

# Alaska Adventure Unlimited



Alaska has called to you for years as the vacation of your dreams! How do you ensure your adventure will discover all the "secrets" of Alaska? Choose from one of our fully escorted wilderness adventures and experience the depth of Alaska's interior. Far from the coast, our local resident experts will treat you to the history & lore of Alaska.

Seasoned Alaskan guides accompany you through areas resplendent with wild beauty and take you deep into the land of the midnight sun. They serve as guide, historian and personal concierge, ensuring every aspect of your journey is effortless. Our tours combine the frontier spirit of this untamed land, the natural wonders and habitat of bear, moose, caribou and more. Choose from whitewater rafting, flightseeing, glacier hiking, wildlife tours, river jet boats, day cruises and more. From Anchorage to Denali National Park, St. Elias to Valdez, stay in unique charming chalets with all the magnificence of Alaska at your doorstep. Premium service combined with Alaskan hospitality all the way!

Our [luxury private transport service](#) is customized with leather captain's chairs, full bay picture windows, complete narration and complimentary soft drinks. Our intimate tours are limited to 13 guests for your sightseeing pleasure. Optional custom itineraries can be designed based on availability.

## "DISCOVERY OF ALASKA"

### Customized 10-Day / 9 Night Adventure:

... featuring Denali National Park, Wildlife, Flightseeing, Jet boats, Rafting, Glacier Viewing & Kenai Fjords Whale Watching Cruise, Dog Sled tours, Kayaking & Optional Fishing !!



### DAY ONE

**ANCHORAGE:** Upon arrival in Anchorage, proceed to baggage claim to collect your luggage. Courtesy transfers will take you to your local hotel for an evening of leisure. Located in Southcentral Alaska on the shores of Cook Inlet, the Municipality of Anchorage is a unique urban environment situated in the heart of the wilderness. There's a special mystique to Alaska. The name conjures up adventure, raw natural beauty -- glaciers, mountains and seas, unmatched the world around -- fascinating

wildlife, a unique cultural heritage, and independent, pioneering people. Here you will find four-star restaurants and small cafes, an outstanding Museum of History and Art and a multitude of other fun activities.

Enjoy downtown shopping at any of the artist hot spots, or relax and enjoy the nightlife of Anchorage. Infamous restaurants dot the downtown area and offer wonderful opportunities to enjoy everything from fresh salmon to prime rib. Be sure to get to sleep early, as tomorrow is the start of your tour. **(B)**

### DAY TWO

**ANCHORAGE:** Our representatives will meet you at your hotel lobby, and begin the adventure with other guests as they arrive.



**NATIVE HISTORY:** Begin your Alaskan adventure with additional guests and a meet & greet. Next, enjoy the Native Heritage Center with all it has to offer. Here native games, sports, song & dance are performed. Representatives share their culture and ideas. Our stop here is 2 hours in length. Upon leaving the Anchorage area, we will travel north to the Matanuska Valley, the farming belt of Alaska. Along the way, we will visit the native village of Eklutna. Enjoy the Russian Orthodox influenced Chapel and native influenced “spirit houses”, while sharing in their cultural traditions.



Continuing north, we will pass the “Palmer Hay Flats”, and the Knik Arm of the Cook Inlet. This tundra-covered lowland is home to wildlife and several species of birds. Upon arrival in Wasilla, check in to your comfortable chalets\*\* adding a remote feel to your adventure with the luxury of jetted tubs, suite rooms and wooded surroundings. Later this evening, a dinner stop will be provided at group choice. **(B)**



## DAY THREE

**CHICKALOON:** This morning brings one of the most scenic drives in the state. As you head north to Chickaloon, an overlook stop reveals the Knik Glacier in its full glory. The Matanuska River winds its way north beside us, cutting a cavern of beauty through the Matanuska Valley.

