

ALASKA BY DESIGN

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DISCOVER HOLIDAYS



Prince William Sound Denali Explorer | Alaska Favorites by Rail

2025

Alaska Rail Vacation

7 Days / 6 Nights Anchorage to Fairbanks
Priced at USD \$3,194 per person

Prices are per person and include all taxes. Child age 10 yrs & under

INTRODUCTION

Our Prince William Sound Denali Explorer Tour includes the luxury dome Goldstar Service on Alaska Railroad, a 26 glacier day cruise and your choice of tours in both Seward and Denali. Ride the rails into an exciting world of wildlife viewing, glacier cruising and flight-seeing, plus choose between wandering the breweries and natural attractions of Anchorage to watching bears in Redoubt Bay. This 7 Day vacation has it all!

Itinerary at a Glance

- DAY 1** Anchorage | Arrival
- DAY 2** Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise | Coach | Rail
- DAY 3** Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions
- Option 1. Anchorage Brew Tour
 - Option 2. Turnagain Arm Wildlife Tour with Alyeska Tram
 - Option 3. Hatcher Pass Hike and History Tour
 - Option 4. Anchorage Flightseeing Safari
 - Option 5. Sunset Photo Safari

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- Option 6. Anchorage Scenic City Tour
- Option 7. Instalaska Smartphone Turnagain Tour
- Option 8. Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour
- Option 9. Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion
- Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion

- DAY 4** Anchorage to Talkeetna | Alaska Railroad
- DAY 5** Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad
- DAY 6** Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
- Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion | Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion
 - Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour | Coach Tour
 - Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing | Small Aircraft
 - Option 4. Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter
- DAY 7** Denali National Park Entrance to Fairbanks | Alaska Railroad



MAP



DETAILED ITINERARY

The below itinerary reflects our recommendations for this specific trip. This itinerary is also available in the reverse direction.

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Day 1 Anchorage | Arrival

Upon arrival in Anchorage transfer at your own cost to your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the sights.

Day 2 Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise | Coach | Rail

Depart Anchorage by coach for an adventure into the exciting world of Alaska's glaciers. The 26 Glacier Cruise travels over 140 miles into Prince William Sound. Watch for playful sea otters, harbour seals, kittiwakes, bears, whales or mountain goats. Get face to face with these towering masses of ice, so close you can "hear" the glaciers move and gaze at their brilliant blue hues. On the 26 Glacier Cruise, you'll see several types of glaciers, including Alpine (hanging), Piedmont and Tidewater. Glacier calvings (when broken pieces of ice fall into the water and become icebergs) are normally seen on each cruise. Back in Whittier, board Alaska Railroad's Glacier Discovery train for the final leg of the tour to Anchorage. (Lunch is included onboard)

Day 3 Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions

Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions

Option 1. Anchorage Brew Tour

Get the inside scoop on Anchorage's beer culture and brewery history on a half-day guided tour. Sample six tasty offerings at three different venues, including three classic breweries that you're sure to enjoy.

Option 2. Turnagain Arm Wildlife Tour with Alyeska Tram

This full day tour from Anchorage includes an aerial tram ride up Mt. Alyeska, fresh lunch in Girdwood and tour of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center home to moose, brown and black bears, wolves, bald eagles, musk oxen, and reindeer, giving guests an opportunity to view each species up close.

Option 3. Hatcher Pass Hike and History Tour

This half-day afternoon excursion from Anchorage includes a local guide, a tour at Independence Mine State Historical Park, gold panning and an interpretive hike along the Mill Loop Trail (an easy .9-mile trail with 177-feet of elevation gain). Travel along the Knik Arm, ascend into the Talkeetna Mountains and witness the breathtaking alpine area known as Hatcher Pass.

Option 4. Anchorage Flightseeing Safari

View Alaska's largest city from above! On this 30-minute introductory flight, you'll launch from Lake Hood and fly to some of the most scenic sites in the area. Options include the stunning backdrop of Anchorage, the Chugach Mountain Range, Turnagain Arm or the Cook Inlet – all with great opportunities to spot wildlife from the air. Please note that wheeled planes may be used early and late season.

Option 5. Sunset Photo Safari

Chase the best light of the day, which during summer in Alaska can last for several glorious hours before sunset. You'll be transported to scenic locations around Anchorage and Chugach State Park to shoot a variety of enchanting subjects. The itinerary is flexible and allows for spontaneous stops to photograph wildlife enroute. Along the way, you'll be offered creative and technical support from your Alaska Photo Treks guide

Option 6. Anchorage Scenic City Tour

Embark on a historical tour starting in downtown Anchorage, where you'll explore the origins of the city at Ship Creek. Witness Chinook salmon in the world's only urban King salmon fishery. Discover Dena'ina heritage, visit Earthquake Park, and experience the world's busiest seaplane base at Lake Hood. Conclude with panoramic views from Anchorage's Hillside, where wildlife sightings, including moose and eagles, are possible.

