

10-Day Grand Discovery of Alaska

Free Spirit
TRAVEL VACATIONS AND EVENTS



Are you ready for a ten-day adventure of a lifetime? On our 10-Day Grand Discovery of Alaska Tour, you'll see it all! As you immerse yourself in the wonder of Southcentral Alaska, our knowledgeable, local-resident guides will introduce you to the history and lore of Alaska while sharing personal stories of their own. 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 a personal concierge, ensuring that every aspect of your journey is effortless. Our tours let you experience the frontier spirit of this untamed land by showing you many breathtaking natural wonders and the habitats of bear, moose, caribou, and many more animals native to Alaska. Choose from whitewater rafting, flightseeing, glacier trekking, wildlife tours, river jet boats, day cruises, and additional activities. From Anchorage to Denali National Park, to Seward and back, 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 our tours include complete narration by our guides. Complimentary bottled water and soft drinks are also included. Our intimate tours are limited to 14 guests and itineraries can be customized based on availability and your group size.

Our tour includes:

- 10 days/ 9 nights with your choice of quality or deluxe accommodations
- A long-time Alaskan resident who serves as both driver and guide
- Luxury private transport in an executive mini-coach followed by scenic railroad transport to Seward
- Most breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1-2 dinners provided

2024 DEPARTURE DATES:

June 1 - 10, 2024

August 17 - 26, 2024

Contact Free Spirit Travel Vacations & Events for Booking

Office: **480-926-5547**

Email: reservations@freespiritvacations.com



10-Day Grand Discovery of Alaska



1 Welcome to Alaska!

Anchorage Evening at Leisure
*Anchorage Accommodations

2 Anchorage & Wasilla

Native Cultural Day
Meet & Greet Dinner
*Wasilla Accommodations

3 Chickaloon & Matanuska Glacier

Rafting & Glacier Ice Trek
*Wasilla Accommodations

4 Talkeetna

Denali Flight Seeing or Riverboat Adventure
*Denali Accommodations

5 Denali National Park

Denali Wildlife Tour
*Denali Accommodations

6 Denali National Park & Wasilla

Morning at Leisure
(upgrades available)
*Wasilla Accommodations

7 Palmer & Knik Glacier

Gold Panning & Knik Glacier Jet Boat Adventure
*Anchorage Accommodations

8 Kenai Fjords National Park

Domed Rail to Seward
Wildlife & Glacier Cruise
*Seward Accommodations

9 Seward

Dog Sled Ride or Kayaking
(upgrades available)
*Option to Overnight in Seward or Return to Anchorage

10 Choose Your Adventure

Morning at Leisure in Seward
OR Day at Leisure in Anchorage
(Anchorage bear viewing upgrade available)



DAY 1 - ANCHORAGE: Evening at leisure in Anchorage before you begin your adventure tomorrow.

DAY 2 - ANCHORAGE: Today you get to explore the history of our state! Your guide will meet you in front of the lobby at 11:00 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,. The outdoor sites allow the exploration of ancient traditions and the presentation of stories from Alaska's 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.*

(Continental Breakfast included - AAU Sack Lunch included - Meet & Greet Dinner included)

ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA

DAY 3 - 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 us, cutting a cavern of beauty through the Matanuska Valley. Several overlook stops provide spectacular views of mountains, valleys, and glaciers.

1) TWO FLOAT OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

Matanuska Float Trip - 2.5 hours

- Relaxed guided sightseeing with photo opportunities
- Easily navigable class II rapids

Lion's Head Raft Trip - 3.5 hours

- Most popular trip for over 28 years
- Excellent for first-timers & experienced enthusiasts
- Class III & IV rapids offers you a hands-on adventure



2) GLACIER TREK: After lunch, discover the true beauty of glaciers up close by walking on one! You'll hear all about the history of the Matanuska Glacier as you trek up it. No experience is necessary to join in the fun. Intermittently placed picnic benches allow guests to choose their own participation level. Great photo ops and views from all picnic benches. (***HELICOPTER GLACIER LANDING UPGRADE AVAILABLE / \$249 per person***)

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

ACCOMMODATIONS IN WASILLA

DAY 4 - TALKEETNA: Next up, you're off to see Mt. Denali. Today will be a highlight of your Alaska adventure. You'll be stopping in the small, charming town of Talkeetna. Talkeetna is a local gem where three Alaskan rivers meet. It's also where you'll see one the most photographed vistas in our state: the towering peaks of Denali, which are 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-HR flight time

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

- This magnificent flight takes you within six miles of Denali's summit - the highest peak in North America at 20,310 feet!
- All guests have a window seat and an experienced pilot-guide will highlight points of interest in the area.

