

## Alaska Camping: Glaciers & Mountains - NUCA

14 days: Anchorage to Anchorage

### What's Included

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- Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group, Anchorage
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Homer
- Your Big Night Out Moment: McCarthy
- Entrance fees to all national and state parks with hiking and walking excursions
- Wildlife spotting boat cruise in the Kenai Fjords
- Full-day excursion to Eielson Visitor Center in Denali NP
- Free time in Homer, Seward, Valdez and Wrangell-St Elias NP
- All transportation between destination and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing July 31st, 2020 and onwards

### Itinerary

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

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#### Day 1 Anchorage

Arrive at any time.

Welcome to America's Last Frontier. Tonight channel all of the excitement of arriving in a new place by heading out on the town with your CEO and crew. Head to a local bar and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, fun, and excitement as your adventure begins.

#### **Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends**

Connect with new friends on your first night out in a new destination. Only available on 18-to-Thirtysomethings tours.

#### **Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group**

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

#### Day 2 Anchorage/Homer

Yes, you're really in Alaska—stop thinking it's all a dream and start to enjoy it! Traipse along the coast of the Kenai Peninsula with your travel family and maybe enjoy a hike outside of Homer. Then it's back to the peninsula, where glaciers tumble down from the mountains into the ocean. Pick a friend to be on the lookout for beluga whales playing out at sea while you search for volcanoes across the Cook Inlet or vice versa. As you travel along the Turnagain Arm you're going to want pictures so make sure those cameras are charged.

Travel around the coast of the Kenai Peninsula, where glaciers tumble down from the mountains towards the ocean. Keep an eye out for beluga whales playing out at sea while travelling along the Turnagain Arm, or volcanoes across the Cook Inlet.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Anchorage – Homer 4h-5h 355km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 2**

##### **Hiking**

Homer 1h-4h

Free

Enjoy a short hike outside Homer to get a little closer to the majestic landscape.

#### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

#### **Day 3 Homer**

It's time to explore Homer—a long strip of land full of shops, art galleries, bars, restaurants, and beaches. (Although, you probably won't be swimming much). Take advantage of your free day to mingle with the locals, find some hidden gems, small town charm, and many friendly people more than willing to swap stories. Or let nature be your guide and take a water taxi out to explore Kachemak Bay and go for a hike. Stay observant as wildlife including; bald eagles, moose, and sandhill cranes are sure to be close by.

While in Homer, keep a look out for some of the local wildlife including bald eagles, sandhill cranes, moose and shorebirds, to name a few.

#### **Free Time**

Homer Full Day

Spend free time exploring nearby bays, or hiking and spotting some of the area's amazing wildlife.

#### **Your Big Night Out Moment:**

Celebrate new friends and new adventures together tonight in Homer, Alaska. No matter where you end up make sure to play some games (like cards or charades), laugh, tell jokes, and maybe have a dance party as the night stretches on.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 3**

##### **Hiking**

Homer 1h-4h

Free

Enjoy a short hike outside Homer to get a little closer to the majestic landscape.

#### **Kachemak Bay Exploration**

Kachemak Bay 3h-6h 2-10km

75-85USD per person

Hop on a water taxi and head to Kachemak Bay. Spend some time hiking the trails, exploring the cove or trying to spot some of the animals that stop to visit the bay like sea otters and seals. With so many different trails to choose from there's a little something for everyone. Many climb up over steep, rugged terrain and offer amazing views at the end, while others wind through deep coastal forests and meadows allowing you to really experience the vast wild landscapes of Alaska.

#### **Kachemak Bay State Park Guided Hike**

Kachemak Bay State Park 6h-8h 8-12km

160USD per person

Explore Kachemak Bay State Park on an exciting guided hike. Traverse 3 distinct ecosystems—coastal/marine, old-growth coastal forest, and glacial outwash plain—and learn more about them as you go.

#### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

#### **Day 4 Homer/Seward**

Say, "see ya later" in the morning to Homer before it's back onto the road to the Kenai Peninsula, but this time it's to explore the Kenai Fjords on a half-day wildlife and whale watching cruise. Afterwards, arrive at the tip of the peninsula where the ice age still lingers. Spend the day exploring this site to discover the fjords, their history, science and remote splendour.

