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? Choose from one of our wilderness adventures and experience the depth of Alaska’s interior. Far from the coast, our local resident experts will treat you to the history & lore of Alaska.

Our tours combine the frontier spirit of this untamed land, the natural wonders and habitat of bear, moose, caribou and more. Choose from whitewater rafting, flightseeing, glacier hiking, wildlife tours, river jet boats, day cruises and more. From Anchorage to Denali National Park, St. Elias to Valdez, premium service is combined with Alaskan hospitality all the way!

DAY ONE:

ANCHORAGE: Upon arrival in Anchorage, transfer to your moderate Anchorage accommodations, where they will hold your bags until your room is open later in the day. Consider enjoying a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Complimentary transportation is available from downtown at your convenience. General Admission tickets are available. UPGRADE $ Ask your Tour Coordinator for details.

ALASKA NATIVE HISTORY: Travel across town to the spectacular Native Heritage Center, a renowned cultural center and museum, an exciting place where all people can come to expand their understanding of Alaska’s first people. Here we share the rich heritage of Alaska’s eleven cultural groups drawing upon the life ways of long ago, the wisdom of our elders, and the traditions that endure.

The Welcome House is a celebration of contemporary Alaska Native cultures while the outdoor facilities and sites allow the exploration of ancient tradition and the presentation of stories from the past. The Center provides a unique opportunity to experience Alaska's many diverse Native cultures at one location. In facilitating the transmission of Alaska Native knowledge, heritage and tradition, the Center promotes self-esteem and pride among Alaska Natives. The Alaska Native Heritage Center improves understanding among all Alaskans and encourages appreciation of Alaska Native people and their traditions, history, and contributions to Alaska. This evening, check-in at an Anchorage hotel and enjoy dinner at one of the many downtown restaurants.

DAY TWO:
TALKEETNA: Rise & Shine to catch an early courtesy hotel shuttle across the street to the Alaska Railway Station. Continental breakfast is available at your hotel, and there is a dining car aboard the train for a cooked breakfast to purchase. This morning your Alaska Railroad Train Tour departs at 8:15 AM. Please make sure you are there by 7:15 AM. Rise & Shine to catch an early courtesy hotel shuttle across the street to the Alaska Railway Station. Continental breakfast is available at your hotel, and there is a dining car aboard the train for a cooked breakfast to purchase. This morning your Alaska Railroad Train Tour departs at 8:15 AM. Please make sure you are there by 7:15 AM.

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.

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad’s flagship train links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna and Denali Park. 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.

This afternoon will present one of many highlights of your adventure. Talkeetna is a local town sporting the most photographed scenes in our state, the towering peaks of Mt. McKinley & the Alaska mountain range. Only 1 ½ hours north, this town is a hub of international mountain climbers. Upon arrival in Talkeetna at noon, a courtesy shuttle will take you to your lodging, to check-in and drop your luggage before your flightseeing adventure for the afternoon. Lunch is available at your lodge in any of their restaurants or at several bistro style shops in town.
DENALI FLIGHTSEEING & GLACIER LANDING 3 PM:
This magnificent flight takes you within six miles of Mt. McKinley’s summit. As your flight departs Talkeetna, you begin to see how the last ice age has shaped the land. Moments later you enter a world of rugged high mountain peaks and wide glacier filled valleys. Listen as your pilot describes the natural wonders of Denali National Park. See the Sheldon Amphitheater, beautiful Ruth Glacier, and the Great Gorge (the world's deepest – almost 2 miles from top to bottom).

"No visit is complete without this experience!" Land on the Sheldon Amphitheatre glacier beneath Mt. McKinley. The aircraft is equipped with skis, floats, and voice activated headphones. Passengers, each with comfortable window seats, enjoy narration by an experienced pilot-guide highlighting points of interest including geology, wildlife, and history. Flight time is 1.5 hrs and includes a glacier landing.

DAY THREE:

DENALI NATIONAL PARK: This morning is at your leisure in Talkeetna. Consider a hike along the river or enjoy the local museums. Shops also offer fine art, as well as local arts and crafts. Upon check-out of your lodge, a courtesy shuttle will take you to the Alaska Rail Station for your continued adventure to Denali National Park.

