



Alaska's Untamed Wilderness

Awe-inspiring natural beauty and outdoor adventure await as we explore Alaska's varied landscapes and noteworthy cities. From Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Kenai Fjords national parks to the energy of Anchorage and scenic Seward, our small group encounters the breadth and beauty of America's 49th state.

Itinerary

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart for Anchorage, Alaska

We depart today for Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Upon arrival, we check in to our centrally located hotel. As guests' arrival times may vary, we have no group activities or meals planned. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Accommodations: Anchorage Marriott Downtown

DAY 2: Anchorage/Denali National Park

This morning we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome briefing about the journey ahead. Then we depart by motorcoach for Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska's – and America's – true unspoiled wilderness. We first travel to Talkeetna, where we board a deluxe domed railcar that provides us with panoramic views of the passing landscape on the four-hour journey. Upon arrival in Denali late this afternoon, we enjoy a special interpretive presentation, "Welcome to Denali," which introduces us to the park.

Accommodations: Denali Park Village Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3: Denali National Park

It's a day of extreme beauty as we encounter Denali National Park up close. This six-million-acre preserve, larger than the state of New Hampshire, comprises forests, alpine tundra, sub-arctic taiga, and snow-covered mountains. We begin our full day of touring as we board a Denali bus for the drive along the lone road deep into the park. Weather permitting, we may see dramatic views of grand Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley), North America's tallest peak standing at more than 20,000 feet. Throughout our journey, a local naturalist and our driver-guide will share stories about the park and the historic characters who found their way to this remote wilderness. At several times during our adventure, we disembark for brief walks or rest stops. We keep our eyes peeled for grizzly bear, moose, caribou, and the iconic Dall sheep known for their white coat and massive curled horns.

Accommodations: Denali Park Village Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: Denali National Park

After a free morning at our lodge, perhaps to enjoy an optional rafting, hiking, or fly-fishing excursion, we set out this afternoon for an authentic Alaska experience as we visit a local Iditarod sled dog kennel. Covering 1,000 miles of some of the roughest terrain in the world, the grueling Iditarod, “The Last Great Race on Earth,” draws nearly 100 competitive mushers and their dog teams annually. At the kennel, we learn about the history of the race and meet the kennel’s Husky puppies, who will soon start their training to become working sled dogs. We return to the lodge in time for dinner together tonight.

Accommodations: Denali Park Village Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: Denali National Park/Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

We depart Denali by motorcoach this morning for the day-long journey to remote Chitina (pop. 126!). Here we board a prop plane for the scenic flight deep into Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, at 8.3 million acres the largest national park in the United States. Our destination: the historic copper mining towns of Kennicott/McCarthy, sitting deep within the park. During our 30-minute flight, we get our first views of the park’s rugged wilderness, including 5,000 square miles of pristine glaciers, volcanoes, and mountain after mountain. Upon landing, we transfer to our lodge in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias, overlooking 25 miles of glacier and surrounded by nine of the 16 highest mountain peaks in North America. We dine tonight at our lodge, the only one in Kennicott.

Accommodations: Kennicott Glacier Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

Home to more than 150 glaciers, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park contains the largest collection of these ice masses in North America. We see one of these glaciers up close today on our singular half-day hike to Root Glacier. After being fitted with crampons – steel shoe spikes created to traverse ice – we begin our three-mile excursion to the glacier and behold the natural beauty before us: unspoiled icefields, blue pools, cascading waterfalls, deep canyons, narrow crevasses. We eat a sack lunch in the wild then return to our lodge for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, we enjoy dinner together at our lodge.

Accommodations: Kennicott Glacier Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Mat-Su Valley

This morning, we explore Kennicott, a National Historic Landmark District. Established in 1903, Kennicott was once a bustling mining camp but became a ghost town after the ore was depleted in 1938. The town is now considered one of the best remaining examples of 20th-century copper mining. We see this firsthand on our tour of the 14-story concentration mill and other historic mining buildings. This afternoon we board a prop plane for the return flight to Chitina, where we then board a motorcoach for the drive to the agricultural community of the Mat-Su Valley and our hotel located on the banks of Lake Lucille. Tonight, we reach our hotel, where we dine together.

Accommodations: Best Western Lake Lucille Inn

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: Mat-Su Valley/Anchorage/Seward

Late this morning we journey by coach to the coastal town of Seward. En route, we enjoy a panoramic tour of Anchorage, beginning at Lake Hood, the largest and busiest seaplane base in the world with more than 190 float planes taking off and landing daily. We also pass through the city's historic downtown, featuring Old City Hall; the Wendler Building, a popular women's-only bar from the 1940s and '50s; and 4th Avenue Market Place, filled with local artisan shops. After time for lunch on our own in this city known for its fresh local salmon, halibut, and snow crab, we continue on to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality animal care and preserving Alaska's wildlife. With 200 acres of spacious enclosures, the center offers an opportunity to see injured or orphaned bears, moose, elk, wolves, caribou, and more display their natural behavior in a safe environment. We then continue on to Seward and our hotel, nestled in the Exit Glacier Valley.

Accommodations: Windsong Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9: Seward

One of Alaska's most scenic communities, Seward features a bustling harbor, inviting shops, and plenty of outdoor activities. The city also serves as the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park, a 600,000-acre preserve comprising rocky peninsulas, long fjords, primeval glaciers, and tranquil bays and coves. We explore this rugged park today on a glacier and wildlife cruise. On board, we get up close to one of Kenai's many glaciers and keep an eye out for some of the park's diverse array of mammals and marine life, including bears, mountain goats, moose, otters, porpoises, sea lions, harbor seals, and whales. We enjoy lunch aboard before returning to Seward in the late afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Accommodations: Windsong Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10: Seward/Anchorage

Today we return to Anchorage, stopping for lunch on our own on the way. Upon arrival in Anchorage, we visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center, which represents 11 of Alaska's major Indigenous cultural groups and where we enjoy a tour of the center and watch a dynamic Native Games demonstration. Tonight, we celebrate our journey through Alaska at a farewell dinner.

Accommodations: Anchorage Marriott Downtown

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11: Depart Anchorage

We transfer this morning to the Anchorage airport for our flights home.

Meals: Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Alaska's Untamed Wilderness on Apr 11, 2024. Please visit the Alaska's Untamed Wilderness page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/north-america/alaskas-untamed-wilderness/> for the latest and

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