



# Alaska's National Parks: Denali & the Kenai Fjords

## 10 days

Majestic glaciers, unique wildlife, and pristine views do justice to Alaska's nickname as the Last Frontier. Learn about the history of famous traditions like the Iditarod, and experience the beauty of both Denali and the Kenai Fjords National Parks on this small group Wildlife Tour. In quaint villages, and in the untamed wilderness, picture-perfect landscapes will appear around every corner.



#### Your tour package includes

8 nights in handpicked hotels
8 breakfasts
2 lunches
2 dinners with beer or wine
7 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
1 train ride

## Included highlights

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Denali National Park Palmer Visitor Information Center Alaska Railroad train ride Kenai Fjords National Park cruise Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

#### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and gravel paths, with few hills. Some activities will take place at high altitudes.

## Group size

12-22

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## Fairbanks, Alaska → 2 nights

#### Day 1: Arrival in Fairbanks

Welcome to Alaska! Settle in to your hotel this evening.

#### Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Fairbanks

Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Fairbanks this morning.

- Enter the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center to view the exhibits dedicated to the culture and art of Alaskan Natives
- Pan for gold at Gold Daughters
- Walk through Creamer's Field Migratory
   Waterfowl Refuge with a naturalist guide

Please note: The stops along the guided tour may vary based on season.

This evening, attend a traditional Alaskan salmon bake welcome dinner.

## **Denali, Alaska** → 2 nights

#### Day 3: Denali National Park via Nenana village

Included meals: breakfast

Head to Denali this morning and on the way stop to visit Nenana village.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Denali or add an excursion.

+ Denali Wilderness Walking Tour

#### Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Denali National Park

Included meals: breakfast

A day of sightseeing with your guide immerses you in the scenery, flora, and fauna of Denali National Park.

- Look for wildlife such as grizzly bears, moose, wolves, caribou, and eagles
- See Denali, North America's tallest mountain (weather-dependent)
- Enter the Murie Science and Learning Center for a ranger-led talk about the park's ecosystem and ongoing conservation efforts

Stop for free time to enjoy a late dinner on the way out of the park.

## Anchorage, Alaska → 2 nights

#### Day 5: Anchorage via Talkeetna & Palmer

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
On your way to Anchorage, visit two historic towns to learn more about Alaskan culture and traditions

- Stop in Talkeetna to enjoy free time to shop and eat downtown
- Enjoy a talk led by a local mountain climber to learn about mountaineering in Alaska and what it's like to summit the state's most famous peaks, including Denali
- Visit the Palmer Visitor Center for an in-depth look in to the history, art, culture of the town

Then, continue on to Anchorage and sit down for an included dinner.

#### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Anchorage

Included meals: breakfast

Head out on a guided tour of Anchorage, Alaska's largest city.

- Pass by Earthquake Park to learn about how the 1964 natural disaster impacted the city
- Stop at the Lake Hood Seaplane Base
- Venture downtown to see the Captain Cook
   Statue and salmon ladders (seasonal)
- · Spend free time exploring the city

Please note: The stops along the guided tour may vary based on season.

Spend a free afternoon in Anchorage or add an excursion.

+ Alaska Native Heritage Center

## Seward, Alaska $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

## Day 7: Train ride to Seward

Included meals: breakfast

Hop aboard the Coastal Classic Train and enjoy a scenic journey on the Alaska Railroad as you travel to Seward.

- Admire views of the coast and forest as you travel along the route National Geographic named one of the top train rides in North America
- Ride along the Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet and through the Kenai Peninsula
- View massive glaciers and towering waterfalls through the large windows or opt to stop by the Vista Dome car, which has a glass ceiling and offers panoramic views

Spend a free afternoon in Seward or add an excursion.

+ Kenai Fjords National Park: Exit Glacier Hike

#### Day 8: Kenai Fjords National Park cruise

Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Embark on a cruise through the waterways of
Kenai Fjords National Park to experience the
panoramic glacial views the area is known for.

- Float along the pristine waters on the Kenai
  Peninsula
- · Try to spot wildlife, such as birds and whales
- Enjoy an included boxed lunch

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

#### Day 9: Anchorage via Portage & departure

Included meals: breakfast, farewell lunch
Drive through the Kenai Mountain Range, making
a stop in Portage.

- Visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to learn about the organization's animal rescue work
- Stop at Portage Lake to enter the Begich Boggs Visitor Center
- Soak in spectacular views of the Explorer Glacier

Continue on to Anchorage and celebrate your trip during a farewell lunch. Then, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home.

Please note: The Begich Boggs Visitor Center is closed from Labor Day through Memorial Day due to weather conditions in the area.

## **Arrive Home**

## Day 10: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

Please note: This arrival time applies to east coast gateways. If you live in another region, you may arrive home on the evening of day 9.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/ANP | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 3: Denali Wilderness Walking Tour

\$235CAD (2 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Return to Denali National Park and take an in-depth,
walking tour focused on the park's flora and fauna. Your
walk will be led by a naturalist guide who will point out
various landmarks and talk about Alaska's geology and
glacial history. Walk through boreal forests and discover
how plants and animals have adapted to the extreme
sub-arctic climate. As you explore the landscapes the
local animals call home, you'll gain a new perspective
for this region's natural beauty. This excursion requires
advance reservation and must be booked at least 25
days prior to departure.

#### Day 6: Alaska Native Heritage Center

\$175CAD (3 hours, departs in the afternoon) Pay a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where you'll join a local guide to learn about Alaska's indigenous cultures. The center aims to share and preserve the stories of the local indigenous people. Six traditional villages sit along the shore of Lake Tiulana, and you'll visit one of the villages to get an authentic look into the lifestyles and traditions of Alaska's native people. From the Athabascan to the Tsimshian people, you'll learn about the many artforms that define each of these unique indigenous groups. These artforms include everything from songs and dances, to games and dress. After your tour, enjoy free time to explore the Hall of Cultures and shop for artwork created by native Alaskan artisans. Then, sit down for dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

## Day 7: Kenai Fjords National Park: Exit Glacier Hike

\$105CAD (3 hours, departs in the afternoon) Exit Glacier is one of the main attractions in Kenai Fjords National Park and today you'll set off on a moderately strenuous hike along Exit Glacier Trail to enjoy wide-ranging views of this incredible site. The well-maintained loop trail will take you past forests, streams, and of course, Exit Glacier. The glacier is part of a naturally carved valley within Harding Icefield and marks the spot where expeditionists exited after crossing the icefield for the first time. As you follow a naturalist guide on the hike, keep your eyes peeled for owls, magpies, mountain goats, and more. End the day with a visit to the Exit Glacier Nature Center where you can view exhibits about the glacier, shop at the Alaska Geographic bookstore, and chat with a ranger about the national park. This excursion is dependent on the weather. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 25 days prior to departure.