



Tour: ALASKA – THE LAST FRONTIER
Destination: Fairbanks & Anchorage, Alaska
Itinerary: 8-days / 7-nights itinerary
Availability: May through September annually

ALASKA: THE LAST FRONTIER - Summer				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel to Fairbanks, Alaska; transfer to Hotel and get checked in; dinner on own while traveling			
2	Fairbanks City Tour & Trans-Alaska Pipeline Visit	University of Alaska Campus Visit + Museum of the North + Northern Lights "Dynamic Aurora" Film	Chena River Sternwheel Cruise	Salmon Bake & "Golden Heart City" Theatre
3	Railroad to Denali National Park & Preserve + Denali Tundra Wildlife Tour + Boxed Dinner			
4	Travel to Historic Talkeetna for short stop and then on to Wasilla	Martin Buser & Happy Trails Kennel Master Class: Local Dog Musher in Wasilla; 4-time Iditarod Race winner	Anchorage; Hotel Check-In	Local Dinner
5	The Anchorage Museum	Anchorage City Tour	Shopping & Exploration	Local Dinner
6	Alaska SeaLife Rescue Center, Seward	Kenai Fjords Wildlife Cruise	Return to Anchorage	Local Dinner
7	Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center	Alaska Native Heritage Center	Local Dinner	Airport Check in & return flight home
8	Arrive Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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 North Carolina, USA

P: 984.223.9866
 E: info@STEMstudytours.com
 W: www.STEMstudytours.com

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please know that separate itineraries are available for both summer and winter travel to Alaska. Winter seasonality includes October through April; summer includes May through September. Regardless, weather conditions can be severe in Alaska so please understand that itineraries are subject to change. Please know though, if change does need to occur, we promise you will still have an amazing time!

Day 1

Meals on own; in flight

Alaska - Where does your mind go when you think about Alaska?

Perhaps you dream about the highest mountains or the Arctic plains. The deep green of the old growth rainforest or the varying blues of the rushing rivers, tranquil lakes, deep oceans, and ancient glaciers. Alaska is all you imagine and more. Explore and get inspired by the vast landscapes, native cultures, wildlife, and wild places. Create your ideal itinerary – the things and places you’ve always wanted to see; then come see for yourself what Alaska has to offer. It’s amazing!



Groups traveling to Alaska will generally arrive in Fairbanks in the late evening or early morning hours. Plan on purchasing your meals as you fly, ensuring you are well fed! Upon arrival into Fairbanks, your motorcoach will be waiting to transport your group to the hotel for a quick check-in and off to bed! Our fabulous journey starting tomorrow!

Did you know?

- ✓ Alaska's name is based on the Eskimo word 'Alakshak' meaning great lands or peninsula. The term 'Alaska native' refers to Alaska's original inhabitants including Aleut, Eskimo and Indian groups.
- ✓ Outsiders first discovered Alaska in 1741 when Danish explorer Vitus Jonassen Bering sighted it on a voyage from Siberia. Russian whalers and fur traders on Kodiak Island established the first settlement in Alaska in 1784.
- ✓ In 1867 United States Secretary of State William H. Seward offered Russia \$7,200,000, or two cents per acre, for Alaska.
- ✓ The fishing and seafood industry is the state's largest private industry employer. Most of America's salmon, crab, halibut, and herring come from Alaska.
- ✓ Dog mushing is the official state sport. The Alaskan Malamute sled dog is strong and heavily coated. It was developed as a breed by a group of Eskimos named the Malemiuts.
- ✓ Nearly one-third of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle.
- ✓ The discovery of gold in the Yukon began a gold rush in 1898. Later gold was discovered at Nome and Fairbanks.



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- ✓ Alaska is the USA's largest state and is over twice the size of Texas. Measuring from north to south the state is approximately 1,400 miles long and measuring from east to west it is 2,700 miles wide. The state's coastline extends over 6,600 miles. When a scale map of Alaska is superimposed on a map of the 48 lower states of the USA, Alaska extends from coast to coast.
- ✓ 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States are located in Alaska. At 20,320 feet above sea level, Mt. McKinley, located in Alaska's interior, is the highest point in North America.
- ✓ Juneau is the only capital city in the United States accessible only by boat or plane.
- ✓ Alaska is one of the largest crude oil producers in the nation and relies on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System to transport crude oil from the frozen North Slope to the warm-water port at Valdez on the state's southern coast.
- ✓ Alaska ranks third in the nation in natural gas gross withdrawals and the state opened the first U.S. liquefied natural gas export terminal in Kenai in 1969, but most of the state's gas production is not brought to market because of the lack of pipeline transport.
- ✓ Many rural communities in Alaska rely primarily on diesel electric generators for power, and Alaska ranks second only to Hawaii in the share of its electricity that is generated from petroleum liquids.
- ✓ Wind power from over 100 turbines accounts for more than three-fourths of Alaska's electricity supply generated by nonhydroelectric renewable sources in 2016.
- ✓ Alaska was one of eight states in 2016 generating electricity from geothermal energy; the state's first geothermal power plant, Chena Hot Springs, opened in 2006 and has a generating capacity of 730 kilowatts.

