



ADVENTURE ALASKA TOURS
Incomparable Small Group Journeys on the Last Frontier

2018



“We continue to be reminded of how lucky we were to be a part of such a unique touring company when we compare notes with our friends who have done the ‘Cruise Ship Tour’.”

Randy & Cora B - Connecticut

“Thanks again for leading us on an adventure through the last frontier. It took me a while when we got home to get used to seeing more robins than bald eagles, no moose wandering along the streets and seeing the stars when it actually got dark!”

Abbie H. (aged 13) - Massachusetts

Adventure Alaska is an Alaskan-owned company operating out of the beautiful Alaskan town of Hope. We have been in operation for 25 years and have made Alaska our home since before that.

Adventure Alaska was set up to provide unique personal experiences in the Far North to the discriminating traveler wishing to experience something different from the offerings of conventional tour operators. We have limited our trips to very small groups and have focused on a handful of the North's treasures – many traditionally bypassed for their limited accessibility. All are based on a spirit of adventure and exploration.

Adventure Alaska promises an Alaska that most will never see – for those with that spirit of adventure and flexibility, we hope that you will come join us and let us share this very special corner of the planet.

Thank you for considering us and we look forward to working with you to make your Alaska dream trip a reality



With kind regards,
Barbra, Todd and Liam Bureau

Table of Contents

4	.....All Alaska Interior & Coastal Tour	34	.....Trip Enhancements
8	.....Kenai Explorer Tour	36	.....Frequently Asked Questions
12	.....<i>Extended</i> All Alaska Interior & Coastal Tour	38	.....A Few More Details
18	.....Alaska & Yukon Explorer Tour	39	.....About Our Guides
24	.....<i>Extended</i> Kenai Explorer Tour	40	.....Personal Information Form
28	.....Iditarod Race Sled Dog Tour	42	.....Safety Statement & Release
		43	.....Credit Card Authorization Form



ALL ALASKA INTERIOR AND COASTAL TOUR
from rainforests to glaciers

7 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 10 TRAVELERS · \$3225 PER PERSON

In only seven days, this wonderful itinerary offers a representative cross section of Alaska from the varied wilderness interior to the rugged maritime environments, traversing three major mountain ranges and hundreds of miles of marine sanctuary and coastline in this very accessible tour.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Kenai Fjords National Park Boat Tour
- Wildlife and Natural History Bus Tour in Denali National Park
- Alaska State Ferry across Prince William Sound
- Historic Kennicott copper mining town tour
- Overnight in the “haunted” Ma Johnson hotel in McCarthy
- Optional hikes in Girdwood’s temperate rainforest and onto Root Glacier in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
- Two nights in the cozy, creekside Discovery Cabins in Hope
- Opportunities for optional Mt. McKinley and Wrangell-St. Elias flightseeing excursions



●●●●● Indicates travel by Alaska Marine Highway
(ferry) across Prince William Sound

By being small and mobile, we can leave the crowds behind and explore treasures unavailable through other means, allowing a true sense of self-discovery. From visiting many unspoiled frontier towns and the national parks of Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Kenai Fjords; to exploring a remote ghost city, to traversing famous Prince William Sound to view whales, bald eagles, and glaciers; this overview of Alaska goes far beyond what the merely conventional tourist will ever see. While many means exist to visit the wild North, the only way to truly experience it is to get off the beaten track. This 7-day itinerary provides a wonderful option to enable a tremendous and personal overview, without sacrificing several weeks or all idea of comfort. Staying each night in lovely and unique accommodations and dining in restaurants, this tour still retains a very definite spirit of adventure in the places and people we visit. If longing to see some of the real Alaska, but don't care to camp, then this is the tour for you.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Denali National Park
Depart AM towards Park; visit Iditarod Headquarters; lunch in Wasilla; optional flightseeing; dinner and overnight just outside of the Park entrance.

Day 2 Denali to Paxson
Morning natural history/wildlife tour into Denali National Park; afternoon drive across spectacular Denali Highway with numerous stops, optional hike; dinner and overnight accommodations at a unique lodge along the Denali Highway.

Day 3 Paxson to McCarthy
Travel to Chitina; follow old railroad grade 60 miles into heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (our country's largest); cross Kennicott River on footbridge (the only surface means) to reach historic McCarthy; optional flightseeing; dinner at the old McCarthy Lodge and overnight in the historic Ma Johnson Hotel.

Day 4 Kennicott to Valdez
Travel four miles to abandoned town/mine of Kennicott; extensive exploration; hike to Root Glacier; lunch overlooking Kennicott Glacier; late afternoon departure for Valdez across Thompson Pass; dinner; overnight in a B&B.

Day 5 Valdez to Hope
Board ferry for spectacular trip across Prince William Sound to Whittier, passing Columbia Glacier; drive through mountain tunnels; road through Kenai Mtns. to end of the road frontier town of Hope; overnight Discovery Cabins along Bear Creek.

Day 6 Seward to Hope
Morning trip to Seward; board vessel for spectacular day tour of Kenai Fjords National Park to view marine life and glaciers; afternoon return through Moose Pass; overnight in creekside Discovery Cabins.

Day 7 Hope to Anchorage
Morning exploration around Hope (older than Anchorage!); optional gold panning; historical museum; visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Ctr; lunch Girdwood; optional hike, or Alyeska ski resort tram ride; late afternoon return Anchorage.

Day 1 · Anchorage to Denali National Park

Our first day begins at 8 AM, meeting downtown with pick-ups at previously arranged locations. We'll head northward rounding Knik Arm and stop at the headquarters for the 1000-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The displays and short video here give a good insight into dog mushing in general, as well as the lifestyle and the commitment that it takes to train for and run the Iditarod itself. Before pushing northwards, we'll have lunch in the old Teeland's Department Store building, sitting on what was the center of Wasilla in the settlement days. We'll then return to the Parks highway, entering the great Alaska Range of mountains and on to Denali National Park. Flightseeing tours of the mountain are available just outside of the Park and are very highly recommended (≈\$400/person)—sliding between towering peaks and over monstrous glaciers, this is an indescribable glimpse of a world that few experience. If the weather isn't cooperative, we'll have another equally good opportunity on Day 3. Dinner and lodging are just outside the entrance of Denali National Park. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Denali National Park to Paxson

After an early breakfast, we'll take the concessionaire shuttle bus into the interior of the Park. There are chances of seeing caribou, moose, Dall sheep, bears and wolves in the wide open vistas, with the vehicle stopping for wildlife or scenic photos whenever anyone would like. Returning by the same route, we'll leave the Park and turn back south to reach Cantwell, the western terminus of the beautiful Denali Highway. A 135-mile gravel road across wide valleys, alpine tundra and breathtaking scenery, the Denali Highway is open only during the summer months and is the only road through this remote area. Crossing glacial river and lake country, wildlife viewing opportunities abound in this large stretch of wilderness inhabited year-round only by the occasional trapper and wilderness hermit. We'll cross the Susitna River and follow the winding road



over ancient glacial eskers and over the Maclaren Summit (elev. 4082 ft), the second highest point on the Alaska road system, stopping for photos or a short hike as time and weather permit. We then travel through the Tangle Lakes Archeological District, thought to be the principal corridor through which the earliest peoples passed to populate the rest of the Americas after making their way over the Bering land bridge from eastern Asia. Dinner and lodging will be along this road at a unique and very Alaskan lodge. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 3 · Paxson to McCarthy

The Richardson Highway, following the old Valdez-Eagle trail, leads us southward through Glennallen and Copper Center. We'll stop at the new Visitor's Center of our nation's largest national park, Wrangell-St. Elias, for an introduction to this uncommercialized jewel more than twice the size of Denali. The scenic Edgerton Highway leads from here to the old railroad town of Chitina at the confluence of the Copper and Chitina rivers from which we will travel the tortuous abandoned railroad grade 60 miles through the mountains back to the tiny town of McCarthy in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias. At the end of the gravel road we'll grab our overnight bags, leave the van, and cross two forks of the Kennicott River (by footbridge) to reach the near-ghost town of McCarthy on the other side a half mile away, the only means of surface access in the months when the river isn't frozen. Excellent flightseeing tours of the area may also be available from the McCarthy airstrip that give an incomparable overall perspective (≈\$150-250/person). After a short hike onto the glacial moraine, and having dinner at the McCarthy Lodge, the night will be spent in the comfortable "Old Ma Johnson" Hotel. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 4 · Kennicott to Valdez

A van trip up the remainder of the road four miles to the abandoned company town of Kennicott overlooking its namesake glacier, allows an almost unbelievable exploration of an entire town sitting much the way it was when the mine closed in 1938. The Park Service has been busy for the last several years, renovating, shoring and adding interpretive displays to the historic buildings, as well as the incredible 14-story mill building itself. Kennicott is truly a ghost town without equal, due to its remoteness and fortunate lack of vandalism. A short hike to the Root Glacier allows those interested to clamber onto the face of an active glacier. Lunch is overlooking all this incredible scenery before our

van shuttle back to McCarthy. We again cross the footbridges to the van for the beautiful trip to Valdez across Thompson Pass and through Keystone Canyon. Dinner will be on the town in Valdez with accommodations at a nearby Inn. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 5 · Valdez to Hope

If schedules cooperate, we'll have an opportunity to explore the wonderful museum in Valdez before boarding the Alaska State ferry for the beautiful ride across Prince William Sound. We should see many local creatures including murrelets, puffins, and sea otters, with a good chance of humpback and maybe even orcas or killer whales, as we weave amongst the many islands of the Sound before reaching Whittier. Here we will be reunited with our van and drive 2.5 miles through the Whittier Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel and the only one combining both rail and vehicle use in North America, which connects Whittier with the 1964 earthquake-destroyed community of Portage. From here we will head through the Kenai mountains to the tiny end-of-the-road frontier town of Hope on Cook Inlet. Far older than Anchorage, this first gold rush community in Southcentral Alaska is still a place of log buildings and an atmosphere that can only be experienced. Lodging is in cozy log cabins of Discovery Cabins, on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. *Meals: B, L, D*



Day 6 · Seward to Hope

Following a hearty breakfast, we'll head down the road to Seward and board the tour boat to head out into the Gulf of Alaska for the spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park, passing through the Chiswell Islands Refuge. Here we will view calving glaciers up very close in our small vessel and cruise the rugged coastline to view a tremendous concentration of wildlife including orcas and humpback whales, sea otters, sea lions, porpoises, eagles, and many different kinds of seabirds. Returning late afternoon we'll head north through the mountain lake community of Moose Pass and back to Hope. If inclined after dinner, we'll have a walk to the historic Seaview Bar down on the waterfront to

meet some of the local "wildlife". Or, you might just like to poke around the old settlement and see the magnificent views of the mountains bordering Cook Inlet, before lodging again for the night at Discovery Cabins. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 7 · Hope to Anchorage

After a leisurely breakfast, we might try our luck at gold panning, and visit the Hope Historical Museum before heading to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to see up close some of those critters we might have missed in the days previous. Then it's on to the small town of Girdwood, home of the Alyeska Ski Resort. Here there is an option to take the tram ride to the summit if the clouds permit for a spectacular view of the surrounding Chugach Range and Cook Inlet, while others might opt for a short hike through the rainforest (yes, rainforest) after having lunch at the locally famous bakery. Depending on the day's activities, we'll return to Anchorage in the late afternoon and officially end seven incomparable days on the Last Frontier. *Meals: B, L*

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR EXTENDED ALL ALASKA TOUR
FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ALASKAN EXPERIENCE.

