



ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

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ARCTIC REFUGE HIKING

*Hiking & Camping
in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*

TRIP DETAILS

8 days ~ Alaska

*Moderate to
strenuous day hikes*

*5 nights camping,
2 nights hotels*

2008 DATES

Jun 14–Jun 21

LAND COST

*\$2,650 per person
(4-6 members)*

\$1,575 internal airfare

TRIP LEVEL
MODERATE TO STRENUOUS

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Hike and camp in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's largest nature preserve*
- *Watch for tens of thousands of caribou as they migrate across the coastal plain*
- *Spectacular 300-mile bush flights across North America's last great wildlands*



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ARCTIC REFUGE HIKING

Hiking & Camping in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is America's largest nature preserve and a magnet for those who seek pure wilderness. Its landscape is shaped by a myriad of rivers that flow through mountains, rolling tundra, and eventually across the coastal plain to the Arctic Ocean.

On this trip you'll experience spectacular hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities at the edge of the northernmost mountains of the Refuge, all within easy reach of a comfortable wilderness base camp. On day hikes you'll watch for the Porcupine caribou herd as they pass by on their migration from their calving grounds on the Arctic coastal plain; you may also see Dall sheep, numerous migratory birds, and, occasionally, wolves, fox, moose, grizzlies, and wolverines. And the birding and photography opportunities are just incredible!

The short arctic summer makes this one of our rarest adventures, and the grandeur and isolation make it unparalleled—a "northern exposure" for the true explorer!



ITINERARY

We will try to adhere to the following itinerary as closely as possible. However, it is subject to change due to weather, flight delays, and government regulations.

DAY 1 ~ Travel to Fairbanks

Arrive in Fairbanks and transfer to the Bridgewater Hotel. (A courtesy van is available at the airport. Call the Bridgewater Hotel from the airport courtesy phone.) You should arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. in order to attend the mandatory pre-trip meeting that begins at 6:00 p.m. Your trip leader will go over trip logistics, bear-country camping techniques, and distribute personal camping equipment, including raingear, rubber boots, and dry bags. A delicious dinner follows. The next morning we pick everyone up early, so you will want to get plenty of rest tonight.
D...Bridgewater Hotel

DAY 2 ~ To the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

This day is mostly devoted to flying north! Our journey begins with a spectacular 300-mile bush plane flight over the Yukon River Flats to the Native community of Arctic Village. We then switch to smaller planes and continue north over the Brooks Range to our campsite. The Arctic Refuge is a land of majestic mountains, rolling tundra, and the coastal plain. At first glance, the country appears quite barren from our plane. But a closer look reveals a lush, alpine landscape blanketed with wildflowers, intricate valleys, and ancient rock formations and cascading waterfalls.
B,L,D...Camp

DAYS 3-6 ~ Hiking in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Our schedule is leisurely and flexible, with ample opportunities to take in the spectacular scenery of the Arctic Refuge on short walks or day hikes, to photograph wildlife and fantastic displays of wildflowers, and fish for Arctic char and grayling (bring your own fishing gear and license). Our favorite hike is up a long ridgeline for endless views of the Arctic Ocean and offshore ice pack, under a sun that never sets.

B,L,D each day...Camp

DAY 7 ~ Return to Fairbanks

After a morning hike, we'll break final camp and await the arrival of the bush planes for our flight to Arctic Village, followed by a flight back to Fairbanks. We plan to arrive by 5:00 p.m. to check into our lodging. We will gather for a farewell dinner.

B,L,D...Bridgewater Hotel

DAY 8 ~ Depart

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our guides and fellow trip members. You may fly out of Fairbanks at any time today.

B...

Stay a Little Longer!

We highly recommend a visit to Camp Denali in Denali National Park. See page 4 for the details.

LAND COST

\$2,650 per person + tax (4-6 members)

\$1,575 per person internal airfare

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

What's Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations in Fairbanks and all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, guides, group gear and equipment (2-person tents)
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ bush plane charter (see separate cost above)
- ◆ permits
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to and from Fairbanks, Alaska; meals not noted in itinerary; daypack for yourself to carry daily items; sleeping bag and pad (available for rent from Alaska Discovery for \$40); 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 in Fairbanks 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 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.

DENALI NATIONAL PARK: CAMP DENALI EXTENSION

Make the most of your visit to the Land of the Midnight Sun! For an incredible wildlife experience, consider a stay at Camp Denali, a beautiful natural haven deep in the heart of Denali National Park. Daily activities include hiking the backcountry with expert naturalist-guides, canoeing, mountain biking, and fishing. Each day you can choose which suits you best! Rustic but beautifully-appointed guest cabins have superlative mountain views of Denali, and are a short walk to the historic hand-hewn lodge and informal dining room where sumptuous meals are served. Evening programs presented by staff naturalists and visiting specialists are designed to further acquaint you with the Far North. 3- to 7-night stays. \$1,365-\$3,185 + tax (per person, double occupancy). Please call us for all the details.

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. Leader assignments will be confirmed in the Final Bulletin sent to you three weeks prior to departure.

Activity Level

Alaska Discovery trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active. Although this trip operates at a relaxed pace, it is an active trip into a remote wilderness with no facilities of any kind. The hiking days may be long and can be strenuous as there are few trails and the terrain can be uneven and steep. We try to accommodate different hiking speeds, but the greater your level of fitness, the more you will enjoy the wonderful hiking opportunities available in this area. We recommend you do some preliminary hikes in preparation. To avoid blisters, be sure to hike in the boots you plan to bring with you well in advance of the trip.

Good physical condition, an adventurous spirit, a positive attitude, and a willingness to deal with possible wet, cold, and windy conditions are a must! Proper gear and robust health are necessary to withstand potentially extended periods of cool, rainy weather. The trip is participatory in nature: you should be prepared to help carry personal and group gear to and from the airplane, and set up your own tent (after a demonstration by the guide). Everyone is welcome to assist with other tasks of wilderness camping.

The weather can be highly variable. Prepare yourself for temperatures ranging from the brisk 30s to the scorching 80s by bringing a variety of clothing layers (more detailed information will be sent to you in your trip packet). At this far north latitude, a light dusting of snow is even possible. Although our trip is timed to avoid the heaviest

insect populations (and maximize our chance for viewing caribou), bring your favorite bug repellent. You may wish to purchase a good mosquito head net and a “bug jacket.”

If you don't normally follow a fitness or exercise regime, we strongly recommend beginning one.

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Signing up is easy!

Just call us at 1-800-586-1911 and reserve your spot! You can also reserve a trip online at our website (www.alaskadiscovery.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Then Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, and other details.

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. We also ran the first commercial descents of the Tatshenshini, Alsek, and Kongakut Rivers. 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. 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.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

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 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.

Note on Services

At Alaska Discovery, we have assembled an outstanding team of guides by taking the greatest care in both recruiting and retaining the fine guides we have. Along with our high standards of qualifications and experience, we conduct our own training. Each spring we hold refresher courses in rescue, gun handling, trip area knowledge, communication, teamwork, and special lectures on the unique natural and social history of Alaska. We also sponsor Wilderness First Responder classes regularly for our guides.

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