



# SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES ACROSS NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

## TRIP DOSSIER

# Alaskan Adventure



### Tour Overview

We begin by travelling to Denali National Park where nature survives in a timeless state. Surrounding the tallest mountain peak in North America, grizzly bears, caribou, Dall sheep, marmots and wolves all roam the park. River rafting, dog sled demonstrations or walking on quiet nature trails are available near our lovely campground bordering the park.

The following days are free to explore the backcountry. Take the included Denali shuttle bus, which offers scenic views of the taiga and sub-arctic tundra, superb opportunities to view wildlife, and access to limitless hiking options. For a real treat why not try a scenic flight and see McKinley's towering peak... you could even opt for a glacier landing!

Follow the old Denali Highway east across the foot of the Alaska mountain range and spend the night in rustic cabins. There you will experience the quiet lakes of the tundra, watching for caribou or numerous birds. Why not try your hand at fishing for grayling?

Next, follow the pipeline south where we turn off the main highway and head into the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Camp on the banks of the Kennicott River in the shadow of Mount Blackburn and enjoy a beautiful view of Root Glacier. The next day is free to explore this vast wilderness region from the historic area of McCarthy and Kennicott. Activities available include hiking, ice climbing and glacier walking.

Heading further south, we climb Thompson Pass on our way to spending two nights in Valdez. Tucked away at the end of a glacier-carved fjord, this is the most northerly ice-free port in the Western Hemisphere and the terminus of the Alaskan Pipeline. Consider kayaking to the foot of the Columbia Glacier - it's amazing! After an awe-inspiring ferry ride through Prince William Sound you arrive at the colourful fishing village of Seward for seaside camping. Choose to hike Exit Glacier, fish the waters of Resurrection Bay, or enjoy a boat tour of Kenai Fjords National Park. Spectacular views of this rugged coastline and the Kenai Mountains abound. Sea mammals, bird watching, a visit to a tidewater glacier and the sights and sounds of icebergs being calved into the sea, are all part of this perfect day out.

Venture to the other side of the Kenai Peninsula and from Homer we will travel by boat to our luxury wilderness camp. Overlooking Kachemak Bay and surrounded by the magnificent Kenai Mountains, experience a true Alaskan adventure in this remote wilderness paradise. With included activities such as sea kayaking, mountain biking and hiking, you'll appreciate the home-cooked meals and salmon bake, and enjoying the breathtaking scenery before returning to Anchorage and finishing this tour of a lifetime.

### Tour Itinerary

- 1 Anchorage >> Denali NP
- 2 Denali NP
- 3 Denali NP
- 4 Alaska Range (HP)
- 5 Wrangell-St. Elias NP
- 6 Wrangell-St. Elias NP
- 7-8 Valdez
- 9-10 Kenai Fjords NP
- 11-12 Luxury Wilderness Camp (HP)
- 13 Wilderness Camp >> Anchorage

(HP) = hotel night included in the price  
(LC) = indicates Luxury Camp included

### Included Highlights

- ✓ 2 nights luxury wilderness camp including meals
- ✓ Sea kayaking and Alaskan glaciers
- ✓ Scenic ferry through Prince William Sound
- ✓ Two scenic Kenai Peninsula water taxis
- ✓ Denali National Park shuttle
- ✓ Wildlife viewing in Denali and Kenai
- ✓ Scenic walks and hikes
- ✓ National parks - Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias and Kenai Fjords
- ✓ All meals whilst camping
- ✓ Professional tour leader, camping fees/equipment and private transportation

### BEAR VIEWING AVAILABLE:

We offer a 1-day wild Alaskan bear viewing tour, from USD \$639, available after your trip (see page 4 for more details).

### Is This Tour For Me?

The Alaskan Adventure is one of our most relaxed paced tours in this vast state. Experience the majestic beauty of Alaska from the glaciers of the Kenai Peninsula to the heights of Mt. McKinley in spectacular Denali National Park.

PLEASE NOTE: Both of these Alaskan trips pass through rugged terrain and isolated areas. Many campgrounds will only have basic/rustic facilities and little nightlife.



# Alaskan Adventure Tour Information

## TOUR MATRIX

Our Tour Matrix is designed to rate the focus of this tour. We hope this will help you to choose the tour that is right for you.

