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Alaska Ferry Vacations 10 Day National Park Driving Loop

Reference: 4495

We are pleased to provide the following QUOTE for your travel request. Arrangements quoted are subject to availability. Please check the details carefully.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel Arrangements starting at US\$3,100.00 per person based on Double Occupancy

2019 Departures: Daily from June 3 to August 26.

Upgrades and customizations may be available.

Day One

Full Size Car

Pick Up: 12:00 PM

Drop Off: 12:00 PM on Day 11

Round Trip rental car from Anchorage Airport.

Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: 12:00 PM on Day 2

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the

property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

Anchorage



Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, lies between the mountains and the sea and yet is no stranger to the wilderness. There is no other urban area like it.

Among the northernmost cities on Earth, Anchorage is a place with big-city amenities: fine restaurants, museums, theaters and an excellent music scene. Creating the backdrop are the salmon-rich waters of Cook Inlet and the 5,000-foot-plus peaks of Chugach State Park. Within a short drive from downtown are dozens of wilderness adventures and a short plane ride opens up the possibility of almost any type adventure. That's one reason why Anchorage's Lake Hood is the world's busiest floatplane base. Anchorage's 284,994 residents embrace both the urban amenities and the wilderness beyond it.

Anchorage features dozens of parks and 122 miles of paved bike paths. Warmed by a maritime climate, you can spend the day fishing Ship Creek downtown, hiking the nearby mountains, photographing glaciers and dining at a four-star restaurant. Within a 15-minute drive from downtown is the tree-lined trailhead of Anchorage's most popular hike, Flattop Mountain. In winter, the city transforms into fluffy white playground, with 130 kilometers of maintained Nordic ski trails, dog sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling, ice sculptures and more. Just 45 minutes away is Alaska's premier alpine ski resort, Alyeska Resort.

Anchorage wasn't officially founded until 1915, even though British explorer Captain James Cook sailed past the site in 1779 and gold prospectors discovered the bounty of Ship Creek in the late 1800s. It wasn't until the Alaska Railroad set up a construction camp in 1915 that Anchorage was established and became a booming tent city of 2,000 people. Anchorage proved to be the ideal center for Alaska's rail, air and highway systems with the military build up of World War II and the discovery of oil in Cook Inlet in the 1950s, adding to its steady growth. After the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, the city was rebuilding itself when another opportunity arose: the discovery of a \$10-billion oil reserve in Prudhoe Bay. Though the Trans-Alaska Pipeline doesn't come within 185 miles of Anchorage, the city became the headquarters of various petroleum and service companies.

Day Three

Accommodation for 2 nights in Denali National Park

Check in: 03:00 PM

Check out: 11:00 AM on Day 5

The lodge is on Sugarloaf Mountain and is designed with your comfort and convenience in mind. Your first stop is the main lodge, where you will experience warm log architecture with a rock fireplace and vaulted ceilings. The interior design highlights the Alaska Native Heritage of its owners while it offers panoramic views of the surrounding Denali wilderness and the Nenana River canyon. You'll find the lodge is a very special place where you can truly relax, meet friends, share a meal, or simply take in the beauty all around you.

Denali



The towering granite spires and snowy summits of Denali National Park and Preserve straddles 160 miles of the Alaska Range and display so much elevation they are often lost in the clouds. Dominating this skyline is North America's highest peak; Denali standing tall at 20,237 feet and one of the most amazing sights in Alaska.

But it's not just the mountain that makes Denali National Park a special place. The park is also home to 37 species of mammals, ranging from lynx, marmots and Dall sheep, to foxes and snowshoe hares, while 130 different bird species have been spotted here, including the impressive golden eagle. Most visitors, however, want to see four animals in particular: moose, caribou, wolf and everybody's favorite: the brown, or grizzly, bear. Here at Denali, unlike most wilderness areas in the country, you don't have to be a backpacker to see this wildlife - people who never sleep in a tent have excellent once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to get a close look at these magnificent creatures roaming free in their natural habitat.

Not surprisingly then, visitors come here in droves; the park is a popular place, attracting 432,000 visitors annually. Over the years the National Park Service (NPS) has developed unique visitor-management strategies, including closing its only road to most vehicles. As a result Denali National Park is still the great wilderness it was 20 years ago. The entrance has changed, but the park itself hasn't, and a brown bear meandering on a tundra ridge still provides the same quiet thrill as it did when the park first opened in 1917.

Although generations of Athabascans had wandered through what is now the park, the first permanent settlement was established in 1905, when a gold miners' rush gave birth to the town of Kantishna. A year later, naturalist and noted hunter Charles Sheldon was stunned by the beauty of the land and horrified at the reckless abandon of the miners and big-game hunters. Sheldon returned in 1907 and traveled the area with guide Harry Karstens in an effort to set up boundaries for a proposed national park. Sheldon was successful as the area was established as Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 with Karstens serving as the park's first superintendent. As a result of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the park was enlarged to more than 6 million acres and renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. Denali now comprises an area slightly larger than the state of Massachusetts and is generally ranked as one of Alaska's top attractions.