Fairbanks... Go deep inside Alaska, where the unparalleled meets the unexpected!

Fairbanks emanates a quality of light, energy and warmth found nowhere else on Earth. The northern lights will change you, while the summer midnight sun charms you. Greet the Arctic wilderness on your doorstep or be amazed by Fairbanks' magnificent neighbor, Denali. Be transported into the gold rush past or engaged in the art and culture of this vibrant and diverse city. Make your journey into the heart of the Last Frontier and experience the light, energy and warmth found only in Fairbanks, Alaska.



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Before the construction of the Alaska Highway, the establishment of military bases and Alaska's induction into the union as the 49th state of the USA, Fairbanks was an energetic mining town. Italian immigrant, Felix Pedro, is credited with the initial discovery of gold in 1902. As luck would have it, Captain E.T. Barnette's goal of building a trading post on the banks of the Chena River coincided with this, as well as other key gold strikes north of town. Subsequently, Fairbanks was incorporated in 1903.

More than one hundred years later, this small boomtown has a diversified economy, with oil, gas, gold and coal mining, military, tourism and the University of Alaska as key components. Fairbanks continues in its role as the services hub and gateway to Alaska's Interior and Arctic. With a population of close to 33,000, Fairbanks' citizenry swells to almost 97,000 when including the surrounding Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Sample Hotel: Pikes Waterfront Lodge – on the Chena River, Pike's Waterfront Lodge offers comfortable rooms many with scenic views, a steam room, riverside deck, restaurant, a comfortable lounge, and wireless Internet in the public areas and most sleeping rooms. The hotel offers Aveda aromatherapy room amenities and is next door to famous Pike's Landing restaurant. Students sleep 4 to a room in rooms with 2 queen beds; staff sleep double occupancy.



Day 2

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Fairbanks! After breakfast, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting, and then get our exploration started!



Fairbanks City Tour – We'll start this morning getting to know this small town which is best known as being the "Golden Heart of Alaska". At 65 degrees north latitude, the sky takes on a capricious life of its own—a canvas for the aurora borealis, the midnight sun and sunsets and sunrises that last forever. Here there are serious mountain ranges, pristine rivers and lakes, abundant wildlife and a certain poignant solitude that is found nowhere else on earth. Locals embrace the natural world and have created a vibrant river city in the far north. Where else can you travel to such a remote locale and still enjoy all the amenities of a charming downtown, a thriving arts community, rich Alaska Native culture, authentic Alaskan activities and attractions and endless opportunities for exploration? Welcome to Fairbanks!

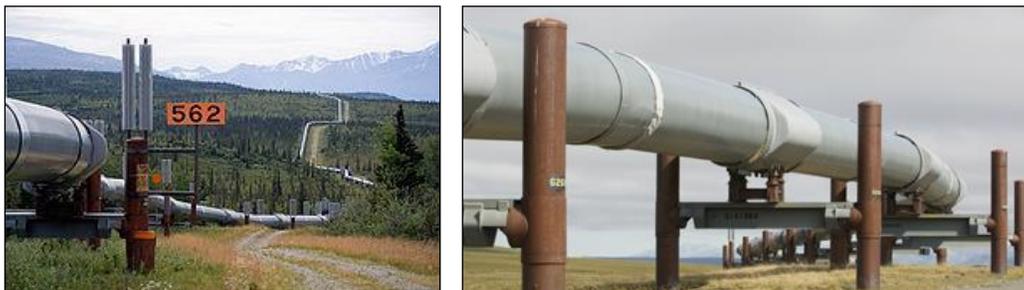


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After, we'll visit the Alaska Pipeline where students will learn what it takes to move the oil from the North Slope to Valdez.

