

Tour Pace - *Experience the diverse scenery of Alaska with two nights in Denali National Park, Girdwood and Anchorage. Maximise your enjoyment with the perfect balance between cultural experiences, scenic drives, exciting activities and time to relax and enjoy your spectacular surroundings.*

DAY 1 – ARRIVE FAIRBANKS. Welcome to Alaska! Take a *complimentary transfer* to your hotel. Your Tour Director is at the hotel this afternoon to greet you and answer your questions. The rest of the day is at leisure. *Hotel: Bear Lodge.*

DAY 2 – FAIRBANKS – DENALI. Enjoy a *city tour of Fairbanks, Alaska's "Golden Heart" city. Take a cruise down the Chena and Tanana Rivers aboard the sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery III.* See the *Trans-Alaska Pipeline* and learn about this engineering marvel. This afternoon, head south to *Denali National Park*, a glaciated landscape graced with a multitude of birds and wildflowers in the summer. Tonight, join your Tour Director for a *Welcome Reception. Then enjoy a rollicking musical comedy at the Denali Dinner Theatre that will have you clapping and singing!* *Hotel: McKinley Village Lodge. (B,HD)*

DAY 3 – DENALI EXCURSION. Enjoy a leisurely morning before heading for the heart of Denali National Park on a *Tundra Wilderness Tour, a fascinating adventure hosted by an interpretive guide and experienced naturalist.* Be amazed at the awesome beauty that surrounds you while searching for grizzly bear, moose, caribou and sheep. (B,L)

DAY 4 – DENALI – TALKEETNA. After a leisurely morning in Denali, *step aboard your lavishly appointed railcar with confirmed seating in the upper-level glass-dome cars.* Relax and enjoy the *world-class scenery* as you travel along the Susitna River to Talkeetna. Weather permitting, catch the best views of Mt. McKinley, the crowning jewel of North America's peaks at 6,194 metres. On arrival in *Talkeetna*, take a *stroll with your Tour Director through the heart of the township* and learn about its rich history as the starting point for the expeditions up Mt. McKinley. *Hotel: Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. (B)*

DAY 5 – TALKEETNA – GIRDWOOD. *Cuddle the puppies at the award-winning Happy Trails Kennels. Meet four-time Iditarod Champion Martin Buser for an exclusive discussion on the struggles faced by man and dog along this 1,850 km trail. Later, visit Hatcher Pass and Independence Mine, a working gold mine until World War II and now a State Historical Park (note that weather might affect early season visits).* Tonight, enjoy a superb *seafood buffet* at your hotel. *Hotel: The Hotel Alyeska. (B,D)*

DAY 6 – PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CRUISE. Travel to the small port of *Whittier* to spend the day *cruising through the glacier-carved fjords, untamed wilderness and calm waters of Prince William Sound.* View the *tidewater glaciers* of *Barry Arm* and discover the waterfalls and inlets of *Esther Passage.* Enjoy a delicious *lunch* on board as you view the rich marine wildlife and learn about the natural history of the area. (B,L)

DAY 7 – GIRDWOOD – HOMER. Enjoy *spectacular views* as you travel to the Russian Orthodox community of *Kenai.* Here you are taken on a *historic walking tour* through the *Old Town*, including the *Russian Orthodox Church, Fort Kenai* and *Kenai Landing Historical Cannery* where traditional fishing stories come alive! Continue to your hotel in Homer. *Tonight, travel by water taxi across Kachemak Bay to Otter*

Cove for an incredible dining experience on a private island. Hotel: Land's End Resort. (B,HD)

DAY 8 – HOMER – ANCHORAGE. *Meet a local with enlightening tales of this quaint river community during breakfast in Anchor Point. Head north to Soldotna and visit the Homestead Museum for a chance to learn about the hardships of establishing this town in the 1940's. Later, stop at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center and enjoy a private behind-the-scenes tour with a wildlife expert, a unique opportunity to see Alaskan wildlife in its natural habitat up close. Hotel: Hawthorn Suites. (B)*

DAY 9 – ANCHORAGE SIGHTSEEING. *Today enjoy an in-depth exploration of Anchorage. Start with a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, a gathering place that celebrates Alaska native cultures. Hear a historical perspective of Alaska's largest city, followed by a demonstration of traditional Alaska native dances. At the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, listen to a bush pilot's stories of flying into Alaska's back country! End the day with an exclusive culinary demonstration of a popular Alaskan recipe, then enjoy a farewell dinner served at a historic restaurant in the heart of Ship Creek. (B,HD)*

DAY 10 – ANCHORAGE – WHITTIER – DEPARTURE OR ALASKA CRUISE.
Guests on the 10-day Coach tour transfer to Anchorage International Airport where your tour ends. (B)