Alaskan Adventure	Mild Focus	Moderate Focus	High Focus
National Parks Visited			
City Sights			
Activities			
Hiking Opportunities			
Adventure Level			
Fun, Freedom & Flexibility			

## DESTINATIONS

Please find below more detailed information on the destinations this tour visits. In alphabetical order:

**Alaska Range** - The highest mountain range in North America with Mt. McKinley measuring an impressive 20,320ft in height, is home to three National Parks: Kluane, Wrangell-St. Elias and Mt. McKinley, which was later re-named Denali National Park & Preserve.

**Anchorage** - The largest city in Alaska with only 250,000 people, Anchorage has gone through quite a change since the earthquake of 1964. Now a bustling city fuelled by the oil boom and tourism, it was not that long ago that Anchorage was the last outpost before heading into "the Last Frontier".

**Denali National Park** - Home to the highest peak in North America (20,320ft.), Denali National Park is the centrepiece of Alaskan wilderness. Once known as Mt. McKinley National Park, the park was officially renamed Denali, or "The High One", as the local Native Americans know it. There will be plenty of opportunity to go hiking, as well as viewing the diverse wildlife among the impressive, rugged mountain peaks.

**Kenai Fjords National Park** - Located on the southeastern side of the Kenai Peninsula (pronounced "Keen-eye"), this park covers more than 600,000 acres. Take the Kenai Fjords NP boat tour for spectacular views of scenery and wildlife.

**Valdez** - Called the "Switzerland of Alaska" due to the snow-capped mountains surrounding the city, Valdez (pronounced "Val-dees") is the terminus of the 800 hundred mile long Alaskan pipeline. Ships and ferries depart from this port city to cross the majestic Prince William Sound.

**Wrangell St. Elias National Park** - Bordering Canada's Yukon Territory, this stunning NP is the largest in the country, containing glaciers five times the size of Manhattan; and nine of the sixteen highest peaks in North America! Wrangell St. Elias NP offers excellent hiking opportunities and the chance to try ice-climbing.

## ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE HOTELS

Our arrival and departure hotels are conveniently located and serve as your tour's start and end points. Rooms are comfortable and spacious, with two double beds and en-suite facilities. They make good bases for sightseeing and offer an opportunity to informally meet with your fellow trekkers.

The tour begins at 07:30hrs in the hotel lobby, where you will meet your group and tour guide. You should have packed your bags and eaten breakfast so that you are fresh and ready to start the journey.

The tour ends between 17:00-18:00hrs on the final day. Please do not reserve flights until at least 21:00hrs or the following day.

If you would like to reserve additional nights in our hotel before or after the holiday, or if you would prefer to have your own room throughout, please contact our sales team for additional information and associated costs.

## CAMPING ACCOMMODATION

Camping allows us to stay in the heart of the most breathtaking natural scenery, away from fast food outlets and the encroaching development; and Grand American Adventure's experienced tour leaders and top quality equipment will surely enhance your experience.

Your comfort is important to us and we know that starts with using high quality camping gear. We only use top of the range, spacious two-person tents and thick (air/foam-filled) sleeping pads to ensure your evenings are comfortable and restful. Sturdy camp chairs are always available for those evening chats as the group prepares delicious meals (using state of the art camping stoves). All you need to bring is a warm sleeping bag and a sense of adventure and you will be sure to enjoy the trip of a lifetime!

Camping in Alaska is an experience you will never forget. While many of our local campgrounds provide modern conveniences and amenities such as hot showers and flush toilets, you will also have the pleasure of experiencing a more rugged setting. One that you can only get in Alaska. On these occasions, our groups will utilize rustic wilderness sites. These campgrounds will have pit toilets and because of their remoteness, showers may be non-existent or expensive (up to \$8 in certain areas). That said, waking up with a view of a glacier or above the Arctic Circle, with the smell of fresh brewed coffee in the air, provides a truly intimate natural experience and one that eludes conventional tourists.

**A sleeping bag is required for this tour.** Make sure your sleeping bag is warm enough for the time of year you are travelling.