The Alaska Pipeline – The 800-mile-long Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) is one of the world's largest pipeline systems. Starting in Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope, TAPS stretches through rugged and beautiful terrain to Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in North America. Since pipeline start up in 1977, Alyeska - TAPS' operator - has successfully transported billion of barrels of oil.



The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System includes the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, 11 pump stations, several hundred miles of feeder pipelines, and the Valdez Marine Terminal. The pipeline was built between 1974 and 1977 after the 1973 oil crisis caused a sharp rise in oil prices in the United States. This rise made exploration of the Prudhoe Bay oil field economically feasible. Environmental, legal, and political debates followed the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968, and the pipeline was built only after the oil crisis provoked the passage of legislation designed to remove legal challenges to the project.

The task of building the pipeline had to address a wide range of difficulties, stemming mainly from the extreme cold and the difficult, isolated terrain. The construction of the pipeline was one of the first large-scale projects to deal with problems caused by permafrost, and special construction techniques had to be developed to cope with the frozen ground. The project attracted tens of thousands of workers to Alaska, causing a boomtown atmosphere in Valdez, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

- Length - 800 miles; Diameter: 48 inches
- Crosses three mountain ranges and over 800 rivers and streams
- Cost to build: \$8 billion in 1977, the largest privately funded construction project at that time
- Construction began on March 27, 1975 and was completed on May 31, 1977. The first oil moved through the pipeline on June 20, 1977
- The first tanker to carry crude oil from Valdez: ARCO Juneau, August 1, 1977
- Storage tanks in Valdez - 18 with total storage capacity of 9.1 million barrels total

Next up – a visit to the University of Alaska!

University of Alaska Fairbanks – 'The Arctic University' - Alaskans take great pride in their individuality, and Alaska's flagship university campus is no different. UAF students come from Alaska, most other states and 42 foreign countries. Undergraduate students make up 88 percent of the total student body. Starting in 1922, the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened its doors. The school grew quickly, and in 1935 became the University of Alaska. By the time Alaska became a state in 1959, students could earn a Ph.D. at the university. UAF remains the only campus in the state that awards doctoral degrees and it holds the distinction of being one of the few Land, Sea & Space Grant universities in the country.



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During our visit to the University, groups will have a **campus tour** and then get to learn about the Aurora Borealis. Through a **film presentation**, we'll learn what causes the magic of the Northern Lights.

Are the University's Museum – **University of Alaska's Museum of the North** - discover Alaska Native cultures, natural wonders, diverse wildlife and Arctic dinosaurs. Explore 2,000 years of Alaska art, learn about research by museum scientists, and view original exhibits and breathtaking architecture. The Museum's upper level contains 'The Place Where You Go to Listen,' a unique sound and light environment created by composer John Luther Adams. This ever-changing musical ecosystem gives voice to the rhythms of daylight and darkness, the phases of the moon, the seismic vibrations of the earth and the dance of the aurora borealis in real time. The Museum also houses exhibits on Alaska wildlife, culture, native people, and gold. **IMPORTANT** – the museum is only open from Wednesday through Saturday. Unfortunately, if your visit falls on a day outside of this span, the museum will generally not be open for visitors.



In the late afternoon, we will travel to the Chena River for a fabulous cruise on a Chena River Sternwheeler!

Riverboat Discovery Cruise - Climb on board an authentic Alaskan sternwheeler, the Riverboat Discovery, and take a journey back in time along the Chena and Tanana Rivers. Since 1950, the Binkley family has operated riverboat tours in Fairbanks; now you can cruise out into nature with third- and fourth-generation captains and experience the area's history and beauty firsthand. Take a tour with native Alaskans in a traditional village and meet some of the pioneers who call this land home.



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Sternwheeler boats transport you out into the Alaskan wilderness, but also back to a time when gold-rush fever was sweeping across the state. Climb aboard for a fully narrated three-and-a-half-hour tour. As the wheel churns up the water, see if you can spot some of Alaska's abundant wildlife along the riverbank. Later on, you'll see one of Alaska's bush pilots taking off right from the River. At a riverside fish camp, learn how Alaska natives traditionally prepared salmon for smoking and drying. Further down the river, share in the excitement, joy and hard work of an Iditarod dog kennel, run by the family of the late Iditarod champion, Susan Butcher. The Discovery's pilot won't let you miss the amazing site we Alaskans call the "wedding of the waters", where the Chena and Tanana Rivers meet. The boiling current of the glacial Tanana creates clouds of silt that rise and fall as they meet the clear Chena waters.

