

# Alaska

## Wilderness and Wildlife

Departs 7th July 2025

Blue Dot Travel





**\$11,990 pp**

Twin-share

Excludes

international flights

Single supp \$2,700

## ALASKA — WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE

Alaska is a nature lover's Utopia — ice-capped mountains, ancient forests, pristine lakes and rivers teeming with fish. Separated from the mainland by Canada's British Columbia, it also happens to be the most sparsely populated state of the US, making it even more desirable for those who love the great outdoors.

The modern history of the region is fascinating. Various indigenous tribes roamed the region for thousands of years before the Russians established a settlement. The US government purchased Alaska from the Russian government in 1867 for 2c an acre - about \$7 million! It became an official US territory in 1912 and an official state - the US's 49th State - in 1959. In the late 1960s, oil was discovered, and an oil boom soon followed. Pipelines, refineries, roads, townships, and other infrastructure soon followed. Today, agriculture, fishing, and tourism make up the primary industries. Alaska's capital city, Anchorage, has a population of around 300,000, 10 times the size of the nearest cities, Fairbanks and Juneau. The region is incredibly sparse, with vast wilderness and some small towns dotting the state.

Widely regarded as one of the most scenic places on the planet, Alaska has abundant wildlife to be spotted. It's most famous for the brown and black bears found in healthy numbers. You are almost guaranteed to see the bears depending on the regions you visit. Caribou, moose and bison (introduced from Montana) are also commonly spotted. The rivers are filled with trout and salmon. Watching bears feed during the spawning period is the classic Alaskan postcard. There are hundreds of bird species to be found – including the iconic national emblem – the American Bald Eagle, which is thankfully no longer on the endangered species list. Orca and various species of whales can also be spotted off the Alaskan Coast and Bering Sea.

NOTE: This tour is not a standard Blue Dot Travel small-group format in that there is no Australian tour leader, and you'll be joining a small group with other travellers from around the world. We have outsourced the tour to a local operator - Salmon Berry Tours - who have their own terms and conditions, which you must read before agreeing to join. These terms include a 50% deposit payable on booking. Tipping costs are not included in this tour but will be advised in advance so you may plan.



**Monday 7th July  
DEPART FOR ANCHORAGE**

Depart Australia for Alaska. Ensure you check your luggage all the way to Anchorage. Please refer to your separate flight schedule. Arrive in Anchorage and be transferred to your Hotel. *Meals in flight*



**Day 1,  
Tuesday 8th**

**July  
ANCHORAGE**

Welcome to Alaska! Upon arrival at the Anchorage International Airport, collect your luggage and

then take Uber, Lyft or a taxi to your downtown accommodations to start your adventures. (This transfer is estimated at 15 minutes and is not included in the tour package price). Your hotel is the charming Copper Whale Inn. NOTE: Uber and Lyft pickup upstairs at departures, rather than outside baggage claim, at the Anchorage International Airport. The taxis depart from the commercial lanes outside the Alaska Airlines baggage claim area downstairs. Depending on your arrival time, rest at the hotel or enjoy downtown Anchorage's vibrant urban scene. Consider taking a

stroll along the delightful Tony Knowles Coastal Walking Trail. The Copper Whale Inn is within walking distance of the train station, the museum, the Performing Arts Centre, restaurants, nightlife, shopping, the Coastal Trail, the Visitors Centre and more! Continental breakfast is served each morning in the main building. All meals today are at your own leisure and cost. (Breakfast likely to be in-flight).

**Day 2,  
Wednesday 9th**

**July  
KATMAI  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

This morning, you'll fly out to Katmai National Park to see the



bears at the famous Brooks Falls. Three bear viewing platforms are connected by elevated boardwalks, allowing for close, unobstructed and extraordinary bear viewing. In July, lured by spawning salmon, bears can be seen simultaneously along the 1.5-mile Brooks River. Departing from Lake Hood, Anchorage, fly over Cook Inlet, the Alaska Range, and remote islands on a 2.5 - 3 hour flight 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. Your pilot will provide a box lunch today. The total walking is approximately 1.2 miles, and the trail is mostly flat and well-maintained. **B/L**



