

ALASKA EXPLORER

Sea Kayaking, Glacier Trekking, Whitewater Rafting, Canoeing, Day Hiking, & Wildlife Viewing
at Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, Maclaren River, and Prince William Sound.
Our Most Popular Trip!



ALASKA EXPLORER

10-DAY TOUR ITINERARY

1. Denali National Park (NP)
2. Denali NP
3. Denali NP
4. Denali Highway/Maclaren River
5. Wrangell-St. Elias NP / McCarthy
6. Wrangell-St. Elias NP / McCarthy
7. Wrangell-St. Elias NP / McCarthy
8. Valdez/ Prince William Sound
9. Valdez/ Prince William Sound
10. PWS Ferry (or Fly) to Anchorage*

2024 TOUR DATES

LODGE-based tours:

- ♦ June 23-July 2
- ♦ July 7-16
- ♦ July 21-30
- ♦ August 4-13 (Fall Colors/Aurora!)
- ♦ Aug 15-24 (Fall Colors/Aurora!)

2024 TOUR PRICES

LODGE-based tours:

\$4,250 pp (\$1,275 Single Supplement)

CLIENT COMMENTS

"...I loved your Alaska Explorer tour! The trip was absolutely incredible and I was blown away by the beauty, diversity and enormity of the Alaskan landscape. Our group was great and we were fortunate to have perfect weather. A big thanks to our fantastic guide! He was very knowledgeable and passionate about Alaska, patient with our endless questions but most of all great fun."

—Nadine Judge, Australia

Alaska Multi-Sport / Hiking Tour

10 Days. Lodge-Based. Starts and Ends in Anchorage

GET UP & GO! Year after year, the ten-day *Alaska Explorer* is our most popular trip. And with good reason: This active, exciting, and diverse tour has it all! A variety of **included, uniquely Alaskan multi-sport activities** (see yellow box below), **superb day hikes**, and **exceptional wildlife-viewing opportunities** are set amidst massive mountains, awe-inspiring glaciers, beautiful alpine tundra, wild rivers, and historic

mountain villages, as well as some of Alaska's finest coastal landscapes. Throw in both a stunning bush plane flight over glaciers and volcanoes, and a ferry trip through the dramatic glacial wilderness of Prince William Sound (or a scenic over-flight), and, well, *Alaska Explorer* is simply the most comprehensive, wide-ranging, diverse, and exhilarating introduction to wild and majestic Alaska available!

Featuring extended visits to both Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, as well as to Prince William Sound and the wild and beautiful Maclaren River, the **lodge-based Alaska Explorer** offers the best variety of scenery, the best hiking, and the most popular multi-sport activities of any of our tours.

INCLUDED TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ Three nights at spectacular **Denali** and **Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks**; two nights in scenic **Valdez**; and one night at **Maclaren River**
- ♦ Exceptional **wildlife viewing** opportunities throughout the tour
- ♦ Stunning **bush plane flight** to the historic ghost town of McCarthy, deep in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
- ♦ Scenic **ferry crossing** (or over-flight) of pristine **Prince William Sound (PWS)**
- ♦ Passage on the **Denali National Park wildlife-viewing/access shuttle bus**
- ♦ **Quality Leadership: A professional GG! guide** leads you throughout the tour

GET UP & GO! ALASKA EXPLORER is all about getting out there and experiencing the wilds of Alaska for yourself! **Sea kayak** amidst icebergs and curious wildlife **to the face of an active, tidewater glacier**. Lace up crampons to **trek out onto a huge and very blue glacier** in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, or strap on a harness and grab some ice axes to try your hand at **ice climbing** (for a ~\$60 supplemental fee). **Canoe a calm, wilderness river** through the tundra landscape. And go **whitewater rafting** on a Class III-IV river at Denali National Park.

The **day hiking** is memorable as well: through boreal forests; across sub-arctic taiga and alpine tundra; alongside rivers and lakes; up to historic and scenic mining ruins, and along dramatic glaciers and glacial moraines: Beautiful! Active and adventurous? This is the trip for you!

