



Alaska Wildland
Adventures

ALASKA 12-DAY GRAND ADVENTURE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers this morning in Anchorage. Enjoy a scenic drive south, through Anchorage and along Turnagain Arm and the Chugach mountains as we make our way to the stunning seacoast town of Seward. Along the way, explore the grandeur of Alaska's stunning scenery on a fully guided interpretative nature hike. Our trek is a perfect introduction to Alaska's flora and ecosystems and a wonderful warm-up to the rest of your adventure! Make sure to have your camera handy to snap images of the local mountain ranges, alpine valleys and even glaciers.

This evening, relax and recap the day's activity over dinner at Resurrection Roadhouse. Casual evening walks to the nearby Exit Glacier are an optional and enjoyable way to conclude the day. Overnight Seward Windsong Lodge. **(L, D)** *(Included meals will be noted: B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner. Complimentary snacks and non-alcoholic beverages included each day).*

Day 2: After a hearty breakfast, we'll head to the Seward boat harbor to board our comfortable boat bound for Kenai Fjords National Park – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife including whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins and more! A half-day marine wildlife cruise will allow us to explore the rugged coastline. Enjoy lunch in front of a tidewater glacier before arriving at our exclusive lodge destination: Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge.

Nestled in a protected tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers stunning views of Pedersen Glacier and miles of pristine beachfront for exploring. This afternoon, meet your guides for a lodge orientation and settle into your private cabins. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations. Overnight Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Days 3 & 4: For the next two days, explore the wild delights of Kenai Fjords National Park. After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a wide array of activities, those that are best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include naturalist walks, sea kayaking, group canoe paddles and more.

In the spirit of adventure and to take advantage of tidal and weather patterns, guides will discuss specific nature outings and options with our group this morning. All activities are suitable for beginners and require no previous experience.

For those seeking a more relaxed approach, the main lodge offers ideal comfort with direct views of nature. Curious sea otters and seals frequent the lagoon, just steps from the main lodge deck. In a nearby meadow, we can sometimes glimpse bears and other wildlife from a safe distance. Our natural history library offers amazing resources and interesting reads – cozy up with a good book and let your worries drift out with the tide!

Upon return to the main lodge, share stories from your day's adventure with other guests and join an evening natural history presentation, given by local expert guides or guest speakers. Overnight Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5: Savor another morning in the wilds of Kenai Fjords National Park. A morning outing allows for another opportunity to kayak, canoe, hike or beach comb for a half-day before boarding our boat for the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Once in Seward, we'll travel a short distance by road to our next destination, Cooper Landing.

Upon arrival in Cooper Landing, we'll settle in for a delicious family-style meal at Kenai Riverside Lodge, located on the banks of the famed Kenai River. After dinner, relax on the large riverside deck, take a hot sauna or stroll along the self-guided nature path before retiring to your private cabin. Overnight Kenai Riverside Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6: After a hearty breakfast in the lodge, our guides will outfit you in river gear and you'll take you to the turquoise waters of the Kenai River. On this class II, casual stretch of river, we'll be able to access stunning backcountry sights and protected wilderness areas.

Along the river during our raft trip, scan for moose, bald eagles and other bird species, and salmon. The Kenai River is famous for its salmon and, depending on the time of your visit, you may witness their incredible spawning runs. A delicious picnic lunch will be served along the river or on the shore of Skilak Lake.

Late afternoon, arrive at our boat-in only Kenai Backcountry Lodge, a unique, historic in holding. The Lodge utilizes a simple but effective hydroelectric power system to provide water and electricity, reducing the need for fossil fueled power.

Appetizers and dinner welcome us in the main lodge, followed by evening activities. Relax in the outdoor gazebo or enjoy a casual stroll along an established nature path. Overnight at Kenai Backcountry Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 7: Spend a full day exploring the remote wilderness of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Hike a secluded trail and travel through several fascinating ecological communities, including riparian and hemlock forests.

