



ADVENTURES
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ALASKA: FROM FAIRBANKS TO ANCHORAGE

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking diverse trails in Alaska's interior, to passes, overlooks, lakes, and panoramic views
- Visiting spectacular Denali National Park and quirky Talkeetna
- Seeing an amazing diversity of wildlife, including moose, bear, Dall sheep, caribou, and bald eagles
- Soaking in famous Chena Hot Springs

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	South Central Alaska
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive Fairbanks, Alaska (FAI) by 3 p.m. on Day 1
Depart:	Depart Anchorage, Alaska (ANC) anytime on the last day

Trip Overview

Join us in a journey from Alaska's Golden Heart city, Fairbanks, to its largest, Anchorage, along the historic Parks Highway. Along the way, we'll soak in therapeutic hot springs, hike through boreal forests and over alpine tundra, raft a white-water river, and explore unique Alaska treasures, not least of which is Denali National Park and its abundant wildlife. During our week we will discover the wide diversity of Alaska's natural beauty and meet a few of its characters along the way.

NOTE: This is the same itinerary as [Alaska: Anchorage to Fairbanks](#) but in reverse and a week earlier!

Rating

This trip is designed for women in good health and physical condition who want to see Alaska. We have designed the itinerary to minimize time in the van and all activities are moderate. The rating for this trip is a 2, but at the highest level of 2. While the activities are moderate, some of the hiking is on uneven footing and with significant changes in elevation. This rating of 2 is suitable for any woman who regularly walks at a **brisk** pace 4 days a week for 45 minutes. **Rating:** 1 [\[2\]](#) 3 4 5.

What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- 8 nights double occupancy lodging
- All activities on the itinerary unless specified as optional at additional cost
- All meals from dinner the first day through breakfast the last with the exception of one lunch and dinner as specified on the itinerary
- All transport within Alaska
- National Park Entrance fees

Not included: Airfare to Fairbanks or from Anchorage, alcoholic beverages, one dinner and one lunch, guide gratuities, optional activities, travel insurance, items of a personal nature.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Our trip begins when we meet in the Golden Heart of Alaska, Fairbanks. Plan to arrive at the Fairbanks airport in time to meet the group at 3:00 p.m. We'll drive together to Chena Hot Springs in plenty of time to enjoy a rejuvenating soak before our trip orientation and dinner. Although the sun technically sets for about three hours on this day, it never really gets dark. You may find yourself soaking and exploring long past your bedtime! (D)

DAY 2

We'll spend the day in the vicinity of Chena Hot Springs, so there will be ample opportunity to enjoy the heat before breakfast and after we hike. We'll earn our picnic lunch by hiking up to explore the rugged beauty of the granite tors on Angel Rocks Trail. Depending on the weather, this trail may give us options for a 4-mile loop hike or a longer, more strenuous 8-mile hike back to Chena Hot Springs. If you still have energy at the end of the day, there may be time to go for a horse or ATV ride at the hot springs. Hiking distance: 4 or 8 miles. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

After a final soak in the hot springs and a hearty breakfast, we'll continue our adventure by driving to Denali National Park. Along the way we'll travel through a variety of Alaska's ecological biomes, and cross the mighty Nenana and Tanana Rivers. Keep your eyes open: moose, bears, beavers and more are all residents of this area, so hopefully we'll get lucky and see them all. We'll picnic along the way, and arrive at our Denali home in time to hike the Triple Lakes Loop, explore the local flora and fauna, not capture some amazing views. Hiking distance: approximately 5 miles. Driving time total: approximately 4 hours. (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Today we'll have more time to explore the wonders of Denali National Park. The park visitors' center and Murie Science Center can teach us a great deal about the area's history, geology, plants, and animals. Once we've educated ourselves, we'll continue our explorations by hiking up Mount Healy for lunch and, hopefully, views of Denali, The Great One. We can choose to bag a peak today, or turn around at a lower elevation - the views are great either way. Dinner will be on your own, with a variety of options to choose from. Hiking distance: 5.5 miles, 1,700 ft. elevation gain, or less if we choose. (B, L)

DAY 5

We'll have this morning free to pursue our own explorations of Denali. Options included flight seeing, ATV adventures, visiting with sled dogs, local hikes, and much more. After lunch (on your own), we'll meet back at our cabins to go rafting on the Nenana River. On this splash tour, everyone paddles the boat down a scenic 11 mile stretch. Rafting here is loads of fun with class II and III rapids. There's always a chance of seeing bears, moose, sheep, and caribou. Over dinner we can each share our chosen adventures of the day. (B, D)

DAY 6

For our final day in Denali, we'll venture fully into the park. There's only one road into this 6-million-acre park, and we'll traverse it with a knowledgeable driver who will tell us all about what we're seeing as we drive to the Eielson Visitors Center. There will be many opportunities to take photos, and short stops along the way will allow us to stretch our legs. Once again, keep your eyes open for wildlife, and shout out if you see anything so everyone else can see it, too. Driving time: 7 - 8 hours. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

After breakfast, we'll bid farewell to Denali and head to the charming town of Talkeetna. This unique (even by Alaskan standards) community is home to festivities such as the annual Moose Dropping Festival (no moose are harmed) and the Bachelor Auction and Ball (presumably no bachelors are harmed). We'll settle for exploring town after a hike through the alpine tundra on Little Coal Creek Trail, and maybe another opportunity to glimpse Denali. Hiking time: approximately 3 hours. Driving time: approximately 3 hours. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

For the final full day of our trip, we'll drive to Anchorage. Before we get there, however, we'll have the opportunity to visit one of the Alaska's hidden jewels: Hatcher Pass. Home to a historic gold mine, Independence Mine, Hatcher Pass offers splendid opportunities for hiking in alpine tundra while gawking at rugged mountains and glacial erratics, lichen-covered boulders left behind when glaciers receded. We'll enjoy a picnic during our hike, and then continue our drive into Anchorage. We'll arrive in plenty of time for a shower before our farewell dinner. We're all sure to have lots of highlights to share before we say goodbye to our new friends. (B, L, D)

DAY 9

Sadly, today is the day we have to say goodbye to Alaska. Our hotel has an airport shuttle so you can leave whenever you choose. Or stay a little longer on your own to soak up more of the midnight sun!

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) is serviced by several major airlines. Alaska Airlines is the carrier with the most frequent flights to Fairbanks. Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines offer direct flights to the lower 48 from Fairbanks on a seasonal basis. Flying into Anchorage (ANC) and taking the scenic Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks (12 hours) is also a delightful option if you have time.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

With the exception of the last night at Hampton Inn, we will be staying at several different family run lodges and hotels in double occupancy rooms with ensuite bathrooms. All are clean, comfortable, and will give you a feel for the real Alaska.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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