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## Alaska Ferry Vacations

### 12 Day Grande Denali

Reference : 5797

**Travel Arrangements starting at US\$4,350.00 per person and is based on Double Occupancy**

Single, Triple and Quad Occupancy rates available upon request

**2022:** Daily Departures May through August

#### Day 1:

##### **Flight from Seattle to Sitka**

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Seattle to Sitka. Flight time is appr. 2.5 hours

##### **Round Trip Airport or Ferry Transfer**

Your tour includes round trip airport or ferry transfers.

##### **Accommodation for 2 nights in Sitka**

Check in: 03:00 pm

Check out: Day 3

Located on beautiful Baranof Island, this hotel offers studio suites with kitchenettes. The modern décor and ambiance is a welcome sight. This hotel is at a prime location that's close to everything the city has to offer.

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## Sitka



Sitka is the only Inside Passage community that fronts the Pacific Ocean, hugging Baranof Island's west shore in the shadow of the impressive Mount Edgecumbe, a dormant volcano with a graceful cone reminiscent of Japan's Mount Fuji.

Located on Sitka Sound and surrounded by a myriad of small, forested islands, the city of 8,615 residents is marked by the picturesque remnants of its Russian heritage, including the onion-shaped domes and gold colored crosses of the beloved Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Although first inhabited by Native Tlingit Indians, Sitka is recognized as the heart of the Russian influence in Alaska. The Russians arrived by 1741 and in 1804 attacked a Tlingit fort. The region's most famous battle eventually led to the creation of Sitka National Historical Park. Originally established as New Archangel, Sitka became the capital of Russian American in 1808. When Russia sold Alaska to the United States on October 18, 1867, the transfer ceremony took place on Sitka's Castle Hill.

For the nature lover, Sitka is home to a number of attractions that will amaze and educate visitors. These wildlife-oriented destinations include the Alaska Raptor Center and Fortress of the Bear. The Alaska Raptor Center rehabilitates injured birds and releases them back into the wild. The few who don't regain flight remain housed at the center and visible to guests. Fortress of the Bear features a three-quarter-acre habitat for orphaned brown bear cubs complete with covered viewing areas.

## Day 2:

### Wildlife Tour

Departure time: 2.5 to 5 hours (depending on availability)

Discover Southeast Alaska's majestic landscape and wilderness by cruising Alaska style. Spend your time in Sitka embarking upon a personalized and exciting wildlife boat tour in which you will get to be up close to the magical creatures that are guaranteed to leave you in awe. Experience the smell of whale breath aboard your boat trip. Gaze at the famed puffins and laugh with the curious sea otters as you cruise by.



## Day 3:

### Flight from Sitka to Juneau

Duration: 45 Minutes, Mid-Day departure

A short scenic plane flight to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska. Each passenger is allowed 50 lbs maximum luggage, Excess baggage may be allowed, carry-on baggage is stowed by crew before boarding. Flight will likely not be a Seaplane.

### Accommodation for 2 nights in Juneau

Check in: 02:00 pm

Check out: Day 5

This B&B features 14 deluxe suites in a unique Victorian-style Farmhouse. Come and spend a blissful night in a plush feather bed and indulge in the wonderful homespun comforts all while being nestled in a quiet rural setting in the Mendenhall Valley.

A complimentary full breakfast is provided each morning of your stay. Complimentary transfers to/from the airport or ferry terminal are available.

### Juneau



Alaska's state capital is also one of its most beautiful cities and one of the most visited communities in the state. With so much to see and do, there's certain to be something for you in Juneau.

Downtown Juneau sits snugly between Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts and Gastineau Channel, and is a maze of narrow streets running past a mix of new structures, old storefronts and quaint houses featuring early 19th century architecture left over from the town's early gold mining days. The waterfront bustles with cruise ships, fishing boats and floatplanes zipping in and out. With no road access to Juneau, it is the only state capital in the United States that can only be reached by airplane or boat.

Just a 15 minute drive from downtown, one of the city's most iconic sites sits at the edge of a residential neighborhood: Mendenhall Glacier. The glacier sits within the Tongass National Forest – the largest national forest in the United States – and visitors to the area can watch icebergs calve off its frozen face into Mendenhall Lake, go for a hike or check out the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Mendenhall Glacier is one of the 38 major glaciers that extend from the 1,500-square-mile Juneau Icefield, and many of them can be seen from the air as part of a flightseeing tour. Most helicopter tours offer glacier landings, glacier treks and glacier dog sled rides.