INCLUDED MULTI-SPORT ACTIVITIES

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

- ♦ **Sea Kayaking** to the face of a glacier, on Prince William Sound
- ♦ **Glacier Trekking** (or upgrade to ice climbing*), in Wrangell-St. Elias NP
- ♦ **Whitewater Rafting** on the Class III-IV Nenana River, at Denali NP
- ♦ **Canoeing** on a calm, wild river, through a wildlife-rich wilderness
- ♦ **Hiking:** A variety of exceptional 2-6 hour scenic day hikes over mixed terrain (moderate to strenuous)

ALASKA EXPLORER Daily Itinerary & Activities

Notes: Unless identified as optional, all mentioned activities are *included*. Specific hikes and lodges may vary.

This **flexible** tour itinerary may operate in either direction, and is subject to change.

DAY 1: FROM ANCHORAGE TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK

We'll meet in the morning at our Anchorage departure hotel/s (see our *Tour Pre-Departure Packet* for location/s and time/s), introduce ourselves, and after a brief overview of the tour, head north into the Alaskan Interior. First stop: Denali State Park for a 3 to 4-hour alpine hike (with Mt. Denali views), before proceeding on to world-famous Denali National Park for a three-night stay. L

DAY 2: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

A fun day as we can hike for 3-4 hours this morning and then enjoy an exhilarating whitewater rafting trip this afternoon. A "flight-seeing" trip over the park to Denali / Mt. McKinley (wow!), and/or a tour of the park's dogsled kennels are fun, optional activities. BL

DAY 3: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Today you'll travel through the vast, access-controlled wilderness area of the park on the park shuttle bus, with exceptional wildlife viewing and hiking opportunities. This fantastic sub-arctic wilderness teems with wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, caribou, Dall sheep, moose and more. Denali is also the home of the continent's highest peak, 20,320' Mt. Denali: "The Great One." BL

DAY 4: THE DENALI "HIGHWAY" TO THE MACLAREN RIVER, IN THE EASTERN ALASKA RANGE

Today we head east along the even more remote Denali Highway, paralleling the scenic southern side of the mighty Alaska Range. This unlikely gravel "highway" passes through some of the wildest, most remote, road-accessible country on Earth. A beautiful short hike at the pass/divide is next, with tremendous 360-degree views of the mountains, rivers, and glacial lakes that are all about. We'll then check-in to our rustic and friendly, riverside lodge for the evening. BL

DAY 5: WILDERNESS CANOE PADDLE AND ON TO WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NP / MCCARTHY

It's time to go canoeing! We will be transported upstream to the put-in in our lodge's air boat, an adventure in itself. We'll float downstream (calm waters), on the lookout for wildlife. Afterward, we'll continue on to the Copper River, where small planes will meet us for a scenic flight across the volcanic and glacier-clad Wrangell Mountains into Wrangell-St. Elias NP, the largest park in the USA. Our destination? The Copper & Gold Rush boomtown of McCarthy (pop. ~75), everyone's favorite Alaska ghost town! We'll spend three nights here in the historic lodge at the foot of the mighty Kennicott Glacier. 16,390' Mt. Blackburn looms up the glacier, and other huge peaks are all about. Four major mountain ranges, 9 of the 16 tallest peaks in the USA, and the largest non-polar ice field on Earth converge in this little-known and seldom-visited gem of a national park. BL

DAY 6: WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK / MCCARTHY & KENNICOTT

Today we will venture out onto the ice with crampons and local mountaineering guide to explore the blue crevasses, moulins, and the rest of the fascinating glacial geography. The more adventurous can challenge themselves with an optional introductory ice-climbing course on the glacier (+ ~\$60). Optional flight-seeing, and/or Kennecott Mine tours are also available, as are various ranger-led activities. BL

DAY 7: WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK / MCCARTHY & KENNICOTT

