

Below is the proposed itinerary 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

Arrive in Fairbanks

Our trip begins when we meet in the Golden Heart of Alaska, Fairbanks. Plan to arrive at the Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) in time to meet the group at 3:00PM and we will enjoy our first of many dinners together. 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!

Overnight: River's Edge Resort, Fairbanks (D)

DAY 2

Intro hikes in Denali

Today weâ€™re heading out on an epic road trip to the breathtaking Denali National Park. Get ready to soak in those jaw-dropping Alaskan landscapes as we cruise alongâ€™ mountains, rivers, and maybe even a moose or two along the way! Once we arrive, weâ€™re kicking things off with a hike on the scenic McKinley Station Trail. Itâ€™s the perfect warm-up to explore the wild beauty of the park. Keep your eyes peeled. Denali is home to moose, bears, beavers, and plenty of other furry locals. With a little luck, weâ€™ll spot a few of them as we wander through this stunning wilderness!

Hiking: ~3 miles, 439 feet elevation gain. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Triple Lakes Trail & Denali Tundra Wilderness Bus Tour

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, we'll set out on the Triple Lakes Trail, a picturesque hike that winds through lush forests and over gentle ridges. As we trek along this scenic route, keep your eyes peeled for the diverse wildlife that calls this area home - perhaps we'll catch a glimpse of a majestic moose or a playful fox. In the afternoon, our adventure continues with the Denali Tundra Wilderness tour. This guided excursion takes us deeper into the heart of the wild, offering stunning views of Denali's towering peaks and the sprawling tundra below. As we traverse this rugged landscape, our knowledgeable guide will share insights into the area's unique ecology and the elusive wildlife that thrives here.

Hiking: 4 miles. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Rock Creek Trail & Sled Dog Demos

Today we'll have more time to explore the wonders of Denali National Park. The park Visitor 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 the Rock Creek Trail! This scenic hike winds through peaceful spruce and birch forests. Along the way weâ€™ll catch breathtaking views of the Alaska Range. The trail links the Denali Visitor Center to the parkâ€™s famous sled dog kennelsâ€™ our next exciting stop. There, weâ€™ll dive into the fascinating world of Alaskan sled dogs, learn why theyâ€™re such a big deal up here, and catch an exciting demo by the park rangers and their four-legged teammates. Then itâ€™s back to the trail as we continue exploring the wild beauty of Denaliâ€™s forests for the rest of the day.

Denali's forests for the rest of the day.

Hiking: ~5-6 miles, 1,000 feet elevation gain. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Free Morning for Excursions in Denali; Afternoon Rafting

We'll have this morning free to pursue our own explorations of Denali. Options include flight seeing, ATV adventures, visiting with sled dogs, local hikes, and much more. After lunch, we'll meet back at our cabins to go rafting. On this splash tour, everyone paddles the boat down a scenic 11 miles stretch. Rafting here is loads of fun with class I, II, and III rapids. There is always a chance of seeing bears, moose, sheep, and caribou. Tonight, we will enjoy a night in at the resort and order pizza as we toast to our adventures of the day.

Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, D)

DAY 6

Drive to Talkeetna, Hike Curry Ridge Trail

After a delicious patio breakfast, we'll load up the vans to drive to Talkeetna (2.5 hours away). While en route, we will take a break to hike through Curry Ridge Trail. We will arrive at Talkeetna Inn before we enjoy a nice dinner together in the nearby town.

Hiking: 6.5 miles, 1,030 elevation gain. Overnight: Talkeetna Inn (B, L, D)

DAY 7

Morning hiking and kayaking in Talkeetna; Afternoon free time

We will kick off our morning surrounded by the stunning beauty of Talkeetna's lakes! Half of us will hit the water for a peaceful (or playful!) paddle in kayaks, while the other half laces up for a hike along nearby trails. Then we'll swap so everyone gets to enjoy both land and lake—double the adventure! After a tasty lunch, the afternoon is all yours. This is the perfect time to book a jaw-dropping Denali flightseeing tour, hop on an exciting jet-boat ride, rent a bike and cruise around, or just soak in the charm of Talkeetna's quirky downtown shops and cafes. As the sun sets, dinner's up to you. Grab a bite at one of Talkeetna's local favorites and enjoy the evening your way.

Hiking: 3.20 miles round trip, 632-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Talkeetna Inn (B, L)

DAY 8

Hike Gold Mint Trail, Drive to Anchorage

Load up the vans after breakfast and head to Anchorage. Along the way we will visit one of Alaska's hidden jewels: the Gold Mint Trail located in Hatcher Pass. (Drive time approximately 120 minutes). Home to a historic gold mine, Independence Mine, Hatcher Pass offers splendid opportunities for hiking in alpine tundra while gawking at rugged mountains, glacial erratics, and lichen-covered boulders left behind when the glaciers receded. We'll enjoy a picnic during our hike, and then continue our drive. (Remaining drive time 90 minutes). Tonight we will eat our final dinner together in downtown Anchorage.

Driving time: 3.5 hours. Hiking: 4 miles round trip, 335-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Aloft, Anchorage (B, L, D)

DAY 9

Farewell Alaska! Depart for Home.

Sadly, today is the day we have to say goodbye to Alaska. Your guides will get you to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) by 9AM for flights out after 11AM. If you prefer to stay in Anchorage longer or have flight times that don't work with this timing, there are taxis and rideshares available.

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