

After 30 years of flying up here in the North, the following are some of my favorites (All are accessible in my RV-8 (@ 150 K));

Coffee/Breakfast;

Braeburn - 20 minutes North of Whitehorse beside the highway. Gravel/Dirt (a few gopher holes). Often Elk or Grizzly Bears on North threshold. Exceptional Cinamon Buns at Lodge across the road! Famous!

Carcross - 15 minutes SE of Whitehorse. Gravel/Dirt (a few gopher holes at East end) Exceptional Scenery, 1 mile walk to historic down-town and good icecream.

Camping;

Silver City (Kluane Lake) - 45 Minutes West of Whitehorse along Alaska Highway beside Kluane Lake. Gravel/Dirt. Camp along the airstrip down near the North end. Home of the Arctic Institute and many Ice-Field climbers base out the airstrip here. Watch for traffic!

Fort Selkirk - A favorite, 45 minutes North of Whitehorse enroute to Dawson City. Packed Dirt. I found the East end can be soft, maintenance is once a year.....check the vegetation. 1 Mile walk to historic Fort Selkirk settlement along the Yukon River.

Watson Lake - The campground here is exceptional. You are beside the lake. It is in the Flight Supplement.

Long Lake (Floats)- Camping on the beach here is one of my life-long favorite memories.

Scenic Tours

Aligator Lake - When I need to show visitors the country this is the best way. I leave CYXY, head SW to Aligator Lake. In an hour I can go to Aligator, South Kusawa Lake, the Chilkoot Pass, Carcross, and home. This is mountain flying at its' very best!

Mount Logan - This is a special treat, but I plan for this one. I start at Haines Junction (30 minutes West of CYXY). I go through the Alsek Pass up the Dusty or Lowell Glacier. The pass is 10,000 feet. (If the weather is out I show visitors the foot of Lowell Glacier and head East through Bates and Mush Lake. It is National Park below you....stay 1000')

The Summit is above the limit of my RV-8. If you fy around it it is a spectacular experience. If the weather is cooperative I turn back East and come out the Kaskawulsh Glacier past Silver City. I plan for 2 hours from Haines Junction.

Ross River / Faro - 1 hour can put me in either Ross River or Faro (they are only 45 Km apart). Both have maintained gravel strips. Ross is more or less traditional community a 10 minute walk from that airstrip.

Faro was built in 1969 when they discovered Lead/Zinc deposits on Vangorda Creek. It was the largest mine in the Yukon for many years. It is easy to catch a ride in to town.

Mac Pass - This is a special treat but check the weather. It is along the Canol Road just at the NWT border. The strip is short with rough sharp gravel. Alternates enroute are Twin Creeks (dirt) or Ross River (check Flight Supplement).

Longer Tours

Dawson City - 1 1/2 hours North of CYXY, Dawson City is a good place for visitors. Well packed runway, fuel etc (look in Flight Supplement). As you come in from CYXY you fly over the "Gold Fields" so watch for lots of Placer mining activity (especially the snaking dredge tailings). Watch for traffic. I have walked in to town from the airstrip but I don't recommend it (2 hours).

Old Crow (240 S Miles North of Dawson City) is another special treat (but as often as I have been there to be honest I have not taken the RV-8 there yet). Fuel can be problematic (check the Flight Supplement). Excellent runway, right in the middle of town. If you plan to stay overnite check for accomidations (but you can ask nearly anyone there).

To fly in the North is an exceptional joy. Be ready for bad weather, carry a fuel siphon hose, a gas can, and a good sense of humour. You won't have much trouble meeting the locals, watch for the history, the wildlife, and the "colorful 5%".