



## ALASKA FAMILY ADVENTURE

**Day 1:**

Meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers this morning in Anchorage. Today, explore North America's northernmost rainforest areas on a guided hike on a guest-favorite trail in the quaint mountain-town community of Girdwood, AK. This accessible hike is a perfect introduction to Alaska's flora and ecosystems and a wonderful warm-up to the rest of your adventure! Keep your eyes peeled for glimpses of the Girdwood valley's surrounding glaciers.

After lunch and other outdoor exploration, we'll make a special visit to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, for a fun introduction to Alaska's wildlife in a safe, educational environment. This sanctuary features viewing opportunities of black and brown bears, bald eagles, moose, musk ox, lynx, reindeer, wolves and more. Make sure to have your cameras ready!

Next, we continue south on a scenic drive en route to the Kenai Riverside Lodge. Complete the turn around the Turnagain Arm and then wind through the beautiful snowcapped mountains of the Chugach National Forest. Upon arrival at the lodge, enjoy a tour of the grounds before being shown to your private cabin. You'll have an opportunity to get a feel for the grounds and the beautiful location you'll call home for the next 5 nights.

After dinner, learn more about our lodge operations and the specific details of tomorrow's activities. There will be relaxation time to play ping pong on the Riverside deck, take a hot sauna, enjoy a stroll around the nature paths, play a board game or simply soak up your natural surroundings. Overnight at Kenai Riverside Lodge. **(L, D)** *(Included meals are noted: B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner. Complimentary snacks and non-alcoholic beverages included each day).*

**Day 2:**

From our launch site on the Kenai River, gear up for a scenic raft trip through the Chugach Mountains. On this class II, casual stretch of river, we'll be able to access stunning backcountry sights while learning about the natural and cultural history of the area from our knowledgeable raft guide. No experience necessary, and our guide will do all the rowing, so you'll have your hands free to snap photos and use binoculars to scan for charismatic wildlife. An outdoor picnic will engage the senses as we dine al fresco along the river's edge.

Today we'll also try our luck at the authentically Alaskan endeavor of gold panning! You and your family will learn to shovel, sluice and pan raw Alaskan pay dirt, and if you strike it big by discovering a gold nugget, you keep what you find!

Return back to our riverside retreat to unwind. Appetizers and dinner welcome us in the main lodge, followed by a free evening to play a game together, work on a puzzle or curl up in our rocking chairs with your favorite book; there will also be many wonderful opportunities to capture family photos – with help from your Trip Leader and our staff – so that you have ample options for your home albums, holiday cards and keepsakes. Overnight at Kenai Riverside Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 3:** Today's adventure introduces us to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, home to one of the densest populations of moose in the state and incredible natural beauty at every vista. We'll access true Alaskan backcountry by way of our comfortable lake touring vessel as we cross the glacially fed Skilak Lake, for a special day trip to our Kenai Backcountry Lodge.

After exploring the lake and our favorite hidden coves, we'll savor lunch at our historic 1930s hunting lodge and learn about how hydro and solar power help fuel remote homes in Alaska. Skilak Lake is perfect for an impromptu rock skipping competition!

This afternoon, we'll cross the lake once again and return to Kenai Riverside Lodge for dinner and relaxing Overnight Kenai Riverside Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 4:** After breakfast in the main lodge, lace up your most comfortable trail shoes for a fantastic day of family hiking. Collaborating with your Trip Leader, we'll select a wonderful hike on a trail in the Chugach National Forest or Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, to connect us to nature, enhance opportunities to see more wildlife and also capture unforgettable views along the trail. Lunch will be enjoyed in nature, then back to Riverside Lodge for its familiar comforts. Dinner and overnight at Kenai Riverside Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 5:** Today's outing brings us to the beautiful seaside town of Seward to explore the fjords by boat. But first, we'll meet future Iditarod stars as we tour the kennels and meet the dogs and puppies of the amazing Seavey family, which has a long legacy of multi-generational Iditarod racers and dog sledding champions. You'll get the chance to learn more about this Alaskan sport and get to know the playful pups – you'll even have the chance to ride behind a dog-powered "summer sled" and feel the excitement!

Following our dog sledding adventure, we'll travel a short distance to the Seward small boat harbor, where we'll board a small ship bound for Alaska's Resurrection Bay – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife like whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins and more! A half-day marine wildlife and glacier cruise will allow us to explore the rugged coastline. Enjoy lunch on board and return to land late afternoon.

One more special inclusion on our Seward adventure will be visiting the renowned Alaska Sealife Center, a beautiful two-story aquarium where you'll deepen your understanding of Alaska's coastal wildlife and delicate ecosystem. Return back to Kenai Riverside Lodge for your final night. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 6:** Enjoy one final farewell breakfast at the lodge – and another chance to capture family photos - before a return shuttle back to Anchorage, delivering you to your hotel of choice or the Anchorage airport by Noon.

**Note:** *We do not expect any major changes from this schedule. However, in the spirit of adventure, we allow our itinerary to remain flexible so that we may take advantage of spontaneous events.*