



**TOUR AT A
 GLANCE:**



1 US State: Alaska

Length: 11 days

Departs: Anchorage

Trip code: PAH

Meals: Paid locally

Group size: Maximum 13

Accommodation:
 5 hotel nights, 3 lodge
 nights (1 multi share
 night), 2 cabin nights

Staff: Professional
 tour leader

Transport: Private
 vehicle and ferry

Please see our website for detailed destination information and insider tips.

★ **TRIP OVERVIEW**

Outdoor activities abound in **Seward**, gateway to **Kenai Fjords National Park**. Hike in the high-country of the Harding Icefields trail and enjoy magnificent views of Exit Glacier. Bears are commonly spotted meandering the surrounding mountains.

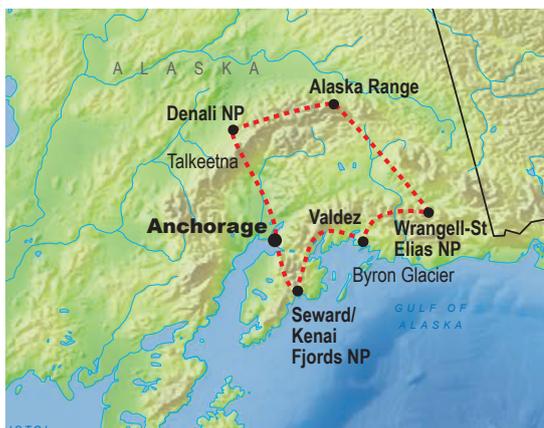
Enjoy a five hour guided wildlife boat tour of Kenai Fjords National Park in search of whales, porpoise, an array of bird life and outstanding scenery. Travel onto **Valdez** where you have the option of sea kayaking amongst floating glaciers and stunning views.

Overnight in the Alaska Range before venturing off the main highway into the heart of **Wrangell-St Elias National Park** passing the **Kennecott River** and with beautiful views of **Root Glacier**. Explore the historic area of McCarthy and the Kennecott Mine and for the more adventurous, try glacier walking or even ice-climbing!

Surrounding **Mount Denali**, the tallest peak in North America, **Denali National Park** offers a variety of wildlife like wolves, dall sheep and the mighty grizzly bear. Optional activities available include river rafting, scenic flights, dog sled demonstrations and hiking for all levels of fitness.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ One day scenic bus pass in Denali National Park
- ▶ Guided five hour cruise through Kenai Fjords National Park
- ▶ Explore the incredible wilderness of Wrangell-St Elias National Park
- ▶ Visit spectacular Byron Glacier
- ▶ Dog sled demonstration in Denali
- ▶ Scenic walks and hiking trail options
- ▶ Wildlife viewing opportunities, including Grizzly Bear
- ▶ Visit to Talkeetna Ranger Station (depending on availability)
- ▶ National parks: Kenai Fjords, Wrangell-St Elias and Denali





★ ITINERARY AND DETAILS

Day 1: Anchorage Welcome to Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska with only 250,000 people and a city which has undergone quite a change since the earthquake of 1964. Now a bustling city fuelled by the oil boom and tourism, it wasn't that long ago that Anchorage was the last outpost before heading into the 'Last Frontier'. It's also common place to find bear roaming the outskirts of the city. A great way to spend your day is wandering around the town getting a feel for the 49th state, speaking to the locals and breathing in that fresh Alaskan air! A welcome meeting will be held at 18:00 hrs for you to meet your tour leader and fellow travelling companions.

Optional Activities:

- Alaska Native Heritage Center US\$25
- Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center US\$15
- Tony Knowles Coastal Trail US\$free
- Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum US\$10

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 2: Anchorage, Seward and Kenai Fjords National Park Leaving Anchorage your first stop is to visit the Portage Glacier where you round Cook Inlet's Turnagain Arm and venture onto the Kenai (pronounced 'keen eye') Peninsula followed by the chance to walk the Byron Glacier Trail. This short trail takes you along a rushing glacial river into a dramatic, steep valley all the way to the base of Byron Glacier. From here you make your way to the colourful fishing village of Seward - the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park. In its past life, Seward was a railroad port which means there is now plenty of great shopping and a picturesque old-time downtown area.