### Day 4:

#### Tracy Arm Boat Trip

**Duration:** 10 Hours, morning departure

Full Day Tracy Arm Boat Tour: Board your ship for a cruise to a fjord you won't forget. Tracy Arm is a classic fjord, with snow-capped peaks, hanging glaciers, shear rock palisades, waterfalls, rainbows and the Twin Sawyer Glaciers that crash icebergs right into the sea before your eyes. Drift among the icebergs with a front-row seat and view of the twin tidewater glaciers.



## Day 5:

### Flight from Juneau to Petersburg

Duration: 30 minutes

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Juneau to Petersburg, Alaska's "Little Norway".

### Accommodation for 2 nights in Petersburg

Check in: 02:45 pm

Check out: Day 7

Your hotel is located right downtown on Main Street in Petersburg. Complimentary transportation is included, both from the ferry terminal and airport as needed. It has 35 rooms in four stories with a coffee shop next to the comfortable lobby. A light continental breakfast is served for your enjoyment.

### Petersburg



This community of roughly 3,000 is centered around its busy and scenic waterfront, which is lined with wharfs, working boats and weathered boathouses, while tidy homes and businesses – many decorated with distinctive flowery Norwegian rosemaling – line the quiet streets. The best examples of rosemaling are seen along Sing Lee Alley, the center of old Petersburg. Most of the street is built on pilings over Hammer Slough and dominated by the Sons of Norway Hall, a large white building that was built in 1912 on pilings. Hammer Slough itself is a delight to photographers providing colorful images of Petersburg's waterfront.

Boasting the largest home-based halibut fleet in Alaska, Petersburg's fishing fleet catches enough fish to support four canneries and two cold-storage plants. The canneries sit above the water on pilings, overlooking boat harbors bulging with vessels, barges, ferries and seaplanes. The harbor is busy but not deep so Petersburg cannot host large cruise ships. The majority of visitors arrive by the Alaska Marine Highway ferries, a number of small cruise ships and daily jet service.

LeConte Glacier lies 25 miles east of Petersburg. Day cruises to view the glacier and flightseeing excursions over the glacier are popular. More adventurous travelers can join guided kayak trips to view the glacier and the seals that often gather on its icebergs. Closer to Petersburg, there are more opportunities to kayak, hike and rent public-use cabins.

One of the most popular activities in Petersburg is whale watching. From mid-May to mid-September humpback whales migrate through and feed in Frederick Sound, northwest of town. The peak feeding period is July and August when you also might spot Steller sea lions, orcas and seals.

## Day 6:

### Whalewatching

**Duration:** 8 Hours

The Inside waters of Southeast Alaska are well protected from the weather and are incredibly rich with marine life. Frederick Sound is the summer home to a large humpback whale population, where they can be found feeding and playing from May through September. You may also experience killer whales, Dall's porpoise, Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, and bald eagles while on your tour. Snacks and beverages are included. Eight hour tour with a beachstop to explore the area.

Your guide will pick you up at your accommodations 15 minutes prior to your scheduled departure.



## Day 7:

### Flight from Petersburg to Anchorage

**Duration:** appr. 2.5 hours

### Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

**Check in:** 03:00 pm

**Check out:** Day 8

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 8:

### Train from Anchorage to Denali - Adventure Class

**Duration:** 8 Hours, Morning Departure

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 in:** 03:00 pm

**Check out:** Day 10

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 9:

### Tundra Wilderness Tour

**Duration** 6-8 Hours, early am departure

The Tundra Wilderness Tour is a 6-8 Hour fully narrated tour that travels 53 miles into the Denali Park and Preserve. This tour includes a snack and beverage. The Tour has departure points from all the major area hotels. Departure times are announced the day before your tour and are available from the desk in the lobby upon arrival. Check in is 30 minutes prior to departure.

2022 - Please note that due to damages on the park road, the tour will be going to mile 43.