TOUR DATES

May 26 - June 1 · Tour Code 7A1

June 2 - June 8 · Tour Code 7A2

June 9 - June 15 · Tour Code 7A3

June 16 - June 22 · Tour Code 7A4

June 23 - June 29 · Tour Code 7A5

June 30 - July 6 · Tour Code 7A6

July 7 - July 13 · Tour Code 7A7

July 14 - July 20 · Tour Code 7A8

July 21 - July 27 · Tour Code 7A9

July 28 - Aug 3 · Tour Code 7A10

Aug 4 - Aug 10 · Tour Code 7A11

Aug 11 - Aug 17 · Tour Code 7A12

Aug 21 - Aug 24 · Tour Code 7A13



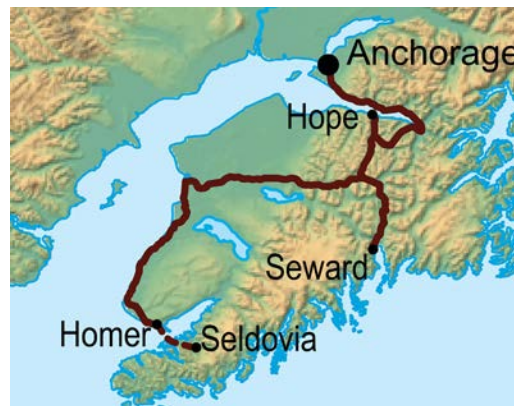
KENAI EXPLORER TOUR
from icefields to estuaries

5 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 8 TRAVELERS · \$2275 PER PERSON

With wildness ranging from the icefields that feed tidewater glaciers to the bountiful wildlife of the countless coastal estuaries and the rugged mountains in between the famous Kenai Peninsula is a wonderful capsule of many “Alaskas”. This five-day tour offers the Kenai at its best, with a delightful and leisurely variety of contrasts including overnight stays in world-renowned Seward, a coastal village inaccessible by road and an historic end-of-the-road mountain town.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Kenai Fjords National Park Boat Tour
- Overnight in Seward – Optional sea kayaking and hiking
- Exploring the gold rush town of Hope – Two nights in creekside Discovery Cabins
- Charter boat trip from Homer, across Kachemak Bay to the charming fishing village of Seldovia
- Overnight lodging at a waterfront B&B in Seldovia
- Flight over Kachemak Bay
- Optional rainforest hike or aerial tram ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska in Girdwood



.....
Indicates included flight and charter boat ride between Homer and Seldovia

We start by following along Turnagain Arm through the mountains to reach Seward at the head of Resurrection Bay for an afternoon sea kayaking and a hike to Exit Glacier. The next day we explore the spectacular marine world of the Kenai Fjords National Park and Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge, lingering off the face of the calving Holgate Glacier. From Seward we travel the Kenai Mountains to the beautiful gold rush community of Hope, overnighing in log cabins on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. On the third day, the road leads along Cook Inlet and the towering volcanoes of the Alaska Range to Homer and the end of the “Spit”, for the boat trip across Kachemak Bay to the secluded fishing village of Seldovia and our waterfront lodgings. On Day 4, we cross the bay by air taxi, before heading back to quiet Hope and the creekside cabins. Day 5 we round Turnagain Arm and stop in Girdwood and the famous resort of Alyeska, before returning to Anchorage in the afternoon. If time is somewhat limited, or you’re looking to add some authentic Alaska to your existing plans, this special tour carefully skirts the crowds and promises an unencumbered and wild tranquillity guaranteed to satisfy.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Seward

Travel south along edge of Turnagain Arm and Chugach Mountains; arrive Seward for lunch and afternoon sea kayaking in Resurrection Bay; short hike to Exit Glacier; overnight Harbor View Inn.

Day 2 Seward to Hope

Visit excellent Seward Sea Life Center; 6 hour boat trip to spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park; Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge and spectacular Aialik Bay with three tidewater glaciers; return Seward, visit Alaska Sealife Center; drive through Kenai Mountains to end-of-the-road gold rush town of Hope; overnight creekside log cabins.

Day 3 Hope to Seldovia

Follow Kenai River through Cooper Landing, Soldotna; skirt edge of Cook Inlet with impressive volcanoes lining the other side; arrive Homer to board boat to the quaint fishing village Seldovia with tour enroute; afternoon exploration of town, museums, or optional hike; overnight waterfront inn.

Day 4 Seldovia to Hope

Morning exploration of Seldovia and optional walk on “Otterbahn” trail; late morning return to Homer by air taxi (beautiful views!); overnight in the creekside log cabins in Hope

Day 5 Hope to Anchorage

Museum tour; optional gold panning instruction by local gold miner; visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage; lunch at the famous Bake Shop in ski resort town of Girdwood, situated in the northernmost rainforest; return to Anchorage in the afternoon.

THE KENAI EXPLORER TOUR
CAN BE COUPLED WITH THE
ALASKA/YUKON EXPLORER TOUR
FOR A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE
ALASKAN EXPERIENCE.
(see page 18 for details)

Day 1 · Anchorage to Seward

Our exploration begins at 8AM, meeting in downtown Anchorage at previously arranged locations. Dispatching quickly with Alaska's largest city, we'll head for more tranquil locales, turning south and hugging the shore of Turnagain Arm where the Chugach Mountains meet the sea. Rising up over Turnagain Pass in the Kenai Mountains we'll then descend toward the Gulf of Alaska and the scenic town of Seward, situated at the uppermost reaches of Resurrection Bay. A deep water port that remains ice-free all year, Seward was one of the earlier Alaskan settlements, serving the mining and various trades of the Interior, as the southern terminus of the state's single rail line. It is also the historic start of the Iditarod Trail. Surrounded by mountains the scene is quite impressive, with the quaint downtown nearly at water's edge. After lunch we'll head out to Lowell Point for our afternoon sea kayaking exploration of the west side of Resurrection Bay. Back to land, we'll head back through town to the turn-off accessing Exit Glacier of the Kenai Fjords National Park, walking up to its terminus while noting the dates of its historical retreat (hint: where we park was mighty icy about World War I). After all this fine fresh air, it's time to check in at the Harbor View Inn and have a nice dinner downtown. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Seward to Hope

After breakfast we'll be first in line at the impressive Seward Sea Life Center, to garner a good background for the day's foray into the maritime world. Boarding our vessel late morning, we'll head out of the bay and around the point, and into the Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge, sliding between the rocky islands that are home to an incredible variety of marine mammals and sea birds. Reaching Kenai Fjords National Park, the vast majority inaccessible by road, we'll head into Aialik Bay and linger off the face of a calving glacier for an otherworldly experience. We'll cruise right up to the rugged coastal cliffs, providing wonderful opportunities for viewing murrelets, puffins, harbor seals, and sea lions, with the stretches in between always holding promise of porpoises, sea otters, humpback whales and maybe even orcas. Arriving back in late afternoon, we'll then head back up the road through the Kenai Mountains to the end of the road and the delightful little town of Hope on the shores of Turnagain Arm. One of the oldest gold rush communities in Alaska, Hope boasted three thousand souls long before Anchorage existed. As gold rushes pass so did many of the people, with now about two hundred

folks in the community. Its unique atmosphere is quite palpable, in the many log cabins, the log Social Hall, the one room schoolhouse and certainly in the local folk that have chosen to call it home. It's a piece of Alaska many have in mind before they come. We'll lodge for the night in Discovery Cabins on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. *Meals: B, L, D*



Day 3 · Hope to Seldovia

After an early breakfast we'll hit the road to Homer to arrive in time for our 11AM appointment with a boat. Enroute we'll follow the beautiful Kenai River through Cooper Landing and pass through Soldotna to skirt the eastern side of Cook Inlet with the towering volcanoes of Iliamna, Redoubt and Augustine framing the other side. We'll dawdle a bit more on the return trip, but the views are nonetheless, quite regal in any direction. Arriving at the end of the Homer Spit, we'll board the boat to cross picturesque Kachemak Bay. With the nearby mountains and glaciers on the other side of the bay and the Alaska Range across the mouth of Cook Inlet, it is truly a beautiful mix of geography. Aiming toward the mouth of the Bay, our captain will circle Gull Island and a few others enroute to our destination, giving great explanation to the sights

before us. Early afternoon finds us on the dock in the unique community of Seldovia, inaccessible by road. Originally and still a fishing village, the name comes from the Russian word for salted herring, as this fish was the reason for its existence, prior to the purchase of Alaska in 1867. Seldovia is also a place of refuge for artists and those looking for a little less access and the pace of life that it brings. It's a special little town to wander, with the great Sitka spruce forests unlike any other we've seen, starting at the end of almost every street. A good stroll is in order before dinner on Main Street. Our lodging for the night is in a lovely waterfront Inn overlooking the boat harbor, where sea otters are a frequent sight. *Meals: B, L, D*



Day 4 · Seldovia to Hope

The morning is as leisurely as it should be, with time to further explore town or just watch the tide come in out the back door. Those looking to stretch their legs might try the “Otterbahn”, a great little trail starting by the school that weaves through tall grass and spruce thickets to end at the ocean for an unlimited opportunity to stroll or beachcomb. We'll then catch our return flight with a quick hop across the bay to Homer. It's almost hard to get back in a vehicle again, but we'll have to peruse some of Homer's singular shops, in this town known for its artist community drawn to the local beauty. Lunch will be in a local eatery. Heading back north, we'll pass through Anchor Point and make a photo stop at an old Russian Orthodox Church on a high bluff overlooking Cook Inlet. The faith of Alaska's earliest non-Native settlers remains strong among many of the coastal Native communities. We know the way, so Hope will seem like home when we get back to our snug log cabins. A barbecue is planned on the deck of the lodge, with a creekside campfire an apt possibility afterwards. Or, there might be those that prefer to head “downtown”, to Main Street that ends in the ocean, and the Seaview Bar that is often a colorful mix of visitors, locals, and gold miners still eking an income from the creeks. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 5 · Hope to Anchorage

After breakfast, we might try our luck at gold panning (optional – \$25) with some local miners instructing, with an optional hike in the plan as well. After a stop at the Portage Visitor Center for some wonderful Forest Service displays, we will then follow the road to the small town of Girdwood, home of the world-class Alyeska Ski Resort situated here due to a much higher level of precipitation than even the adjacent valleys. It is a microclimate that gives rise to a temperate rainforest (yes, rainforest) with flora completely different from Hope, just a couple dozen miles away. Lush ferns and undergrowth along with large spruce trees are dominate. Some might want

to explore this environment directly, following the trail up Winner Creek to its beautiful little gorge, while others might opt to take the tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska for a commanding view. It might be a late lunch but worth it at the Bake Shop upon return. The Seward Highway hugs the edge of Turnagain Arm and we just might have to stop at Beluga Point to see if any of the creatures for which it takes its name, might make an appearance. And then it's on back to Anchorage in the late afternoon, each of us probably just a bit different than when we left, and most likely figuring out just when we can return. The Kenai is some of the best of Alaska, but then there are still many other Alaskas that remain... *Meals: B, L*

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR EXTENDED KENAI EXPLORER
TOUR FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE KENAI EXPERIENCE
WITH AN ADDITIONAL NIGHT IN HISTORIC HOMER.

TOUR DATES

June 12 - June 16 · Tour Code 5K1

July 22 - July 26 · Tour Code 5K4

June 24 - June 28 · Tour Code 5K2

July 30 - Aug 3 · Tour Code 5K5

July 2 - July 6 · Tour Code 5K3



EXTENDED ALL ALASKA INTERIOR AND COASTAL TOUR
an all-time favorite tour

9 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 10 TRAVELERS · \$4365 PER PERSON

In nine days, this wonderful itinerary offers a representative cross section of Alaska from the varied wilderness interior to the rugged maritime environments, traversing three major mountain ranges and hundreds of miles of marine sanctuary and coastline in this tour accessible to all. By being small and mobile, we leave the crowds behind and explore treasures unavailable through other means, allowing a true sense of self-discovery.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Kenai Fjords National Park Boat Tour
- 2 nights Denali National Park with Wildlife and Natural History Bus Tour
- Alaska State Ferry across Prince William Sound
- 2 nights Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
- Historic Kennicott copper mining town; overnights in the “haunted” Ma Johnson hotel in McCarthy
- Optional (included) hikes in Girdwood’s temperate rainforest and onto Root Glacier in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
- Two nights in the cozy, creekside Discovery Cabins in Hope
- Opportunities for optional Mt. McKinley and Wrangell-St. Elias flightseeing excursions



..... Indicates travel by Alaska Marine Highway (ferry) across Prince William Sound

From visiting unspoiled frontier towns and the national parks of Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Kenai Fjords; to exploring a remote ghost city and traversing famous Prince William Sound to view whales, bald eagles, and glaciers; this overview of Alaska goes far beyond what the merely conventional tourist will ever see. While many means exist to visit the wild North, the only way to truly experience it is to get off the beaten track. This 9-day itinerary provides a bit more leisure than our venerable shorter version, both offering a wonderful option to enable a tremendous and personal overview, without sacrificing several weeks or all idea of comfort. Staying each night in lovely and unique accommodations and dining in restaurants, this tour still retains a very definite spirit of adventure in the places and people we visit. If longing to see some of the real Alaska, but don’t care to camp, then this is the tour for you.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Denali National Park

Depart AM towards Park; visit Iditarod Headquarters; lunch in Wasilla; optional flightseeing; dinner and overnight just outside the Park entrance.

Day 2 Denali National Park

Park Visitor Center for overview; guided natural history and wildlife tour into Park interior; afternoon walk at Park entrance; overnight Healy north of Park.

Day 3 Denali to Gakona

Drive spectacular Denali Highway; old homestead visit; optional hike; Glennallen; Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Visitor Center; accommodations in historic lodge on the Valdez-Eagle Trail.