Upon arrival, you will enjoy an included five hour guided wildlife cruise to view sea mammals, including pods of orca, an array of birdlife and be able to experience the sights and sounds of icebergs being calved into the sea. What you'll see on this cruise cannot be guaranteed however, this day has always proven to be a popular and rewarding tour with loads of wildlife sightings.

Accommodation: Lodge included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 3: Seward Today is a full free day to hike one of the most beautiful trails in Alaska - the Harding Icefield. This is not an easy hike but the views are absolutely worth it. This trail is popular for spotting wildlife and delivers breathtaking views of Exit Glacier along the way. Nothing will prepare you for the incredible views at the top and it's worth eating your lunch up there if the weather is good.

Accommodation: Lodge included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 4-5: Valdez Tucked away at the end of a glacier-carved fjord and called the 'Switzerland of Alaska' due to its surrounding snow-capped mountains,

Valdez is the most northerly ice-free port in the Western Hemisphere and the terminus of the Alaskan Pipeline that stretches over 800 miles to Prudhoe Bay. There's no better way to experience this pristine environment than with an optional (and highly recommended) sea kayaking trip up to the mouth of the glacier. A variety of hiking trails make this area a walker's paradise.

Optional Activities:

- Valdez Sea Kayaking US\$259

Accommodation: Hotel included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 6-7: Wrangell-St Elias National Park Bordering Canada's Yukon Territory, Wrangell-St Elias National Park is the largest in the country, containing glaciers five times the size of Manhattan and nine of the sixteen highest peaks in North America! With endless hours of daylight you'll never tire of such magnificent glaciers and remote views. To explore the historic area of McCarthy and the Kennecott Mine, why not take the Kennecott Copper Mill Ghost Town tour or if you're feeling adventurous why not opt to try glacier walking or ice climbing? You stay at the McCarthy Lodge, a comfortable and quirky hotel without the modern trappings of the chain hotel. The atmosphere is welcoming and is often described as a 'home away from home'.

Optional Activities:

- Ice climbing US\$145
- Glacier walk US\$120
- Kennecott Copper Mill Ghost Town US\$28

Accommodation: Hotel included with shared facilities | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 8: Alaskan Range Head into the heart of the Alaskan Mountain Range on what is considered to be one of the most beautiful drives in the state, enjoy sweeping views of the Alaska Range on the Denali Highway before arriving to the Maclaren River Lodge. With spectacular views of the surrounding valley, this rustic lodge provides the ideal setting for an authentic Alaskan experience. This is a birder's paradise with many species often sighted and with the chance to fish for grayling (permit purchased locally) the activities are plentiful.

Optional Activities:

- Canoeing (unescorted) US\$50-\$65

Accommodation: Lodge in multi-share bunkhouse (with shared facilities) included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day 9-10: Denali National Park As you travel along the old Denali Highway to Denali National Park, keep an eye open for caribou and other wildlife while enjoying the peaceful, unspoilt Alaskan wilderness. Surrounded by the tallest mountain peak in North America, Denali National Park offers a variety of wildlife including Grizzly Bear, caribou, Dall Sheep, marmots and wolves. Activities such as river rafting, watching a dog sled demonstration and walks on quiet nature trails are available, all nearby your lovely campground setting which borders the park. Take the included Denali shuttle bus, which offers scenic views of the taiga and sub-arctic tundra as well as superb opportunities to view wildlife and hike the many trails in the park. Denali is one of the few national parks where visitors are encouraged to walk off the beaten track and make their own trails. As a real treat and highly recommended, why not opt for a scenic flight over Denali National Park with the chance to land on an ice sheet under the watchful gaze of Mount Denali's towering peak, North America's tallest mountain?

Optional Activities:

- Denali scenic flight US\$524
- Dogsled demonstration in Denali US\$free
- Mountain biking in Denali, US\$20-\$57
- Whitewater rafting in Denali US\$92-\$187

Accommodation: Cabins included | **Meals:** Paid locally

Day II: Talkeetna to Anchorage Departing Denali, you make your way towards Anchorage stopping en route in the town of Talkeetna where you have the opportunity to try a local speciality; Reindeer Sausage. You also take in a visit to the Talkeetna Ranger Station depending on availability.