Today we can hike up to the abandoned Bonanza Mine for incredible mountain and glacier views. This vigorous hike is the consensus favorite of both clients and guides, year after year. Less strenuously, you can either hike along the lateral moraine of the Root Glacier, along the old Wagon Road, or out to the toe of the huge Kennicott Glacier, where you can witness it actually moving, depositing the boulders and debris it has carved and carried from the mountains into the terminal lake it has formed (headwaters of the Kennicott River). Or take a day off to simply relax and soak up the mountain village ambiance. You won't want to leave McCarthy! BL

DAY 8: WORTHINGTON GLACIER & VALDEZ

Driving out of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park we'll cross yet another tremendous range: the heavily glaciated Chugach Mountains. At alpine Thompson Pass we can hike either to the toe, or up the lateral moraine of Worthington Glacier, to a dramatic view of the ice field that feeds this impressive and very blue "river" of ice. Dropping down out of the mountains to the picturesquely set town of Valdez, we'll get our first taste of magnificent coastal Alaska. The young and geologically very active Chugach range rises up literally out of the sea, ringing super-scenic Prince William Sound (PWS). Glaciers are all about, some of them spilling their loads of ice directly into the sea. BL

DAY 9: VALDEZ & PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

Today we'll paddle sea kayaks in a calm and beautiful, glacier-carved PWS bay! After gearing up, a lesson, and a scenic water taxi ride to protected Columbia Bay, we'll paddle through a sea of icebergs up to the face of this spectacular tidewater glacier (this is an upgraded version of the previously included kayak trip). Alternatively, enjoy a half-day marine wildlife and glacier-viewing cruise. BL

DAY 10: PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FERRY CROSSING (OR OVERFLIGHT) BACK TO ANCHORAGE

This morning we'll board the Alaska state ferry for a beautiful crossing of pristine Prince William Sound, on the lookout for whales, bald eagles, and wildlife. Following a short hike (time permitting), we'll drive back to Anchorage. Depending on the ferry schedule, a scenic flight over the glacier-clad Sound from Valdez to Anchorage may be substituted. If neither are available on the scheduled day (rare but possible), we'll drive back to Anchorage and you'll be refunded \$100 pp. Either way, the trip ends in Anchorage by ~5 p.m. L

LOOK AT ALL THAT'S INCLUDED

- ♦ **Sea Kayaking** at Columbia Glacier, on Prince William Sound (PWS); **OR** take a **glacier & wildlife-viewing cruise** on PWS
- ♦ **Whitewater Rafting** (Class III-IV) at Denali National Park (NP)
- ♦ **Glacier Trekking** in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (or upgrade to an introductory **Ice Climbing course** for ~\$60 more)
- ♦ **Canoeing** on the Maclaren River, a calm wilderness float (including upriver transport to the put-in in a river jet boat)
- ♦ **Hiking:** A variety of exceptional 2-6 hour scenic day hikes over mixed terrain (moderate to strenuous)
- ♦ **All Ground Transport**, Anchorage to Anchorage
- ♦ **Bush Plane Flight** to McCarthy, in Wrangell-St. Elias NP
- ♦ **Scenic Ferry crossing*** of Prince William Sound (or over-flight if ferry unavailable; if neither are available that day, we'll drive back to Anchorage, and you'll be refunded \$100 per person)
- ♦ **Denali NP Wildlife-Viewing/Access Shuttle Bus** trip
- ♦ **All Lodging**, Days 1-9, as specified in the "Accommodations" section of this document
- ♦ **Most Meals**, as specified in the "Meals" section below
- ♦ **Entrance & User Fees** for all national and state parks visited
- ♦ The friendly and capable services of a **professional GG! guide**
- ♦ **Tour Pre-Departure Packet**, including travel info, a packing list and everything else you need to prepare for the tour.

