

Alaska 2019 Sample Itinerary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Hotel</u>
6/27	<p>Day 1: Arrival Early morning flight from New York and arrives in Anchorage in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel. Free time to explore Anchorage.</p>	<p>Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham 5205 Northwood Drive Anchorage, AK 99517 (907) 245-5002</p>
6/28	<p>Day 2: Drive to Denali National Park <u>Morning:</u> Relax and view the scenic beauty along the Alaska Highway. This is not a normal road so be sure to keep an eye out for wildlife and magnificent views of Mt. McKinley. On a clear day you will start to get a glimpse of the Mountain within an hour of departing Anchorage. Two hours into the trip marks one of the most spectacular views of McKinley, and if the weather is good we will stop to snap a few photos. We will stop in Talkeetna for lunch. <u>Afternoon:</u> After arriving at the hotel, we will make our way to the entrance of Denali National Park. The visitor center will provide us with an overview of the park with pictures, exhibits and movies. We will also listen to a park ranger give an introduction of Denali. The group will then take a short hike to Horseshoe Lake. This popular trail provides a panoramic view of the Nenana River, the development called “Glitter Gulch” right outside the park, and surrounding mountains. A beaver dam and lodge are evident in the oxbow lake.</p>	<p>Denali Bluffs Hotel 238 George Parks Hwy, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK 99755 (866) 683-8500</p>
6/29	<p>Day 3: Denali National Park: <u>Morning:</u> We will spend the day in the park. We will be taking the Denali Park Shuttle Bus to Eielson Visitor Center at in the late morning. This is a four hour ride into the very heart of the Denali wilderness. The backcountry of the Park provides diverse habitats which support big-game species such as black bear, grizzly, moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolf, and wolverine. Forests and high alpine tundra are also home to porcupine, hare, squirrel, marmot, mink, marten, beaver, lynx, fox, and coyote. <u>Afternoon:</u> After arriving at the Eielson Visitor Center, we will begin a challenging hike up Thorofare Ridge. There are wonderful views of Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range from many locations on this hike. The big open vistas give the feeling of being at the edge of the mountains.</p>	<p>Denali Bluffs Hotel 238 George Parks Hwy, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK 99755 (866) 683-8500</p>
6/30	<p>Day 4: Denali National Park <u>Morning:</u> This morning we will spend our last day in Denali taking in the sights of the park by hiking. The Mount Healy overlook hike is approximately 2 miles and will allow us to see wildlife and breathtaking views. This will be our highest climb of the trip as we reach over 4,300 feet above sea level. <u>Afternoon:</u> Just before leaving the park we will take in a Dog sled demonstration. Rangers and dogs work together to demonstrate a traditional Alaskan mode of travel. These unique, 30 minute programs include an opportunity to tour the park kennels and visit Denali's Alaskan huskies. After the demonstration we will board the coach bus and depart for Anchorage.</p>	<p>Comfort Inn Ships Creek 111 W Ship Creek Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 277-6887</p>

7/1	<p>Day 5: Seward</p> <p>Morning: We begin our day by traveling to Seward. This ride is full of incredible sites including black bears and Dall sheep that can often be seen along this section. Heading up into the mountains you'll pass glaciers, waterfalls, snowy mountaintops of the Chugach Range and travel through lush spruce and birch forests.</p> <p>Our first stop is at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center non profit organization dedicated to conservation, education, and quality animal care. AWCC takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and provides them with spacious enclosures and quality animal care. The Center maintains over 200 acres of spacious habitats for animals to feel at home and display their natural “wild” behavior. Visitors may see brown bears cooling off in the water, a bull moose strutting, wood bison roaming on pastures and more.</p> <p>Afternoon: After lunch, the group will head over to see the Begich Boggs Visitor Center which provides spectacular views of Portage Glacier. The Visitor Center also offers an unique opportunity to learn about the Chugach National Forest, America's second largest single national forest.</p> <p>Evening: After checking into the Seward Windsong Lodge, we will take a walk to see exit glacier. This magnificent glacier dominates the landscape with its brilliant white and blue colors. It allows you to witness how they re-shape a landscape and how plant life reclaims the barren rocky land exposed by a glacier’s retreat.</p>	<p>Seward Windsong Lodge 31772 Herman Leirer Rd Seward, AK 99664 (907) 224-7116</p>
7/2	<p>Day 6: Seward</p> <p>Morning: Today the group can choose between two activities: The first is an exploration tour of Seward. Participants can visit the ocean front shops and restaurants of this charming area. Several museums and historical sites are also available to tour. The second is a hike up Marathon Mountain. This hike provides spectacular panoramic views of Seward, the surrounding Kenai and Resurrection Mountains, and out to Resurrection Bay into the Gulf of Alaska.</p> <p>Afternoon: We will take a walking tour of Seward to take in the sights and sounds of this historic city. This harbour town is surrounded by white capped mountains on three sides which contrasts with the bright blue ocean. The bustling town offers excellent seafood restaurants, a marine ocean center and a host of local shops.</p>	<p>Seward Windsong Lodge 31772 Herman Leirer Rd Seward, AK 99664 (907) 224-7116</p>
7/3	<p>Day 7: Seward</p> <p>Morning: Boat Cruise: Kenai Fjords National Park abounds with marine sea life and is a must for those interested in Alaska glacier cruises, whale watching, Alaska bird watching, and wildlife viewing. This six-hour wildlife and glacier cruise travels approximately 110 miles round-trip cruising the vast beauty of Kenai Fjords. The cruise features abundant wildlife, alpine and tidewater glaciers, and spectacular scenery.</p> <p>Afternoon: After the excursions, we will board the coach bus back to Anchorage.</p>	<p>Comfort Inn Ships Creek 111 W Ship Creek Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 277-6887</p>
7/4 and 7/5	<p>Day 8: Anchorage</p> <p>Morning: Option Day: Explore downtown Anchorage with its quaint shops and dining at its many restaurants. Another option will be to take a hike on a trail located just outside of Anchorage. This will provide the group with great views overlooking the city of Anchorage and its surrounding ocean inlet.</p> <p>Afternoon: Depart Anchorage late at night and arrive back in New York the following day on July 5th.</p>	