

Skagway

GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

WALKING TOURS

MINI TOUR (#1-#15)
1½ MILE (45-60 MINUTES)
REGULAR TOUR 1 MILE (60-90 MINUTES)

EXTENDED TOUR REGULAR TOUR PLUS
SIDE TRIP TO GOLD RUSH CEMETERY
4 MILES (3.5-4 HOURS)

LEGEND

----- TOUR PATH
ROAD
WATER

TRAIN TRACK
WALKING PATH

SKAGWAY RIVER

MAP NOT
TO SCALE

ALASKA STREET

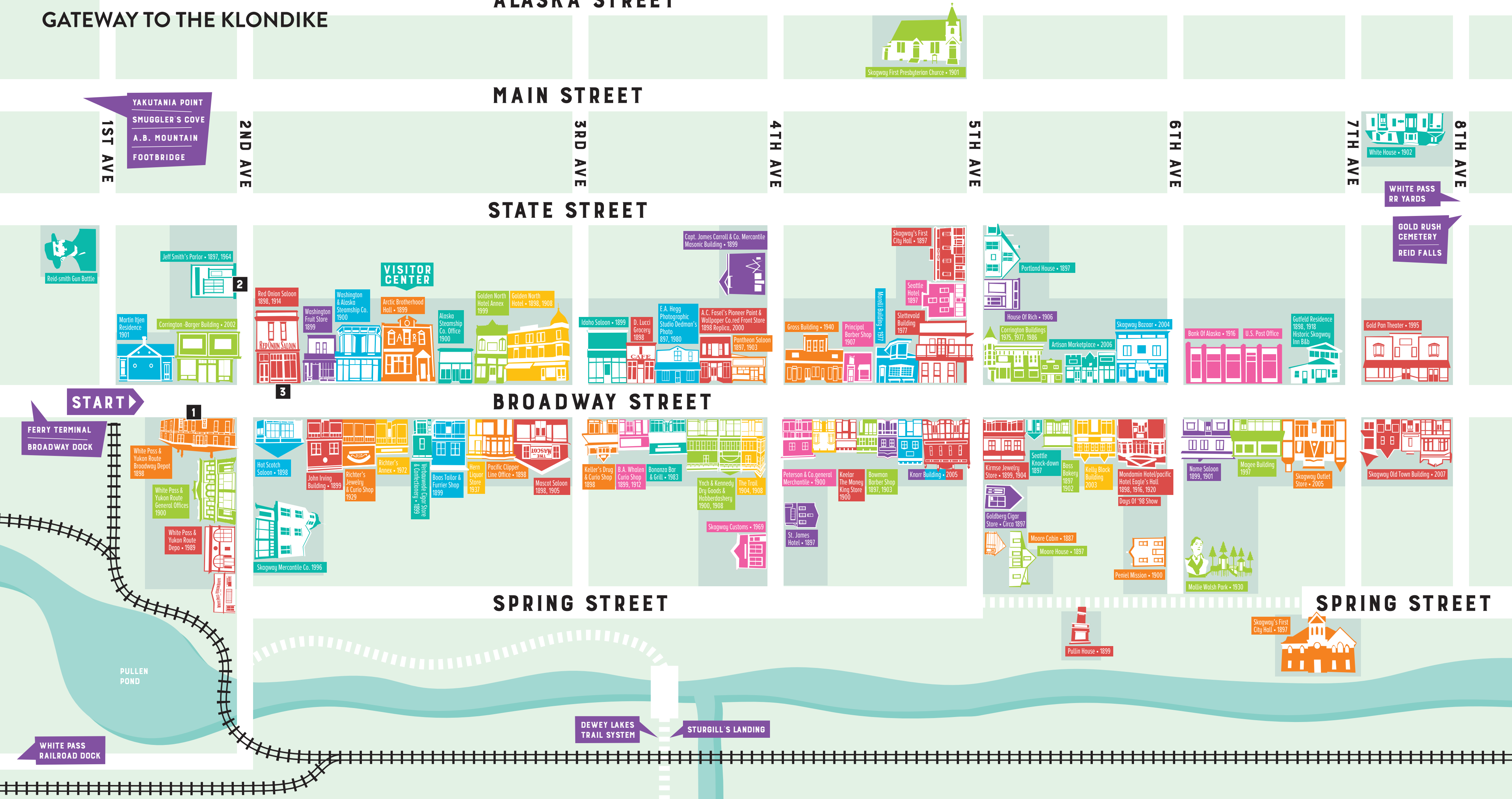
MAIN STREET

STATE STREET

BROADWAY STREET

SPRING STREET

SPRING STREET



A BRIEF LOOK AT SKAGWAY'S HISTORY

Skagway, one of America's great historical shrines, played a key role in the dramatic Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898. For several hectic months, uncounted thousands poured through these streets on their way north. They were headed for Dawson City, more than 500 miles inland. Conditions were so rigorous that fewer than half of those who arrived in Skagway reached the gold fields.

