



To: White Pass RR Yards  
Gold Rush Cemetery  
Reid Falls

N

Alaska St.  
Main St.  
9th Ave.  
8th Ave.  
7th Ave.  
6th Ave.  
5th Ave.  
4th Ave.  
3rd Ave.  
2nd Ave.  
1st Ave.

State St.  
Broadway St.  
Spring St.

To: Dewey Lakes & Sturgill's Landing

To: Airport Terminal,  
Ore Terminal & Dock

To: Ferry Terminal & Broadway Dock

To: White Pass  
Railroad Dock

Airport Terminal  
To:  
Yakutania Point  
Smuggler's Cove  
A.B. Mountain

**Mini-Tour** (#1-#15) = 1/2 mile (45-60 minutes)  
**Regular Tour** = 1 mile (60-90 minutes)  
**Extended Tour** (Regular Tour plus side trip to Gold Rush Cemetery) = 4 miles (3.5-4 hours)

★ **Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Footbridge

**Tour Begins Here**

**1** A good place to start any tour of Skagway is the former **White Pass and Yukon Railroad Depot**. This massive, colorful structure, built in 1898, was a dominant part of Skagway life until 1969, when railroad operations moved to the WP&YR's new building two doors east. The old depot is now the **National Park Service Visitor Center**, where visitors can enjoy movies, walking tours and other activities during the summer. Although the tracks are now on the south side of the building, passenger trains used to chug down Broadway on their way into town from Whitehorse, 112 miles to the north. Note the second story bay window overlooking Broadway, once used by the railroad dispatcher. Also note the much fancier yellow-colored Administration Building. Built in 1900, today it houses the **NPS Gold Rush Museum**.

**2** One of Skagway's best-known characters, for better or worse, was Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith. Here is his saloon, **Jeff Smith's Parlor**, still looking much as it did during gold rush days. Smith, the last of the big-time western bad men, was a con man who took over Skagway during the winter of 1897-98. He landed here with only a few confederates, but through a combination of skill and guile he soon controlled an underworld of more than 200 gamblers, swindlers and thugs. His power seemed almost limitless until July 8, 1898. On that fateful day, he and surveyor Frank Reid shot it out on one of the town's docks. "Soapy" was killed instantly. A hundred wild stories have been attributed to Smith, most of them true. His saloon was originally located on 6th Avenue; it was moved here in 1964.

*As you walk up Broadway, you'll find history all around you. The pioneer scene before you has not changed much since the time of the gold rush "stampedeers." For the next two blocks, almost every building you see was constructed between 1897 and 1900.*

**3** One of Skagway's best-known watering holes, the **Red Onion Saloon**, has a provocative past. It was built in 1898 at the corner of 6th and State, as a saloon, dance hall and bordello. When it was moved here in 1914, the movers somehow installed it backwards, putting the rear of the structure on Broadway. The upstairs has changed little since the time when it was frequented by turn-of-the-century "working girls." The mannequins leering down from the second story windows help preserve the old era.

**4** The **Arctic Brotherhood Hall** is perhaps the most photographed building in Alaska. In times past, it was a fraternal hall; the local chapter of the Brotherhood first met here in August 1899. (Step across the street, and you'll notice the letters "A.B." and the "1899" above the door, and "Camp Skagway No. 1" on the overhang. The organization's symbol, a gold pan and nuggets, is up near

the roof line., The facade, which dates from 1900, has been called a prime example of Victorian Rustic Architecture. Charley Walker and his fellow lodge members collected over 8,800 driftwood sticks on the shores of Skagway Bay and nailed them to the front wall. The Brotherhood, which remained active into the 1920s, once entertained President Warren G. Harding. The building is currently the home of the Visitor Information Center operated by the **Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau**.

