

“ALASKA LOCOMOTIVE HIGHLIGHTS”

Customized 7-Day / 6-Night Adventure

... featuring Fairbanks, Riverboat, Arctic Circle flightseeing, Denali National Park, Wildlife, Glacier Viewing & Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise!!

Alaska has called to you for years as the vacation of your dreams! How do you ensure your adventure will discover all the “secrets” of Alaska?

DAY ONE

FAIRBANKS: Upon arrival in Fairbanks, pick up the courtesy phones in the baggage claim area and call for your courtesy shuttle to your overnight accommodations. Enjoy the almost 20 hours of daylight Fairbanks has to offer in the summer months.

Rest up this evening, as your adventure begins tomorrow morning with an exciting Riverboat cruise on the Chena River.

DAY TWO

FAIRBANKS: Welcome aboard the Discovery III, an authentic sternwheeler riverboat. Your three-and-a-half hour cruise will take you into the heart of Alaska. You will see a bush plane taking off from a “bush” style runway, witness the “wedding of the rivers,” and gain insight into the ancient Athabascan Indian culture. Alaskan Native guides who have lived and worked in Alaska will take you on a personalized tour of the Chena Indian Village. Passenger comfort is a top priority. Three of the Discovery III’s decks are heated and fully enclosed with glass windows, and the fourth is an open-air sun deck. Two full-service snack bars offer a variety of fresh homemade Sourdough sandwiches, Captain Jim’s famous smoked salmon chowder, drinks, and snacks.

This afternoon embark on a truly spectacular tour of the Arctic by Air.

ARCTIC CIRCLE: Alaska’s Arctic is one of the last great wilderness regions on earth. It is a remote, wild, and unpopulated land of vast wilderness expanses. Travel in Alaska’s Arctic is always an adventure. Northern Alaska Tour Company prides itself in its reputation for providing a high quality travel experience which “smoothes out” the “rough edges” of travel in Alaska’s Arctic. Yet it is the spirit of you the adventurer which is unquestionably the key to making the most of today’s travel experience. Travel in Alaska’s Arctic is not for everyone. If you are young at heart, adventurous, have a desire to learn, to explore new territories, and to seek out new experiences, you are certain to come away from today’s experience with a deeper understanding of the culture, greater appreciation of the natural history, and wonderful memories of time spent in Alaska’s Arctic. that is the spirit of Alaska’s Arctic.

Tour Highlights:

- Travel north from Fairbanks and wonder at the story of the vast and remote land below.
- Witness remnants of the gold mining that continues nearly 100 years after the yellow metal first brought new comers rushing north.
- View the remarkable Trans Alaska Pipeline, symbolizing the immense changes brought to Alaska's Arctic by the discovery of oil over 30 years ago.
- Fly over the expansive Yukon River Valley, home of traditional peoples that sustain their lifestyle and culture as they have for thousands of years.
- Thrill at the excitement of crossing the Arctic Circle.
- Experience the rugged and magnificent Brooks Mountain Range as the flight route passes just south of the Gates of the Arctic National Park.
- Participate in a ceremonious Arctic Circle landing at a wilderness community on the Middle Fork Koyukuk River and receive an official Arctic Circle Adventure Certificate.
- Enjoy an orientation and learn the fascinating story of the surrounding Brooks Range wilderness.

This evening you will have continued Fairbanks overnight accommodations

DAY THREE

FAIRBANKS: This morning, enjoy your breakfast and get ready to travel to Denali National Park on the Denali Star. The Alaska Railroad's flagship train links Fairbanks to Anchorage with stops in Denali National Park, Talkeetna and Wasilla. On this route, sparkling salmon streams and stands of birch and spruce come into view, while carpets of fireweed add dramatic purple to the landscape.

Today, based on your package (MODERATE OR DELUXE),

.....if you booked the DELUXE package, you will board your First Class Gold Star glass-domed train..

.....if you booked the QUALITY package, you will board your vintage Adventure Class rail cars.

Adventure class moderate package passengers are seated on the first level of the train. They have access to a vista dome car, but there is no assigned seating in that dome. Passengers may visit the vista dome car for about 20 minutes at a time, to allow other passengers to sit in the dome. Adventure class passengers may walk through all of the Adventure cars, but may not enter the GoldStar dome.

Passengers that purchase the GoldStar deluxe package receive priority check-in at select depots and are seated on the second level of our two-story fully-domed car. GoldStar passengers will ride in the newest and most luxurious, double-decked dome cars on the train. These cars are positioned near the front of the train with the best views from the upper level outdoor viewing platform. This is the only railcar ever built with an upper level outdoor deck. GoldStar passengers receive complimentary non-alcoholic beverages

throughout the trip, and two drinks of beer, wine and spirits at the private bar located on the upper level of the GoldStar car. GoldStar passengers also have access to an open air, glass-roofed, viewing deck on the upper level to the rear of the car, and have priority seating in the dining car which is located directly below them on the first level. GoldStar passengers may walk through all of the Alaska Railroad cars and have access to the Adventure class dining area. Upon arrival in Denali you will take the shuttle to your overnight accommodations.

