



Miles Canyon Figure 8, 6.4 km: *This loop has variety. Except for a few hills it's mostly gradual climbs and descents. Nice, considering the height gained.*

You walk along the Yukon River through old forest; walk the bed of the Hepburn Tramway; follow a route likely used when First Nations would walk from Marsh Lake; pass stretches of the old telegraph line; overlook the basalt walls of Miles Canyon with Flat and Pilot mountains as a backdrop; look down on Canyon City and the Macaulay Tramway; pass artifacts from when American Laundry was the largest camp on the wartime Alaska Highway project; walk along the decommissioned oil pipeline route; see out over Schwatka Lake. You even cross the 135° meridian a few times.

Park at the Miles Canyon Parking lot.

1: The trail starts behind the big rocks at the outhouses. Follow a dirt road-like trail down to a prominent viewpoint overlooking the river. You'll pass a couple of side roads on your right.

2: Note the pipe in the water. A water pipe from years back? Go back the way you came about 20 metres and take the dirt road sharply up the hill. There's lots of blowdowns but it's easy to get around them.

3: Watch for some flagging tape on your left, following it a short distance into the woods. Looking up at the hillside you'll see the line of the tramway. Climb up to the line of the tramway. Follow the tramway ledge about 1 km, passing a couple of side trails. The tramway bed gradually gets wider as you ascend. Keep following it up until you arrive at the top.

4: At this 3-way trail junction, there'll be a trail going uphill to the right, and one going out along the escarpment to the left. Stay straight on the middle choice, staying on the tramway, passing a couple of small side trails, and a back road. The tramway will be easy to follow as it is

an obvious raised bed, with a ditch at times alongside it from where they took the dirt for fill.

5: At the American Laundry road, cross and reconnect with the tramway again behind a small dirt berm on the other side of the road. Eventually you'll arrive where the tramway gets buried in trees.

6: Follow the trail through the trees, following the raised bed. It could be nicer with some trail work here, so just cross over to the American Laundry road running alongside on your left and go down to the water.

7: Wander and explore the concrete pads and Basalt Creek at the far end of the open area. Then return up the road going back to the highway. Follow it for xxx m and watch for a trail in the ditch heading along the river. You can drop down to the path but it eventually comes almost to the level of the road, then veers away from the road.

8: Drop down to the trail and follow it up along the escarpment noting the views of the river and Canyon City and the trails on the other side. While it gains a lot of altitude, it's generally a gradual ascent. There'll be a couple of great viewing/picnic spots. Keep going until you arrive back at the tramway at the edge of the escarpment, at the 3-way junction.

9: Cross and follow the trail up the hill, eventually following a more major dirt road, the old oil pipeline route. Keep going. There'll be a couple of great views out over the canyon and Schwatka Lake.

10: Watch for a small dirt trail on your right. Follow this trail downhill until you arrive back at the outhouse spot where you started.

This trail be improved in a number of spots. This is just a proof of concept!