



KITTIWAKES AND SEALS BY JERRY GOFFE, NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

# ALASKA

## Exploring the Last Frontier

7 DAYS | Choose your dates

*Discover the natural wonders and scenic beauty of the “Last Frontier” – Alaska! Perhaps no place fills the senses more than Cordova, Alaska’s hidden treasure. Cordova is a small, coastal town surrounded by glacier-carved mountains, and nestled at the head of Orca Inlet in Eastern Prince William Sound. The area will dazzle you with wildlife, rich wetlands, lush forests, and countless waterways. Explore the natural grandeur with exciting activities such as hiking, kayaking, wildlife photography, boating, and more. Each day you’ll enjoy hearty meals – home-cooked with local ingredients and plenty of fresh seafood – and stay in a cozy ecolodge.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike through three complete ecosystems on the Heney Ridge Trail, where birds and wildlife can be spotted.
- Visit the massive Childs Glacier, the Copper River Delta, and the famous Million Dollar Bridge.
- Take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet to see the world’s largest population of sea otters.
- Kayak the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and home to sea otters and seals.
- Learn about global warming first-hand on a hiking and kayaking excursion to the Sheridan Glacier.
- Optional 3-day extension to Talkeetna & Denali State Park



SHERIDAN GLACIER BY CHRIS BENSLEY



KAYAKING BY CHRIS BENSLEY





EYAK LAKE BY JERRY GOFFE, NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage travel by shuttle to the hotel. No meals are included on this day. *Overnight at Comfort Inn Ship Creek or similar.*

### DAY 2 - CORDOVA

After breakfast explore Anchorage before taking the shuttle to the airport for an 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 Cordova town center. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BD)*

### DAY 3 - CORDOVA

Today you will enjoy a scenic hike through the Heney Ridge Trail for excellent birdwatching, wildlife spotting, and to explore the rainforest. You will hike through three complete ecosystems in the trail's seven-mile route, including spruce-hemlock forest and muskeg areas for gorgeous views. As this activity is the most strenuous of your program, there may be additional guides to accommodate your group's different levels of hikers. *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 interaction within the pod. Your guide for the

day has been involved in sea otter studies for 15 years. Afterward, stop at a remote beach for a short hike to explore tide pools. Next you will head to Hinchinbrook Island, where you will enjoy your lunch at another beautiful, remote beach. After lunch, visit a kittiwake colony, where you can observe these nesting sea birds. In the late afternoon, return to town and visit the Cordova Historical Museum and Eyak Museum and Cultural Center. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

### DAY 5 - CORDOVA

After breakfast depart for a full day tour of the Copper River Delta for the highlight of the day, the massive Childs Glacier. Keep an eye out for moose, eagles, and bears as you travel by bus through the scenic Chugach National Forest to the 27-mile point of the Copper



CORDOVA HARBOR BY JERRY GOFFE, NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

River Delta Highway and cross the river. Travel by van to the park across from the towering Childs Glacier to the famous Million Dollar Bridge. This now-inaccessible bridge is a great backdrop to the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and the Miles Glacier. Near the bridge visit the sonar station, manned by three researchers who spend their entire field season living completely cut off from the outside world. The researchers will explain and demonstrate the sonar and its use in fishery management before you head to the viewing area of the Childs Glacier. Enjoy lunch by the glacier while listening to the powerful sounds of huge ice chunks crashing into the river less than a quarter of a mile away. Tonight enjoy a salmon barbecue for dinner. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*



## DAY 6 - CORDOVA

After breakfast your guide will talk about plate tectonics and the dramatic changes this area has undergone in recent decades, pointing out specific, unique geological formations and rock samples. Learn first-hand about global warming as you head out to the Sheridan Glacier for a short hiking and kayaking excursion. The Sheridan Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska. View crystal blue caves and jagged crevasses and an ever-changing terrain. Enjoy a picnic lunch, then return for free time at the lodge or visit Cordova one last time. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - DEPARTURE

Spend the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Anchorage. Upon arrival you will be met by a driver who will take you to visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage. Afterward return to Anchorage to explore the historical downtown, including the Museum of History and Art. You will have time for dinner on own before transferring to the airport for your flight home. (BL)



## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$2,290 per person**

Prices are based on double occupancy. Price includes accommodations, meals as listed, vehicle transportation, and activities as listed.

Price does not include airfare, airport taxes, gratuities, meals not indicated, alcoholic beverages, optional activities, or items of a personal nature. A passport may be required to depart the US if your flight connects via Canada.

Valid for travel in 2018 and 2019.

## 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. 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.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Rates are based on availability of the hotel; if room type is not available, your agent can make necessary itinerary and price changes. Rates for other hotels in the area are available. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 61 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 60 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 61 days prior to departure are not refundable.*





MOUNT DENALI BY DANIEL LEIFHEIT, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## OPTIONAL EXTENSION

### Talkeetna and Denali State Park

#### DAY 1 - TALKEETNA

Upon arrival in Anchorage, you will be met by a driver for the two-hour transfer to the historic outpost town of Talkeetna, your base for the next three days. Upon arrival, check in with time to explore Talkeetna; perhaps take a walking tour of Talkeetna to visit Susitna Salmon Center, the Historical Society, and famous Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. After dinner this evening, enjoy a talk on Alaska's Natural History by your Talkeetna guide, with a briefing on upcoming activities. *Overnight at Talkeetna Lodge.*

#### DAY 2 - TALKEETNA

Arise early for a full-day hike-and-raft wilderness adventure. After breakfast, start with a scenic drive to Denali State Park. There, hike from lush boreal forest steadily up to treeline 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 a rafting trip back to Talkeetna. Relax and ride the glacial waters of the free-flowing Chulitna River under the care of your expert river guide. Take in stunning landscapes and scenery as you watch for the area's abundant wildlife all the way back to Talkeetna.

Tonight dinner in Talkeetna is on own, giving you a chance to select your restaurant of choice. *Overnight at Talkeetna Lodge.*

#### DAY 3 - DEPARTURE

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 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. Depart from Denali State Park to Anchorage for your overnight flight home.

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## EXTENSION PRICING

### \$775 per person

Prices are based on double occupancy with a minimum of four people traveling. Price includes accommodations, vehicle transportation, and activities as listed.

Price does not include airfare, airport taxes, gratuities, meals, alcoholic beverages, optional activities, or items of a personal nature. A passport may be required to depart the US if your flight connects via Canada.

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