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Alaska Ferry Vacations 15 Day Gems of Alaska

Reference : 4511

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel Arrangements starting at US\$6,025.00 per person for Double Occupancy
Single, Triple and Quad Occupancy rates available upon request

2019 Departures: May 31, June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23

Friday, Day 1

Ferry from Bellingham to Ketchikan with Alaska Marine Highway

Ferry Departure Time: 06:00 PM

Ferry Arrival Time: Morning of Day 3

The Alaska Ferry departs from the Bellingham Fairhaven Terminal for a two-day voyage to Ketchikan, Alaska's "First City".

Accommodation in a Two Berth Outside Stateroom

Sunday, Day 3

Ketchikan



Ketchikan is known as Alaska's "first city" due to its location at the southern tip of the Inside Passage – it is the first city you reach as you cruise north, and for many visitors, their first introduction to the beauty and majesty of Alaska. The city is backed by forested slopes and distinctively shaped Deer Mountain and faces Tongass Narrows, a waterway humming with floatplanes, fishing boats, ferries and barges hauling freight to other Inside Passage ports.

Just 90 miles north of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Ketchikan hugs the bluffs that form the shoreline along the southwest corner of Revillagigedo Island. Stretching 31 miles long but never more than 10 blocks wide, Ketchikan is centered on Tongass Avenue. On one side of the avenue, many businesses and homes are built on stilts out over the water, while on the other side they cling to the steep slopes and often have winding wooden staircases leading to their doors.

The downtown area is the main commercial district and contains two large harbors, several cruise ship docks, and many of Ketchikan's main attractions, including historic Creek Street, a boardwalk road built over Ketchikan Creek on pilings. The city center is best viewed from Ketchikan's Waterfront Promenade that skirts the busy shoreline and is equipped with historical markers and whale-tail benches for visitors to rest and take in the view.

Ketchikan serves as the departure point for side trips to Prince of Wales Island, Annette Island, numerous bear viewing sites and the area's most impressive attraction - Misty Fiords National Monument. This 3,570-square-mile wilderness is a natural mosaic of sea cliffs, steep fjords and rock walls jutting 3,000 feet straight out of the ocean. Trips into the monument, whether by tour boat, small airplane or kayak, provide wildlife sightings like seals, otters, bald eagles and whales.

Totems & Eagles Tour

Departure time: 11:00 AM

Lois Munch, as Classic Tours, offers a 3 hour tour in the "happy days" comfort of her snazzy '55 Chevy. During 20 years of teaching in Ketchikan schools, her classes were fun, and so are her Classic Tours! She shares knowledge of Alaskan Native cultures, totem poles and art. She can tell you about the eagles and salmon, and equally interesting stories about Ketchikan's pioneers and lifestyles, past and present.

Leaving the Totem Park at Saxman, she'll drive to the gravel road where you find yourselves in the midst of the rainforest. You'll learn to identify the coniferous hemlock, spruce and cedar trees that have played important roles in the community's development. Plus, she'll take you to an 'eagle tree'. At the very top of this gigantic Sitka spruce is an aerie or, as locals call it, an eagle's nest. If you're lucky, an adult eagle may be perched on the edge of its huge nest. Or, perhaps a glimpse of an eaglet!

Rounding out the tour, you'll poke into some of the nooks and crannies of this special city--places where tour buses never roam. Like a worn wooden plank street, one of Ketchikan's oldest, that yearns to reveal its history. All but



forgotten, this rattling narrow plank street remains just as it was at the turn of the century...over the muddy tide flats and ending in backyards.

Accommodation for 1 night in Ketchikan

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: Day 4

Your hotel is a Ketchikan favorite, located right across the street from the Alaska Ferry Terminal. There's a Restaurant and Pub (6am until late) right on the property for your dining pleasure. There is a cozy fireplace, full cocktail service, beers on tap and an outside deck overlooking the Tongass Narrows. Complimentary shuttle is provided from the Airport Ferry. There's a guest laundry and free internet access, too.

The well appointed guest rooms and suites offer everything the discerning guest could need. There is secure parking, a fitness center, business center and premium cable TV with HBO.

Monday, Day 4

Ferry from Ketchikan to Kodiak with Alaska Marine Highway

Ferry Departure Time: 11:00 AM

Ferry Arrival Time: 06:00 AM on Day 8

Accommodation in a Two Berth Outside Stateroom no facilities

Day 5 and Day 6

Voyage at sea with periodic stops in Juneau, Yakutat, and Whittier before arriving in Kodiak on Day 7

Friday, Day 8

Scenic Tour of Kodiak or Afognak

Departure time: 12:00 PM

A magnificent, non-stop, narrated scenic tour. You will see the beautiful, rugged mountainous terrain that encompasses Kodiak Island, or the scenic timbered country that makes up nearby Afognak Island.

On either of these tours you will see a native village, commercial fishing operations and the possibility of seeing Kodiak wildlife and Kodiak marine life along the way. All passengers are fitted with voice activated headsets, guaranteeing good communication between the pilot and each passenger during the tour.