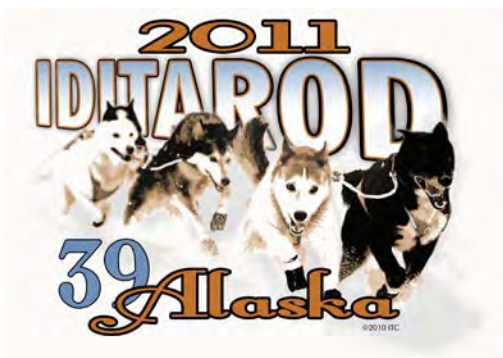
Next, you will have the option of choosing between two types of river rafting, slow float or white water. The “**Glacier Run**” float trip is great for relaxed sightseeing and photo opportunities. This easily negotiable class II water makes it a great way to experience rafting and the great outdoors. This raft excursion lasts 2 ½ hours. The “**Lion’s Head**” raft trip offers the roar of whitewater. This is an excellent first-timers whitewater trip that is popular

with experienced enthusiast as well. The most popular trip for over 28 years, this class III & IV whitewater experience offers you a hand-on adventure. This raft excursion lasts 3 ½ hours.

Now it’s off to the Long Rifle Lodge or Sheep Mountain Lodge, for a bite to eat. Sheep Mountain Lodge offers some of the state’s infamous pie! This is also a famous viewing area for Dall sheep.



Continuing on, discover the true beauty of glaciers up close & personal. You will experience glacier walking or hiking and the natural history of the Matanuska Glacier. Enjoy the splendor of the “frozen river” as you walk out to a scenic lake hidden under the face of an ice fall. No experience is necessary to join in the fun! After the days fun this evening, a dinner stop is offered before returning to your chalet accommodations. **(B)**



## DAY FOUR

**TALKEETNA:** Rise & Shine to visit the home of the Iditarod. Race Headquarters expose you to the lure of the dog sleds of the past. Meet an Iditarod musher and dog team and share in the thrill of the race, as you take a ride on a summer dog sled ride around a brief quarter acre track. Today will present one of many highlights of your adventure. Talkeetna is a local town sporting the most photographed scenes in our state, the towering peaks of Mt. McKinley & the Alaska mountain range. Only 1 ½ hours north, this town is a hub of international mountain climbers. You will be able to **choose one** of the following adventures to enjoy in Talkeetna.

**ACTIVITY ONE:** Denali Flightseeing & Glacier Landing: This magnificent flight takes you within six miles of Mt. McKinley’s summit. As your flight departs Talkeetna, you begin to see how the last ice age has shaped the land. Moments later you enter a world of rugged high mountain peaks and wide glacier filled valleys. Listen as your pilot describes the natural wonders of Denali National Park. See the Sheldon Amphitheater, beautiful Ruth Glacier, and the Great Gorge (the worlds

deepest - almost 2 miles from top to bottom). "No visit is complete without this experience!" Land on the Sheldon Amphitheatre glacier beneath Mt. McKinley, The aircraft is equipped with skis, floats, and voice activated headphones. Passengers, each with comfortable window seats, enjoy narration by an experienced pilot-guide highlighting points of interest including geology, wildlife, and history. Flight time is 1.5 hrs and includes a glacier landing. Upgrades for longer flights can be purchased.



**ACTIVITY TWO:** 2-Hour Riverboat Adventure: Your exciting trip will begin aboard the fifty-one passenger "Talkeetna Queen" as it whisks you into the heart of the wilderness in comfort. This is the most technologically advanced



river jetboat in Alaska designed to safely navigate rivers that were previously inaccessible. It is glass-domed, environmentally controlled, and has an onboard restroom for your comfort. You will visit an authentic trapper's cabin and view how trappers lived in "Bush" Alaska at the turn of the century. Your experienced guide will display raw furs from the local area and demonstrate trapping methods. Naturalists will acquaint you with the wildflowers and plants that grow in abundance along the river system and you will learn about the edible plants that were used by the Native Indians

for cooking and medicines. As you travel ten miles of river you will have opportunities to view nesting bald eagles, beaver activity, and moose and you just might see black bear and grizzly bear roaming the shore. Wildlife, folklore, artifacts and a panoramic view of Denali in the Alaska Range combine to make this an unforgettable Alaskan river adventure.

This afternoon, enjoy late lunch before continuing our adventure to Denali National Park. Crossing over Hurricane Gulch, have your cameras ready. The vistas are breathtaking. Upon arrival in Denali National Park, this evening is at your leisure for shopping, dining or sightseeing. Tonight you will overnight near Denali National Park. **(B)**



## DAY FIVE

**DENALI:** Everything about Denali National Park is big: the scenery, the mountains, the incredible beauty, and the animals. Early this morning, you will embark on the Denali Park Tundra Tour, an excellent way to spot the wildlife for which Alaska is so famous: moose, bear, wolves, caribou, dall sheep. It is a fascinating 6 to 8 hour narrated motorcoach tour into the park. A snack and beverage are included. It is the only way to enter the park, as it is a preserve. So bring your camera and binoculars.

