

Best-Day Adventures & Beyond
Tours for all adults: couples, singles, solos and beyond!

Alaska Adventure

August 1-8, 2021

plus

Optional Extension August 8-10, 2021

(As of Feb 15, 2021)



Day 1: Sunday, August 1, 2021: ARRIVE ANCHORAGE

Located in southern Alaska on the shores of Cook Inlet, Anchorage stands as a classy metropolis in the midst of rugged wilderness. Anchorage is the largest city in Alaska and is home to half of the state's residents. 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 shopping malls. Moose can often be seen in urban parks and the tallest mountain in North America, Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley) can sometimes be seen some 300 miles away.

- Upon arrival, transfer on own to our centrally located downtown hotel, only 10 minutes from the airport and right in the heart of the city.
- This afternoon as folks arrive, we'll have a casual **meet & greet** with activity options available.
- Tonight, we join together for a **welcome program and orientation** followed by an included dinner offering a variety of delicious local fare.

Overnight in Anchorage (D)

Day 2: Monday, August 2, 2021: ANCHORAGE – SEWARD

Situated at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward is one of Alaska's oldest and most scenic communities and is known as the 'Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park'.

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- After a leisurely morning, we meet our driver/guide and begin our first full day of our Alaska adventure. We begin with a scenic tour of **Anchorage** highlighted by the historic downtown area, the **Ship Creek fish ladder**, and the busiest floatplane terminal in North America.
- We head along the **Turnagain Arm** to the coastal community of **Seward**. Don't blink along our journey on the Seward Highway because this ride is a treat showcasing an endless array of diverse landscapes with jagged peaks, alpine meadows, breathtaking fjords and maybe even a wildlife sighting or two.
- We visit **Exit Glacier**; one of the most accessible glaciers in all of Alaska. We will take an easy **trail hike** to the face of the glacier and see for ourselves how glaciers like this have reshaped the landscape of Alaska.



- Upon arrival in Seward, we get settled in at our hotel and enjoy an exploration of this seaside town with a **walkabout** led by Tour Leader, Bill Cartiff.
- This evening we enjoy a special included dinner-with-a-view along the waterfront.

Overnight in Seward (B, D)

Day 3: Tuesday, August 3, 2021: SEWARD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- After breakfast we embark on an incredible 6-hour narrated marine safari in **Kenai Fjords National Park**. Aboard our spacious vessel - designed to provide access to as much scenery and wildlife as possible - we'll **cruise** along jagged mountains and deep valleys while viewing an abundance of marine wildlife that can include humpbacks, orcas, porpoises, puffins, sea lions and more. As we make our way to a tidewater glacier, we watch and listen for ice calving into the ocean below, as we enjoy a freshly prepared deli lunch.
- We return to our hotel for a little rest & refresh.
- Tonight, enjoy this scenic city on own or choose to "follow the leader" to dinner.



Overnight in Seward (B, L)

Day 4: Wednesday, August 4, 2021: SEWARD - ANCHORAGE

- Breakfast at our hotel
- This morning we visit the homestead of **Mitch Seavey**, one of the most famous (and recent!) Iditarod champions for our **Wilderness Sled Dog Tour**. Here we'll meet champion sled dogs, cuddle adorable puppies, dress up as an Iditarod musher, and take in the spectacular Alaskan wilderness while experiencing an authentic (albeit modified for summer terrain) 2-mile mush with an Iditarod racer. Learn about the love, care and training of sled dogs and hear incredible stories from the trail. This tour has been voted "Best Dog Sled Tour in Alaska".
- This afternoon we depart Seward and visit the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**. This 200-acre animal sanctuary is home to dozens of rescued wild animals and will provide us with the unique experience of up close & personal viewing of the most famous Alaskan wildlife including brown bear, bison, moose, caribou, the elusive wolverine and more.
- Back in Anchorage, we enjoy a stroll on the **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail**. Conveniently located near our hotel, the paved walking path hugs the shores of the Cook Inlet along coastal marshes, over forested hills and across remnants from the Great Earthquake of 1964.
- Enjoy an evening at leisure or choose to "follow the leader" to dinner.

Overnight in Anchorage (B)



Day 5: Thursday, August 5, 2021: ANCHORAGE - TALKEETNA - DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- This morning we enjoy breakfast at a favorite local establishment.
- After checkout, we travel to the uniquely Alaskan "Northern Exposure" town of **Talkeetna**. Our journey takes us through the **Matanuska-Susitna Valley**, rimmed by three major mountain ranges: The Alaska Range, and the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains. The drive features expansive views of alpine peaks & valleys, rivers & streams, and vast forests. Here, we'll have some time to explore and enjoy lunch on our own.
- En route we will make a stop at the Iditarod Headquarters & Museum in **Wasilla** (yes, Sarah Palin's hometown) and learn more about the Last Great Race on Earth.
- After lunch we continue our journey north on the Parks Highway to **Denali National Park**.
- Upon arrival at Denali National Park, we get settled in at our hotel and then enjoy an included dinner at our favorite local pizzeria.
- After dinner, choose to relax in the majestic surroundings or join Tour Leader Bill on a stroll along the glacial **Nenana River**.