[WATCH THIS VIDEO](#)

You'll also make an unforgettable one-hour stop at Chena Indian Village. Here native Alaskan guides will take you around their Athabascan village, giving insight into their rich heritage. You'll learn about their connection to the land and animals of Alaska and see close-up their clothing made of hides, furs and decorated with beautiful beadwork.



In the evening, we're off to an all-you-can-eat Salmon Bake followed by a night of entertainment!



Alaska Salmon Bake - Operating in historic Pioneer Park for over 39 years, the Alaska Salmon Bake offers an authentic Alaskan dining experience in a truly unique environment. Featuring a nightly All-You-Care-to-Eat menu of Wood Grilled Salmon, Beer Battered Cod, and Slow Roasted Prime Rib, we are known for wild Alaskan seafood and flavorful family recipes. Dinner includes our Fresh Green Salad Bar, Roasted Potatoes, Grizzly Bear Baked Beans, Sourdough Rolls, Coffee, Tea and a dedicated Dessert Cabin – the only one in Alaska!



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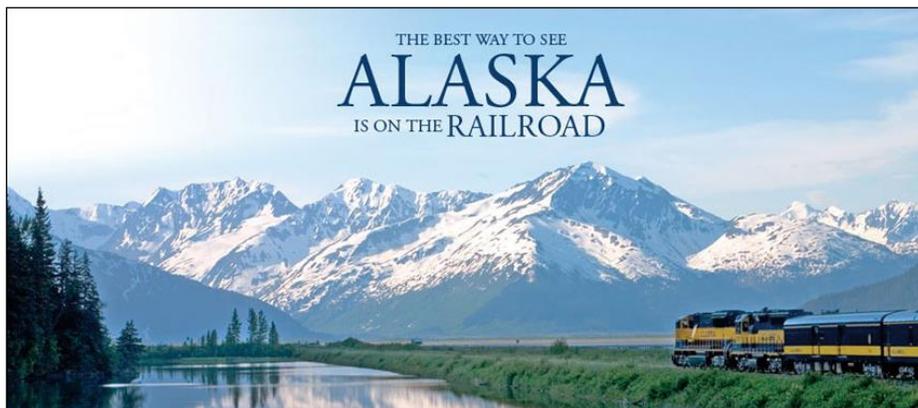


The Palace Theatre – The Palace Theatre’s “Golden Heart City” is a hilarious musical comedy that will leave you laughing, and a bit wiser about life in the last frontier. Through songs and stories, our polished, professional cast gives you the historical highlights of Fairbanks, also known as “The Golden Heart City”, and answers a few commonly asked questions about our town...such as why would anyone want to live here? The Palace Theatre is located in Gold Rush Town in Pioneer Park – Alaska’s only Historic Theme Park, and just a short walk from the Alaska Salmon Bake.

Day 3

Breakfast & boxed dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Alaska! After breakfast at our hotel, we’ll pack our bags, load up and head to the railroad for a train to the majestic Denali!



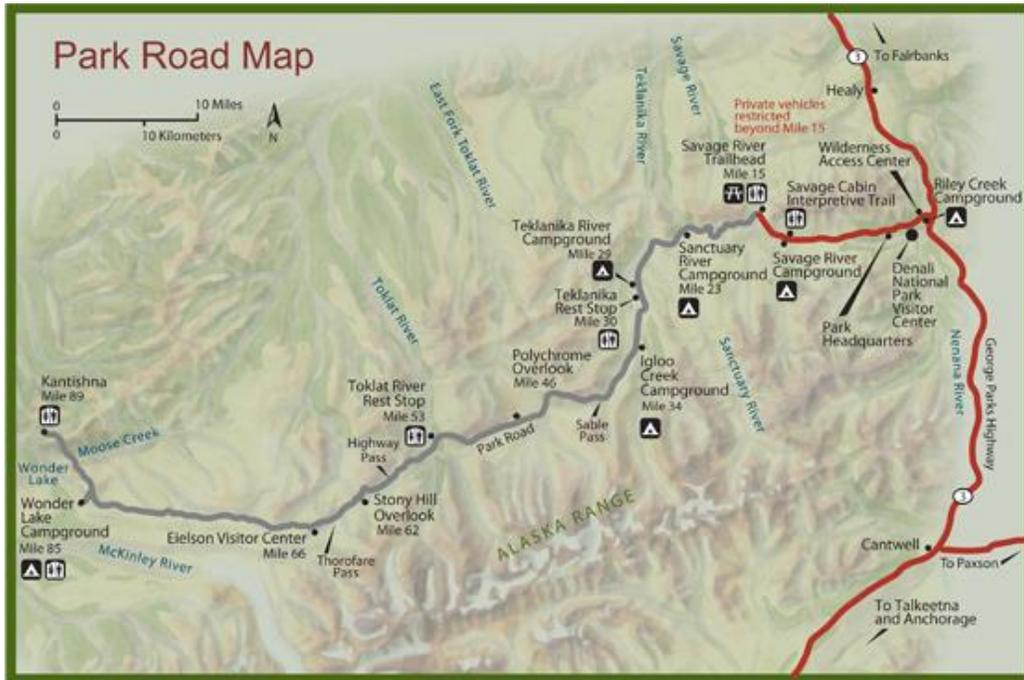
The Alaska Railroad – Riding the Alaskan rails is an experience that’s impossible to duplicate. Snow-capped mountains and wildlife fill the ever-changing panorama of your window, making for the easiest and most luxurious way to drink in the scenery. The 470 total miles of train track run from Seward on the Kenai Peninsula up through Anchorage, to Denali National Park and on into Fairbanks. There are 3 different routes and all of the stretches of track are unforgettable, and many miles run past places inaccessible by car. All seats on the Alaska Railroad are comfortable and spacious with large picture windows.

