



DAY TRIP TO DYEA

From Skagway · Skagway, Alaska



GOLD MINING



Photo: NPS, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

NPS land in Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, open to walk in. Road work with closures from October 15 to November 23, 2026.

Dyea is about 25 minutes from Skagway on Dyea Road, and the townsite walk, the Slide Cemetery and the flats fill a morning. There is nothing to buy at Dyea, so bring food and water. Until November 23, 2026, culvert work on Dyea Flats Road brings flaggers and two full closures; on closure days, park at the Chilkoot Trailhead and walk in.

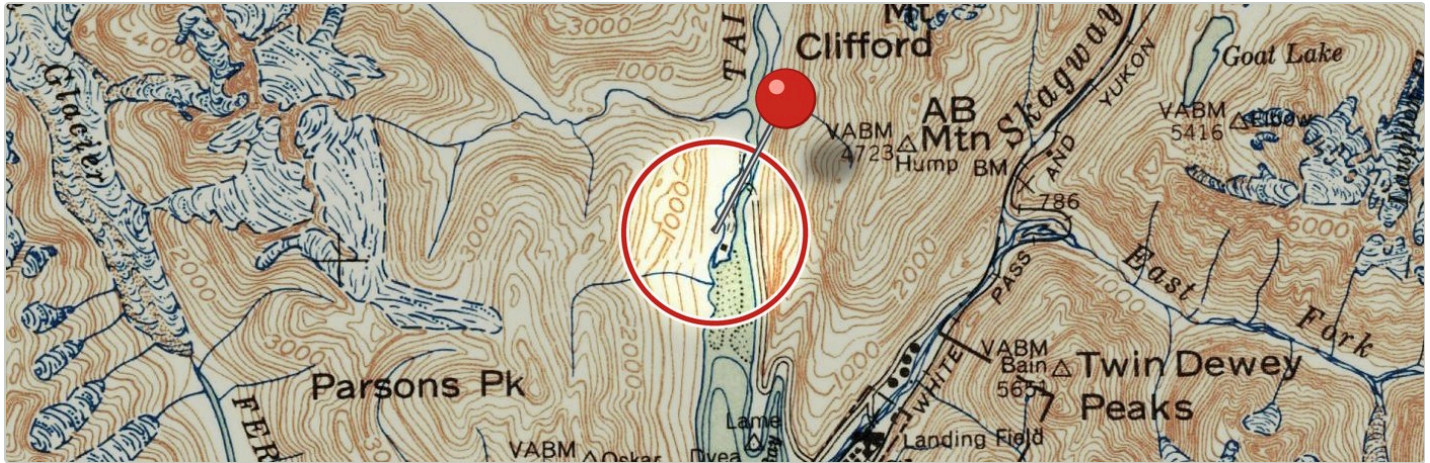
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Leave Skagway north on State Street and the Klondike Highway, then turn onto Dyea Road. During a closure, stop at the Chilkoot Trailhead.
- ☐ 10 a.m. Park at the townsite lot and walk the trails west of the Taiya River, reading the panels. Stay out of the closed sections.
- ☐ 11:15 a.m. Cross the footbridge into the Slide Cemetery, where many markers carry the date of the 1898 avalanche.
- ☐ Noon Eat a packed lunch, then walk out onto the tidal flats.
- ☐ 1 p.m. Drive back to Skagway, inside the four-hour parking limit.

No car? The park runs no transport to Dyea, so you need a private tour or shuttle from Skagway. The NPS says maps of the townsite trails are at the visitor center at 2nd and Broadway in Skagway.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Slide Cemetery.** Rows of wooden grave markers. The cemetery belongs to the Municipality of Skagway, not the park; be respectful.
- **The tidal flats.** Open grass and sorrel with snow-capped peaks behind. The NPS mentions bald eagles along the river.
- **The McDermott Cabin.** The relocated log cabin stands in a mowed clearing.
- **Drones.** NPS policy bars launching, landing or flying drones on park land and water.



USGS topographic map, 1952 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	10 mi, about 24 min each way from downtown Skagway. From Whitehorse: 116 mi, about 2 h 51 min.
OPEN	The NPS lists the townsite walk as open year round, day, dawn or dusk (2020 page). Sections of the townsite trails are closed indefinitely after Taiya River floods; respect the closures.
ROAD WORK	October 15 to 23 and November 18 to 23, 2026: single lane with flaggers. October 24 to November 17: two full closures of about 5 to 7 and 10 to 12 days, dates announced as work goes on. Updates on the park's alerts page and KHNS; questions to KLGO_Construction@nps.gov.
ADMISSION	Free. The NPS says there is no fee to enter the park.
TIME ON SITE	The NPS suggests 1 to 2 hours for the self-guided townsite walk (2020 page).
PARKING	Townsites lots: four hours at most (NPS, 2024). Day hikers use the Chilkoot Trailhead.
RESTROOMS	Vault toilets at the Dyea Campground, about 9 miles from Skagway. The campground is winterized at the end of September.
FOOD AND WATER	None at Dyea. The NPS says to bring your own water and food.
ON FOOT	Hard-surface trails with information panels, which the NPS calls suitable for all abilities. Dogs on a leash; the NPS warns this is a bear area.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/klgo

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 59.50444, -135.36000 · 59°30'16"N
135°21'36"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/alaska/dyea/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.