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Alaska Ferry Vacations

7 Day Denali & Glaciers by Rail

Reference ID : 5069

Travel Arrangements starting at US\$2,350.00 per person and is based on Double Occupancy

Single, Triple, and Quad Occupancy rates available upon request

2020: Departures: Daily from June 2 to September 4

Do you have Alaska Airlines miles sitting around begging to be used? Our agents are happy to help book your flights either with your miles or using our Tour Airfares from home to Alaska and back.

Upgrade to Gold Star Dome Car Service on the Alaska Railroad for only \$500.00 more per person.

****Availability Depending****

Day One

Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check out: **Day 2**

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

Anchorage



Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, lies between the mountains and the sea and yet is no stranger to the wilderness. There is no other urban area like it.

Among the northernmost cities on Earth, Anchorage is a place with big-city amenities: fine restaurants, museums, theaters and an excellent music scene. Creating the backdrop are the salmon-rich waters of Cook Inlet and the 5,000-foot-plus peaks of Chugach State Park. Within a short drive from downtown are dozens of wilderness adventures and a short plane ride opens up the possibility of almost any type adventure. That's one reason why Anchorage's Lake Hood is the world's busiest floatplane base. Anchorage's 284,994 residents embrace both the urban amenities and the wilderness beyond it.

Anchorage features dozens of parks and 122 miles of paved bike paths. Warmed by a maritime climate, you can spend the day fishing Ship Creek downtown, hiking the nearby mountains, photographing glaciers and dining at a four-star restaurant. Within a 15-minute drive from downtown is the tree-lined trailhead of Anchorage's most popular hike, Flattop Mountain. In winter, the city transforms into fluffy white playground, with 130 kilometers of maintained Nordic ski trails, dog sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling, ice sculptures and more. Just 45 minutes away is Alaska's premier alpine ski resort, Alyeska Resort.

Anchorage wasn't officially founded until 1915, even though British explorer Captain James Cook sailed past the site in 1779 and gold prospectors discovered the bounty of Ship Creek in the late 1800s. It wasn't until the Alaska Railroad set up a construction camp in 1915 that Anchorage was established and became a booming tent city of 2,000 people. Anchorage proved to be the ideal center for Alaska's rail, air and highway systems with the military build up of World War II and the discovery of oil in Cook Inlet in the 1950s, adding to its steady growth. After the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, the city was rebuilding itself when another opportunity arose: the discovery of a \$10-billion oil reserve in Prudhoe Bay. Though the Trans-Alaska Pipeline doesn't come within 185 miles of Anchorage, the city became the headquarters of various petroleum and service companies.

Day Two

Train from Anchorage to Denali - Adventure Class

Duration: 8 Hours, Morning Departure and Afternoon Arrival

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Denali Park.



Accommodation for 2 nights in Denali National Park

Check out: **Day 4**

The lodge is on Sugarloaf Mountain and is designed with your comfort and convenience in mind. Your first stop is the main lodge, where you will experience warm log architecture with a rock fireplace and vaulted ceilings. The interior design highlights the Alaska Native Heritage of its owners while it offers panoramic views of the surrounding Denali wilderness and the Nenana River canyon. You'll find the lodge is a very special place where you can truly relax, meet friends, share a meal, or simply take in the beauty all around you.

Denali



The towering granite spires and snowy summits of Denali National Park and Preserve straddles 160 miles of the Alaska Range and display so much elevation they are often lost in the clouds. Dominating this skyline is North America's highest peak; Denali standing tall at 20,237 feet and one of the most amazing sights in Alaska.

But it's not just the mountain that makes Denali National Park a special place. The park is also home to 37 species of mammals, ranging from lynx, marmots and Dall sheep, to foxes and snowshoe hares, while 130 different bird species have been spotted here, including the impressive golden eagle. Most visitors, however, want to see four animals in particular: moose, caribou, wolf and everybody's favorite: the brown, or grizzly, bear. Here at Denali, unlike most wilderness areas in the country, you don't have to be a backpacker to see this wildlife - people who never sleep in a tent have excellent once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to get a close look at these magnificent creatures roaming free in their natural habitat.

Not surprisingly then, visitors come here in droves; the park is a popular place, attracting 432,000 visitors annually. Over the years the National Park Service (NPS) has developed unique visitor-management strategies, including closing its only road to most vehicles. As a result Denali National Park is still the great wilderness it was 20 years ago. The entrance has changed, but the park itself hasn't, and a brown bear meandering on a tundra ridge still provides the same quiet thrill as it did when the park first opened in 1917.

