

Wild Alaska Sampler



June 30, 2017-July 9, 2017

Leaders:

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Trip #1723



Trip Overview:

- On this ~800 mile RT land journey we will be hiking and sightseeing in the day, staying in comfortable lodging at night, and eating fresh seafood and local grub.
- This hiking trip is for experienced hikers fit enough to hike up to 10 miles a day in varied backcountry terrain. We will cover approximately 75 miles of hiking terrain.
- We will spend 10 days and 9 nights exploring Anchorage and the Chugash mountain range, Denali National Park, and stay with the locals in the funky mountain town of Talkeetna. Plus explore Kenai Fjords National Park's marine life and glaciers, and spend time in the fishing town and cruise port of Seward.
- Options to go on a marine wildlife tour, Denali sightseeing tour, visit the sled dogs, go white water rafting, fishing, or kayaking, or land on a glacier in a bush plane plus so much more. We left enough time on our endless summer tour to explore the many optional activities in Alaska!!
- Join the fun! We welcome you on this big adventure! The cost is \$2800 per person plus air fare.

Tentative Itinerary

June 30 Friday - Day 1
Arrive/Stay in Anchorage

July 1, Saturday - Day 2
Anchorage

July 2, Sunday - Day 3
Denali NP

July 3, Monday - Day 4
Denali NP (optional bus tour)

July 4, Tuesday - Day 5
Talkeetna

July 5, Wednesday - Day 6
Talkeetna, (optional activities)

July 6, Thursday - Day 7
Seward/Kenai

July 7, Friday - Day 8
Seward/Kenai (optional cruise)

July 8, Saturday - Day 9
Anchorage

July 9, Sunday - Day 10,
Depart

Subject to change

Anchorage

June 30-July 1 (2 nights)

July 8 (1 night)



Among the northernmost cities on Earth, Anchorage is a place with big-city amenities: fine restaurants, museums, theaters and an excellent music scene. Creating the backdrop are the salmon-rich waters of Cook Inlet and the 5,000-foot-plus peaks of Chugach State Park. Within a short drive from downtown are dozens of wilderness adventures and a short plane ride opens up the possibility of almost any type adventure. That's one reason why Anchorage's Lake Hood is the world's busiest floatplane base. Anchorage's 284,994 residents embrace both the urban amenities and the wilderness beyond it.

Denali National Park July 2-4 (2 nights)

A visit to the Last Frontier would not be complete without experiencing **Denali National Park**. Featuring North America's tallest mountain, Mount Denali, Denali National Park is one of the most-visited National Parks in the state. Surrounding Denali Park is the Alaska Range, which includes countless other spectacular mountains and many large glaciers. Denali's more than six million acres encompasses a complete sub-arctic eco-system, home to large mammals such as grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, caribou and moose. Located along Alaska Route 3, the George Parks Highway, the entrance to Denali National Park lies approximately 240 miles north of Anchorage and 125 miles south of Fairbanks.



Denali Wildlife



Talkeetna, July 4-6 (2 nights)

The tiny, funky hamlet of Talkeetna is straight out of many visitors' mental picture of life in small-town Alaska. Located 115 miles north of Anchorage in the Mat-Su Valley, it's a not-to-be-missed stop in Southcentral Alaska.

About Talkeetna

Said to be the inspiration for the fictional community of Cicely in the popular TV show "Northern Exposure," it's no surprise Talkeetna rings so true with visitors. Its artistic, outdoorsy and creative residents cling proudly to the character of their community and celebrate the influence of North America's tallest peak, in whose shadow the community rests – Denali. A turn-of-the-20th-century gold-mining center, Talkeetna has retained much of its early Alaska flavor. Log cabins, a roadhouse and clapboard storefronts line the dirt streets. Main Street, the only paved road in town, greets visitors with a hand-hewn sign reading "Welcome to Beautiful Downtown Talkeetna. Gold brought miners to the Susitna River in 1896, and by 1910, Talkeetna was a riverboat steamer station, supplying miners and trappers in the nearby mining districts. The town's population peaked at more than 1,000 during World War I, declined after the Alaska Railroad was completed and has bounced back as the staging area for ascents of Denali, Mount Foraker, the Moose's Tooth and scores of other high peaks.

