

# 7-Day Denali Fall Colors



Alaska has called to you for years--the vacation of your dreams! Our 7-Day Denali Fall Colors Tour captures the beauty of the changing seasons as you travel from Fairbanks down to Seward. You'll have breathtaking views as you follow the changing colors. Seasoned Alaskan guides take you deep into our great state and accompany you through areas full of wild beauty. Your knowledgeable guide serves as historian and personal concierge, ensuring that every aspect of your journey is effortless. This unique tour introduces you to the frontier spirit of this untamed land by showing you its natural wonders; the habitats of bear, moose, caribou, and other animals native to Alaska; and much more. Choose from whitewater rafting, flightseeing, glacier hiking, wildlife tours, river jet boats, day cruises and many other activities. From Fairbanks to Denali National Park, to the Matanuska Valley to Seward, stay in unique charming chalets and other lodgings with all the magnificence of Alaska at your doorstep. You always get premium service combined with Alaskan hospitality throughout the entirety of your journey. Our luxury private transport service is customized with leather captain's chairs, full bay picture windows, complete narration from your guides, and complimentary soft drinks and water. Our intimate tours are also limited to 14 guests.

Our tour includes:

- 7 days/ 6 nights accommodations
- A long-time Alaskan resident who serves as both driver and guide
- Small group tour (no more than 14 people)
- Luxury private transport for 5 days in an executive mini-coach with leather captain's chairs
- Scenic railroad transport to Seward
- A boxed dinner, one lunch, and breakfast (depending on accommodations)







## 7-Day Denali Fall Colors

### Pre-Night\* Welcome to Alaska!

Rest up for the start of tour tomorrow!

\*Fairbanks Accommodations

1

### Denali National Park

Denali Wildlife Tour

\*Denali Accommodations

2

### Talkeetna

Denali Flight Seeing

\*Talkeetna Accommodations

3

### Talkeetna & Willow

Riverboat Adventure & Dogsled Tour

\*Wasilla Accommodations

4

### Hatcher Pass & Matanuska Glacier

Hatcher Pass & Glacier Ice Trek

\*Wasilla Accommodations

5

### Palmer & Knik Glacier

Musk Ox Center & Knik Glacier Jet Boat Adventure

\*Anchorage Accommodations

6

### Kenai Fjords National Park

Domed Rail to Seward, Wildlife & Glacier Cruise

\*Seward Accommodations

7

### Seward

Morning at Leisure OR

AM Motorcoach to Anchorage

\*End of Tour







**PRE-NIGHT - FAIRBANKS:** Upon arrival in Fairbanks, call for your hotel courtesy shuttle or contact a local taxi (depending on your choice of hotel). Rest up for your tour that begins at 8:00 AM the following morning.

**DAY 1 - FAIRBANKS/DENALI NATIONAL PARK:** Today you will be met in the lobby of your hotel at 8:00 AM by your guide. Your guide will assist with your luggage as you load up and set off on your adventure. Your Denali Fall Colors Tour begins with a scenic drive from Fairbanks to Denali National Park. This 2-hour drive offers great views and opportunities for possible wildlife sightings. A lunch stop is provided prior to your scheduled park tour. (Meal not included.)

**DENALI WILDLIFE PARK TOUR:** Everything about Denali National Park is big: the scenery, the mountains, the incredible beauty, and the animals. After lunch, you will embark on the Denali Park Shuttle Tour. Your tour offers you an excellent way to spot the wildlife for which Alaska is so famous: moose, bear, wolves, caribou, and Dall sheep. The park shuttle (school bus style) stops every 1 hour 10 minutes for restrooms and also stops whenever wildlife is sighted. The shuttle time is approximately 5 hours roundtrip, including all stops. Bring your camera and binoculars! Mount McKinley National Park (as it was originally called) was established in 1917 to protect its large animals, not because of majestic Mt. Denali. In 1980, the boundary was expanded to include both the Denali caribou herds' wintering and calving grounds and the entire Mt. McKinley massif. This more than tripled the size of the park, and it was renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. It was also designated an International Biosphere Reserve because of its potential for sub-arctic ecosystem research. At 20,310 feet, Denali (a name that comes from an Athabascan word meaning "The High One") is the highest peak in North America. It creates its own weather system which means it is often covered in clouds. Denali is only visible about 1/3 of the time, so visitors to the park have about a 30% chance of viewing majestic Mt. Denali.

