

## Highlights of Alaska - NUGG

15 days: Anchorage to Anchorage

### What's Included

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- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- All national and state park entrance fees
- Hikes and exploration of Kenai Peninsula
- Hike to Exit Glacier and Harding Icefield
- Views of Portage and Worthington Glaciers
- Wrangell-St Elias National Park visit
- McCarthy visit
- Cooper River Valley and Tangle Lakes views
- Full-day excursion to Eielson Visitor Center in Denali NP
- Free time in Homer, Valdez, and Denali National Park
- All transport between destinations 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 September 30th, 2016 - June 1st, 2020

### 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.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

Please keep in mind, a lot of what there is to see and do in Alaska is weather-dependent. We give our CEOs the opportunity to adjust the schedule as needed based on weather. For example, something scheduled on the itinerary for Day 2 may be better on Day 4, when the sun is shining. Please be flexible and enjoy the ride.

Hiking note: On this trip there are several options for hikes in each location. Your CEO will adjust the hikes according to weather and fitness level of the group.

#### 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

Travel along the coast of the Kenai Peninsula. Opt to enjoy a hike outside of Homer.

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****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.

**Meals included: Lunch****Day 3 Homer**

Enjoy a free day in Homer. Opt to take a water taxi to explore Kachemak Bay or go for a hike.

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.

**Optional Activities - Day 3****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.

**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.

**Day 4 Homer/Seward**

Travel to the Kenai Peninsula and explore the Kenai Fjords.

Hike to the Exit Glacier and Harding Icefield this afternoon, seeing the size and power of this natural phenomenon in person.

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.

Head out for an amazing hike to the Exit Glacier and Harding Icefield. Considered one of the greatest hikes on the Kenai Peninsula, experience glaciers and the forces that shaped the landscape up close, while exploring only a tiny portion of the nearly 1 million acres that make up Kenai Fjords National Park.

**Private Vehicle**

Homer – Seward 3h-4h 270km

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

**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.

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

Exit Glacier – Seward 5h-8h 12km

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.

### **Meals included: Lunch**

### **Day 5 Seward/Valdez**

Spend the day on a scenic journey to Valdez. Take the ferry across the Gulf of Alaska and into Prince William Sound. View Portage Glacier and the town of Whittier before arriving to Valdez.

Hop an Alaska Marine Highway ferry through the Inside Passage, across the Gulf of Alaska and into Prince William Sound. If weather permits, catch a glimpse of the Columbia Glacier.

The Columbia Glacier is receding, leaving huge blocks of ice and an impassible moraine. It is always changing and each day the bay is filled with floating ice.

The crashing glaciers and towering Chugach Mountains rising from the sea make Valdez absolutely picturesque.

### **Ferry**

Whittier – Valdez 6h-6h30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

### **Private Vehicle**

Seward – Whittier 1h45m-2h

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

### **Scenic Ferry Ride to Valdez**

Whittier – Valdez 6h-6h30m

Enjoy a scenic ferry ride from Whittier to Valdez. View the stunning Chugach mountains rising in the distance as you sail past icy blue glaciers and try to spot some wildlife. The waters near Valdez are teeming with life so you have a good chance of spotting whales, dall's porpoises, sea otters, and sea lions as your journey progresses.

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

#### **Columbia Glacier Viewing**

Prince William Sound 30m-1h30m 1-3km

Get a glimpse of the Columbia Glacier if weather permits. The Columbia Glacier is receding and changing constantly, leaving huge blocks of ice, filling the bay with floating ice, and creating an impassible moraine.

#### **Portage Glacier Viewing**

Portage Glacier 30m-1h

Spot the Portage Glacier on the Kenai Peninsula. Hundreds of years ago, the glacier filled the entire valley but now is one of five glaciers in the area.

### **Meals included: Lunch**

### **Day 6 Valdez**

Enjoy a full day to discover everything that Valdez has to offer. Opt to go kayaking or hiking.