## Day 10:

### Train from Denali to Fairbanks - Gold Star Service

Departure: 04:00 pm

Travel aboard the Denali Star with GoldStar service; first-class service aboard double-deck dome cars, luxury rail travel has never been better. Reserved upper-level dome car seating, priority check-in, upper-level outdoor viewing deck, exclusive lower-level dining room, and complimentary Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages.



### Fairbanks



Alaska's second-largest city – Hub of the Interior, Gateway to the Bush, the Golden Heart City – call it what you will, Fairbanks is as diverse and distinct as any place in Alaska. The Fairbanks area is home to just over 100,000 hearty souls, making this region the second-largest population center in Alaska. The city features a university, an Army base and an Air Force Base and is known for dog mushing, northern lights and its extremes of light, dark, warmth and cold. In winter, temperatures as low as -62 degrees have been recorded; temperatures in the 80s are common in summer. Summer days are also long – Fairbanks enjoys more than 22 hours of daylight when the solstice arrives on June 21.

Fairbanks is also a gateway for trips further into the Interior and the Arctic. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is accessible by small plane, and any trip up the famous Dalton Highway to Prudhoe Bay – also known as the “Haul Road” – begins in Fairbanks. Check out the city's new Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center for planning help. The center houses the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.

Chena River State Recreation Area is a great place to see moose or launch a canoe, kayak or raft on the Chena River. The Angel Rocks Trailhead is located in the Chena River State Recreation Area, and an eight-mile hike leads to nearby Chena Hot Springs Resort, where tired hikers can soak their bones in the soothing hot springs pools.

### Accommodation for 2 nights in Fairbanks

Check in: 08:00 pm

Check out: Day 12

This riverfront seasonal resort is 2.2 miles from Fairbanks International Airport, 3.7 miles from the University of Alaska's Museum of the North, and 3.9 miles from the train station. All of the traditional hotel rooms have cable TV and coffeemakers. Quaint cottages add private patios; some overlook the river. There's also a riverside restaurant with a terrace, and a free airport and train station shuttle service.

## Day 11:

### Riverboat Discovery

**Duration:** 3 Hours

Board the Sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery that will take you into the heart of Alaska and a family who has made the river their way of life for five generations. Be immersed in frontier living first hand with a guided walking tour of an Athabaskan Indian village. It's an Indian village with cabins made of spruce logs, a cache used for storing supplies, a primitive spruce bark hut and fur pelts. The guides will explain how the wolf, fox, martin and beaver were used to provide food and protection in the harsh Arctic climate. They will also share how the Athabascans skillfully survived for over 10,000 years and how they adapted to village life and Western culture in the past century. At the end of your guided tour, you will have time to explore the village on your own, interact with the guides and visit dogs from Iditarod winner Susan Butcher's kennels.



## Day 12:

### Flight from Fairbanks to Seattle

**Duration:** 3.5 Hours

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS ALASKA TOURS

A **"plan-to-go" deposit** may be required after initial consultation. Usually we spend up to an hour planning alternatives for you for free. Then we 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** are recommended as early as possible to confirm specific departures. A deposit of \$500 per person or 30% of the total tour, whichever is greater is required at time of booking. Full payment is required 45 days prior to departure. Components are presented as a package tour and the individual prices will not be broken out due to contractual arrangements with our vendors. Although we offer reservation services for all airlines, generally airline tickets are non-refundable at the time of booking. Additional payments can be accepted anytime.

**Our Peace of Mind Guarantee** insures that our guests confirming their trip at least 60 days prior to travel will have 15 days from day of deposit to modify or postpone your trip to the following season. Additional costs may apply due to availability.

**Cancellations and refunds:** A 10% administrative fee of the package total will apply for cancellations made up until 45 days prior to your first day of travel. Between 45 to 21 days prior your first day of travel a 50% fee will apply. Within 21 days of travel, your package is non-refundable. Any changes to your itinerary may have additional fees. There could be situations beyond the control of Viking Travel, where your reservations are non-refundable. Groups, cruises, escorted tours, and wilderness lodges have additional restrictions. We recommend travel insurance to cover these perils.

**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.

**Due to weather** cancellation or change of some of tour components may be necessary and are subject to our cancellation policies.

**Insurance:** Trip Cancellation, Baggage, Personal Accident, Injury and Liability Insurance is highly recommended at time of booking. There are no exceptions to our cancellation or change policies for any reason, including natural disasters, weather and family or medical emergencies. 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.