Day 4 Gakona to McCarthy

Historic museum; Chitina; follow old railroad grade 60 miles into heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park; cross Kennicott River on footbridge to reach historic McCarthy; overnight in the historic Ma Johnson Hotel.

Day 5 Kennicott and McCarthy

Travel four miles to abandoned town/mine of Kennicott; hike to Root Glacier; lunch overlooking Kennicott & Root Glacier; optional flightseeing; dinner at McCarthy Lodge; overnight Ma Johnson Hotel.

Day 6 McCarthy to Valdez

Morning departure for Valdez across spectacular Thompson Pass; stops at Tielke River and Worthington Glacier; Valdez museum; dinner; overnight B&B.

Day 7 Valdez to Hope

Board ferry across Prince William Sound to Whittier, passing Columbia Glacier; drive through mountain tunnels; road through Kenai Mtns. to frontier town of Hope; overnight Discovery Cabins along Bear Creek.

Day 8 Seward and Hope

Morning trip to Seward; board vessel for day tour of Kenai Fjords National Park to view marine life and glaciers; return through Moose Pass; overnight in Discovery Cabins.

Day 9 Hope to Anchorage

Morning exploration around Hope; optional gold panning; historical museum; visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center; lunch at ski resort, Alyeska, in Girdwood; optional rainforest hike; afternoon return to Anchorage.

Day 1 · Anchorage to Denali National Park

Our first day begins at 8AM, meeting downtown with pick-ups at previously arranged locations. We head northward rounding Knik Arm and stop at the headquarters for the 1000-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The displays and short video here offer insight into dog mushing in general, as well as the life-style and commitment it takes to train for and run the Iditarod. Before pushing northwards we lunch in the old Teeland's Department Store building, sitting on what was the center of Wasilla in the settlement days. We return to the Parks highway, entering the great Alaska Range of mountains and on to Denali National Park. Flightseeing tours of the mountain are available just outside of the Park and are very highly recommended; sliding between towering peaks and over monstrous glaciers, this is an indescribable glimpse of a world that few experience (~\$400/person). If the weather isn't cooperative, we have another opportunity on Day 3. Dinner is just outside the entrance of Denali National Park, with lodging in Healy a few miles north. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Denali National Park

After an early breakfast, we head to the new Park Visitor Center for an overview of what we're about to experience; there's a great movie and extensive interpretive displays. Nearby we pick up our scheduled concessionaire shuttle bus, the only mechanical means of public access to the Park interior. The 66-mile trip to the recently reconstructed Eielson Visitor Center offers some of the best chances anywhere of seeing caribou, moose, Dall sheep, bears, and wolves in the wide-open vistas, with the vehicle stopping for wildlife or scenic photos when anyone would like. Hopefully too, the mountain will be "out"... It'll be a full dose no matter what animals

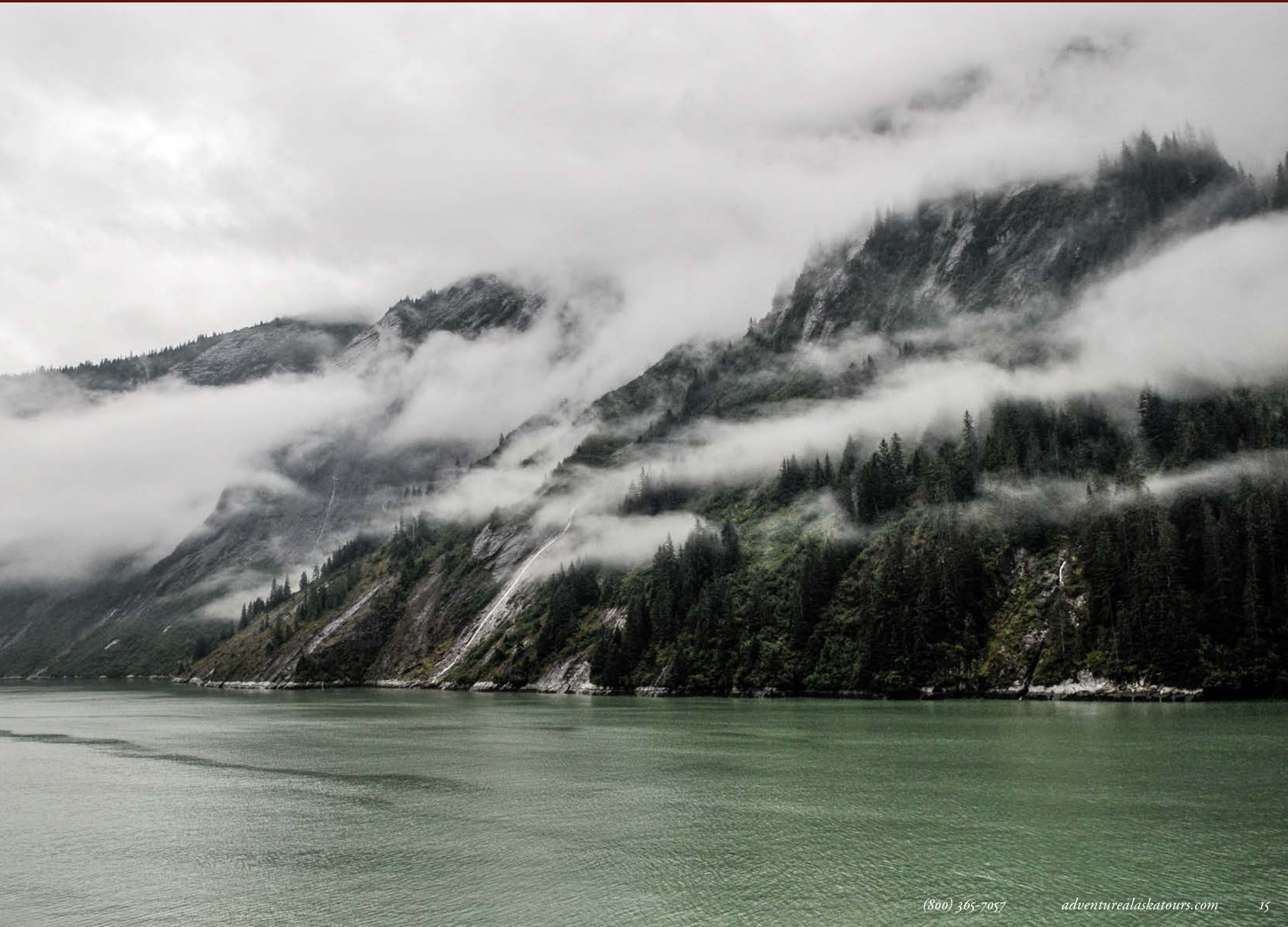


and views grace the experience, begging for a leg stretching short hike on the great network of trails near the Visitor Center. Then a bit of leisure in “Glitter Gulch” the less-than-complementary name for the proliferation of businesses just north of the Park entrance. Accommodations for the night are at White Moose Lodge. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 3 · Denali to Gakona

Turning south to reach Cantrell brings us to the western terminus of the Denali Highway. Only open during summer months, the 135-mile gravel road crosses broad valleys, alpine tundra, and breathtaking scenery, and is the only road through this remote area. Crossing glacial river and lake country, wildlife viewing opportunities abound in this vast stretch of wilderness inhabited by the occasional trapper and wilderness hermit. We make a mandatory stop at the Gracious House; an old homestead on the road and one of the last occupied. Next we cross the Susitna River and follow the winding road over ancient glacial eskers and the Maclaren Summit, the second highest point on the Alaska road system (elev. 4082 ft), stopping for

photos or a short hike as time and weather permit. We then travel through the Tangle Lakes Archeological District, thought to be the principal corridor through which the earliest peoples passed to populate the rest of the Americas after making their way over the Bering Land Bridge from eastern Asia. The Richardson Highway, following the old Valdez-Eagle trail, leads us southward through Glennallen and Copper Center. We stop at the Visitor's Center of our nation's largest national park, Wrangell-St. Elias, for an introduction to this uncommercialized jewel more than twice the size of Denali. Just a few miles away is our lodging in a historic roadhouse dating from the earlier days. *Meals: B, L, D*



Day 4 · Gakona to McCarthy

After breakfast we tour a small museum just next then, then travel the scenic Edgerton Highway to the old railroad town of Chitina at the confluence of the Copper and Chitina Rivers where we enjoy a Park history intro in the nearby log cabin of one of the early settlers. From here we travel the tortuous abandoned railroad grade, 60 miles through the mountains. At the end of the gravel road, we grab our overnight bags and cross two forks of the Kennicott River by footbridge (the only means of surface access when the river isn't frozen) to reach the near-ghost town of McCarthy in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Excellent flightseeing tours may be available from the McCarthy airstrip that offer an incomparable perspective (\$150-250/person). After a short hike onto the glacial terminal moraine, and dinner at the McCarthy Lodge, we spend the night in the historic Old Ma Johnson Hotel. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 5 · Kennicott and McCarthy

A van trip to the abandoned company town of Kennicott where we breakfast overlooking its namesake glacier. Enjoy an almost unbelievable exploration of an entire town sitting much the way it was when the mine closed in 1938. The Park Service has been busy the last several years renovating, shoring, and adding interpretive displays to the historic buildings, as well as the incredible 14-story mill building itself. Kennicott is truly a ghost town without equal, due to its remoteness and fortunate lack of vandalism. A couple mile hike to the Root Glacier allows those interested to clamber onto the face of an active glacier. Others might choose the optional tour of the Mill building. Lunch overlooks this incredible scenery before our van shuttle back to McCarthy. Some might even opt for a return by the old Wagon Road, past the old cemetery. Dinner is back at The Golden, with the attached bar a must for lingering with the locals and getting a feel for those that call this home. Lodging is at the Old Ma Johnson Hotel. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 6 · McCarthy to Valdez

After breakfast, we cross the footbridges for the beautiful trip to Valdez across Thompson Pass. Stopping at Tiekel River and the Worthington Glacier, we climb toward the pass where it's been known to snow almost a thousand inches in a winter. It's quite breathtaking in summer too.



Descending through Keystone Canyon, a dramatic waterfall-filled passage to the ocean, the challenge of the terrain shows why the route took many years to discover and pioneer. In late afternoon we have an opportunity to explore the beautiful museum and stroll the streets. Dinner in Valdez with accommodations at a nearby B&B. *Meals: B, L, D*



Day 7 · Valdez to Hope

After breakfast, we board the Alaska State ferry for the beautiful ride across Prince William Sound which offers the opportunity to spot murre, puffin, sea otter, and possibly humpback, orca, or killer whales. Arriving in Whittier we travel through the 2.5-mile-long Whittier Tunnel, the longest and only tunnel combining both rail and vehicle use in North America. Just out of the tunnel is the excellent Portage Glacier Visitor’s Center, a town destroyed by an earthquake in 1964, and an easy short hike to view the Byron Glacier. From here we head through the Kenai mountains to the tiny end-of-the-road frontier town of Hope on Cook Inlet. Far older than Anchorage, this first gold rush community in Southcentral Alaska is still a place of log buildings

with an atmosphere that can only be experienced. Hope is the Alaska many have in mind from stories past. Lodging is in the cozy log cabins of Discovery Cabins on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 8 · Seward and Hope

Following a hearty breakfast, we head to Seward and board the tour boat into the Gulf of Alaska for the spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park passing through the Chiswell Islands Refuge. Here we will view calving glaciers up close from our small vessel and cruise the rugged coastline to see a tremendous concentration of wildlife including orca and humpback whales, sea otter, sea lions, porpoises, eagles, and many different kinds of seabirds. It’s one of the best one-day experiences in Alaska. Returning late afternoon, we head north through the mountain lake community of Moose Pass and back to Hope. After dinner, we might have a walk to the historic Seaview Bar on the waterfront to meet some of the local “wildlife”. Or, you might poke around the old settlement and see the magnificent views of the mountains bordering Cook Inlet before lodging again at Discovery Cabins. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 9 · Hope to Anchorage

After a leisurely breakfast, we might try our luck at gold panning (optional) and visit the Hope Historical Museum before heading to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to see up close some of the critters we might have missed in the days previous. Then it’s off to the small town of Girdwood, home of the world-class Alyeska Ski Resort. Here there is an option to take the tram ride to the summit for a spectacular view of the surrounding Chugach Range and Cook Inlet, while others might opt for a short hike through the rainforest (yes, rainforest) after lunch at the locally famous bakery. Depending on the day’s activities, we return to Anchorage late afternoon and officially end nine incomparable days on the Last Frontier. *Meals: B, L*

