

DYEA ROAD

The Dyea Road begins at **Milepost S 2.5** on the South Klondike Highway and leads approximately 7 miles to the old Dyea townsite. During the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898-1899, Dyea housed thousands of people, many if not most bound for the Klondike gold fields via Chilkoot Pass. The Chilkoot Trail begins near the former townsite.

Dyea Road is a narrow, winding, gravel road. Not recommended for motorhomes more than 25 feet in length.

Distance from junction (J) with the South Klondike Highway is shown.

J 0 Junction with the South Klondike Highway, 2.5 miles from Skagway.

J 0.6 Turnout at old cemetery.

J 1.4 Scenic wayside with view of Skagway, Taiya Inlet and the Skagway River; new outhouse.

J 1.7 Steep, primitive road leads 0.4 mile to Skagway River; view of Skagway and Taiya Inlet; access to Yakutania Point and hiking trail to Skagway.

J 1.8 Road narrows. Watch for blind curves.

J 1.9 Skyline trailhead, parking south side of road. This trail leads to top of AB Mountain (elev. 5,000 feet).

J 2.1 Head of Long Bay.

J 3.3 Mathews Creek.

J 3.4 Turnout with view.

J 4 Former Skagway brothel.

J 4.3 Good view of Taiya Inlet as road curves away from Long Bay.

J 4.8 Road narrows and winds along flats.

J 5.1 View of the old pilings in Taiya Inlet. The docks of Dyea used to stretch from the trees to beyond the piling to reach deep water.

J 5.7 Taiya River; hooligan (smelt) run in May and June.

J 6.4 Turnout.

J 6.5 Dyea Ranger Station and Chilkoot Trail trailhead campground; 22 campsites, pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, bear proof trash cans and food containers at each site; campground host; \$6 camping fee. ▲

J 6.6 Chilkoot Trail Outpost, open May-September, offers lodging. Phone (907) 983-3799; www.chilkoottrailoutpost.com.

J 6.9 Chilkoot Trail trailhead. Taiya River bridge.

J 7.1 Side road to Slide Cemetery Historical Site. The cemetery contains the graves of men killed in the Palm Sunday avalanche, April 3, 1898, on the Chilkoot Trail.

J 7.2 Dyea Town Site; parking area. Covered with fireweed and lupine in summer, hardly a trace remains of the buildings that housed an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 people and 150 businesses—from attorneys to undertakers—at the height of the gold rush in 1898. Fewer than 500 people remained after the summer of 1898, and by 1903 only a half dozen were still here. Time, weather and the shifting Taiya River have obliterated most of the buildings. Ranger-led walking tours of the Dyea Town Site leave the parking area daily from June through August at 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. daily (confirm tour schedule with the National Park Service visitor center in Skagway before arrival).

J 8.2 State-maintained road ends at West Creek bridge; 4-wheel-drive recommended beyond this point.

Return to Milepost S 2.5 South Klondike Highway

5th and Broadway, offers 40 exhibits featuring scenes from Alaska history, each hand-engraved (scrimshawed) on a walrus tusk. Open in summer; free admission.

McCabe College Building/City Hall is the first granite building constructed in Alaska. It was built by the Methodist Church as a school in 1899-1900 to be known as McCabe College, but public-school laws were passed that made the enterprise impractical, and it was sold to the federal government. For decades it was used as U.S. District Court No. 1 of Alaska, but as the population of the town declined, the court

was abandoned, and in 1956 the building was purchased by the city. Today it houses City Hall and the Skagway Museum. From the waterfront, walk up Broadway and turn right on 7th Avenue.

Drive Dyea Road. This narrow, winding, gravel road begins at **Milepost S 2.3** South Klondike Highway and leads southwest to the trailhead for Yakutania Point, then northwest past Long Bay and the Taiya River to the old Dyea Townsite. There are fine views of Skagway, Taiya Inlet and the Skagway River from Dyea Road. See "Dyea Road" log on this page. The National Park Service offers daily walking tours in summer.

Gold Rush Cemetery is 1.9 miles from downtown and makes a nice walk. Go north on State Street a short drive. Then follow posted direction signs to the cemetery. "Bad guy" Soapy Smith and "good guy" Frank Reid are buried here (both men died in a gunfight in July 1898). It is a short hike from Reid's grave to Lower Reid Falls.

Tour by train, helicopter, bike, jeep, ferry or car. Ride mountain bikes down from White Pass Summit to Skagway, or drive up the Klondike Highway. See glaciers from the air or fly out to dog sled camp. Take a ride on the historic White Pass & Yukon Route railway. Take the fast ferry over to Haines and explore Lynn Canal.

Special Events: The Buckwheat Cross-



WP&YR hugs the side of the mountain on its daily excursions between Skagway and White Pass.

(© Kris Valencia, staff)

Country Ski Classic is held in March. The International Mini Folk Festival is held in April. A big Independence Day Celebration takes place every 4th of July. For the Flower & Garden Show, plan to be in Skagway in August. The Klondike International Road Relay is scheduled for September.

AREA FISHING: Obtain a fishing license through local charter operators or at the Skagway Hardware store on Fourth and Broadway. Local charter boat operators offer fishing trips. The Pat Moore Memorial Game Fish Derby is held two weekends in July. The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, recommends the following areas and species:

Fish the shore of **Skagway Harbor, Long Bay and Taiya Inlet**, May through August, for Dolly Varden. Also try the **Taiya River** by the steel bridge in Dyea when the water is clear in early spring or fall; use red and white spoons or salmon eggs. Hatchery-produced king salmon have been returning to the area in good numbers in recent years. Try fishing in salt water, downtown Skagway, June-August. Pink salmon are plentiful at **Pullen Creek** in August. Silver, pink and chum salmon near the steel bridge on the **Taiya River**, mid-July through September. Trolling in the marine areas is good but high winds are often dangerous for small boats. A steep trail near town will take you to Dewey lakes, which were stocked with Colorado brook trout in the 1920s. **Lower Dewey Lake**, ½-hour to 1-hour hike; heavily wooded shoreline. The brook trout are plentiful and grow to 16 inches but are well fed, so fishing can be frustrating. **Upper Dewey Lake**, a steep 2½-hour to 4-hour hike to above tree line, is full of hungry brook trout to 11 inches. Use salmon eggs or size #10 or #12 artificial flies. **Lost Lake** is reached via a rough trail near Dyea (ask locals for directions). The lake lies at about elev. 1,300 feet and has a good population of rainbow trout. Use small spinners or spoons. For more information contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game office in Haines; phone (907) 766-2625.

