



Whitehorse, Yukon Permanent Trail #283

Prairies and Northern Director's Walk

10 km Walk

Rating 2B

Capital City, Trans Canada Trail, Murals and Community Programs

This walk begins at the MacBride Museum of Yukon History, 1124 1st Ave, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1A4, tel: (867) 667-2709. **Please Note:** The Museum is a start point on the map only. There is no "Walk Box" here.

1. Depart the McBride Museum. Turn left onto Wood. Continue for 1 block to 2nd Avenue. Turn left walking past the War Memorial and City Hall (note the White Horse bike stand). Retrace steps back to Wood Street. Cross 2nd to continue up Wood, passing Westmark Hotel. On the other side of the hotel (on Steel St.) there's a Frantic Follies / Vaudeville Revue sign. This "show" is worth seeing while in town.

Note the attractive building murals as you continue up Wood. Cross 3rd Avenue to the quaint little LePage Park on your left. Turn left at 4th Avenue after noting the mural straight ahead. Also note the mural one block up on the right. Cross Main Street intersection to see the bust of Jack London immediately to your left.

Across the street on your left, notice the Elizah Smith Building and the interesting miner's monument. Continue left backdown Main Street to turn right on 2nd Avenue. Walk one block, turning right on Elliott Street, passing the Old Log Church museum. Also note the building murals and old false store fronts on your right. At 4th Avenue turn left, noting the mural on the front of the RCMP building. Turn left onto Lambert Street until 2nd Avenue. Notice the Log Cabin skyscraper on your left which is always attractively lighted at Xmas time. Also note the "tramway" mural to the right.
2. Turn right at 2nd Avenue -- washrooms available at the Visitor Info Centre (if open) and at the Library. The tiny hut that you see up on stilts is indicative of a cache that the early settlers used to build, to store food stuffs out of reach of the bears. They used a wooden ladder to climb up to get their stored goods.
3. Turn right on Hawkins until you reach 4th Avenue. Turn left on 4th to round-about. Cross carefully on walkway (a bit to your left). Go slightly to your right, and then turn left on walking trail along the Yukon River. You will be passing the SS Klondike (a paddle wheeler) -- a National Historic Site of Canada and well worth a visit. Washrooms are available here, when open.
4. Continue on the sidewalk, up the steps and across the Robert Campbell Bridge. Robert Campbell was a famous explorer with the Hudson's Bay Company. For whatever reason, he was let go. He snow shod all the way across Canada to Montreal, never to return to the Yukon again. But, he got a bridge named after him!!
5. Immediately at the end of the bridge you should see a paved walk on your right -- the Whitehorse Millennium Trail. Follow the paved trail for 2+ km to the Whitehorse Dam Fish Ladder. Stop in to view the Interpretive Centre -- over 35,000 visitors do so each summer. Continue to the top of the Fish Ladder at the top of the dam, for a wonderful view of Schwatka Lake.
6. Reverse course and return on the same road past the Interpretive Centre (toilets on the right). Continue on this same path until you reach the Rotary Centennial Bridge. Cross the Yukon River via this foot bridge, then turn right. Follow this path all the way back.
7. Watch for the foot bridge into Bert Law Park. Cross the river here again and follow the path around this

8. island. Be sure to read up on the local berries and note the local flora as you enjoy this pleasant little diversion. Bert Law and friends lobbied the town council to establish this park. Eventually the Army constructed the bridge. Bert Law's ashes are scattered here on this little island where he came for solitude. Return via the foot bridge to the walking trail on your right.
9. As you approach the Yield Sign, be sure to look up high to your right. This eagle's nest causes lots of interest and excitement, especially when the young arrive. Continue on the Millennium Trail all along this side of the mighty Yukon. Take time to read up on the local history too. All the parts and pieces of a stern wheeler are interesting. Continue back to the SS Klondike once more. Pass it on your left and this time walk under the bridge into Rotary Peace Park. Follow the path to your left as far as the blue platform. There's interesting information to read there about the original settlement of Whiskey Flats located where the Peace Park is now.
10. Retrace your steps a bit, back into the parking lot, staying to the left. Port-a-potties available here, if needed. Note the big white H on a green background across the river. That's the Whitehorse Hospital, second to none. Its administration has been able to maintain the status quo, not falling victim to the cutbacks and long wait times experienced by hospitals elsewhere across Canada. Up on the high hill you can glimpse a First Nations burial site that you read something about in connection with the demise of Whiskey Flats. As you continue, the Whitehorse Trans Canada Trail Pavilion is on your left.
11. You will pass the Yukon Legislative Building, and the Whitehorse Information Centre (worth a visit). Next comes the White Pass Train Depot. Here the trail ends because of the construction going on. Walk around in front of the Train Station. You can see the Horwoods Mall sign. There's an interesting gift shop right inside, as well as the Baked Café which is very popular. As well, the North End Gallery has beautiful mementos and souvenirs of your Yukon visit.
12. Two short blocks past the train depot you will arrive back at the McBride Museum. Be sure to look at the recently resurrected White Horse sign. It used to be on the Whitehorse Inn originally located at the present site of the CIBC Bank on Main Street. At night the White Horse is most distinctive as it flashes on and off.

Congratulations !

You have finished the Whitehorse Walk. We hope you have enjoyed this experience, have learned a bit of the local history, and have appreciated some of the beauty of the Yukon and its capital city. Enjoy the rest of your stay, and please come again.

Whitehorse 10 km walk