Although generations of Athabascans had wandered through what is now the park, the first permanent settlement was established in 1905, when a gold miners' rush gave birth to the town of Kantishna. A year later, naturalist and noted hunter Charles Sheldon was stunned by the beauty of the land and horrified at the reckless abandon of the miners and big-game hunters. Sheldon returned in 1907 and traveled the area with guide Harry Karstens in an effort to set up boundaries for a proposed national park. Sheldon was successful as the area was established as Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 with Karstens serving as the park's first superintendent. As a result of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the park was enlarged to more than 6 million acres and renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. Denali now comprises an area slightly larger than the state of Massachusetts and is generally ranked as one of Alaska's top attractions.

Day Three

Kantishna Wilderness Trails

Duration: 11-12 Hours

Fully narrated, all-day trip. Not only do you get to travel the entire road—which gives you more opportunities to spot wildlife—but you'll also have planned stops to get out, stretch your legs and explore a bit at points along the way, including Kantishna, an area deep in the park with a gold-mining past, and one that most Denali visitors never see.

You'll spend a couple hours at the Kantishna Roadhouse, a lodge originally built in the early 1900s that once accommodated a rush of hopeful gold miners seeking their fortunes. (Since then it has served as a private residence, community center, a post office and inn.) You'll have an excellent soup-and-sandwich lunch, followed



by the options of watching a dog-mushing demonstration or a little informal gold-panning. Or, you can take a short walk along the creek, or just sit in a rocker at the lodge and soak up the scenery

Day Four

Train from Denali to Anchorage - Adventure Class

Duration: 8 Hours, Afternoon Departure and Evening Arrival

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Denali Park.



Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check out: **Day 5**

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

Day Five

Train from Anchorage to Seward - Adventure Class

Duration: 4 Hours, Early Morning Departure and Early Afternoon Arrival

Departing Anchorage, the train winds along Turnagain Arm, where the steep mountains of the Chugach Range plunge directly to the sea. Following a brief stop in Girdwood, the train continues to the end of Turnagain Arm and veers away from the road system into the backcountry wilderness – and what many consider to be the most scenic stretch of the entire Railbelt. Upon a late morning arrival into Seward the train comes to a halt on the shores of Resurrection Bay



Seward



Scenic Seward, flanked by rugged mountains to one side and sparkling Resurrection Bay on the other, has a way of luring visitors. There is fantastic hiking nearby, a quaint downtown, the amazing Alaska SeaLife Center and excellent in-town camping where you can park your vehicle and walk to most attractions.

Located at the terminus of both the Alaska Railroad and the Seward Highway, and an embarkation/disembarkation port for many cruises, this town of 3,000 residents is easily accessible from Anchorage yet can serve as a base for anybody who likes to kayak, hike, fish, whale-watch and glacier-view.

Overshadowing Seward is Mount Marathon, the scene of one of Alaska's most famous and challenging foot races. A friendly wager in 1909 resulted in this annual 3.1-mile run to the top of the 3,022-foot peak. The race attracts advanced runners from all over the world and is a highlight of Seward's lively Fourth of July celebration, one of the best in Alaska.

The city also serves as the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park. Created in 1980, Kenai Fjords spreads over 587,000 acres and is

crowned by the massive Harding Ice Field from which countless tidewater glaciers pour down into coastal fjords. The impressive landscape and an abundance of marine wildlife make the park a major tourist attraction. Many visitors take a day cruise along the coast south of Seward to watch glaciers calve into the sea and spot seals, sea lions and whales. Another popular attraction in Kenai Fjords National Park is Exit Glacier, which lies just north of town. This road-accessible glacier offers an impressive up-close view of the glacier along with information and hiking trails.

Visit the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska, the only permanent marine mammal rehabilitation facility in Alaska and the destination to experience Alaska's marine wildlife! While the Alaska SeaLife Center's sea lion, octopus, and seabird exhibits remain visitor favorites, there is always something new. A unique Alaskan ocean experience, the Center features Steller Sea Lions, Harbor Seals, Giant Pacific Octopus, Puffins and more.

The more adventurous can rent a kayak and arrange a drop off deep in the park to spend their afternoons paddling among sea otters and their nights gazing at glaciers. There is also a series of public-use cabins that can be rented in advance. For more information on activities in the park contact Kenai Fjords National Park.

Kenai Fjords National Park Tour

Duration: 6 Hours

The Kenai Fjords National Park Tour takes you inside Kenai Fjords National Park to see abundant wildlife, alpine and tidewater glaciers and breathtaking scenery.

You also visit the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, home to a large variety of whales, seabirds, stellar sea lions, sea otters and more. This is a 6 hour tour, leaving Seward at 11:30am and returning at 5:30pm. Lunch is included.