TOUR DATES

May 31 - June 8 · Tour Code 9A1
 June 22 - June 30 · Tour Code 9A3
 July 6 - July 14 · Tour Code 9A4

July 20 - July 28 · Tour Code 9A5
 Aug 3 - Aug 11 · Tour Code 9A6
 Aug 14 - Aug 22 · Tour Code 9A7



ALASKA & YUKON EXPLORER TOUR
from a gold rush town to the top of the world highway

8 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 8 TRAVELERS · \$3885 PER PERSON

While visiting some of the North's more famous attractions, this tour still manages to skirt the crowds and offer more than a mere glimpse of some very special places. From the easily recognized names such as Denali and Dawson, to the ends of the road in Talkeetna and the "secret" gem Eagle, this itinerary encompasses a wonderful cross section few visitors have the privilege to experience. The staggering grandeur of the wilderness traversed, from the Alaska Range to the varied Interior, provides a contrasting backdrop to the fascinating cultural and historical attractions we'll explore in places where the human dramas are equally captivating.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Overnight in the Gold Rush town of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, and 2 nights in the frontier gem, Eagle
- Top of The World Highway
- Flight over the mountains of the rugged gold rush country to Fairbanks
- Fairbanks–Pioneer Park, University of Alaska Museum
- Denali National Park Wildlife and Natural History Bus Tour
- Towns of Glennallen, Tok, Chicken, Boundary, Dawson City, Eagle, Fairbanks, Healy, Talkeetna, Wasilla, Anchorage



••••• Indicates included flight and charter boat ride between Homer and Seldovia

The land here is overpowering and dominates all. We'll experience both what first drew and sometimes drove mad, the earliest settlers. The stark peaks never free of snow, the ceaseless flow of the mighty Yukon, the glaciers that still carve the land –these are Alaskas that most will never know. Our mandate for this itinerary is to capture a bit of that same spirit. While only eight days, the pace of this tour allows ourselves time to steep in these places that can't fail to leave strong impressions. Contrasting destinations and an intimate variety of travel, from road to plane to river, serve to foster a deep appreciation for the uniqueness of these lands. This is not simply a tour of the North, but without roughing it, a journey through its elemental facets. Some come merely to say they've been to Alaska, but others aren't content with such a cursory look. If you're of the few where the name alone has long called, then this may be the tour for you.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Tok

Escape Anchorage; Native village Eklutna; beautiful Glenn Hwy through Chugach and Talkeetna mountains; lunch overlooking Matanuska Glacier; Glennallen; Mentasta Pass; Eagle Trail historic exploration; inn overnight Tok on famous Alcan Highway.

Day 2 Tok to Dawson City

Taylor Hwy through Fortymile goldfields to Chicken (memorable!); outpost Boundary; Canadian Customs; magnificent Top of the World Hwy; cross Yukon River to Dawson; gold fields tour; Diamond Tooth Gertie's; Dawson B&B.

Day 3 Dawson to Eagle

Guided town walking tour; goldfields visit; lunch in Dawson; mid afternoon departure back to the "States"; dinner overlooking Yukon River in frontier outpost Eagle; overnight in historic gold rush cabins overlooking the Yukon.

Day 4 Eagle and old Ft. Egbert

Pancakes in historic "Amundsen cabin"; morning tour (exceptional) of Eagle and old Ft. Egbert; visit Eagle Village (native); optional afternoon hike; evening BBQ and stroll; overnight again in historic log cabins

Day 5 Eagle to Fairbanks

Flight over mountains of rugged Fortymile County and Yukon Charley National Preserve to Fairbanks; hotel transfer; visit Pioneer Park -museums, sternwheeler Nenana; Golden Heart Park and downtown visit.

Day 6 Fairbanks to Denali

Morning visit to University of Alaska museum; old gold mining community Ester; Tanana Hills to native community of Nenana; Railroad Depot and Native Cultural Center; White Moose Lodge in Healy, outside Denali National Park.

Day 7 Healy to Talkeetna

6 hour tour into heart of Denali National Park; optional afternoon hike; explore quaint Talkeetna; optl. flightseeing over Denali; overnight inn.

Day 8 Talkeetna to Anchorage

Visit Iditarod Sled Dog Race headquarters; Matanuska-Susitna valley; lunch in historic Teeland's Store, Wasilla; afternoon return Anchorage.

Day 1 · Anchorage to Tok

The first day begins at 8AM, meeting in downtown Anchorage at your B&B, or previously arranged location. As the city is probably not why you came to Alaska, we'll escape forthwith heading northeast toward Palmer. We'll make a stop at the native village of Eklutna to examine their uniquely characteristic cemetery with "spirit houses" before continuing on past Palmer and up the Matanuska River. Dividing the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains, the deep valley of the Matanuska is quite beautiful as we head toward lunch overlooking its source and namesake, the Matanuska Glacier. From here we'll rise to Tahnetta Pass and enter into the Copper River Basin before reaching Glennallen for a Visitor Center stop and a turn north on the Richardson Highway. Following portions of the early Valdez-Eagle Trail, the road features high bluffs overlooking the mighty Copper River with the volcanoes of Mt. Drum, Sanford, and Blackburn beyond, eternally white with glaciers. Continuing on into the Mentasta mountains and through the Alaska Range, we'll stop at a historic spot on the Eagle Trail for an interpretive walk, before arriving at the crossroads Tok. A grown up camp from the days of the emergency construction of the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway during World War II, Tok is our home for the night. The Visitor's Center has some remarkable photos of our most recent reminder of Alaska's seismic youth, the 2002 Denali Fault Earthquake. Dinner is at Fast Eddy's with lodging just out the back. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Tok to Dawson City

Twelve miles of the Alaska Highway leads to Tetlin Junction and the mostly gravel road to Canada, closed in the winter months. We'll dawdle along the way before reaching the memorable little community of Chicken (name explanation on location). We're now in the heart of what has long been known as "Fortymile Country", named for



the great river that drains the innumerable creeks that drew and still do, the hearty soul of the gold miner. An area of repeated gold rushes before and after the great Klondike, the Fortymile is beautifully rugged country, dotted with ghost towns and some on the verge of becoming such even though gold mining is still a primary vocation in these parts. After visiting an abandoned dredge, we'll arrive in the outpost Boundary just before crossing the border into Canada. The famed Top of the World Highway (the name of which was inevitable with the sweeping vistas in every direction) leads us to the goal of all of the Klondikers, legendary Dawson City. Crossing the Yukon River by ferry, we'll arrive on Front Street hopefully a bit less ragged than the multitudes that struggled so long and hard to reach here in hopes of fortune. The great irony was by the time most arrived, all of the valuable gold claims had been staked by those in the country at the time of discovery. Dawson still has a very distinct atmosphere from the old days with the dirt streets and boardwalks. Many of the old buildings remain, due simply to the fact that Dawson was soon forgotten by the rest of the world and dwindled in population, though now much is under preservation by Parks Canada. We'll head out to the gold fields tonight or tomorrow, and wander around

mammoth Dredge #4. Fascinating even to most that predict otherwise, the dredge is an amazing amalgamation of floating machinery and was the centerpiece of a type of mining and way of life that dominated the area for many years. Dinner and lodging in "downtown" Dawson, with a chance after dinner to lose your gold dust at the tables of Diamond Tooth Gertie's. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 3 · Dawson City to Eagle

We'll leave room in the morning for a town walk led by a Parks Canada interpreter, wandering a photo museum and some intriguing shops before lunch. In the afternoon we'll head "downriver"

and cross back into the States, this time taking the cut-off to Eagle. The road from here narrows wonderfully, winding up and then down into the valley of the Fortymile and on through the haunting mountains until ending up on the banks of the Yukon River and the frontier outpost of Eagle. You can feel a different atmosphere as soon as you drop down from the mountains into town, passing the old log cabins and schoolhouse before arriving at the Yukon and another Front Street. This first was and is still, a working frontier town. The stories and characters of the present as well as times past, can't help but fascinate. Accommodations for the night are in historic log cabins overlooking the river, two of which date from the earliest days of Eagle. In the main cabin Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen often played poker with then owner Jack Hillard during the winter after he made it south by dog team from his ship frozen in the ice a thousand miles north, picking Eagle with the only telegraph, as means to inform the world that he had at last conquered the long sought Northwest Passage. Dinner is at the local cafe with the mighty river in front, disappearing hauntingly around bends in both directions. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 4 · Eagle and old Ft. Egbert

Eagle has remained an uncommercialized gem given its remote location at the end of the road. With its beginnings as the American center of commerce (and later order) in the region, Eagle is just four miles from the Canadian border and is one of the only almost untouched frontier towns of the early gold rush days. Still the hub of this part of the Upper Yukon at only 200 persons, far fewer people inhabit the area now than in its heyday. Most structures are of log and the town's amazing historical society has done much to preserve its past, from the old buildings of Ft. Egbert to the museums and interpretive displays of a quality rarely seen in a tiny place so seldomly visited. We'll take the walking historical tour that features many a treasure, guided by local folk with an obvious pride in their choice of home. It's quite a unique neighborhood and you'll undoubtedly want a bit of time to wander about and take a few photos, with an optional afternoon challenge of making it to the top of Eagle Bluff for some fantastic



views. Dinner is a BBQ, overlooking “The River”. We will overnight again in the historic cabins, by now feeling almost a part of a very unique place on the planet. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 5 · Eagle to Fairbanks

After breakfast, a few more moments are open to relax and ponder before heading to the airstrip for the flight to Fairbanks. It's universally with a bit of regret that one leaves Eagle, but the flight is an event in itself, driving home the isolation of the upper Yukon and the unforgiving country that separates it from, “civilization”. From the air is a perspective impossible otherwise, with the Yukon-Charley Preserve and towering Ogilvie Mountains to the north and the roadless and rugged Fortymile country below. The 200 air miles melt away in what must have been a dream to our predecessors toiling weeks to reach the same destination. With the second largest population in Alaska, Fairbanks serves as a hub for all of the northern part of the state. Even so, it retains a decidedly frontier flavor and its extremely harsh winters foster a sense of community alien elsewhere in towns a fraction the size. After installing in our hotel, we'll wander to Pioneer Park, an area where early Fairbanks has been relocated, with many of the original buildings. It's now a curious mix of history and commerce, with a wonderful pioneer and aviation museum. A true gem is the restored sternwheeler, Nenana, with a walk aboard giving insight into an entire way of life now vanished, upon which all of Interior Alaska depended for generations for almost every aspect of trade and transportation. Downtown Fairbanks is not far off, and though the contrast to its earlier version is apparent, Golden Heart Park provides a scenic and informative visit to the communities physical beginnings. We'll have dinner nearby, and then if folks are inclined, head to a local watering hole. There's a couple of famous ones to choose from, and it's in such an atmosphere that one finds a quintessentially Alaskan phenomena –that appearance or garb give absolutely no clue as to the person or station in life. Collars of all colors mingle and the bedraggled



soul standing nearby that you've taken for a logger, may well be the local magistrate just in from his homestead before returning to chambers (personal story!). *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 6 · Fairbanks to Denali

In the morning we'll have a little more time to explore before the University of Alaska's excellent museum (that's recently been refurbished) opens with its extensive collections of early Native artifacts and cultural interpretive displays. This puts us close by the old mining community of Ester for a poke about, whose more recent reputation as home to numerous artists and practitioners of free thinking has given rise to the name "esteroids" for the local inhabitants. A particularly beautiful stretch of the Parks Highway leads south from here, as it passes through the Tanana Hills with great views of the distant Alaska Range to the south. We'll stop for a look at the displays in the old railroad depot, as well as the nearby cultural center, of the primarily Native community of Nenana on the banks of the Tanana River, before entering the northernmost portion of the Alaska Range. We'll spend the night in a lodge in Healy just north of Denali Park, to allow an opportunity for flightseeing of Mt. McKinley and Denali Park from the local airstrip (approx \$400/person). It's an option highly, highly recommended but should the weather not be conducive, we'll have another chance the following day. person or station in life. Collars of all colors mingle and the bedraggled soul standing nearby that you've taken for a logger, may well be the local magistrate just in from his homestead before returning to chambers (personal story!). *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 7 · Healy to Talkeetna