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Crossing over have your cameras ready. The vistas are breathtaking.

Upon arrival in Denali National Park, your hotel will have a courtesy transfer for you at the rail station to take you and your luggage to your hotel room for check-in. Be sure to do this in a timely manner, as this evening, we have your white water raft adventure lined up at 6:30 PM.

Hang on! It's whitewater ahead! You'll get wet and enjoy every minute of it as we head for Healy, 11 miles downriver. Get into real white water rafting as you hang on through thrilling rapids such as “Cable Car”, “Coffee Grinder”, and “Ice Worm”! You have your choice of Oar Rafts or Paddle Rafts (must have 5 participants to paddle).

Departure details will be provided in your final itinerary. Overnight in the Denali National Park area at your overnight lodging.
DAY FOUR:

DENALI: Everything about Denali National Park is big: the scenery, the mountains, the incredible beauty, and the animals. Early this morning, you will embark on the Denali Park Shuttle Tour, an excellent way to spot the wildlife for which Alaska is so famous: moose, bear, wolves, caribou, Dall sheep.

It is a fascinating 6 to 8 hour motorcoach tour into the park. This is the only way to enter the park, as it is a preserve. So bring your camera and binoculars. Be sure to pack a picnic lunch and beverage as there are no services in the park. These can be purchased at several of the local restaurants the night before, at your hotel or at the local grocery, Canyon Market & Cafe.

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, so often covered in clouds. It 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. This evening is at your leisure, you can choose to have dinner at area restaurants. Overnight again at your Denali lodging.

DAY FIVE:

DENALI NATIONAL PARK: This morning is a great opportunity to catch up on your sleep and then get ready for your morning adventure.

This morning's adventure will take you on a Jet Boat Safari ride. Your Jet Boat Safari trip is fully guided by experts familiar with Alaska Living - prospecting, trapping, artistry, hunting, and living off this land of extremes. Operated in a heated jet boat, it heads into the "bush", where locals share hunting, prospecting,
trapping and dog mushing lore on the Nenana River. There is a good chance of getting a great close-up view of some of the "locals". Alaskan wildlife viewing opportunities are plentiful - our guests have spotted moose, grizzly bear, ptarmigan, eagles, and more!

At the conclusion of your 3 hour tour, you will be transferred back to your Denali hotel.

This afternoon sports another Denali adventure, a fun filled ATV adventure! Whether a novice or expert ATV'er, this tour will be a memorable ride in the scenic Alaskan wilderness on your own Single or Side by Side ATV. You will ride on several terrain types - coal mining trails, rocky creek beds, hill climbing, water and mud crossings, so come dressed for the day. Total tour covers about 10 miles, with approx. 1 ½ hours on the trails.

Photo stops along scenic vistas provide the perfect opportunity to soak in the beauty that surrounds you here, just outside Denali National Park. Your guides are locals, so ask about great hiking areas and area restaurants! Overnight again at your Denali lodging.

**DAY SIX:**

**DENALI:** Today offers a morning at your leisure in Denali National Park. With every vacation, one needs a bit of down time. Today is that day. Here you can choose to participate in free activities of the park. Many of our guests choose to visit the Denali National Park Visitor's Center and all it has to offer, from Alaskan movies to guided ranger hikes & ranger talks.

Get out there and enjoy the great trail system in the park, starting at the Visitor Center. Discover the Muir Science Center and the great geology and wildlife of the park. All these activities have no charge. A cafe is available right next to the Park Visitor Center as well as a theater, bookstore and more.

This afternoon at 2 PM, board your Anchorage bound motor coach. Pick-up is at the Denali Train Depot at 2 pm. Your hotel will provide shuttle service upon request. Have your cameras ready for a new vantage on your return to Anchorage.

**ANCHORAGE:** Upon arrival in Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center at 7:45 PM, a transfer to your moderate Anchorage hotel for an evening of leisure. Your moderate Anchorage hotel will provide shuttle service from this drop off area.