Leave Homer in the morning and arrive at the tip of the Kenai Peninsula where the ice age still lingers. Spend the day exploring this site to discover the fjords, their history, science and remote splendor.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Homer – Seward 3h-4h 270km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

## **Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise**

Seward4h

Soak in the gorgeous coastline views from the comfort of a boat. Keep your eyes peeled for a variety of whales (orca, humpback, fin and minke) and marvel at the view of the glaciers.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

### **Day 5 Seward**

Spend a day taking in the sheer beauty of Kenai Fjords National Park. Head to the Harding Icefield, where almost 40 glaciers flow from. Challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone. Try hiking the Exit Glacier and witness a very visual example of climate change. Kayak in the fjords or view impressive wildlife including, puffins, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons while you are out and about.

### **Free Time**

Seward Full Day

Enjoy a full day to explore this coastal town and opt to go hiking or kayaking.

## **Kenai Peninsula and Fjords Exploration**

Kenai Peninsula

Explore the Kenai Peninsula where earthquakes and ocean storms are the architects. Ice worms, bears and whales make their home in this land of constant change. Native Alutiiq used these resources to nurture a life intertwined with the sea.

### **Optional Activities - Day 5**

#### **Hike to View Exit Glacier on the Harding Icefield Trail**

Exit Glacier – Seward5h-8h 12km

10USD per person

Head out on an amazing hike to the Exit Glacier along the Harding Icefield trail. The 11.9km (7.4 mi) round trip of the Harding Icefield Trail is a spectacular day hike through the Alaska backcountry. Starting on the valley floor, the trail winds through cottonwood and alder forests, passes through heather-filled meadows and ultimately climbs well above tree line to a breathtaking view of the icefield. The top of the trail is a window to past ice ages – a horizon of ice and snow that stretches as far as the eye can see, broken only by an occasional nunatak or lonely peak. There are various lookout points along the trail that serve as good turnaround points. Portions of the upper trail are covered by ice and snow part of the year. Easier, shorter hikes to the base of the glacier are also options that also afford beautiful views for those not looking for a strenuous hike.

Black bears are spotted frequently from the Harding Icefield Trail.

## **Alaska SeaLife Center Visit**

Seward1h-3h

30USD per person

The Alaska SeaLife Center is the only public aquarium in the state and also functions as an ocean wildlife rescue center. The facility focuses on research, rehabilitation, education, and exhibits.

## **Coastal Trail Hike**

Seward2h-3h 1-6km

Free

Enjoy an easier hike along the scenic Coastal Trail for about 2-3 hrs.

This 4.5 mile coastal trail in the Caines Head Recreation Area can be reached by boat for foot from Seward and offers up sweeping views of rolling alpine meadows and the North Pacific Ocean. Wander through ancient rainforest hanging with moss and then on to beach trails (some of which can only be accessed during low tide). From glaciers to bald eagles and vertical cliffs to WWII history this trail will certainly get you out into the wilds of beautiful Alaska.

## **Sea Kayaking Tour**

Seward – Resurrection Bay8h-9h

Explore the stunning surroundings of Resurrection Bay from the water. Follow a naturalist guide along the scenic western shoreline of the bay and marvel at the snow-covered mountains and hanging glaciers. Learn about the bay's history, highlights, and wildlife along the way. Sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, seabirds, and jumping salmon are often seen. Occasionally, whales are also spotted. Continue along the Caines Head State Recreation Area and, depending on group speed, all the way to Tonsina Creek. During spawning season, if the tide is high it may be possible to paddle up the creek to see spawning salmon.

About halfway into the trip, make a shoreline stop to enjoy hot drinks and lunch with time to stretch your legs and explore.

**Meals included: Lunch | Dinner**

### **Day 6 Seward/Anchorage**

Grab breakfast together as a group before heading back to Anchorage. Take advantage of a free day to get lost in Alaska's largest city. Walk along the boardwalk in Potter Marsh, pan for gold in Crow Creek, or sample local fare like, delectable king crab, fresh water salmon, and reindeer sausage.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Seward – Anchorage 2h30m-3h30m 200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

##### **Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos**

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

### **Day 7 Anchorage/Valdez**

Travel to Valdez, a quintessential Alaskan coastal town surrounded by impressive mountains and full of great places to explore. This tiny town is a great base for wild adventures in 'Last Frontier'. Today, will be a long day of travel, but well worth it when you get to stop at places like Matanuska valley, Worthington Glacier, and Thompson Pass along the way.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Anchorage – Valdez 5h-6h 480km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Worthington Glacier Visit**

