

## **Insight Vacations: Jewels of Alaska - Small Group**

### **Day 1 - Anchorage, the City of Lights and Flowers**

Welcome to Alaska, an adventurous land of wildlife, mountains, national parks and glaciers. Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner.

Accommodations: Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa

Meals: Dinner with Wine

### **Day 2 - Anchorage Sightseeing and the Matanuska Valley**

Get acquainted with Anchorage with on an immersive city tour. During a visit to the renowned Alaska Native Heritage Center, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you enjoy an exclusive presentation on Agutak (Eskimo ice cream) while learning how it's made by Alaska's first people. Learn how this culinary treat establishes a link to the past, inspires a sense of pride and sparks a dialogue on a culture's remarkable ability to survive. This afternoon, travel through the fertile Matanuska Valley and stop at a local farm to see how the long summer days and glacial silt create the perfect environment for growing vegetables and flowers. Depart Anchorage for the quaint community of Talkeetna, nestled at the base of Mount Denali, North America's tallest peak. The evening is yours at leisure, feel free to ask your Travel Director for suggestions on the best spots to grab a bite.

Accommodations: Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 3 - Talkeetna Sightseeing**

This morning, enjoy an immersive jet boat tour up the Chulitna River and make a visit to a trapper's cabin. Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of hunting and trapping in Interior Alaska. The rest of the day is yours to explore, perhaps discovering more of Talkeetna or joining an optional experience such as a flightseeing tour of the Alaska Range, or a dryland dog sledding ride.

Accommodations: Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 4 - Journey Along the Alaskan Railroad Relaxed Start**

Enjoy a Relaxed Start this morning before boarding the world-famous Alaska Railroad train for a spectacular journey over swift-rushing streams, toward Denali National Park and Preserve. View the majestic surroundings from the comfort of your glass-domed rail car. Later, meet a local climber who will share stories about what it's like to a climb up one of the most daunting and tallest land-based mountains in the world, Denali. A trek that begins deep in the heart of the Alaskan Range and where conditions only get tougher further into the journey, forcing climbers to build snow walls for protection from the harsh elements. The climb which takes approximately 17-18 days round trip, takes incredible physical and mental fortitude. For tonight's dinner with wine, the choice is yours between a charming local brewery or the lodge's rustic restaurant during your Dine-Around evening.

Accommodations: Grande Denali Lodge, Denali National Park

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### **Day 5 - Denali National Park, the Crown Jewel of the Alaskan Wilderness Relaxed Start**

With the Denali National Park and Preserve just a short drive away from your hotel, you'll find a number of ways to enjoy the Alaskan wilderness on your own or spend the day partaking in one of our optional activities. With Denali, the highest peak in North America at the center of it all, the park consists of 6 million acres of tundra, boreal forest and ice-capped mountains. This magnificent land is nature at its most pure yet has something to offer all. From a blissful stroll through one of the meadows, to a rewarding hike, this Park is for everyone. You will also find that to be true with the

exciting optional experiences which include a rafting trip down the Nenana River, (waiver required) to a helicopter flightseeing tour or a Denali Wilderness walking tour, the choice is yours – just don't forget your camera! End the day back at your lodge where you'll enjoy panoramic views of your surroundings under the star filled night.

Accommodations: Grande Denali Lodge, Denali National Park

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 6 - Girdwood and Mount Alyeska**

Enjoy a scenic journey along the George Parks Highway. Stop in Big Lake, AK and visit four-time Iditarod winner Martin Buser at his own home. Arriving at the kennel, you will be greeted by between thirty and sixty excited sled dogs. Spend time with Martin and learn about the many challenges faced on the 1,049-mile dogsled race. Take a virtual trip along the Iditarod trail alongside Martin's narration including countless stories from his thirty-five years of racing, as well as a great deal of Iditarod history. A true insider experience into the world of the Iditarod, that very few get to experience. Journey on the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm with its dramatic views, before arriving in the town of Girdwood, home of the Alyeska Resort. In the evening, join your Travel Director for a wonderful Celebration Dinner, complete with wine and good cheer.

Accommodations: The Hotel Alyeska, Girdwood

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with Wine

### **Day 7 - Prince William Sound Cruise and depart Anchorage Relaxed Start**

Take this morning to enjoy the surroundings and amenities at the beautiful Alyeska resort. Travel to Whittier to board the 26 Glacier Cruise for a 100-mile (160-kilometre) boat tour of Prince William Sound and into the College Fjord with the chance to see the glaciers up close. Visit with the Captain in the wheelhouse to learn how he expertly navigates the icy waterways and sit down to a sumptuous lunch against an incredible backdrop. For those saying farewell today, travel back to Anchorage where you will arrive at the Anchorage Airport at approximately 20:00.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch