

ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE: KENAI AND DENALI

An exclusive trip for the Saint Louis Zoo

Be one of a handful of lucky people to participate in this extraordinary opportunity. When we consulted Charlie Hoessle, Saint Louis Zoo Director Emeritus, about one of his favorite places to visit, he suggested this special itinerary from Alaska Wildland Adventures. What's more, Charlie will meet with your group during this trip to share his love and knowledge of Alaska's wildlife as he will be there for the summer. You'll see parts of Alaska that most tours miss, under the leadership of outstanding, experienced guides from an award winning tour operator. Alaska Wildland Adventures was featured in the 2007 October issue of National Geographic Traveler's Tours of a Lifetime: 50 of the World's Best Guided Expeditions.

Your adventure starts in Fairbanks with a visit to the University's Large Animal Research Center for an encounter with the rare musk ox, and an opportunity to learn about wildlife management in the far North. Your group travels next to Denali National Park via the historic Alaska Railroad. You will spend two full days in Denali National Park in the remote Kantishna region, hiking on the tundra, panning for gold and viewing the abundant wildlife. Here you will have a chance of seeing grizzlies, moose, dall sheep and a

wide variety of birds. Of course, there will be wonderful photo opportunities with North America's highest peak as the backdrop.

After an overnight in Anchorage, you drive to the Chugach National Forest to your launch site on the Kenai River for a scenic raft trip into the heart of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Your final destination is the heart of Kenai Fjords National Park. While traveling by boat you will be on the lookout for sea otters, sea lions, eagles, and whales, with the opportunity to sea kayak for those who wish. The Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge provides you with a unique Alaska experience on the beach overlooking Pederson Glacier surrounded by miles of wilderness. After two nights we return to Seward for our last night before departing for the Lower 48.

Trip activity level: *The activity level on this trip is moderate with biking, rafting, and kayaking activities that require one to be physically fit. (Note: Every effort will be made to offer a substitute activity to those unable to join the group.)*

**Escorted by Mary Duncan,
Zoo Pathologist**

For more information, contact Altair Travel at (314) 968-9600.



ITINERARY

Alaska Backcountry Adventure

July 31 – August 9, 2010

**\$6,050 per person double occupancy
(plus airfare to Alaska)**

\$7,290 per person single occupancy

- › **Saturday, July 31**
St. Louis / Fairbanks, Alaska
- › **Sunday, August 1**
Fairbanks / Denali National Park
- › **Monday, August 2**
Denali National Park
- › **Tuesday, August 3**
Denali / Anchorage
- › **Wednesday, August 4**
Anchorage / Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- › **Thursday, August 5**
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- › **Friday, August 6**
Kenai Fjords National Park
- › **Saturday, August 7**
Kenai Fjords National Park
- › **Sunday, August 8**
Kenai Fjords National Park / Seward
- › **Monday, August 9**
Seward / St. Louis



SATURDAY, JULY 31

St. Louis / Fairbanks, Alaska

Travel with the St. Louis group or independently for your arrival into Alaska's largest northern city, Fairbanks. This afternoon meet your Alaska Wildland Adventures trip leader in the hotel lobby to enjoy a tour of Fairbanks. You will visit the newly enhanced University of Fairbanks Museum and the University's Large Animal Research Center, for a tour to see an elusive and unusual northern animal, the muskox. This evening we will have our welcome dinner, as well as visit the famous Alaska Pipeline. Overnight in Fairbanks at the Pike's Waterfront Lodge. **D**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Fairbanks / Denali National Park

After breakfast, board the historic Alaska Railroad and travel south to Denali National Park where you stop for lunch at the park entrance. After lunch, you embark on a 5-6 hour Denali wildlife drive through the park on the private Kantishna Roadhouse bus. You will watch for caribou, moose, dall sheep, grizzly bears and resident & migratory birds – and if weather permits – gaze upon the splendor of Denali (Mt. McKinley)! Kantishna Roadhouse is nestled in the heart of the park where upon arrival you enjoy dinner and settle into the cabin accommodations for our two night stay.



B, L, D

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Kantishna Region, Denali National Park

Enjoy a full day of exploration and hiking in the Kantishna region of Denali National Park. The activities available at the Kantishna Roadhouse include guided hiking, natural history programs, gold panning, dog sled demonstration, and mountain biking. Optional add-on flight-seeing tours will be offered during your stay at the lodge. **B, L, D**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

Denali National Park / Anchorage

Following an early breakfast, you embark on a return Denali scenic drive and watch for wildlife while heading for the entrance of the park. Today's journey brings us south to Alaska's largest city – Anchorage. You'll break for a delicious picnic lunch and casual nature walk in the afternoon. Dinner will be in Anchorage and the evening is free to explore downtown Anchorage.