Worthington Glacier 30m-2h 1-3km

Spend some time exploring this glacier located in the Chugach Mountains near Thompson Pass—the snowiest place in Alaska. Worthington Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska, passing within a few feet of the parking lot with a viewing shelter right off the Richardson Highway. Like most of Alaska's glaciers, this valley glacier has been steadily retreating for the last 150 years, but not as dramatically as many others. The upper basin sits at 5,500 feet and collects about 28 feet of snow each year.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 7**

##### **Worthington Glacier Optional Hike**

Valdez

Short, steep, and spectacular!

Sometimes that feels like the theme in Alaska, but fear not because as difficult as this trail may be the experience is well worth it. The hike starts at the Worthington Glacier parking lot. Follow the trail upwards through the alders, conquering switchbacks as you head into the alpine region. Once on the ridge you will see sweeping views of the Worthington Glacier and Thompson Pass. If you are there at the right time of year the blooming wildflowers will catch your attention with their vibrant colours just as much as the otherworldliness of the glacier.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Day 8 Valdez**

Rise and shine! It's time to get out and explore the coastal town of Valdez. Go off together or set out on a solo adventure through the wilds of Alaska. Hike Thompson's pass, kayak beside one of the world's largest tidal glaciers, or if in season catch a glimpse of salmon spawning. This town is a photographer's dream with the crashing glaciers and towering Chugach Mountains rising from the seas; don't forget that camera.

Valdez is a quintessential Alaskan coastal town surrounded by impressive mountains, and a great place to explore. The crashing glaciers and towering Chugach Mountains rising from the sea make Valdez absolutely picturesque.

#### **Free Time**

Valdez Full Day

With lots to do in and around Valdez, get out and explore!

#### **Optional Activities - Day 8**

##### **Sea Kayaking**

Valdez 3h-8h

75-299USD per person

Get out there on the water today with Pangea Adventures and experience some of the best paddling, wildlife, and ice in all of Alaska. Ride a comfortable motorboat out to the moraine of the Columbia Glacier and paddle amongst the icebergs. The Columbia Glacier is the largest tidewater glacier in the Prince William Sound. Paddle through some of the wildest and most impressive scenery around in one of the most rapidly changing glacier landscapes on earth as you search for whales, bears, and other wildlife!

### **Hiking Around Valdez**

Valdez

Valdez is known for having amazing hikes in and around the city. Pack your water bottle, pick a route, and go hit the trail!

Thompson Pass is an alpine pass through the Chugach Mountains between Glennallen and Valdez and is an adventurer's playground when the right conditions sweep through. The alpine area surrounding the pass allows for endless exploring and jaw-dropping views making this area wonderful for alpine hiking.

The Shoup Bay trail is a long, but gradual hike sporting great views hugging the Alaskan coastline. Make sure to bring layers and waterproof shoes as it can get muddy at points.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Day 9 Valdez/McCarthy**

Since every direction in Wrangell-St Elias National Park has a spectacular view you may not know which way to turn first. The good news is you have time to see it all! Stay in the small historic town of McCarthy and try to keep yourself from spinning as you turn every which way to look at the mountains and glaciers; this town has more of them than anywhere else in Alaska.

Alaska is notorious for its wild landscape and stunning views, which you will get to see as the group drives from Valdez to McCarthy.

You will be making short stops at some of the viewpoints along the Copper River where you can enjoy breathtaking vistas of spruce-filled taiga, permafrost swamps, and mountain ranges far larger and more intimidating than anything you'll see in the Lower 48. The group will also make a stop to Chitina, an old mining boomtown that was all but abandoned after the mine closed in 1938. Chitina's rebirth stemmed from the creation of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in 1980 and now serves as the gateway to the largest national park in the country.

### **Private Vehicle**

Valdez – McCarthy 4h45m-5h30m 290km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle. There will be stops along the way to take in the beauty of this vast landscape.

### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

#### **Day 10 McCarthy**

We told you there'd be more time to explore! Take advantage of a full free day to really get deep into Wrangell-St Elias National Park. Choose between taking an optional scenic flight over the park, go for a glacier walk, or try ice climbing. You're in a stunning new place so why not venture out of that comfort zone. You can also choose to explore the ghost town of Kennecott, hike the Bonanza Mine Trail or the Root Glacier Trail. Either way take some time to reflect and appreciate the 'Mountain Kingdom of North America'.

Fun fact: this park is actually the largest in the U.S., about 25% larger than Switzerland, and is the convergence point for three mountain ranges!

This national park is the largest in the US, roughly 25% larger than Switzerland, and is the convergence of three mountain ranges.

### **Free Time**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve Full Day

Don't waste a minute! Start exploring this epic wilderness.

### **Your Big Night Out Moment:**

Celebrate new friends and new adventures together tonight in McCarthy, Alaska. No matter where you end up make sure to play some games (like cards or charades), laugh, tell jokes, and maybe have a dance party as the night stretches on.

### **Explore Wrangell-St Elias**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve

Enjoy time to explore this park on foot or from the air. Wrangell-St Elias National Park is located in the eastern region of south-central Alaska. The Chugach, Wrangell, and St Elias mountain ranges converge here in what is often referred to as the 'Mountain Kingdom of North America'. It is the largest national park in the US at six times the size of Yellowstone.

### **Optional Activities - Day 10**

#### **Wrangell-St. Elias Scenic Flight**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve 1h-2h

300-475USD per person

Get a bird's eye view of this gorgeous landscape and try to take it all in.

#### **Kennicott Ghost Town Guided Tour**

Kennicott

34USD per person

Explore Kennecott, a ghost town frozen in time. When the Kennecott Copper Corporation abruptly abandoned the town in 1938 they left behind their equipment, buildings and personal belongings. Their stories of discovery, perseverance, and ingenuity, however, live on. See what it was like to live and work in this remote wilderness as you tour the town site with a guide, listening to tales of lucky fortunes, tenacious frontiersmen and tragic endings.

#### **Root Glacier Trail Hike**

Root Glacier 3h-6h 7-12km

Free

Hike the Root Glacier Trail, another hiking route in the area. The trail follows the right lateral moraine and starts at the far end of the mining town. It's a fairly level 4-8 roundtrip (depending on where you turn back) with great views of the Root Glacier.

#### **Ice Climbing**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve

Opt to learn a bit about ice climbing with the professionals and take an informative walk along the glacier.

#### **Bonanza Mine Trail Hike**

Bonanza Mine 6h-7h 14km

Free

Walk the Bonanza Mine Trail, a fairly strenuous walk that follows the ridges and tram lines to the old mine. Enjoy the magnificent panoramas of the Chugach Mountains, Mt Blackburn and the Kennecott Glacier along the way. From the ridge above the mine there are some spectacular views across to the University Range in the St Elias Mountains.

The hike is about 4.5 miles one way with an elevation gain of 3800ft.

### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

#### **Day 11 McCarthy/Tangle Lakes**

Cruise through wild Copper River Valley on the way to Tangle Lakes. Take a peek at the fishwheels (used for salmon) along the way. Once in Tangle Lakes hop out, stretch your legs, take in the mountain scenery, and get ready to camp under the big sky in the remote Alaskan wilderness.

#### **Private Vehicle**

McCarthy - Tangle Lakes 8h 290km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

#### **Day 12 Tangle Lakes/Denali National Park and Preserve**

Hop back on the road and enjoy a scenic drive along the Denali Highway, stopping for all those mountain selfies along the way. Pass by the highest mountain in North America, formerly called Mt McKinley. Bask in the awesomeness of this vast wilderness and camp just outside of Denali National Park for the night.

Enjoy a scenic drive along the Denali Highway, stopping for photos along the way. In the afternoon, reach Denali National Park, known for its diversity of wildlife and the highest mountain in North America, Denali, formerly called Mt McKinley. Bask in the awesomeness of this vast wilderness.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Tangle Lakes - Denali National Park and Preserve 6h 257km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Optional Activities - Day 12**

#### **Hike The MacLaren Trail**

Denali

The Maclaren Trail is a 3 mile out and back lightly trafficked trail located near Delta Junction, Alaska. It features a beautiful lake with sweeping views of the Alaska Range and Maclaren Summit in the distance. The hiking is rated as moderate and will allow you to view the tundra landscape of Alaska's second highest highway pass. Make sure you have those cameras at the ready to capture stunning views on your mini adventure!