Leave Alaska's highlights behind and return to civilisation for the end of your tour. Why not add on a half day bear viewing extension which includes a float plane flight into the wilderness? This wonderful experience with local guides gives you the opportunity to get up close to the four legged animals that call this place home.

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We can book your post-tour accommodation at our gateway hotel if required. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are opportunities for optional activities during your tour. Your tour leader will organise these on your behalf and you will pay locally in cash. You'll find the main optional activities listed above under each itinerary day description, along with guideline prices. It may not be possible to do all optional activities listed on each tour. Please note activities in Alaska tend to be more expensive due to the remote location and short tourist season. Be sure to factor this into your tour budget.

PHYSICAL RATING/PREPARATION

This active tour is suitable for people of all levels of experience and fitness. Active tours are about exploring the places you visit so whether it's sightseeing, walking, hiking, kayaking or biking you'll be experiencing the best from each place. You'll also be able to choose from a whole range of optional activities, everything from glacier walking to a helicopter flight, depending on your interest, budget and ability. Walks, hikes and activities cater to everyone from beginner to expert, ranging in difficulty from easy to strenuous.

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

All departure dates for this trip are 100% guaranteed, so once you've booked and paid your deposit you're going. Please check our website for our latest range of departure dates for this trip.

TOUR ITINERARIES

Although each tour follows an itinerary, there is a certain amount of flexibility and from time to time your tour leader may suggest changes. This may be due to road conditions, weather or a visit to a special attraction or event that happens to be in progress. Flexibility is key and often a side diversion will be a highlight of the tour. Hikes and optional activities cannot be guaranteed and may vary depending on ability, group interest, local weather conditions and time of year.

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.

Please ensure that you download an up-to-date copy of this dossier before you depart to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Our itineraries are occasionally amended in response to customer feedback or for operational reasons.

This dossier is valid for all tours departing in 2017. Itineraries may be subject to change with the publication of our 2018/19 brochure in Autumn 2017, at which point revised 2018 dossiers will be made available.

★ CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

"The activities, hiking the Maclaren Summit Trail, fishing around Valdez, boating at Seward and hiking the Harding Icefield were fantastic. Brian was a cool guide, he really took our interests to heart and made great efforts to ensure that we were happy." – **Chenbei Chang from the USA**

Please see our website for more customer reviews from independent reviewer Feefo.

★ BEFORE YOU DEPART

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

For anyone leaving from the UK we would be pleased to book your flight in conjunction with your tour. Please contact us for competitive prices on flights departing from most UK airports.

If you are booking your own flights, you are free to arrive at any time on day one but it is advisable that you arrive in plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your welcome meeting. We also suggest that you book your return flight the day after your tour finishes. If you do have to return home on the day your tour finishes, please make sure that your flight does not depart before 21:00 hrs.

Please note that we cannot be held responsible for any delays, cancellations, changes to your flights, or any missed flights. We are unable to delay a tour, or finish a tour early due to your flight times.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue service). You will be asked to provide details of your insurance policy, including insurer, policy number and phone number before embarking on the trip.

We offer an insurance policy that is designed specifically to cover the potential risks on our tours - particularly the many optional activities offered. If you do not take our policy, you must ensure that the policy you take offers an equivalent level of protection and covers you for the activities involved - be aware that some policies do not include, or restrict, coverage for this type of travel. There may be cheaper policies available, but this does not mean it may be better value - we strongly advise you check fully what will and won't be covered. Any claims concerning matters for which you are insured must be directed to your insurers.

Please note: We can only offer cover for passengers residing within the European Union. For those outside the EU we recommend Journeyman Services who have a tailored policy for Grand American Adventures clients. Visit www.journeyman-services.com.

PASSPORT AND VISAS

It is important that you apply for your American entry ESTA while in your home country. For specific visa information, please consult the relevant embassies. Please note it is your responsibility to ensure you have valid passport and the correct visas for your tour.

