

ALASKA, YUKON & ARCTIC CIRCLE – 18 DAYS

Day 1: Arrival day in Anchorage

Starting in Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska with only 300,000 people and a city which has undergone quite a change since the earthquake of 1964. Now a bustling city fuelled by the oil boom and tourism, it wasn't that long ago that Anchorage was the last outpost before heading into the 'Last Frontier'. It's also common place to find bear roaming the outskirts of the city. Spend your day wandering around the town to get a feel for the 49th state, speaking to the locals and breathing in that fresh Alaskan air! A welcome meeting will be held at 18:00 hrs for you to meet your tour leader and fellow travelling companions.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 2-3: Anchorage to Denali National Park

Leave civilisation behind and head into the vast wilderness of Denali National Park. Surrounded by Mount Denali, the tallest mountain peak in North America, Denali offers a vast refuge for a variety of wildlife. Wolves, caribou and Dall Sheep all call Denali home, as does the mighty Grizzly Bear. A wide range of optional activities are available such as river rafting, scenic flights and dog sledding demonstrations. Hiking for all fitness and adventure levels is in abundance within the park, so you're never far away from a new adventure. Did you know that Denali National Park is one of the few American parks where you're encouraged to get off the beaten track and forge your own trail? Well now you do, so be sure to make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

The following days are free for you to explore the pristine backcountry of the park. Take the included Denali shuttle bus, which offers scenic views of the taiga and sub-arctic tundra. It also offers superb opportunities to view wildlife as well as access to unlimited hiking options. For a highly recommended treat why not try an optional scenic flight to get a good view of Mount McKinley's towering peak? For the ultimate mind-blowing experience opt for a glacier landing!

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2), dinner (x2) included

Day 4: Chena Hot Springs Resort, Fairbanks

After a couple of days exploring the unprecedented Alaskan wilderness you head towards the city of Fairbanks. Fairbanks is the largest city in the interior region of Alaska and in the afternoon you visit the much loved Chena Hot Springs Resort for an optional swim in the luxurious natural thermal pools. Then it's back to Fairbanks where you'll be spending the night. Before your head hits your pillow take a wander around the city.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 5: Full day flight to the gates of the Arctic Circle - Anaktuvuk Pass Village and Fairbanks

Anaktuvuk Pass is a remote village located within the park and preserve boundaries. It was established along a major caribou migration route in the early 1950s by the last remaining band of semi-nomadic Nunamiut Eskimo. Even today, the residents continue to depend on caribou and other natural resources for food and clothing. Today you'll take an unbelievable flight to this remote Arctic village for a once in a lifetime journey. You'll land on the town airstrip and from there you'll be guided to various points of interest by a local guide. Enjoy hearing the story of the Nunamiut, from their early nomadic days to their current life in Anaktuvuk Pass. Today, Anaktuvuk Pass is a village of 250 people with regular air service, a village store and a popular museum that highlights Nunamiut history and culture. From the air you'll be able to see the remarkable Trans Alaska Pipeline from the air and fly over the expansive Yukon River Valley, home of the traditional people that sustain their lifestyle and culture as they have for thousands of years. Return to Fairbanks in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Paid locally

Day 6-7: Chicken and Dawson City

Pass through the unusually named gold mining town of Chicken en route to Dawson City. Dawson City was founded in 1897 and named after a Canadian geologist, George Dawson. The wooden shop fronts lining the downtown area give it a real frontier feel. The town looks like it's come straight out of a movie set from the 1800's and featured in the writings of Jack London, famous for his novel, 'The Call of the Wild'. You can't visit Dawson City without a visit to an iconic Diamond Tooth Gerties, one of Canada's oldest and friendliest gambling halls. Try your luck at blackjack, roulette or one of the many slot machines whilst enjoying a song and dance from one of the dancing Gold Rush Gals - an experience like no other. You'll also have another chance to sample the legendary Sour-Toe cocktail or try your hand at gold panning. Enjoy a hike up to Midnight Dome for a look out over the city. People have been visiting this place for years to watch the midnight sun and the changing colours of the night sky.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x1) included