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Day 13 Denali National Park and Preserve**

Anything seems possible in the vast expanse of wilderness of Denali NP and you'll have a full day to immerse yourself in it. Head to Eielson Visitor Center, taking in the stunning scenery and wildlife as you go. Get closer with nature on a hike, or choose to go rafting on one of the countless lakes and ponds surrounding you. Share picnic lunches with the group, savouring one another's company as you enjoy the simple pleasures of food, friends, and gorgeous natural views.

Enjoy plenty of time to explore and hike Denali NP. Discover the dynamic glaciated landscape providing large rivers, countless lakes and ponds, and unique landforms which form the foundation of the ecosystems that thrive in Denali with some hikes in the area. Enjoy picnic lunches and revel in the awesomeness of the park.

For those that do not want to hike, options include rafting on the Nenana River, a visit to the dog-sled kennels run by the park rangers or opt to take a scenic flight over Denali.

#### **Denali National Park Visit**

Denali National Park and Preserve – Denali

Spend the day exploring Denali National Park. The area is well-known for its diversity of wildlife and Denali, the highest peak in North America, formerly called Mt McKinley. There are 39 species of mammals, 167 species of birds, 10 species of fish, and one species of amphibian known in Denali. Summer is a time for raising the young and preparing for migration, hibernation, or survival during the winter and, with a little luck, we witness it all. Discover the dynamic glaciated landscape providing large rivers, countless lakes and ponds, and unique landforms which form the foundation of the ecosystems that thrive in Denali.

#### **Scenic Shuttle to East Fork Bridge (Mile 43)**

Denali National Park and Preserve

Depart early to explore Denali National Park. Take the shuttle bus to the East Fork Bridge at (Mile 43) and back, getting deeper into the heart of the park. The journey takes approximately 6 hours and shows off the stunning wilderness of Denali.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 13**

##### **Rafting on Nenana River**

Denali National Park and Preserve

95-150USD per person

Hit the rapids on the Nenana River. Soak in the gorgeous scenery and get a rush of adrenaline in Denali National Park.

##### **Dog Sledding and Kennel Tour**

Denali National Park and Preserve

Free

Visit the dog sled kennels run by the park rangers and learn more about this ancient mode of transport. You might even get to pet a dog!

##### **Mt Healy Overlook Trail Hike**

Denali National Park and Preserve 3h-4h 7km

Free

Mt Healy Overlook Trail is an easy to moderate hike after the first third of it. It's about 4km (2.5 mi) one way with an elevation gain of about 518.2m (1,700 ft). Enjoy gorgeous view of the Alaska Range on a clear day.

##### **Denali Scenic Flight**

Denali National Park and Preserve

220-420USD per person

Take to the skies for a bird's eye view of the spectacular grandeur. Get a better view of the mountains, glaciers, and wilderness from a few thousand feet up.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Day 14 Denali National Park and Preserve/Anchorage**

Alas, even the most epic trips must come to an end. Gaze out the window as you pass mountains, glaciers, and open sky on your return to Anchorage. Get ready to say "see you later" to your newest adventure buddies and maybe grab one more meal together before heading home.

### **Private Vehicle**

Denali National Park and Preserve – Anchorage 4h-5h 370km  
Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Departure Day**

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with any onward travel arrangements you require.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

## **What's Included**

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Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group, Anchorage

Your Big Night Out Moment: Homer

Your Big Night Out Moment: McCarthy. Entrance fees to all national and state parks with hiking and walking excursions. Wildlife spotting boat cruise in the Kenai Fjords. Full-day excursion to Eielson Visitor Center in Denali NP. Free time in Homer, Seward, Valdez and Wrangell-St Elias NP. All transportation between destination and to/from included activities.

## **Highlights**

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Spot wildlife among the Kenai Fjords, Kayak along tidal glaciers and the towering mountains of Valdez's coast, Stargaze from campgrounds in the remote Alaskan wilderness, Take in stunning scenery at Denali National Park

## **Dossier Disclaimer**

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## **Itinerary Disclaimer**

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While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Important Notes**

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### **1. WALKS AND HIKES - OPTIONAL**

All walks and hikes proposed by our CEO will be easy to moderate level. You may choose to participate or not, but exploring our national parks on foot is part of our way of travelling. It's a healthy way to discover North America's beauty and landscape.