VISA AND RULES FOR ENTRY TO THE USA

Travellers from the EU and certain countries are eligible to travel to the USA under the Visa Waiver Program. All eligible travellers who wish to travel under the Visa Waiver Program must apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation) before travelling to the USA. At the time of compilation there is a US\$14 fee for the electronic entry ESTA. The ESTA



will be valid for a period of two years, or until a person's passport expires. You should apply for an ESTA at least 72 hours before you travel, and we recommend you carry your ESTA approval with you. All travellers wishing to enter the US under the Visa Waiver Program will need to hold a passport with an integrated chip (an ePassport). New rules exclude from the VWP most people who have travelled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria since 1 March 2011, and those who have dual nationality of these countries. This means that existing ESTAs could be revoked, and you will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

You can apply for an ESTA at: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

Passengers that have not applied for and received travel authorisation via ESTA prior to travel may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing or be denied admission at the US port of entry. However, neither possession of a visa nor meeting the basic requirements for travelling visa-free on the VWP, guarantees admission to the United States. As with most countries, the final determination of admissibility is made by immigration officials at the port of entry.

Important reminder: If you are refused boarding or denied admission at the US port of entry you will still be subject to our cancellation charges in accordance with the terms of our contract with you.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

If you have any medical conditions, take prescribed medicines, or have a condition that will affect your participation in the tour, you must inform Grand American Adventures or your travel agent at the time of booking. Please be aware we may require a doctor's note prior to travel for some conditions. This information is essential in case of emergency. All of our vehicles carry a basic first-aid kit, but for everyday use you should bring your own medical supplies, such as pain relievers, antibiotic cream and upset stomach relievers, in addition to sunscreen and insect repellent.

★ WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

SPENDING MONEY

We recommend you take at least US\$50 dollars per day for meals not included in the tour, drinks, snacks and other incidentals. You should also budget for expected tipping, as well as for the optional activities that you would like to do. Guideline prices for the most popular optional activities are listed on our website.

We suggest you bring USD\$150 with you in cash to have with at the beginning of your trip. ATM's and cash machines are readily available

throughout North America and major credit cards are widely accepted throughout the country. All ATMs in the USA charge to withdraw money (from \$1-\$5). In some off-the-beaten-track destinations ATM's and cash machines may be limited. Please ensure that your credit or debit cards have international access and a PIN number to access your funds at the start of the tour. It is important you advise your bank prior to leaving your home country of your intended travel, so they do not block your card citing the reason as fraud.

PRE-PAID CURRENCY CARDS

It is personal preference as to how you take your money and it's recommended to take some cash with you for arrival. Grand American Adventures recommend FairFX prepaid credit cards, as these can be a cost effective and safe way to take funds overseas. Please ask one of our sales consultants or visit www.fairfx.com/grandamericanadventures to find out how to receive a FREE currency card, worth a retail value of £9.95.

TIPPING

Although it may not be customary in your country, it is normal and expected in North America to tip local guides, waiters, bar staff, taxi drivers and anyone who provides a service for you. Service workers are paid a low wage and depend on tips for their livelihood. It can be embarrassing if you're confronted by a local who is expecting a tip and you are not aware of how much to offer. For this reason we have listed guideline prices below.

A 15-17% tip is standard in restaurants and you should also expect to tip \$1 per drink in bars, \$1-2 per bag for porters as well 10% for taxi drivers. It's also typical to tip around 10% for local guides who provide optional activities.

Your tour leader will work long and hard for you during your tour and we recommend a discretionary tip of US\$5-10 per passenger per day if your leader's performance meets or exceeds your expectations.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

One suitcase, soft holdall or rucksack (23kg maximum) per person. A small daypack and camera can also be carried in the van. Before you travel, please check the baggage allowance with the airline you're flying with as this may be less than 23kg.

We are unable to offer luggage storage facilities however, some of our pre and post tour hotels will provide this service although there may be a charge. Please contact the hotels directly for further information.



