

14 DAY ALASKA, WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS

DESTINATIONS

—

ANCHORAGE

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Anchorage
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Welcome to Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska with only 300,000 people. Now a bustling city fuelled by the oil boom and tourism, it wasn't that long ago that Anchorage was the final outpost before heading into the 'Last Frontier'. It's not uncommon to find bear roaming the outskirts of the city - this is one truly wild place. A great way to spend your day is to wander around town getting a feel for the 49th state, speaking to the locals and checking out some of the great cafes and restaurants. A welcome meeting will be held at 18:00 hrs, for you to meet your tour leader and fellow travelling companions.

DAY 2

Destination	Anchorage 🚌 Talkeetna 🚌 Denali National Park
Meals included	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Leaving Anchorage, you enter the wilderness pretty much instantly and make your way towards Talkeetna where you stop for the opportunity to try a local delicacy, reindeer sausage, before arriving in Denali National Park. Home to the highest mountain in North America, legendary Mount Denali (6,194m), the park covers six million acres and houses some of the most unspoiled wilderness and spectacular scenery in the whole of Alaska.

DAY 3

Destination	Denali National Park
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy two full days exploring the park with an included bus pass - the only way to get out into the incredible (and vast) wilderness. Try to spot Alaska's 'Big Five'; Caribou, Dall Sheep, moose, Grizzly Bears and wolves. Denali is one of the only national parks where you are encouraged to find your own path off the trails, great for those of you looking for pure unadulterated adventure. There are plenty of optional walks and activities in Denali or you can take to the skies on a scenic (and highly recommended) glacier landing helicopter flight. As the trails are wild and unmarked, the hiking opportunities are endless. Your tour leader will suggest some local spots of scenic beauty and the best spots to view wildlife.

DAY 4

Destination	Denali National Park
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy two full days exploring the park with an included bus pass - the only way to get out into the incredible (and vast) wilderness. Try to spot Alaska's 'Big Five'; Caribou, Dall Sheep, moose, Grizzly Bears and wolves. Denali is one of the only national parks where you are encouraged to find your own path off the trails, great for those of you looking for pure unadulterated adventure. There are plenty of optional walks and activities in Denali or you can take to the skies on a

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY

scenic (and highly recommended) glacier landing helicopter flight. As the trails are wild and unmarked, the hiking opportunities are endless. Your tour leader will suggest some local spots of scenic beauty and the best spots to view wildlife.

DAY 5

Destination	Denali National Park 🚚 Alaska Range
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

Head into the heart of the Alaska Range to spend the night in local cabins at Maclaren Lodge. With spectacular views of the surrounding valley this rustic lodge provides the ideal setting for an authentic Alaskan experience. Although rooms are basic bunkhouse style, its remote location is something to savour with the chance to look out for grazing caribou near the quiet lakes of the tundra. This is also a birder's paradise with many species often sighted.

DAY 6

Destination	Alaska Range 🚚 Wrangell-St Elias National Park
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

The scenery keeps on coming thick and fast, and today is no different. Drive through the dramatic Copper River Valley and stop for a short walk on the Liberty Falls Trail, just off the Edgerton Highway en route to the small town of McCarthy (population 40 in the summer, 17 the remainder of the year). This quaint settlement at the centre of a mass of mountains, glaciers and wilderness will be your base to explore Wrangell-St Elias for the next two nights. Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve contains nine of the sixteen highest peaks in the United States, including the second highest, Mount. St. Elias (5,488m), and is the most glaciated region in the North American continent.

DAY 7

Destination	Wrangell-St Elias National Park
Meals included	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

You'll discover an imposing area of glaciers, mountains, forest and wilderness, with wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities. Dall Sheep, mountain goats, caribou, moose, Grizzly and Black Bears are just some of the parks inhabitants. An optional experience, and highly recommended, is the chance to fix crampons to your boots and hike around the Root Glacier, exploring its deep blue pools and carved ice shapes.

DAY 8

Destination	Wrangell-St Elias National Park 🚚 Valdez
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY


Your journey continues towards Valdez, passing through the Chugach Range. On the rivers, fish wheels have been built to catch salmon migrating upstream to spawn. Stop at the famous Worthington Glacier, adjacent to the Thompson Pass, for a short walk. Explore the busy seaside town of Valdez, a return to civilisation after the mountainous isolation of McCarthy.

DAY 9

Destination	Valdez
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Valdez is a new town, as a major earthquake destroyed the old one in 1964. There are various hiking trails in and around Valdez such as the Mineral Creek Trail or the Keystone Canyon Pack Trail. You can also visit the historical museum to learn about the native culture, gold rush history and the famous pipeline. Why not opt for a sea kayaking excursion to get up close to the glacier?

