

BEFORE YOU COME UP AND SEE US.

A word about weather and roads.

When's the best time to come to Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92? Most visitors, coming to the North by highway, travel between the months of May and September, when the days are long, the flowers are in full bloom, and all visitor services and attractions are open. You'll have to decide for yourself whether high season or our quiet winter months best suit your traveling style. It's about 2,300 miles from Seattle to Fairbanks. An unhurried drive up the "dream come true" Alaska Highway takes, on average, about 7 days. But, be sure to add several days for sightseeing and exploring along the way.



Rendezvous '92 won't be the same without you.

Come and share our happiness, our spirit, our pride, our culture, our sense of accomplishment. Come and be part of our celebration, our commemoration, our camaraderie. Come and see the North in living color. Let us spoil you with our hospitality; surround you with our history, captivate you with our heritage.

There's a party going on along the Rendezvous Road.
Come on Up!

*"Follow your heart where the dreams are free,
Where eagles dare to fly,
Where treasure's where you find it,
Where lights dance across northern skies,
There's a Spirit in these northern lands,
It rings out clear and true,
It calls you to follow the open road,
To the Trail of '42."*

From "Rendezvous Road"
Official Theme Song of Alaska Highway
Rendezvous '92.

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There's a party going on along the Rendezvous Road.

Come on up!



EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY, WE WISH YOU MANY HAPPY RETURNS.

This story begins with a bang.

Until World War II, there was no direct land route from the lower United States to the Yukon or Alaska.

The Japanese bombings of Pearl Harbor and later Dutch Harbor changed all that.

The Alaska Territory suddenly gained important status as a strategic military outpost.



As a result, the Alaska Highway was built by American troops and equipment. Canada supplied the right of way and materials. Native Indians, trappers and prospectors were hired to assist the U.S. Army surveyors.

Construction began on March 9, 1942.



It took guts and tractors.

Hardship and heroism built the Highway. Machinery snapped, ice jams rammed pilings, overflowing streams ripped out bridges, bottomless muskeg swallowed trucks and bulldozers. At the peak of construction, 11,500 troops, 7,500 civilians and 11,000 pieces of equipment worked on the road. Crews battled the elements and geography, overcoming nearly insurmountable logistical problems.



Wake up, sleepy heads!

A month after construction began, the sleepy villages of Dawson Creek, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and others, woke up to occupying armies of military engineers. Their small populations mushroomed to the thousands by the end of 1942, changing the lifestyles of natives and others, forever.

November 20, 1942. Brrrrring on the trucks!

Crews finally met at Contact Creek, British Columbia, and at Beaver Creek in the Yukon, in the winter of 1942, completing the single pioneer lane. Official opening ceremonies were held at Soldiers' Summit (Mile 1,061) in one of the worst winters in history, 8 months from the beginning of construction.

There was a crooked mile.

Stories abound why the original highway was so crooked. It went wherever a bulldozer could go...around muskeg, curving as a defense, following the path of a rutting moose. The early roughness earned it the reputation as a "junkyard for American cars". But what adventure, what excitement lay along its crooked miles!

Hurray for the PRA!

In early 1943, it fell to the Public Roads Administration to undertake the reconstruction that would turn the Alaska Highway into a year round, all weather road. Over the next 7 years, five major contractors overseeing 70 private companies worked to bring the road "up to snuff". In 1949, the Highway was re-opened to full-time civilian traffic—with noticeable improvements!



COME BACK, COME BACK! EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.

Rendezvous '92. Another historic occasion.

The construction of the Alaska Highway was one of the greatest engineering feats of this century... a great coming together in a common endeavour. To commemorate and celebrate the Highway's 50th year, Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon are "coming together", hosting a reunion, throwing a party called Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92.

It will shine a spotlight on the North and invite the world to discover (or rediscover) the Super Natural, Magic & Mystery of this Great Land.

Party, party, party.

When we throw a party up North, we do it in a big way. This one will last 1,520 miles!

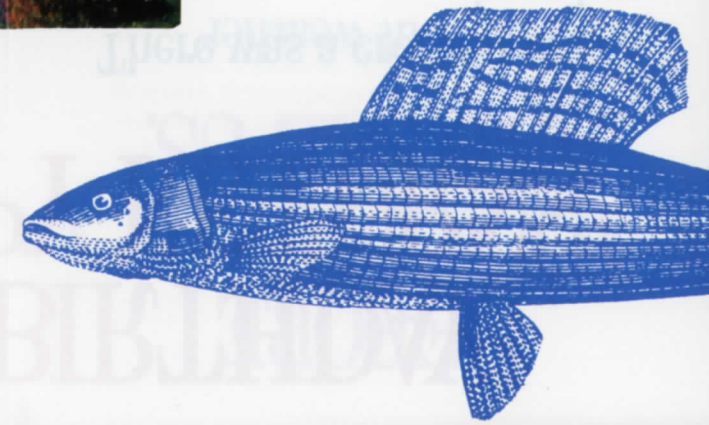
All year long, all along the road, special community events, programs, shows and displays will honor this vital link. Don't be surprised to see



Once you're here,
we'll take you back.

Not only will the events at Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92 be fun and exciting, they'll be historic. We're planning a Road Rally of vintage vehicles from the World War II period, retracing the tortuous supply route.

They'll roll on wheels and tracks, through mountain ranges, across valleys, canyons and rivers. The past will be very much present.





fireworks, music festivals, rodeos, gold panning, stage shows, native Indian cultural events, maybe even a USO Troop Show or two, on the road again, saying "thanks for the memories".

Sometimes, we'll stand on ceremony.

Naturally, we'll have our share of pomp and ceremony. It wouldn't be an official occasion without lots of official occasions! We'll open Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92 with all the color and flagwaving we can muster.

Not to mention a healthy abundance of dignitaries.

And of course, November 20th will commemorate that cold winter's day at Soldiers' Summit 50 years ago when the single pioneer lane of the Highway was completed.

It's a bird, it's a plane!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers chose the Prairie Route for the Highway because it connected the chain of airbases known as the "Northwest Staging Route". During World War II, American pilots used these airfields to ferry some 8,000 aircraft north from Montana to Fairbanks,



Alaska, where they were picked up by Russian crews for flights to the Siberian Front. In 1992, an International "Airmada" will re-enact this famous route with vintage and modern aircraft. The sky's the limit!

A Rendezvous with Nature.

Today, along the Alaska Highway, travelers find a modern Northern thoroughway with hospitable towns, visitor services, places of historical interest, rest stops, campsites, accommodations and amenities. It's a picture postcard of spectacular scenery, a mosaic of people, a treasury of sidetrips, a place to rendezvous with Mother Nature.



No RSVP required.

We hope you'll consider this your invitation to Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92. We're kind of informal in the North, so...Come as you are, do as you please, stay as long as you want. This is a party where everyone's welcome. The more, the merrier.