B, L, D

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

Anchorage / Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

After breakfast, you'll enjoy a scenic drive south along Turnagain Arm and through the Chugach National Forest to the quaint community of Cooper Landing. From your launch site on the Kenai River, you will gear up for a scenic raft trip into the heart of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. On this Class II, casual stretch of river, you'll be able to access stunning backcountry sights and protected wilderness areas.

Nearly two million acres in size, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is characterized by its diverse habitats and wildlife. In fact,

the Refuge is considered by many visitors to represent Alaska in miniature. The dense vegetation on the banks of the river provides excellent habitat for moose. The biggest bull moose can be 7 ½ feet tall at the shoulders, weigh 1,800 lbs., and have antlers that span more than 6 feet. Along the river during our raft trip, scan for moose, bald eagles and other bird species, and salmon. The Kenai River is famous for its salmon, and depending on the time of your visit, you may witness their incredible spawning runs. A delicious picnic lunch will be served along the river or on the shore of Skilak Lake.



Late afternoon, you will arrive at our boat-in only Kenai Backcountry Lodge, in the midst of the National Wildlife Refuge. The Lodge utilizes a simple but effective hydroelectric power system to provide water and electricity, reducing the need for fossil fueled power. Appetizers and dinner welcome us in the main lodge, followed by evening activities. Relax in the outdoor gazebo or in the wood-fired sauna. Overnight at Kenai Backcountry Lodge for our two night stay. **B, L, D**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Spend a full day exploring the remote wilderness of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. You may choose to hike the secluded Cottonwood Creek trail and travel through several fascinating ecological communities, starting with the lush hemlock forests and making your way to highland tundra. At the top of the trail, explore the tundra and summer snow pack, with splendid views of the lake and surrounding wilderness.

Another popular activity is exploring the lakeshore by boat (weather permitting), stopping for scenic views and short nature walks. Your guides will introduce you to some of our favorite hidden coves and channels in this glacier-fed lake.

Everyone meets back in the main lodge for a sumptuous dinner and great conversation with others in our group about what we discovered on our exploration. Depending on the weather, options for the evening may include a casual lake paddle by sturdy touring kayak or fireside natural history presentation by one of the Lodge's guides. **B, L, D**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

Kenai Fjords National Park

This morning, you'll board a small boat bound for Kenai Fjords National Park – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife, like whales, Stellar sea lions, sea otters, puffins and more! A four hour marine wildlife cruise will allow us to explore the rugged coastlines. You will enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at your exclusive lodge destination: Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. Nestled in a protected



tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers miles of pristine beachfront for combing and views of the stunning Pederson Glacier. This afternoon, meet your guides for a tour of the lodge and property and settle into your private cabins. After dinner, the guides provide us with an evening presentation. Overnight at Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge for your two night stay. **B, L, D**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Kenai Fjords National Park

After breakfast in the main lodge, you will choose from a wide array of activities best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include hiking, sea kayaking, or small ship explorations by motorized skiff. Or, you may relax at the lodge and pour through our natural history library, or comb the beachfront on a casual stroll. **B, L, D**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Kenai Fjords National Park / Seward

This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, hike or beach comb for a half-day before boarding our boat for the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Spend more time seeking out whales, sea lions, sea birds and the stunning coastline, followed by a comfortable overnight stay at the Seward Windsong Lodge, located near the massive Exit Glacier. Overnight Seward. **B, L, D**

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Seward / St. Louis

After breakfast, a special behind-the-scenes visit to the Alaska Sea Life Center will be enjoyed before a scenic return drive to Anchorage. Your Trip Leader will drop you off at either the Anchorage Airport or your airport-area hotel starting at 2:30 pm. Your wilderness experience will provide endless stories to share and lure you back as you hearken the call of the wild. **B, L**



Note: We do not expect any major changes from this schedule. However, in the spirit of adventure, we allow our itinerary to remain flexible so that we may take advantage of spontaneous events.

Land Costs Include:

- All meals, unless noted
- All transportation within Alaska
- All lodging as noted
- All park user fees
- All gear and equipment
- All guided activities as noted
- Services of an Alaska Wildland Adventures Trip Leader
- All ground transfers (including airport shuttles)
- Porterage
- Gratuities to non-Alaska Wildland Adventures staff at restaurants, hotels, etc.
- Alcoholic beverages at Welcome and Farewell dinners (1-2 drinks per person)
- Luggage Handling
- Trip Insurance including Trip Cancellation for accident or medical and Trip Interruption. Provided by Travelex Insurance Company

Land Costs Does Not Include:

- Airfare from home city to and from Alaska
- Soda-beer-wine-liquor other than listed above
- Gratuities to Alaska Wildlife Adventures Guides
- Any additional hotel stays in arrival/ departure cities

Alaska Backcountry Adventure: Kenai and Denali

July 31 – August 9, 2010

Our Zoo Travel adventures fill quickly. To be assured of space prior to sending in your reservation form, please call: 314-968-9600. This form with deposit should be sent to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
314-968-9600

PERSONAL INFORMATION - Please fill out one reservation form for each traveler.

