

# 6-Day Essence of Alaska



Immerse yourself in the wonder of Southcentral & interior Alaska on the 6-day Essence. Our local resident guides will treat you to the history and lore of Alaska, along with personal stories and a touch of Alaskan flavor.

Relax as Alaskan hospitality, combined with superior service, takes care of all your tour details. Our seasoned Alaskan guides accompany you through areas resplendent with wild beauty and take you deep into the land of the midnight sun. They serve as guide and personal concierge, ensuring that every aspect of your journey is effortless. Our tours introduce you to the frontier spirit of this untamed land by showing you our many natural wonders; the habitats of bear, moose, caribou and other animals; and much more! Choose from whitewater or scenic rafting, flightseeing, glacier trekking, wildlife tours, river jet boats, day cruises, and other options. From Anchorage to Denali National Park, stay in unique and charming accommodations with all the magnificence of Alaska at your doorstep.

Our executive mini-coaches are customized with leather captain's chairs, full-bay picture windows, and complimentary bottled water and soft drinks. Our expert Alaskan guides provide complete narration along the way. Our intimate tours are limited to up to 14 guests, and itineraries can be customized based on availability and your group size.

Our tour package includes:

- 6 days/ 5 nights with scenic accommodations
- A long-time Alaska resident who serves as both driver and guide
- Luxury private transport for 6 days in an executive mini-coach
- A Meet & Greet welcome dinner, two - three lunches, and breakfasts (depending on accommodations)



## 6-Day Essence of Alaska



### 1 Welcome to Alaska!

Native Cultural Day and Meet & Greet Dinner

\*Wasilla Accommodations

### 2 Chickaloon & Matanuska Glacier

Rafting & Glacier Ice Trek

\*Wasilla Accommodations



### 3 Talkeetna

Denali Flight Seeing or Riverboat Adventure

\*Denali Accommodations

### 4 Denali National Park

Denali Wildlife Tour

\*Denali Accommodations



### 5 Denali National Park & Wasilla

Activities around the park (various upgrades available)

\*Wasilla Accommodations



### 6 Palmer & Knik Glacier

Gold Panning & Knik Glacier Jet Boat Adventure

\*Anchorage Accommodations





**DAY 1-ANCHORAGE:** Today starts the first day of your Alaska adventure, with you exploring the culture of our state! Your guide will meet you out front of your hotel lobby around 11 AM. You'll recognize our executive mini-coaches by the unique gold and black Alaska Adventure Unlimited branding.

**NATIVE HISTORY\*\*:** Travel across town to the spectacular Native Heritage Center, a renowned cultural museum, where guests can learn about Alaska's first people. In the Welcome House at the Native Heritage Center, you'll see 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. Upon leaving the Anchorage area, you will travel north to the Matanuska Valley, the farming belt of Alaska. Along the way, we will visit the native village of Eklutna. Enjoy the Russian Orthodox influenced church and native-influenced "spirit houses," while sharing in native cultural traditions.

\*\*Activity may be switched to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center depending on tour dates.

*(Hotel breakfast included - AAU provided lunch - Meet & Greet restaurant dinner included)*

**ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA**

**DAY 2-GLACIERVIEW:** Get ready for one of the most scenic drives in the state! As you head north to Glacier View, the Matanuska River winds its way north beside you. Several overlook stops reveal views of mountains, valleys, and glaciers.

**1) TWO FLOAT OPTIONS AVAILABLE:**

Matanuska Float Trip - 2.5 hours

- Relaxed guided sightseeing and photo opportunities
- Easily navigable waters

Lion's Head Raft Trip - 3.5 hours

- Most popular trip for over 28 years
- Excellent white-water trip for both first timers and experienced enthusiasts
- Class III & IV rapids offer you a hands-on adventure



**2) GLACIER TREK:** After lunch, discover the true beauty of glaciers up close. Ice crampons and walking sticks are provided for your glacier trek adventure. You will follow your guide as you explore the ice & rock formations of the Matanuska Glacier as you're walking on it. No experience is necessary to experience the grandeur of this glacier. Intermittently placed picnic benches allow guests to choose their own participation level. Great photo ops from all picnic benches. *(\*HELICOPTER GLACIER LANDING UPGRADE AVAILABLE/ \$249 person\*)*

*(Continental breakfast included - Lunch and dinner not included - restaurant stops provided)*

**ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA**

**DAY 3-TALKEETNA:** Next, it's off to visit the home of Mt. Denali! Today will be a highlight of your Alaskan adventures. In Talkeetna, a local gem where three Alaskan rivers meet, one of the most photographed vistas in our state can be seen: the towering peaks of Mt. Foraker, Mt Hunter, and Mt. Denali, part of the Alaska Range. On this day, you'll be able to choose **ONE** of the following adventures to enjoy in Talkeetna:



**ACTIVITY CHOICE ONE-DENALI FLIGHTSEEING:**

1-hour flight time, plus travel

*(INCLUDED ON DELUXE PACKAGE ONLY OR \$250/ PP UPGRADE ON QUALITY)*

*(\*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.