HIGH / LOW TEMPERATURES IN CELSIUS (°C)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Anchorage	HIGH	-6	-3	1	7	13	17	18	13	4	-3	-4
	LOW	-13	-12	-8	-2	4	9	12	10	6	-2	-11
Denali NP	HIGH	-11	-9	-3	4	13	18	19	16	9	-1	-11
	LOW	-21	-20	-17	-8	0	5	7	5	-1	-10	-20
Kenai Peninsula	HIGH	-1	1	3	7	11	14	16	13	7	2	1
	LOW	-7	-7	-5	-1	3	4	9	8	5	7	-4
Wrangell-St Elias NP	HIGH	-17	-12	-5	4	12	17	18	16	10	-1	-15
	LOW	-24	-20	-16	-8	5	5	7	5	-1	-9	-22

C / F 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

PACKING TIPS

CLOTHING

Please keep in mind that our dress tends to be informal. It is advised that you take a practical selection of clothes for both warm and cool climates to suit the season. Please see the temperature guide showing the highs and lows that can be expected in key locations that your tour visits. However please remember that this is just a guide and you may encounter a wide variety of temperatures en route due to altitude and unforeseen weather conditions - so it's best to be prepared!

Besides your essential clothing, here's a checklist of other items you should take:

- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Warm sweater / fleece
- Hiking shoes / boots
- Thick walking socks
- Blister packs and plasters
- Hiking poles
- Comfortable day shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Warm hat / gloves
- Water bottle
- Small day pack
- Swim wear
- Sun hat / sunglasses
- Camera / binoculars
- SD memory card / Spare camera batteries
- Small flashlight / torch
- Sunscreen / insect repellent (50% DEET)
- Travel power adaptor (optional)
- Toiletries / personal medicine
- Mosquito head net (can be purchased locally)

Please note airlines have various rules on what can be carried in your luggage - if in doubt check with your airline before travelling.

FOOTWEAR

We recommend walking boots, as comfortable shoes with good ankle support will make all walking more enjoyable. If you intend to do some walking, it is recommended to bring thick walking socks for comfort.

CLOTHES WASHING

You will have the opportunity to wash your clothes whilst you are on tour, and this can often be done at the hotel or in town. Ask your tour leader for local information.

BATTERY CHARGING

Many of our travellers bring mobile phones, music devices and cameras that require frequent battery charging during a tour. As this is a hotel tour your hotel room will have an electrical outlet (just remember your international adaptor!) and we recommend that you bring a car charger. Every vehicle has two outlets for your use, but please bear in mind that thirteen people travelling with multiple devices can mean very little charge time per person per day, so it may be useful to bring along extra batteries just in case!

★ JOINING YOUR TOUR

TOUR AND ACCOMMODATION VOUCHERS

A tour voucher will be emailed to you once your balance has been paid in full. Vouchers for any hotel nights you have booked before or after your tour as well as any additional day tours will also be sent to you. You can print off the PDF vouchers or download to your smartphone. For those without email access your vouchers will be posted. Please make sure that these vouchers are correct.

PRE/POST TOUR HOTELS

Grand American Adventures tours begin and end at our designated hotels, which are conveniently located in the departure and arrival cities. We offer you the option to book additional hotel nights before or after your tour however, they should be booked prior to departure with our reservations team. See below for joining and end hotel details.

Please note some hotels may take a debit or credit card as a deposit at check in. They may also take an amount to cover incidentals. Funds can be held until check out at which time the amount actually incurred will be charged. Please clarify with the hotel when you check out that all deposits will be refunded as promptly as possible.

JOINING POINT

You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel for your tour. Please find the details below:

Inlet Tower Hotel and Suites
1200 W 12th Avenue,
Anchorage
Alaska 99501
United States
Tel: +1 907-276-0110

Transfer: The hotel offers a 24 hour free shuttle. Contact the hotel directly upon arrival, or request the shuttle service at the information desk. It is normal to tip the driver US\$2 per person.

You are free to arrive at any time on day one of your tour but please ensure you leave plenty of time to reach your joining hotel and attend your welcome meeting. Details on the time and specific location of your meeting will be available early on the arrival day. During this evening meeting you will meet your tour leader and fellow travellers and also spend a few minutes filling out necessary paperwork, so please bring your insurance documents, passport and tour documentation to the meeting.

ARRIVAL COMPLICATIONS

Sometimes the unexpected can happen; your plane may be delayed or you may even miss it! If you have missed your tour departure, first check with the hotel to see if your tour leader has left you a message. If not, call the relevant emergency number and speak to our staff who will be happy

to help you catch up with the group. Please note that you are responsible for any extra travelling expenses incurred due to you missing your tour's departure, so please be on time.

