



Kayaking in Alaska
Photo by Jason and Kris Carter



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

OUTDOOR ALASKA ADVENTURE:

Journey Prince William Sound to Denali with Kimberly Lolich-Stout

July 13 - 21, 2019

Glaciers, mountains, and forest combine in Alaska to form a natural wonderland. Explore Cordova, home of the Eyak Indian Tribe and Prince William Sound, surrounded by Chugach National Forest, the second largest national forest in the United States. Join Kimberly Lolich-Stout on this 9-day program to discover the natural wonders of "The Last Frontier" while hiking trails, observing bird colonies, assisting with a research project, and learning from local conservation organizations.



MEET YOUR LEADER

Kimberly is currently a high school Advanced Placement Environmental teacher. She is very knowledgeable and has a passion for nature & experiencing the environment. The travel bug bit Kimberly back in college in a marine biology field-study course to Jamaica. She has traveled to many destinations since then in her quest for learning. The Amazon Rainforest, Iceland, and East Africa just to name a few. She has lead both adult and student trips (Cuba & Costa Rica respectively) and enjoys sharing her appetite for travel with those like-minded individuals.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike through three complete ecosystems on the Heney Ridge Trail, where birds and wildlife can be spotted.
- Assist the Prince William Sound Science Center with collecting data on glacial melting rates during an ice trekking excursion.
- Learn about the world's largest population of sea otters at Orca Inlet.
- Go kayaking and discuss the life cycle of salmon.
- Trek through the famous trails of Denali State Park with its stunning views and wildlife.
- This program can serve as an educational credit through University of Pacific.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 13 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival take the shuttle to the hotel for overnight. Depending on your arrival time, consider a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center or explore historic downtown including the Museum of History and Art. Meals and tours are not included on your arrival day. *Overnight at Anchorage airport hotel.*

JULY 14 - CORDOVA

This morning take the airport shuttle to Anchorage airport for your flight to Cordova. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to the lodge, enjoying some initial sights along the way including swan nests on the delta and the Cordova town center. After orientation and lunch, travel to the Power Creek drainage area for a walk on a trail above town for a panoramic view of the area. Explore the rich diversity of the flora and fauna of the area as well as view abundant wildlife. Possible themes for investigation here include geology of the area, plate tectonics, glaciology, marine biology, and avian biology. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 15 - CORDOVA

Today, hike through the Heney Ridge Trail and explore the rainforest. You will hike through three complete ecosystems in the trail's 7 mile route. As this activity is the most strenuous of your program, there will be additional guides to accommodate the group's different levels of hikers. This afternoon take part in a lecture on salmon and later this evening enjoy an optional kayaking excursion. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 16 - CORDOVA

Today, explore the world's largest concentration of sea otters and marine mammals in Prince William Sound. Board a comfortable catamaran and begin the journey at the Orca Inlet. These shallow waters are ideal habitat for sea otters and special attention can be paid to females and their pups. Learn the story of these fascinating creatures that have been brought back from near extinction. Next, head farther afield towards the ocean entrance to look for marine mammals of other varieties. Depending on conditions numerous other species can be sighted. The environmentally threatened Steller sea lions are regularly seen, as well as Dall's porpoise. Appearing near the bow of the boat, these playful creatures are often mistaken for small Orcas with their black and white coloring. In the late afternoon, visit the museum and Eyak cultural center in Cordova. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 17 - CORDOVA

Today your guide will talk about plate tectonics and the dramatic changes this area has undergone in the recent decades. Look at unique geologic formations and rock samples, then participate in a discussion on global warming and head to the Sheridan Glacier for an ice trekking excursion. Assist the Prince William Sound Science Center by placing monitoring stations on the ice to help collect data on glacial melt rates and movement. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 18 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast, explore the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet by kayak, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and sea otters and seals. Return to the lodge and transfer to the airport for your flight to Anchorage. Upon arrival meet your private driver/guide at the airport and begin your journey north to Talkeetna. As you leave Anchorage enter the agriculturally rich Matanuska Valley, rimmed by the three major mountain ranges: the Alaska Range, the Talkeetna Mountains and the Chugach Mountains. Your drive will feature expansive views of Alpine peaks and valleys, rivers and streams and vast pine and birch forests. The town of Talkeetna is considered one of the best locations on the highway and rail system to view Denali. The area also offers visitors the opportunity to experience true Alaskan small-town flavor. *Overnight at Swiss Alaska Inn or similar. (BL)*

JULY 19 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast explore Alaska's spectacular wilderness on an exhilarating trek with an experienced naturalist guide. Travel north with your driver/guide to Denali State Park, famous for its trails, wildlife, and stunning views of nearby Denali. Trek through lush forest, then (weather permitting)

climb above the tree line for spectacular views of Alaska Range peaks and glaciers. Continue the adventure with a kayaking tour through tranquil Byers Lake. Watch for resident trumpeter swans, loons, and beavers. Paddle over pools of spawning salmon and look for bears and eagles that come to feed. This is a great trip for beginners or experienced paddlers as the boats are very stable and easy to maneuver. Your guide will provide easy paddle instructions before you begin. Boxed lunch is included today. Total duration 4.5 hours not including travel time. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to explore on own. *Overnight at Swiss Alaska Inn or similar. (BL)*

JULY 20 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast ride the iconic Flag Stop Hurricane train to a location eleven miles north of Talkeetna along the mighty Susitna River. Here you will embark on a float through the pristine glacier fed river. Keep an eye out for eagles, salmon, moose and the occasional bear stalking fish from the riverbanks. Along the way pull off to one of the river islands and enjoy a delicious picnic lunch. Continue on the float and arrive back in Talkeetna. *Overnight at Swiss Alaska Inn or similar. (BL)*

JULY 21 - DEPARTURE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before transferring back to Anchorage and the airport for your flight home. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$3,585 (10 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, meals including non-alcoholic beverages, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, flights within Alaska, private vehicle transportation, stipend, and full-time guide for duration of program.

Cost does not include items of a personal nature, gratuities, or airfare from your home city to Alaska. Airfare from Detroit, MI to Anchorage, AK is estimated at \$800. Other departure cities are available.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; single rooms available for \$320 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required as soon as possible to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until April 9, 2019, at which time final non-refundable payments are due.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Kimberly Lolich-Stout at klolich@cvs.k12.mi.us or (586) 723-2621 or visit holbrook.travel/lolich-stoutak