DENALI: Spend the afternoon in Denali National Park. You will have time for additional optional activities, time to explore the Wilderness Access Center or speak to the Park Rangers at the Visitor's Center. Local shopping is available as well. This evening enjoy Cabin Nite Dinner Theater. Fannie Quigley and her group of unforgettable characters treat you to hilarious stories of the Gold Rush featuring foot-stompin', knee-slapping music. The all-you-can-eat, family style meal is sure to please. Feast on salmon, BBQ ribs, corn on the cob, baked beans, sour dough rolls and tasty dessert. Tonight relax at your Denali accommodations.

DAY FOUR

DENALI NATIONAL PARK: Everything about Denali National Park is big: the scenery, the mountains, the incredible beauty, and the animals. Early this morning, you will embark on a 12 hour fully guided and narrated motorcoach tour of Denali National Park, an excellent way to spot the wildlife for which Alaska is so famous: moose, bear, wolves, caribou, Dall sheep. This is the only way to enter the park, as it is a preserve. So bring your camera and binoculars. Lunch is included.

Mount McKinley National Park was established in 1917 to protect its large mammals, not because of majestic Mt. McKinley. In 1980, the boundary was expanded to include both the Denali caribou herds wintering and calving ground and the entire Mt. McKinley massif. This more than tripled the size of the park, and was renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. It was also designated an International Biosphere Reserve significant for the potential for sub-arctic ecosystem research.

Denali is an Athabascan word meaning The High One. The mountain is officially named Mt. McKinley but is also referred to as Denali. Mt. McKinley is the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet. It creates its own weather system and is often covered in clouds. Mt. McKinley is only visible about 1/3 of the time, so visitors to the park only have about a 30% chance of viewing Mt. McKinley.

Denali is one of the greatest wildlife viewing areas in the world. Visitors have a chance of seeing grizzly bears, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, foxes, and wolves. Many smaller animals also inhabit the park such as arctic ground squirrels, hoary marmots, pikas, snowshoe hares, and beavers. For those interested in bird watching, there are a variety of birds that migrate to the park for the summer. The list includes arctic tern, American golden plover, long tailed jaegers, the surfbird, arctic warbler, the wheatear, willow ptarmigan,

golden eagles, and ravens. Approximately 150 species live in and around the Denali area during the summer months.

Enjoy continued overnight accommodations at Denali National Park entrance area.

DAY FIVE

DENALI: Enjoy a leisurely morning at Denali National Park. Optional activities are available to purchase or you can enjoy one of the many park trails for hiking, the local shops for souvenir purchases or rafting the mighty Nenana River. Ask your tour coordinator for details.

Today, based on your package (MODERATE OR DELUXE),

.....if you booked the DELUXE package, you will board your First Class Gold Star glass-domed train..

.....if you booked the QUALITY package, you will board your vintage Adventure Class rail cars.

This afternoon at 12:00 PM, board your Anchorage bound Gold Star train. Check in at the Denali Train Depot no later than 11:15 AM. Your hotel will provide shuttle service upon request.

ANCHORAGE: You will arrive in Anchorage at approximately 8:00 pm at the Downtown Anchorage Train Depot. (Your Anchorage hotel, will provide shuttle service upon request.) Relax and enjoy your overnight accommodations in Anchorage.

DAY SIX

WHITTIER: This morning, you will board the Alaska Railroad's "Glacier Discovery" train for your scenic ride to the port town of Whittier. You will travel through Anchorage to the Turnagain Arm. As you make your way to Portage Valley, keep your eyes out as you pass Windy Point, one of the best spots to see mountain goats and magnificent Dall Sheep. Finally travel the longest highway tunnel in North America, the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel. A unique design that enables a single lane of traffic to travel directly over the railroad track saved tens of millions of dollars over the cost of constructing a new tunnel. At the other end is the quaint little fishing town of Whittier.

This afternoon aboard your Prince William Sound day cruise, explore the untamed wilderness and calm waters of magnificent Prince William Sound. Cruise spectacular Esther Passage before exploring the numerous glaciers in Harriman Fjord and Barry Arm. Visit a working salmon hatchery and view the marine animals and birds that flourish in these waters. A delicious King Crab cake lunch is provided. After your

cruise, return to the train depot for an evening transfer to Girdwood. Tonight enjoy comfortable accommodations in Girdwood.

DAY SEVEN

GIRDWOOD: This morning, you will depart on a "Guided Nature Hike". The Winner Creek Trail, (part of the Historic Iditarod Trail), in the lush Rainforest of Girdwood is a wonderful hike and a memorable experience for everyone. A guided hike is different from hiking the trail on your own; the naturalist guides are knowledgeable, funny and will explain at least 3 things you have never heard before!!

Rainforest in Alaska? Passing through North America's Northern most rainforest, the Winner Creek trail has gentle, graded, maintained sections with boardwalks as well as plenty of rugged, rooty sections of trail. This 5 mile "out and back" hike takes about 2-3 hours and includes rain gear (if necessary), a snack, natural interpretation, bear protection and a friendly guide. Trips start and finish from a Yurt at the Hotel Alyeska. Your naturalist guide will point out and discuss the flora and fauna of North America's northern-most temperate rainforest. You may even see a moose or a bear!