Return to the lodge in the afternoon and simply relax at the lodge or take a hot sauna. For those brave souls, take a dip into the glacier-fed waters of Skilak Lake. Depending on the weather, options for the evening may include an exploration of the lake by sturdy touring kayak or fireside natural history presentation by one of the lodge's guides. Overnight Kenai Backcountry Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 8: Cross the lake in the morning and say farewell to the Kenai Backcountry Lodge. By way of our custom mini coach, begin the journey north through the scenic Chugach State Park to the mountain town of Talkeetna, gateway to the Alaska Range.

Once in Talkeetna, you'll have the freedom to choose from several activities, including a guest favorite - flightseeing. Take to the skies on an optional flightseeing tour of Denali and its adjacent glacial canyons. Experienced pilots will share stories of how the last ice age shaped the land. Moments later, enter a world of rugged high mountain peaks and wide glacier filled valleys *(As this is a weather dependent activity, you will also have options to flightsee during your time in Denali, with Denali Air or other local operators).*

Another casual activity to enjoy this afternoon is wandering through "downtown" Talkeetna. Tour the small-town museum, where artifacts and exhibits highlight native peoples, mountain climbers, aviators, gold seekers and trappers from Talkeetna's past and present. Tonight, you have the flexibility to dine with the other members of your group or enjoy a great meal on your own. Overnight Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 9: This morning, we'll make our way north to the Denali Park entrance area, where we'll bid farewell to the crowds and journey to our home for the next three nights – Denali Backcountry Lodge.

Our access to the more than 6 million acres of protected wilderness within Denali National Park and Preserve is accomplished by private bus, with individual captain's style seats and large viewing windows. In addition to our travel group, you'll get the opportunity to meet a few other like-minded travelers seeking Denali's beauty through a more personalized, small group experience.

The Denali Park Road is the only road in the park and extends 92 miles to the old mining community of Kantishna. Along the way on our narrated wildlife drive, we'll cross rolling mountainsides, cliffs, scenic vistas and prime wildlife viewing areas. It is not uncommon to encounter wildlife right on the park road, as Denali's "Big Four" - caribou, moose, Dall sheep and grizzlies – use this pathway on natural migrations. Ground travel is the most productive manner to spot the most wildlife as well as the most dramatic Alaska Range perspectives, and this active sightseeing experience is a guest favorite.

Upon arrival at Denali Backcountry Lodge, enjoy dinner and settle into your cabin accommodations. Located near the banks of Moose Creek, Denali Backcountry Lodge is a perfect mix of creature comforts in a true wilderness setting. Cozy up in the main lodge with a book or enjoy a cocktail in the guest lounge. Overnight Denali Backcountry Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Days 10 & 11: Enjoy two full days of exploration and hiking in the Kantishna region of Denali National Park. Guided hiking with local naturalists is a favorite activity option; choose from an array of casual, moderate or challenging trails. For those seeking a more independent approach, enjoy unguided mountain biking along the park road; casual flyfishing or gold panning in Moose Creek; and paddleboarding or kayaking on Wonder Lake. Gear is available for your use at the lodge.

After full days of adventure, return to the main lodge for dinner, conversation and relaxing. For those wishing to unwind, enjoy the sauna, hot tub or spa services, including massage. *Spa services are available at an extra cost and may be reserved while at the lodge.* Overnight Denali Backcountry Lodge. **(B, L, D)**

Day 12: Following an early breakfast, embark on a return scenic drive and watch for wildlife while heading for the entrance of the park. Say goodbye to your Trip Leader as you board the Alaska Railroad with GoldStar service on a comfortable return journey to Anchorage. This deluxe train trip features confirmed seating in the upper-level dome cars for enhanced wilderness and wildlife viewing as well as a private outdoor viewing deck; lunch and dinner are included with your GoldStar service, and the onboard service staff will assist you with your dining options.

You'll arrive at the Anchorage Rail Depot (located at 411 West 1st Avenue) at approximately 8:30 p.m. Taxis are located directly outside the rail terminal and are easy to access. Although transfers to the airport or local hotels are not included, some hotels include courtesy shuttle service from the rail depot to their property. **(B, L, D)**

Departure: You will arrive at the Anchorage train station by approximately 8:30 p.m. on the last day of your journey. See the "Alaska Travel Information" section of your Trip Planning Booklet for recommended lodging. If you choose to fly home tonight, we suggest you book a flight that departs after 11:30 p.m. in case of transportation delays.

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.*