



KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

.Seattle Unit

117 South Main Street
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 442-7220

*Mineral
gold
shipment
of gold*

*More
riches for gold*

*2000
gold
shipment*

*gold
shipment*

*Mineral
shipment
of gold*

*Gold
shipment*

*Gold
shipment*

Old timers have not forgotten that the city of Seattle, at the close of the 19th century, and the Canadian Klondike gold fields, each in its separate way, triggered a population stampede resulting in an inexorable link with history. The great Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98 was one of the most unique and colorful events in the saga of expanding America.

Both the Seattle Unit and the Alaska Unit of the new national historical park are the result of Congressional legislation enacted into Public Law 94-323 on June 30, 1976. The Alaska Unit consists of historic structures in Skagway and the Chilkoot and White Pass Trails. The legislation also specified that a unit be established within the Pioneer Square Historic District to commemorate the significance of Seattle as the staging area for the great gold rush to the Far North.

What to See and Do at the Seattle Unit

Exhibits

Include photographic murals; an automatic slide program of old-time photos; and displays of hardware and clothing stores, gold mining artifacts and a "ton of goods".

Film and Slide Programs

Shown in the 117-seat auditorium, showtimes are posted at the unit.

Days of Adventure, Dreams of Gold, produced by William Bronson and narrated by Hal Holbrook. Through the use of historic photographs this 36-minute film shows the triumphs and disappointments experienced by the unknowing stampedeers as they journeyed from Seattle to the Klondike Gold Fields of Canada.

Seattle: Gateway to the Goldfields, a 15 minute slide program. From a depressed logging town to the Emerald City of today . . . See how Seattle was transformed as it became the major staging area for the Klondike Gold Rush. Historic photographs show the exciting events that swept through our city in the late 1890's.

The Chilkoot Trail, by Lyle Bebensee, a 27-minute film. This historic trail, that led many stampedeers into the Klondike gold fields, is shown in both contemporary and historic settings.

City of Gold, produced by the National Film Board of Canada and narrated by Pierre Berton is a 22-minute film. Berton reflects on his childhood in historic Dawson City and through his narrative gives the viewers a feeling for how it was to be a stampeder during the gold rush.

The Klondike Gold Rush, by Steve Hites, an 8 minute slide program. Through the lively folk music of Steve Hites, historic scenes and characters are brought to life, as the story of the Klondike Gold Rush is told.

The Gold Rush, by Charlie Chaplin, is a classic 1925 film depicting a lone prospector heading north to the Klondike facing many hardships: hunger, loneliness, harsh climate and greed. It is a statement on the human condition, provoking laughter and tears. (75 minutes)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - 3 P.M.

Information Services

Uniformed National Park Service personnel provide information and interpretive services at the unit. Advance arrangements should be made for tour groups, schools and organizations. Call for appointments. Admission is free of charge for all facilities and programs.



Winter hours:
9 AM to 5 PM
Seven days a week
Extended summer hours
Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas,
and New Year's days.



GOLD RUSH FACTS

Prior to the gold rush, Seattle merchants made about \$300,000 annually. Eight months after the rush began, Seattle had garnered \$25 million in Klondike trade as compared to \$5 million in other ports.

A steamship ticket from Seattle to St. Michael cost \$1,000 in 1897-98. Before the gold rush that same ticket would have cost only \$150.

From July 17, 1897 to September 1st, 9,000 people and 36,000 tons of freight left Seattle.

Supplies for one man for one year cost approximately \$250 in Seattle. A comparable outfit cost \$550 in Dawson, Yukon Territory.

In Dawson during the winter of 1897-98, a stamperder could purchase a dog for \$400, a sack of flour for \$120, a watermelon for \$25 and a copy of Shakespeare for \$50.

100,000 people started for the gold fields.

30-40,000 actually reached Dawson.

15-20,000 even bothered to look for gold.

Only 4,000 found gold.

About 300 found enough to be considered rich.

About 50 managed to keep their wealth.

By 1901 the combined gold fields of the Yukon Territory yielded 50 million dollars.