



BROWN BEAR

# ALASKA

## Wild Alaska: Inside America's Last Frontier

10 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: JUN - SEP

*Set foot in the remote wilderness of Alaska, America's last frontier – the perfect setting to learn about wildlife and ecology, and the balance between humans and natural resources. This overland journey immerses you in the stunning scenery of Denali State Park and Prince William Sound, and enlightens the relationship between man and land, from early native communities to pioneering settlers, to today's modern inhabitants. As you kayak, canoe, and hike through magnificent landscapes amid forests and glaciers, you'll glimpse sea otters and kittiwakes, search for moose, bears, and eagles, learn about salmon farming and commercial fishing, and discuss past and future effects of tectonic and climate events.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- View stunning landscapes and watch for abundant fauna during a hike-and-kayak wilderness excursion.
- Learn about Alaska Audubon's conservation initiatives on a private talk at their Anchorage office.
- Embark on a float excursion on the Alaganik Slough to observe birding and wildlife from canoe.
- Experience Alaska's incredible beauty at Byers Lake and surrounding mountains in Denali State Park, with a chance to see nesting Trumpeter Swans, loons, eagles, or foraging bears.
- Learn about the flora surrounding Talkeetna and take home a healing salve made from native plants.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Naturalist guides
- Internal flights
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



SEA OTTER BY JERRY GOFFE, NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM





## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage, travel on your own by shuttle to the hotel. With most flights arriving late into the evening, your group will meet for orientation the next morning. *Overnight at Comfort Inn Ship Creek.*

### DAY 2 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, begin your Alaska exploration by meeting with our friends at the nearby Audubon Alaska office for a talk on Audubon Alaska's conservation initiatives and a short hike. After an early lunch on your own, shuttle transfer to the airport in time for your afternoon 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 docks and town center. After dinner and a program orientation, engage in an evening talk on plate tectonics and changes in recent decades, with a discussion on global warming. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BD)*

### DAY 3 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, head to Sheridan Glacier for a kayaking excursion. Sheridan Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska; after a short hike through the moraine you will be able to see the dramatic frozen river of ancient ice. Receive a brief orientation on kayaking, and then hit the water to view crystal-blue caves and jagged crevasses amid an ever-changing terrain. Have a picnic lunch on shore or on a small island. This afternoon, return to town and visit the Cordova Historical Museum and Eyak Museum and Cultural Center. These museums

provide a greater sense of the rich history and livelihood of this thriving fishing community. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet, where you will have the opportunity to see the world's largest population of sea otters and observe their interactions within the pod. Your guide for the day has been involved in sea otter studies for over 15 years. Afterward stop at a remote beach for a short hike to explore tide pools. Next head to Hinchinbrook Island for lunch at another beautiful, remote beach. Visit a kittiwake colony to observe these nesting sea birds. In the late afternoon, take part in a discussion on the life cycle of salmon and their importance to the economy. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

### DAY 5 - CORDOVA

After breakfast depart for a full-day tour of the Copper River Delta, the highlight being a float down the Alaganik Slough. As you travel the historic Copper River Highway, built on the old railroad bed of the Copper



River and Northwestern Railroad, watch for moose, eagles, beaver, and the occasional bear, and take in the expansive views of marsh and wetland. See examples of uplift and subsidence from the 1964 earthquake as your guide explains how it affected this area. Search for wildlife on your hike to view the mighty Copper River at Mile 27. After a brief break to explore the dunes of the Copper River and a discussion about the salmon habitat and commercial fishing seasons, travel back to Mile 22 and the site of the sacred Eyak village of Alaganik. Here you can almost hear the activity around the old trading post, longhouses and Shaman's Cave that once stood on this spot.

After a quick introduction to some medicinal uses for local plants, with handouts provided to identify plants on your own, launch canoes with your guide. Float from Mile 22 to Mile 17 on the Alaganik Slough where numerous birding opportunities and wildlife viewing experiences abound. See areas where the US Forest Service attempted to help restore Dusky Canada Goose and Tundra Swan populations by anchoring nest islands in the ponds. Experience the dynamic delta ecosystem up close from your view at water level. Finally, you will have the opportunity to hike a boardwalk birding path after landing at the Mile 17 ramp. Stay alert for more wildlife viewing opportunities on the return trip to the lodge. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