NOT INCLUDED

- ♦ **Transport to and from Anchorage** (where the trip starts & ends)
- ♦ **Anchorage Lodging**, before or after the tour; we can help
- ♦ **Non-Included Meals** (see "Meals"), and **alcoholic beverages**
- ♦ **Optional Activities** (see below)
- ♦ **Personal Expenses**
- ♦ **Gratuities** for your hard-working guide/s; see page 5 of our **Tour Pre-Departure Packet** for general tipping guidelines
- ♦ **Personal Travel Insurance: Highly Recommended.** See our **Tour Reservation Form** for details

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Introductory Ice Climbing Course** on the Root Glacier: (~\$60 upgrade)
- ♦ **Flight-Seeing** to Mt. Denali in Denali National Park (~\$425-\$595), or over Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (\$300-\$495+)
- ♦ **Guided Historic Tour** of Kennecott Mine mill (\$34)
- ♦ **Salmon or Halibut Fishing Charter** (~\$180-\$625+)

GET UP AND GO!

To reserve your place simply give us a call at **1.888.868.4147** or **1.907.245.0795** or email us at **alaska@getupandgotours.com**. Assuming availability, all you'll need to do to confirm your reservation is to complete our **Tour Reservation Form** and return it to us with your \$500/person tour deposit. We accept personal checks, international bank wire transfers, Visa, Master Card, Discovery Card, and AMEX.

ACCOMMODATIONS

LODGE-BASED TOURS: 10 days / 9 nights. Nights are spent in twin-share rooms or cabins at lodges or hotels. Our lodges, cabins, and hotels are not extravagant (don't expect televisions, in-room telephones, baggage handling, or room service), but they are friendly, comfortable, scenically situated, and rich with Alaskan hospitality and character. You're going to like them! Most feature private bathrooms and showers, although the remote and historic McCarthy Lodge is a bit more rustic, with clean, shared facilities (bathrobe & slippers provided). The lodges also offer opportunities to meet locals, thus offering a slice of local color and some insight into what it's like to live in Alaska year around. The price is based on twin-share rooms. Solo lodge tour guests must pay a \$1,075 single supplement, although we **may** be able to pair you with another same-sex single, thereby avoiding the supplement.

MEALS

Note: Vegetarians, vegans, gluten-free, lactose-free, and some other special diets can be catered to **with advance notice**, please list any dietary restrictions or preferences on your **Tour Reservation Form**.

LODGE-BASED TOURS: All breakfasts and lunches are **included** in the tour price (except breakfast on the first morning and on the ferry). Most breakfasts are either ordered off the regular menu or are hot, multi-course buffets. Lunches are generally picnics or brown bag meals that we carry with us on our hikes and other activities. **Dinners are not included**; these are taken either at our lodges or in local restaurants, arranged by your guide, and are paid for individually.

COMBINATION TOURS

If you have more time, some departures of our 10-day **Alaska Explorer** can be combined with our 6-day **Kenai Explorer** Camp & Cabin-based tour to make a longer, more wide-ranging Alaskan adventure! When you sign up for any of our combination tours you'll receive a \$50 per person credit/discount.

MORE CLIENT COMMENTS

"I just wanted to tell you how exciting our adventure was. We could not have had a better experience than we had with Get Up and Go! Tours. Our guide was excellent. You should be very proud of what your company has to offer. I would, without reservation, recommend your company to anyone who wants to experience Alaska. Many thanks," —Dennis & Gayle Brandon

"We had such a blast with Get Up and Go! Tours. Your guide was great, so knowledgeable, personable and fun. She did a great job of setting an upbeat environment that easily permeated throughout the group and allowed us all to quickly bond amongst the diversity of our backgrounds and home towns.

"All of our excursions were executed flawlessly and we had the added blessing of excellent weather to truly make each day an exceptional experience. I would recommend Get Up and Go! to anyone who aspires to visit and actively explore Alaska. When we have shared how much fun we had with family and friends, we are often asked, 'would you do it again?' And, we have replied 'Yes as it was awesome experience!' —Kim Kehoe