*The outside façade of the Arctic Brotherhood Hall underwent a restoration during the winter of 2004-2005. All of the 8,883 pieces of driftwood on the front of the building were removed. Forty percent (3,533) had rotted and were replaced, while sixty percent (5,300) were still able to be preserved over one hundred years later.*

**5** The **Golden North Hotel**, now home to several retail stores, started operating during the Gold Rush. Built by the Klondike Trading Company in 1898 it was originally a two story building. George Dedman and a business partner purchased the building following the Gold Rush. It was moved to its present location in 1908. At this time the third story and dome were added and the building began operating as a hotel. The dome, which appears to be of Russian or Slavic origin, was constructed by a carpenter from Montana. The tower helped show visitors, some of whom were illiterate in early days, the building's location.

**6** At the corner of 3rd and Broadway lies the **Mascot Block**, a row of three separate business buildings. The Mascot Saloon, on the corner, dates back to 1898. It was one of more than 80 saloons in a town once described as "the roughest place in the world." The saloon operated until August 1916, when Prohibition closed it down; it later served as a drug store. Next door sits the old Pacific Clipper Line office. Skagway was an active port both during and after the gold rush, and many buildings in this block once served as ticket offices for steamship lines. The narrow building at the south end was Hern's Liquor Store. It opened in 1937, shortly after Prohibition was lifted. The entire building, along with several others in Skagway, is now owned by the National Park Service. Each has been repainted in its original colors. Some are leased back to private businesses. The Mascot houses an exhibit and rest rooms.

**7** The large, three-story **Pack Train Building** is the tallest historic building in Skagway. The three buildings that make up this block date from 1900, but like many others on Broadway, they were first located elsewhere. These were originally barracks that once comprised part of Camp Skagway, located two blocks up Broadway on 6th Ave. The military abandoned them when it moved to the Haines area in 1904, and four years later, they were moved

here. The corner business, run by the mayor and his partner, was a saloon called The Trail. (On the 4th Avenue side of the building, there is a large sign, proclaiming "U-AU-TO-NO-THE-TRAIL," which dates from this period.) Soon afterwards, the Lynch and Kennedy clothing store opened just south of the saloon. To appreciate how much a facade can improve a building, step back and note the intricate woodwork facing Broadway. Then turn down 4th Avenue and see how the barracks look from the back side.

**8** The **St. James Hotel**, presently a hardware store warehouse, is famous as the birthplace of the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad. During the winter of 1897-98, it took tremendous effort for the stampedeers to haul the required "ton of goods" from Skagway to the Canadian lakes. To ease the strain, several tramways and railroads crossing White Pass were proposed, but the plans were long on speculation and short on money. Into this atmosphere came Sir Thomas Tancred, who sailed from London to Skagway in the spring of 1898. Representing a well-heeled investment firm, he wanted to see if a railroad could be built over White Pass. After traveling up the rugged White Pass Canyon, he was skeptical at first. That evening, however, he stumbled across Mike Heney, here in the hotel's saloon. Heney was a railroad contractor who had also looked over the canyon north of town, but he was convinced that a route over the pass was entirely feasible. Legend has it that the two met in the early evening, talked all night long, and wound up their discussion just as dawn broke. Tancrede's money and Heney's construction knowledge proved an unbeatable combination. Construction of the line began in late May 1898. Two years, two months and two days later, the line was completed to Whitehorse, the present capital of Canada's Yukon Territory.

*Look up on the mountain before you! Depending on your point of view, the inscriptions on the cliff face are either historical resources, or they are graffiti. The pocket watch, which advertised Kirmse's jewelry store, dates from the 20th century. The other advertisements are more recent.*

**9** On the north side of 4th Avenue between Broadway and Spring, **World War II barracks** can be seen. They commemorate the U.S. Army's "invasion" of Skagway from 1942-46. These engineers and construction men were largely responsible for supplying the crew building the Alcan Highway and the extensive Canol oil pipeline. At one time, more than 80 of these barracks were scattered around town; fewer than 10 remain.