## GROUP PARTICIPATION

An essential part of a Grand American Adventures camping holiday is helping out around the campsite. Our tents are easy to set up and with guidance from your tour leader, everyone will assist with the setting up and packing of the campsite. As a team, it only takes approximately 20 minutes before setting up your "home with a view" in the great outdoors!

Your tour leaders will organize daily activities and guided hikes, as well as coordinate and assist the group when shopping for food, preparing the daily meals and washing up.

As this is a participatory trip, group members will assist with the preparation of meals and with the washing. That said, often the best meals on the road are created when individuals offer to cook up one of their specialties from home!



# Alaskan Adventure Tour Information

## FOOD & DRINK

Grand American Adventures include all meals while camping (alcohol/drinks purchased locally) and you will be sure to create and enjoy regular international dinner parties on the road. Incidentally, our professional guides are great in the kitchen and they will assist the group in preparing delicious, healthy meals so that you can take the path less travelled... with a full stomach.

We prepare plenty of good fresh food on our camping trips and anticipate hearty eaters. Breakfasts often include fresh fruits and cereal, toast, juice, coffee or tea. Fried bacon or sausage, pancakes or eggs may also be available on more leisurely mornings. Lunches are typically picnic style and consist of a selection of delicatessen meats, cheeses and salads. Dinners are filling and main dishes include pastas, grilled meats/chicken/fish, as well as regional specialties such as Salmon Bake or BBQ's and are accompanied with cooked vegetables or fresh salads.

Meals consist of a variety of balanced dishes and, aiming for universal appeal, we avoid highly spiced foods. Vegetarians are certainly welcome and are always accommodated. Please let us know of any dietary concerns at the time of booking.

On occasion, meals are taken in local restaurants where passengers pay individually for food and drinks en route. Average breakfasts cost from \$6-\$12, lunches from \$8-15 and dinners from \$13-\$30; this does not include alcoholic beverages. Wine costs approximately \$5 per glass and beer \$4 per bottle. Please be aware that a tip of approximately 20% is added to group meals in restaurants in North America and applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices.

## GROUPS

The maximum group size is 13 passengers.

Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of 4 nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your fellow trekkers, including a passion for adventure and a strong interest in exploring the national parks.

Grand American Adventures tours are designed for adults over 18 years old. While most passengers are aged 25-55, every year we get many people both above and below this age range. All travellers over the age of 55 will be requested to complete a self-declaration of fitness.

## CLIMATE & CLOTHING

Keep in mind that our dress tends to be informal. Take a practical selection of clothes for both warm and cool climates to suit the season. You may encounter a wide variety of temperatures en route due to altitude and unforeseen weather conditions - so be prepared! Make sure to pack a warm fleece and a waterproof jacket/coat in case of rain.

Approximate year-round temperatures are listed below.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES/SPENDING MONEY

There are many opportunities for optional activities during the holiday. Your tour guide will organize these on your behalf and you will pay locally in cash. Featured activities and approximate prices are listed below:

★ Canoeing	US \$25-75
★ Dog sled demonstration	Free - \$10
★ Fishing	US \$150
★ Hiking opportunities	Included
★ Ice climbing	US \$85 - 325
★ Kenai Fjords NP boat tour	US \$165 - 200
★ River rafting	US \$100
★ Scenic flight	US \$220
★ Sea kayaking	US \$45 - 275

ATM/Cash points are widely available in all major cities and small towns. Please ensure that your credit or debit cards have international access and a PIN number to access your funds.

We recommend you take at least US \$35 dollars per day to cover local expenses, but it's better to bring more than you need rather than run short on tour. Your spending money needs to cover optional activities, film, souvenirs and snacks along the way.

Additionally, tipping is a way of life in North America and, whilst not compulsory, it is expected. We recommend a tip of approximately US \$5 per passenger / per day to be given in cash to your tour leader at the end of your holiday.

## TRANSPORTATION

All of our private vehicles are designed to ensure your safety, comfort and enjoyment of the tour. In North America, our new 15-seater Fords feature raised ceilings for more headroom, individual captain seats for more comfort and an open centre aisle floor plan, making it easier when getting in and out at those many photo opportunities. All our vehicles are equipped with CD stereo systems, often iPod-compatible, and air-conditioning, to make travelling a pleasure.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

This tour visits the USA only and it is your responsibility to obtain the proper passport and visa(s). More details are provided in our Trek Tips pre-departure information at [http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour\\_info\\_online.html](http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour_info_online.html)

## HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

Contact Grand American Adventures by telephone, email or via our website to check availability on the tour you want to join. We can normally hold you a seat on 'option' for up to 3 days to allow you time to finalise your flight arrangements and send us your booking form with a deposit payment.