As the vast interior of Denali Park is closed to private vehicles, we'll explore its wonders via a roughly six hour trip by shuttle bus with knowledgeable guides, operated by the park concessionaire. Even if "The Mountain" is not "out", there is still the chance to see caribou, moose, Dall sheep, bears and wolves in the wide open vistas, with the vehicle stopping for wildlife or scenic photos whenever anyone would like. At two and one half million acres, Denali is large enough to encompass an entire ecosystem, and so remains a truly unique environment for study of wildlife behavior unaltered by encroaching development. If inclined, there are some great optional hikes

to get an even different perspective of the park before we leave the Alaska Range in the afternoon and head towards the charming village of Talkeetna. An old mining town, Talkeetna now serves as the principal staging point for expeditions to North America's highest peak, Mt. McKinley. Climbing parties



from around the world can be seen preparing for and returning from one of mountaineering's most famous challenges, and the village airstrip buzzing with ski-equipped bush planes servicing the mountain's glacier base camps. It's here that we'll have another option to experience the mountain a little less painfully than the climbers, through flightseeing. Sliding between towering peaks and over monstrous glaciers, this is an indescribable glimpse of a world few experience. From our lodgings, you'll have the evening opportunity to explore some of the unique attractions of town, from the various boutiques of

northern artistry, to the great little museum, to additional "wildlife" viewing at the colorful bar in the historic Fairview Inn. Meals: B, L, D

Day 8 · Talkeetna to Anchorage

We'll head south this morning, through the fertile farmland of the Mat-Su Valley, and into the community of Wasilla – the first evidence that we're trickling back toward civilization. It is here that is headquartered the Iditarod Trail Committee just off the main road. A visit to the organizational base of The Last Great Race, the 1000 mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race, allows one to consider the surprising intricacies of a resurging form of ancient competition, that is as much an intense lifestyle commitment as it is a sport. Any notion of dog mistreatment is quickly dispelled when one witnesses the level of care and devotion the mushers have for the true athletes of this intriguing sport. Having lunch at the historic Teeland's Store, allows us a measured pace before afternoon reentry into the throng of activity that is Anchorage. The contrast with worlds just visited may make your mind wander to thoughts of a winter trail lit by the northern lights, a team of dogs stretched out in front as the trees glide by...there is still time to sign up for the Iditarod only a few months away. Meals: B, L

TOUR DATES

May 28 - June 4 · Tour Code 8M1

June 10 - June 17 · Tour Code 8M2

June 24 - July 1 · Tour Code 8M3

July 14 - July 21 · Tour Code 8M4

Aug 6 - Aug 13 · Tour Code 8M5

Aug 20 - Aug 27 · Tour Code 8M6

**THE ALASKA/YUKON EXPLORER TOUR CAN BE
COUPLED WITH THE KENAI EXPLORER TOUR
FOR A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE ALASKAN EXPERIENCE.**

(see page 8 for details)



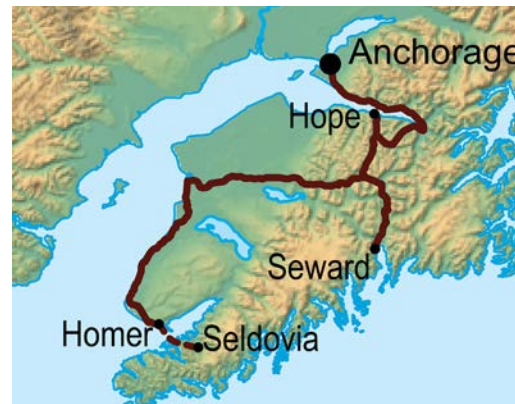
EXTENDED KENAI EXPLORER TOUR
from icefields to estuaries

6 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 8 TRAVELERS · \$2775 PER PERSON

With wildness ranging from the icefields that feed tidewater glaciers, to the bountiful wildlife of the countless coastal estuaries and the rugged mountains in between, the famous Kenai Peninsula is a wonderful capsule of many “Alaskas”. This six day tour offers the Kenai at its best, with a delightful and leisurely variety of contrasts including overnight stays in world-renowned Seward, a coastal village inaccessible by road and an historic end-of-the-road mountain town.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Kenai Fjords National Park Boat Tour
- Overnight in Seward—Optional sea kayaking and hiking
- Exploring the gold rush town of Hope—Two nights in creekside Discovery Cabins
- Overnight Homer, tour boat across Kachemak Bay to the charming fishing village of Seldovia
- Overnight lodging at a waterfront B&B in Seldovia
- Flight over Kachemak Bay
- Optional rainforest hike or aerial tram ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska in Girdwood



.....
Indicates included flight and charter boat ride between Homer and Seldovia

We start by following along Turnagain Arm through the mountains to reach Seward at the head of Resurrection Bay, for an afternoon sea kayaking and a hike to Exit Glacier. The next day we explore the spectacular marine world of the Kenai Fjords National Park and Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge, lingering off the face of the calving Holgate Glacier. From Seward we travel the Kenai Mountains to the scenic gold rush community of Hope, overnighing in log cabins on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. On the third day the road leads along Cook Inlet and the towering volcanoes of the Alaska Range to explore and overnight in delightful Homer. The next morning we make it to the end of the Homer “Spit” for the boat trip across Kachemak Bay to the secluded fishing village of Seldovia and our waterfront bed and breakfast. On Day 5, we cross the bay by air taxi, before heading back to quiet Hope and the creekside cabins. Day 6 we round Turnagain Arm and stop in Girdwood and the famous resort of Alyeska, before returning to Anchorage in the afternoon. If time is somewhat limited, or you’re looking to add some authentic Alaska to your existing plans, this special tour carefully skirts the crowds and promises an unencumbered and wild tranquility guaranteed to satisfy.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Seward

Travel south along edge of Turnagain Arm through the Chugach Mountains; arrive Seward for lunch; afternoon sea kayaking in Resurrection Bay; hike to Exit Glacier; overnight Harbor View Inn.

Day 2 Seward to Hope

Visit excellent Seward Sea Life Center; 6 hour boat trip to spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park; Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge and stunning Aialik Bay with three tidewater glaciers; return Seward; Kenai Mountains to end-of-the-road gold rush town of Hope; overnight creekside log cabins.

Day 3 Hope to Homer

Follow Kenai River through Cooper Landing, Soldotna; skirt edge of Cook Inlet with impressive volcanoes lining the other side; visit Alaska Islands & Oceans Center; walk Bishop’s Beach; Pratt Museum; bay view lodging.

Day 4 Homer to Seldovia

Travel to the end of the Homer “Spit” to board boat to cross Kachemak Bay to the quaint fishing village Seldovia with tour enroute; afternoon exploration of town, museums, or optional hike; overnight waterfront inn.

Day 5 Seldovia to Hope

Morning exploration of Seldovia and optional walk on “Otterbahn” trail; late morning return to Homer by air taxi (beautiful views!); overnight in the creekside log cabins in Hope.

Day 6 Hope to Anchorage

Museum tour; optional gold panning instruction by local gold miner; visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center; lunch at the famous Bake Shop in ski resort town Girdwood, situated in the northernmost rainforest; return to Anchorage in the afternoon.

THIS TOUR CAN BE COUPLED WITH THE
ALASKA/YUKON EXPLORER TOUR
FOR A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE
ALASKAN EXPERIENCE.
(see page 18 for details)

Day 1 · Anchorage to Seward

Our exploration begins at 8AM, meeting in downtown Anchorage at previously arranged locations. Dispatching quickly with Alaska's largest city, we'll head for more tranquil locales, turning south and hugging the shore of Turnagain Arm where the Chugach Mountains meet the sea. Rising up over Turnagain Pass in the Kenai Mountains we'll then descend toward the Gulf of Alaska and the scenic town of Seward, situated at the uppermost reaches of Resurrection Bay. A deep water port that remains ice-free all year, Seward was one of the earlier Alaskan settlements, serving the mining and various trades of the Interior, as the southern terminus of the state's single rail line. It is also the historic start of the Iditarod Trail. Surrounded by mountains the scene is quite impressive, with the quaint downtown nearly at water's edge. After lunch we'll head out to Lowell Point for our afternoon sea kayaking exploration of the west side of Resurrection Bay. Back to land, we'll head back through town to the turn-off accessing Exit Glacier of the Kenai Fjords National Park, walking up to its terminus while noting the dates of its historical retreat (-hint: where we parked was mighty icy about World War I). After all this fine fresh air, it's time to check in at the Harbor View Inn and have a nice dinner downtown. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Seward to Hope

After breakfast we'll be first in line at the impressive Seward Sea Life Center, to garner a good background for the day's foray into the maritime world. Boarding our vessel late morning, we'll head out of the bay and around the point, and into the Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge, sliding between the rocky islands that are home to an incredible variety of marine mammals and sea birds. Reaching Kenai Fjords National Park, the vast majority inaccessible by road, we'll head into Aialik Bay and linger off the face of a calving glacier for an otherworldly experience. We'll cruise right up to the rugged coastal cliffs, providing wonderful opportunities for viewing murrelets, puffins, harbor seals, and sea lions, with the stretches in between always holding promise of porpoises, sea otters, humpback whales and maybe even orcas. Arriving back in late afternoon, we'll then head back up the road through the Kenai Mountains to the end of the road and the delightful little town of Hope on the shores of Turnagain Arm. One of the oldest gold rush communities in Alaska, Hope boasted three thousand souls long before Anchorage existed.

As gold rushes pass so did many of the people, with now about two hundred folks in the community. Its unique atmosphere is quite palpable, in the many log cabins, the log Social Hall, the one room schoolhouse and certainly in the local folk that have chosen to call it home. It's a piece of Alaska many have in mind before they come. We'll lodge for the night in Discovery Cabins on the edge of rushing Bear Creek. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 3 · Hope to Homer

After breakfast we'll pick up the Sterling Highway toward Homer. Enroute we'll follow the beautiful (and quite famous for salmon) Kenai River through Cooper Landing, where bald eagles quite frequently gather to scour for leftover fish. We'll pass through Soldotna, and stop at the historic center of old Kenai, where there was any early Russian settlement prior to Alaska's sale. Skirting the eastern side of Cook Inlet, the towering volcanoes of Iliamna, Redoubt, Spur, and Augustine frame the Alaska Range on the opposite side. We'll drive down to the water's edge and catch the unique fishery of Deep Creek, before visiting the photogenic old Russian Orthodox Church nearby. Situated on the prominent bluff above the old native village of Ninilchik, the light in the church belfry long served as a beacon for vessels on Cook Inlet, in the days before GPS. The views are quite regal in any direction. Passing through Anchor Point, the most western point on the nation's road system, we arrive at the lookout above Homer, needing no explanation as to why this is a favorite destination of many Alaskans. Glaciers and mountains rim the far view, with Homer below, and beautiful Kachemak Bay in between. We'll head to the wonderful Islands and Oceans Center for a fascinating look at the uniqueness of this area, and insight into the thousands of miles of extreme wilderness of the Aleutian Chain. Just out back is Bishop's Beach, begging for a beach combing stroll. Homer has long been known as an artist's community and wandering the main street yields several funky emporiums that prove just why. Later we'll visit the eclectic Pratt Museum, gaining further insight into both the area's early history and chapters more recent—namely the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Dinner will be at a local institution, whose decor and cuisine is better experienced than explained. Lodging will be just below our former lookout, with a magnificent panorama that might just beg for a long linger before bedding down. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 4 · Homer to Seldovia

Arriving at the end of the Homer Spit mid-morning, we'll poke around a bit before boarding the boat to cross the picturesque Bay. With the nearby mountains and glaciers on the other side of the bay and the Alaska Range across the mouth of Cook Inlet, it is truly a beautiful mix of geography. Aiming toward the mouth of the Bay, our captain will circle Gull Island and a few others enroute to our destination, giving great explanation to the sights before us. Early afternoon finds us on the dock in the unique community of Seldovia, inaccessible by road. Originally and still a fishing village, the name comes from the Russian word for salted herring, as this fish was the reason for its existence, prior to the purchase of Alaska in 1867. Seldovia is also a place of refuge for artists and those looking for a little less access and the pace of life that it brings. It's a special little town to wander, with the great Sitka spruce forests unlike any other we've seen, starting at the end of almost every street. A good stroll is in order down the historic boardwalk, vestige of the pre-earthquake vitality of Seldovia, before dinner at the always excellent Tidepool Cafe. Our lodging for the night is in the waterfront Boardwalk Inn overlooking the boat harbor, where sea otters are a frequent sight. *Meals: B, L, D*

**Day 5 · Seldovia to Hope**

The morning is as leisurely as it should be, with time to further explore town or just watch the tide come in out the back door. Those looking to stretch their legs might try the "Otterbahn", a great little trail starting by the school that weaves through tall grass and spruce thickets to end at the ocean for an unlimited opportunity to stroll or beachcomb. We'll then head to the nearby airstrip to catch our air taxi quick hop back across the bay to Homer. From above the perspective is priceless. It's almost hard to get back in a vehicle again, but we'll still have time to peruse a bit more of this town

that draws so many for its beauty. Lunch will be in a local eatery. We'll know the way back north by now, so Hope will seem like home when we get back to our snug log cabins. A barbecue is planned on the deck of the lodge, with a creekside campfire an apt possibility afterwards. Or, there might be those that prefer to head "downtown", to Main Street that ends in the ocean, and the Seaview Bar that is often a colorful mix of visitors, locals, and gold miners still eking an income from the creeks. The music is often phenomenal too. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 6 · Hope to Anchorage