FINISHING POINT

Inlet Tower Hotel and Suites
1200 W 12th Avenue,
Anchorage
Alaska 99501
United States
Tel: +1 907-276-0110

Transfer: To travel from the hotel back to the airport, the hotel operates a 24 hour free shuttle. Please arrange this with the hotel reception and it is normal to tip the driver US\$2 per person.

Your tour will end upon arrival at the above hotel, which will be around 17:00 hrs on the final day. Some tour activities scheduled for the last day may preclude an earlier arrival at the end point hotel, so you should not book a flight that leaves prior to 21:00 hrs. You will be responsible for any transportation costs if you have to arrive for an earlier flight and you must make us aware of this well in advance of your tour departing. If you require accommodation for the last night, it is essential that you book this before your tour departs.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event of an emergency or if you wish to report a problem on tour please do not hesitate to call our toll free* 24-hour emergency contact number. Remember, if we don't know about it we won't be able to do anything about it.

Phone number for family to contact you in case of emergency:

Toll-Free (*in the US): +1 (800) 786 - 8735

International: +1 (707) 523 - 1800

★ ABOUT OUR TOURS

TRANSPORTATION

You'll travel in a private 15-Seater Ford vehicle which is driven by your tour leader. All luggage, equipment and other necessities are stored in a specially designed trailer or storage area to maximise space and comfort in the vehicle. The size of our vehicles allows us to reach more remote destinations not accessible to larger vehicles. All our vehicles are equipped with CD stereo systems (often iPod compatible) and air-conditioning.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation will be in clean, comfortable hotels or lodges with en-suite bathroom facilities, chosen for their friendly atmosphere and proximity to the highlights of the region. You will be roomed with a fellow passenger of the same sex on a twin share basis (two people per room) unless you are travelling as a couple. Please note that Alaska hotels will be of a lesser standard than you may be used to and are carefully chosen from those available. Yes we could offer you five star hotels with a guaranteed European standard however, our aim is to provide an affordable tour of Alaska, in clean and comfortable hotels.

OPTIONAL SOLO SLEEPER

The accommodation on our tours is based on twin-share, so if you're travelling on your own, you'll share a room with a fellow passenger of the same sex. However, if you would prefer your own space we offer a Solo Sleeper option where you can have your own room for an additional fee.

On this tour, we are able to provide the option of pre-booking single room for the majority of nights of the tour, however you would still need to share a room during the cabin stay at MaClaren Lodge (Alaska Range). Please note that the number of single accommodation options we can offer per tour is limited, so it's best to book early if you would like this option. Please see our website or call us for the Solo Sleeper option cost.

SECURITY

No matter where you find yourself in the world, you need to look after your valuables. In general, the safest place for items such as passports, flight tickets and cash is on your person or in a hotel safe where available, and do not leave valuables in the vehicle. When in doubt consult your tour leader.

We would like to remind you that you are ultimately responsible for your safety and well-being. Whether you are taking public transport, going for a hike or taking part in an optional activity, we request that you carry yourself in a mature and responsible manner - not only for your own personal safety, but for that of the group and other travellers.

MEALS

On hotel based tours, you will usually eat out in local restaurants. To help you budget for your meals on average hotel breakfasts cost from US\$6-12, lunches from US\$8-15 and dinners from US\$13-30; this does not include alcoholic beverages. Wine costs approximately US\$5 per glass and beer US\$4 per bottle. Please also be aware that a tip of approximately 15%-20% is added to group meals in North American restaurants. Applicable taxes will also be added to all listed menu prices.

Your tour leader may offer your group the option to operate a 'lunch only' food kitty, this has proven to be a popular alternative to three daily restaurant meals. Leaders will explain this option while on your tour, and the whole group will have to agree for this system to run.

Please make sure we are aware of any special meal requirements before travelling. We will do all we can to accommodate for various dietary requirements but in certain parts of North America certain food types can be limited.

YOUR TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader will take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your tour, they will drive the van taking you from A to B and make sure everything runs smoothly. Your tour leader is there to make sure you get the most out of your tour; organising activities, providing information and answering any questions you may have as well as sorting out any queries or problems you may encounter. If you have any particular interests or things you would like to do on your tour, then please let your tour leader know at the beginning of the tour and they will do their best to help you. We will also use specialist tour guides in certain locations, to provide in depth information such as Denali.

