



# TRAVEL THE YUKON SAFELY

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**This guide is for anyone  
travelling in the Yukon.**

**Our weather and road conditions may be different  
from what you're used to and can change fast.**

Keep this guide with you so these important safety  
tips are always available.

## **Need advice or have questions?**

Our travel advisors can help you plan and  
provide advice about your Yukon trip.

### **Contact a travel advisor**

Phone us: **1-800-661-0494 or 867-667-3084**

Email us: **[vacation@yukon.ca](mailto:vacation@yukon.ca)**

Social media: **@travelyukon** on  and 



### **BOOK A VIDEO APPOINTMENT**

Schedule a 30-minute video  
(Microsoft Teams) appointment.  
Available in English for daytime  
appointments. Get information at  
**[link.travelyukon.com/better-day](https://link.travelyukon.com/better-day)**

# Go to a Visitor Information Centre

**We have six Visitor Information Centres that offer local guidance and assistance.**

They are in Beaver Creek, Carcross, Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Bring us your questions, concerns, or tight schedules and leave with answers and a smile.

Each centre offers free Wi-Fi and washrooms, along with local artwork, exhibits and community events.



Find visitor information centres and their hours of operation at:  
**[link.travelyukon.com/vics](https://link.travelyukon.com/vics)**



## Use a digital tourism kiosk

**Look for one of our digital kiosks at locations around the Yukon and in Alaska.**

Get information about road conditions, emergency updates, weather forecasts, local events and tips on how to travel safely.



## YUKON SIGHTS AND SITES APP

Use the free Yukon Sights and Sites app to plan your next journey along Yukon's major highways. Before you hit the road, download the app to get familiar with campgrounds, regions and other points of interest.



Download the app at:  
[link.travelyukon.com/sights-sites-app](https://link.travelyukon.com/sights-sites-app)

## RESPECTFUL TRAVEL

Indigenous Peoples were the first travellers and custodians of this land. There are 14 First Nations and 8 language groups in the Yukon. Today, Indigenous Peoples make up about 25% of the Yukon's population.

Every part of the Yukon is Traditional Territory of Yukon First Nations. Being respectful while travelling ensures we work together to care for the Yukon's land, wildlife and waterways.



Read the Respectful Travel Guidelines:  
[link.travelyukon.com/respectful-travel](https://link.travelyukon.com/respectful-travel)

## ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

**Make a trip plan and tell someone before you go.**

Research and plan your outdoor adventure before setting off into the Yukon wilderness. Always let someone know where you are going and check in with them when you can.



The AdventureSmart trip planning app is an easy way to tell someone about your plans:  
[link.travelyukon.com/adventuresmart-app](https://link.travelyukon.com/adventuresmart-app)

Divide Lake among early  
fall colours, Tombstone  
Territorial Park  
Marc Pike




# Outdoor travel essentials



**Bring these travel essentials with you wherever you go.**

- **Flashlight** and spare batteries to light the way (yes, even in summer)
- **Fire-making kit** that includes at least two ways to start a fire
- **Signalling devices** like a whistle and a signalling mirror to flag your location
- **Navigation tools** like a map and compass, GPS or cell phone to chart a course
- **Emergency shelter** (like a tarp) in case you have to stay put
- **Extra food** to keep your body energized
- **Extra water** to stay hydrated
- **Back-up clothing** like a puffy jacket in case the weather changes
- **Pocket knife** to cut materials
- **First-aid kit** including medications (stock up in Whitehorse)
- **Prescription medications**
- **A satellite communication device** (especially important if you are adventuring in the backcountry or traveling outside of cell phone coverage zones)





Northern lights dance above  
Tutshi Lake, Yukon-BC border  
Dan Carr

## HEALTH SERVICES

- **Yukon HealthLine (8-1-1)** is staffed 24/7 by registered nurses who can answer your health questions. Call 8-1-1 across the territory.
- Hospitals are located in Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Rural Yukon has 11 primary care health centres. Nurses are available for emergency care 24/7. You can reach the nurse by phoning 9-1-1 or by picking up the black phone located in the main entrance of the health centre.
- In an emergency, call **9-1-1**. If you need emergency medical assistance in the backcountry, use your satellite phone to call **1-867-668-9911**.
- Look into your health care insurance before you travel. Most provincial coverage does not include the cost of road or air ambulance services which can be very costly. If you are travelling from outside of Canada, many services will require payment.
- Note that there are no pharmacies outside of Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Please travel with your prescription medication and plan for unexpected travel delays.

