

Midnight Sun Itinerary

2009



Day 1, Saturday, May 30—Helena, MT

Arrive Helena, MT by midday, and transfer to the Great Northern Hotel. We will conduct a comprehensive Tour and Flight Briefing at the hotel at 3:00 pm. Welcome dinner at local restaurant with other pilots and guests. *D*

Day 2, Sunday, May 31—Dawson Creek, BC

After breakfast, we will depart Helena for Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the start of the Alaska Highway. We will stop en route for Canadian Customs and fuel at Springbank, Alberta, near Calgary. After checking into the hotel, we'll visit the Northern Alberta Railway Park, the true "Mile 0" of the Alaska Highway, and the Dawson Creek Station Museum. *B/D*

Day 3, Monday, June 1—Whitehorse, YT

After breakfast and briefing, we will launch for the flight of a lifetime: northwest along the Alaska Highway to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. This highway route provides some dramatic scenery and remote wilderness, albeit with the safety of the Highway beneath you. We'll stop for fuel in Fort Nelson and Watson Lake, both original airports for the **Northwest Staging Route**, en route to Whitehorse. After checking in to the hotel, we'll use the ample daylight to enjoy downtown Whitehorse, and get a flavor for the river history of the Yukon. *B/D*

Day 4, Tuesday, June 2—Kennicott, AK

Today we'll finally touch down in Alaska, first in Northway (to clear US Customs), then Gulkana (for fuel), then onward to McCarthy. After tying our planes down, we'll make the short drive to Alaska's largest ghost town: Kennicott. Home to our gorgeous Glacier Lodge, the town itself is a National Historic Landmark and site of one of the world's richest copper ore deposits. After lunch, we'll step back in time and take a historic tour of the town and 17-story mill facility. *B/L/D*

Day 5, Wednesday, June 3—Kennicott, AK

No fly day (unless, of course, you want to!). Take time to enjoy the alpine wilderness and scenic beauty as you soak in our largest national park, Wrangell-St. Elias which surrounds this town and lodge. Options include river rafting, glacier hiking, or simply relaxing on the front porch of the beautiful lodge. *B/L/D*

Day 6, Thursday, June 4—Anchorage, AK

Today's will be a spectacular flight, contrasting high rugged peaks on the right with ocean scenery on the left. We'll fly down the Copper River to the Gulf of Alaska, then follow the coast to Anchorage's Merrill Field. We will spend three nights in the heart of Anchorage, allowing plenty of time for ground and flightseeing opportunities around the region. After we get settled in, we'll take a trolley tour of Alaska's largest city. *B/L*

Days 7 and 8, Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6—Anchorage, AK

Use your free days in Anchorage to explore beautiful south-central Alaska. There is a multitude of activities available, including day trips to Denali, bear country, or the Kenai Fjords. *B, B/D*

Parkwest Air Tours

800 HeritageWay
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Toll Free 866-897-7910

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Day 9, Sunday, June 7—Fairbanks, AK

After breakfast, we will fly to the land of the Midnight Sun, flying through the Alaska Range to Fairbanks. Hopefully we'll get a glimpse of Denali, the highest peak in North America! After checking in to the hotel, we'll set sail on the Riverboat Discovery for a cruise on the Chena and Tanana Rivers. *B*

Day 10, Monday, June 8—Dawson City, YT

From Fairbanks, we'll make our way back to Canada, this time to Dawson City, the heart of the Klondike Gold Rush. After checking in to the Downtown Hotel, we'll take a walking tour to learn about the town with its wide streets, historic inns, and diversity of activities. In the evening we'll go out for a lively show at Diamond Tooth Gertie's, and perhaps induct a few of you into the Sour Toe Club. *B/D*

Day 11, Tuesday, June 9—Dawson City, YT

No fly day. Enjoy the Klondike! You can pan for gold, be led on a historic walking tour, visit the mineral dredges, or stroll the cemeteries of this interesting town. *D*

Day 12, Wednesday, June 10—Watson Lake, YT

Leaving Dawson City, we'll fly up the Yukon and Pelly Rivers to Faro for fuel, then over the Saint Cyr Range to Watson Lake. After settling in to the hotel, we'll explore the famous Sign Post Forest and the Alaska Highway Interpretive Centre. *B/L*

Day 13, Thursday, June 10—Golden, BC

After breakfast and briefing, we will launch for another spectacular flight: south through the Rocky Mountain Trench. This countryside includes some of the most dramatic scenery and remote wilderness in Northern Canada. We'll stop in Mackenzie for fuel, then carry on to Golden, Canada's "ultimate Rocky Mountain destination." *B/D*

Day 14, Friday, June 12—Helena, MT

We'll continue our journey south down the Trench and in to Montana, stopping for customs and fuel at Kalispell. From there, we'll hop over the Continental Divide and continue on to Helena. We'll relive our great memories at the Farewell Dinner. *B/D*

Day 15, Saturday, June 7

We'll say good-bye in Helena and follow our respective routes home. *B*

Approximate Distance: 4200 nm

Days: 15 **Nights:** 14

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PLEASE NOTE: Due to the unpredictable and often unsettled weather patterns of northwestern Canada and Alaska, we will have to fly with ceilings and visibility lower than those encountered on the other Parkwest Tours. We will not compromise safety, but will be prepared to fly in low VFR conditions or even file IFR to fly in or above IMC. Because of this, **all pilots must be instrument-rated, -current, and -proficient.** Additionally, all aircraft must be instrument-capable, have a cruise speed of at least 135 knots TAS, and be able to fly 3.5 hours with an hour reserve.