Mount McKinley National Park was established in 1917 to protect its large mammals, not because of majestic Mt. McKinley. In 1980, the boundary was expanded to include both the Denali caribou herds wintering and calving ground and the entire Mt. McKinley massif. This more than tripled the size of the park, and was renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. It was also designated an International Biosphere Reserve significant for the potential for sub-arctic ecosystem research.

Denali is an Athabascan word meaning "The High One". The mountain is officially named Mt. McKinley but is also referred to as Denali. Mt. McKinley is the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet. It creates its own weather system and is often covered in clouds. Mt. McKinley is only visible about 1/3 of the time, so visitors to the park only have about a 30% chance of viewing Mt. McKinley.

Denali is one of the greatest wildlife viewing areas in the world. Visitors have a chance of seeing grizzly bears, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, foxes, and wolves. Many smaller animals also inhabit the park such as arctic ground squirrels, hoary marmots, pikas, snowshoe hares, and beavers. For those interested in bird watching, there are a variety of birds that migrate to the park for the summer. The list includes arctic tern, American golden plover, long tailed jaegers, the surfbird, arctic warbler, the wheatear, willow ptarmigan, golden eagles, and ravens. Approximately 150 species live in and around the Denali area during the summer months.



This evening, relax and enjoy a special treat. Dinner and a show at Alaska's "Cabin Nite Dinner Theater", Fannie Quigley and her group of unforgettable characters treat you to hilarious stories of the Gold Rush featuring foot-stompin', knee-slapping music. The all-you-can-eat, family style meal is sure to please. Feast on salmon, BBQ ribs, corn on the cob, baked beans, sour dough rolls and tasty dessert. Tonight you will overnight again near Denali National Park. **(B,L,D)**



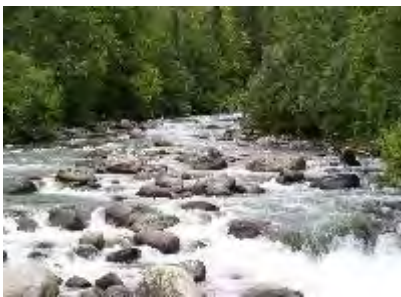
## DAY SIX

Today is at your leisure in the Grand Denali National Park. Choose to add an ATV 4-wheeler tour, a helicopter ride over the park, a raft adventure through the park, a horseback ride into the park. Many guests love the Visitor's Center and all it has to offer. From Alaskan movies, guided ranger hikes, ranger talks, dog sled demonstrations, to shopping. Get out there and enjoy the great trail system in the park, starting at the Visitors Center. Discover the Muir Science Center and the great geology and wildlife of the park. A café is available right next to the



Park Visitor Center as well as theater, Bookstore and more.

This afternoon, after a great day, begin your journey back to the Matanuska Valley and back to your comfy accommodations. A dinner stop will be provided at a restaurant of group choice, along with DVD entertainment for a relaxing evening. Tonight you will overnight in Wasilla\*\*. **(B)**



## DAY SEVEN

**WASILLA:** Rise & Shine, as the midnight sun never sets! Today experience spectacular views of Hatcher's Pass and the Independence Gold Mine, built in the early 1900's. Here try your hand at gold panning. We bring our own gold pans and just have fun trying the "real thing". This is not a salted trough. On a sunny day, you will be amazed at the "color" in your pan. A park naturalist will share the history of the mine, as well as flora & fauna of the area. Hatcher Pass is a favorite of guests, for its beauty, wildflowers, berries and wildlife and the best photography in later summer! A lunch stop will be provided at the Hatcher Pass Lodge, with views of the

surrounding area. Watch for marmot, ground squirrels and fox that are prolific in this area.

**PALMER:** This afternoon's adventure will take you aboard an airboat ride to Lake George, the base of Knik Glacier. Lake George, an ice dammed lake was once responsible for floods of cataclysmic proportions. Knik Glacier, 28 miles long, 6 miles wide and over 1000 feet thick, is one of Alaska's grandest natural attractions. Knik Glacier, born in the Pleistocene Glaciation's period (the beginning of the Ice Age) 600,000 years ago, covered the Anchorage bowl and the entire Cook Inlet. While it remains active, motion imperceptible to the naked eye, this glacier is in a constant state of change. After traveling all over the state of Alaska, the Knik Glacier always turns out to be a trip highlight. We consider ourselves very fortunate to live in such a magnificent landscape. It will be our pleasure to share it with you.