Day Four

Kantishna Wilderness Trails

Departure time: 06:00 AM (Check in: 05:30 AM)

Return time: 06:00 PM

Fully narrated, all-day trip. Not only do you get to travel the entire road—which gives you more opportunities to spot wildlife—but you'll also have planned stops to get out, stretch your legs and explore a bit at points along the way, including Kantishna, an area deep in the park with a gold-mining past, and one that most Denali visitors never see.

You'll spend a couple hours at the Kantishna Roadhouse, a lodge originally built in the early 1900s that once accommodated a rush of hopeful gold miners seeking their fortunes. (Since then it has served as a private residence, community center,



a post office and inn.) You'll have an excellent soup-and-sandwich lunch, followed by the options of watching a dog-mushing demonstration or a little informal gold-panning. Or, you can take a short walk along the creek, or just sit in a rocker at the lodge and soak up the scenery.

Day Five

Accommodation for 2 nights in Fairbanks

Check in: 03:00 PM

Check out: 11:00 AM on Day 7

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

Fairbanks



Alaska's second-largest city – Hub of the Interior, Gateway to the Bush, the Golden Heart City – call it what you will, Fairbanks is as diverse and distinct as any place in Alaska.

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

Fairbanks is one of Alaska's best year-round destinations, and visitors will find plenty to do whether they come for the long, warm summer days or to watch spectacular northern lights displays color the night sky in winter. A wide range of activities are available, including shopping the many art galleries filled with pottery, painting, textiles and Alaska Native art and jewelry; rafting or kayaking the meandering Chena River; golfing; fishing; snowmobiling; enjoying tours and attractions like Pioneer Park that celebrate the town's gold history; cross-country and Alpine skiing; wildlife viewing; soaking in hot springs; or even enjoying a locally brewed beer.

Fairbanks is home to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Museum of the North, where the collections feature both natural history and art items. It's rightfully considered one of the finest museums in the state.

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

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

Day Six

Riverboat Discovery

Departure time: 09:00 AM (Check in: 08:50 AM)

Return time: 12:00 PM

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



Day Seven

Accommodation for 2 nights in Glennallen

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: 11:00 AM on Day 9

Rustic house on private 3.5 acres with a creek running through property. Self serve Continental Breakfast

Day Eight

Kennicott History Tour

Departure time: 09:05 AM

Return time: 05:35 PM

After a scenic 30 minute flight to the historic town of Kennicott, enjoy a Kennicott History Walking Tour which includes a 2.5 hour guided tour of Kennicott and lunch at Kennicott Glacier Lodge and van transfers.

Hop the shuttle to the frontier town of McCarthy to visit the local museum and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of an Alaskan bush community. Explore the historic town built in the early part of the century. Followed by the scenic flight back to Chitina departing at 5:00 pm.

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Hop the shuttle to the frontier town of McCarthy to visit the local museum and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of an Alaskan bush community. Explore the historic town built in the early part of the century; concluded by the scenic flight back to Chitina departing at 5:00 pm.



Day Nine

Accommodation for 2 nights in Glacier View

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: 11:00 AM on Day 11

This Lodge is located along the scenic Glenn Highway halfway between the towns of Palmer and Glennallen. Guests enjoy spectacular mountain views, local outdoor recreational activities, cabins with private bath and showers, delicious home cooked meals, and old fashioned Alaskan hospitality that has made this lodge famous. Extensive decks, greenhouses and flower gardens compliment the scenery. You can watch Dall Sheep through our telescope, read on the deck of your cabin or relax in the hot tub after a day of traveling or hiking.

Day 10

Matanuska Glacier Hike

Departure time: 09:00 AM (Check in: 08:30 AM)

Return time: 01:00 PM

It's not every day you can take a 3.5 hour hike along a 26-mile long advancing valley glacier. Our experienced guides help with gear and guide you to the impressive "Ice Falls" area of the Matanuska Glacier – an expanse of glacier ice that naturally "falls" over the rock under it, creating dramatic spire formations or seracs. It's a must see!

Along the way, there are continuous views of various glacier features such as deep moulins, crevasses. Be sure and bring your camera! The Glacier Hike is usually a 1:6 guide-to-client ratio. All glacier gear is provided including boots, crampons, walking stick (if desired) and helmet.

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Day Eleven

Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: 12:00 PM on Day 12

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

ALASKA TOURS

A "**plan-to-go**" deposit may be required after initial consultation. Usually we spend upto an hour planning alternatives for you for free. Then we request a small fee (and apply it to the cost of your tour) to cover the time our Alaska Tour Planning Specialists spend further customizing your tour to your timeframe and budget. This fee usually is \$50 per adult.

Reservations are recommended as early as possible to confirm specific departures. A deposit of \$500 per person or 50% of the total tour, whichever is greater is required at time of booking. Full payment is required 60 days prior to departure. Components are presented as a package tour and the individual prices will not be broken out due to contractual arrangements with our vendors.

Cancellations and refunds: Deposits and other payments are non-refundable.

Late reservations: Reservations booked within 30 days of departure are on a request basis and are subject to availability. Late reservations are subject to a \$25 Express Handling fee.

Due to weather cancellation or change of some of tour components may be necessary and are non-refundable.

Insurance: Trip Cancellation, Baggage, Personal Accident, Injury and Liability Insurance is highly recommended at time of booking. Ask your reservations agent about the policies available from Viking Travel, Inc. or consult your insurance agent.

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