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PRE-TRIP ITINERARY

Alaska

A SPECIAL NATURE
CONSERVANCY DEPARTURE
AUGUST 18 - 25, 2019

- Estimated Price: \$4,895 per person based on double occupancy, \$6,195 single occupancy
- Trip cost is based on a minimum of 12 participants in shared accommodations. Final trip costs will be based on actual number of participants.

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Join us and fellow Legacy Club members on this excursion to Alaska. Spend time with us during the week learning about our commitment to safeguarding Alaska's resources and exploring the amazing Kenai Peninsula.



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Trip Overview

Alaska is one of the wildest places on Earth. As a land of possibilities—where free-flowing rivers roll on to the sea, untrammelled coastlines border vast northern seas, and rugged mountain ranges reach to the horizon—it beckons the courageous and adventurous. Big animals of the imagination are real here: brown bears, black bears, polar bears, wolves, muskoxen, belugas, orcas, humpback whales. Clearwater lakes and streams cover the map. Migrating wild salmon number in the tens of millions. Lush rainforests guard against climate change.

The Alaska of today—wild and free—is no longer found anywhere else in the United States. Vast reaches of its lands, waters and coasts are accessible only by foot, floatplane, boat or sometimes dogsled. Yet even Alaska's most remote locales are not immune to the pressures of the 21st century. The world's appetite for resources is at the door. Choosing the right path forward can ensure Alaska's rivers, tundra, forests and coastlines remain for wildlife and all of us, for nature and people.

With so much at stake, Alaska invites us to act on its behalf. It's not too late: Protecting and restoring critical habitat is still within reach. The Nature Conservancy is working with people across Alaska to protect and restore the lands and waters that make Alaska a great place to live, work and play.

Day 1: SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Plan to arrive in Anchorage, Alaska by at least the afternoon of the day your trip begins. Tonight, meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers for dinner and orientation. Dine at a well-known local restaurant for Alaskan infused cuisine and enjoy other local sights such as art galleries, shops and other Anchorage attractions.

Overnight: Lakefront Anchorage hotel. (D)

(Included meals will be noted: B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner; complimentary snacks & non-alcoholic beverages included each day)



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Day 2: MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Bid farewell to the city of Anchorage and travel south along the majestic Turnagain Arm to the small mountain community of Girdwood. Today's adventure takes us through the northernmost rainforest areas of Alaska on a guided hike through a protected forest canopy. Upon reaching a local gorge, board a hand-tram for unique transport across Glacier Creek. After the hike, more amazing views can be captured as we ride the resort tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska for spectacular views of the seven surrounding glaciers. During the 8 minute tram ride, we'll gain more than 2000 feet of elevation, with a bird's eye view of winter ski routes and flower-covered valleys.

Late afternoon we will continue south to Kenai Riverside Lodge, situated in scenic Cooper Landing. Cooper Landing is surrounded by the forested, lower slopes and glacier covered summits of the Chugach National Forest, with local mountain peaks ranging in elevation from 4000 ft. to 10,000 ft. and higher.

Upon arrival at the lodge, enjoy orientation and take in the amazing sights on the riverfront. Kenai Riverside Lodge features a large riverside deck with fire pit, self-guided nature paths, a wood-fired sauna and more! Appetizers and dinner are served in the main lodge this evening.

Overnight: Kenai Riverside Lodge. (B, L, D)



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Day 3: TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

After a hearty breakfast in the main lodge, our guides will outfit you in river gear for a full-day guided rafting adventure on the Kenai River. Explore the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge while your raft guide offers natural history interpretation and stories behind the sights. Scan for eagles and birds, salmon and trout swimming in the turquoise water and possibly moose or bears on the banks of the Kenai River.

A delicious pack lunch will be enjoyed on the banks of the Kenai River. This evening, retire to the main lodge for dinner and relaxing.