**ANCHORAGE:** Next, your escort will take you to your local hotel for an evening of leisure. Located in Southcentral Alaska on the shores of Cook Inlet, the Municipality of Anchorage is a unique urban environment situated in the heart of the wilderness. There's a special mystique to Alaska. The name conjures up adventure, raw natural beauty -- glaciers, mountains and seas, unmatched the world around -- fascinating wildlife, a unique cultural heritage, and independent, pioneering people. Here you will find four-star restaurants and small cafes, an outstanding Museum of History and Art and a multitude of other fun activities. Enjoy downtown shopping at any of the artist hot spots, or relax and enjoy the nightlife of Anchorage, "the city of lights". Infamous restaurants dot the downtown area and offer wonderful opportunities to enjoy fresh salmon to prime rib. Be sure to get to sleep early, as tomorrow is early to rise. **(B)**



## DAY EIGHT

**SEWARD:** Today experience a unique part of Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula! Ride the rail THAT IS AMONG THE MOST SPECTACULAR TRIPS IN THE WORLD. Travel through mountainous passes full of wonder, south to the port city of Seward. The train travels along the magnificent Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet, through mountains and tunnels, over gorges, and within a mile of three majestic glaciers - Spencer, Bartlett and Trail.

**RESURRECTION BAY:** Today's all inclusive adventure begins with a cruise through Kenai Fjords National Park, "Alaska's # 1 Wildlife and Glacier Cruise". These custom vessels have walk around viewing decks and inside seating with large picture windows for great viewing of the close-up glacier experience. Wildlife and marine life is abundant through out. Listen to narration provided by our experienced Captains and Crew. Kenai Fjords Tours' wildlife and glacier cruises take you deep into the heart of Kenai Fjords National Park and an incredible abundance of marine and land-based wildlife –whales, porpoise, Steller sea lion, along with more than 80 different species of birds make Kenai Fjords National Park their home. Enjoy a diverse array of sights, from rugged coastline to emerging rainforests and calving glaciers. Lunch is included with your tour. Upon disembarking this evening, relax at you Seward accommodations. (B,L)



## DAY NINE

Today begins a day of fun and adventure. You have a choice of three activities today.

**CHOICE ONE:** (Included in tour)

Your real Alaskan adventure begins with a 10 AM two-mile dog sled ride. Feel the power, excitement, and energy of the amazing sled dogs as they are harnessed to the comfortable wheeled sleds. The intrigue of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, also known as Alaska's Superbowl, comes alive as you mush through the Alaskan wilderness to the base of Resurrection Mountain and along Box Canyon Creek. Your Iditarod veteran guide will thrill and excite you with stories from the trail as you experience the raw power of 13 Iditarod sled dogs.

Upon return to the kennel, tour the beautiful kennel facilities, laugh as a guest is dressed up as an Iditarod musher, and cuddle adorable husky puppies. The guides are all Iditarod racers, and offer a delightfully humorous, behind-the-scenes look at the Seavey family's training for the most demanding race on earth. Guaranteed to be one of the highlights of your vacation, this tour was chosen as one of Alaska's Top Twenty Attractions, and is a must-do for all visitors to the Greatland. This afternoon, about 3 PM, head out to Exit Glacier, a major attraction of Kenai Fjords National Park. Enjoy a short walk along the nature trail that takes you to the face of the glacial ice. Watch for mountain goats, moose or bear on the mountainside. During runs, see salmon swimming upstream to spawn. Exit Glacier flows from the 300-square-mile Harding Icefield, and visitors can approach the towering glacier face on a one-half mile footpath. The glacier is one of several that branches downward from the Harding ice field - a massive field of ice spanning the peaks of several mountains.



Exit Glacier flows from the ice field down through two mountains where it creates a small river from its glacial melt. The Harding Icefield Trail is 8-miles roundtrip with 3500' elevation gain to overlook the icefield which is the source of the Exit Glacier (and others), starts at the foot of the glacier and follows the glacier flank upwards. Really get into the spirit of Alaska! Tonight you will overnight at your Seward accommodations. Relax as another day dawns early.



