

# ESSENCE OF ALASKA (6 DAYS)

Departures: Jun, Jul, Aug



## Day 01 | Welcome to Alaska

Native Cultural Day and Meet & Greet Dinner

\*Wasilla Accommodations



## Day 02 | Palmer & Matanuska Glacier

Matanuska Glacier & River Valley

\*Wasilla Accommodations



## Day 03 | Talkeetna

Denali Flight Seeing or Riverboat Adventure

\*Denali Accommodations



## Day 04 | Denali National Park

Denali Wildlife Tour

\*Denali Accommodations

## Day 05 | Denali National Park & Wasilla

Activities Around the Park  
(various upgrades available)

\*Wasilla Accommodations



## Day 06 | Palmer & Knik Glacier

Gold Panning & Knik Glacier Jet Boat Adventure

\*End of Tour



**Tour starts & ends in Anchorage. Pre-tour hotel accommodations available – \$395/night**

**DAY 01 | ANCHORAGE & WASILLA:** Today starts the first day of your Alaska adventure! Your guide will meet you out front of our pick-up location at 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 you will 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 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.

*\*\*This activity may be switched to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center depending on your tour dates.*

**(AAU provided lunch – Meet & Greet dinner included)**

#### ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA

**DAY 02 | PALMER & GLACIER VIEW:** Get ready for your choice of adventure from mild to wild as you get to choose from one of three activities on 360 acres of private Alaskan wilderness at a working ranch in Palmer.

#### 1) MORNING ACTIVITY CHOICE:



#### ZIPLINE ADVENTURE

Alaska's first and only all-tandem side-by-side zipline course. Your guide will take you along 6 zips and 3 suspension bridges. Some zips are 255ft' high and 1,250 ft long.



#### NATURE WALK THROUGH WOLVERINE CREEK BED

Learn about the flora and fauna of the Creek bed and natural fish habitat and Salmon cycle. Explore the woods and hunt for seasonal mushrooms and other vegetation.



#### HORSEBACK RIDING

Stunning trails will take you around the ranch and up to some incredible views of the Chugach Range while riding the foothills of Lazy Mountain.

**GLACIER TREK:** The second half of your day takes you north to Glacier View. the Matanuska River winds its way beside you, revealing stunning views of mountains, valleys, and glaciers. A quick lunch stop at one of our favorite local lodges gives you the chance to try some delicious Alaskan cuisine. After lunch, discover the true beauty of glaciers up close. Ice crampons and helmets are provided for your glacier trek adventure. You will follow your guide as you walk and explore the ice & rock formations of the Matanuska Glacier. No experience is necessary for this glacier trek. Intermittently placed picnic benches allow guests to choose their own participation level & soak in the beauty.

*(\*HELICOPTER GLACIER LANDING UPGRADE AVAILABLE/ \$249 person\*)*

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

#### ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA

**DAY 03 | TALLEETNA:** 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:



#### MT . DENALI FLIGHTSEEING

1-hour flight time, plus travel

*\*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.

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

#### ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK



#### RIVERBOAT:

2-hour riverboat ride, plus travel

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

**DAY 04 | DENALI NATIONAL PARK:** Today you have three options to explore Denali National Park!

**Option 1: Denali Shuttle - RELAXED**

Your chance to spot wildlife & soak in the wilderness 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.



**Upgrade Option 2: Self-Guided 4-Hour Savage River E-bike Ride - \$105 - 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.

**Option 3: Take a self-guided hike in Denali National Park - MODERATE**

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.

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

**DAY 05 | 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 such as 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**

**2) 9-Hole Tundra Golf:**  
**2 hours**  
**\$125 Per Person**

**3) Denali Zip Line:**  
**3 hours**  
**\$165 Per Person**

**4) Fat Truck Tour:**  
**2.5 hours**  
**\$299 Per Person**

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 ½ hours on the actual trails.

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. All equipment provided.

Start 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!

Travel up an old mining trail to the "upper lookout" where you will see vista views and learn about the geology and history of the area. Test out the amphibious qualities of the truck with your guide! One departure only - Limited to 4 people.

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



**DAY 06 | 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. Early tomorrow morning, you will begin your AAU choreographed 2-day Kenai Peninsula adventure, featuring the Alaska Railroad and Kenai Fjords.



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

**END OF TOUR**

# Rates

\*per person



## Essence of Alaska (6 Days)

<b>TOUR TYPE</b>	<b>Double Room Occupancy</b>	<b>Triple/Quad Room Occupancy</b>	<b>Single Room Occupancy</b>
<b>DELUXE</b>	<b>\$4,749</b>	<b>\$4,449</b>	<b>\$5,449</b>

<b>Talkeetna Upgrades</b>	<i>Glacier Landing</i> \$100 / person		
<b>Glacier View Upgrade</b>	<i>Helicopter Ride w/ Glacier Landing</i> \$249 / person		
<b>Denali Upgrades</b>	<i>ATV Rides</i> Single: \$150 Double: \$250 Triple: \$350 Quad: \$450	<i>Zipline</i> \$165/person	<i>9-Hole Golf</i> \$125 / person
<b>Optional Pre/Post Trip Add-ons</b>	<i>Full Day Bear Viewing</i> 8-10 hr Katmai - \$1,495/person 6-8 hr Lake Clark - \$1,250/person	<i>Pre-night Hotel</i> \$395 / night <i>Post-night Hotel</i> \$395 / night	

## **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 (\$250), 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, 2024. 100% final payment is due Feb 15, 2025. Bookings after Feb 15, 2025 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.