Denali National Park – Roughly 400,000 intrepid travelers journey to Denali National Park and Preserve each year, primarily between late May and early September. Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska is nearly 6 million acres and over 9,419 square miles in size! Most visitors come in search of wildlife or glimpses of the 20,320’ tall Mount McKinley, the ‘roof of North America.’



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Denali National Park and Preserve has one road, simply called the Denali Park Road, and it is the main avenue for visitors to see and experience Denali. The road is only open in the summer, 92 miles long and only the first 15 miles of it are paved. The Denali Park Road parallels the Alaska Range and travels through low valleys and high mountain passes. Along its route, beautiful scenery can be seen at every turn, and there are many opportunities to view Mt. McKinley - if the normally cloudy skies permit. Wildlife can often be seen, too, though sightings are not guaranteed - they are, after all, wild animals roaming an unfenced land!

Upon arriving in Denali, we will participate in a **Tundra Wilderness Tour** going 60 miles into the park. Bring the binoculars as there is no predicting where we will see wildlife! We'll set our sights to find moose, caribou, sheep, goats, wolves, bears and numerous other forms of wildlife. Unless you travel into the park you have missed the beauty of the interior of Alaska!



Tundra Wilderness Tour - Spend a day and travel almost 60 miles into the wilderness of Denali National Park and the heart of bear country. On the fully guided tour, we'll get interpretation from our driver/guide, along with hours of wildlife spotting and spectacular scenery. If the weather cooperates, we'll see Mount McKinley up close. We'll stop for lunch en route and dinner will be a boxed dinner provided for us.



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During the early part of the trip, watch for moose: there are some huge bulls that hang out in the taiga forest between headquarters and Savage Campground. Look for caribou anywhere above treeline but don't be surprised if wildlife is sparse in those early miles—it's not unusual to see no animals on this section of road, depending on the time of day and season. The tip of Mount McKinley first comes into view at Mile 9. You'll ride over high mountain passes and usually see Dall sheep on the mountainsides. If you're lucky, you'll spot bears too. It's not uncommon to see wolves from Teklanika on.

A high point—literally and figuratively—is the drive over Polychrome Pass, which offers a grand view of the Plains of Murie, stretching to the Alaska Range on the horizon. The colors of the mountains seem to change depending on light and time of day. Just on the other side of Polychrome Pass is the Toklat River and Toklat Bridge. Watch for bears ambling along the tundra or riverbeds and for Mount McKinley, which will be in and out of view the rest of the trip. The bus goes over Highway Pass and stops at the Toklat River rest area. There, Mount McKinley looms about 40 miles away—a perfect photo opportunity.

Tonight, we'll overnight near Denali National Park.

Day 4

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Denali! This morning we will make our way to Anchorage with two stops en route...

Talkeetna - Talkeetna is located at the confluence of three rivers, the Susitna, Chulitna and Talkeetna and began when the area was chosen as a district headquarters for the Alaska Railroad. A post office opened as well as a sawmill, trading post, cigar and donkey store and other businesses. In 1917, the residents encouraged the government to survey the lots on which their homes stood. In 1919, the railroad surveyed and auctioned eighty lots, 41 of which already had permanent structures on them. The average price at the sale was \$14.25. Flightseeing, rafting, mountain biking, hiking, camping, fishing and hunting make up a large portion of the local economy. Talkeetna is a 2½-hour drive from Anchorage.



