

Trip Report: Longmont, Colorado to Yellowknife, Canada in a Cessna 182Q

By Kyle Foley

Remote Beginnings

Our journey started at Longmont, Colorado (KLMO), a place that served as the perfect launchpad for this incredible adventure. Longmont's busy airfield set the tone for the remote and captivating destinations that lay ahead. It ended up being the busiest airport we encountered throughout our trip.

Setting Off on an Unforgettable Journey

On a scorching Friday morning, Jon and I took off, ready to embrace the challenges and wonders of the sky. As we ventured north, our first fuel stop was at Laurel Airport in Montana (KLOR). It also served as a much needed bathroom break. Our next stop would bring us to Canadian customs. We cleared Canadian customs at a unique location – Coutts Airport (CEP4), a grass strip that added a touch of adventure to our journey.

Battling Canadian Wildfires

Our adventure took an unexpected twist as we faced the menacing Canadian wildfires. The smoky skies forced us IFR for most of the journey. In some areas, we navigated through uncontrolled IFR conditions, highlighting the unpredictable nature of flying in remote regions.

Hours in the Air, Adventures on the Ground

During our 56-hour journey, Jon and I logged an impressive 26 hours of flying time. Our 182 proved to be a reliable companion in these remote skies. Despite the challenging conditions, our aircraft performed admirably, with no airframe issues to speak of. However, we did encounter a RAIM failure during an ILS approach later in the journey. It was not an issue and we landed uneventfully.

Welcoming Encounters

One of the highlights of our adventure was the people we met along the way. While refueling in Yellowknife, we had the pleasure of meeting a friendly FBO manager named Taylor. Taylor's warm hospitality extended beyond providing fuel; he also gave us a tour of the city, adding a personal touch to our journey.

Clearing Customs in Style

Navigating international borders in a small aircraft is no small feat, especially in these remote regions. Our journey also included stops in Drumheller, AB (CEG4), Fort McMurray, AB

(CYMM), Josephburg, AB (CFB6), and Lethbridge, AB (CYQL) before we cleared U.S. customs at Great Falls, MT (KGTF). Our final fuel stop was at North Big Horn County, MT (U68).

The Essence of Adventure

While our main goal was to build flight hours, Jon and I couldn't resist making the most of our short stopover in Yellowknife. We spent a total of 3 hours in this remote and picturesque city, enjoying a leisurely lunch and taking in the stunning views. It was a brief yet unforgettable encounter with this northern gem.

Conclusion

Our adventure, flying from Longmont, Colorado (KLMO), to Yellowknife, Canada, is a testament to the spirit of aviation. It reminds us that as pilots, our dreams can take us to the most remote and incredible places, and our dedication to safety and planning can make those dreams a reality. This journey will undoubtedly be etched in our memory as one of our most cherished aviation experiences, and it serves as an inspiration to all of us to pursue our own aviation dreams, no matter how remote they may be.

Fly safe!

Kyle



Mountains in WY



Rainy day in CA



Lunch, IFR style



VFR on top, middle of Canada



Final approach into Yellowknife



Fire below!



Low IFR fuel stop



Jon filling up our trusty steed