If you are ready to book and pay your deposit, we have a secure, online booking facility where you can pay in most major currencies with a credit or debit card. Check availability early to avoid disappointment.

Check Availability at:  
<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>



# Alaskan Adventure Tour Information

## ALTERNATIVE TOURS

If you would prefer to join a different Grand American Adventures tour, we have several other camping tours and a variety of lodging, walking and specialty tours as well as family adventures for you to choose from. Click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>

## ADVENTURE TRAVEL

All details are provided in good faith. Due to the nature of travel, this information can change and should therefore be taken as an indication only and not as a contractual obligation on the part of Grand American Adventures. If you have any questions, please contact us.

### Average High / Low Temperatures in Celsius (°C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anchorage	22/8	25/11	33/17	43/28	55/39	62/47	65/51	63/49	55/41	41/28	28/15	22/10
Denali NP	10/-8	14/-6	26/1	38/15	53/29	64/39	67/42	62/39	51/30	32/13	17/-1	12/-6

Celsius / Fahrenheit Conversions:    -10°C = 14°F    0°C = 32°F    10°C = 50°F    20°C = 68°F    30°C = 86°F    40°C = 104°F

## ALASKA BEAR WATCHING TOUR

View Alaska black and brown bears in their natural habitat on a guided bear watching trip at Redoubt Bay Lodge - a small rustic lodge situated in a 171,000-acre critical habitat area.

Redoubt Bay Lodge is located 70 miles (a 50-minute flight) southwest of Anchorage near the dramatic entrance of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and is home to one of the most concentrated and viewable bear populations in the state of Alaska. After landing our floatplane on the lake in front of the lodge, your bear watching trip begins. You will take a covered pontoon boat with our experienced naturalist guides through the chain of Big River Lakes that are host to sockeye and Coho salmon runs and a popular feeding site for resident bear (and fishermen as well!) This bear viewing experience is an easy day trip from Anchorage with morning or afternoon departures of approximately 6 1/2 hours that includes airport shuttle, return flights, bear viewing and a hot lunch served in the lodge. (Overnight packages are available on request).

### The Alaska Bear Watching Tour in Redoubt Bay Includes:

- Wild Alaska brown and black bear watching from a covered pontoon boat
- 50-minute scenic flight-seeing tour from Anchorage (return) with a guaranteed window seat with the rich knowledge (and personality) of an Alaska bush pilot
- Redoubt Bay Field Guide with bear, flora and fauna facts
- Homemade lunch in the rustic Redoubt Bay lodge
- Interactive experience with Alaska natural history guides
- Countless photo opportunities
- Shuttle service from to the Anchorage airport from your Anchorage hotel

Prices from: USD \$639

## PAST PASSENGERS SAY?

When asked, "what was the best part of the tour", passengers said:

*"Ice climbing was awesome". "Sea kayaking was fantastic". "Fabulously well organised."* - Emma from Australia

*"Meeting new people." "Being in the wilderness camping, with wildlife and beautiful scenery."* - Donna from England

**Flight Pattern:** Depart from Lake Hood, the world's busiest floatplane harbor and fly southwest over Cook Inlet and the western edge of the Kenai Peninsula to the foothills of the Lake Clark National Park. During the flight, your pilot will share information on scenic highlights, while flying low enough to spot Alaska wildlife. You may also fly over Cook Inlet, spotting for Beluga whales. Your pilot will pick the best route for the weather conditions and scenic possibilities.

Depart Anchorage	Return Anchorage	Extras included in the trip
8:00am	2:30pm	Hotel-airport transfers, hot lunch served in lodge
12:30pm	7:00pm	
Flight times may vary; you will need to be at the Lake Hood floatplane airport 30 minutes prior to departure to check in.	These times are provided are approximate.	Please dress in layers and be prepared for rainy weather.