Option 7. Installaska Smartphone Turnagain Tour

Experience a thrilling smartphone photography tour that takes you from downtown Anchorage along the scenic Seward Highway. Capture stunning panoramas of Turnagain Arm, surrounded by towering mountains. Discover a variety of photo opportunities, from breathtaking landscapes to iconic Alaskan wildlife like Dall sheep, moose, and beluga whales. Grab your selfie stick and join us for an unforgettable adventure!

Option 8. Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour

Enjoy a half day guided tour with an opportunity to see Alaska's black and brown bears in their natural habitat. Depending on the time of year and where the bears are foraging for food, you will fly southwest of Anchorage by float plane to either Lake Clark National Park, Redoubt Bay or Chinitna Bay. Here you can view Alaskan resident brown bears up close.

Option 9. Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion

Experience some of the world's best salmon and trout fishing in Alaska's back country, only 35 minutes away from Anchorage by seaplane. The entire day is a not to be missed fishing & wilderness adventure. Fishing trips cater to both the experienced and novice fisherman.

Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion

Start this adventure with a spectacular helicopter ride over glaciers and icebergs. We often see moose, black bears, Dall sheep, and mountain goats. Land on a huge snowfield high on a glacier and enjoy a whole hour with Alaskan sled dogs and their mushers. Take the dog team for an exhilarating dogsled ride through real snow

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Day 4 Anchorage to Talkeetna | Alaska Railroad

Depart early on the Denali Star Train by Goldstar Railcar to Talkeetna, best known as base camp for climbers attempting Mount Denali and for the stunning views of this famous mountain. This afternoon is at leisure to take a stroll down the main street for river views, local brews and great eats. (Breakfast is included onboard the train today)

Talkeetna | Optional Excursions

While your trip includes a variety of carefully selected excursions, you might want to explore additional options to really make the most of your free time. Consider the following list of optional excursions that are available for purchase to further enhance your stay.

Option 1. Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour

Embark on a narrated river cruise into Alaska's wilderness, with views of Denali. Travel 20 miles as a naturalist shares insights on local history, wildlife, and Denali. Explore a Dena'ina Indian encampment and a historic trapper's cabin, learn about trapping, and discover edible plants used by Native communities.

Option 2. Denali Flightseeing Experience | Small Aircraft

This flightseeing tour brings you within 6 miles of Denali's north (19,470 ft.) and south (20,320 ft.) summits. Explore rugged peaks, glacier-filled valleys, and Denali's south and east faces. View the dramatic rise from 2,000 ft. to over 20,320 ft., the Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge, and stunning blue meltwater pools.

Option 3. Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing | Small Aircraft

Fly within 6 miles of Denali's north summit (19,470 ft) and south summit (20,320 ft), showcasing a landscape of rugged peaks, snow-capped mountains, and glacier-filled valleys. Explore the south and east faces of Denali, witnessing its dramatic rise from 2,000 ft to over 20,320 ft. Highlights include the flowing Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge with mile-high granite walls, and striking blue meltwater pools.

Day 5 Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad

This morning take the Denali Star, Alaska Railroad's flagship train, in the Goldstar Railcar to Denali National Park. The afternoon is open for optional activities such as whitewater rafting down the Nenana River, helicopter flightseeing over the Park, landing on a glacier or hiking. (Lunch is included onboard the train today)

Day 6 Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions*Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion | Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion*

Ranked #2 in Drives of a Lifetime by National Geographic Traveler magazine, experience the natural wonders of Alaska's Denali Highway — this time by Jeep! This 4-hour guided excursion travels along a 135 mi (217 km) gravel road & takes you off the beaten path in a 4 x 4 to enjoy scenic views of Denali, the Alaska Range, glaciers and wildlife.

Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour | Coach Tour

This half day tour offers incredible scenery, a narrated history of the park road and opportunities to view the park's wildlife inhabitants. Picturesque highlights include the craggy cliffside of Cathedral Mountain, wildlife rich Sable Pass and braided wash of the East Fork River in Denali National Park.

Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing | Small Aircraft

Get a closer look at Alaska's majestic Denali from the comfortable window seat of a small aircraft. Slip on your provided headset to hear commentary from your guide as you fly over the snow-covered peaks, jagged ridgelines, and glacier carved valleys of Denali National Park, and get within half a mile of the mountain peak.

