

## 12 Day / 11 Night – Discover Alaska's Wilderness

**Day 1 – Arrive Anchorage** Upon arrival at the Ted Stevens International Airport, you will have a private transfer to your hotel. Overnight Anchorage

**Day 2** – **Anchorage** Anchorage is Alaska's largest city, bordered by Cook Inlet and the Chugach State Park. It is one of the only places in Alaska with all the modern fixtures of American life, such as a modern performing arts center, gourmet restaurants and numerous shopping malls. Anchorage offers a variety of attractions, including flightseeing, bear viewing, day fishing trips, glacier cruises, sightseeing tours and more. Today is at leisure for you to enjoy your choice of activity. Overnight Anchorage



**Day 3** – **Anchorage to Seward** Travel aboard the Alaska Railroad Coastal Classic train to Seward. Upon arrival in Seward, you will have the day at your leisure to explore the 'gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park.' Overnight Seward

**Day 4 – Seward; Kenai Fjords National Park** Today you will embark on a 6-hour wildlife cruise into Kenai Fjords National Park. Experience miles of beautiful fjords and coastal landscape while your captain looks for marine animals such as orca (killer) whales, humpback whales, Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, sea

otters, puffins, etc. Following your cruise, you will have the remainder of the day at leisure. Overnight Seward

**Day 5 – Seward to Valdez** Today you will travel northbound on the Seward Highway to Whittier with your private vehicle. You will drive through one of the longest tunnels in North America; it goes straight through a mountain for over two and a half miles! Upon arrival in Whittier you will board the Alaska Marine Highway for your passage through Prince William Sound to Valdez. During your voyage you will have the opportunity to view dozens of glaciers which lie in the



surrounding mountains, as well as abundant wildlife that calls this pristine area home. Upon arrival in Valdez you will have the remainder of the evening free to explore. Overnight Valdez



**Day 6 – Valdez to Kennicott** This morning you will depart Valdez for your drive to Chitina. Upon arrival in Chitina, you will board a flight to McCarthy, which will fly you through the majestic Wrangell - St. Elias range. The Kennicott Glacier Lodge is in the middle of the beautiful St. Elias range. You will spend the next two evenings enjoying this stunning countryside. The history of Kennicott began in 1900, when prospectors spotted a patch of green hillside that looked like good grazing ground for



their packhorses. The grass, as fate would have it, turned out to be the green glint of copper ore, and the rest is history. In 1986, Congress recognized Kennicott as a National Historic Landmark, and efforts were begun to stabilize and preserve the site. In 1998, the National Park Service acquired the Kennicott Mines National Historic Landmark, thus adding this important cultural resource to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Overnight Kennicott

**Day 7** – **Kennicott** In Kennicott you will be fitted for crampons (spikes strapped on the bottom of your boots for traction while exploring the ice of the Root Glacier). The first mile and a half of your hike follows an old wagon road, and you'll stop several times along the way to discuss glaciology and geology and view 16,390 ft. Mt. Blackburn. Numerous glacial streams cut deep ravines in the ice and form shimmering azure blue pools. As the ice gives way to the melting water, incredible waterfalls cascade deep into the glacier. Overnight Kennicott





**Day 8** – **Kennicott to Fairbanks** Today you will take your return flight over the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountain Range to Chitina. From Chitina, you will journey north by private vehicle. Fairbanks is situated in the heart of the Tanana Valley and combines modern amenities with a frontier atmosphere. Commonly referred to as the "Gateway to the Arctic," the city has a long and colorful history dating back to the late 1800's and the discovery of gold. Overnight Fairbanks

**Day 9 – Fairbanks to Denali** This morning you will depart Fairbanks and head south for Denali National Park. Denali lies in the

heart of a curved mountain chain about 600 miles long, the Alaska Range. The centerpiece of these high mountains is Denali, the highest peak in North America, at 20,320 feet. Denali National Park is one of North America's best locations to view an amazing array of wildlife in a spectacular setting. You will have free time at the park entrance. Overnight Denali National Park Entrance

**Day 10 – Denali; Denali National Park** Denali National Park lies in the heart of the 600 mile long Alaska Range. The center of the Alaska Range has a number of peaks over 10,000 feet in elevation which include Denali, the highest peak in North America. Your shuttle bus will travel approximately 66 miles deep into the park, which offers outstanding views of Denali and the Alaska Range, as well as wildlife viewing opportunities. Stop at the Eielson Visitor Center, where you can take a hike on your own around the trails, or join National Park Service Rangers for daily guided walks before catching a return shuttle to the park entrance. Overnight Denali National Park Entrance



**Day 11 – Denali to Anchorage** Begin your return journey south with your private motorcoach. During the drive, you will be surrounded by three of Alaska's major mountain chains: the Alaska and Talkeetna ranges, and the Chugach Mountains. Approaching Anchorage you will pass by the residential community of Eagle River, and the military installation in Anchorage. Overnight Anchorage

**Day 12 – Depart Anchorage** A private transfer will be provided to the Anchorage International Airport in time to meet your scheduled flight. **End of Services** 



## **Standard Inclusions**

- 11 Nights' hotel accommodations
- All private transportation as outlined in a private vehicle with knowledgeable English-speaking driver
- Alaska Railroad rail service between Anchorage and Seward
- Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise
- Alaska Marine Highway passage from Whittier to Valdez
- Roundtrip bush plane flights between Chitina and Kennicott/McCarthy
- Guided Root Glacier Hike in Kennicott
- Tundra Wilderness Tour into Denali National Park
- All applicable taxes and fees

## Make it your own!

- Add a local experienced Alaskan guide to accompany your guests
- Include meals in the program for guest convenience
- Upgrade the Alaska Railroad rail segment
- Choose the preferred level of hotel accommodations
- Add other excursions to the program to match guest interests
- Extend or shorten to itinerary to fit within specified timeframe or dates

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