

# Alaska



## A Special Departure for The Nature Conservancy's Legacy Club

Dates: August 22<sup>nd</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Estimated Cost: \$4657 per person based on double  
occupancy from Fairbanks, Alaska

# Day 1

**Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Independent arrival into Alaska's largest northern city, Fairbanks. This afternoon meet your Trip Leader and the rest of the group in the hotel lobby at 2:30 p.m., then enjoy a tour of Fairbanks, with a special tour of the University of Alaska's International Arctic Research Center. Discuss climate change and its impact on this delicate northern climate. We will also visit the University's Museum of the North and Large Animal Research Center, where we can see an elusive and unusual northern animal, the muskox. This evening we will have a Welcome Dinner, as well as visit the famous Alaska Pipeline. Overnight in Fairbanks at the Pike's Waterfront Lodge.

# Day 2

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Today's adventure brings us (by plane) to the northernmost city in the United States – Barrow, Alaska – for a chance to see the Arctic Ocean and learn about modern life in a native village. Step foot on tundra and permafrost; scan for snowy owls, eider ducks or the other 230 bird species which summer in Barrow; and take part in traditional Inupiat dances and arts during our visit to the Inupiat Heritage Center and Museum. Walk the shoreline of the Arctic Ocean, and for those brave enough, dip your toes in the frigid water. A return flight to Fairbanks and group dinner will round out our day. Overnight in Fairbanks at the Pike's Waterfront Lodge.

# Day 3

**Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast, continue traveling south aboard the historic Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park and stop for lunch at the Denali Park entrance. After lunch, embark on a 5-6 hour Denali wildlife drive through the park on the private Kantishna Roadhouse bus. Watch for caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly bears and resident & migratory birds – and if weather permits – gaze upon the splendor of Denali (Mt. McKinley)! Upon arrival at the Kantishna Roadhouse, enjoy dinner and settle into your cabin accommodations.

# Day 4

**Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 flightseeing tours will be offered during your stay at the lodge. Overnight at Kantishna Roadhouse.



# Day 5

Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

Following an early breakfast, 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. We'll break for a delicious picnic lunch and casual nature walk in the afternoon. Dinner will be enjoyed in Anchorage. Overnight in downtown Anchorage.

# Day 6

Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

South of Anchorage, we'll encounter northernmost rainforest areas on a short hike in Girdwood. The massive forests and greenery will offer a stark contrast to the tundra of the Arctic and Denali. After lunch, we continue south to the Kenai Peninsula, for a behind-the-scenes visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center. The center features interactive exhibits and aquariums. Watch puffins dive in the Center's two-story aquarium and "fly" underwater, and learn about the amazing coastal wonders that you will encounter during tomorrow's adventure to the Fjords.

After exploring Seward's waterfront, enjoy dinner and relaxing at the Seward Windsong Lodge. An evening nature walk will bring us to the face of the stunning Exit Glacier. Overnight Seward Windsong Lodge.

# Day 7

Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Today, we board our custom catamaran 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 4 hour marine wildlife cruise will allow us to explore the rugged coastlines. Enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at our 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. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations. Overnight Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge.

# Day 8

Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a wide array of activities best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include hiking, sea kayaking, small ship and explorations by motorized skiff. Or, guests may relax at the lodge and pore through our natural history library, or comb the beachfront on a casual stroll. Overnight Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge.

# Day 9

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

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. 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.

# Day 10

Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, followed by airport shuttles.