Valdez is a quintessential Alaskan coastal town surrounded by impressive mountains, and a great place to explore. Opt to hike Thompson's pass, kayak beside one of the world's largest tidal glaciers or catch a glimpse of salmon spawning (in season). 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 6**

#### **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.

### **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!

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Day 7 Valdez/McCarthy**

Travel toward the huge and wild Wrangell-St Elias National Park, stopping at Worthington Glacier, Copper River view point and the small town of Chitina en route.

Travel into Wrangell-St Elias National Park, staying in the small historic town of McCarthy. Surrounded by more mountains and glaciers than anywhere else in Alaska, every direction has a spectacular view. The McCarthy road is an experience in itself. Once a railroad heading towards vast mining fortunes, the gravel road that remains couples incredible views with a rugged driving surface that truly encompasses the wild feeling of Alaska.

### **Private Vehicle**

Valdez - McCarthy 4h45m-5h30m 290km

Travel time includes stops along the way.

### **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.

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

#### **Days 8-9 McCarthy**

Spend two days exploring the park and hiking around. Opt to take a scenic flight, go for a glacier walk or try ice climbing. Choose to explore the ghost town of Kennecott, hike the Bonanza Mine Trail or the Root Glacier Trail.

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

### **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.

### **Free Time**

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve Full Day

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

### **Optional Activities - Days 8-9**

#### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 10 McCarthy/Copper River Valley**

Enjoy a free morning in McCarthy before starting the drive towards Denali through Copper River Valley. Checking out the mountains, expansive scenery, and fishwheels (used for salmon) along the way.

### **Private Vehicle**

McCarthy – Copper River Valley 3h30m 198km

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

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

### **Day 11 Copper River Valley/Denali National Park and Preserve**

Journey to Denali National Park and look for a clear view of Denali en route, the highest mountain in North America, formerly called Mt McKinley.

The group will be travelling along the Denali Highway which opened in 1957 as the first road accessing Denali National Park and America's highest peak. Now it has been named one of the top greatest drives in America and you will get to experience it! Driving along the highway today allows you to pass through awesome wilderness while linking you to Alaska's gold rush history and prehistoric past.

As you drive on a clear day you will be able to spot the trifecta of mountain ranges; Wrangell, Chugach, and Alaska for an extraordinary experience. The long winding road is constantly giving way to beautiful vistas and the vibrant flora and wildlife of this scenic state.

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**

Copper River Valley – Denali National Park and Preserve 5h 257km

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

### **Optional Activities - Day 11**

### **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: Lunch**

### **Day 12 Denali National Park and Preserve**

Enjoy a full-day excursion into Denali NP to Eielson Visitor Center to take in the beautiful scenery and wildlife. Opt to get closer to nature with hikes, rafting or a scenic flight.

Enjoy plenty of time to explore and hike Denali NP. Whether it's the summer when the animals are raising their young, or winter when they're preparing for the cold and hibernation, you'll get to see 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 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 12**

##### **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!

## **Meals included: Lunch**

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

Enjoy more free time to explore Denali National Park.

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

Denali National Park and Preserve – Denali

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

##### **Denali Hiking**

Denali National Park and Preserve 1h-3h 2-7km

Use any of the hiking trails around the park to enjoy the rugged beauty of Denali National Park. If the weather is clear, look up to see Denali (formerly named Mt McKinley) towering overhead. Some of the most popular trails are the Mount Healy overlook trail and Horseshoe Lake trail.

The Mount Healy trail allows hikers to travel part of the way up Mount Healy which overlooks the entrance area to the park. Even though it is one of the steepest trails in Denali the effort is well worth it. You will walk steadily through spruce forest before encountering the switchbacks that will have you above the tree-line in no time. The official trail ends at the overlook with great views to the south where you can choose to continue to the true peak of Mount Healy or you can turn back. Please note that this trail is not a loop.