**ACTIVITY CHOICE TWO-RIVERBOAT:**

2-hour riverboat ride, plus travel

- This exciting adventure takes you on an enclosed jetboat.
- Guests can see unique views of the Alaska Range and Mt. Denali from the river.
- Visit an authentic trapper's cabin and view how trappers lived in "Bush" Alaska.



*(Depending on hotel, continental breakfast included - Lunch and dinner not included - restaurant stops provided)*

**ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK**

**DAY 4 - DENALI:** Today you have three options to explore Denali National Park!

**Option 1: Denali Shuttle - RELAXED**

Your chance to spot wilderness & wildlife from the Denali State Shuttle. Your guide will escort you to the Wilderness Access Center where you'll embark on the Denali Park Shuttle. The shuttle takes you deep into the park for a five-hour roundtrip tour, including stops. Keep your eyes peeled for a chance to see the Big 5: moose, Dall Sheep, caribou, wolves, and grizzly bears.



**Option 2: Take a self-guided hike in Denali National Park - MODERATE**

This is your chance to adventure on your own in the park. Our recommendation is the 2.1-mile loop around Horseshoe Lake. You will have views of the Nenana River & Glitter Gulch at the farthest end of the loop trail. There are multiple benches along the hike to relax and take in the views. There is a moderate climb back up to meet your guide but the scenery is unbeatable. Your guide can facilitate other hike options.

**Upgrade Option 3:**

**Self-Guided 4-Hour Savage River E-bike Ride - \$99 - STRENUOUS**

Leave right from Bike Denali and pedal yourself into the park. Experience the front country of Denali and go to Savage River. Navigate the steep terrain in undeveloped wilderness. E-bikes come with racks, panniers, bear spray with handlebar mount, and quality rain suits.



(Continental Breakfast included depending on accommodations - Sack Lunch included - Dinner not included, restaurant stop provided)  
ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK

**DAY 5 - DENALI:** Today is a day of leisure. There are lots of things to do and experience in and around Denali National Park. Guests may enjoy the scenery and activities provided at their accommodations (some accommodations provide kayaks). There are also various hiking options in and around Denali National Park. In addition, Denali National Park Visitor Center offers many activities for guests to enjoy (exhibits, movies, dog kennel tours, etc.).

**Consider adding ONE of the optional UPGRADE adventures listed below:**



**1) ATV 4-Wheeler Adventure (2 hours):**

- \$150 Single Rider**
- \$250 Double Riders**
- \$350 Triple Riders**
- \$450 Quad Riders**

Ride on several terrain types. There are coal mining trails, rocky creek beds, hills to climb, water to traverse, and mud crossings. Total tour covers about 10 miles. Approximately 1 1/2 hours on the actual trails.

**2) 9-Hole Tundra Golf:  
\$124 Per Person**

Black Diamond is a challenging course with "Alaskan hazards," such as tundra marshes or even the occasional moose hoof print! The course is relatively short, which makes it accessible and fun for any style of play.



**3) Denali Zip Line (3 hours) :  
\$160 Per Person**

Your adventure begins with a three-mile ATV trail ride to your launching point through the scenic Alaskan wilderness. After gearing up, certified guides will lead you along six sky bridges and seven thrilling zip lines. Over half a mile of zips including the dual racer finale!

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



**DAY 6-HATCHER PASS GOLD PANNING:** Soak in the beautiful scenery of Hatcher Pass while visiting Independence Gold Mine, which was built in the early 1900's. Try your hand at gold panning. We bring our own gold pans and have fun trying to "strike it rich!" A park naturalist is often available to share the history of the mine, as well as information on the flora and fauna of the area. Hatcher Pass is a favorite of guests; they love its beauty, wildflowers, berries, and wildlife. The best photography here is in later summer.

**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 river boat you will head to Lake George, the base of 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 in Anchorage, you will say good-bye to your AAU tour guide. Your accommodations are in Anchorage this evening. You may choose to add an additional upgrade for tomorrow or enjoy a day of leisure in Anchorage.