**10** Across the street, the **Skagway Customs** building was built by the WP&YR railroad and leased to the government. It originally sat on the south side of 2nd Ave. adjacent to the railroad depot. In 1969, with the

construction of the new depot, the building was moved across the street to the north side 2nd Ave. After the Klondike highway opened in the fall of 1978, the offices were moved to a location on the highway. For a time after the customs staff left, the building was used as the United Transportation Union Local 1787 meeting hall, and later as a retail store. It was moved to its present location on October 1, 2004.

**Attention Hikers!** *The mountains above Skagway are well worth a visit. A network of trails begins just ahead. A popular short hike leads to Lower Dewey Lake, a beautiful, quiet sanctuary. Trails also lead to Upper Reid Falls, Sturgill's Landing and Upper Dewey Lake. Lower Dewey Lake is half a mile away; other points of interest are within four miles of town. To reach the trailhead from the corner of 4th and Spring, just go toward the mountain until you reach a foot bridge across Pullen Creek. The trail itself begins just beyond the railroad tracks. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center, the National Park Service Visitor Center and at the trailhead.*

**11** The **Moore Cabin** is the oldest structure in Skagway. It was built by Captain William Moore and his son in 1887-88. Moore was 65 years old when he arrived. He had followed gold rushes all his life, and settled here to pursue one more chance at a fortune. When the big rush came, his land was overrun by a flood of gold seekers. But he prospered because he owned a dock, a warehouse and a sawmill. He stayed here until 1906, long enough to see his homestead blossom into a major port and railroad terminal. Captain Moore's son, Ben, built the main house to the right of the old cabin.

*National Park Service archaeologists have discovered that the large lawn between the Moore Cabin and the Goldberg Cigar Store was the beginning of the White Pass Trail, the famous "Dead Horse Trail" used by so many stampedeers. This spot is half a mile from the bay today, but 100 years ago, occasional high tides reached here. The geological process of "glacial rebound" has caused Skagway to rise from the ocean about one inch each year.*

**12** In the **Eagles Hall** each summer, the curtain rises on the popular Days of '98 Show, Alaska's longest running theater production. The show dates back to 1927. Those interested in the history of the show can view photographs of early scenes and characters in the hall's gambling room. The hall is composed of two gold rush hotels: the Mondamin Hotel was moved here in 1916 and the Pacific Hotel was added to the rear in 1920. The fraternity first met here in 1899. Of the thousands of Eagles Aeries (chapters), this is Aerie No. 25. The wing on the south side dates from the 1960s; it once housed a bowling alley.

**13** A small bust, just west of the public rest rooms, in the corner of **Mollie Walsh Park**, proclaims the memory of

a remarkable woman. Mollie Walsh came to Skagway, unaccompanied, in the fall of 1897. A rarity in her day, she was young, unmarried and at least somewhat respectable. She remained in Skagway for a few months, then headed north to open a restaurant in Log Cabin, a tent town located along the White Pass Trail. She soon received the attentions of many packers along the trail. One who was particularly fond of her was Jack Newman. He professed his love for her and even killed a rival to earn her affections, but alas, she soon married Mike Bartlett and left the area. Crestfallen, Newman soon married Hannah Barry instead, but he never stopped thinking about Mollie. Meanwhile, the Bartletts' marriage was turbulent at best, and while they were living in Seattle in October 1902, an argument erupted which resulted in Mollie's murder. Newman read about the slaying and was heartbroken. He revered the memory of the "Angel of the White Pass," and in 1930, he had this bust built and installed in Skagway. The bust, as you may notice, was donated in the name of both Newman and his wife. To calm down Hannah's understandable jealousy, he also installed a plaque in downtown Seattle in honor of Mrs. Newman.

**14** The stone chimney seen on your left is all that remains of the **Pullen House**, once Alaska's most famous hotel. It was a popular stopping place for interior residents and tourists for more than 50 years. Harriet "Ma" Pullen ran it most of that time. This indomitable spirit arrived in Skagway in September 1897. In a story she later told to thousands of tourists, she first baked pies in a tent restaurant on the beach. Later, she rented out the majority of her three-story residence as a rooming house. She soon bought the building, and brought several other buildings onto the property. She operated them until her death in 1947. The hotel operated for another decade before being abandoned.

