

Fairbanks & Denali National Park Optional Land Add-on

Departing Sunday August 27th 2017

Welcome to Fairbanks. Once a gold rush boomtown, Fairbanks is now Alaska's second largest metropolis known as the "Golden Heart City," a testimony to the warmth of the people. The Alaska Highway, trans-Alaska oil pipeline, military bases, mining and the University of Alaska are all integral to Fairbanks' past and future. The city population hovers around 32,000, but nearly 98,000 live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough—an area the size of New Jersey. Visitors find Fairbanks, the Last Frontier, inviting, invigorating and awe-inspiring.



Denali National Park and Preserve is located in Interior Alaska and contains Mount McKinley (Denali), the tallest mountain in North America. Denali is home to a variety of Alaskan birds and mammals, including a healthy population of grizzly bears and black bears. Herds of caribou roam throughout the park. Dall sheep are often seen on mountainsides, and moose feed on the aquatic plants of the small lakes and swamps. Despite human impact on the area, Denali accommodates gray wolf dens, both historic and active. Smaller animals, such as hoary marmots, arctic ground squirrels, beavers, pikas, and snowshoe hares are seen in abundance. Foxes, martens, lynx, wolverines also inhabit the park, but are more rarely seen due to their elusive natures. The Alaska Range, a mountainous expanse running through the entire park, provides interesting ecosystems in Denali. Because the fall line lies as low as 2,500 feet (760 m), wooded areas are rare inside the park, except

in the flatter western sections surrounding Wonder Lake, and lowlands of the park where flowing waters melt the frozen ground.



Itinerary:

Day 1 – Home Airport to Fairbanks, AK - Alaska’s Golden Heart City

After checking-in at your designated departure airport, please go directly through to the departure gate so you don't get caught in a long line for security. When you arrive in Fairbanks, AK, proceed to the baggage re-claim area and an ABS Travel Representative will be there to meet you. Once all bags have been re-claimed, you will be directed to your transportation for transfer to the hotel in Fairbanks for overnight.

Overnight Fairbanks, AK – no meals included

Day 2 – Fairbanks, AK

Today, we will enjoy a scenic city tour of Fairbanks including a visit to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. In addition we will visit the North Pole to visit Santa Claus' house where it is always Christmas, and the Morris Thompson Cultural Center. This afternoon, we enjoy a cruise on the Chena River aboard a sternwheeler and experience the thrill of river travel.

Overnight Fairbanks, AK – no meals included

Day 3 – Motorcoach from Fairbanks, AK to Denali National Park, AK

This morning we will board our deluxe Motorcoach for a scenic transfer south to Denali National Park. Upon arrival into Denali we will have the remainder of the day at our leisure in a beautiful tranquil spot, in the heart of Alaska.

Overnight Denali National Park, AK – no meals included



Day 4 – Full day Tundra Wilderness & Wildlife Tour in Denali National Park, AK

Today we will experience the wonders of Denali National Park on our 6 – 8 hour journey and tour. Traveling along the park road deep in Denali National Park, we may encounter moose, Dall sheep, caribou, grizzly bear, the state bird - the Willow Ptarmigan or others. Your Driver / Naturalist will point out sights, describe the flora and fauna in the area, and discuss park activities like climbing Mt. McKinley. This full day tour includes a snack box meal & drink.

Overnight Denali, AK – box lunch included

Day 5 – Train from Denali National Park to Anchorage, AK

After a leisurely morning, we leave the hotel mid morning today for our journey back to Anchorage. We will be transferred to the Denali Rail Depot where we will board a deluxe dome railcar for a scenic train ride south to Anchorage (10:15AM – 5:30PM). This afternoon your fellow cruise passengers will arrive who are taking the cruise only option and then we join the main cruise itinerary from Friday onwards.

Overnight Anchorage, AK – no meals included



Total price for optional Fairbanks & Denali National Park 5 day land add-on is: \$2,295 per person based on double occupancy including Flights from Rapid City, SD. Remainder of itinerary per cruise package.



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