Denali is one of the greatest wildlife viewing areas in the world. Visitors have a chance to spot grizzly bears, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, foxes, and wolves. Many smaller animals also call the park home such as arctic ground squirrels, hoary marmots, pikas, snowshoe hares, and beavers. For those interested in bird watching, there are also a variety of birds that migrate to the park for the summer. The list includes the arctic tern, American golden plovers, long tailed jaegers, surfbirds, arctic warblers, wheatears, willow ptarmigans, golden eagles, and ravens.

Approximately 150 species live in and around the Denali area during the summer months.



(Continental Breakfast included depending on accommodations - Lunch & Dinner not included, restaurant stop provided)

#### ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK

**DAY 2 - TALKEETNA:** Today will be a highlight of your Alaskan adventure. After a morning at leisure in Denali, you will head to Talkeetna—a local gem where three Alaskan rivers meet. In Talkeetna, one of the most photographed vistas in our state can be seen: the towering peaks of Mt. Foraker, Mt. Hunter, and Mt. Denali (all part of the Alaska Range).

#### DENALI FLIGHTSEEING:

1-hour flight time

(\*GLACIER LANDING UPGRADE AVAILABLE / \$100 person)



- This magnificent flight takes you within six miles of Denali's summit--the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet!
- Includes window seats for each passenger and an experienced pilot-guide who will highlight points of interest in the area.

(Continental Breakfast included based on accommodations- Lunch & Dinner not included, restaurant stops provided)

#### ACCOMMODATIONS IN TALKEETNA



**DAY 3 - TALKEETNA/WILLOW:** Today brings another fun-filled day of activity!



**RIVERBOAT ADVENTURE:**

2-hour riverboat ride

- The fifty-one passenger glass-domed "Talkeetna Queen" jetboat will whisk you into the heart of the wilderness in comfort (climate controlled with an onboard restroom).
- Visit an authentic trapper's cabin and see how trappers lived in "Bush" Alaska at the turn of the century.

**KENNEL TOUR:** After your Riverboat Adventure, you will travel south to Willow to visit with Vern, an experienced dog musher for over twenty-five years. Vern will tell you the history of dog mushing in Alaska and about the famous Iditarod race. He weaves in the history of sled dogs from early native use to gold rush use to the famous Serum Run to Nome during the 1925 diphtheria epidemic. His explanation of the uniqueness of the Alaskan Iditarod race--its length, diversity of competition, and the NO HELP rule--is a history highlight. During Vern's presentation, the training and care of Iditarod dogs is demonstrated. He also describes the logistics of the race: food drops, checkpoints, veterinarian care, the Iditarod Air Force, and trail conditions. Clothing and survival gear, along with sleds and equipment, are also shown in demonstrations. An action-packed ride with the sled dog team is the icing on the cake. There is no snow this time of year, so the dogs pull you in a free wheeled buggy. These buggies are what the dogs train with all summer long to get ready for their winter jobs. The wilderness trail you take goes over bridges and through the woods.



(Breakfast not included, options on-site and near accommodations - Lunch & Dinner not included, restaurant stops provided)

ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA

**DAY 4 - HATCHER PASS/GLACIERVIEW:** Today you get to see spectacular views in Hatcher's Pass. You will also learn about the area's flora and fauna. This is the perfect day to photograph water cascades with beautiful backgrounds. You'll also have an opportunity to hike on your own and take pictures of the alpine flowers and scenic mountain views. Keep an eye out for wildlife, including marmots, that frequent this area!