Overnight in Denali National Park (B, D)

Day 6: Friday, August 6, 2021: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Covering more than 6 million acres, Denali National Park is one of North America's best locations to view an amazing array of wildlife in a spectacular setting. Weather permitting, you may get a glimpse of the park's most famous mountain, Denali, which at 20,320 feet is North America's highest peak.

- "Grab & Go" breakfast on our own this morning as we prepare to embark on an early morning adventure-of-a-lifetime.
- We depart on our **Tundra Wilderness Tour** traveling 62 miles into Denali National Park on a 7-8 hour narrated safari through the pristine wilderness. Along the way, our driver/naturalist will provide a narrated overview of the history, the land, wildlife and park services. Enjoy the incredible scenery and keep a lookout for grizzly bears, moose, dall sheep, wolves and more.
- Later this afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore and absorb the ambiance of the park.
- We join together for a **Shabbat Kiddush** under the late setting Alaskan sunset.
- Tonight, we get a taste of old-time Alaska at the **Cabin Nite Dinner Theater**. We'll dine on a scrumptious smorgasbord, while being entertained during an interactive performance of storytelling and songs that represent the history of Denali National Park.

Overnight in Denali National Park (D)



Day 7: Saturday, August 7, 2021: DENALI NATIONAL PARK – FAIRBANKS

Situated along the banks of the Chena River, Fairbanks is a city that combines modern amenities with a quintessentially Alaskan frontier spirit. Commonly known as the “Gateway to the Arctic,” the second-largest city in Alaska has a colorful history dating back to the late 1800s and the discovery of gold in the area. Located near the state’s epicenter, Fairbanks has the widest temperature range of any city on Earth, with a variance of over 150 degrees between winter’s cold and summer’s heat.

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning is yours to enjoy at leisure or choose to join one of many amazing optional tours (details provided to all registered guests about 4 weeks prior to the tour. Extra fee may apply).
- This afternoon we will travel aboard a **luxury domed rail car** - the only of its kind in the world - from Denali National Park to Fairbanks. Large, panoramic windows and outdoor viewing platforms allow for unrestricted views of the scenery around you and provide an excellent vantage point for photos. The train is fully equipped with oversized reclining seats, spacious public areas, a gift shop, bar & food service, and a guide providing narration.
- Upon our night-time arrival in **Fairbanks** we will transfer to our hotel.
- Choose to just settle in for the night or join us for a short **walkabout** into the city during the late Alaskan sunset.

Overnight in Fairbanks (B)

Day 8: Sunday, August 8, 2021: DEPART FOR HOME, OR OPTIONAL EXTENSION FAIRBANKS - ANCHORAGE

- Enjoy an included breakfast this morning.
- This morning, we check out of our hotel and enjoy a private city tour of Fairbanks to view the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline** and other area attractions. Our tour is culminated with a visit the log cabin homestead of **Mary Shields**, the first woman ever to cross the finish line of the Iditarod. Mary’s “Tales of the Trails” is a personal account of her mushing life. You will get to know this extraordinary woman as well as share the opportunity to interact with her team of dogs, who are descendants of Iditarod racers and who still love the mush today.
- Lunch on own.
- Suggested afternoon or evening departure home - travel to the Fairbanks Airport on the hotel courtesy shuttle for your flight home.



OR STAY FOR AN...



OPTIONAL EXTENSION BEAR WATCHING AT LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK August 8-10, 2022

Day 8: Sunday, August 8, 2021: FAIRBANKS – ANCHORAGE

- This afternoon we take a short **flight** from Fairbanks to Anchorage.
- Upon arrival into Anchorage, we are transferred to our hotel.
- Option to have evening at leisure or choose to “follow the leader” to dinner.

Overnight in Anchorage (B)

Day 9: Monday, August 9, 2021: ANCHORAGE – LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is a land of stunning beauty. Volcanoes steam, salmon run, bears forage, and craggy mountains reflect in shimmering turquoise lakes. Venture into the park to become part of the wilderness.

- Early breakfast at our hotel
- Our once-in-a-lifetime **bear watching adventure** commences this morning with a stunning **float plane ride** from Anchorage to **Lake Clark National Park**; one of the world's most inaccessible and remote national parks. We will explore the waters and shores aboard a comfortable covered **pontoon boat**, getting unhindered views of Grizzly Bears in their popular salmon feeding site. Our tour includes:
 - Round trip 70-minute flight from Anchorage to Lake Clark National Park
 - A guaranteed window seat and 2-way headset
 - A full 11-hour adventure on the headwaters of Bristol Bay
 - Transport on a covered pontoon boat to spot bears in different locations.
 - Lunch at the rustic Redoubt Mountain Lodge.
- After our incredible day, we return back to Anchorage, and are transferred to our hotel.
- Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure or choose to “follow the leader” to dinner.



Overnight in Anchorage (B, L)

Day 10: Tuesday, August 10, 2021: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel
- Our adventure comes to a close today. Option to fly home any time of your choosing, but if you opt to fly home late in the day, optional activities will be offered.
- Transfer to airport on own.
- We arrive home and start making plans for our next Best-Day Adventure!

The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

