



DEMPSTER HIGHWAY

ROAD WITH A VIEW

Without a doubt - the Dempster Highway is the most fun you can have while sitting down! It is one of the most beautiful scenic roads and a must-do for every road trip lover. The name alone evokes wanderlust... Formerly the path of the Gwich'in Natives, later used as a dog sled trail, "the Dempster" begins around 40 kilometers beyond Dawson City in the Yukon Territory and then winds its way 740 kilometers to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. Along the way, it crosses breathtaking landscapes with rugged peaks and vast tundra areas, passes herds of caribou and curious grizzlies at the roadside, crosses the Arctic Circle, leads into traditional Indigenous communities, and crosses Canada's largest river – the mighty Mackenzie. And all the while: an unmistakable sense of adventure!

Day 1:

Welcome to **Dawson City** – the starting point for your Dempster adventure!

Once you arrive, all the pretty historic buildings will take you straight back into the atmosphere of the gold rush era. Head to **Bonanza Creek Discovery Claim** to see for yourself where the Klondike gold was first discovered.

Before you start your road trip, be sure to stock up at the supermarket and refuel your rental car/camper. Up here in the far north of Canada, petrol stations are rare, and it is highly recommended to take every opportunity to fill up.

Finally, visit Dawson City's **Visitor Centre** and pick up your "**Dempster Highway Passport**" – you can have it stamped at nine different stations along the scenic road over the next few days.

Day 2:

Today you're finally kicking off: your first section on the world-famous Dempster Highway lies ahead of you!

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The access road is located around 40 kilometers east of Dawson City on the Klondike Highway. After just a short drive, you will discover impressive peaks that almost seem to pierce the bright blue horizon – this can only be the epic **Tombstone Territorial Park**. Here, breathtaking mountains, alpine wildlife, enticing hiking trails and beautiful campsites are waiting to be explored. The scenic road then leads through the Ogilvie Mountains and finally crosses the alpine plain. Halfway between Dawson City and Inuvik lies **Eagle Plains** – your destination for the day. The small village has a hotel, a campsite, a car garage... and a gas station!

Day 3:

Shortly after leaving Eagle Plains this morning, you will cross the **Arctic Circle**. Welcome to the land of the midnight sun! Every summer it shines here 24 hours for 57 days, offering plenty of time and space for outdoor activities of all kinds. At the Arctic Circle, adventurers enter the true polar zone – a truly magical region that only a fraction of the world's travelers have ever reached.

The Dempster now crosses the border into the **Northwest Territories** – remember to set your clocks one hour ahead. The route leads far above the tree line and through the Richardson Mountains. From the road you will see wildlife again and again – Dall sheep, caribou, black bears and, with a bit of luck, even majestic grizzlies!



Leaving the Richardson Mountains, the Dempster takes you to two charming villages. The welcoming trading centre of **Fort McPherson**, where the graves of the fabled Lost Patrol are located, can be reached shortly after crossing the Peel River and the ferry (free of charge). Visit the **Chii Tsal Dik Gwizheh Tourism and Heritage Centre**, which offers a variety of Indigenous activities. Next, head to the tiny town and Gwich'in settlement of **Tsiigehtchic**. The picturesque viewpoint over the Mackenzie and Arctic Red River is an absolute highlight! After crossing the mighty Mackenzie on the ferry (free of charge), you continue north.

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Along the east bank of the Mackenzie Delta and in the middle of the Taiga Forest, you reach the small community of **Inuvik** in the evening. Welcome to the gateway to the Western Arctic, the end of the Dempster Highway and the beginning of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, which leads directly to the Arctic Ocean.

Day 4:

The small town of Inuvik is - with a population of 3,500 – the largest town in Canada north of the Arctic Circle and has some exciting sights to offer.

The best way to start your polar adventure is with a visit to the **Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre**. A museum-like exhibition provides information about the local culture, flora and fauna as well as the history of the Western Arctic and offers many useful travel tips, maps and brochures. Visit the **Igloo Church**, the most photographed building in the north and Inuvik's landmark. Stroll along the small souvenir stores full of artwork, handicrafts and individual gifts.

During the short summers, when the **midnight sun** lights up the nights, Inuvik literally buzzes with activity. Canoeing, fishing, hiking, and cycling are very popular in summer. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, winter camping, cross-country skiing, ice fishing and a trip on the ice road to Aklavik are particularly popular activities in winter.

In months when the midnight sun is not turning night into day, you can often see the fantastic **Aurora Borealis** in the night sky.

Day 5:

If you don't want to add the last 138 kilometers on the new **Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway** to the **Arctic Ocean** as a **day trip**, make your **way back to Dawson City** today.

Shortly after turning your back on Inuvik, the **Jak Territorial Park** with its observation tower offers a wonderful view over the Mackenzie Delta.

Be assured there is still plenty to discover and explore on the return journey! Coming from the north, the panoramas and views are completely different and will once again leave you speechless.

If you are traveling by rental car, make another stopover in **Eagle Plains**. If you are traveling with a camper, you can choose one of the six campsites along the Dempster Highway.

Day 6:

Completely overwhelmed by so much adventure, encounters and panoramas, you arrive back in **Dawson City** today.

