

# Ridge Road Heritage Trail

It is an easy walk up from the lower trailhead to the Trail Gulch diversion on the Yukon Ditch, or down from the upper trailhead to Soda Station on the abandoned Klondike Mines Railway line.

The Ridge Road winds along the high and relatively dry ground between Bonanza and Hunker creeks. Built in 1899, it was the first government-built wagon road in the Yukon and was a major supply route to the mines on Dominion and Sulphur creeks.

Roadhouses, stores and freighting companies operated successfully along the route despite spring glaciers and a steep descent to the placer mines. Gold miners along Bonanza Creek ridiculed Commissioner William Ogilvie for supporting the project and lobbied for a more convenient route. After good roads were completed up Bonanza and Hunker creeks, the Ridge Road was abandoned in 1902.



Boxcar at Soda Station

The Klondyke Centennial Society took an interest in the Ridge Road in 1994 and made it a centennial project. With the help of the Yukon Territorial Government and other organizations the old road opened as a heritage trail 1996.

## Travel Safely

Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. Hikers should allow two days to walk the trail but a campground is within a day of either trailhead. If you bike, check your brakes before you leave.

Outhouses are provided at the upper trail-head and at two campgrounds which provide tent sites, fire pits, picnic tables and well water. The water pumps may require priming, so leave some water for the next camper to use.

The ridge is not known to be preferred bear habitat. However, stay alert to bear tracks and droppings. If you see a bear, back slowly away and leave the area. Food should be stored in airtight containers 100 metres from your tent.

There is no garbage collection along the trail. Plan your menu ahead of time to reduce the amount of packaging. Add an extra plastic bag to your kit to carry out any garbage.

**Please leave historical artifacts in place for others to enjoy.**

Licensed trappers use the Ridge Road Heritage Trail as a source of livelihood in the winter. Please do not disturb any trap boxes you may find along the way.



**Contact** the Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch, or the Department of Renewable Resources, Yukon Government for further information.



*on Yukon time*



*... along the historic and scenic  
Ridge Road Heritage Trail.*



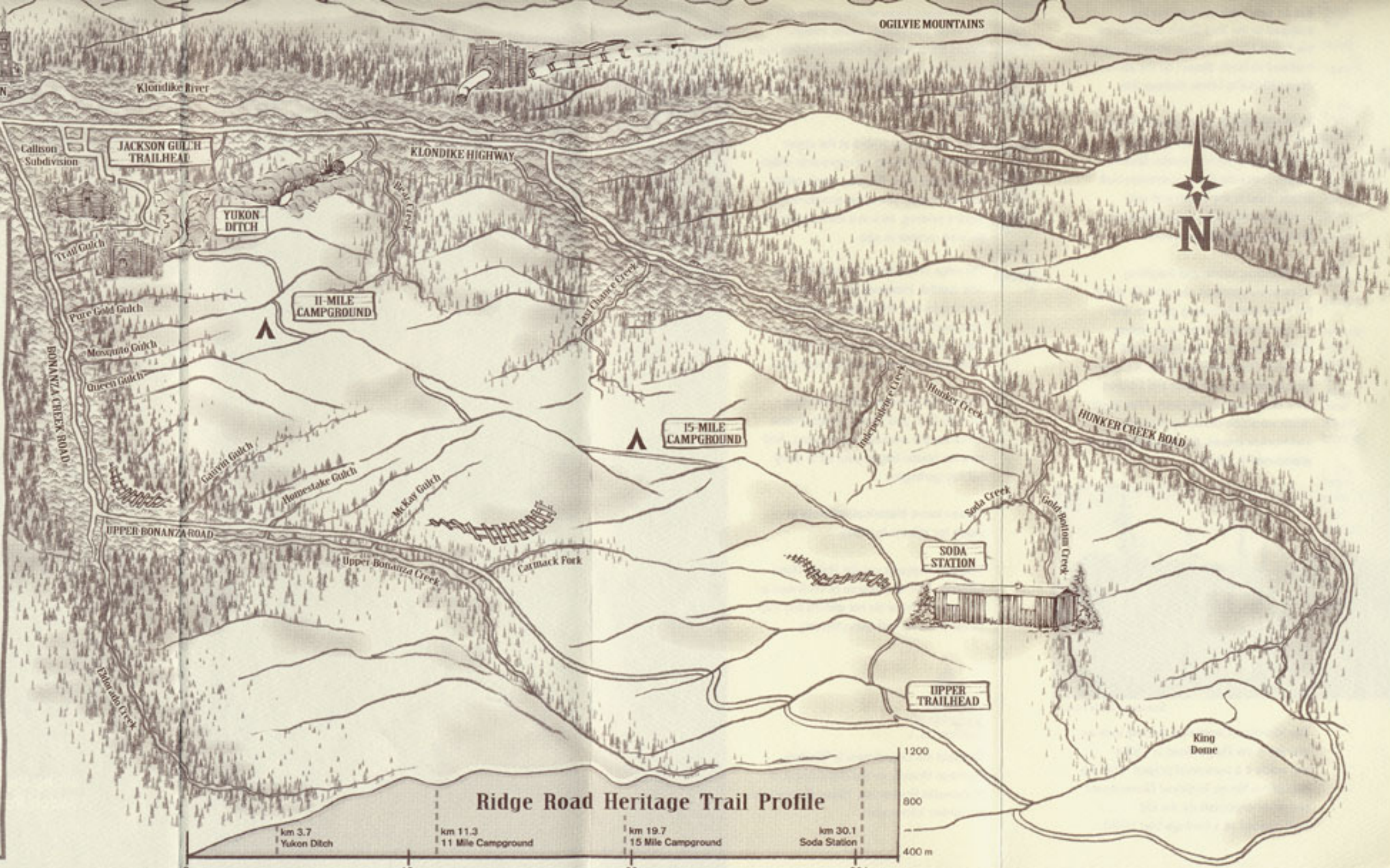
**Yukon Ditch**  
 The old water gates and a watchman's cabin still stand at the Trail Gulch diversion of a ditch, flume and pipe system that brought water from the Ogilvie Mountains to the hydraulic mines along Bonanza Creek.

**11 Mile Campground**  
 Capt. Murray, formerly of the Steamer Canadian, operated a roadhouse, bar and restaurant at this site. Judson Cleveland, a contractor on the road, owned a roadhouse across from Murray's.

**15 Mile Campground**  
 Halfway House and Emile Mohr's Roadhouse were favourite stopping places for the stage coach running between Dawson City and Dominion Creek.

**Soda Station**  
 The Klondike Mines Railway ran from Dawson City to Sulphur Springs near the King Dome from 1906 to 1914. Goods were landed here at the converted boxcar station where the tracks crossed the old Ridge Road.

**Upper Trailhead**  
 McCarty's Roadhouse, no longer in existence, opened here in 1900 near a tramway for horses and wagons that ran up the steep slope from Upper Bonanza Creek.



Ridge Road Heritage Trail Profile

km 3.7 Yukon Ditch      km 11.3 11 Mile Campground      km 19.7 15 Mile Campground      km 30.1 Soda Station