

# — TRAVEL — ALASKA

Alaska is a grand American Vacation destination you don't want to miss! From small bed and breakfasts to magnificent lodges, from river rafting to glacier cruises and everything in between, Alaska has the makings of unforgettable memories for your clients. Incredible scenery, spectacular wildlife and friendly hospitality combine to make a memorable experience.

Travel Alaska, it's waiting for you.

## CONTACT

### **TRAVEL ALASKA**

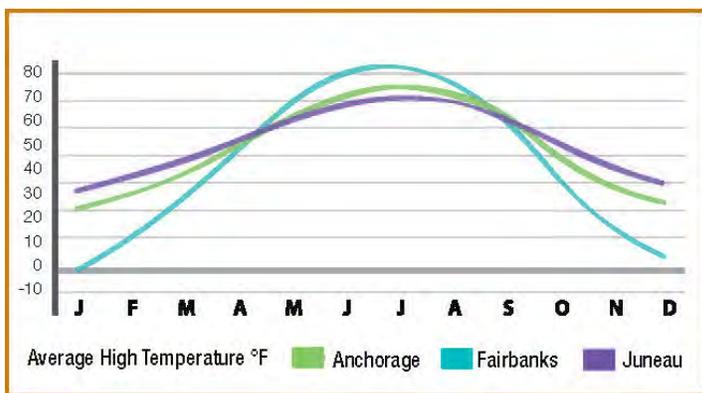
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ALASKA



## CLIMATE & TRANSPORTATION



DRIVING DISTANCES BETWEEN	miles	km
Anchorage.....Denali Park	236	380
Anchorage.....Homer	226	364
Anchorage.....Kenai	137	220
Denali Park.....Fairbanks	126	203
Tok.....Anchorage	328	527
Tok.....Fairbanks	206	331
Tok.....Whitehorse, YT	396	637
Skagway.....Anchorage	832	1,339
Valdez.....Anchorage	304	489

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## PORT TOWNS

### DAY ONE: KETCHIKAN

Arrive in Alaska's "First City" and take a city tour inclusive of either Saxman Village or Totem Bight State Park for a first-hand Native Alaska cultural experience. Take a day cruise or flightseeing tour to Misty Fjords National Monument returning in time to catch the Great Alaska Lumberjack Show.

### DAY TWO: WRANGELL

After arrival, jump on a jetboat for the half-hour trip to the USDA Forest Service's Anan Creek - and bear viewing. Due to one of the largest pink salmon runs in the state, black and, at times, brown bear mutually feast here. A one-half mile boardwalk ends at a covered viewing stand giving visitors a close view of these impressive mammals.

### DAY THREE: WRANGELL - JUNEAU

A morning tour of Wrangell includes a visit to the Tlingit ceremonial home of Chief Shakes before heading to Juneau, Alaska's capital city. A city tour will showcase Juneau and the Mendenhall Glacier or opt for a helicopter trip to land on a glacier and go dog mushing or glacier hiking.

### DAY FOUR: JUNEAU

Enjoy Juneau's fine dining and shopping, many featuring local artisans before taking in the brand new Alaska State Museum. From there you will hop a commuter jet or small plane to Gustavus, gateway to Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve. Stay overnight at a rustic lodge or local B&B.

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## DAY FIVE: GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Embark on a full-day cruise into famous Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve. Watch for bear, humpback and orca whales, seals, sea lions and numerous waterfowl that make this a birders dream come true. The breathtaking scenery and spectacular glaciers will make this a day to remember. After the cruise, board a small commuter plane for Skagway. Enjoy a city or walking tour of the Gold Rush Town and take in a performance of "The Days of '98" after dinner.

## DAY SIX: SKAGWAY

Historic wooden storefronts are perfectly preserved in the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, testimony to the 20,000 gold-seekers who braved the Chilkoot and White Pass trails in 1898. A visit to Skagway would not be complete without taking the tour on the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad. Relive the adventure of ascending the pass on a narrow gauge railroad, and view the pass as the gold seekers did from the comfort of your seat on the train. After returning from the 40-mile roundtrip ride, depart for Sitka.

## DAY SEVEN: SITKA

In Sitka, you'll take in the Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska's oldest federally designated park, established in 1910 to commemorate the 1804 Battle of Sitka. All that remains of this last major conflict between Europeans and Alaska native is the site of the Tlingit Fort and battlefields, located within this scenic 113-acre park. Here you'll also see working Tlingit artists at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center carving, beading, sewing and eager to share their stories. Other opportunities include the Sitka Raptor Center, St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church, and performances by the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Dancers and/or the Russian New Archangel Dancers before departing.



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## ALASKA BY ROAD

### DAY ONE: FAIRBANKS

Start the day on a riverboat cruise aboard a sternwheeler. While enjoying the cruise, see a dog sledding presentation, a bush plane perform aerial stunts, and learn about life at an Athabaskan Indian village. Afterwards pan for gold at a local gold mine. On the way back to town, stop by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Visitor Center. Or be sure to visit the University of Alaska Museum of the North, one of the top 10 attractions in the state. Learn about our gold rush history, the dynamic aurora borealis, and the people that have made Alaska the diverse place it is today.

### DAY TWO: FAR NORTH

An early start awaits you this morning for your adventure north to Alaska's Arctic. Several companies offer tours along the famed Dalton Highway, the only highway in the U.S. to cross the mighty Yukon River and to connect the highway system to the Arctic Ocean. View the majestic Brooks Range, walk on spongy Arctic tundra, and keep your eyes peeled for caribou, bears, and other wildlife. You'll return to Fairbanks with an incredible experience, and an official Arctic Circle Certificate!

