



ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

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ALASKAN CLASSIC

**Lodge-based Adventures in
South Central & Interior Alaska**

TRIP DETAILS

8 days ~ Alaska

*Easy sea kayaking, hiking,
river rafting trip (Class IV
rapids), optional canoeing,
optional mountain biking,
glacier hike*

7 nights inns or hotels

2009 DATES

Jul 7–Jul 14

Jul 28–Aug 4

Aug 11–Aug 18

2009 LAND COST

*\$4,995 per person
(4-10 members)*

\$750 internal airfare

TRIP LEVEL
EASY TO MODERATE

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Experience iconic Alaska at its best*
- *Spend three nights deep inside Denali National Park! Hike and explore while you enjoy a relaxing stay at world-renowned Camp Denali—with views of Mt. McKinley from every cabin!*
- *Explore the beautiful tidewater glaciers of Prince William Sound*
- *Spectacular “flightseeing” over the Alaska Range, raft the Nenana River, kayak, trek on a glacier, and more!*

Revised May 4, 2009

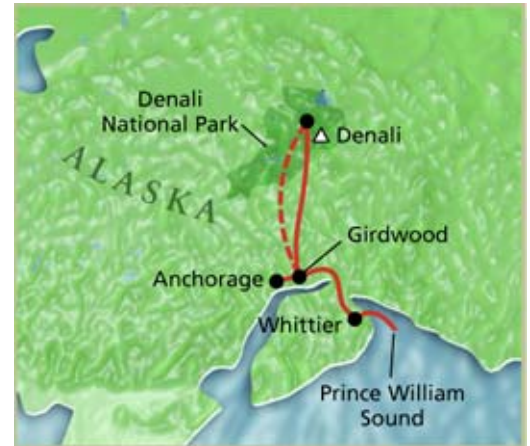


ALASKAN CLASSIC

Lodge-based Adventures in South Central & Interior Alaska

This lodge-based, multisport adventure is the ultimate way to experience south central and interior Alaska! Take a tram to the lofty heights of Mount Alyeska and then trek on a glacier, sea kayak past tidewater glaciers in Prince William Sound, go whitewater rafting through the heart of the Alaska Range, take a phenomenally beautiful “flightseeing” trip over the Alaska Range, and enjoy fabulous wildlife viewing in Denali National Park. There’s an adventure here for every appetite, including a dramatic bush plane trip past North America’s highest peak—Denali herself!

After an active day of fun, you’ll relax in a comfortable hotel or lodge, including three nights at Camp Denali. This renowned rustic wilderness lodge is located deep inside Denali National Park, where wonderful views of Denali (officially named Mt. McKinley, which at 20,320-feet is the highest peak in North America) are possible right from your private cabin’s doorstep. With time to explore Anchorage—including a ride on the famed Alaska Railroad—this trip is the ultimate adventure in the Land of the Midnight Sun.



ITINERARY

☞ **Rendezvous**—This trip begins in Anchorage, Alaska. You will need to arrive in Anchorage the day before the trip begins in order to be on time for the pre-trip meeting and breakfast on Day 1. Anchorage greets you with 360-degree views of jagged mountains and the calm waters of Cook Inlet stretching toward the setting sun. From a high vantage point, you can see Mount McKinley stretching to the sky 250 miles away! Transfer on your own to the hotel of your choice (we recommend the Copper Whale Inn in downtown Anchorage, where the group will meet the following morning). Check into your hotel (cost on your own) and settle in at your leisure. If you arrive early, you can explore Anchorage by foot.

Note—We try to adhere to the following itinerary as closely as possible. However, it is subject to change due to weather, tides, and government regulations.

DAY 1 ~ Anchorage – Girdwood

Meet the other members of the group and your guide at the Copper Whale Inn, at 9:30 a.m. There will be a mandatory pre-trip meeting with breakfast. After breakfast, we will check out of everyone's hotel and depart from Anchorage.

We load into our vehicles for a glorious drive along the Turnagain Arm to the mountain community of Girdwood. A bustling ski destination in the winter, Girdwood in the summer boasts great hiking and gorgeous scenic vistas. After lunch, the afternoon is full of activity. After settling into our rooms at the 5-diamond Alyeska Resort Hotel, we hop on a tram to the mountaintop, gear up with crampons and ice axes, and take a walk on the glacier. We round out this day with a delicious meal in Girdwood.

B,L,D...Alyeska Resort Hotel, Girdwood

DAY 2 ~ Prince William Sound

With more coastline than the contiguous 48 states, no trip to Alaska is complete without getting out on the water, and there's no place better to do this than Prince William Sound. After breakfast, we drive north to the end of Turnagain Arm and Portage Glacier. Then, with apparently nowhere to go, we drive around a corner and dive into a tunnel one lane wide and 2.5 miles long. This is an amazing trip, as we disappear into the heart of the mountain and emerge on the other side in Whittier, Alaska.

