

Let nature supersize your summer vacation with Mountains, rivers and ocean time in the north

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Flightseeing over glaciers of Kluane National Park with Rocking Star Adventures PHOTO BY @POWDERMATT MOSTELLER

There are few places in the world that match the scale, size and scope of the natural world here. If you are looking for a trip this summer that will have your neck sore, eyes watering and a massive helping of respect for the power of mother nature, you're in luck.

The looking out and up tour will have your head spinning in awe, frankly your eyes will be worn out by unreal beauty of the wild lands of the Southern corner of the Yukon, Northern British Columbia and Alaska. We wander the mostly trail-less landscape all day and each night we sleep wherever the trail ends that afternoon.

No other airline that I have flown lately does it like Air North, great people, two free checked bags, and they serve you up a free lunch and a warm chocolate chip cookie as dessert (now that is sweet!) ! Non-stop flights from Calgary, will have you landing in Whitehorse in a few short hours, and then a short cab ride will have you checking in for your home on wheels with the CanadreamRV team.



Roadside mountains everywhere PHOTO BY @POWDERMATT MOSTELLER

How we rolled

We are not regular RV users, but we found the team at CanaDream RV Rental very helpful and friendly in providing us with a comprehensive RV 101 at check in. We were stoked that it had a shower and super comfy beds, a real luxury compared to our usual way of travel with a tent.

We were also surprised at how easy it was to drive, skill testing compliments of Alaska Marine Highway, as we navigated the steep ramp and tight fit, backing into the corner pocket of the ferry to the cheers of the ferry workers. We took it easy, without having to set up camp, more spur of the moment, and finding places to stay that we picked after a hike.

Don't miss this

It is so easy to get out of Whitehorse, but it is hard to leave this little mountain and river town with a big heart. Before heading south on highway 2, get your coffee and soup at Baked Cafe and Bakery, and load up on craft beer on the way out of town from Winterlong Brewing Company, and you are ready to hit the forest clad roadway.

Desert? Yesthe Carcross Dunes, remnants from sandy deposits left as the glaciers retreated, give you the opportunity to take a roadside break and get sand in your toes. You will want to ride your mountain bike here, as the trails on Montana Mountain are well done and credited to local builders who are creating a worthy place to ride. Don't leave without learning more about the Carcross Tagish First Nation, and view some amazing art.

Walk the pass. Park in any of the pull outs along the way between Carcross and the US Border crossing, and you will find some very interesting flora and fauna, peaks, alpine tarns and raging creeks. It is an adventure walkers off trail paradise, and it takes some route-finding for sure, to not get cliffed out or turned back from raging creek gorges, but this is all part of the experience when you have no schedule or plan.



Hiking in Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park PHOTO BY @POWDERMATT MOSTELLER

Skagway, crazy beautiful and busy

Spectacular is the word to describe the views, as you drop from White Pass down to Skagway. Crashing waterfalls spill off snow clad peaks, as you drop down to the river valley bottom, making a fitting dramatic entry into the historic town of Skagway.

We timed our arrival for late afternoon, so we could experience the historic Main Street as the throngs of tourists were heading back to the docks to load onto the cruise ships. Go into the National Parks Visitor Center and get the details for a walking history tour and don't miss the Skagway Museum.

Food truck refuels are the best and here you have two good options, Starfire Thai or Peppers Street Fusion, located on the corner of 2nd Ave and State Street. After being nourished take an evening hike up AB Mountain for ocean and surrounding mountain views.

Big Mountains and salty air

It is a wonderful experience, meeting people from all around the world on the Alaska Marine Highway ferry as you travel the Lynn Canal, unloading at Haines, Alaska. We were fortunate as the rain subsided, so we could see the mountain magic that surrounds this place, understanding why so many heli-ski operations are based here.

Check into the salmon runs in advance so you can enjoy a bear watching tour at Chilkoot Lake Recreation site. Just a short drive heading out of town on Highway 7, you'll find the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, with a variety of roadside pull outs and short hikes to places for views of the mighty birds.



Big peaks and salty air of Haines, Alaska PHOTO BY @POWDERMATT MOSTELLER

Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park and Kluane National Park and Reserve

This place is crazy good! A land of jagged rock, snow clad peaks, big lakes and raging rivers, are just some of the hits playing outside. On the British Columbia side, you can pick routes of old mining roads to use as access up into the alpine and enjoy rambling through this incredible landscape with mind blowing views.

Once you enter the Yukon, there are many more options for hiking in and around Kluane National Park and Reserve, so best to check into the Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre in Haines Junction. Joe and baked goods will be calling so stop in at the Village Bakery in Haines Junction.

Best Glacier views- Flightseeing with Rocking Star Adventures

The views are amazing from the road and trail in Kluane National Park and Reserve, but we highly recommend that you go flightseeing with Rocking Star Adventures as the views of the big peaks and glaciers are totally off the charts! Truly one of those life experiences that you don't want to miss.



Info and Gear

Don't forget to tread lightly on the alpine meadows and always pack out all the garbage. Make sure you pick up bear spray in Whitehorse, groceries and any camp supplies you may need.

Packing was made easy with the Rux Essentials Set, which provided easy access to the gear that we needed to use each day, as you can see it all in front of you.

Using the Scarpa Rush 2 MID GTX Boots provided perfect comfort and support for the ramblings through the mixed rocky terrain.

Travel

Fly Air North to Whitehorse and pick up your CanaDream RV just 5 minutes from the airport. We travelled from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Carcross and then over to Skagway, Alaska.

The key is to pre-book your Alaska Marine Highway ferry between Skagway and Haines, Alaska as it does not operate everyday. From Haines, Alaska, we drove north to Haines Junction, Yukon and then back to Whitehorse.