After breakfast, we might try our luck at optional gold panning with some local miners instructing, while others wander the historic displays of the museum next door. Heading out of Hope, we'll visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage on the way to the small town of Girdwood, home of the world-class Alyeska Ski Resort situated here due to a much higher level of precipitation than even the adjacent valleys. It is a microclimate that gives rise to a temperate rainforest (yes, rainforest) with flora completely different from Hope, just a couple dozen miles away. Lush ferns and undergrowth along with large spruce trees are dominant. Some might want to explore this environment directly, following the trail up Winner Creek to its beautiful little gorge, while others might opt to take the tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska for a commanding view. It might be a late lunch but worth it at the Bake Shop upon return. The Seward Highway hugs the edge of Turnagain Arm and we just might have to stop at Beluga Point to see if any of the creatures for which it takes its name, might make an appearance. And then it's on back to Anchorage in the late afternoon, each of us probably just a bit different than when we left, and most likely figuring out just when we can return. The Kenai is some of the best of Alaska, but then there are still many other Alaskas that remain... *Meals: B, L*

TOUR DATES

June 3 - June 8 · Tour Code 6K1

July 17 - July 22 · Tour Code 6K4

June 18 - June 23 · Tour Code 6K2

Aug 19 - Aug 24 · Tour Code 6K5

July 8 - July 13 · Tour Code 6K3



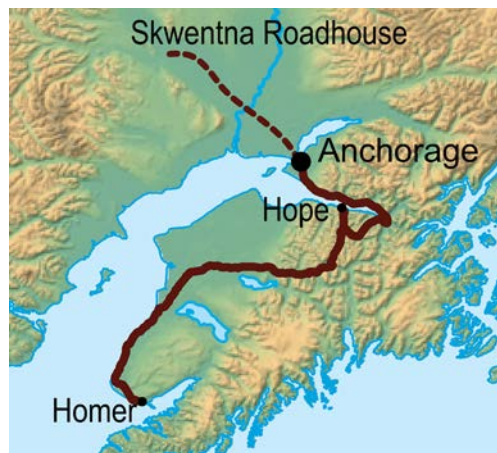
IDITAROD RACE SLED DOG TOUR
the world's last great race

7 DAYS · TRAVEL TO AND RETURN FROM ANCHORAGE
LIMITED TO 6 TRAVELERS · \$4525 PER PERSON

Come experience the true essence of the Far North, learning to “mush” your own team in the Alaska wilderness, before witnessing firsthand the indescribable “Last Great Race”, the 1100 mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Sled dog mushing instruction (in graduated steps) by Iditarod mushers for two full days
- Driving your own dog team (or riding in the sled basket if so desired) in a variety of locations
- Visit kennel of top Iditarod contender
- Attending the start of the Iditarod Race in Anchorage
- Travel by ski-plane to a remote homestead to view passing dog teams
- Visit/overnight at official checkpoint Skwentna



..... Indicates included flight and charter boat ride between Homer and Seldovia

First, we'll spend three wonderful days progressively learning to drive dogs with an Iditarod musher. And then, after attending the Race start, we will fly by ski-equipped bush plane to a remote “roadhouse” seventy miles west along the Iditarod Trail. There we'll overnight and wait for the next day's arrival of the first teams as they navigate up the Susitna and Yentna river systems, to the official checkpoint of Skwentna. Toasty by our bonfire on the river, the succession of teams struggle in through the night, getting their first dose of the mercilessly mercurial conditions that will dictate their lives for the weeks to come. The next day it's back to Anchorage, with a visit to the chaos of Race Headquarters before good-byes in civilized comfort. This very special tour is for those that long to experience the real Alaska, and the reasons so many have chosen to call it home year around—from those that came for the gold rushes and decided not to leave, to those that still spurn the comforts of modern civilization for the adventure of frontier living. Offered only once a year, no experience is necessary for this incomparable tour that guarantees memories that most can only dream of.

THIS TRIP CAN FILL QUICKLY—EARLY RESERVATION FOR THIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

TOUR FEATURES

Day 1 Anchorage to Hope

Gear check and visit to Race Headquarters; travel by road from Anchorage through the Kenai Mountains to overnight in log cabins in the tiny end of the road gold rush village of Hope on Cook Inlet; evening mushing “intro”.

Day 2 Hope to Soldotna

Morning departure through Kenai Mountains to Soldotna. Afternoon at the kennel of our Iditarod musher, learning the mechanics of harnessing the dogs and the basic skills of piloting canine super athletes. In a graduated fashion, you'll end the day with the satisfaction of having driven your own team. Overnight at lodge on Longmere Lake.

Day 3 CoHo Muskeg Mush

A day of immersion with full teams in the beautiful flats on the edge of Cook Inlet, in alternately wooded and open terrain. Iditarod veterans, local mushers, and snowmachines will assist this exhilarating experience, where we'll also visit the dog lot of a top five Iditarod finisher. Overnight back at the lodge.

Day 4 Soldotna to Hope

Now it's time to head into the hills of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, on the wonderful trails of the local racing association. By now you're feeling like a veteran, contemplating racing yourself. Return to Hope and the cabins on Bear Creek.

Day 5 Hope to Skwentna Roadhouse

Travel to Anchorage; attend the start (indescribable) of the Iditarod; early afternoon departure from Lake Hood by bush ski-plane for flight to a remote homestead 70 air miles northwest; dinner and overnight at historic lodge.

Day 6 Skwentna Roadhouse

Day to explore the neighborhood, watch the checkpoint preparations; dinner and bonfire rendezvous on the Skwentna River as the first dog teams come through the checkpoint (northern lights?); second overnight at lodge.

Day 7 Skwentna Roadhouse to Anchorage

Time to hang out at checkpoint; wander amongst the arriving mushers and race chaos; return flight to Anchorage and visit to bustling Race Headquarters.

Day 1 · Anchorage to Hope

Our adventure starts at 9AM, meeting in downtown Anchorage at your previously arranged B&B or hotel. Here we'll make a quick check of gear. We'll then make a stop if necessary at REI, an outdoor gear supplier, if anyone decides that they might need additional items. Before we head out of town, we'll make a stop at the Millennium Hotel, the official headquarters of the Iditarod Race. Located on the edge of Lake Hood, the world's largest seaplane base in summer and home to many that equip their planes with skis and operate from there in the winter. As things build toward the Race several days away, preparations are evident as the phone banks are installed, radio communications set up and of course the Official Iditarod Store doing a brisk business. Afterwards we'll head out of town hugging the edge of the Turnagain Arm, between the Chugach Mountains and the sea. Lunch is in Girdwood at the famous Bake Shop. If conditions allow we'll make a short detour to Portage Lake, where its namesake glacier often provides a stunning backdrop of beached icebergs. Crossing Turnagain Pass in the Kenai Mountains we'll take the 16 mile cutoff to the tiny end-of-the-road town of Hope. The oldest gold rush town in Alaska, (far older than Anchorage) this sleepy little village of 150 souls still has a definite frontier flavor with most of the buildings of log, from the old Social Hall still used for weddings and most town functions to the old church. We'll overnight here in log cabins overlooking Bear Creek and after dinner, have our first introduction to mushing. *Meals: L, D*

Day 2 · Hope to Soldotna

After breakfast we'll head through and up and over the Kenai Mountains, descending onto the "shelf" that is the eastern part of the Kenai

Peninsula. Our next several days will center about the community of Soldotna as we head to the home and kennel of Iditarod musher Jane Faulkner. In the shadow of the imposing volcano Mt. Redoubt on the other side of Cook Inlet, we'll set about getting conversant with this ancient means of arctic locomotion, the dog team. As the detail and mechanics involved will most likely be new to most of us, Jane and her "right hand", kennel partner Mindee Morning, will lead us through in progressive steps. First we'll start with a detailed hands-on explanation of the equipment and general techniques for driving the dogs. This will be followed by short forays on freight sleds pulled by snowmachine (we've found that the machine is much more willing to stop for the novice

musher, than is a fully charged dog team with someone completely unfamiliar behind it!). The short groomed course here is perfect for getting the feel of the "body english" required, and to build in the comfort that anticipates turns and bumps out on the trail. Next step, is learning to harness some exceedingly enthusiastic dogs and "construct" a small (and forgiving!) team. We'll keep at it on the groomed trails out back until we feel we've gotten to that satisfying point of confidence that will set the stage for the next day's trip over wilderness trails. You might be tired by now, but for those game and confident in their skiing, now would be the time to try "skijorring" –dog-powered skiing! As twilight descends we'll drive back east through Soldotna, lodging for the night in the lovely log accommodations of the All Alaska Lodge on a bluff overlooking Longmere Lake. We'll have our hearty and well-earned dinner of Alaskan goodies here as we discuss the big day tomorrow. Later that evening the northern lights will surely see their way fit to give us a display. *Meals: B, L, D*







Day 3 · CoHo Muskeg Mush

With a hearty breakfast in the belly, we'll load up and drive the half hour to meet the "rest of the crew", both two and four-legged, at the kennel of Jane's partner Randy Adkins, a two-time Iditaroder. By now harnessing up the dogs begins to feel like a natural part of a day's routine (the Call of the Wild is not species specific . . .), though this time the level of energy is multiplied wonderfully by the increased number of dogs. Then it's off down the trail driving your own team as we snake through the frozen lakes and muskeg of the CoHo loop area, each team supported by a handler. The relatively level nature of the terrain aids in this next transition to wide open trails and more dog power up front. These are the principle training grounds for several top mushers, and if conditions allow, we'll visit the dog lots of a couple of recent top-five Iditarod finishers. We'll thus spend the day exploring like denizens of old, sliding over the snow to examine stories told by the animal tracks, and witnessing some of the other seasonal phenomena that are hard to put into words when someone asks, incredulously, why one would enjoy winter. We'll might well cross paths with some other mushers, or, even moose, lynx, eagles, etc. Lunch is on the trail wherever the urge hits, with never an experienced musher far from hand, should you like some additional feedback on your dog driving technique (or maybe just a rest in the sled basket!). Pleasantly fatigued we'll deservedly celebrate a wonderful day with dinner at the St. Elias Brewing Company on the way back to the lakeside lodge. The northern lights will have an opportunity to either top their previous night's performance, or make amends for a no-show. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 4 · Soldotna to Hope

A rib-sticking breakfast will lay the groundwork for yet another notch in our mushing experience. Today we'll head the few short miles to the trails of the Peninsula Sled Dog and Racing Association, for our foray into the hills of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Again hitching up the teams and mushing might just give rise to thoughts that maybe you could easily get used to a life of . . . just maybe . . . someday . . . As this part of the Refuge is strictly non-motorized, we'll be blissfully on our own without snowmachines in these wooded hills, to appreciate the great views of the Alaska Range in silence (minus the dog panting). It'll be a fine contrast to the days previous, with the wooded trails and undulations of these mountain foothills. Now

that you've mushed the trails, you might even want to join the Association (25 bucks) and get your patch to prove it. With afternoon good-byes to new friends, both two and four-legged, we'll head back through "civilization" and Soldotna, before retracing the couple hours of road back to Hope. Surely enroute an eagle or two will pose over the blue waters of the Kenai River or with a mountain backdrop behind Tern Lake or Turnagain Arm. Dinner is at Discovery Cabins before an evening briefing on the Iditarod itself via video.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 5 · Hope to Skwentna Roadhouse

Breakfast is early to hit the road and get to the Race start in downtown Anchorage. The start has an atmosphere all its own as literally thousands of dogs and people are crowded into a tiny area, all focused on the event that for many, is the experience of a lifetime. You'll have lots of vantage points for great pictures or just plain gawking. The perennial contenders have their own professional determination while many others are participating for the first time, though every one of the mushers, spouses, and handlers are concentrating on the grueling and perilous 1100 miles of wilderness ahead. After watching the teams be released at two-minute intervals and taking probably dozens of photos, we'll head to Lake Hood, to board our bush ski-planes for the 70 mile trip to the remote Skwentna Roadhouse on the Skwentna River, just a few hundred yards from the first official Iditarod Race Checkpoint. Landing on a tiny airstrip here you'll see how folks live far from roads and the rest of the world. Dinner is of course sumptuous, after exploring a bit about the neighborhood on foot or maybe snowshoes. Rumor has it that there will be some local dog teams on hand that might need exercise. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 6 · Skwentna Roadhouse