In the afternoon, we'll visit a local musher to learn more about the athletes who compete in Alaska's official state sport, **dog mushing!**

Happy Trails Kennels & Master Class – Welcome to Happy Trails Kennels, the home of four-time Iditarod Champion Martin Buser and his family. Here, guests from all over the world are welcome to meet the athletes - the stars of Happy Trails - the dogs! Martin Buser is a champion of sled dog racing. Born in Winterthur,



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Switzerland, Buser began mushing at age seventeen in Switzerland. In 1979, he moved to Alaska to train and raise sled dogs full-time. His training operation, Happy Trails Kennels, is located in Big Lake, Alaska.



Arriving at the kennel, you will be greeted by between thirty and sixty sled dogs resting comfortably on their houses in the dog lot. Your tour begins with a welcome and a brief introduction to Happy Trails, with some guidelines for appropriate behavior with the dogs. They are all friendly and love being petted and snuggled but are high energy! In the Visitor Center your virtual trip along the Iditarod trail begins. Via a twenty-minute video, you travel from Anchorage to Nome. Martin's narration includes anecdotal stories from his thirty-five years of racing, as well as a great deal of Iditarod history. The next stop is the log amphitheater. The campfire and wall tent, a mockup of the checkpoint at Cripple, set the stage for a description of life on the trail. The presentation includes an in-depth look at how the real athletes -- the dogs -- are cared for and outfitted for the elements, complete with a "runway" model wearing the latest trail fashion.

A dog sled demonstration run is the noisy part of the tour. A team of six lucky dogs is harnessed to the gangline. You will see and can photograph them as they pull an ATV on a short, highly visible loop. During the harnessing, the uproar of barks of "take me" prohibits any discussion and the smiles on the dogs' faces show visitors what these sled dogs love the most ~ running.

Puppy time is the GRAND FINALE and a favorite part of the tour! You will get to hold puppies and be a part of the socialization program since a major goal at Happy Trails is to raise happy dogs. A small Gift Shop is on site.

Finally, we will arrive in Anchorage. We will get checked into our hotel and then have a great local dinner.

Anchorage

Only in Anchorage can you meet a moose, walk on a glacier and explore a vast, natural park all in a single day. Between mountains and an inlet, surrounded by national parks and filled with Alaska wildlife, Anchorage combines the best of Alaska in a city that has the comforts of home and the hospitality of the Last Frontier. With more than 60 glaciers within 50 miles of downtown, a salmon stream in the heart of the city, six surrounding mountain ranges, 300 miles of wilderness trails and one of the largest state parks in our backyard, it's no wonder. By day, dog sled across an icy glacier, spot copious wildlife, fly out to Denali and get to know Alaska's first people. By night, enjoy hip, metropolitan amenities, a dining scene with abundant fresh-caught seafood, and the frontier spirit of Alaska's largest city.



Sample Anchorage Hotel: Springhill Suites by Marriott - Find unrivaled beauty at Springhill Suites Anchorage with modern amenities, such as free high-speed Wi-Fi and separate areas to work and relax in our spacious



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suites. Nestled at the base of the Chugach Mountain range with a lakefront backdrop, you will be close to the University, and more. Hotel amenities include complimentary internet access, in-room coffee/tea makers, on-site guest laundry, gift shop, ATM, mini-fridge, microwave and hair dryers. Breakfasts are taken on property. Students sleep 4 to a room in rooms with 2 queen beds; staff sleep double occupancy.



Day 5

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Anchorage! Today is a day to get to know this fantastic capital city! After breakfast in our hotel we'll spend our time exploring.

The Anchorage Museum – Alaska's largest museum, the Anchorage Museum tells the story of Alaska and the North. It is a multifaceted story that weaves together social, political, cultural, scientific, historic and artistic threads. Explore the full diversity of Alaska Native cultures, including masterworks of Alaska Native art and design from the collections of the Smithsonian Institution.



