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COMMON CLIENT QUESTIONS

Given the unique nature of our itineraries and the possibility that this is the first time many are traveling to these lands, or maybe experiencing them in this particular fashion, we encounter many very legitimate questions about what to expect. A few of the more common are answered below; some may not apply to the particular trip you are interested in, but if any at all remain, don't hesitate to let us know.

I've read the literature, but how hard are these trips, REALLY?

Adventure Alaska trips are designed to be enjoyable by a very wide range of ages, with each particular itinerary the culmination of years of input from past participants ranging from 8 to 80 years of age. Though these are "adventure" trips in that we'll be doing things that the average tourist obviously would not, our overriding emphasis is to be able to enjoy the many experiences while at the same time being as comfortable as possible. Yes, we will be spending a considerable amount of time out of doors, and while we certainly can't guarantee that it will always be sunny and the birds always singing, we can be prepared and make as many adjustments as possible to minimize the effects of uncooperative conditions. As for the difficulty of a particular outdoor sport, all portions are designed with the complete novice in mind, as detailed below.

I see that we cover a lot of territory, but are we visiting mainly tourist destinations?

We do visit some of the popular highlights of the North, for the very reasons that they are universally considered highlights, though we do very consciously avoid the most crowded areas. The majority of our travels though, and indeed our guiding philosophy, seeks to present the true character of the North, which means those destinations that aren't designed exclusively for tourists. We go to great lengths to make sure that you witness firsthand and in fact feel, what is so unique about these wonderful lands. Many of the places we stay are built, owned and operated by Adventure Alaska to better allow our guests the intimate experience that only small-scale facilities can. By traveling with long-time Alaskans, you benefit from visiting the authentic, little-known places and people that truly are the North. We bet that you'll be amazed how far we get off the "beaten path"...

With such a full itinerary, will we have time to relax?

You bet. Though the schedule is quite full, relaxation times are built into the itinerary so you can poke around a bit and discover on your own. Several mornings we will be departing quite early for the day's particular route, though plenty of time is open the night before to get to bed early. Do remember that Alaskan days are mighty long in the summer, and with all there is to do, sometimes you just have to put yourself to bed!

Do we spend endless hours on the road?

In presenting a true cross section of this vast land, depending on the itinerary, we cover anywhere from 500-2000 miles through the course of a trip, though by a wide variety of means. There are several days of driving, but frequent stops are incorporated for photography, snacks, or at the request of any guest. Besides, these are some of the most beautiful roads to be found anywhere! And often the best way for experiencing such vast land and its wildlife.

How safe are these trips?

Safety is always the highest priority on Adventure Alaska trips and toward that end, each member of our staff is highly trained in every aspect of the trip and the northern wilderness, as well as emergency medicine. All are long-time Alaskans with considerable experience traveling in the out of doors.

As guests, are we expected to do all the work when we're camping?

As a group sometimes traveling in wilderness conditions, we will at times need to act together for general tasks such as preparing and taking down camp, loading the equipment, gathering firewood, etc, though most of the "work" such as cooking and general preparations, is done by the guide. Our guides are there to help make your trip the most enjoyable possible, and will do everything to make it so - but have been known on rare occasion, to accept offers of assistance.

I've always associated Alaska with bears, what about them?

Bears are a part of the North and one of the magnificent creatures that define it, and hopefully we will get to see some in their native wilderness. As for them being dangerous, yes, they can be if made to feel threatened. But it is easy to avoid possible confrontations if a few simple guidelines are followed, and guides are equipped for any possible situation. In our staff's many years of wilderness travel, none have had a problem with bears and to the contrary, have always considered themselves very fortunate to even get a glimpse of these truly regal, but seldom-seen creatures.

I've heard stories of Alaskan mosquitoes, how bad are they?

In the extreme north along the Arctic Ocean, it's no place to be a caribou without a flyswatter and some of the stories might even be true, but where we will be spending our time mostly, they're usually no more than a possible nuisance. They are very seasonal and generally appear only in the late evening, with an occasional dab of bug dope all that is needed.

What's included in the trip package?

We don't want you to be surprised by any "hidden costs", so we try to include as much as possible in the trip cost. The only things you will be responsible for are alcoholic beverages, activities listed as optional (such as flightseeing), and personal souvenirs/purchases. For those trips that include camping, we supply all trip gear except a sleeping bag which can be rented for \$30/person. As for tipping your guide(s), we highly recommend it, and how much is a personal preference, but this topic is explained further on the Trip Details sheet.