### **2. LEGAL DRINKING AGE**

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21. Many bars and clubs will ask for ID at the door, therefore listening to live music in certain bars or spending a night out is not possible when you are under the legal age, even if you don't plan on consuming alcohol. Drinking laws are strictly enforced and our CEOs are unable to help those under age obtain alcohol of any kind. In Alaska, ID is often checked, even for the elderly, and in many places every single customer making an alcohol purchase must show identification (either US government-issued ID or passport if not from the States).

While this should not stop those under legal drinking age from booking a tour, it is important to note that if a traveller is under-age there are certain optional nighttime activities that they may not legally be able to participate in. When trying to book the right trip, we recommend that travellers under legal drinking age take this into consideration.



An essential part of your trip is participation - from putting up your tent (while camping) or packing it away in the morning, to helping with meal preparation and cleaning up - it is all part of your adventure and when everyone puts in a little effort the trip will run smoothly. Your CEO will do all the meal planning, but we do ask the clients to help with the preparation and washing up. Team spirit is part of the fun! All camping equipment (with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow) is supplied. We supply dome tents and assembly/disassembly takes only 5 minutes. All tents have built-in insect nets. Comfortable, self-inflating mattresses are also provided, which are approximately 4cm thick.

Proper sleeping bags are necessary for this tour. Evening temperatures can reach -9°C - 0°C. Please ensure that your sleeping bag is rated to (-17°C for spring and fall trips and 0°C for trips June - Sept). If you prefer you can purchase a proper sleeping bag on the first day of the trip. Prices range from \$60-\$150USD.

#### COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

### Group Leader Description

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This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

### Group Size Notes

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Max 13, avg 12.

### Meals Included

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11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners

### Meals

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Some meals on this tour are included in the tour price. When a meal is not included, this is because there are often many options available and we believe you should have the opportunity to explore a bit and taste the local cuisine yourself. In these cases, your CEO will be able to suggest some good local restaurants or options for you to choose from.

### Transport

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Private vehicle, boat, national park shuttle bus, hiking.

### About our Transportation

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For this trip we use 15-passenger vans for up to 13 people plus the CEO/Driver. For groups of 8 and more travellers, we also use a trailer to carry luggage. These durable vehicles allow us to drive on most types of roads in North America.

Each van has a front passenger seat and 4 benches that will accommodate 3 people each with mandatory seat belts to keep us secure and safe. No standing is permitted in these vehicles.

This is not a physically demanding journey, but with limited space in the van, long drive days can be difficult. Please take note of the travel times and distances in the above itinerary. There is air conditioning to cool things down on warm days to keep everyone more comfortable. Despite some of the long days, most travellers feel that the diversity of the North American landscape, culture and wildlife are all well worth the experience!

## Solo Travellers

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We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## Accommodation

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Hotels (2 nts), participation camping (11 nts).

## About Accommodation

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Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. We use a combination of hotels and hostels, but most of the nights on tour are spent camping in tents in public and private campgrounds.

Please note hotels in Alaska may be a bit more rustic or dated than hotels at the same accommodation level in the rest the states.

Multi-share accommodation, on a single-sex basis (typically 4-6 people per room), is common in the US and is the way you will be spending your hostel nights. We have specifically chosen unique accommodations to give local flavor to your trip.

Couples: Please note that due to the types of accommodation used in the US, couples will likely be split into separate rooms where we use multi-share hostels. Pending availability, couples may be able to pay extra while on tour to have their own room in some destinations.

All camping equipment (with the exception of your sleeping bag and pillow) is supplied, including comfortable camp mattresses. We supply dome tents that take only 5 minutes to assemble/disassemble. They are good quality, durable, industry-standard, oversized 2-person tents, each with 2 separate and convenient zip-up doors, so that each person has his/her own entrance.

We use 2 types of campgrounds in North America:

1. Private campgrounds: These are privately run sites, usually with all services such as fire pits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets & shower buildings. Some have small outdoor swimming pools and laundry facilities. These campgrounds are typically located near national park entrances or towns.
2. Public campgrounds: These are park-run sites, usually with basic facilities such as fire pits, picnic tables, and drinking water. In some cases, this type of campground doesn't have showers, only pit toilets and a lake! In other locations, toilet and shower facilities may be located outside the campground, or at times in another location a drive away. Some may have shower fees for onsite facilities (\$2-6/shower).