We would like to note that US Law regulates the total number of hours your tour leader is available to work. Our trips are designed to make the most of your time in North America, but please understand that there will be certain times each day that your leader will need to be off duty from work. Due to these restrictions, particularly after the longer driving days, your leader may not be able to join you for some of the daily activities or may need to tend to other work duties.

THE GROUP

The maximum group size is 13. Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of four nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your

fellow travellers, including a passion for discovery 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 70 will be requested to complete a self-declaration of fitness form prior to travel.

Our tours are a unique holiday experience and much of your enjoyment will come from the team spirit of your group and the fun you'll have together, as well as from the local setting. We cannot stress strongly enough the importance of bringing a positive attitude with you on tour; a sure guarantee to enjoying each and every moment, even in the adversity of the odd rainstorm!

RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

We are committed to offering low impact tours that benefit the places and communities we visit as well as our travellers. It is important for us all to be aware of the delicate balance that exists in the variety of natural wonders you will visit. National parks and monuments, archaeological sites and other sensitive areas should and must be treated with respect.

We have created a 'Travellers' Code of Conduct' to help prepare and inform our groups of the various positive or negative effects they could have on a destination. This code includes following the 'Leave No Trace' ethic; this is an international campaign that is designed to help us minimise the impact on the national parks and other wilderness areas that we visit. Our tour leaders will explain this code of conduct during the first night's orientation talk and encourage you to follow it throughout the tour. Grand American Adventures also host fundraising events throughout the year to raise money in support of BAWT.

We are proud supporters of Bay Area Wilderness Training (www.bawt.org) a charity based in Oakland California which works to connect disadvantaged children in the local urban area with the great outdoors. Their work helps to provide these young people with life changing experiences which they can apply to everyday life. Everyone booking with Grand American Adventures has the option to donate £1/\$1/€1 to support this well-deserved charity and we will match this donation.

Whenever possible, we use local accommodation and activity providers. We also shop locally for groceries, eat in small family-run restaurants and visit local shops whenever possible. This all brings economic benefit to the local communities that we visit.

★ AFTER YOUR TOUR

FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

We want to hear about your experience and stories from the road, so please feel free to e-mail us any comments, feedback or reviews whilst you are on tour or when you return home to: comments@grandamericanadventures.com.

We value your feedback and tour reviews, which help us in developing and improving our programme. It's input and suggestions from travellers like you that has helped make Grand American Adventures what it is today.

Responsible Tourism on the Alaskan Highlights...

In Alaska we use small locally owned service providers for our included and optional activities. Due to the short tourist summer season in this region we make a special effort to use as much varied local produce whilst on tour as possible. This aims to evenly distribute money spent on tourism in Alaska between many small businesses.

This tour incorporates use of a local guide and national park communal transport in Denali National Park, as well as adhering to national park rules and regulations. Our tour leaders will educate travellers on how best to interact with the wildlife in the parks, for example advising people not to feed the animals to stop them becoming dependent on hand-outs from humans. They will also advise all groups to keep to the path to avoid upsetting the balance of nature, the exception being in Denali National Park where this is encouraged.

We spend a significant amount of time at various national parks on this tour, the included entrance fees help to preserve the status and upkeep of the park on a continued and sustainable basis. Interaction with national park rangers helps to preserve this role as an employment opportunity for local people and future generations.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

We can always use your holiday snaps and short videos to better depict and promote all the fascinating places we visit. There's no better way to share your Grand American Adventure. So if you want to send over a couple of your best shots (max 10MB) please e-mail them to comments@grandamericanadventures.com. You know what they say, a picture's worth a thousand words!

★ HOW TO BOOK

Contact us by telephone, email or via our website to check availability for the tour you are interested in. We can normally hold a seat on 'option' for up to three days to allow you time to finalise your travel arrangements. In order to secure your place we require a deposit (full payment within eight weeks of travel) and an agreement from you to our terms and conditions. Check availability early to avoid disappointment: www.grandamericanadventures.com

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Please contact our UK Sales team on:

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