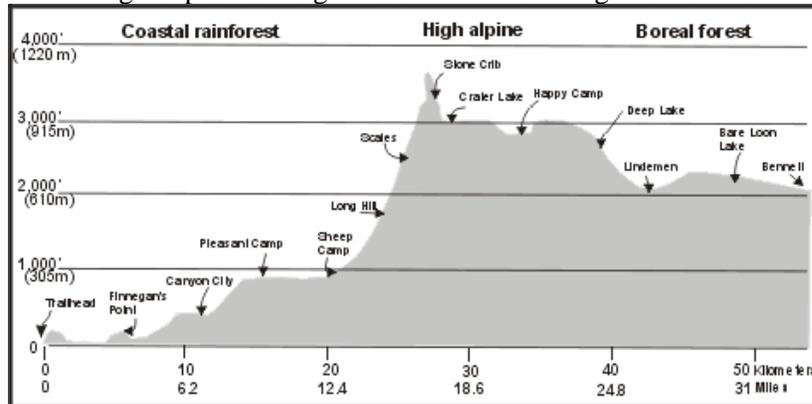
Chilkoot Trail – Frequently Asked Questions

How many miles do we hike each day?

Typically we hike about 6-8 miles per day on our 5-day itinerary.

What is the total elevation gain during the hike?

Here is a good profile image of the hike elevation gain and loss.



What would my pack weight be on average?

Typically, you can expect your pack to weight 30-45 lbs. This would be about 20 – 30 lbs of your personal gear, plus about 15 pounds of group gear (tent and food).

Are Passports required?

Yes, the Chilkoot Trail start in Skagway, AK and ends in Lake Bennet, British Columbia Canada. You will need your passport to get back into the U.S., as well as travel over the Chilkoot Pass into Canada.

Are Porters available?

Yes, we have porters available for hire. Typically a porter will carry 15-20 lbs of your personal gear, OR your portion of the group gear (~15-20 lbs). With 1 porter per 1 guest, you could expect a pack weight of about 20 - 25 lbs. If splitting a porter with another guest, each pack weight would be reduced by about 10 lbs each.

When is the best time to hike the Chilkoot Trail?

The season on the Chilkoot trail generally goes from mid-June through the end of September. The earlier dates tend to have a bit more snow at the higher elevations. Once you get into September, typically there is a bit more precipitation and colder temperatures up on the pass.

What is included in the trip cost?

Knowledgeable guide, permit fees, transportation to the trailhead, van & train transportation returning to Skagway on the last day, food during the trip, group equipment.

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What is not included in the trip cost?

Travel to/from Skagway, Alaska, lodging in Skagway, food in Skagway, trip insurance, personal clothing and equipment, tips for your guides.

How difficult is the Chilkoot Pass, or Golden Staircase? Is it a long day?

It can be a long day, as ascend more than 2500' up and over the pass. Typically we start early in the morning so that we have plenty of time and can go at a nice, slow pace up and over the pass.

What does AMG do for water treatment on the trail?

AMG carries steri-pens for water treatment. Additionally, we also have iodine tablets as a back-up, and boil water.

Are there relics from the Gold Rush along the trail?

Yes, throughout the trail, we'll see historical relics from the Gold Rush Era. From 100 year old boats along the shores of Lake Bennet to cable hoists at the Golden Staircase. Our guides provide a wealth of historical information along the way.

How bad are the bugs?

The bugs aren't bad at all on the Chilkoot trail. Occasionally there may be hatches of mosquitos in the first ½ of the season, but the wind is usually blowing and the temps are cold enough near the pass to keep the bugs away. We do recommend bringing bug repellent and perhaps a head net if you are very sensitive.

When do I meet my guide?

We arrange for a pre-trip meeting the evening before the hike begins. You will meet your guide, and go over all of your clothing and equipment to make sure you have everything that you need.

What are the tent arrangements?

We are happy to offer single tents for all of our guests. Keep in mind that this will likely increase pack weight. Most guests utilize a 2 person tent. If you are a group of 3, we can easily accommodate with 3 person tents as well.

What is the food like during the trip?

Breakfast – breakfast is typically hot cereal, with some additional dried fruit.

Occasionally we'll have a longer breakfast such as pancakes or eggs on the shorter hiking days. Hot drinks such as tea, coffee, hot cocoa and cider are always appreciated on cool mornings.

Lunch – depending on the day, we may enjoy a bagel lunch with smoked salmon and cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or we may stop for a hot grilled cheese sandwich and some soup at a warming hut. We always have a variety of travel snacks to keep our energy up on the trail.

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Dinner – Pesto Spaghetti, Thai rice noodles, Burritos, or Thanksgiving with mashed potatoes, cranberries and chicken are a few examples. We strive to have a nutritious, tasty meal that also balances some of the weight considerations and perishability of foods.

What are the campsites like on the Chilkoot Trail? Here is some information about the specific campsites: the exact itinerary and camps may vary depending on availability. This is the standard format for our 5-day itinerary.

Canyon City

The second-largest campground on the American side of the trail. It is located next to small tributary of the Taiya River. Canyon City includes a [log cabin](#) with a wood stove and several bunks (although sleeping is not permitted inside park shelters), several shelves for cooking, and a small porch for drying gear. Canyon City includes more than 30 campsites and two outhouses as well as food lockers and bear poles.

Sheep Camp

This is the largest of the American campsites. It is located adjacent to a braided [Taiya River](#). Sheep Camp consists of three canvas shelters, a small cache used by the trail crew, outhouses, and over 40 campsites. The only U.S. Ranger Station on the trail is located just a few hundred meters north of Sheep Camp and the ranger during the official season gives a nightly presentation on the history of the pass and current weather and trail conditions. From Sheep Camp we'll typically leave early in the morning—as early as 4 a.m.—for the summit push into Canada.

Happy Camp

Happy Camp is the only campground on the Chilkoot Trail in the [alpine](#). A very small wooden warming cabin, an outhouse, and a modest number of campsites are all available at this campsite. Happy Camp owes its name to the relief prospectors (and hikers) experienced from arriving at the first outpost after the pass. The camp is situated in a true alpine ecosystem and receives heavy use because of its location.

Bare Loon Lake

Bare Loon Lake is the second campground without semi-permanent shelter, though it now includes a pavilion-style cooking shelter. Located on a small ridge above Lake Lindeman in a pine forest and overlooking the Bare Loon Lake, the campground is one of the most beautiful on the trail. It includes an outhouse, a helicopter pad, and bear poles.

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