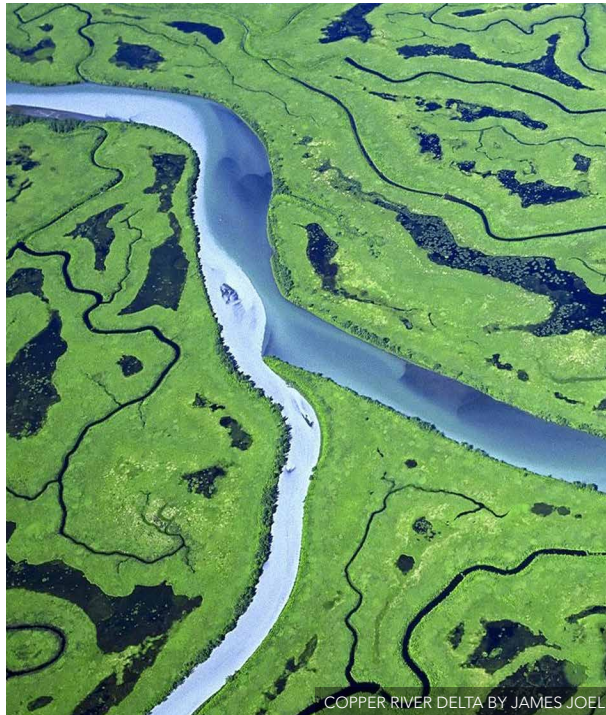
## DAY 6 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast, kayak the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet. The inlet is home to sea otters and seals and is surrounded by snow-capped mountains. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Anchorage. You will be met by a driver for the two-hour transfer to the historical outpost town of Talkeetna, your base for the next three nights. Meet your naturalist guide for a short hike around Talkeetna Lakes. A new scene of beauty unfolds around every turn on this three-mile moderate hike. Look for loons and kingfishers on the lakes, moose and bears in the woods, and Denali on the horizon. The lush, old-growth forest is alive with songbirds, wildflowers, berries, and mushrooms. After the hike, check in at the picturesque and comfortable lodge perched on a small hill overlooking the Denali range. After dinner this evening, enjoy a talk on Alaska's

natural history by your Talkeetna guide, followed by a briefing on upcoming activities. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn or similar. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - TALKEETNA

Arise for an early breakfast and a full day hike-and-kayak wilderness adventure. Start with a scenic drive to Denali State Park. There, hike from lush boreal forest steadily up to the tree line and beyond for spectacular panoramic views, including the best views of Denali from any trail (weather permitting). Along the way, your experienced naturalist guide will share stories and insights about the area and its wildlife. Enjoy a hearty lunch at the historic McKinley View Lodge, followed by kayaking on Byers Lake. Tonight, dinner in Talkeetna is on your own, giving you a chance to select your restaurant of choice. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn or similar. (BL)*



COPPER RIVER DELTA BY JAMES JOEL

## DAY 8 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast, embark on an excursion to Byers Lake in Denali State Park with a picnic lunch. Experience Alaska's incredible beauty on a two-mile nature walk with magnificent views of Byers Lake and the surrounding mountains, perhaps even majestic Denali. Learn about the area's animal and plant life and take home a healing salve made from native plants. Explore a log cabin that once belonged to a pioneering couple. You may see nesting

Trumpeter Swans, loons, eagles, or bears foraging for spawning salmon. Arrive back in Talkeetna in the early afternoon with time for optional activities, such as a flight tour around Denali (not included in price) or try other activities on your own. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the historic Talkeetna Roadhouse, followed by an evening talk at the lodge on climbing Mt. Denali. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn or similar. (BLD)*

## DAY 9 - TALKEETNA TO ANCHORAGE

After breakfast, take a walking tour of Talkeetna. Visit Susitna Salmon Center, the Historical Society, and the famous Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. In the late morning, depart for Anchorage in time for your flight home. (Optional Denali National Park extension available.) *(BL)*

## DAY 10 - FLIGHT HOME

Arrive home.



## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$3,995** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$4,195** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, flights within Alaska as mentioned, private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides, and carbon offset.

Airfare to and from Alaska, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.*

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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.



*This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*



ACTIVITY LEVEL

3

MODERATE

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This natural history adventure showcases two hidden gems: Denali State Park, with its mountain vistas; and Cordova, nestled on glacier-carved Prince William Sound. The pace is leisurely, with three nights in Talkeetna and four in Cordova, bookended by two Anchorage overnights. You'll explore boreal forests, alpine tundra, glaciers, river deltas, inlets and lakes. Daily activities include hiking, rafting, wildlife viewing, and kayaking. The most active day features a moderate hike to Kesugi Ridge; followed by an easy Chulitna River rafting trip (Class I and II rapids.) The hike is 3.7 miles, with an elevation gain of 1300 feet, and takes three hours. All trails are well-maintained, with some boardwalks and areas that can be slick or rocky. The highest altitude reached is 1349 feet. The best time to visit is summer, when temperatures are usually in the 60's, with highs rarely climbing above 80°F. In mid-summer, almost 21 hours of daylight are possible. There is one boat trip and one internal roundtrip flight. Overland travel is via private motorcoach and minivan.

