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## ALASKA: FROM ANCHORAGE TO FAIRBANKS

### 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

877-439-4042    adventuresingoodcompany.com    info@goodadventure.com  
2601 S. Lemay Ave Ste 7, PMB 455 Fort Collins, CO 80525

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	South Central Alaska
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive Anchorage, Alaska (ANC) at any time on Day 1
Depart:	Depart Fairbanks, Alaska (FAI) after 12:00 PM on the last day

### Trip Overview

Join us in a journey from Alaska's largest city of Anchorage to its Golden Heart city of Fairbanks, 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.

### Rating

This trip is designed for women in good health and physical condition who want to see Alaska. We have designed this itinerary to include moderate hikes on most days. The rating for this trip is a 3 due to altitude, weather, mileage and hiking conditions. The trails we will explore are on uneven terrain and with significant changes in elevation. A rating of 3 requires aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **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 2 dinners as specified on the itinerary
- All transport within Alaska
- National Park Entrance fees

**Not included:** Airfare to Anchorage or from Fairbanks, 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

Welcome to Alaska! Arrive in Anchorage at any time today. By area, Anchorage is one of the largest cities in the U.S., encompassing 1,961 square miles - nearly the size of the state of Delaware! With around 300,000 residents, Anchorage is also Alaska's most populous city and home to more than 41 percent of the state's population. Although the sun technically sets for about three hours on this day, it never really gets dark. You may find yourself exploring long past your bedtime! There are no planned activities today so you are free to explore or rest early. If you have time, there is a fun [trolley tour](#) of the city and lots to learn at the [Alaska Native Heritage Center](#).

Overnight: Comfort Inn - Ship Creek, Anchorage, or similar

### DAY 2

Load up the vans after breakfast and head for the quirky town of Talkeetna that lies at the confluence of 3 rivers. Along the way we will visit one of Alaska's hidden jewels: Hatcher Pass. (Drive time approximately 90 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's dinner is on your own, a great chance to check out the quaint downtown (which sits on the registry of National Historic Places) 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).

Driving time: 3 hours. Hiking: 3.86 miles round trip, 334-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Talkeetna Inn, Talkeetna, or similar (B, L)

### DAY 3

After a delicious breakfast at the local bakery, we'll load up the vans to drive to Denali National Park (2.5 hours away). While en route, we will take a break to hike through the alpine tundra on Little Coal Creek Trail. Here we may get our first opportunity to glimpse Denali. Hiking time: approximately 3 hours.

Driving time: 2 hours. Hiking: 3.20 miles round trip, 632-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

### DAY 4

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 (on your own), we'll meet back at our cabins to go rafting. On this splash tour, everyone paddles the boat down a scenic 11 mile stretch. Rafting here is loads of fun with class I, II, and III rapids. There's always a chance of seeing bears, moose, sheep, and caribou. Over dinner we can toast to our adventures of the day.

Rafting: 11 miles. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, D)

### DAY 5

For our second 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. Hiking: 4 miles, 261-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

## DAY 6

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 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.

Hiking: 5.37 miles round trip, 1700-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Denali Grizzly Bear Resort (B, L, D)

## DAY 7

Before bidding farewell to the "Great One" (Denali), we'll hike the Triple Lakes Loop to stretch our legs. Then we'll hit the road toward Fairbanks with lunch 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.

Hiking: Triple Lake Trail – 4.6 miles, 600-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Hampton Inn - Fairbanks (B, L, D)

## DAY 8

Our day will start on Angel Rocks Trail, where we will earn our picnic lunch by hiking up to explore the rugged beauty of unusual rock outcropping called the granite towers. We'll spend the day in the vicinity of Chena Hot Springs, so there will be ample opportunity to enjoy the heat after our morning hike. A long relaxing soak will be a perfect way to commemorate our wonderful trip together. If you still have energy, there may also be time to go for a horseback ride or ATV ride at the hot springs. Hiking distance: 4 miles.

Hiking: 4.11 miles round trip, 850-foot elevation gain (863-foot elevation loss). Overnight: Hampton Inn - Fairbanks (B, L, D)

## DAY 9

After an early breakfast and maybe a final soak, we'll pack up for the airport. Our trip ends in the Golden Heart of Alaska, Fairbanks. You can book your flight anytime after 12pm.

(B)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

The Anchorage airport (ANC) and the Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) are serviced by several major airlines. Alaska Airlines is the carrier with the most frequent flights.

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: Exito charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fees of \$35 per passenger.

### Accommodations

With the exception of the first night in Anchorage, we will be staying at several different family run lodges and hotels in double occupancy rooms (or single occupancy if you selected a single supplement) 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](http://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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