**GLACIER TREK:** After lunch, discover the true beauty of glaciers up close. You will follow your guide as you explore the ice and rock formations of the Matanuska Glacier while you're walking on it! No experience is necessary to join in the fun. Intermittently placed picnic benches allow guests to choose their own participation level. There are great photo ops from all picnic benches. (HELICOPTER GLACIER LANDING UPGRADE: \$249 PER PERSON)



(Continental Breakfast available based on accommodations - Lunch & Dinner not included, restaurant stops provided)

ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA



**DAY 5 - PALMER / KNIK GLACIER:** Today finishes out your time in the picturesque Matanuska Valley.

**MUSK OX CONSERVATION CENTER:** Your first stop of the day will be in Palmer at The Musk Ox Farm, a private non-profit organization dedicated to the development and domestication of the musk ox for the purpose of providing additional subsistence income opportunities for Alaska's indigenous people. The Musk Ox Project began as a way to introduce a gentle, non-intrusive form of agriculture to the Arctic in 1954. Our musk oxen are the foundation of an Alaskan cottage industry for natives living in remote coastal villages. The soft under-wool of the musk ox, qiviut, is harvested once a year and delivered to Oomingmak, an Alaskan native knitters' cooperative. The knitters work at home in remote coastal villages throughout Alaska creating scarves and luxurious caps. Each village has its own signature pattern derived from traditional designs. Come to view the animals, learn about the project, and take advantage of this unique opportunity to see and photograph one of the Arctic's oldest living species while taking an informative tour led by a knowledgeable guide. You can see tame cows, powerful bulls, and newborn calves as well.



**KNIK GLACIER BOAT TOUR:** Your next adventure of the day will begin when you will climb aboard a military truck for a scenic drive to the river boat launch. Once aboard the riverboat, you will head to Lake George, the base of the Knik Glacier (one of Alaska's grandest natural attractions). Knik Glacier, formed in the Pleistocene Glaciation Period (the beginning of the Ice Age) 600,000 years ago, originally covered the Anchorage bowl and the entire Cook Inlet. This glacier remains active, though motion is imperceptible to the naked eye. Knik Glacier is still in a constant state of change.

**ANCHORAGE:** Upon arrival, you will say good-bye to your AAU guide. Early tomorrow morning, you will begin your AAU choreographed 2-day Kenai Peninsula adventure starting with a scenic ride to Seward on the Alaska Railroad.

(Continental Breakfast available based on accommodations - Lunch not included, restaurant stop provided - Dinner not included, many restaurants close to accommodations)  
ACCOMMODATIONS IN ANCHORAGE

**DAY 6 - ALASKA RAILROAD TO SEWARD:** Listed among the most spectacular rail trips in the world! Ride the famous Alaska Railroad and experience the Kenai Peninsula, a unique and very scenic area of Alaska.

**Gold Star Rail - Breakfast INCLUDED**

- First-Class Gold Star glass-domed train with access to open air viewing deck
- Seating on the second level of the double-decked dome cars
- Complimentary beverages provided

**KENAI FJORDS CRUISE:** A Kenai Fjords wildlife and glacier cruise takes you deep into the heart of Kenai Fjords National Park where there is an abundance of marine and land-based wildlife.

- Spectacular views, from rugged coastline to emerging rainforests and calving glaciers.
- Lunch is included with your cruise.

Breakfast in Gold Star dining car included - Lunch aboard day cruise included - Dinner not included  
ACCOMMODATIONS IN SEWARD



**DAY 7 - RETURN TO ANCHORAGE:** This morning, your return via motorcoach to Anchorage begins at 10:30 AM (arriving in Anchorage at 1:30 PM). *\*If you take the morning motorcoach back to Anchorage to fly home that same day, flights should not leave Anchorage until at least 3:30 PM.\**

You can also choose to take an evening motor coach (departing at 6:30 PM arriving in Anchorage at 9:30 PM). Upgrading (\$125.00 per person) allows you to return by Gold Star Rail (departing at 6:00 PM arriving in Anchorage at 10:30 PM, rail package includes dinner). Choosing an evening departure from Seward allows you to enjoy additional activities in the area like hiking, or you can visit North America's only cold-water research facility, The Alaska SeaLife Center (\$35 per person paid at entry).

