



Vacation Overview

Board the Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park and seek out grizzly bear, caribou, moose, and more on a wilderness expedition. Take a cruise on Prince William Sound and along Columbia Glacier, the second-largest tide-water glacier in North America. Just imagine the gorgeous scenery you'll see! You'll also take a cruise on Kenai Fjords National Park to see glaciers calving into the sea and hear the thunderous roar. Photos and videos cannot adequately capture the experience—you must witness it in person. On both cruises, be sure to watch for wildlife.

See the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Terminal near Valdez, take a sternwheeler cruise in Fairbanks, visit the home of four-time Iditarod champion Martin Buser near Anchorage, and enjoy all the scenery and majesty that only a vacation to Alaska can offer.



Spectacular Alaska!

Day 1 Arrive in Anchorage

Welcome to Anchorage! Meet your Tour Director this evening between 5 pm and 8 pm in the hotel reception area.

Day 2 Anchorage–Valdez

Meet your fellow traveling companions at this morning's welcome orientation. Travel through Palmer in the Matanuska Valley, where cabbages can grow to an amazing 70 pounds in the 24-hour daylight, up over Tahnetta Pass with wonderful vistas of Matanuska and Worthington Glaciers. Stop at Bridal Veil Falls before arriving in the seaside port of Valdez, often referred to as the "Switzerland of Alaska." (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3 Valdez. Cruise on Prince William Sound

Board your boat for a CRUISE on Prince William Sound and along the 3-mile face of Columbia Glacier, keeping a watchful eye out for wildlife, including seals, sea otters, birds, and even whales! Before returning to Valdez, see the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Terminal, where supertankers are loaded with crude oil from Prudhoe Bay. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 4 Valdez–Delta Junction–Fairbanks

Great scenery all the way as you travel along the Richardson Highway. Stop at DELTA JUNCTION, a living history homestead with a museum, original roadhouse, and farm animals. Then, head west on the Alaska Highway to Fairbanks, the state's second-largest city. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 5 Fairbanks

Visit the EL DORADO GOLD MINE, then ride the narrow-gauge railroad and head inside the mine's permafrost tunnel. Try your luck as you pan for gold. Later today, board the sternwheeler DISCOVERY for a cruise on the Chena and Tanana Rivers with a stop at the Chena Indian Village to learn about Athabascan Native culture. You will also have the chance to meet Iditarod mushers and their famed dog teams to learn about breeding, training, and the big race! (Breakfast)

September 9 - September 17, 2012

Day 6 Fairbanks–Denali National Park

Board the world-famous ALASKA RAILROAD for a journey through untamed wilderness. Today's ride ends at DENALI NATIONAL PARK, where North America's highest peak, 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, majestically dominates the park's 6 million acres. The afternoon is free. This evening, enjoy song, dance, and delicious food at the DENALI DINNER THEATER. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7 Denali National Park

Morning at leisure. Optional activities include a float trip down the Nenana River and a helicopter ride over the park. Then, dress comfortably for a WILDERNESS EXPEDITION into Denali National Park to seek out grizzly bear, caribou, moose, and other wildlife. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 8 Denali National Park–Anchorage

Continue your exploration of Denali National Park as you head south toward Anchorage. Stop along the way at HAPPY TRAILS KENNELS, home of four-time Iditarod Champion Martin Buser and his dogs. Meet an Iditarod competitor and learn how they race and care for their dogs. You will also see a demo on mushing, complete with a mock Iditarod checkpoint and get a chance to play with the sled dogs! Upon arrival in Anchorage, take a city sightseeing tour. This evening, your Tour Director hosts a special farewell dinner. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 Anchorage. Cruise in Kenai Fjords National Park

Witness one of the world's most scenic drives as you follow the south shore of lovely Turnagain Arm. Upon arrival in Seward, board your vessel for a cruise of KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK and the opportunity to see glaciers calving into the sea, orcas, humpback whales, sea otters, and more! (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 10 Anchorage

The vacation ends this morning with guests departing on individual schedules. Airport transfers are provided. (Breakfast)

MEALS

- *American breakfast daily
- *4 lunches
- *4 three-course dinners including a special farewell dinner

HOTELS

- ANCHORAGE Sheraton Anchorage (SF)
- VALDEZ Valdez Hotel (F)
- FAIRBANKS Wedgewood Resort (F)
- DENALI NATIONAL PARK Denali Bluffs (F)