Full Name (as it appears on your passport)

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Evening Telephone (____) _____ Day Telephone (____) _____

E-mail _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

____ Double with _____

____ Please match with roommate (if not available I understand I will pay the single supplement)

____ Single occupancy (limited availability)

____ I am a smoker ____ non Smoker

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

OTHER INFORMATION:

Dietary preference: __ Regular __ Vegetarian __ Other

Physical Concerns/Limitations _____

Additional travelers in your group: _____

PAYMENT

Land Package price is \$6,050 per person based on Double Occupancy

Land Package price is \$7,290 per person based on Single Occupancy

Estimated air costs, as of August 2009 are \$820 - \$880 per person, air and airfare are subject to availability and subject to change.

Please contact Altair Travel and Cruises regarding airfare. Airfare, air taxes, and fuel supplements are not included in the package price.

A deposit of \$1000 per person payable by credit card or check, payable to Altair Travel and Cruises is required, along with this form, to hold space on this departure. (Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted credit cards.)

Please mail your registration form, passport copy and deposit payment to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, Mo 63144
(314) 968-9600

Your final payment will be due April 1, 2010.

Inclusions:

All meals, unless noted

All transportation within Alaska. *R/T airfare to and from home city is additional.*

All lodging as noted

All park user fees

Gear and equipment

All guided activities as noted

Services of an Alaska Wildland adventures Trip Leader

All ground transfers (including airport shuttles)

Porterage

Gratuities to non-Alaska Wildland Adventures staff at restaurants, hotels, etc.

Alcoholic beverages at Welcome and Farewell dinners (1-2 drinks per person)

Luggage Handling

Trip Insurance including Trip Cancellation for accident or medical and Trip Interruption. Provided by Travelex Insurance Company

Exclusions:

Airfare from home city to and from Alaska

Soda-beer-wine-liquor other than listed above

Gratuities to Alaska Wildlife Guides

Any additional hotel stays in arrival/ departure cities

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Alaska Wildland Adventures and our cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide aid and other transportation services, hotels, guides and other travel related corrections equated with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Alaska Wildland Adventures its owners, employees, agents, sponsoring organization and/or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act of omission of any person or firm which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option

The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Alaska Wildland Adventures its cooperating agents and sponsoring organization shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of Acts of God, weather, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, acts of nature, military, political or terrorist action, civil disturbances, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control.

On advancement of a deposit, the traveler agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth above.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be in writing.

Cancellations made before April 1, 2010 will incur a \$200 penalty.

Cancellations made between April 1 – May 1, 2010 will incur a 50% per person trip cost.

Cancellations made after May 2, 2010 will incur a 100% per person penalty.

We understand how disappointing it is for travelers in the event they are forced to cancel their adventure, especially one that they have been looking forward to for a long time. But we, too, plan for these adventures for quite a long period prior to departure and must continuously send non-refundable payments to hotels and suppliers of transportation. Therefore, we must strictly adhere to our Refund Policy for all travelers.

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that I have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions, Payment, Refund and Cancellation Policy sections on both sides of this reservation form. I also assume all risks involved with regard to this trip and agree that the Saint Louis Zoo, Alaska Wildland Adventures and its affiliates will in no way be responsible for any injury or damage to me or other members of my party.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ (if traveler is under age 18)

Credit card information

Credit card number _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Please make a copy of this entire registration form for your records.

ADULT HEALTH/EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM

Please return this form with your registration

Last Name

First Name

Address (Street and Apt. #)

City

Zip Code

Birth Date

Home Telephone Number

Blood Type (if known)

A. Health/Special Needs Information

1. Do you have any health conditions (e.g. allergies, chronic conditions) or special circumstances (e.g. religious convictions or legal arrangements) which may affect program participation or that we should know about prior to emergency treatment?

2. Do you have a special physical needs (e.g. visually or hearing impaired, wheelchair bound, unable to climb stairs without assistance) for which you will require special attention or specific accommodations? If yes, please explain, listing your needs.

B. Medications

1. Please list any medications you are currently taking:

C. Emergency Information

1. Who should we notify in case of an accident or medical emergency?
(Please list an individual other than your traveling companion.)

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Telephone Number _____

2. Please give us the name of your health/accident insurance carrier(s) and appropriate policy certification number(s):

Name of Carrier _____ Policy Number _____

Name of Carrier _____ Policy Number _____

Signature