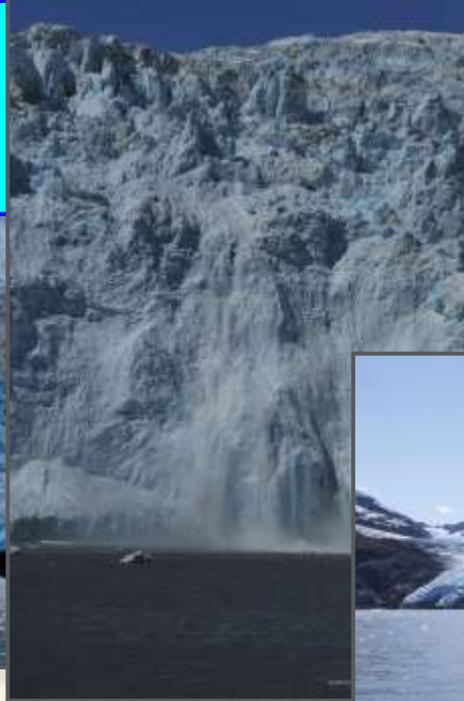


Kenai Fjords NP & Seward (July 6-8) 2 nights

130 miles south of Anchorage lies the quaint seaside town of Seward, gateway to the magnificent **Kenai Fjords National Park**. Within the crystal green waters of the Fjords is an abundant array of tidewater and piedmont glaciers. Marine wildlife includes otters, sea lions, harbor seals, humpback and orca whales, porpoises, puffins and kittiwakes. Kenai Fjords National Park is most easily accessed by tour boat from Seward or by driving out to Exit Glacier, just outside of Seward. Wildlife and glacier exhibits are available at the Small Boat Harbor visitor center and the Alaska Sealife Center. Scenic Seward, flanked by rugged mountains to one side and sparkling Resurrection Bay on the other, has a way of luring visitors. There is fantastic hiking nearby, a quaint downtown with good restaurants and shopping and the amazing Alaska SeaLife Center.



Kenai Fjords



Important Information:

Group Size: We have budgeted this trip for 12-14 people plus 2 leaders. A waiting list will be established if more than 14 people apply for the excursion.

Expectations/Experience Level for Participants: In order to participate in this excursion, you must consider and agree to the following:

Risks: Traveling in Alaska has risks you should be aware of including and not limited to: [Wildlife encounters](#), [earthquakes](#), [tsunamis](#), varied and challenging weather, crossing rivers and streams, [wildfires](#), backcountry topography, [avalanche](#), [hypothermia](#), etc. If you have fears of wildlife or heights or vast wilderness, this may not be the trip for you. We will provide bear spray training and expect that you view the videos the park service provides on wildlife encounters. We will provide (2) bear sprays for the group.

Ability: You must be able to hike an average of 8-10 miles per day at a moderate pace easily, with moderate elevation gains (3000-5000 feet), while carrying enough equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. You should be in moderate to excellent physical condition at the time we depart. This trip is not for people who have not hiked mountains for several years. By you agreeing to this contract, you are stating you are mentally and physically capable of hiking ~75+ miles over the course of the trip. We will discuss any concerns over the phone, and your abilities. Please do not take offense to our questions and be accurate with your abilities for the safety of all. We would expect participants to be flexible, patient, and to hike with the group at all times at the pace of the slowest hiker. Rest days are encouraged and understandable if needed.

Important Information: (cont.)

Group Dynamics: First, you must enjoy being part of a group. You must work towards the group having a good time, be prepared to help your fellow hikers and spend time with other participants on the trip and be inclusive and flexible. You will be expected to participate in most of our group activities. In doing so, you will enjoy the trip to the maximum. **We will be more than just a group, we will be a team!**

Group Safety: Group safety will be our number one priority. You must agree to abide by the leaders' decisions. We will never feed or approach any wildlife for any reason. We will follow the Parks' recommendations with regards to wildlife. We will hike together in a group at all times. No participant should be hiking alone at any time, anywhere. **We are not responsible for your safety: you are.**

Driving: We will be asking participants to share in the driving. We will need at least 2 additional drivers. Please inform the leaders if you would like to do this. A background check will be required in advance. Transportation in Alaska is very expensive. We will look for the best value on transportation which may include vans, SUV, or cars. We will have a couple days where we will be in the vehicles for approximately 4 hours broken up with short hikes along the way and rest stops with views. We will stop as needed for comfort.

National Park Rules: We will obey the rules and regulations of the National Parks that we will be hiking in. Hiking within Denali NP is contingent upon the formal permit being awarded. Should the permit not be issued, options will include hiking in Denali State Park with equally significant views and wildlife viewing.

Lodging, Meals and Flights:

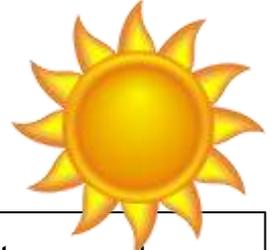


Lodging: At the time of proposing the trip to the AT committee, reservations and pricing at some of the lodging we are interested in are not available until this fall for the following year. Lodging in Alaska is expensive during the high season of their limited summer and limited accommodations. Most hotels are at a minimum of \$200/night. We will select a variety of lodging based on our budget which will include 2 beds/room double occupancy and ~3 star rates. You will be matched with a same gender roommate, unless otherwise noted by you. These accommodations may range from hotel chains, cozy cabins, historic inns and lodges. We will look for the best value, without sacrificing comfort or cleanliness. If you are expecting 5-star accommodations, this is not the trip for you and you should be prepared for possibly sharing a bathroom at some of the locations. There is a wide range of lodging. There is also no single occupancy rate on this trip.