Overnight: Kenai Riverside Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 4: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

From our departure point in the stunning seacoast town of Seward, board a small ship bound for Kenai Fjords National Park – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife such as whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins and more! A half-day marine wildlife cruise will allow us to explore the rugged coastlines. Enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at our exclusive lodge destination: Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge.

Nestled in a protected tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers miles of pristine beachfront for exploring and views of the stunning Pedersen Glacier. This afternoon, meet your guides for a lodge orientation and settle into your private cabins. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations.

Overnight: Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)



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Days 5 and 6: THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

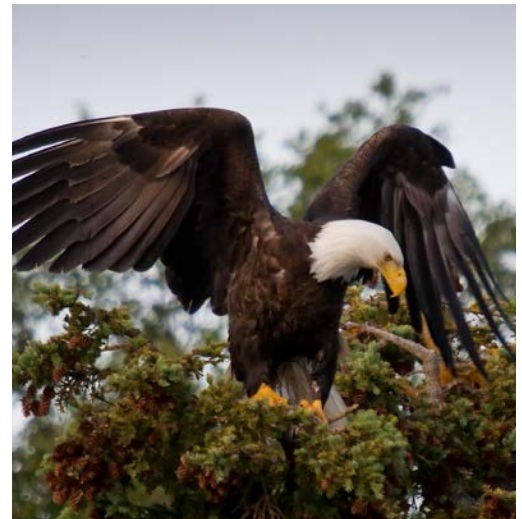
Explore the wild delights of Kenai Fjords National Park for two full days. After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a wide array of activities best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include naturalist walks, sea kayaking, group canoe paddles and more.

In the spirit of adventure and to take advantage of tidal and weather patterns, guides will discuss specific nature outings and options with our group this morning. All activities are suitable for beginners and require no previous experience.

For those seeking a more relaxed approach, the main lodge offers ideal comfort with direct views of nature. Curious sea otters and seals frequent the lagoon, just steps from the main lodge deck. In a nearby meadow, we can sometimes glimpse bears and other wild-life from a safe distance. Our natural history library offers amazing resources and interesting reads – cozy up with a good book and let your worries drift out with the tide!

Upon return to the main lodge, share stories from your day's adventure with other guests and join an evening natural history presentation, given by local expert guides or guest speakers.

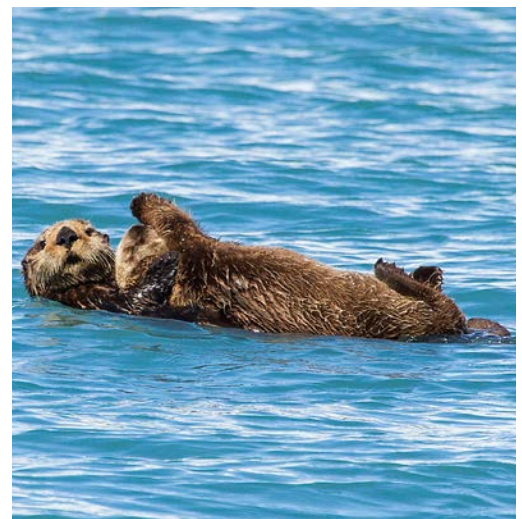
Overnight: Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)



"Eagle with wings spread" by National Parks Service, Alaska Region, Flickr, CC BY 2.0



© "Kenai Fjords" by Kimberly Vardeman, Flickr, CC BY 2.0



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Day 7: SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, canoe or beach-comb for a half-day before boarding our boat for the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Board the historic Alaska Railroad for a scenic backcountry rail tour back to Anchorage. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner on the train.

Overnight: Lakefront Anchorage. (B, L, D)

Day 8: SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, followed by airport shuttles. (B)

*This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.

**Thank you for traveling with
The Nature Conservancy!**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please do not hesitate to contact Amy LaHaie with Alaska Wildland Adventures if you have any questions or needs regarding trip logistics.

Email: amy@alaska-wildland.com

Phone: (800) 334-8730



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