(Continental breakfast included - Lunch and dinner not included - Lunch restaurant stop provided, many restaurants close to hotel location for dinner)

ACCOMMODATIONS IN ANCHORAGE

END OF TOUR

## OPTIONAL DAY TOUR:

### Lake Clark Bear Viewing - 6-8 Hour Bear Viewing: \$1,150 per person + park fee

Your Lake Clark National Park Bear Viewing Adventure begins when you depart Anchorage on a float plane and head south along the Cook Inlet. This ocean front setting is the ultimate bear habitat. The creek running through is loaded with Silver Salmon, attracting a resident Brown Bear population to the area all summer long. The flight in itself offers a spectacular flightseeing tour; this scenic route takes you by 3 active volcanoes, numerous salmon streams, glaciers, and other Alaskan sights. The Lake Clark Bear Viewing begins after a brief bear orientation aimed at group safety. You & your pilot will head out into this ideal bear habitat to watch these creatures interact with each other in the wild. The area is excellent for viewing the bears because of the layout and geography; it is a long stretch of grassland and beachfront. Watch as they frolic in the grass with their cubs, dig for clams, and take afternoon naps.

- Mobility Impaired: This tour requires a moderate amount of walking on uneven terrain (approximately 1-2 miles) If you are concerned about you or someone in your party's ability to do so, please contact our office to review the options.
- What to Bring and Wear: Footwear - Rubber or waterproof boots. If you do not have any boots, Regal will provide you with a pair. Camera, binoculars - If you do not have any you may share some with the bear guide.
- Layered Clothing - Always be ready for any temperature range, bring a rain shell in case of rain

Flight departs Anchorage at 9 AM and returns to Anchorage at 3:30 PM - 6.5 hours total (4 hours of bear viewing, 2.5 hours' flight) Times are approximate and are for general planning only.



### Katmai Bear Viewing - 8-10 Hour Platform Viewing: \$1,350 per person + park fee

The federally-protected Katmai National Park and Preserve is world famous for the largest population of Alaska brown bear viewing. Accessible only by air, this is Alaska wilderness in its rawest form. Our fly-out Katmai bear viewing adventure takes you to Brooks Falls, where three bear viewing platforms connected by elevated boardwalks allow for close, unobstructed and extraordinary bear viewing in Katmai National Park. In July, lured by spawning salmon, as many as fifty bears can be seen at once along the 1.5-mile Brooks River. Katmai bear viewing at Brooks Falls is self-guided, but Katmai National Park Rangers provide an initial briefing upon arrival and are available for questions. An on-site wait list for the Lower River bear viewing platform may be implemented when visitation reaches capacity, to ensure quality bear viewing. Katmai is also home to the famed Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes - a forty square mile, 100 to 700-foot-deep ash flow deposited by Novarupta Volcano in 1912.

- Two to three-hour scenic flightseeing tour from Anchorage
- Katmai bear viewing at Brooks Falls - watch them catch jumping salmon!
- Wildlife watching on return flight for beluga whales, moose and Dall sheep
- A window seat and 2-way headset; ask your pilot questions!
- Detailed knowledge (and personality) of an Alaska bush pilot

Flight departs Anchorage at 8 A.M. and returns to Anchorage around 6 PM - 10 hours. (4 hours of bear viewing, 5.5 hours' flight) Flight times vary depending on weather and plane type.



**Minimum 2 persons for guaranteed departure. Bear sightings cannot be guaranteed. Due to volatile weather in remote bear viewing regions, we HIGHLY recommend travel insurance, to receive a full refund.**

# Rates \*per person

## 6 Day Essence of Alaska

TOUR TYPE	Double Room Occupancy	Triple/Quad Room Occupancy	Single Room Occupancy
DELUXE	\$4,499	\$4,199	\$5,199
QUALITY	\$4,249	\$3,949	\$4,949
<b>Talkeetna Upgrades</b>	<i>Glacier Landing</i> \$100/person		
<b>Glacier View Upgrade</b>	<i>Helicopter Ride w/ Glacier Landing</i> \$249		
<b>Denali Upgrades</b>	<i>ATV Rides</i> Single: \$150 Double: \$250 Triple: \$350 Quad: \$450	<i>Zipline</i> \$160/person	<i>Denali 9-Hole Golf</i> \$124/ person
<b>Optional Pre/Post Trip Add-ons</b>	<i>Full Day Bear Viewing</i> 8-10 hr Katmai - \$1,364/person 6-8 hr Lake Clark - \$1,164/person	<i>Pre-night Hotel</i> Moderate - \$305 Upscale - \$395 <i>Post-night Hotel</i> Moderate - \$305 Upscale - \$395	

## **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 – 6. Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities based on package purchased (unless stated as an upgrade), and complimentary beverages onboard. Rates include some meals: 4-6 breakfasts (depends on Denali hotel); 2 lunches; 1 dinner. Rates do not include gratuities, tax (\$230), 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 15, 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. 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 (the same for both quality and deluxe packages). 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.