

HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



ALASKA FAMILY ADVENTURE

JULY 30 – AUGUST 7, 2022

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: Anchorage, Girdwood/Cooper Landing, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Fjords National Park

- Experience the northernmost rainforest areas of Alaska
- Gear up for a full day, guided rafting adventure on the Kenai River
- Enjoy amazing marine life and lunch in front of a tidewater glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park
- Choose from an array of guided activities such as hiking, kayaking, and canoeing
- Board the historic Alaska Railroad for an unforgettable trip through Alaska's backcountry

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Level 3

STUDY LEADER: Fran Ulmer, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission

ACCOMMODATES: 8–14 guests. *This is a Harvard exclusive program.*

PRICING: Adult: \$6,495 per person double occupancy / \$7,890 single occupancy / Child (Up to age 11): \$5,995

OPTIONAL POST - EXTENSION:

Denali National Park

August 7 - 9, 2022

\$1,995 per person double occupancy / \$2,795 single occupancy

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

FRIDAY, JULY 29 – SATURDAY, JULY 30

DEPART FROM HOME CITY

The program begins on Saturday, July 30 in Anchorage. Depending on available flights from your home city, some participants might need to plan to depart on Friday, July 29. If you need independent arrival arrangements and accommodations, please contact Harvard Alumni Travels.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

ARRIVE ANCHORAGE

Plan to arrive in Anchorage by 3:00 P.M. In the evening, meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers for dinner and orientation. Dine at a well-known local restaurant and enjoy local sights such as art galleries, shops, and other Anchorage attractions.

Overnight in Anchorage (D)

SUNDAY, JULY 31

GIRDWOOD

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 you 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 you ride the resort tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska for spectacular views of the seven surrounding glaciers.

During the 8-minute tram ride, gain more than 2,000 feet of elevation, with a bird's eye view of winter ski routes and flower-covered valleys.

Later in the afternoon, continue south to Kenai Riverside Lodge, situated in scenic Cooper Landing, surrounded by the forested, lower slopes and glacier covered summits of the Chugach National Forest, with local mountain peaks ranging in elevation from 4,000 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 at *Kenai Riverside Lodge* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

KENAI RIVER RAFTING ADVENTURE

After a hearty breakfast in the main lodge, your 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 afternoon settle in to your backcountry retreat at Kenai Backcountry Lodge, nestled on the shores of the glacially carved Skilak Lake, inside Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. After an amazing dinner, relax near the lake and listen to the loon calls (Alaska is home to all five species of loons, and Skilak Lake is home to many of them!).

Overnight at *Kenai Backcountry Lodge* (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today, select from an array of activity options.

You can learn about Alaska's diverse flora as you hike through three different ecosystems on the Cottonwood Creek Trail.

Or, opt to take a motorized skiff tour around Skilak Lake, making short stops to hike to scenic vistas for photo opportunities.

Depending on lake conditions, evening kayak paddles on the lake will be available.

Overnight at *Kenai Backcountry Lodge* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK VIA SEWARD

After breakfast, transfer to the stunning seacoast town of Seward and 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 allows an exploration of the rugged coastlines. Enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at the exclusive 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)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4–FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK

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, you may sometimes glimpse bears and other wildlife from a safe distance. The lodge's natural history library offers amazing resources and interesting reads.

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)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

ANCHORAGE VIA BACK COUNTRY RAIL JOURNEY FROM SEWARD

This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, canoe or beachcomb for a half-day before boarding your 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 in Anchorage (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

DEPARTURES

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

OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

AUGUST 7 – 9, 2022

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Early morning shuttle from Anchorage north to the Denali National Park entrance. Board a private bus for entry on the restricted-access Denali Park Road, for a fully narrated Denali Wildlife Drive. Scan for bears, moose, caribou, wolves and more, as you view various peaks of the Alaska Range, looking out for the majestic Mount McKinley. Arrive at Denali Backcountry Lodge, in the heart of the Kantishna hills, for a delicious dinner and orientation.

Overnight Denali Backcountry Lodge (B, L, D)

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Choose from amazing guided hikes (casual, moderate, or challenging), gold panning, mountain biking, or simply relaxing in the wilderness. Morning yoga, naturalist programs, and spa treatments are also available; optional flightseeing tours of Mount McKinley are available, based on weather, for additional cost.

Overnight Denali Backcountry Lodge (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

ANCHORAGE / DEPARTURES

Enjoy a return Denali Wildlife Drive, followed by return passage to Anchorage aboard the Alaska Railroad GoldStar car, which includes lunch and dinner onboard. Arrive Anchorage at approximately 8:30 p.m., in time to connect to red-eye flights home or extend your stay by booking an optional extra hotel overnight. (B, L, D)