A great breakfast makes the morning leisurely, with plenty of time to relax by the woodstove, or catch up on your journal. If the weather is clear, Mt. McKinley, North America's tallest mountain should give proof just to the north. In the afternoon we'll wander over to the checkpoint to watch the dozens of Iditarod volunteers busy about preparations, as the dog teams race our direction. After dinner, we'll bundle up and head out by foot or snowmachine to the river bonfire and await the first dog teams, straining

our eyes in the darkness for the first glimpse of a bobbing headlamp in the distance. After a short while the checkpoint will be buzzing with dozens of dog teams and mushers, meticulously checking their dogs over, before tending to their own needs. It is evident here the experience of each musher in their efficiency in checking each dog, feeding the team and bedding it down as well as themselves, in preparation for the days and days of sleepless trail ahead. It is a scene that is difficult to put into words and one that will stay with you long afterwards. Hopefully the northern lights will grace us and lead us back to our cozy homestead, with thoughts no doubt of those on the trail, the sled bag their only accommodations. *Meals: B, L, D*

Day 7 · Skwentna Roadhouse to Anchorage

After breakfast we'll bundle up and head back out to the checkpoint to see who remains; some teams strategically resting, others in despair contemplating the end of their Iditarod dreams. Though weary, the former are often quite congenial and open to chatting about their experience thus far. Lunch is back at the Roadhouse and afterwards we'll await the arrival of our bushplane ride back to Anchorage and civilization, though not without a different appreciation for the unique world of the arctic winter and the people and passions that are so much a part of it. Stopping in at the Iditarod Headquarters for a musher update, your mind might wander to how, that while in so many ways the world has changed, in some ways and places it hasn't much at all. And now, though the trip is officially over, those staying the night might want to get together for a culminating dinner and do a bit of reminiscing. *Meals: B, L*

NOTE: ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, MEALS, SUPPLEMENTARY ARCTIC WINTER GEAR AND INSTRUCTION ARE INCLUDED.

TOUR DATES

Feb 28 - March 6 · Tour Code 7W1

While your trip with Adventure Alaska may be the centerpiece of your travels north, we can also make recommendations and assist you with lodging or tour arrangements to complement our packages. Many options exist, from exploring an area not featured in your chosen itinerary, to simply securing a room if you would like to arrive early for your trip. There are particular establishments and operators with which we are comfortable, and some “secret” spots we’d be delighted to recommend. Anchorage is an excellent base from which to head out by bush plane, train or rental car. Activities abound from sightseeing to fly-out fishing to remote lodge stays, and we can offer a bit of advice on which might best meet your desires. Give us your thoughts, and we’ll help you decide and then set up everything at no extra cost to you.



A Few Ideas...

Hope, Alaska

Hope is a tiny little gold rush town at the end of the road that retains a real frontier flavour. It is the Alaska many have in mind when the name is mentioned. While many of the itineraries feature time there, we suggest that you might consider Hope (if you can squeeze a few more days of vacation!) as a base for further exploration. Accommodations include creekside log cabins with shared baths.

The hiking out the back door is fantastic and other intriguing options exist for whatever you desire, from just plain relaxing to gold panning to world class whitewater rafting. Located 1 1/2 hours by road from Anchorage, Hope is also less than 15 minutes by air charter. Inexpensive scheduled van shuttles can also be arranged for drop off and pick up to destinations such as Seward, Homer and Anchorage. Hope is our chosen home and we’d love to share it with you!

Kenai Fjords National Park

Boat trips into the park are fantastic and more than worth the price. Seward is an easy drive from Hope and allows for a great day in the Fjords and Chiswell Islands Wildlife Refuge, with tour boats departing at 11:30AM and returning between 5 and 6PM. Tours that feature overnight stays on remote Fox Island in Resurrection Bay are also available, with great sea kayaking an option.

White Water Rafting

Nearby Six-Mile Creek offers some of the most exciting whitewater in North America, guided by Alaska’s most experienced river company. This creek has three canyon segments, as beautiful as they are thrilling. Trips featuring Canyons 1 & 2 offer Class IV rapids, with those opting to include Canyon 3 promised Class V water. Dry suits are provided.

Homer & Kenai Peninsula

The Kenai is home to some of Alaska’s most famous fishing as well as a wealth of recreational possibilities. Great jaunts include: overnight trips across

Kachemak Bay to Seldovia; fly-out fishing or kayaking; deep sea charters from nearby Whittier, and oodles more.

McCarthy, Alaska

McCarthy is a truly unique end-of-the road ghost town, situated in the middle of our country's largest national park, the Wrangell-St. Elias. Here we have a wonderfully private facility, located on an island between the Kennicott River and McCarthy Creek. Views of the great icefalls delight the eyes, with the sound of the two rivers massaging the ears.

We're in the midst of building a lodge here, with the current state of progress being creekside tent sites, an outhouse and a dining cabin. It's truly a wild world to explore, with McCarthy as a great base for hiking (fly-out or from the island itself), ice climbing, or river rafting. Multi-day river trips to Chitina or all the way to Cordova are a fantastic custom option with our guides and equipment. It's a location that begs any length of exploration, befitting one of our crown jewel national parks.

Eagle, Alaska

Eagle is another gem at the end of the road, steeped in the history and stark beauty that so define the vast Interior. It's here that we've renovated a couple of historic structures and built a few new ones to enable our guests to linger in this tiny outpost unique unto itself.

Our regular trips include the Yukon and Forty Mile, and the Yukon-Charley Natl. Preserve awaits, just 12 miles downstream...

Other Possibilities

Small boat cruises: Some fantastic small boat cruises are available in Southeast Alaska as well as Prince William Sound, from overnight to multi-day explorations. We've some great places and folks we'd be delighted to recommend.

Glacier Bay National Park

Home to more than half of Alaska's active tidewater glaciers Glacier Bay is truly a jewel. Tour options range from day trips out of Juneau, to 4-day small

vessel cruises that include hiking and sea kayaking.

Wrangell-St. Elias Nat'l. Park

It's our country's largest park. Air charter and bus transport from Anchorage make the Wrangells a fantastic place to explore, from the ghost towns of McCarthy and Kennicott to the wild backcountry.

Fishing, fishing, fishing

Many of the fish stories here are actually true and we will happily refer you to reputable operators that offer anything from one day fly-out fishing from Anchorage to overnights and salt water charters.

The Pribilof Islands

The Pribilofs are some of the most remote islands in the world, and home to the largest Aleut native community. Famous for their abundance of wildlife, here are found in great numbers seals, sea lions, whales, reindeer and over 210 species of birds.

Photographic opportunities are guaranteed with the local guides practiced in helping you set up for that fantastic shot as part of your tour. Activities include a visit to the historic Russian Orthodox church and guided naturalist trips to the incredible seal and bird rookeries, with an invitation to stay as long as you would like.

Package prices include round trip air from Anchorage, transfers, naturalist/guide services and double occupancy accommodations, with meals not included.

Option PRB1 3 Days/2 Nights (departs Monday & Wed.)

Option PRB2 4 Days/3 Nights (departs Friday)

Please call for current pricing.

A few others...

Among our staff, specialties in the art of playing outside abound, and we'd be delighted to set something up according to your interests. This might include mountain biking, scuba diving (dry suits only), running, kayaking or a simple hike in the mountains. Give us a call!

Why would I want to travel in a group?

Alaska is far more vast and varied than most visitors recognize, and traveling independently can be quite challenging. Reservations are required long in advance for most lodging and activities, as the summer season is so short. Our past clients, many taking a group trip for the first time, express appreciation for the convenience of planning that a set itinerary offers, as well as for the professional experience of what and where truly is of interest.

While many options exist for visiting Alaska, small group travel is among the most rewarding, combining the ease of travel arrangements with a very personal experience, highlighted by the perspective of knowledgeable guides. As the quality of experience for each participant is our overriding goal, group size is limited to six persons on some itineraries, no more than eight on most, and ten on select tours.

Who are your typical clients?

Our customary clientele is quite diverse, ranging in age from 9 to 84 years. Certain itineraries attract different ages, with groups often mixed between couples and individuals traveling alone. We've had numerous honeymooners (and even a marriage en route!). Some itineraries are popular with families, and we can try to arrange to pair similarly aged children if possible. Increasingly too, we have had the privilege of multigenerational travelers.

What about prices?

Travel options in Alaska obviously vary widely, and are generally more costly than elsewhere. When making comparisons, consider how the size of the group might help define the experience that you are looking for, and that the costs are necessarily spread accordingly. Our trips also include a full first and last day of activities, which is not the industry norm. Many companies also do not include meals or have "hidden" options. If you're traveling as a single and are willing to share accommodations, we also don't charge a forced, "single supplement". It's your wallet but it's also your vacation.

How strenuous are the trips, really?

It depends on the itinerary you choose. "Tours" stay only in established accommodations and dine in local restaurants, with light hiking an option. They are quite comfortable and are enjoyed by a vast range of ages. "Adventures" involve wilderness travel and camping and can be somewhat more rigorous by nature. Some destinations offer only rustic accommodations, and of course we aren't always able to guarantee the weather or unforeseen circumstances of travel.

No special skills are required and beyond good health, the only requirement is a keen spirit of adventure and a true desire to appreciate what is unique about these lands. Adventure Alaska trips are not for everybody and should you have any questions as to the suitability of a trip, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We'll gladly recommend a competitor rather than steer you toward a trip that you might not fully enjoy.

How do we travel?

Most itineraries involve a variety of means of travel in order to give a better feel for the particular area we are exploring. From trains to boats or on foot, each is integral to the overall experience. While all involve some road travel, we will be in specially equipped 15-passenger vans with never more than 10 persons.

What are the tour leaders like?

We go to great pains to find those that believe in what they are doing, because they are the basis of your experience as well as ours. This means that each is older than the industry norm and extremely knowledgeable on the areas visited, as well as the activities involved, and not simply a college kid from somewhere else, looking for a summer job. All are more qualified than you might expect, from safety training to natural history to just plain interesting.

Will we follow the itinerary exactly?

We attempt to stick as close to the itinerary as possible, but due

to the wild nature of Alaska and the remoteness of some of our destinations, occasionally weather conditions, road construction delays and other unforeseen events require us to alter our plans. Flexibility is the key to fully enjoying your trip.

When is the best time to visit alaska?

Every summer month has something special to recommend it: late May and early June may still have snow on the ground and fewer leaves on the trees. This makes spotting wildlife (with their Spring newborns) easier. Late June and July feature stupendous wildflowers (including our famous fireweed) and, generally, warmer temperatures. This time period also offers the opportunity to experience Alaska's midnight sun. Berries are the stars of August visits to Alaska – and with berries, come the bears who eat them. Visitors in late August may be able to glimpse the first displays of the Northern Lights of the fall season, as well as the beautiful fall colors starting to spread across the tundra.

Those wishing to experience the “real” Alaska should travel with us on one of our winter itineraries. We provide the arctic winter gear; you provide a sense of adventure.

Can you accommodate my dietary restrictions?

Tours use established restaurants and guests may choose what they wish off of the menu. Most establishments offer vegetarian options and do their best to accommodate special requests. Please keep in mind, however, that at many of the remote locations we visit, access to the freshest fruits, vegetables and gourmet items is limited.

Adventures rely upon a combination of restaurants and camp cooking. Our camp recipes use some beef and fish, but vegetarian modifications can be made easily by your guide upon request. We strive to provide reasonably healthy and tasty meals with ingredients chosen for maximum energy, transportability and durability.

Most tours stop at a grocery store on the first day so that you can purchase any items, including snacks and alcoholic beverages,

you require. Please note that you will need to purchase your own cooler, if needed, as the group coolers have only very limited extra space.

Please contact us if you have questions about your specific dietary needs.

What about the mosquitoes?

Alaskan mosquitoes are the stuff of legends...at least that's what you've heard from others who have visited. While it's true that at certain times and places in the summer, the flying insects can test the patience of even the most trail-hardened veteran, many find that bugs are worse where they come from! If particularly sensitive and you find yourself in one of those areas of “concentration”, here are a few tips that will make your visit more bearable.

1. Use an insect repellent with DEET and re-apply frequently. Though there are legions of natural and non-DEET repellents on the market, research in Alaska has shown that only DEET is truly effective, and lasts the longest.
2. Wear light-colored clothing.
3. Bring your own head-net or, if traveling with us on an Adventure itinerary, borrow one of ours.

What kind of precautions do you take against bears?

