

# 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 stays 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.

## "GEM OF ALASKA"

### **Customized 7-Day / 6 Nite Adventure:**

... featuring Denali National Park, Wildlife, Flightseeing, Jet boats, Rafting, Glacier Viewing, Kayaking, Mountain Biking & ATV Adventures



International Airport.

### **DAY ONE**

**ANCHORAGE:** Upon arrival in Anchorage, whether by rail, motorcoach or air, if you arrive on the day of the tour, you will be met by our representative, who will assist with your luggage and boarding process. If you are adding a pre-night hotel package (downtown area hotels only), pick up the courtesy phones in baggage area, and call for your courtesy shuttle to your hotel, and rest up for you tour. Day of your tour, our representatives will meet you at your hotel lobby at noon or as stated on your voucher. If you are arriving the day of your tour, pick-up will be at 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM at the Anchorage

**EKLUTNA LAKE:** This afternoon you'll arrive at Eklutna Lake for your afternoon "Paddle and Pedal". Enjoy a scenic kayak paddle out 8 miles to the end of the lake where bicycles await for an adventurous trail ride! Take in the natural beauty that surrounds you, the Chugach Mountains and the deep turquoise waters of Eklutna Lake. Your guide will instruct you in proper kayaking techniques before you depart on your own across the lake. Once you have completed your paddle, ride the trail back to the visitors center on your mountain bike, where you will meet your escort/driver to continue your tour.



**EKLUTNA NATIVE HISTORY:** Begin your Alaskan adventure with additional guests and a meet & greet. 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, dinner will be at one of Wasilla’s finest restaurants offering exceptional views. Overnight in comfortable accommodations\*\* adding a remote feel to your adventure.



## ***DAY TWO***

**WASILLA:** Rise & Shine, as the midnight sun never sets! Continental breakfasts will be available in your private room as you begin your day. Today experience spectacular views of Hatcher’s Pass and the Independence Gold Mine, built in the early 1900’s. Here you have your choice of taking a walk on paved trails, or hiking back into the mountains for a real adventure. Those who love photography will have a real photo safari here with the arctic flora and fauna. Or if learning about the history of the area is your choice, a park naturalist is here to share the history of the mine, as well as the lifestyle of the engineers to the flunkies who worked tirelessly on the mine. A

lunch stop will be provided at the Hatcher Pass Lodge, with views of the surrounding area.

**PALMER:** This afternoon join in an all-terrain vehicle (4-wheeler) adventure through the forest and across creeks. Our friendly and knowledgeable guides will provide you with an orientation to the ATV’s and will then lead you out on the trail. Enjoy riding your ATV through forested trails, across open valleys, and up old mining claim routes as we look for wildlife and soak in the grandeur of the countryside. Take in the wilderness and keep your eyes open for moose, caribou or even wolves. Get a taste of the lifestyle of local Alaskans.

This evening, a dinner stop in Palmer is offered before returning to your overnight accommodations.



## ***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.

For those who do not choose to raft due to age or ability levels we offer another option. Your escort will be staying with the vehicle and you can choose to visit the Long Rifle Lodge with breath-taking views of the Matanuska Glacier, and enjoy some coffee or hot chocolate in their rustic, museum-like cafe. Many animal from bears to wolverines are on display. If there are children under 5 years old on a "family-only" tour, you may choose to have our escort "entertain" them while the adults participate in the rafting activity. These babysitting services can be purchased upon request for \$5.00 per hour per child.

Next it's off to Sheep Mountain Lodge, for a bite to eat. Sheep Mountain Lodge offers some of the state's infamous deserts like triple berry pie, glacier cookies or homemade carrot cake! This is also a popular viewing area for Dall sheep, so we will be stopping to view them with high-powered spotting scopes. We also provide binoculars on board.



Continuing on this afternoon, 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! We provide ice "cramp-ons" to fit over standard tennis shoes or walking shoes. They are stretchy rubber so most shoes work. These are provided for adults and older children as they do not come in sizes small enough for children under 10 years old. We also provide walking sticks with an ice cleat on it, to help with stability on the ice. They are not required - just helpful. We do require that children under the age of 16 stay with their parents or guardians, as the glacier presents certain challenges that we are not responsible for. This is a guided walk. After the days fun this

evening, a dinner stop in Palmer is offered before returning to your overnight accommodations.