From Whittier, a motor vessel whisks us deep into the stunning fjords of Prince William Sound. After a 45-minute boat ride, we transfer to sea kayaks and begin paddling along the breathtaking shoreline past three tidewater glaciers. A cool breeze on our faces, the smell of the salty sea in our noses, and the creaks, groans, and booms of moving ice all around us complete this magical experience.

We end this day of scenic and sensory overload with another night at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood. Dinner is on your own tonight. Those who wish may sneak away by tram to a mountaintop restaurant for a once-in-a-lifetime experience of dining while gazing out at seven glaciers.

B,L...Alyeska Resort Hotel, Girdwood

DAY 3 ~ Fly to Denali – Whitewater Rafting on the Nenana River

Alaska has more pilots and planes per capita than any other state in the country, as huge expanses of the state are inaccessible by road. Today we journey back to Anchorage and fly to the entrance of Denali National Park by bush

plane. Weather permitting, our flight will take a jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring detour to circle the “big three”—Mounts Foraker, Hunter, and of course, McKinley (Denali). We land in Denali, Alaska, gateway to Denali National Park. Upon arrival at the park entrance, we jump into dry suits for a Class III/IV whitewater rafting trip down the Nenana River. This exciting ride takes us through a dramatic canyon from the Denali Park entrance to the coal seams near Healy. We relax this evening in cabins a few miles from the park entrance.

B,L,D...Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins, Denali (at the park entrance)

DAY 4 ~ Denali National Park

Today we enter Denali National Park. After a leisurely morning, we drive into the park on a restricted access road with Camp Denali staff. Along the way we'll search for wildlife (moose, caribou, bear, and wolves), stop for a picnic dinner, and begin to see a new side of Mount McKinley if the weather is good. When we arrive, Camp Denali staff will welcome us with a dessert reception and help us settle into our individual cabins.

Each guest cabin is beautifully appointed and affirms Camp Denali's rustic style. Colorful, hand-crafted patchwork quilts and fine Alaskan artwork display an attention to detail. There is a small wood-burning stove for heat and a gas hotplate for heating water. There is running water (a spigot is outside) and wash basins in each cabin, and each has a convenient “house out back,” hand-built and uncompromisingly sanitary. Denali is even framed by a small heart in the door. A bathroom/shower facility with private hot showers and changing rooms, sinks, and flush toilets is located near the lodge and dining room.

B,L,D...Camp Denali, Denali National Park

DAYS 5-6 ~ Denali National Park

Overlooking Wonder Lake and Mount McKinley, the traditions of excellence, community, and place of Camp Denali go back 50 years. Each day here is filled with laughter and camaraderie, exploration, and relaxation. Options each day are diverse, including photographing, hiking, paddling a canoe, biking, fishing, or reading and relaxing. After a delicious dinner at the lodge, evening programs round out the day.

B,L,D each day...Camp Denali, Denali National Park

DAY 7 ~ Alaska Railroad – Anchorage

Our senses overwhelmed and nerves relaxed, we journey out of the park, watching for wildlife. We'll board the historic Alaska Railroad for a scenic trip to Anchorage. Leisure time on the train can be spent gazing out large windows or catching up on journals and correspondence. On the train, we enjoy our last dinner together.

B,L,D...Copper Whale Inn or similar

DAY 8 ~ Depart Anchorage

We'll enjoy breakfast together at the hotel and say our final good-byes as we head our separate ways for the journey home. You can schedule your departure from Anchorage any time today.

B...

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE!

Make the most of your visit to the Land of the Midnight Sun! If you like to explore on your own, plan to arrive a day or two early or extend your trip after the tour. We also offer other short trips to Alaska, including *Whales of Point Adolphus*, *Bears of Pack Creek*, and *Glacier Bay Escape*.

Whales of Point Adolphus. Join us for this easy but exciting kayaking and camping adventure at Point Adolphus, where underwater land formations and strong tidal currents create Alaska's most active whale feeding area. You'll start with a scenic cruise aboard a charter boat from Gustavus to our deluxe camp at Point Adolphus, then, after a thorough kayak lesson, test your paddling skills in the calm waters. Days are spent kayaking and watching for orcas, sea lions, eagles, sea birds, and humpback whales (we're one of the few companies to offer the opportunity to see whales up close from a kayak!), hiking the beaches, or exploring the old-growth rainforest of Chichagof Island. And if you like to fish, bring your fishing pole, buy a license, and see if you can catch a trout or salmon (if they are running) for dinner! At night, enjoy scrumptious dinners, then fall asleep under the canopy of the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, while listening to the blows of whales frolicking just offshore. A charter boat returns you to Gustavus. For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/wpa.
3-days. June-September. Land cost from \$995 + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

