



Alaska Wildland Adventures

An Introduction to Our Company

This year, Alaska Wildland Adventures will celebrate over 45 years in business. The company began operating trips in 1977 under the name Alaska Campout Adventures, offering a tenting safari that traveled from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to the Chugach National Forest and on to Denali National Park. In the early years, the company felt fortunate to take fifty to sixty people a year on adventurous trips throughout Alaska. Though our original trips featured camping, modern-day trips feature cabin overnights at deluxe wilderness lodges with authentic Alaskan ambience. We now host almost two thousand trip participants a year.

Alaska Wildland Adventures operates three properties: Kenai Riverside Lodge (which serves as a base for our Kenai Riverside Fishing program); Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge and Kenai Backcountry Lodge. Both Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge and Kenai Backcountry Lodge are boat-in-only destinations in remote wilderness settings.

Kenai Riverside Lodge is a 16-cabin facility located on the banks of the beautifully scenic upper Kenai River and was built entirely by Alaska Wildland Adventures; in 2019, the Homes at Kenai Riverside Lodge were welcomed as part of a property extension project and offer additional, upgraded accommodations perfect for families or small groups. Kenai Backcountry Lodge is a renovated and modified 1930's era wilderness hunting lodge with nine cabins; over half of the improvements were made by Alaska Wildland Adventures. Our seacoast venture, Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge, opened in 2009 and features 16 cabins situated on a protected lagoon, near Pedersen Glacier.

We operate trips for renowned partners like REI Adventures and also work with a number of trip wholesalers and group travel planners such as: AdventureSmith Explorations, Entrée Alaska, All Alaska Tours and more.

Over the years we have hosted a number of affinity groups, directly and through travel agents and planners. These include: National Parks Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, various Alumni and Zoo groups and more.

Our main office is in Girdwood, Alaska, a scenic mountain community 40 miles south of Anchorage. We maintain a two-building office on a scenic two-acre parcel that abuts an undeveloped greenway. Beaver ponds, nesting waterfowl, occasional moose and bear viewings from our windows, and a snow-clad mountain backdrop all reinforce why we are here. We have approximately 12 year-round staff and 100 seasonal staff at our three lodge properties for summer operations.

We are recognized members of: Alaska Center for the Environment; Alaska Conservation Foundation; Alaska Travel Industry Association; Adventure Green Alaska; America Outdoors; Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Kenai and Soldotna Convention and Visitors Bureaus; Better Business Bureau of Alaska; Cooper Landing, Girdwood, Kenai, Seward and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce; Federation of Fly Fishermen; Green Star Program; The International Ecotourism Society; National Parks Conservation Association; Sustainable Travel International; Trout Unlimited; and The Nature Conservancy.

Kirk Hoessle is the President and CEO (“Chief Exploration Officer”) of Alaska Wildland Adventures. He was a long-time member of the Board of Directors for the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), Alaska's 1,000 member travel trade association. From 2012 through 2016, he was one of 32 travel industry leaders appointed to the US Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, advising the US government on issues and policy related to travel and tourism. In October 2015, Kirk was awarded the 2015 Stan Stephens Stewardship Award by ATIA. This award commemorates the passion and dedication that Stan Stephens lived by in his commitment to safeguard Prince William Sound after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and it honors Kirk's work in protecting wild Alaska and sharing its beauty in a responsible and sustainable way. Kirk began leading trips in 1982 when the company only operated one trip. His involvement grew into a managerial role, then on to the role of owner/operator in 1987. Prior to his involvement in Alaska tourism, Kirk was a partner in an interpretive planning and design firm. He also helped direct and formulate environmental education programs for elementary and high school students.

Alaska Wildland Adventures has received numerous awards and honors including: recognition from industry leaders for diligent work to develop and implement sustainable tourism initiatives, particularly in its Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge project, at the 2010 Educational Travel Conference; recognition as one of the Top 15 Small Workplaces in the United States from Wall Street Journal and Winning Workplaces; recognition from Condé Nast Traveler's International Green List as the world's leading Ecotourism Tour Operator for commitment to sound environmental efforts ranging from sustainability to charitable contributions; Gold Level Certification from Adventure Green Alaska; the first Alaska Land Managers Forum Award for Outstanding Long Term Program; and the Arctic Award for Linking Tourism and Conservation from the World Wildlife Fund. Care and concern for the environment is a constant companion on our travels throughout Alaska. Our brochure describes our commitments to this regard, our style of travel and the ways in which we contribute financially to protecting wild Alaska.

For more information or to download our brochure, please call 800.334.8730 or visit our website at www.alaskawildland.com.

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