Meals: All meals B,L,D are included at \$50/pp per day budget, and we will try to eat most meals together. If you should wish to spend more than the budgeted amount, you will be asked to pay the difference. You will be given a daily allowance to pay for your own food. We will be eating on the road or trail daily for lunch. Breakfast will be on own prior to meeting time. Food is expensive in Alaska as it is shipped in and costs are much higher than normally expected. You may wish to budget additional spending money for food. We will shop before we start at the local Walmart to save money. Some hotels may include breakfast. We may need to split up during our dinners to accommodate our large group. Alcohol and tips are not included in the budgeted food price. Please ask your server for separate checks and add a 15-20% tip plus tax.

Flights: Alaska is a far away land, approximately 4000 miles from the East Coast and a ~10 hour plane ride, equivalent to traveling to Russia. It is a full day travel time you will need to account for. There is a 5 hour time difference in our favor arriving. Please plan to arrive in time for our welcome dinner and meeting. We are staying in Anchorage on arrival for a couple days to rest up and get settled in. Your journey should start and end at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC). Returning flight times may be in the morning. Extended stays are encouraged to see more of Alaska.

Weather



Weather: You'll find Alaska's summer temperatures surprisingly pleasant. Summer daytime temperatures range from 55° - 70° F, but you'll feel warmer due to long hours of direct sunlight. Nighttime lows are refreshingly cool, dipping into the 40's - 50's. May and September are 5°- 10° cooler. However, temperatures vary wildly depending on which region of Alaska you plan to visit. Be prepared with everything from short's to coats and dress in layers. Also know that the weather gets rainier as summer progresses so bring your rain jackets as it can suddenly storm. The sun sets around midnight and rises around 4:30 a.m. allowing about 19 hours of sunlight to adventure in.



Hiking



All hikes will be determined once we arrive and speak to the rangers regarding the snow situation and wildlife encounters: We have many good hikes we are considering and will be weather permitting. We will be hiking most days at a moderate to strenuous pace of 5-10 miles with elevation up to 5000 feet. We will have options for rest days and alternate activities.

[Chugash State Park](#): Chugach State Park is located in Southcentral Alaska mostly within the Municipality of Anchorage. The park contains approximately 495,000 acres of land and is one of the four largest state parks in the United States. Southcentral Alaska is an area of diverse land forms and rugged topography, bounded on the north and west by the Alaska Range, and on the east by the Chugach and Wrangell Mountains and Prince William Sound. The region contains extensive ocean shoreline, abundant lakes, massive glaciers and ice fields. The park's westernmost boundary lies in the western foothills of the Chugach Mountain Range and is a mere seven miles to the east of downtown Anchorage. There is a parking charge of \$5 per vehicle at the trailhead.

[The Kenai Peninsula](#): comprises some 9,000 square miles jutting off of southern Alaska. It's defined by its glaciers, snow-capped Kenai Mountains and wild coastline. Its towns include Homer, a major fishing destination, and Seward, gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park and its vast Harding Icefield. Waterfowl congregate at the massive Copper River Delta conservation area, also the habitat for Pacific salmon. A park pass or entrance fee is not needed in this park.

[Denali](#): Established in 1917 with the mission of conserving wildlife, [Denali National Park](#) encompasses 6 million acres of Alaska's wilderness, and is often seen as the crown jewel of the National Park System. Flaunting complete unaltered ecosystems, countless rivers, glaciers and expanses of tundra, and the tallest peak in North America, Denali is not to be missed. From Denali's famed wolves to the abundant caribou and moose populations, the Park holds within its boundaries one of the most incredibly diverse, stable, and most studied wildlife populations in Alaska. a \$10 fee is included in the vendor's bus tours for entrance fee.

Hiking

Hike Samples (Subject to change) Click link for overview of hikes we may do. All hikes will be selected once we arrive after we check with the park rangers and weather permitting. Please review hikes to be sure your abilities match our itinerary of up to approximately 10 miles a day. Hiking in Denali NP is contingent on being issued permits. In the event, we are not issued permits we will hike in state parks.

[Harding Icefield Trail Kenai](#)

[Mt. Eielson Denali](#)

[Crow Pass to Raven Glacier](#)

[Pioneer Ridge](#)

[East Twin Pass to Twin Peaks](#)

[Mt. Healy, Denali](#)

[Kesugi Ridge, Talkeetna](#)



Video on [Wildlife Safety](#). Required Viewing!