- ✚ The Art of the North galleries in the museum's new wing present the museum's art collection from the perspectives of American art and an international North. Paintings, sculpture, photography, video and other media offer varied perceptions of the Northern landscape and wilderness through historical and contemporary depictions of both land and people.
- ✚ The new Alaska Exhibition tells the story of Alaska through multiple voices and perspectives reflecting the ingenuity, technology, ways of knowing and intimate understanding of the landscape that have allowed people to survive and thrive across the North. The exhibition is organized by 13 themes reflecting essential aspects of life in Alaska, both today and throughout the state's rich history. These themes reveal the identity of Alaska and its people.
- ✚ Discover Alaska and the Arctic through science. In the 11,000-square-foot Discovery Center, visitors of all ages are introduced to Alaska and the Arctic through technology, interactive installations, artwork, marine-life tanks and more. The space is divided into several distinct areas, each providing an opportunity to learn about our Northern environment.
- ✚ Finally, the Anchorage Museum Store was named among the world's 10 best by Conde Nast Traveler. Guests may also enjoy the full-service Muse restaurant serving fresh, organic and locally sourced selections, plus coffee bar.

Anchorage City Tour – We'll tour the city with our guide today and get to know some of the best spots as we go from the historic downtown area out to the busiest sea-plane base in the world! From the Chugach Mountains



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to glacier walks, gold mining, and the downtown shops, there's something for everyone in Anchorage. If you have any special requests, please let us know.

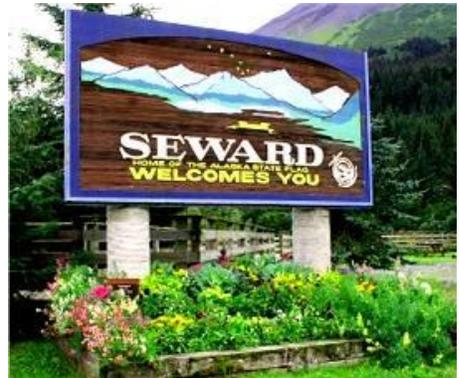
This afternoon we'll have plenty of time to relax, shop and explore. If there's something specific you would like to see, please let us know. The summer is the perfect time to discover the fabulous outdoors in Anchorage. In the evening we will have dinner locally and then free time for personal R & R!

Day 6

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise & shine Alaska! Today is a special day. We will board our coach early and head to Seward, Alaska.

Seward - Situated at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward is one of Alaska's oldest and most scenic communities. Known as the 'Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park,' Seward is a picturesque town located 126 miles south of Anchorage. Voted an 'All American City' in 2005, you'll discover a bustling harbor and historic downtown district filled with quaint shops and art galleries. Visitors can experience trophy sport fishing, glacier and wildlife cruises, sailing, hiking, kayaking, flight seeing, summer dog sled rides, and more.



At 3,022 feet, towering Mt. Marathon provides a breathtaking backdrop for the town. Behind Mt. Marathon and extending down the coast lies the Harding Icefield, measuring 35 by 20 miles. Flowing from the Harding Icefield are many glaciers, eight of which are tidewater glaciers, calving icebergs into the sea, reaching the coastline between Seward and Homer.



The Alaska SeaLife Center – Alaska's only public aquarium and ocean wildlife rescue center is located in beautiful Seward on the shores of Resurrection Bay. Visitors can enjoy close encounters with puffins, octopus, Steller sea lions and other marine animals while peeking over the shoulders of scientists studying life in Alaska's arctic and subarctic marine ecosystems. The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.

- ✚ **Research & Conservation Science** - The Alaska SeaLife Center is one of the only non-profit organizations in the world that has both a public aquarium and fully supported research facility in the same building. With state-of-the-art laboratories, aquarium animals that participate in research and our extensive field work, the Alaska SeaLife Center has quickly become *the* cold-water research facility in the United States. They are affiliated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and also collaborate with numerous state, federal and international agencies and universities—which can mean only one thing - their research is conducted by some of the top marine scientists in the world!
- ✚ **Rescue & Rehabilitation** - The ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Program is an important part of the Center's commitment to understand and maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska through research, rehabilitation and public education. Through this program, the center rescues, treats, and releases stranded animals. It is the policy of the Alaska SeaLife Center to make every reasonable effort to rehabilitate and release as many rescued animals as possible.