Day 8: Whitehorse

Follow the trail of the original sourdough miners along the Yukon River to Whitehorse and wander the streets of this old frontier capital. Surrounded by pristine lakes, mountains and the Yukon River, it's no surprise that Whitehorse is known as 'the wilderness city'. With a vibrant urban lifestyle, this Yukon city offers the best of both worlds.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Day 9-10: Kluane National Park

The Yukon's premier national park, Kluane, beckons you with a lovely waterside campsite along the shoreline of Lake Kluane. This park is full of mountains and glaciers that include Mount Logan (5,959 metres / 19,55ft.), the highest mountain in Canada. There've been over 100 species of bird recorded in the park including the Bald Eagle and Rock Ptarmigan. You have time to enjoy the splendour of this park, with optional hiking up Sheep Mountain or the chance to relax by the lake and soak up its serene beauty.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x2), dinner (x2) included

Day 11: Chistochina

Chistochina is a small quaint town where you camp by an authentic roadhouse with spectacular views in the Copper Valley.

Accommodation: Lodge included | Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 12-13: Wrangell-St.Elias National Park

You travel on to Wrangell-St Elias National Park and spend two nights at Ma Johnson's historic rustic hotel in the 'bush town' of McCarthy. This hotel is a living museum with original artifacts from when the property was first built. The rooms are basic with limited facilities making the lodge a wonderful place to disconnect, relax and enjoy the scenery.

Bordering Canada's Yukon Territory, Wrangell-St Elias National Park is the largest in the country, containing glaciers five times the size of Manhattan as well as nine of the sixteen highest peaks in North America! You'll have plenty of time to explore the historic abandoned copper mining town of Kennecott or hike along the Kennecott and Root Glaciers. Optional activities include ice climbing, hiking, sightseeing and glacier walking or taking a scenic flight past the towering mountains and endless glaciers to experience this vast and rugged wilderness.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals: Breakfast (x1) and lunch (x2) included

Day 14-15: Valdez

Valdez (pronounced 'Val-dees') is tucked away at the end of a glacier-carved fjord and called the 'Switzerland of Alaska' due to its surrounding snow-capped mountains. This is the most northerly ice-free port in the Western Hemisphere and the terminus of the Alaskan Pipeline that stretches over 800 miles (1,300km) to Prudhoe Bay. Enjoy a free day here with the option to take part in a kayaking trip to the foot of either the Shoup Glacier or the larger Columbia Glacier. The Shoup Glacier excursion is a shorter one, but both offer amazing once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2), dinner (x2) included

Day 16-17: Seward and Kenai Fjords National Park

Today is a full day drive to reach the colourful fishing village of Seward, your gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park. This is the perfect day to sit back and admire the dramatic and changeable scenery. Located on the south eastern side of the Kenai Peninsula, this park covers more than 600,000 acres (2,400 square km). You'll enjoy spectacular views of this rugged coastline and the Kenai Mountains.

This is the perfect opportunity for an included scenic wildlife cruise to view sea mammals, including pods of orca. You can also enjoy premier bird watching opportunities and a visit to a tidewater glacier to experience the sights and sounds of icebergs being calved into the sea. What you'll see on this five hour guided tour cannot be guaranteed however, this day have always proven to be a popular and rewarding tour with loads of wildlife sightings.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x1), dinner (x1) included

Day 18: Seward to Anchorage

Today is your final day in Alaska so why not go out with a bang! You'll have most of the day to hike the Harding Icefields trail for magnificent views of Exit Glacier. Then you'll journey north along the Kenai Peninsula returning to Anchorage in the afternoon where your Alaska adventure comes to an end. If you're not flying out tonight, it's the perfect opportunity for a farewell dinner and a fine Alaskan brew.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

Why not add on our one day bear viewing activity into the wilderness, returning to Anchorage in the evening. Please contact us for details.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We recommend booking post-tour accommodation if time allows. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

Tour Notes

Alaskan trips pass through rugged terrain and isolated areas. Many areas and campgrounds will only have basic and / or rustic facilities and little nightlife.