### DAY THREE: CHENA HOT SPRINGS

This morning, drive one hour to a local hot springs. Be sure to bring your swimsuit so you can enjoy a leisurely swim in the outdoor hot springs, where 40-below weather will feel warm. The Aurora Ice Museum is the largest year-round ice environment in the world. It is created from over 1,000 tons of ice and snow, all harvested at Chena Hot Springs. Climb an Ice Tower, curl up in a Polar Bear Bed, watch a game of life size chess, or pull up a stool at the Stoli Ice Bar and have a martini poured through a sculpted ice fish into your very own sculpted ice glass. After a hearty meal at an historic resort, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife and/or the northern lights. Overnight in Chena.

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## DAY FOUR: DELTA JUNCTION-COPPER VALLEY

Depart Chena through Fairbanks and head south on the Richardson Highway and enjoy a spectacular drive to Rika's Roadhouse. Stop by for historical tours, good food and unique gifts including specialty furs. The drive continues until you reach the Copper River Valley. Relax at a lodge or fly into the largest National Park in the United States, Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve. It equals six Yellowstone's with four major mountain ranges that include nine of the 16 highest peaks in the U.S. Take in this spectacular scenery with a flightseeing trip into McCarthy. Explore the historic mining town of Kennicott and take a tour of the old copper mill or a walk on a glacier. Overnight in McCarthy or Kennicott or return to Copper Center.

## DAY FIVE: VALDEZ

Continue south on the Richardson Highway to the seaside town of Valdez. En route, stop at Worthington Glacier. Valdez is known as "Little Switzerland" because of the dramatic mountains that surround it. It is also the gateway to Prince William Sound. Take a day boat cruise to Columbia Glacier, the second largest tidewater glacier in North America. Or book a full day or half-day fishing trip. Guided rafting trips are also available through Keystone Canyon past towering waterfalls. Valdez also offers museums highlighting its history of the Gold Rush and the Good Friday Earthquake of 1964. Spend the night at one of the many B&B's or hotels.

## DAY SIX: ANCHORAGE

Experience our rich culture and heritage by visiting the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center or the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum. Enjoy fine dining and shopping without having to pay a sales tax! You can also go flightseeing, take a day trip on a small boat cruise or explore the many trails Anchorage has to offer.



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## ANCHORAGE & THE KENAI

### DAY ONE: ANCHORAGE - SEWARD

From Ted Stevens International Airport board the Alaska Railroad or drive south on the “All American Road,” the Seward Highway, a National Scenic Byway, to the coastal community of Seward. If you are traveling by cruise, disembark in this quaint waterfront port. Visit the Alaska SeaLife Center or mush with an Iditarod Champion mushing team on top of a glacier. Take a hike out to Exit Glacier and to the Harding Ice Field, a contiguous ice field larger than the state of Rhode Island.

### DAY TWO: SEWARD

Cruise or kayak Kenai Fjords National Park and observe stunning concentrations of wildlife up close and in person: sea otters, puffins, sea lions, kittiwakes, humpback and orca whales, harbor seals and more. Witness glaciers calving huge chunks of ice into the sea.

### DAY THREE: HOPE & COOPER LANDING

An hour drive from Seward will take you to the communities of Hope or Cooper Landing. Hope offers Alaska’s finest Class IV and Class V guided rafting trips on Six Mile Creek as well as opportunities for gold panning. Cooper Landing hosts milder scenic floats on the Kenai River, excellent guided trout fishing, hiking and horseback riding through the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, mountain biking and the famous combat fishing on the Russian River.

### DAY FOUR: STERLING & SOLDOTNA

Head south on the Sterling Highway, to the small roadside community of Sterling. Canoe fans from all over the world travel to the Swanson River System to portage and paddle the 150 mile canoe system that begins there. In Soldotna, charter a Kenai River fishing guide to take you on the famous Kenai River to fish for the largest King salmon in the world. Soldotna also has an abundance of boardwalks along the river for those who prefer to fish from the bank.

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## DAY FIVE: HOMER

Continue your journey on the Sterling Highway to Homer, which offers panoramic views of Kachemak Bay State Park and the Homer Spit, a narrow arm of land that extends 4.5 miles into the water. Enjoy the shops and restaurants on the boardwalk, then get out and explore the bay by charter cruise, sea kayak or water taxi. Fish for world class halibut or charter a flight-seeing trip to view the Katmai bears. Stop by the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.

## DAY SIX: ACROSS THE BAY

Jump aboard a water taxi and head across the bay to the forest surrounding Kachemak Bay State Park, featuring 40 miles of hiking trails, mountains and glaciers. Take a guided natural history tour by kayak or foot and explore lush coastal forest and tidal pools teeming with marine, plant and animal life. Stay overnight in a private lodge perched on the shoreline, or visit a classic Alaskan seacoast settlement, such as Halibut Cove or Seldovia.

## DAY SEVEN: HOMER - ANCHORAGE

Head north via the Seward Highway. While traveling around Turnagain Arm look for a bore tide and beluga whales on your left and up to the cliffs on your right for mountain goats and Dall sheep. Near Portage, tour the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Alaska's only drive through wildlife park and see grizzly and black bears, moose, elk, caribou, musk ox, wood bison, hawks, eagles and more. Arrive at the Girdwood Airport and check-in at Alpine for an amazing helicopter flight to a nearby glacier where a musher is waiting with his dog team. Gear up, slide into the dog sled and prepare for the ride of a lifetime along 3-miles of glacier! In Anchorage, explore the many art galleries and try some locally caught salmon, halibut, shrimp or crab from one of the numerous restaurants downtown.

## DAY EIGHT: ANCHORAGE AREA

Drive north to Eklutna Lake Recreation Area. Rent a kayak or boat to explore the glacier-fed turquoise lake or rent a bicycle and explore the network of trails in this picturesque area.



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