Bears of Pack Creek. Where else can you take a scenic floatplane trip, kayak into a rainforest wilderness, and see Alaskan brown bears? Join us for one of the world's best bear viewing experiences on Admiralty Island, a lush rainforest wilderness with the largest density of brown bears in the world. In fact, the native Tlingit People call the island Kootznoowoo, the "Fortress of the Bears." From Juneau, a scenic floatplane flight brings you to a secluded beach and our comfortable base camp. From here you'll kayak the shores of Admiralty Island National Monument, looking for brown bears, eagles, and marine wildlife. You'll also paddle to the world-famous Stan Price/Pack Creek Brown Bear Sanctuary to spend a full day observing bears up-close, with a chance to see family groups with playful cubs grazing the meadows or fishing the stream. We're the only company to offer overnight trips to the Pack Creek area! For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/adm.
3-days. June-September. Land cost from \$995 + \$300 internal airfare + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

Glacier Bay Escape. Glacier Bay's fascinating geology, plentiful wildlife (including the humpback whale), and breathtaking scenery of soaring mountains and gorgeous tidewater glaciers are the setting for an unforgettable wilderness experience—one of the best in Alaska! On this trip you'll enjoy a relaxed exploration of Glacier Bay National Park's scenic West Arm, including the pristine wilderness of Johns Hopkins Inlet. You'll start with a charter boat trip across the lower bay, then after a drop-off on a remote glacial beach, spend the next few days kayaking and camping amidst awesome mountain scenery and stunning tidewater glaciers, and taking short hikes to observe some of the interesting geological and biological processes so evident in Glacier Bay. You'll watch for wildlife on both land and sea, learn about the fascinating natural and cultural history of the bay, and see land recently unveiled by retreating ice thousands of years old. This is one of our most popular and active trips, where expectations are always exceeded. For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/ges.
5-days. June-September. Land cost from \$2,395 + \$160 internal airfare + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

2009 LAND COST

\$4,995 per person + tax (4-10 members)

\$750 internal airfare

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

What's Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ charter flights (see separate cost above)
- ◆ sightseeing and activities as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ kayaking and rafting gear
- ◆ permit fees
- ◆ ground transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to and from Anchorage, Alaska; meals not noted in itinerary; daypack for yourself to carry daily items; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Alaska Discovery, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; airport transfer to hotel in Anchorage the day before the trip begins; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Air Travel

Airfare to and from Alaska is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly. Please refer to the link or document called "Planning Your Trip to Alaska," included in your Trip Packet. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

How We're Giving Back

Dollar-a-Day: An easy way to contribute to conservation efforts in Alaska is to participate in Alaska Discovery's "Dollar-a-Day" program. Most of our guests donate two dollars for each day of our trips in the Alaskan wilderness. In turn, we distribute these funds among Alaskan organizations that work for conservation of the areas of Alaska in which we operate. If you choose to make an optional contribution, your donation will be included in your invoice and distributed amongst the following organizations:

- ◆ The Alaska Conservation Foundation (www.akcf.org)
- ◆ Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (www.awrta.org)
- ◆ Discovery Southeast (www.discoverysoutheast.org)
- ◆ Friends of Admiralty Island (www.friendsofadmirty.org)
- ◆ Friends of Glacier Bay (www.fogb.org)
- ◆ Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (www.seacc.org)
- ◆ Alaska Wilderness League (www.alaskawild.org)
- ◆ Audubon Alaska (www.audubonalaska.org)

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Expert Leadership

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you'd never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way.

Activity Level

Alaska Discovery trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active. This trip operates at a relaxed, easy pace. No prior paddling experience is required for the kayaking in Prince William Sound or the rafting in Denali. However, you should be in good physical condition, be able to get in and out of a kayak on your own, be able to walk on a rocky beach and participate in short walks and hikes. If you desire more exercise than our daily activities provide, there will be an opportunity for daily runs and walks during your free time. Canoeing and biking are also possibilities while at Camp Denali.

Why Alaska Discovery is Your First Choice for Adventure

We are Alaska's oldest wilderness guiding company! Alaska Discovery has pioneered trips in Alaska by kayak, raft, and canoe for more than 35 years. We led the first tours to sea kayak Glacier Bay, Icy Bay, Russell Fjord, Tracy Arm, Endicott Arm, and to reopen the cross-Admiralty canoe route. Our permits in Alaska's finest wilderness areas give you greater access than any other company. We are one of the few companies with permits in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Glacier Bay National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias/Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site, and the Tongass National Forest. We are also a founding member of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and contribute to numerous Alaskan conservation organizations through our "Dollar-a-Day" program (see above). Among our many awards, we have received the prestigious Outstanding Long-Term Program Award of the Alaska Land Manager's Forum for excellence in dedication and commitment to ethically and socially aware use of the land.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-800-586-1911 if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.alaskadiscovery.com.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change. Please read the Limitation of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this information on our website at www.mtsobek.com/faq and the form itself at www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf.

Terms & Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions including the Limitation of Liability Clause. The full Terms and Conditions can be found at www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability or call 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) for a copy. These are partial conditions. Your participation is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the four-page Participant Information Form (www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf). Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the Terms and Conditions, to any literature concerning this trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by

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binding arbitration in San Francisco, California, according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive California law (but not procedural law) without regard to the California Arbitration Act.

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Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.