**Note:** *The chimney sits on private property. Please do not trespass. To reach City Hall, turn left and travel up the dirt pathway. Pullen Creek, which you will cross, is home to many varieties of fish. In early summer, look for Dolly Varden trout and young coho salmon; later, you may find pink and chum salmon in the creek. Fishing in the Skagway area has improved in the last several years, due to a hatchery program operated through Skagway School. The hatchery is located just north of City Hall.*

**15** The **McCabe College** building, currently occupied by the **Skagway Museum** and **City Hall**, was built in 1899 of native granite brought from Clifton on the WP & YR railroad. The Methodist school, named for Bishop McCabe, was Alaska's first institution of higher education. Facing financial difficulties, private McCabe College closed after only three terms. From 1901 until 1956, the building served as the U.S. Court House with the U.S. Marshal's office and jail on the first floor. District Court

was held on the second floor in the former chapel of McCabe College. In 2000, the City of Skagway completed a new addition to the venerable McCabe building. The Skagway Museum, open daily in the summer, is a fascinating storehouse of Skagway history from the gold rush to present.

**Optional Turnaround Point.** *For those who do not wish to go farther, this is a good stopping place. To go back to Stop #1, simply retrace your steps.*

**16** Along 7th Avenue between Broadway and State Street, is the Gutfeld Residence (Historic Skagway Inn). Built using materials from an 1897-1898 building, Max Gutfeld built this residence in 1918. In the 1920's the rear wing was added by moving the vacant Ross-Higgins warehouse (1901) from 4th Avenue and Main Street to the present site. This street is the site of Skagway's once thriving **Red Light District**. As was true in most frontier towns, prostitution was first a common practice here, then it was regulated, and finally it was outlawed. During the gold rush, rows of cribs (two-room huts where the "soiled doves" plied their trade) occupied the alleys between 4th and 7th, but after the rush, they were moved onto 7th. Some cribs were moved again before they closed, about 1910; others simply closed where they were. A local brothel included the red, two-story structure, at 8th and Broadway, known as The Cottage during the Gold Rush.

*For those of you who wish to see even more of Skagway than the regular walking tour offers, the corner of 8th and State is a good place to turn uptown. To the right are the **WP&YR railroad yards**, the **Gold Rush Cemetery**, and 300-foot high **Reid Falls**. The railroad yards are 15 blocks up State Street. To reach the cemetery, turn north at Alaska & 23rd and follow the designated signs. To reach Reid Falls, continue through the cemetery for another quarter mile. The total one-way distance from town to the cemetery is about 1.9 miles. Allow 30-45 minutes each way, plus 30 minutes at the cemetery and waterfall. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center and the National Park Service Visitor Center.*

**17** The plantation-style **White House** was built in 1902, and was originally the home of Lee Guthrie, saloon keeper and civic official. After Guthrie left town, the house was converted into a small hotel. The Army used it for a small hospital during World War II. The building's name occasionally caused delightful confusion. One story about it dates back to 1956, when a Republican campaign worker stopped by to visit. No one responded to the knock, but because the door was ajar, the worker called out, "Would you be interested in keeping Eisenhower in the White House?" The owner's response was, "No! Let him stay downtown!" The hostelry operated through the 1977 season; a fire that year damaged the facility. The new owners have restored it as a bed & breakfast.

**18** The **Nye House** dates from the gold rush. Like many of Skagway's old homes, it originated as a log cabin. A series of refinements and additions between 1898 and 1901 brought about its present appearance. A long time resident here was Charley Nye, a local power company executive and promoter. The house was once reputed to be a gambling casino, a common enough activity in early Skagway.