Train from Seward to Girdwood - Adventure Class

Departure: 06:00 pm

Arrival: 08:50 pm

Accommodation for 1 night in Girdwood

Check out: **Day 6**

Welcome to Alaska's premier year-round resort destination. Nestled in a lush valley surrounded by mountain peaks, hanging glaciers and spectacular ocean views, this hotel offers guests luxurious accommodations and convenient access to the magnificent Alaskan wilderness. The doors first opened to guests in 1994. Today, this chateau-style hotel makes the perfect base camp for your Alaskan vacation. During your stay you'll experience supreme comfort with perfect modern touches and rich Native influences, bringing the natural beauty of Alaska's great outdoors inside.

Girdwood



Girdwood is a small Alaskan mountain town that sits amongst lush forest and is surrounded by the peaks of the Chugach Mountain Range. It is conveniently situated only 36 miles (61km) south of Anchorage, Alaska's largest metropolis with an international airport. Getting here may be a long haul for most but the journey is more than worthwhile! Girdwood is most definitely the place to escape your day to day grind and experience the best of Alaska.

Originally named Glacier City, later changed to Girdwood (after Irish immigrant and linen merchant, James Girdwood, who had four gold claims on Crow Creek) the small town has a rich history. Gold was what first brought people into the area at the turn of the century. Girdwood acted as a supply camp for the huge influx of placer gold miners with claims to the creeks that feed into the Turnagain Arm. Further development to the town was spurred by railroad construction that began in 1915 by the federal government.

The potential for a ski resort in Girdwood was always present. Girdwood boasts a huge average annual snow fall with great snow, ideal winter conditions, mountains with varying gradient and close proximity to a major city (Anchorage). In 1954 the potential was realized and put to action with 11 local men forming the Alyeska Ski Corporation. They began making the dream come true and in 1960 the first chairlift and day lodge was built. Ownership of the resort has changed multiple times throughout it's history. Nowadays, Alyeska Ski Resort is world class and the resort, along with the town of Girdwood often take 1st place in varying ski town competitions.

Girdwood has been re-shaped many times but no more than on Good Friday, 1964. Disaster struck Girdwood when a magnitude 9.2 earthquake dropped the coastal edges along Turnagain Arm by 8 to 10 feet. The town was met by devastation and consequently the town site of Girdwood was moved two and a half miles further up the valley to its present location on Hightower Road and at the foot of Mount Alyeska.

Day Six

Bears Trains and Icebergs

Duration: 8.5hrs

Pickup at your hotel In Girdwood at 11am, visit Alaska Wildlife conservation center including a catered lunch. Then travel on the Alaska Railroad for a beautiful ride to Spencer Glacier. Enjoy a raft tour floating amongst icebergs with a spectacular glacier view. This is the Alaskan experience that you always pictured in your minds eye. You might even get a chance to touch an iceberg!

Guests disembark the train in the ultra-scenic Placer valley at Spencer Lake. Spencer Lake is full of icebergs that crumble from the glacier. The ice is so close you can touch it. Relax as your guide navigates the raft down the Placer River through spirited Class I (maybe II) rapids that are fun for all ages. Take photos underneath the longest freestanding trestle bridge in the USA, or just enjoy the wildness of it all.

You shouldn't expect to get wet except for an occasional small splash. After this amazingly scenic float, you'll get back on the train and bus and head to Anchorage. This trip is tons of fun for the whole family!



Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check out: **Day 7**

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS ALASKA TOURS

“Plan-To-Go Deposit”: Agents typically spend up to an hour planning alternative options for you at no charge. After that, your agent will request a small fee (and apply it to the cost of your tour) to cover the time our Alaska Tour Planning Specialists spend further customizing your tour to your timeframe and budget. This fee usually is \$50 per adult.

Reservations: Please make your reservations as early as possible to confirm specific departures. A deposit 50% of the total tour is required at time of booking. Full payment is required 60 days prior to departure.

Itemized Prices: All tours are presented as a package and individual prices will not be broken out due to contractual agreements with vendors.

Cancellations and refunds: Deposits and other payments are non-refundable. Travel Insurance is HIGHLY recommended.

Late reservations: Reservations booked within 30 days of departure are on a request basis and are subject to availability. Late reservations are subject to a \$25 Express Handling fee.

Weather Related Delays/Cancellations: Due to the ever-changing weather in Alaska, cancellation or change of some of tour components may be necessary and are non-refundable.

Travel Insurance: Trip Cancellation, Baggage, Personal Accident, Injury and Liability Insurance is highly recommended at time of booking. Ask your reservations agent about the policies available from Viking Travel, Inc. or consult your insurance agent.

Responsibility: Viking Travel, Inc. acts as agents only and shall not be liable for any inconvenience, loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of defect or through the act of omissions of any person or company performing or rendering services. Viking Travel, Inc. uses independent contractors who are not servants or joint ventures with Viking Travel, Inc.