



7-day Cottonwood Trail Itinerary

This is a flexible itinerary; it may change due to weather, environmental conditions, or other variables.

Day 1: We'll leave from Haines and stop by the Kluane Visitor center. After registering with the park, we'll head to Kathleen Lake. We'll camp at the trailhead so that we get an early start the following day.

Day 2: Kathleen Lake to Unnamed Creek. – 12km

The trail varies considerable as it goes from old mining roads to a narrow trail overlooking Kathleen Lake. We'll cross Goat Creek before arriving at our campsite on the alluvial fan of Unnamed Creek.

Day 3: Unnamed Creek to Victoria Creek – 4.5km

This is a short day. Victoria Creek is the largest crossing on the Cottonwood. We'll enjoy a relaxing day and explore the surrounding area.

Day 4: Victoria Creek to Cottonwood Meadows – 18km

We'll get up early in the morning to cross the creek before its level rises with the heat of the day. After crossing the creek, the trail now turns south and wanders through a spruce and willow forest as it climbs and crosses the upper reaches of Cottonwood Creek.

Day 5: Cottonwood Meadows to Upper Victoria Creek – 10km

From the meadows, the trail continues upward and crosses the upper reaches of Victoria Creek.

Day 6: Upper Victoria Creek to Dalton Pass – 10km

The trail traces the west side of Dalton Creek, crossing many smaller creeks along the way. In spring this area is very wet and not suitable for camping. Grizzly bear, moose and ptarmigan are common to the area, however other wildlife sightings may include fox, coyote, wolves, wolverines, sheep, goats, marmots, pikas, ground squirrels, golden eagles, and smaller birds.

Day 6: Dalton Pass to Mush Lake Trailhead– 5km

In the morning we'll explore the area around the pass and go for a short day hike. We'll break camp, and head downhill a few miles to Mush Lake. This area has significant bear sign.

Day 7: Mush Lake to Mush Lake Trailhead – 20km

On the last day, we'll finish up at the Mush Lake trailhead. We'll get picked up in the afternoon and drive back to Haines.