If you'd like more time to enjoy Anchorage, consider taking the early motor coach back and adding an Anchorage day to your tour. You can always add a post-tour Anchorage hotel night to your trip. Just outside of Anchorage, you can visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center (\$30.00 per person paid at entry).

With this amount of flexibility, you can fully customize the end of your tour!





# Rates \*per person



## 7 Day Denali Fall Colors

TOUR TYPE	Double Room Occupancy	Triple/Quad Room Occupancy	Single Room Occupancy
DELUXE	\$4,899	\$4,599	\$5,699

<b>Fairbanks Upgrade</b>	Pre-tour hotel: \$305 Moderate
<b>Talkeetna Upgrade</b>	Glacier Landing: \$100/person
<b>Glacier View Upgrade</b>	Helicopter Glacier Landing: \$249/person
<b>Seward Upgrade</b>	Gold Star Rail Anchorage Return: \$125/person
<b>Anchorage Upgrade</b>	Post-tour hotel: \$305 Moderate \$385 Upscale



## **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ:**

Please review terms & conditions below as well as additional terms online.

<https://alaskaadventureunlimited.com/terms-conditions/>

\*AAU adventures are a combination of guided and choreographed adventures. Our AAU guide will be with you days 1 – 5. Day 6 & 7 are your AAU choreographed 2-day Kenai Peninsula adventure featuring the Alaska Railroad and the Kenai Fjords. Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities based on package purchased (unless stated as an upgrade), and complimentary beverages onboard our executive mini-coaches. Rates also include some meals: 4–5 breakfasts (depends on hotels), 1 lunch, 1 box dinner. Rates do not include gratuities, tax (\$270), fuel supplement (if applicable), alcoholic beverages, or optional activities not listed. All items listed as upgrades are not included in the package price. Itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the escort due to weather, road maintenance, and time factors.

### **Deposit**

25% deposit is due at time of booking. 50% is subsequently due on Nov 15, 2023. 100% final payment is due Feb 15, 2024. Bookings after Feb 2024 are due in full at time of booking. Cancellations will incur full 100% penalty. Travel insurance is available and highly recommended. AAU reserves the right to alter rates/itinerary due to 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 and recommended! It is your choice to accept the risk of not purchasing travel insurance; however, if something does happen, you will be responsible for the financial effects of your decision.

### **Accommodations are Chosen at Time of Booking**

Accommodations can vary from private cabins to hotels or lodges based on availability and block space. Accommodations include private bathrooms. Moderate properties available in Anchorage are properties similar to Comfort Inn. Upscale properties are similar to Embassy Suites. In smaller towns, all package properties will be quality 3–4-star local lodging. Please ask your agent at booking about accommodation choices.

### **Activities/Excursions**

All activity times are approximate and may change for custom departures/weather. These are listed for planning purposes only. AAU reserves the right to alter rates/itinerary due to changes in economic/weather conditions.

### **Driver/Guides:**

Each of our guides are long-time Alaskans. They share local stories of their lives, their experiences, and their knowledge. They are not certified naturalists, biologists, or geologists. We have supplemented their knowledge with training regarding our parks, wildlife, and flora/fauna. Many of our guides are educators, hunting guides, school coaches, as well as active hikers, hunters, and fishermen. At each of your activities, guides from many other states may offer supplemental knowledge, such as bus drivers in the National Parks, rafting guides with experience from other rivers, pilots specializing in remote flights, railroad staff (given Alaskan facts to share while onboard), experienced boat captains, deckhands, and more.

### **Meals**

We choose from a variety of good-quality restaurants, make reservations in advance, and for included dinner meals, allow you to order from the menu: entrée, non-alcoholic beverage, and dessert. (Non-market price items only.) There are plenty of Alaskan seafood choices as well as steak and other meat options and limited vegetarian items as well. Not all restaurants are able to accommodate gluten-free diets. Travelers are encouraged to prepare for any special dietary needs.