For the first year of its existence, Skagway was a rough-and-tumble frontier port. Skagway boasted more than 80 saloons; gun play was common; the town was controlled by a gang of organized criminals. Civilization arrived when the White Pass and Yukon Route began constructing its railroad

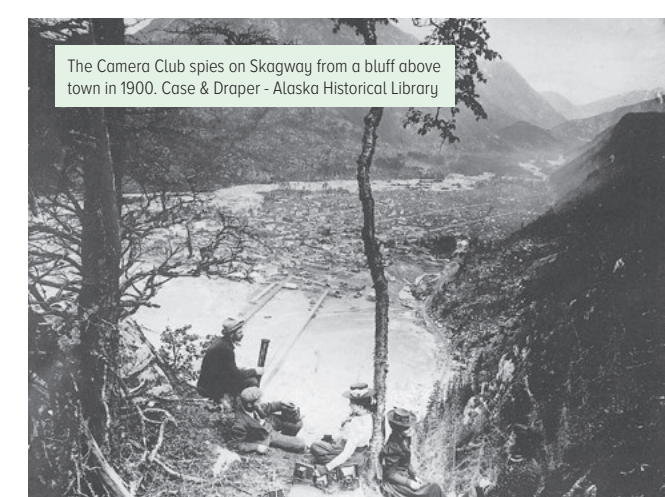
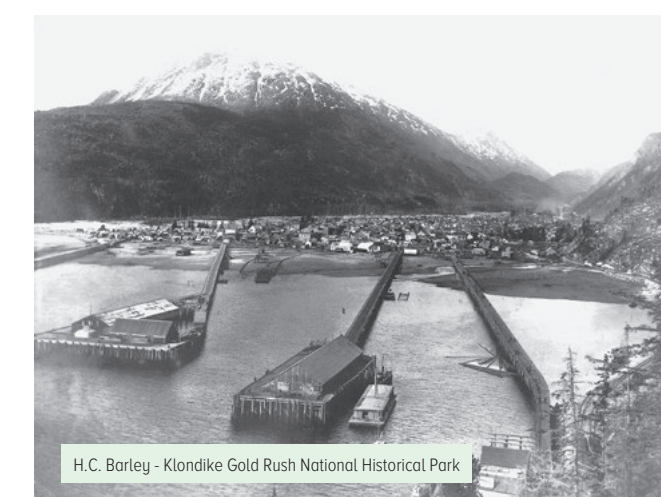
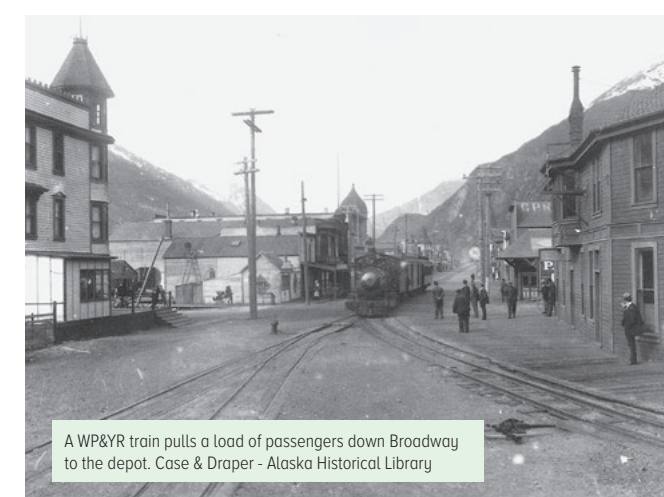
in May 1898, and it advanced when the criminal element was purged two months later. The WP&YR was completed to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory in the summer of 1900; by this time, the gold rush was over.

Since 1898, Skagway has served as a port and railroad town. Life here since the gold rush has been relatively sedate, except for the hectic World War II years, when thousands of Army troops were stationed here in order to supply materials for the Alcan (Alaska) Highway and other war-time construction projects. The railroad was the main industry in Skagway for more than 80 years. It closed in 1982, but reopened in 1988 as a summer operation. Tourists first arrived

in 1898. The visitor industry remained small until the 1920s; since then it has grown steadily into a major economic force. Regular ferry service came to Skagway in 1963; the Klondike Highway to the Yukon was completed in the fall of 1978.

While history dominates the Skagway landscape, life here resembles that of small towns throughout America. Our citizens are proud of our past, confident about our present, and optimistic about the future. We are glad you have chosen to visit us, and hope you can return some day.

Text: Frank Norris • Edits: Mike Sica/Steve Halloran • Updates: Skagway CVB/National Park Service
Walking Tour Map: PR Services • Updates: PR Services • Historical Photographs: Klondike Gold Rush
National Historical Park, Dedman's Photo Shop, Skagway Museum & Archives 08/06



To the right are the WP&R railroad yards, the gold Rush Cemetery, and 300-foot high Red Falls. The railroad yards is 15 blocks up State Street. To reach the cemetery, turn north on Alaska & 2nd and follow the designated signs. To reach Red Falls, continue through the cemetery for another quarter mile. The total one-way distance from town to the cemetery is about 1.3 miles. Allow 30-45 minutes each way, plus 30 minutes at the cemetery and waterfall."

Skragwa's Medium priced house. Baths and all conveniences."

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