Option 4. Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter

Be immersed in the vastness of the Denali National Preserve. On your way to the massive Yanert Glacier, your pilot will serve as your guide through this unique glacially-carved environment. Soar over the rolling tundra, keeping an eye out for local residents – caribou, moose, bear, and Dall sheep. Snow capped peaks and glaciers abound on this journey before you set down on a river of ice.

Day 7 Denali National Park Entrance to Fairbanks | Alaska Railroad

This morning is at leisure to enjoy optional activities such as: whitewater rafting down the Nenana River, helicopter flightseeing over the park, landing on a glacier or hiking. By early afternoon, board Alaska Railroad's Denali Star Train in the Goldstar Railcar to Fairbanks. Enjoy the late afternoon scenery as you travel north to Fairbanks where your incredible Alaskan adventure ends. (Dinner is included on board the train today)

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INCLUDED

Package Includes:

- Accommodation including taxes for 6 nights
- Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise + Lunch | Coach + Rail
- Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions
- Anchorage Brew Tour
- Turnagain Arm Wildlife Tour with Alyeska Tram
- Hatcher Pass Hike and History Tour
- Anchorage Flightseeing Safari
- Sunset Photo Safari
- Anchorage Scenic City Tour
- Instalaska Smartphone Turnagain Tour
- Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour
- Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion
- Alaska Railroad – Anchorage to Talkeetna Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Alaska Railroad – Talkeetna to Denali Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
- Denali Highway Jeep Excursion
- Tundra Wilderness Tour
- Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing by Plane
- Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing by Helicopter
- Alaska Railroad - Denali to Fairbanks Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Meals as per Itinerary

Hotel & Rail Information | Moderate Grade

- Anchorage - Hilton Anchorage Hotel | Standard Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Main Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Denali Cabins | Standard Cabin

Hotel & Rail Information | Superior Grade

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- Anchorage - Hotel Captain Cook | Deluxe Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Mountainside Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Grande Denali Lodge | Standard Room

Alaska Railroad | Goldstar All our itineraries except the Glacier Discovery Train includes Gold Star Dome Service. These railcars feature large, curved glass windows that run the full length of the car, allowing excellent 360 degree viewing plus a private outdoor viewing deck. The service is inclusive of all meals that are served in the lower-level dining room.

Alaska Railroad | Glacier Discovery Train The Glacier Discovery train between Anchorage to Whittier (Prince William Sound) only offers the Adventure Class. These single level railcars with a shared vista dome have high ceilings, large windows, as well as a truly surprising amount of leg room. Most seats recline and have foot rests. Meals can be purchased on-board.

Not Included:

- Gratuities
- Activities other than specified
- Portage fees
- Talkeetna | Optional Excursions
- Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour
- Denali Flightseeing Experience
- Denali Flightseeing Experience with Glacier Landing

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DATES & PRICING

Departs from Anchorage: Daily

(Tour Code: TRA7)

Departs from Fairbanks: Daily

(Tour Code: TRA8)

DATE	TWIN	SINGLE	TRIPLE	CHILD
Moderate Garde				
17 May 25 - 25 May 25	\$3,339	\$4,617	\$2,955	\$1,289
26 May 25 - 05 Sep 25	\$3,758	\$5,250	\$3,303	\$1,370
06 Sep 25 - 12 Sep 25	\$3,194	\$4,326	\$2,858	\$1,289
Superior Grade				
17 May 25 - 25 May 25	\$4,121	\$6,149	\$3,544	\$1,289
26 May 25 - 05 Sep 25	\$4,361	\$6,424	\$3,772	\$1,370
06 Sep 25 - 12 Sep 25	\$3,976	\$5,859	\$3,447	\$1,289
Freedom of Choice Upgrade & Optional Excursions				
		-	-	-
Anchorage Freedom of Choice Upgrade Option	-	-	-	-
Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion	\$606	-	-	-
Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion	\$835	-	-	-
Alaska Fly-in Bear Viewing Tour	\$1,503	-	-	-
Talkeetna Optional Excursions	-	-	-	-
Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Excursion	\$95	-	-	-
Denali Flightseeing Experience	\$357	-	-	-
Denali Flightseeing Experience with Glacier Landing	\$504	-	-	-
Denali Freedom of Choice Upgrade Option	-	-	-	-
Denali Summit Flightseeing by Plane	\$222	-	-	-
Denali Glacier Landing by Helicopter	\$434	-	-	-
		-	-	-

Pricing in USD\$. Prices are per person and include all taxes. Child age 10 yrs & under

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