**19** The **Case-Mulvihill House** is a graceful Victorian residence. It dates from 1904, and was built for W.H. Case, a partner in the well-known photographic firm of Case and Draper. William J. "Mul" Mulvihill, the chief dispatcher for the WP&YR railroad moved in with his family about 10 years later. They lived here until his death in 1949. The house was restored in 1980.

**20** The **Gault House** is another of Skagway's architectural treasures. Built in 1899, the house probably began as a saloon (6th Avenue was once Skagway's main business street). In later years, it became the long time home of Roy Gault, an engineer for the WP&YR, and his family.

**21** The site of the old **Blanchard Garden** is just two lots east of the Gault House. During its time, perhaps the most famous garden in Alaska grew here. In gold rush days, people had little time to care for flowers or vegetables. But just a decade later, Skagway had become well-known as the "Garden City of Alaska." The slogan remained; until World War II. Many gardens thrived, Blanchard's being the best known among them. Visitors to Skagway were amazed to find large and beautiful dahlias, sweet peas, begonias, geraniums, pansies and nasturtiums. That era ended, however, with the coming of World War II. With the Army occupying much of Skagway, many gardens were abandoned or graveled over. In recent years, a revival of gardening has taken place, spearheaded by the efforts of the local garden club.

**22** The **First Presbyterian Church**, located at 5th and Main, is Skagway's only remaining gold rush church. It was built in 1901 by the Methodists, but in a denominational realignment, that church body vacated Skagway in 1917. The Presbyterians, who had lost their church building to a fire the previous year, moved in and have remained ever since. During the gold rush, Skagway had but one house of worship, the Union Church. But by 1900, several other religious groups were in evidence.

**23** **Railroad Houses** were a sign of Skagway's maturity after the gold rush. For many years, Skagway

resembled a company town; most of the family breadwinners worked for the WP&YR railroad. To make life more comfortable for its officers, the company built and made available nine homes in town. Three are seen here. Although the company suspended service to Whitehorse in 1982, it reopened as a summer tourist railway in 1988. White Pass is still active here, and owns three of the town's docks.

**Attention Hikers!** Another system of inviting trails begins just south of the Airport Terminal. These trails go to several points. **Yakutania Point** is a picnic area overlooking Skagway's harbor, **Smuggler's Cove** is a secluded nearby hideaway, and **A.B. Mountain** (elevation 4,900 feet) towers over the entire local area. The first two points are less than a mile away. Continue south on Main Street, around the airport terminal, cross the footbridge and turn left. Anyone interested in exercise can take advantage of the "Fitness Cluster" in the area. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center and the National Park Service Visitor Center.

**24** As a nearby marker testifies, this corner marks the scene of the **Reid-Smith Gun Battle**. Near here, criminal kingpin Jefferson R. "Soapy" Smith and surveyor Frank Reid shot it out on the evening of July 8, 1898. Just four days earlier, Smith was the undisputed leader of Skagway. He had been chosen as the grand marshal for the July 4th parade, and was cheered by his fellow citizens. On the 8th, however, a stampeder just back from the Klondike had his \$2,800 poke of gold stolen in Soapy's saloon, and the angry victim told one and all about the robbery. Respectable townspeople were jolted into action, and decided to hold a mass meeting on the Juneau Co. wharf to organize against Smith. That wharf began near this street corner, and headed in the direction of the present ferry terminal. Reid and several others were chosen to guard the entrance to the wharf against outsiders. They expected trouble, and soon got it. Smith heard about the meeting, left his saloon and stalked down State Street to the wharf. Shortly after reaching it, however, Reid stopped him. A wild blaze of gunfire ensued, and both men collapsed to the dock. Smith was killed instantly, a bullet through his heart. Reid sustained an agonizing groin injury. He rallied bravely, but died 12 days after the shooting. Smith's gang was rounded up and sent off to jail. Skagway has enjoyed peace and quiet ever since.

**To return to the railroad depot,  
where you began your tour,  
continue along 1st Ave. to Broadway,  
then turn left.  
We hope that you enjoyed your tour!**