 **Day 3,  
Thursday  
10th July  
MATANUSKA  
GLACIER**

Journey north of Anchorage and explore the Matanuska Glacier's many incredible

features, such as moraine and glacial blue meltwater pools, in South Central's beautiful Matanuska Valley. From downtown Anchorage, we make the scenic drive north to the Matanuska Glacier, a frozen 27-mile-long river of ancient ice. Thousands of years old, this massive glacier is tucked up into the head of the Matanuska Valley. You will spend 2 hours trekking with our glacier guides by your side, learning how the Matanuska Glacier was born and how it shaped the landscape in the Matanuska Susitna Valley. Explore blue meltwater pools and awe-inspiring formations. Walking on ice is slippery, so you will be provided with helmets, a trekking pole (walking stick) and micro spikes that attach to your shoes. This tour does require walking on uneven surfaces for at least 2 hours. Your all-inclusive day tour allows you to warm up with hot beverages and a hearty lunch (provided) at a local lodge as well as complimentary snacks and water throughout your adventure. Conclude your adventures with transportation back to your Anchorage hotel. Meet your guide at 5:45 pm to walk to the welcome dinner this evening, where you'll enjoy a 3-course dinner in downtown Anchorage at one of the best local restaurants! We will preview the week ahead this evening and meet your fellow travellers. **B/L/D**




 **Day 4,  
Friday  
11th July  
GLACIER  
CRUISE**

This morning you'll be transferred to The 26 Glacier Cruise departing from Whittier. You'll

travel through the pristine passageways and fjords found in Alaska's Prince William Sound. Upon leaving Whittier, the vessel heads east out Passage Canal toward Egg Rocks or Perry Island in search of migratory Steller sea lions. From there it proceeds to the very scenic area called Esther Passage where only small ships can navigate the waterway. High mountains protect this narrow channel from rough seas and winds. Many different animals call this area home; bald eagles are commonly seen fishing in the area along with occasional

black bear sightings. It is not uncommon to see orca whales, humpback whales, sea lions, harbour seals, sea otters and a variety of birds in this narrow passage. Esther Passage opens into College Fjord where the vessel turns north for a panoramic view of all the glaciers named after the Eastern Colleges during the Harriman Expedition. Next, cruise to Surprise Glacier and Barry Arm located in Harriman Fjord. The Captain plots a path through the ice-filled waters up to the front of the glacier so passengers can watch for massive chunks of ice calving into the sea. On the return trip to Whittier, the vessel will stop one more time at a kittiwake bird rookery located just across the bay from Whittier. Over 10,000 birds inhabit these rocky cliffs each summer, laying eggs. They fish constantly in front of the rookery and then train the young hatchlings all the survival tips they need before returning to fly south for the winter. The rookery is our last stop before returning to Whittier. Then, we'll coach back to the hotel in Anchorage in time for a late-ish dinner (own cost). **B/L**

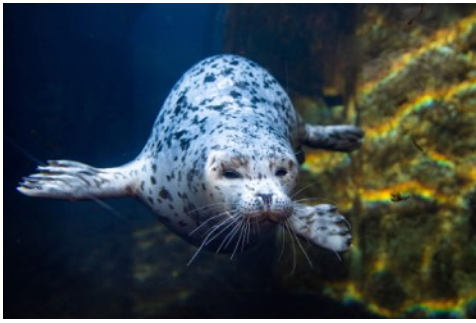
 **Day 5,  
Saturday  
12th July  
ANCHORAGE TO  
SEWARD AND  
KENAI FJORDS  
NATIONAL PARK  
CRUISE**