## Joining Hotel

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For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## Joining Instructions

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Upon arrival on Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, which is located 6 miles (10km) from downtown Anchorage, you have a couple of options for transportation: public taxi and a complimentary shuttle service provided by your Joining Hotel in downtown Anchorage. Both are located right outside the main lobby or at the domestic terminal the taxi waiting area can be reached by the underground transportation or lobby or the sidewalk outside.

### Taxi

The drive will take about 15-20 min depending on traffic and the fare to your hotel is approximately \$23 (excluding tip).

### Complimentary shuttle service

No matter what time you arrive the shuttle is there for you 24 hours 7 days a week. Once you have your luggage proceed to the Ramada courtesy phone located in the baggage claim area. Call the hotel to arrange your pick up from the airport. Apart from tipping the driver at the end you don't have to pay a dime.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you

arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

## Arrival Complications

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We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Emergency Contact

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Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the G Adventures Local Representative. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Las Vegas)

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143

From within the USA: 412-423-8143

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local representative, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

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You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

For days in the outdoors, we recommend the use of lightweight, breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics made of wool or synthetic fibers. Cotton is not recommended for days spent hiking as it does not allow for heat or moisture to enter or escape, and it will not dry easily once wet.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a light jacket. A set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

NOTE: Mountains in Canadian Rockies and Alaska could have unpredictable weather with snow and heavy rain even in Summer time. Spring time could be snowy (until end of June) and fall season could start as soon as mid-August. Make sure you have equipment and clothing for all conditions!

## Packing List

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Camping:

- Bug net/ bug spray
- Day Pack (with water bladder or refillable bottle)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Sleeping bag and liner, 4 season
- Small travel towel
- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Thermal base layer
- Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)

- Travel pillow
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof daypack cover
- Windproof rain gear (Rain and Windproof rain gear - pants and jacket)
- Your own inflatable sleeping pad (or you can use the one provided)

#### Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Snow Boots
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

#### Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

#### Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

#### Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

#### Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## Laundry

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Laundry can be done at least once while on tour. Most cities have laundromats where you can buy soap and wash your laundry in coin-operated machines. Your CEO will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry.

## Visas and Entry Requirements

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All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

## Spending Money

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Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## Money Exchange

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The United States currency is the US Dollar (USD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in the US and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card in the USA, you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US Dollars as cash (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is very difficult to find in the USA and most banks do not accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## Emergency Fund

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Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Tipping

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It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 18-20%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip any local guides used. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from \$2-8 USD per activity depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$5-10 USD per person, per day can be used as a guide. If your CEO(s) exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

## Optional Activities

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Homer

- Hiking (Free)

Kachemak Bay State Park

- Kachemak Bay State Park Guided Hike (160USD per person)

Kachemak Bay

- Kachemak Bay Exploration (75-85USD per person)

Exit Glacier

- Hike to View Exit Glacier on the Harding Icefield Trail (10USD per person)

Seward

- Alaska SeaLife Center Visit (30USD per person)
- Sea Kayaking Tour
- Coastal Trail Hike (Free)
- Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

Valdez

- Worthington Glacier Optional Hike
- Sea Kayaking (75-299USD per person)
- Hiking Around Valdez

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve

- Wrangell-St. Elias Scenic Flight (300-475USD per person)
- Ice Climbing

Kennicott

- Kennicott Ghost Town Guided Tour (34USD per person)

Root Glacier

- Root Glacier Trail Hike (Free)

Bonanza Mine

- Bonanza Mine Trail Hike (Free)

Denali

- Hike The MacLaren Trail

Denali National Park and Preserve

- Rafting on Nenana River (95-150USD per person)
- Dog Sledding and Kennel Tour (Free)
- Mt Healy Overlook Trail Hike (Free)
- Denali Scenic Flight (220-420USD per person)

## Safety and Security

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Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our

CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## A Couple of Rules

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Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Travel Insurance

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Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## Planeterra Foundation - the non-profit partner of G Adventures

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Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## Feedback

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After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customersolutions@gadventures.com](mailto:customersolutions@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Newsletter

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Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## **Minimum Age**

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Minimum age of 18 years for this trip.

## **International Flights**

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Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.