ACTIVITY CHOICE TWO - RIVERBOAT:

2-HR cruise time

- This exciting adventure takes you on an enclosed jetboat where guests can see beautiful views of Mt. Denali from the river.
- Visit an authentic trapper's cabin and view how trappers lived in "Bush" Alaska at the turn of the century.



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

ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK

DAY 5 - DENALI: Wilderness and wildlife spotting are your adventures for today in Denali National Park. Try and spot the Big 5: moose, caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, and wolves. Your guide will escort you to the Wilderness Access Center where you'll embark on the Denali Park Shuttle Tour. The shuttle takes you deep into the park for a five-hour roundtrip tour, including all stops.



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

ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK

DAY 6 - 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 Rider
\$350 Triple Rider

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.

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 7 - HATCHER PASS/KNIK GLACIER: Hatcher Pass is a favorite of guests. They love its beauty, wildflowers, berries, and wildlife. The best photography here is in later summer when the pass comes alive with color.

GOLD PANNING: Take in the beautiful scenery of Hatcher Pass while visiting Independence Gold Mine (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 about the flora and fauna of the area.

KNIK GLACIER BOAT TOUR: Your next adventure will take you aboard a riverboat as you travel to Lake George, which sits along the base of Knik Glacier. The Knik Glacier is one of Alaska's grandest natural attractions. The glacier was "born" in the Pleistocene Glaciation period (the beginning of the Ice Age) 600,000 years ago. Knik Glacier originally covered the whole Anchorage bowl and the entire Cook Inlet. This glacier remains active today. It's in a constant state of change, although the motion is imperceptible to the naked eye.



ANCHORAGE: Upon arrival in Anchorage, you'll say good-bye to your AAU tour guide. Early tomorrow morning, you will begin your AAU choreographed 2-day Kenai Peninsula adventure (featuring the Alaska Railroad and the Kenai Fjords).

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

DAY 8 - ALASKA RAILROAD TO SEWARD: The leisurely trip you'll take down to Seward is listed among the most spectacular rail trips in the world! Ride the famous Alaska Railroad and experience the Kenai Peninsula, a unique and scenic area of Alaska.

DELUXE package - Breakfast INCLUDED

- First-Class Gold Star glass-domed train with access to an open air viewing deck
- Seats on second level of double-decked domed car
- Complimentary beverages provided



KENAI FJORDS GLACIER CRUISE: A Kenai Fjords wildlife and glacier cruise takes you deep into the heart of Kenai Fjords National Park, a place many marine and land-based wildlife call home.

- Spectacular views, from rugged coastlines to emerging rainforests and calving glaciers
- Chances to see incredible Alaskan wildlife up close (humpback and orca whales, seals, sea otters, puffins, eagles, etc.)



(Breakfast in Gold Star dining car included with Deluxe package - Lunch included on day cruise - Dinner not included, restaurant options available in downtown Seward area)
ACCOMMODATIONS IN SEWARD

DAY 9 - SEWARD: Your next day in Seward begins with **ONE** included activity, your choice of the below:

Dog Sled Ride:

The intrigue of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, also known as Alaska's Superbowl, comes alive as you mush through the Alaskan wilderness to the base of Resurrection Mountain along Box Canyon Creek. You will have a guide with you while a team of Iditarod dogs pull you in a wheeled cart on a gravel road. All summer long, these dogs use these carts to train and get in shape for their demanding winter jobs!



Tandem Sea Kayaking:

While you're charting the waters of beautiful Resurrection Bay, keep your eyes open as you look for marine wildlife. This adventure is perfect for all groups and allows for a tandem kayaking experience for all participants. Your two-hour guided kayaking tour will go to Tonsina Creek. Kayaking gear, beverage, and snack provided. Dry bags available as well.



****This day in Seward, guests can also upgrade by choosing BOTH of the above tours, one for the morning and one for the afternoon (\$105 per person).****

YOU MAY ALSO FURTHER UPGRADE BY CHOOSING INSTEAD:



**Helicopter with Glacier Dog Sled Ride:
\$580 per person**

Touchdown on the upper part of Godwin Glacier just outside of Seward. Land on a snowy icefield and experience the magic of winter in summer!

**Zipline Canopy Adventure (3 hrs):
\$160 per person**

You can't beat the views from this canopy treetop adventure. Featuring eight ziplines, three suspension bridges, and two rappels--this tour will excite and awe you!



Half or full-day salmon, halibut, or combo fishing charter: (subject to fuel surcharge)
Full Day - Halibut (June): \$410; Combo (Jul-Aug): \$435
Half Day - Salmon (Jul-Aug): \$305



Explore the Gulf of Alaska as you search for halibut, salmon, rockfish, or lingcod. Experienced captains, great vessels, and the right equipment will make your fishing experience an unforgettable one.