### **CHOICE TWO: (\$300.00 per person upgrade)**

#### **Salmon / Halibut Day Fishing Charter**

Welcome aboard. A trip aboard one of these charter vessels will provide you with the chance to experience world class Alaska fishing. We offer many options for fishing fun, and are happy to accommodate your schedule and desires.

All trips include all fishing gear & bait your fishing guide will be right beside you to help you to understand how to land these fish when the exciting moment arises! The Pacific Halibut is the most sought after and prized sport-fish in Alaska waters. Capable of powerful, high-speed runs, they are the heavyweight of all bottom-fish species. These fish have been known to exceed 500 pounds and are considered the hardest fighting bottom-fish in the world. Although our primary target is Alaska halibut fishing, we fish in areas where all species of bottom-fish tend to congregate. It is not uncommon to land trophy lingcod, rockfish and salmon. A full day, be sure to bring a sack lunch and drinks. Hats and sun glasses recommended.

### **CHOICE THREE: (Included with this tour)**

#### **Mystical Orca Island to Kayaker's Cove Tour**

Take a 14 passenger, 32 foot, custom built water taxi from Lowell Point and watch for sea otters, whales, sea lions and eagles. This paddle is one of our Kayak Guides Favorite half day paddles. The water taxi takes you to the eastern remote side of Resurrection Bay and lands in Humpy Cove. There, you will paddle around Orca Island area, and into magical rock gardens teeming with marine wildlife in them... lots of starfish... and other wildlife too! Kayakers will paddle to a salmon stream area, where there is a beautiful waterfall area cascading down pillow basalt formations that are absolutely gorgeous.... Starfish are everywhere... this calm cove is a beautiful emerald green and commonly seen here are sea lions, sea otters, mountain goats, and sometimes orca and humpback whales. Bald Eagles are common. From Orca Island and Humpy Cove we travel south to Kayaker's Cove, where we wait in a comfortable wilderness lodge/hostel for the water taxi to take us back to beautiful Lowell Point.



Whale & Kayak Photo by Bobbie Mum

This trip departs at 11 AM, returning approx. 2 PM Transportation to and from hotel available by taxi or a complimentary shuttle is available with advance notice from the downtown Sea life Center. Transfers not included in package rate. Some hotels provide courtesy transfers and may figure in your cost of the hotel.

Evening is on our own to enjoy the town. We recommend considering dinner at the Salmon Bake. The best self proclaimed "cheap beer and lousy food" in the area. Really it's great food and fun!

Now HERE adds a twist. You can choose how you want to spend your last day in Alaska. Day Ten is at your discretion. Rates vary based on your choices. The first option is included your package.

### **DAY TEN** *OPTION ONE FOR DAY TEN (Included in your tour price)*

Today you have return transportation to Anchorage. Choose from a morning (10:30 AM – 1:30 PM Arrival in Anchorage) motor coach tour if you have early departure flights from Anchorage by air. If you choose morning, begin your motor coach tour from Seward to Anchorage along the beautiful Turnigan Arm. A slightly different view than your rail experience, enjoy the relaxing, passing glaciers and mountain ranges, giving you a final opportunity for a few photos as you return to Anchorage. Arrive in Anchorage at 1:30 PM, and you can fly out any time after 4 PM. As your adventure comes to a close, you will have gained memories that will last a lifetime. With farewells to new friends, Alaska Adventure Unlimited wishes you a safe flight home.

Or an evening rail tour (6:00 PM departure from Seward with 10:30 PM arrival in Anchorage). If you choose an evening rail return tour, today you can enjoy shopping or visiting the town of Seward. Here you could add horseback riding, flight seeing or more or just have the day at leisure, your choice. This evening, your rail adventure begins at 6 PM, and arrives in Anchorage at 10:30 PM. Flights should not leave Anchorage until 12:30 AM of the following morning. As your adventure comes to a close, you will have gained memories that will last a lifetime. With farewells to new friends, once you arrive in Anchorage, you can choose to go right to the airport. You can optionally add a hotel overnight here if you wish to stay in Anchorage to catch a day flight. With this amount of flexibility, you can customize your tour just as you always dreamed!