DAY 10

Destination	Valdez  Seward
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


Board the Alaska state ferry, leaving Valdez behind and crossing Prince William Sound to reach Whittier. The views of the mountains, bays, fjords and glaciers are unforgettable and the water is home to a unique array of marine life, Harbour Seals and sea lions. On arrival, explore the small fishing town of Seward. In its past life, Seward was a railroad port which means there is now plenty of great shopping and a picturesque old-time downtown area.

DAY 11

Destination	Seward
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

Set off on a full day wildlife viewing cruise around Resurrection Bay and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. To maximise your experience on board your guide will give a detailed commentary on the wildlife you see and the local area. On previous trips, travellers have spotted sea lions, otters, Dall's Porpoise and an endless variety of seabirds including puffins and eagles. Orcas are often spotted and if you're lucky, Humpback Whales can also be seen! Enjoy an included fresh salmon and prime rib lunch on board (vegetarian options available).

DAY 12

Destination	Seward  Kenai Fjords National Park
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

The staggeringly beautiful Kenai Fjords National Park offers wonderful wildlife and bird watching opportunities amidst dramatic fjords and glaciers. Within the park is the huge Harding Icefield, claiming 300 square miles in its entirety. If weather conditions permit, take a spectacular walk from Exit Glacier to the Harding Icefield for views of deep crevasses and huge seracs. At an elevation of 900m you will eventually reach a lookout point over the icefield and the views will

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY

be out of this world. The walk is strenuous and entirely dependent on weather conditions; if there is too much snow and ice on the trail, it may be impassable. There's an easier option available if you prefer, using an accessible trail to reach a different viewpoint of the glacier.

DAY 13

Destination	Kenai Fjords National Park 🚗 Soldotna
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Head to Soldotna, your launch site for the bear float plane activity. Float planes are a way of life for many of the more remote Alaskan communities, particularly those who still have no road access and too little space amongst the mountains to build runways. Float planes generally seat a maximum of 10 people and you'll take to the air for a beautiful flight across the Cook Inlet. Land in the Big River Lakes area and transfer to the waiting boats to explore the river and lake system keeping your eyes open for bears. The lakes are just on the fringe of the Lake Clark Park and Wilderness Reserve but a long way from any roads and civilisation and the chance of bear sightings is excellent; you can usually see Brown (Grizzly) or Black Bears here. You may see thousands of salmon pushing upstream to spawn and if you're lucky, you'll see bears catching and feeding upon them. This is Alaska at its best, almost completely untouched wilderness with a backdrop of ice-clad mountains and active volcanoes.

DAY 14

Destination	Soldotna 🚗 Alyeska 🚗 Anchorage
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast and packing up camp, you'll drive for a couple of hours to Alyeska in the Chugach Mountain Range which is ideal for a final wilderness walk before returning to the state's capital, Anchorage. Containing around half the population of the state, Anchorage in some ways looks just like any other sprawling American town and after nearly two weeks in the small towns and villages the bustling streets of the city will feel somewhat different. Explore the art galleries and craft shops where you can see the beautiful Eskimo handicrafts being made.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We recommend booking post-tour accommodation if time allows. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

Services of a professional tour leader and specialist guides
All transportation by private vehicle, floatplane, ferry and cruise
11 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 10 dinners
Wilderness float plane trip to search for bears and opportunity to witness the salmon run
Scenic ferry journey through Prince William Sound
Full day wildlife cruise in Kenai Fjords National Park with salmon or prime rib lunch
Two full days exploring Denali National Park with bus pass
Impressive hikes in the foothills of Mount Denali
Hike around the ranges of Wrangell-St Elias National Park
Incredible hiking including the Harding Icefield Trail
Visit the magnificent Worthington Glacier
Endless wildlife viewing and hiking opportunities
Wine and cheese 'Sundowner' in an area of natural beauty
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

"Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$400 deposit per person.

Pay a 2nd instalment of \$530 per person within 28 days.

You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)

Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected

Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests

Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab

Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)

Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking

Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur"

TOUR ITINERARY

OPTIONAL TOURS

Day 1:

Alaska Native Heritage Center US\$25

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center US\$15

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail US\$free

Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum US\$10

Day 2:

Denali scenic flight US\$524

Dogsled demonstration in Denali US\$free

Mountain biking in Denali, US\$20-\$57

Whitewater rafting in Denali US\$92-\$187

Day 5:

Canoeing (unescorted) US\$50-\$65

Day 7:

Ghost Town tour - Kennecott Copper Mill US\$28

Scenic flight US\$120-\$270

Day 8/9:

Valdez Sea Kayaking US\$259

Day 13:

Fishing with licence US\$50

EXCLUSIONS

Airfares

Personal Expenses

Travel Insurance

Optional activities

Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

HOTEL LIST

Anchorage - Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites

Denali - Camping

Alaska Range - Maclaren River Lodge (or similar) - multi share cabin

Wrangell-St Elias - Camping

Valdez - Camping

Seward - Camping

Kenai Fjords National Park - Camping

Soldotna - Camping

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra \$4,006 subject to availability.

Triple Share

Not available.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.