A very early morning start today! Your Salmon Berry



Tours guide will transport you to Anchorage rail depot for the journey to Seward. Your day bag for the train should include what you would need for this morning aboard the Alaska Railroad and the glacier and wildlife cruise this afternoon - please bring your photo ID, camera, and any important medicines you need with you. Discover why National Geographic Traveler ranked the Coastal Classic Train among North America's Top Ten Train Rides. Departing Anchorage, the train winds along Turnagain Arm, where the steep mountains of the Chugach Range plunge directly to the sea. Following a brief stop in Girdwood, the train continues to the end of Turnagain Arm. It veers away from the road system into the backcountry wilderness – and what many consider the most scenic stretch of the entire Railbelt. The upper-level glass-dome ceiling railcars allow you to sit in your spacious and comfortable assigned seating while panoramic views of Alaska unfold along the tracks! Your Alaska Railroad tour guide is stationed in the GoldStar railcar, providing narration and answering any questions. You will also have access to the exclusive GoldStar open-air, 2nd story viewing platform, which offers fresh air and excellent photo opportunities! Breakfast will be served in the lower-level, full-service Dining Room. Choose from a variety of hot and cold meal selections. On arrival into Seward, you head straight to experience the best of Kenai Fjords National Park with Major Marine! Major Marine's speedy catamarans make the most of this 6-hour tour. Watch for whales, porpoises, puffins, sea otters, the Stellar sea lion, and more! At the end of Aialik Bay is the mighty Holgate Glacier, an actively calving tidewater glacier. We will spend time in front of the glacier to watch for calving, where giant chunks of glacial ice break off and crash into the water.

Your accommodation for two nights is at Harbor 360 Hotel. **B/L**



**Day 6,  
Sunday 13th  
July  
SEWARD**

After breakfast, you'll visit the Alaska Sea Life Centre. They aim to generate and share scientific knowledge to

promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems. The Alaska Sea Life Centre is the only facility in Alaska that combines a public aquarium with marine research, education, and wildlife response. While primarily dedicated to marine research and education, the nonprofit Centre is the state's only permanent marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation facility. In the afternoon, a dog sled adventure - 2-miles of exhilarating fun. Your guide will explain how we train and steer the dogs and tell stories from the trail. **B**



**Day 7,  
Monday  
14th July  
SEWARD -  
TALKEETNA**

Bags need to be ready by 7:30 am this morning for your transfer to Talkeetna. Today will be

at a leisurely pace. A tour through the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Centre, a 200-acre rescue and rehabilitation centre in the heart of Portage Glacier Valley, is included. The tour includes lunch en route at Girdwood Brewing Company and scenic photo stops. Arrive at your accommodation for just one night - Talkeetna Cabins, located one block off Main Street downtown. There are many great meal options for dinner in town, including pubs and restaurants. (Note: there are no single rooms in the Cabins, so single travellers will need to share on this one night). **B/L**



**Day 8,  
Tuesday  
15th July  
DENALI  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

After breakfast, your Salmon Berry Tours guide will transport you

to Denali National Park. We will enjoy photo stops en route, a hike, and picnic lunch (included!) at Denali State Park. A wonderful place to stretch our legs, the trail provides views of the Alaska Range and Denali should

she be clear of clouds. Please dress in layers with beanies and gloves, as we will be adventuring rain or shine! Accommodation for two nights is at the Denali Bluffs Hotel. **B/L**

**Day 9, Wednesday 16th July  
DENALI NATIONAL PARK - TUNDRA  
WILDERNESS TOUR**

At a time to be determined today you'll experience The Tundra Wilderness Tour - the premier tour of Denali National Park and Preserve! This tour will travel 43 miles to East Fork River and offers wonderful diversity for visitors. Incredible scenery, a narrated history of the park road,



and some of the best opportunities to view the park's wildlife inhabitants await you on this tour. You'll also travel to the Murie Cabin near the East Fork River to experience where Adolf Murie lived while conducting his famous research inside what was then known as Mount McKinley National Park! Snacks are provided today, but you may wish to top them up. Return to your accommodation for free time. Dinner is at your leisure and cost. **B**

**Day 10, Thursday 17th July  
DENALI - ANCHORAGE**

After breakfast, a coach will transfer you back to Anchorage Airport for your flight home, or to the city should you decide to stay longer. The



planned arrival at Anchorage airport is 5.00 – 6.00 pm, so if your flight is earlier than 8.00 pm, we suggest a comfort stop, staying another night in town at additional cost. There'll be numerous stops to stretch the legs and buy food. An early "farewell brunch" is included. **B/Brunch**

**Note.** This tour might be considered a "best of" the region. If you wish to stay longer in Alaska to visit other places of interest, we can extend your accommodation. Additional nights at the Copper Whale Hotel are available at approximately \$370 per room.