## DAY TEN

OPTION TWO FOR DAY TEN \$450.00 pp (Plus Tax)

### Glacier Dogsled Tour - Upgrade

The Oldest Glacier Dog mushing operation and the only Helicopter Dog Mushing operator in Seward, Alaska on USFS land. This Alaskan outdoor adventures tour does it all! Alaska helicopter glacier tours – flight seeing, a glacier landing, and a dog sled ride makes this triple adventure a unique and unforgettable experience and the highlight of any Alaskan adventure tours vacation. Pristine beauty, majestic mountains and ancient glaciers are seemingly within arm's reach as you near your destination... the Godwin Glacier! A breathtaking view of Resurrection Bay and glacier-carved mountains unfold to this unspoiled wilderness, home to mountain goats, bears, moose and eagles that may be spotted along the way.



On the glacier, wait to share an essential part of Alaskan culture . . . Alaska dog mushing! Experienced guides explain that Seward, Alaska was the historical start of the famous Iditarod Sled Dog Trail. Hear unique personal accounts of their own Iditarod races and backcountry experiences. As they answer your questions you feel the excitement as the team is hooked up, then... you're off! Imagine yourself standing on the runners of a dog sled with a team of huskies loping across the ancient snowfield nestled among the peaks of the Chugach range. The lure of the trail and thrill of driving a dog team creates the ultimate Alaskan vacation!

As your adventure comes to a close, you will have gained memories that will last a lifetime. With good-bye's to new friends, once you arrive in Anchorage via rail at 10:30 PM, you can choose to go right to the airport. You can optionally add a hotel overnight here if you wish to stay in Anchorage to catch a day flight. With this amount of flexibility, you can customize your tour just as you always dreamed!

## DAY TEN

OPTION THREE FOR DAY TEN \$795.00 pp (Plus Tax) Upgrade

### Katmai National Park Bear Viewing Tour



**ANCHORAGE/ KATMAI:** The federally-protected Katmai National Park and Preserve is world famous for Alaska brown bear viewing. Accessible only by air, this is Alaska wilderness in its rawest form. Our fly-out Katmai bear viewing adventure takes you to Brooks Falls, where three bear viewing platforms connected by elevated boardwalks allow for close, unobstructed and extraordinary bear viewing in Katmai National Park. In July, lured by spawning salmon, as many as fifty bears can be seen at once along the 1.5-mile Brooks River.

Katmai bear viewing at Brooks Falls is self guided, but Katmai National Park Rangers provide an initial briefing upon arrival and are available for questions. An on-site wait list for the Lower River bear viewing platform may be implemented when visitation reaches capacity, to ensure quality bear viewing. Departing from Lake Hood, Anchorage, you fly over Cook Inlet, the Alaska Range, remote islands, before landing on either Brooks or Naknek lake in Katmai National Park and Preserve. Katmai is home to the world's largest population of Alaska brown bears and the famed Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes – a forty square mile, 100 to 700 foot deep ash flow deposited by Novarupta Volcano in 1912.

#### The Katmai Bear Viewing Experience

- Intimate two to three hour scenic flightseeing tour from Anchorage; flight times vary depending on weather and plane type.
- Box lunch provided upon arrival at Katmai National Park
- Katmai bear viewing at Brooks Falls – watch them catch jumping salmon!
- Wildlife watching on return flight for beluga whales, moose and Dall sheep
- A window seat and 2-way headset; ask your pilot questions!
- Detailed knowledge (and personality) of an Alaska bush pilot
- Meticulous attention to comfort and safety
- Courtesy shuttle from the Anchorage airport and many Anchorage hotels

Depart Anchorage 8 a.m. Return Anchorage 6 to 8 p.m. Times are approximate and are for general planning only.

**PACKAGE RATE: 10-Day Package starting at \$4599.00\* + \$108.00 Bed Tax Per Person  
(add-ons optional and extra)**

\*Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities including flight seeing, rafting, jet boats, etc. (unless stated as optional), and complimentary beverages onboard. Rates do NOT include meals, gratuities, bed tax (\$102), fuel supplement if applicable, alcoholic beverages, or optional activities not listed. Day Ten upgrades are not included. Itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the escort due to weather, road maintenance & time factors. Single supplement is \$999 pp. 50% Deposit is due at time of booking. 100% Final Payment is due Feb 15, 2012. Bookings after Feb 2012 are due in full at time of booking. **Cancellations will incur full 100% penalty.** Travel insurance is highly recommended. AAU reserves rights to alter 2012 rates due to extreme changes in economic conditions.

\*\*Accommodations are chosen at time of booking. They can vary from private cabins to hotels or lodges based on availability and block space.