GIRDWOOD UPGRADE: GLACIER DOGSLED TOUR

•This Alaskan adventure is hard to top! Take this exciting opportunity to learn about the dedicated dog sled teams of the Alaskan Huskies. Enjoy a spectacular helicopter ride into the majestic Chugach Mountains and onto Punch Bowl Glacier, 3200 feet above sea level. It is a giant snowfield consisting of 700ft of snow on top of 500ft of ice. Learn how the dogs are bred. Relax and enjoy the view as you ride on the sled around the glacier enjoying the scenic peaks and valleys surrounding you, see how the dogs are trained to pull the sled, and how they have this everlasting endurance, how they possess an inherent drive to run, and if you pull on the brakes it's still hard to hold them back.

Dog Sledding with Alaskan Huskies is such a large part of Alaskan life and history, the Iditarod Trail started out as a mail and supply route from the towns of Seward and Knik to the interior, and part of the Iditarod trail was used as a life saving highway for epidemic stricken Nome, where sled dogs were used to deliver Serum in 1925 to cure Diphtheria. It is now the famous "Last Great Race on Earth" where Dogs, Sleds and their Musher's leave from Anchorage to Nome, each with a team of 12-16 Dogs on a journey of 1150 in 10-17 days. If you have never followed this race before, after experiencing this tour, I know you will be in awe of this great race and sport! **UPGRADE: \$ Ask your Tour Coordinator for details.**

- PLEASE make sure your camera battery is full!
- Please dress in layers, expect temperatures on the glacier to be from 50°- 60°.
- Wear warm comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes, and sunglasses.
- We will provide you with a waterproof outer layer and Neos over boots.

GIRDWOOD UPGRADE TWO: ALPINE GLACIER HIKE

•Today offers you the opportunity to experience a snow covered glacier and learn about basic mountaineering up close and personal on this 3+ hour alpine hiking day tour! The small Alyeska Glacier is nestled in Glacier Bowl above Alyeska Ski Resort in the Chugach Mountains. You will hike in awe, overlooking breathtaking views of the Turnagain Arm and towering alpine peaks. Traveling on a glacier during the Alaskan Midnight Sun is an amazing and educational experience.

Trips depart three times daily from our Yurt at the base of the Alyeska Resort Tramway in the beautiful Girdwood Valley. After introductions, gear selection and a brief trip explanation, you ride the Tram 2,300' to the Glacier Express Lodge on Mt. Alyeska.

From the upper mountain Glacier Express, you hike a scenic ridgeline with outstanding views of the 7 Glaciers in the Girdwood Valley. On the 45 minute hike to the glacier, you will make several photo & rest stops to learn about interesting local wildlife and history. In totality, you hike for 3-4 hours for a distance of 1 mile round trip with an 800 foot elevation gain. At the Glaciers' edge you gear up with climbing harnesses, ropes and/or crampons and NEOS over-boots. All groups learn about glacier travel and will travel out onto the glacier itself. **UPGRADE: \$ Ask your Tour Coordinator for details.**

This afternoon you'll transfer from Girdwood to Anchorage International Airport. Flights should not depart prior to 5:00 PM.

As your adventure comes to a close, you will have gained memories that will last a lifetime. Once you have arrived in Anchorage, you can go to the airport or you can add a post-night hotel if you wish to stay in Anchorage for the evening and catch a flight the following day.

Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities including flight seeing, glacier cruises, river boats, etc. (unless stated as optional), and complimentary beverages onboard. Rates do NOT include meals, gratuities, bed tax, alcoholic beverages, or optional activities not listed. Itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the escort due to weather, road maintenance & time factors. Single supplement is \$699 pp. 50% Deposit is due at time of booking. 100% Final Payment is due Feb 15, 2015 or at time of booking. Booking made after final payment date, are due in full. **Cancellations will incur full 100% penalty. Travel insurance is available. Ask your agent for any discounts that may apply to your tour date.*

Travel Insurance: If you become ill or injured prior to or during one of our adventures, we will do everything we can to help, but any and all expenses for cancellation, care or evacuation are entirely your responsibility. Trip delays such as road closures, floods, mechanical breakdowns or backcountry injury may cause you to miss your flight home, your hotel reservations or your next activity. Our tours are non-refundable. Travel insurance is available. It is your choice to accept the risk of not purchasing insurance. We like personal choice! But thanks for understanding our perspective if something happens.

***Accommodations are chosen at time of booking. They can vary from private cabins to hotels or lodges based on availability and block space. They all include private bathrooms. Quality package properties available in Anchorage are properties similar to Comfort Inn. Deluxe package properties are similar to Embassy Suites. In smaller towns, all package properties will be quality 3-4 star, local lodging, and the same for both moderate & deluxe packages. Some properties offer jacuzzi jetted tubs. Ask your agent at booking.*