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- ✚ The Center is the only permanent stranding facility for marine mammals in Alaska. Operating as a designated marine mammal "stranding center" within a marine research facility allows veterinarians and staff to learn a great deal about these animals during the rehabilitation process. Rescued and rehabilitated animals provide ASLC with insight to their biology and physiology. This program also assists with monitoring the status of wild populations through scientific study of ill or orphaned marine mammals and birds. The ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Program is authorized by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to respond to marine mammal and bird strandings from the entire gulf coast of Alaska. The program includes a veterinary staff, interns, and volunteers trained to respond and care for marine mammals and birds.
- ✚ **Exhibits** - The Alaska SeaLife Center offers an unrivalled, up-close and personal experience with Gulf of Alaska marine wildlife. Witness a 2000+ pound Steller sea lion gliding past underwater viewing windows, puffins diving in a carefully crafted naturalistic habitat, and harbor seals resting on rocky beaches. Alaskan king crab, sea stars, and the Giant Pacific octopus also await you, as well as a whole variety of intertidal creatures and deep-sea fishes. Enjoy!

After our incredible first half of the day, we will continue on with an incredible Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise!

Kenai Fjords Resurrection Bay Cruise - Learn about the rich history of Resurrection Bay while viewing the jagged cliffs, seabirds, marine wildlife and alpine glaciers. A rich variety of wildlife thrives year-round in Resurrection Bay, and you can cruise these spectacular waters in the comfort of our spacious heated cabins. Weather is no obstacle to your enjoying the beauty of alpine glaciers, jagged shorelines and towering rocky outcroppings through the vessels' large picture windows. Common sightings include Steller sea lions, sea otters, Dall's porpoise, and even Orca or Humpback whales. View Bear Glacier, a piedmont glacier stemming from the Harding Field located in Kenai Fjords National Park. The hanging glaciers of Resurrection Bay will provide a scenic backdrop for your photos! 2.5-hour duration.



This evening we will head back to Anchorage for a local dinner and a final night in our hotel.



STEM STUDY TOURS
A Hammock Expeditions Company
North Carolina, USA

P: 984.223.9866
E: info@STEMstudytours.com
W: www.STEMstudytours.com

Day 7

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Alaska! Today is another beautiful in the North. First though, we'll pack-up and check-out as most flights will depart this evening for an overnight flight home.

Alaska Wildlife 'Big Game' Conservation Center – The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Alaska's wildlife through public education. The AWCC is located in Portage Valley and is surrounded by the breathtaking Chugach Mountain Range and Turnagain Arm Inlet. Come enjoy over 200 acres of animal enclosures by touring the scenic 1.5-mile loop, accessible by foot or by car, while learning about our resident wildlife. AWCC takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and provides spacious enclosures and quality animal care. Animals that cannot be released into the wild are given a permanent home at the center. Once here, groups will enjoy a special tour with a naturalist guide.



We'll make a quick stop for lunch and then continue on learning about Alaska culture.

Alaska Native Heritage Center - The Alaska Native Heritage Center, a renowned cultural center and museum in Anchorage, is a place where students of all ages can come to expand their understanding of Alaska's first people. Here you'll learn about the rich heritage of Alaska's eleven cultural groups drawing upon the lifeways of long ago, the wisdom of the elders, and the traditions that endure. At the Heritage Center, local residents and visitors to Alaska are introduced to Native traditions and customs of both the past and present. Feel the heartbeat of Alaska's indigenous people. Hear their stories, explore their history and discover a cultural heritage still living and thriving today.



After learning about all the incredible culture of Alaska's First people, we'll head out for a local dinner and then it's off to the airport to check-in for our overnight flight home. We will say goodbye to this wonderful land, a true "Last Frontier", and wave goodbye to our new friends as we head home, taking away memories that will last a lifetime!



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Day 8

Meals available for purchase in flight/airport

This morning you will arrive back home. Thank you for being our guest!

“Q'u, q'u yet dahdi nuntghesht'ih yida.”



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ALASKA – THE FINAL FRONTIER - SUMMER

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included: Roundtrip flights with a scheduled carrier
6-nights' accommodation in destination
Breakfasts & dinners daily
Airport transfers and transportation as shown
Fairbanks City Tour
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Viewing / Talk
University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus Visit + Museum of the North +
Aurora Borealis Film "Dynamic Aurora"
Chena River Sternwheel Cruise
Salmon Bake
Gold Heart City Theatre experience
Alaska Railroad to Denali
Denali National Park excursion
Denali Tundra Wildlife Tour
Talkeetna town stop
Happy Trails Kennels & Master Class Experience
Anchorage City Tour
The Anchorage Museum
Alaska SeaLife Rescue Center - Seward
Kenai Fjords Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise
Alaska Wildlife 'Big Game' Conservation Center
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Personal Tour Ambassador
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included: Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Transfers to/from home airport
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
Lunches in destination
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation,
purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, area guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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