The Horseshoe Lake trail is a rather popular loop hike that attracts quite a few people, so you certainly won't be the only one out there. As you follow this well developed trail down to the lake you will pass the overlook which gives you a gorgeous panoramic view of the Nenana river often referred to as "Glitter

Gulch" right outside the park. You will also be able to see the surrounding mountains towering in the distance. Once you arrive at the lake stay on the lookout for full-racked bull moose as this can be a popular spot for them to cool off during the summer months. This hike is truly a great starter trail in the area that will get you a bit more acquainted with the beauty of Denali National Park.

### **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.

### **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.

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

Drive to Anchorage and enjoy a final evening with the group.

Opt to enjoy a final dinner with the group and reminisce about the epic journey into the wild.

### **Private Vehicle**

Denali National Park and Preserve - Anchorage 4h-5h 370km

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

### **Orientation With CEO**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Meals included: Lunch**

## **Day 15 Anchorage**

Depart at any time.

## **What's Included**

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Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group. All national and state park entrance fees. Hikes and exploration of Kenai Peninsula. Hike to Exit Glacier and Harding Icefield. Views of Portage and Worthington Glaciers. Wrangell-St Elias National Park visit. McCarthy visit. Cooper River Valley and Tangle Lakes views. Full-day excursion to Eielson Visitor Center in Denali NP. Free time in Homer, Valdez, and Denali National Park. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## **Highlights**

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Devour seafood in Anchorage, hike in stellar Denali National Park, hear glaciers groan at Wrangell-St Elias National Park, marvel at the views of the Kenai Peninsula

## **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. TRAVEL DAYS**

In order to cover the vast distance in North America to be able to visit several different parks and cities along our trip, we will have a couple of long driving days.

### **2. 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.

### **3. COMBO TRIP**

Please note that some trips could be a combination of multiple G Adventure tours. You should expect some group members to join or leave the tour between tour segments.

### **4. LEGAL DRINKING AGE**

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21 and in Canada, 19 (with Alberta and Quebec at 18). Many bars and clubs will ask for ID at the door, therefore listening to live music in certain bars or spending a night out in Las Vegas or New Orleans is not possible when you are under the legal age, even if you don't plan on consuming alcohol. Drinking laws in both countries are strictly enforced and our CEOs are unable to help those under age obtain alcohol of any kind.

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 when booking a tour that visits several big cities.

## **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 10

## **Meals Included**

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5 breakfasts, 8 lunches

## **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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Air-conditioned private vehicle, national park shuttle bus, ferry, 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 single 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 single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## Accommodation

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Standard hotels (4 nts), cabins (2 nts, en suite facilities), basic hotels/cabins (5 nts, shared facilities), basic hotels (3 nts, triple-share, shared facilities).

## Rooming and "My Own Room" Exceptions

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Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single accommodation for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Nights 7, 8, 9

## About Accommodation

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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.

Some properties may also have shared or exterior bathroom facilities.

## 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.

## 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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### 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

Trekking:

- Gloves
- Hat
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Snacks (Protein bars, chocolate, dried fruits, candies, energy sweets.)
- Socks (Trekking socks (woollen or synthetic, not cotton).)
- Thermal base layer (Woollen or synthetic, not cotton.)
- Walking poles (Highly recommended.)

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 a week while on tour. Some private campgrounds and 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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Kachemak Bay

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

Kachemak Bay State Park

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

Prince William Sound

- Columbia Glacier Viewing

Portage Glacier

- Portage Glacier Viewing

Valdez

- Hiking Around Valdez

- Sea Kayaking (75-299USD per person)

Root Glacier

- Root Glacier Trail Hike (Free)

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve

- Ice Climbing

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

Kennicott

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

Bonanza Mine  
- Bonanza Mine Trail Hike (Free)

Denali  
- Hike The MacLaren Trail

Denali National Park and Preserve  
- Dog Sledding and Kennel Tour (Free)  
- Denali Hiking  
- Denali Scenic Flight (220-420USD per person)  
- Rafting on Nenana River (95-150USD 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 CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your 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 or 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 judgment 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.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

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.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

[www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/)

## **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 prostitutes 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 use prostitutes.

## Travel Insurance

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Travel Insurance: 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 CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. 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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You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## 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.