Almost all of our destinations offer the opportunity to view bears in their natural surroundings. While this is an exciting and memorable experience, we will be required to take certain precautions when hiking and camping in bear country. Your guide will teach you the proper techniques to use in bear encounters and while camping. In a nutshell, you will not be permitted to store food, drink or anything with a scent (including toothpaste, deodorant and lip balm) in your tents.

We do not carry firearms as we firmly believe that following the appropriate steps and using good bear sense are the best techniques for sharing the wilderness with these wonderful animals.

Adventure Travel: is just that!

We pride ourselves in being able to give our guests what the large tour companies (i.e. Princess, Holland America, etc.) do not – a chance to visit some of the out-of-the-way places, meet the true locals and support the local economies. Since most everyone has a different definition of just what is adventure, we ask that you consider carefully the type of trip you're taking and the level of comfort you expect. We very intentionally feature smaller destinations that have not been developed to handle large numbers, and as such do not promise the level of amenities found at larger facilities. We believe that this is integral to experiencing a more “authentic” Alaska, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our past clients makes us confident that we're succeeding in showing an Alaska that most visitors rarely enjoy.

Adventure Alaska trips aren't for everybody and we'll gladly recommend a competitor rather than have you take a trip that you might not fully enjoy. Our only requirement: A keen spirit of adventure and true desire to appreciate what is unique about these lands and their peoples. You'll be rewarded with a personal experience that simply can't be had on a cursory cruise tour, designed to handle many thousands at a time.

Tipping

We are often asked about tipping, and it is frankly difficult to come up with an adequate response. When it comes to gratuities to your tour guide, generally speaking, we feel it is entirely up to each individual, as each traveler's means and desire to tip varies. We do believe however that tipping encourages excellence and rewards a job well done, so with this in mind, we support the concept of tipping. And because we've been asked so often what an appropriate tip is, a possible guideline for tipping your guide is \$10-15 per person per day. Please note that all restaurant tips for meals during the trip will be handled by Adventure Alaska. Tipping to outside vendors/guides (i.e. ice-trekking guides, pilots, boat captains, etc.) is at the discretion of those partaking in the individual services, and again, is highly recommended.

The Electronic Age

Items such as cell phones, ipods and laptop computers, though integral in many of our respective lives, can intrude upon the enjoyment of others trying to “get away from it all”, and so we ask that their use be considered and discrete. Many of the places we go are out of cell range, or have proprietary networks not always compatible with national carriers. Wireless connection locations are also surprisingly infrequent. Some locations still have satellite-based or very limited phone capacity, and are unable to accommodate non-emergency public use. What better excuse could there be for not getting a hold of the office—and remember, it is vacation!

Smoking

Is not permitted in the vans, nor inside most of the accommodations or restaurants, though one can certainly do so out of doors.

Food & Restaurants

During the itineraries, we provide 3 meals a day, with snacks available in the van (alcoholic beverages not included). We make no pretense promising “gourmet” meals, as food is not the focus of our types of trips (—but folks do comment that the meals are exceptional given the great distance groceries must travel!). Often we eat at the establishment where we are staying for the night, and as these are often somewhat remote locations, menu selection is sometimes limited. Meals are hearty (we do get “complaints” about the huge portions in Alaska) and sometimes include local fare such as salmon, halibut or reindeer. While camping, the guide prepares all meals, though assistance is not always refused.

Bathrooms:

For our “tours” full bathrooms with flush toilets and hot showers are available each night, with facilities occasionally down the hall, or in a separate building. For the “adventures”, it's the tried and true outhouse facilities while camping, and hot showers and toilets that flush when we're not “roughing it”!

Our Guides

We go to great pains to find those that believe in what they are doing, because they are the basis of your experience as well as ours. This means that each is older than the industry norm and extremely knowledgeable on the areas visited, as well as the

activities involved, and not simply a college kid from somewhere else, looking for a summer job. All are more qualified than you might expect, from safety training to natural history to just plain interesting. Most are multi-lingual with excellence in French, Spanish, German and Dutch.

Patrick Tourne



Our longest serving guide extraordinaire, Patrick has been leading trips with us in consummate fashion, for twenty two years (it is a lifestyle). Originally drawn by the wide open spaces, Alaska's unique sense of freedom and possibility early on captured yet another, and he's been back every year, ever since.

Having led numerous times all of the itineraries, past and present, he by now knows more nooks and crannies across Alaska and the Yukon than most locals.

The "other" season is spent reacquainting with a revolving set of favorite winter haunts, from California to Australia to Europe.

Chris and Kathleen Jones

Chris and Kathleen Jones are our full-time "part-timers." This couple has been guiding tours for Adventure Alaska since 1994 and love to share their lifelong experiences in our great 49th state. They both teach all winter so they pack as much as possible into their summers, including hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, camping & exploring.



Chris is a retired sport-fishing guide, having led fine folks for nine years on some of the best salmon streams in South Central Alaska. They enjoy spending time with their two grown children, Katy and Danny...and spoiling little Liam Bureau, their favorite Hope, AK boy!

Sheri Bluestein

After a harrowing summer season leading tours for one of the large, cruise ship organizations in Alaska, Sheri came to us in 2000. Her claim to fame and proudest moment as a guide was officiating the marriage of two passengers during a Day Hiker Adventure.

Aside from 14 seasons in Alaska as a guide, she has also led tours in the Northeast during fall foliage season and in California, and has acted as expedition leader for expeditions in Africa and South America. When she isn't in Alaska, she and her Dutch husband, Michiel (who also supports Adventure Alaska as a multi-faceted sort) work at McMurdo and Palmer Station in Antarctica supporting scientific research.





P. O. Box 64 Hope, AK 99605
(907)782-3730 1-800-365-7057 Fax (907)782-3725
info@AdventureAlaskaTours.com
www.AdventureAlaskaTours.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION

General travel, and depending on the particular tour the activities stated in the itinerary of camping, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking, may involve possible exposure to sun, rain, wind and water, and entails a certain amount of physical exertion. If you have reason to think that recent illness, injury or surgery would affect your participation, please discuss it with your doctor. We request the following information to help safeguard your health, and ask that you provide additional details on a separate sheet if necessary. Please return these forms as quickly as possible - both this Personal Information Form and the accompanying Safety Statement & Release Form are required to be filled out in full by each client before participation on any tour or trip - Thanks for your help!

Name _____ Occupation _____

Trip Length & Dates _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Age _____ Shoe Size (mens) _____

Are you currently under a Doctor's care: _____ If so, for what reasons? _____

Are you allergic to insect bites or bee stings? _____ Are you pregnant? _____

Describe your swimming ability _____

Have you ever had:

- Allergies (food or medication) _____ Asthma _____
- Diabetes _____ High Blood Pressure _____
- Heart Disease _____ Back Problems _____
- Epilepsy _____ Dislocations _____

If yes to any of the above, please explain: _____

Do you have health insurance? _____ What company? _____

How would you describe your health? _____

Are there any limitations on your activities? _____ If so, what are they? _____

Please describe any special dietary requirements: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

PRE-TRIP ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

City of Arrival: _____ Date of Arrival: _____ Time of Arrival: _____

Where are you staying the night before your trip? _____

Phone number of this location (in case we need to contact you): _____

Your cell phone number: _____

Interests/Hobbies: _____

Previous Travel Experience: _____

What factors influenced you to choose our tour company? _____

What are your expectations for this trip? _____

How did you hear about us? (*...it really helps our limited advertising dollars, to know...*)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Past Client Referral _____ | Internet/Web (<i>if you could recall exactly how, that would be great!</i>) |
| Travel Agent _____ | Google _____ search terms: _____ |
| Sierra Magazine _____ | Yahoo _____ search terms: _____ |
| State Vacation Planner _____ | Other _____ |
| Family Adventure Mag _____ | |
| AMC Outdoors _____ | |
| Official Tour Directory _____ | |

Other (please specify): _____

Any suggestions? _____

Thanks for taking the time to give us this information. We look forward to meeting you and being your guide in the Last Frontier! See you soon!



P.O. Box 64 Hope, AK 99605
(907)782-3730 1-800-365-7057 Fax (907)782-2725
info@AdventureAlaskaTours.com
www.AdventureAlaskaTours.com

SAFETY STATEMENT & RELEASE (Please review carefully)

TRIP LENGTH & DATES: _____

I, _____, have asked to participate on a tour or trip given by Adventure Alaska Tours, Inc ("Adventure Alaska"). I understand that Adventure Alaska is only prepared to accept me as a participant on this tour or trip under certain circumstances and if I will make and faithfully adhere to certain representations. I therefore certify to Adventure Alaska for its benefit that:

1. I suffer no disabilities of any nature whatsoever that might impair or interfere with my safe participation on the tour or trip except as I have otherwise disclosed in writing to Adventure Alaska.
2. While on the trip, I will promptly and carefully obey all instructions concerning safe conduct and practices given me by the trip guide, company representative, and/or, his, her, or their assistants.

I understand that travel and wilderness activities all involve certain inherent risks. In the case of road or boat travel these include but are not limited to road and weather conditions, vehicular and marine vessel accidents. In the case of wilderness travel these include but are not limited to inclement weather, wild animals, cold water, illnesses or accidents in remote places, with the consequent inaccessibility to prompt established medical care. Such risks and others, singularly or in combination, may result in my suffering property damage, serious bodily injury, or death.

I understand that in these circumstances Adventure Alaska cannot be the guardian of my safety and I hereby personally assume all of the risks and dangers, whether described herein or not, in connection with the tour or trip in which I will participate. I hereby expressly and irrevocably release Adventure Alaska Tours, Inc., its shareholders, officers, directors, employees, and agents from any claims, expenses, or damages of whatever nature, whether foreseeable or not, that may arise from the tour or trip or related activities, including but not limited to claims resulting from my personal injury, death, property loss, or other damages, whether foreseeable or not. I hereby bind not only myself, but also my estate, heirs, successors and assigns to the terms of this Safety Statement & Release ("Release").

I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital, and I have signed this document as my own free act. I agree to pay all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by Adventure Alaska Tours, Inc., its shareholders, officers, directors, employees, or agents in order to enforce the provisions of this Release.

HAVEFULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE BY READING IT BEFORE SIGNING.

I affirm that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older and legally competent to sign this Release.

Signature _____ Date _____

_____ *under 18 years of age* _____

I affirm that I am _____ years of age and that the individual signing this Release with me is my parent or legal guardian.

Signature _____ Date _____

I affirm that I am the parent or legal guardian of the individual signing this Release immediately above and that I have read and understand the Release and accept same, consent to the above individual's participation on the tour or trip, and agree on my own behalf on behalf of said individual to be bound by the contractual undertakings set forth in this Release.

Signature _____ Date _____



P.O. Box 64 Hope, AK 99605
(907)782-3730 1-800-365-7057 Fax (907)782-3725
www.AdventureAlaskaTours.com

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

Must be returned immediately to complete reservation

Reservation Info:

Tour and/or Lodging Dates: _____ Number in Party: _____

Description of Tour (if applicable): _____ Trip Code: _____

Guest Info:

Printed Name of Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ Email: _____

Card Info:

Note: Total Sale includes a 3.5% credit card handling fee.

Type of Card (please circle): MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

Full Name on Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ 3-Digit Code on back: _____ Amt Authorized: \$ _____

I certify that all of the above information is correct. I hereby authorize Adventure Alaska Tours, Inc. to charge the above amount to my account. I understand that I will forfeit the amount indicated by the cancellation policies outlined below, if I do not adhere to the policies or if I do not show up for my reservation. Lodging reservations will be charged for the full amount of the stay plus the 3% Kenai Borough tax, with a \$100 security deposit authorized upon arrival, but charged only in the case of damages.

Cardholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cancellation Policies:

Due to the very short Alaskan season, cancellation of confirmed reservations is subject to a fee to cover administrative costs and lost booking opportunities. Cancellations must be received in writing, with the fee subject to the date we receive cancellation prior to the trip departure or the earliest reserved lodging date. A cancellation code will be provided at that time which must be retained as proof of cancellation.

Those uncertain of meeting these conditions may want to consider traveler's insurance

Lodging Cancellation Policy

Anytime after booking ----- \$15
Within 72 hours of reservation ----- 100% non-refundable
Note: \$100 security deposit authorized upon arrival

Tour Cancellation Policy

Anytime after booking ----- \$100/person
90 - 61 days before trip departure ----- deposit forfeiture
60 - 31 days ----- 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days ----- 100% non-refundable



Adventure Alaska Tours, Inc.

P.O. Box 64

Hope, Alaska 99605

Toll-free: (800) 365-7057

Phone: (907) 782-3730

Fax: (907) 782-3725

Email: info@adventurealaskatours.com