Located in Southcentral Alaska on the shores of Cook Inlet, the Municipality of Anchorage is a unique urban environment situated in the heart of the wilderness. There's a special mystique to Alaska. The name conjures up adventure, raw natural beauty — glaciers, mountains and seas, unmatched the world around — fascinating wildlife, a unique cultural heritage, and independent, pioneering people. Here you will find
four-star restaurants and small cafes, an outstanding Museum of History and Art and a multitude of other fun activities.

Enjoy downtown shopping at any of the artist hot spots, or relax and enjoy the nightlife of Anchorage, “the city of lights”. Infamous restaurants dot the downtown area and offer wonderful opportunities to enjoy fresh salmon to prime rib. Be sure to get to sleep early, as tomorrow is early to rise.

**DAY SEVEN:**

**KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK:** Today experience a unique part of Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula! Ride the rail THAT IS AMONG THE MOST SPECTACULAR TRIPS IN THE WORLD. Travel through mountainous passes full of wonder, south to the port city of Seward. The train travels along the magnificent Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet, through mountains and tunnels, over gorges, and within a mile of three majestic glaciers – Spencer, Bartlett and Trail.

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**RESURRECTION BAY:** Today’s all inclusive adventure begins with a cruise through Kenai Fjords National Park, “Alaska's # 1 Wildlife and Glacier Cruise”. These custom vessels have walk around viewing decks and inside seating with large picture windows for great viewing of the close-up glacier experience.

Wildlife and marine life is abundant throughout. Listen to narration provided by our experienced Captains and Crew. Kenai Fjords Tours’ wildlife and glacier cruises take you deep into the heart of the Kenai Fjords National Park. An incredible abundance of marine and land-based wildlife –whales, porpoise, Steller sea lion, along with more than 80 different species of birds make Kenai Fjords National Park their home. Enjoy a diverse array of sights, from rugged coastline to emerging rainforests and calving glaciers. Lunch is included with your tour.

Upon disembarking this evening, relax at your Seward accommodations.

**DAY EIGHT:**

**EXIT GLACIER:** Today you have flexible time on your own to see the many sights of Seward. Consider a visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center downtown or a walk along the small boat harbor. Hiking at Mt. Marathon is another option. This afternoon, be back to your lodge, for your 12:30 PM Adventure.
Exit Glacier Tour: Head out to Exit Glacier, a major attraction of Kenai Fjords National Park. Enjoy a short walk along the nature trail that takes you to the face of the glacial ice. Watch for mountain goats, moose or bear on the mountainside. During runs, see salmon swimming upstream to spawn. Exit Glacier flows from the 300-square-mile Harding Icefield, and visitors can approach the towering glacier face on a one-half mile footpath. The glacier is one of several that branches downward from the Harding ice field – a massive field of ice spanning the peaks of several mountains. Exit Glacier flows from the ice field down through two mountains where it creates a small river from its glacial melt.

The Harding Icefield Trail is 8-miles roundtrip with a 3500’ elevation gain to overlook the icefield which is the source of Exit Glacier (and others). This trail starts at the foot of the glacier and follows the flank upwards. Really get into the spirit of Alaska! (This trail hike is not included in the tour, but available to do on your own.)

Then this evening, your return motorcoach to Anchorage begins at 6:30 PM, and arrives in Anchorage at 9:30 PM. As your adventure comes to a close, you will have gained memories that will last a lifetime. With this amount of flexibility, you can customize your tour just as you always dreamed!

*Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities based on the package purchased. (unless stated as optional,. Rates DO NOT include meals, gratuities, tax, fuel supplement if applicable, alcoholic beverages, or optional activities not listed. Itinerary is subject to change at our discretion. Single supplement is applicable. 25% Deposit is due at time of booking. 50% is subsequently due on Nov 15, 2014. 100% Final Payment is due Feb 15, 2015. Bookings after Feb 2015 are due in full at time of booking. Cancellations will incur full 100% penalty. Travel insurance is available. AAU reserves rights to alter 2015 rates/itinerary due to extreme changes in economic/weather conditions.

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, no chain hotels, and the same for both moderate & deluxe packages. Some properties offer jacuzzi jetted tubs. Ask your agent at booking.