

8-Day Best of Alaska



Delve deep into Alaska's backcountry and be captivated by the natural beauty that awaits you! This adventure features it all at a pace you will love. Our local resident guides will treat you to the history and lore of Alaska, along with personal stories and a touch of Alaskan flavor, as you immerse yourself in the wonder of Southcentral & interior Alaska.

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, 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 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:

- 8 days/ 7 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, followed by scenic railroad transport to and from Seward
- A Meet & Greet welcome dinner, two - three lunches, and breakfasts (depending on accommodations)

2024 DEPARTURE DATES:

June 2 - 9, 2024

August 18 - 25, 2024

Contact Free Spirit Travel Vacations & Events for Booking

Office: **480-926-5547**

Email: reservations@freespiritvacations.com



8-Day Best of Alaska



1 Welcome to Alaska!

Native Cultural Day and Meet & Greet Dinner
*Wasilla Accommodations



Chickaloon & Matanuska Glacier

Rafting & Glacier Ice Trek
*Wasilla Accommodations

2



3 Talkeetna

Denali Flight Seeing or Riverboat Adventure
*Denali Accommodations



Denali National Park

Denali Wildlife Tour
*Denali Accommodations

4



5 Denali National Park & Wasilla

Activities around the park (various upgrades available)
*Wasilla Accommodations



Palmer & Knik Glacier

Gold Panning & Knik Glacier Jet Boat Adventure
*Anchorage Accommodations

6

7 Kenai Fjords National Park

Domed Rail to Seward, Wildlife & Glacier Cruise
*Seward Accommodations



Seward

Dog Sled Ride or Kayaking (various upgrades available)
Evening Domed Rail to Anchorage (arrival 10:30 PM)
*End of Tour

8





DAY 1-ANCHORAGE: Today starts the first day of your Alaska adventure, with you exploring the history of our state! Your guide will meet you out front of your hotel lobby 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 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.

***This activity may be switched to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center depending on your 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 join in the fun. 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

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: Spotting wildlife in the beautiful and scenic Denali National Park is your adventure for today. Try to spot the Big 5: moose, caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, and wolves. Your guide will escort you to the Wilderness Access Center where you will board the Denali Park Shuttle. The shuttle takes you deep into the park for a 5-hour roundtrip tour.



(Depending on hotel, continental breakfast included - AAU provided lunch included - Dinner not included - restaurant stop provided)

ACCOMMODATIONS NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK

DAY 5-DENALI: Today is a day of leisure. Guests may enjoy the scenery at their accommodations. There are also various hiking options in and around Denali National Park. Denali National Park Visitor Center also offers 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-covered vehicles):

(Must be 16 yrs. & Licensed to Drive, or can be a passenger)

\$150 single rider

\$250 double rider

\$350 triple rider

Ride on several terrain types. There are coal mining tails, rocky creek beds, hill climbs, water, and mud crossings. Total tour covers approximately 10 miles, with 1 ½ hours on the trails.

2) 9-Hole Tundra Golf: \$124 per person

Black Diamond is a challenging course with Alaskan hazards, such as tundra marsh or even the occasional moose hoof print. It is a relatively short course, accessible and fun for any style of play.



3) Denali Zip Line (3 hours) : \$160 per person

(Must be 8 yrs & 70 lbs. Max 270 lbs.)

Your zipline adventure begins with a three-mile trail ride 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 - Lunch and 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. 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 and dinner not included - Lunch restaurant stop provided, many restaurants close to hotel location for dinner)
ACCOMMODATIONS IN ANCHORAGE

DAY 7-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 scenic area of Alaska.

DELUXE package - Breakfast INCLUDED

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



SEWARD: 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
- Chance to see incredible Alaskan wildlife up close (humpback and Orca whales, seals, sea otters, puffins, eagles, etc.)



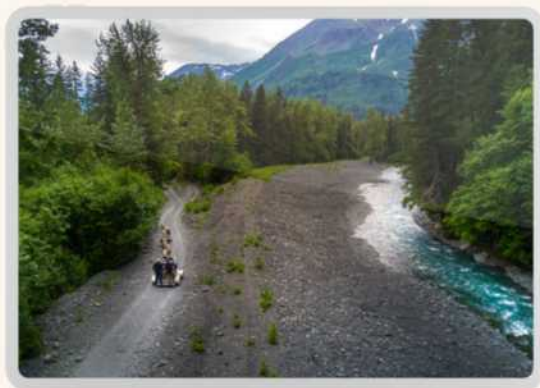
(Breakfast in GoldStar Dining Car included in deluxe package - Lunch aboard day cruise included - Dinner not included, many restaurant options in Seward available)

ACCOMMODATIONS IN SEWARD

DAY 8-SEWARD: Your day 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 and 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.



Tandem Sea Kayaking:

While you're charting the waters of beautiful Resurrection Bay, keep your eyes peeled for otters, salmon, and eagles. This adventure is great for all groups (big and small). Your three-hour guided kayaking tour will go to Tonsina Creek. Kayaking gear, water, and snack provided. Dry bags available upon request.



*Guests can also upgrade by choosing both of the above tours, one for morning and one for afternoon (\$105 per person).

YOU MAY ALSO UPGRADE BY CHOOSING INSTEAD:



Helicopter w/ 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 the summertime while mushing with the dogs!

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

Incredible panoramic views across the valley and glaciers to the southwest as you soar along on eight ziplines. Trip also includes three suspension bridges and two rappels.

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.



**(Continental breakfast included, depending on accommodations - Lunch not included - Dinner included for Deluxe package guests returning on Alaska Railroad)
RETURN TO ANCHORAGE ON ALASKA RAILROAD OR MOTORCOACH (TOUR ENDS)**



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TOUR TYPE	Double Room Occupancy	Single Room Occupancy
DELUXE	\$5,199	\$6,099

<i>Talkeetna Upgrades</i>	<i>Denali Upgrades</i>	<i>Seward Upgrades</i>
<i>Glacier Landing</i> \$100/person	<i>ATV Rides</i> Single: \$150 Double: \$250 Triple: \$350	<i>Helicopter to Glacier Dog Sled</i> \$580/person
<i>Optional Pre/Post Trip Add-ons</i>	<i>Zipline</i> \$160/person	<i>Zipline</i> \$160/person
<i>Full Day Bear Viewing</i> 8-10 hr Katmai - \$1,364/person 6-8 hr Lake Clark - \$1,164/person	<i>Denali 9-Hole Golf</i> \$124/ person	<i>Fishing</i> Full Day Halibut (June): \$410 Full Day Combo (Jul-Aug): \$435 Half-Day Combo (Jul-Aug): \$305
<i>Pre-night Hotel</i> \$305 Moderate - \$385 Upscale <i>Post-night Hotel</i> \$305 Moderate - \$385 Upscale		<i>2nd Seward Activity</i> \$105/person
<i>Glacier View Upgrade</i>	<i>Helicopter Glacier Landing</i> \$249 / person	

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. Day 7 & 8 are your AAU choreographed 2-day Kenai Peninsula adventures 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 include some meals: 4-6 breakfasts (depends on Denali hotel); 3 lunches; 1-2 dinners (Deluxe Package has 1 extra dinner). Rates do not include gratuities, tax (\$310), 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. 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.