Accommodation for 1 night in Kodiak

Check in: 04:00 PM

Check out: Day 9

Overlooking St. Paul harbor, this unpretentious hotel is 9 minutes' walk from native Alaskan heritage at the Alutiiq Museum and 6.3 miles from Kodiak Airport.

Modest rooms with pillow-top mattresses and work desks have complimentary WiFi and 42-inch flat-screen TVs, as well as minifridges, microwaves and coffeemakers. Suites add pull-out sofas; some offer whirlpool tubs or kitchenettes. On-site parking, an airport shuttle and hot breakfast are complimentary. There's also a restaurant, a bar and a garden gazebo, as well as a hot tub, a gym and a business center.

Saturday, Day 9

Ferry from Kodiak to Homer with Alaska Marine Highway

Ferry Departure Time: 03:00 PM

Ferry Arrival Time: Late Evening

Accommodation for 2 nights in Homer

Check in: 11:00 PM

Check out: Day 11

Set on the tip of the Homer Spit and overlooking Kachemak Bay, this relaxed hotel is a 3-minute walk from the ferry terminal and 6 miles from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy a delicious meal at the on-site restaurant with bay views and outdoor seating. Other amenities include an indoor heated pool, a hot tub and a sauna, as well as an exercise room. Cozy rooms, some with decks, feature satellite TV and free Wi-Fi, plus minifridges and coffeemakers. Upgraded rooms add bay views, microwaves, DVD players and/or sitting areas.

Sunday, Day 10

6-hour Flight Seeing & Bear Viewing Adventure

Departure time: 09:00 AM

Katmai National Park is home to approximately 4,000 brown bears (grizzly bears). Depending on the timing of your trip, we'll visit different areas of the park for best viewing opportunities. Flight times are about 1.5hr to cross Cook Inlet and past McNeil River. Park Rangers are positioned at various points on the trail, your pilot will be your guide and stay with you for the entire trip.



Monday, Day 11

Flight from Homer to Anchorage

Flight Departure: Mid-morning

Flight Arrival.: 45-minute flight

Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check in: 03:00 PM

Check out: 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.

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.

Tuesday, Day 12

Train from Anchorage to Denali - Gold Star Service

Departure: 08:00 AM

Arrival: 04:00 PM

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Denali Park.

GoldStar, first-class service aboard double-deck dome cars, luxury rail travel has never been better. Reserved upper-level dome car seating, priority check-in, upper-level outdoor viewing deck, exclusive lower-level dining room, and complimentary Breakfast and Lunch and non-alcoholic beverages.



Accommodation for 2 nights in Denali National Park

Check in: 03:00 PM

Check out: Day 13

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.

Alaska Cabin Night Dinner Theater

Departure time: 07:30 PM

Return time: 09:00 PM

Set the Stage for an Unforgettable Meal! You'll enjoy a night of fun, festivity and food! Get a taste of old-time Alaska at Alaskan Cabin Night Dinner Theater - the popular dinner theater performed in an authentic log cabin at the Denali Park Village Hotel. Join our heroine Fannie Quigley and an unforgettable cast of characters in the true-to-life Gold Rush tale of adventure in early 1900's Alaska. It's a great mix of colorful storytelling, spirited music and humor, brought to life by talented performers. The all-you-can-eat meal is served family-style and includes Alaskan Salmon, BBQ Ribs, potatoes, corn, biscuits and berry cobbler! Transfers are included from major area hotels.



Wednesday, June 13

Kantishna Wilderness Trails

Departure time: 07:00 AM (Check in: 06:30 AM)

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



Thursday, June 14

Train from Denali to Fairbanks - Gold Star Service

Departure: 04:00 PM

Arrival: 08:00 PM

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Denali Park.

GoldStar, first-class service aboard double-deck dome cars, luxury rail travel has never been better. Reserved upper-level dome car seating, priority check-in, upper-level outdoor viewing deck, exclusive lower-level dining room, and complimentary Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages.



Accommodation for 2 nights in Fairbanks

Check in: 08:00 PM

Check out: Day 16

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 of 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.

Friday, Day 15

Arctic Circle Fly/Drive Adventure

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

Return time: 12:00 AM

Fly from Fairbanks to Coldfoot, north of the Arctic Circle in the Brooks Mountain Range. The flight provides an aerial view of the vast Alaska wilderness. Ground tour south on the Dalton Highway made famous during the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline. Cross the Arctic Circle and receive an official Arctic Circle Adventure Certificate. Explore up close the amazing arctic tundra and feel the veins of ice just beneath the surface. Experience the mighty Yukon River. Marvel at the majestic beauty of the northland's most famous waterway and learn of the river's storied past. View the remarkable Trans Alaska Pipeline. Visit the Arctic Circle Trading Post, situated in the rural community of Joy, Alaska.



GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS ALASKA TOURS

A **"plan-to-go" deposit** may be required after initial consultation. Usually we spend up to 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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