## SAFETY AND FIRST-AID TRAINING

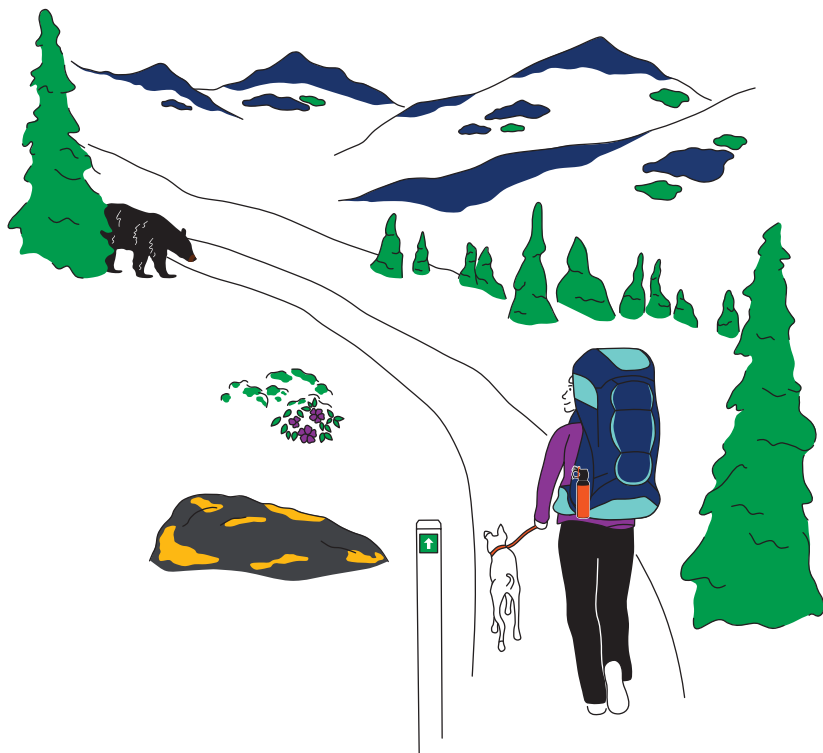
Some Yukon adventures call for special knowledge. For example, many people who ski backcountry mountains take avalanche-safety lessons. Relevant first-aid courses are also useful.

Taking a course is also a great way to meet local experts and enrich your stay!

## INSECTS

Bugs, especially mosquitoes, can be a nuisance in the summer. Carry bug spray and consider bug nets or insect-repellent clothing to stop flies from biting you.





## Bears

**The Yukon is bear country. Always keep your distance and keep the Yukon wild.**

- Travel in groups, stay on marked trails and carry bear spray.
- Prepare your bear call in advance and be sure to make plenty of noise when you're out on the trails to let them know you're visiting.
- Keep any pets on a leash.
- Pick up your garbage. Store food and other attractants in bear-proof containers.

## Driving in the Yukon

- Drive to the conditions and respect speed limits.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
- Road conditions change. Keep up with current conditions by calling 5-1-1 from your mobile phone. You can also visit [511yukon.ca](http://511yukon.ca) to check road conditions or sign up for updates along your route.
- Respect any road closures, travel advisories or construction zones. Be prepared to change your travel plans if conditions change. During road closures or construction, you may need to follow a pilot car to get safely through.
- When driving, pull over if you need to use your phone. Take a break from driving to keep yourself and others safe. There isn't cell service outside of communities, so bring a personal locator beacon or another way to call for help in case you have an emergency.
- Bring cash with you since some communities only have one cash machine and card payments may be affected by power outages.
- If you see wildlife near the road, slow down. Only come to a complete stop if necessary, to avoid creating a traffic hazard.
- Consider refuelling frequently as you travel in case fuel isn't available at your next destination.



You can also visit **511Yukon.ca** to check road conditions or sign up for updates along your route.

# Winter travel



**When travelling in the Yukon any time between late fall and spring, you need to be extra careful.**

Remove all snow that's covering your vehicle before you start driving. When driving, give yourself more time to start and stop. Don't use cruise control.

Winter tires are necessary because they have good grip in icy and slushy conditions. Winter tires are marked with a mountain and snowflake symbol. If you are renting a car in the winter, make sure that the rental company gives you a car with winter tires.

Always travel with multiple layers of clothing suitable for the season in your vehicle with you, even if it is a "warm" day. Temperatures can vary significantly from day to night and from community to community.



Get more information on winter driving tips and safety kits:  
[link.travelyukon.com/outfox-winter](https://link.travelyukon.com/outfox-winter)



# Seasonal emergencies, road conditions & closures

## EMERGENCY NUMBER

Yukon's emergency phone number is **9-1-1**. If you're using a satellite phone, call **867-668-9911** instead.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

Check road conditions and closures at **511Yukon.ca** or call **5-1-1** from your mobile phone.

## WILDFIRES, FLOODING AND WEATHER ALERTS

Find information about emergencies in the Yukon including wildfires, floods, earthquakes and road closures at **yukon.ca/emergencies**.

## FACEBOOK

Follow Yukon Protective Services on Facebook

**f @Yukon Protective Services**

If you have questions about how these might impact your plans, our travel advisors have lots of helpful information and would be happy to assist. You can reach them at **1-800-661-0494** or **vacation@yukon.ca**.



Mountain bikers along Dream Trail on Grey Mountain, Whitehorse  
Andrew Strain







## Thanks for visiting us

The Yukon wouldn't be the same without visitors like you. We hope you enjoy our beautiful territory!

Day hike while on a wilderness  
canoe trip on the Wind River,  
Wernecke Mountains  
Tobin Seagel