(Breakfast & Lunch not included - Dinner included for Deluxe package guests returning this day on the Alaska Railroad)
ACCOMMODATIONS IN ANCHORAGE OR SEWARD DEPENDING ON GUEST CHOICE

DAY 10 - CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE: Today you have two choices! Spend a morning at leisure in Seward doing any of the options from DAY 9 that you may have missed, OR have a day at leisure in Anchorage.

Anchorage Upgrades:

Lake Clark Bear Viewing (6-8 hours)

\$1,150 per person + park fee

Your Lake Clark National Park and Preserve bear viewing adventure begins with a flight on a float plane heading south along the Cook Inlet. The flight takes you past three active volcanoes, over numerous salmon streams, near glaciers, and also offers you an aerial view of other Alaskan sights. The Lake Clark bear viewing begins after a brief bear orientation aimed at group safety. After the orientation, your pilot will guide you out into this ideal bear habitat to watch these magnificent creatures as they interact with each other in the wild. The creek running through this park is loaded with Silver Salmon (also known as "Coho Salmon"), which attracts the resident brown bear population to the area all summer long. This area is also excellent for viewing bears because of its layout; it's a long stretch of grassland and beachfront. Watch as bears frolic in the grass with their cubs, dig for clams, and take afternoon naps.

The flight for this bear watching adventure departs Anchorage at 9:00 AM and returns at 3:30 PM. (6.5 hours total--4 hours of bear viewing, 2.5 hours of flight time) Times are approximate and are for general planning purposes only.

**For the Mobility Impaired: This tour requires a moderate amount of walking on uneven terrain (approximately 1-2 miles). If you are concerned about your or someone in your party's ability to do so, please contact our office to review the options. **



Katmai Bear Viewing (8-10 hours)

\$1,350 per person + park fee

With its estimated 2,200 brown bear population, Katmai National Park and Preserve is one of the best bear viewing spots in the world. Accessible only by air, this is Alaska wilderness in its rawest form. Lured by spawning salmon, in July as many as fifty bears can be seen at once along the 1.5-mile Brooks River that runs through the park. This adventure takes you to Brooks Falls, where three bear viewing platforms connected by elevated boardwalks allow for close, unobstructed, extraordinary bear viewing. 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. Rangers sometimes use an on-site wait list for the lower river bear viewing platform to ensure quality bear viewing for everyone.

This trip to Katmai National Park and Preserve includes:

- Two to three-hour scenic flightseeing tour from Anchorage, wildlife watching on return flight (beluga whales, moose, and Dall sheep)
- Katmai bear viewing at Brooks Falls (Watch them catch jumping salmon!)
- Window seat and 2-way headset (You can ask your pilot questions!)
- Detailed knowledge (and personality) of an experienced Alaskan bush pilot

Flight departs Anchorage at 8:00 AM and returns to Anchorage around 6:00 PM. (10 hours total--4 hours of bear viewing, 5.5 hours flight time) Times are approximate and depend on weather and plane type available.



****Minimum two people for guaranteed departure. Actual bear sightings cannot be guaranteed. Also, due to volatile weather in remote bear viewing regions, we HIGHLY recommend purchasing travel insurance.****



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TOUR TYPE	Double Room Occupancy	Single Room Occupancy
DELUXE	\$5,499	\$6,699

<i>Talkeetna Upgrades</i>	<i>Denali Upgrades</i>	<i>Seward Upgrades</i>
<i>Glacier Landing \$100/person</i>	<i>ATV Ride Single: \$150 Double: \$250 Triple: \$350</i>	<i>Glacier Dog Sled Trip with Helicopter Ride \$580/person</i>
<i>Anchorage Upgrades</i>	<i>Zipline \$160/person</i>	<i>Zipline \$160/person</i>
<i>Full Day Bear Viewing 8-10 hr Katmai: \$1,350/person 6-8 hr Lake Clark: \$1,150/person</i>	<i>Denali 9-Hole Golf \$124/ person</i>	<i>Fishing Charter Full Day Halibut (June): \$410 Full Day Combo (Jul-Aug): \$435 Half-Day Combo (Jul-Aug): \$305</i>
<i>Pre-night Hotel Quality: \$305 Deluxe: \$385 Post-night Hotel Quality: \$305 Deluxe: \$385</i>	<i>Glacier View Upgrades Helicopter Glacier Landing \$249/person</i>	<i>2nd Seward Activity \$105/person</i>

VERY IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ:

Please review terms & conditions below as well as online.

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

*AAU Adventures are a combination of guided and choreographed adventures. Our AAU Guide will be with you days 1-7. Days 8-10 are your AAU choreographed 3-Day Kenai Peninsula adventure featuring the Alaska Railroad & the Kenai Fjords. (Anchorage option for final day available.) 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 include some meals: 5-7 breakfasts (depends on Denali hotel); 3 lunches; 1-2 dinners (Deluxe Package has 1 extra dinner). Rates do not include gratuities, tax (\$390), 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.