## ***DAY FOUR***

**WASILLA:** Part of a vacation is actually getting a vacation! Enjoy a relaxing morning of leisure in the Wasilla area. Here you can choose to upgrade to a "Spa Package" or a "Golf Package" or just sit back, read a good book or watch the salmon in the nearby stream.

**GOLF PACKAGE:** Spend the morning at Wasilla's premier Golf Course featuring an **18 Hole Championship Golf Course** nestled in the heart of Alaska's only residential golf community. Located eight miles west of Wasilla, on the coast of the Knik Arm, our course is surrounded by the majesty of Alaska's natural beauty.



We boast unparalleled views of the Chugach Mountain Range and quiet glimpses of native wildlife at every turn. Offering a unique Alaskan golf experience. Although pleasantly off the beaten path, we offer many of the same amenities as the more metropolitan locations, as well as some unique traditions of our own.



**SPA PACKAGE:** Spend the morning being pampered. Enjoy spa services provided by licensed professionals in your privacy of your chalet.

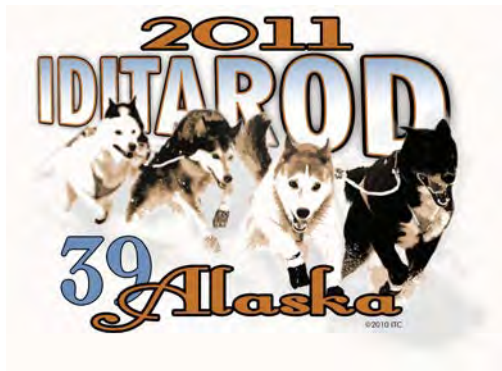
Services include:

- Facials
- Massages
- Manicure
- Pedicure

**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 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 and it is our pleasure to share it with you. A dinner stop in Palmer is offered before returning to your overnight accommodations.



## ***DAY FIVE***



**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 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.



## **DAY SIX**

**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 the leisure ride back to Wasilla to your comfy chalet. A dinner stop will be provided, at a restaurant of group choice, along with DVD entertainment for a relaxing evening. Continued accommodations near Denali National Park.





## **DAY SEVEN**

**FAIRBANKS:** This morning enjoy a scenic drive to Fairbanks where we will send you off with a taste of the rich Alaskan culture that created our great state. Enjoy a tour of the University of Alaska Fairbanks museum and its exhibits. It is acclaimed as one of the best with exhibits of Woolly Mammoth, Mastodons and ringed seals. They also have a section on the infamous Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). The University of Alaska Museum of the North is a thriving visitor attraction, a vital component of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the only research and teaching museum in Alaska.

The museum's research collections – 1.4 million artifacts and specimens – represent millions of years of biological diversity and thousands of years of cultural traditions in the North. The collections are organized into 10 disciplines (archaeology, birds, documentary film, earth sciences, ethnology/history, fine arts, fishes/marine invertebrates, insects, mammals, and plants) and serve as a valuable resource for research on climate change, genetics, contaminants and other issues facing Alaska and the circumpolar North. The museum is also the premier repository for artifacts and specimens collected on public lands in Alaska and a leader in northern natural and cultural history research.

As your 7-day adventure comes to a close with transfer to the airport, you'll have made memories that last a lifetime!.

**PACKAGE RATE: 7-Day Gem of Alaska \$3799.00\* Per Person + 72.00 pp bed tax  
\* plus any additional tours or hotel nights to connect optional day tours**

\*Rates include all accommodations, transportation, all activities including flight seeing, rafting, jet boats, etc. (unless stated as optional), and complimentary beverages onboard, as well as some meals. Continental Breakfast offered each morning, Lunch is included on Day 6, all other meals are on your own. Rates do NOT include some meals, gratuities, bed tax (\$72 pp), Fuel Surcharge as listed on our website for 2012, alcoholic beverages, or optional activities not listed. Itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the escort due to weather, road maintenance & time factors. Single supplement is \$699 pp. 50% Deposit is due at time of booking. 100% Final Payment is due Feb 15, 2012. Cancellations will incur full 100% penalty. Travel insurance is highly recommended.