Activities!



There is so much to do in Alaska. Here are a sampling of things we will have opportunities to do and have made time for you to explore on your own as options.

Anchorage: <http://www.alaska.org/destination/anchorage/attractions>

Denali: <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>

Talkeetna: <http://www.alaska.org/destination/talkeetna/things-to-do>

<http://www.alaskatours.com/talkeetna>

Seward/Kenai <http://www.alaska.org/destination/seward/things-to-do>



Trip Cost: AMC Member Rates, +\$50/Non Members

The approximate cost for the trip is \$2800 and is based on research at the time the trip was submitted to the AT Committee (April 2016). The final cost of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with any savings we achieve or increases we might have to endure.

Included:

- ✓ All lodging double occupancy/2 beds/room
- ✓ All meals B,L,D at \$50 per day
- ✓ Ground Transportation
- ✓ Park Permit fees
- ✓ 2 bear sprays for group
- ✓ AMC Adventure Travel Fees
- ✓ AMC emergency medical and evacuation insurance
- ✓ Budget contingency of 5% (refunded if not spent)
- ✓ Experienced Leaders



Not Included:

- ✓ Airfare (\$~600-\$700 East Coast)
- ✓ Alcohol/Snacks
- ✓ Excursions and tours (optional)
- ✓ Denali Park entrance fee (\$10)
- ✓ Souvenirs
- ✓ Tips (housekeeping, tours, food)
- ✓ Optional Personal Bear Spray (~\$50)
- ✓ Travel Insurance (recommended)

Please be aware that, in accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing some of the leaders' costs, but not all of them. Any unspent funds will be refunded to all participants. The trip fee also includes an AMC overhead charge to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel trips.

Deposit and Cancellation



Deposit: A registration deposit of approximately half at \$1400 is due with the application. You must also submit the registration form, the Confidential Medical form, and the signed Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release form for the AMC. The rest of the payment will be due by December 1, 2016. Your deposit does not accept your application until a phone conversation has happened to make sure this trip is suitable to you and all participants. Do not make any travel arrangements until you have been officially accepted. Please make \$1400 check payable to the *Appalachian Mountain Club* and send to:

Barbara Dyer 17 Breakneck Hill Rd. Southborough, MA 01772

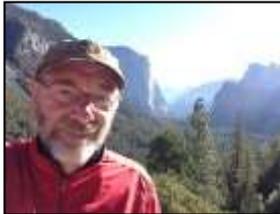
Cancellation: Our cancellation policy is based on the precept that your cancellation shall not raise the cost to any other participants of leaders. Therefore, if you cancel, we will refund any money you have paid, less an expenses already incurred, or future expenses that will be incurred, that have been the result of your registration and that cannot be avoided. Refunded money will also be less a \$100 cancellation fee. However, if you cancel and the trip still realizes full participation, then any and all fees you have paid will be refunded to you, in full, minus the cancellation fee. If you cancel after the airline tickets have been purchased, you still own the ticket and will be subject to their cancellation policy.

Roger has been a member of the AMC and the NH Chapter since the mid 80's. He currently lives in Rochester NH with his wife Janet and their spaniel Bohdi. Roger has been leading hiking, skiing, and biking trips for the local chapter, inter-chapter trips, Echo Lake Camp, AMC Adventure Travel, and the President's Society since 1987. He frequently gets away for excursions to Yellowstone (2012, 2015 w Barbara) and Yosemite, multi day Nordic ski trips, and long bike rides. He is a certified Spinning Instructor at his local health club, a Registered Maine Guide, and an authorized guide for Yellowstone National Park. When Roger is not tracking wild trout across the US, or putting together a new adventure, he works full time as a Medical Rep for Crown Healthcare in Nashua NH. He is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR Certified. Roger also has been to Alaska and spent a month climbing Mt. McKinley.

Leader: Roger Scholl
Co-Leader: Barbara Dyer



Grand Tetons 2015
AMC Adventure Travel



Barbara has been to Alaska traveling the same route and loved this very special place and looks forward to sharing her love of national parks with you! She is an active AMC Worcester Chapter leader and serves as Social Media Chair and Past Chapter Chair. Barbara has been a chapter hiking and backpacking leader since 2004 having led over 100 trips with the AMC, and works at the huts as fill in croo and naturalist. This will be her fourth Adventure Travel trip, with prior trips to Wyoming with Roger, where she was an authorized guide for Yellowstone, and also will co-lead in Europe 2016. She has earned several AMC Volunteer Leadership Awards. She is also a Boy Scout Leader. Barbara is a graduate of the American Wilderness Leadership School and Outward Bound and is CPR and Advanced Wilderness First Aid Certified. Barbara is a middle school computer teacher and resides in Southboro, MA. with her family and dogs.