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ALASKA: Multi-Sport Family Vacation

Multi-Sport: Bike, Hike, Raft & Sea Kayak in Denali National Park and the Kenai Peninsula

Multiple Dates for Summer 2010

Deluxe Camping Itinerary also available



OVERVIEW

The Kenai Peninsula is often said to encapsulate the best of Alaska. Colossal mountains, sparkling glaciers, abundant wildlife, expansive tundra and wildflower-filled meadows all challenge your sense of scale. Hike through the Chugach National Forest, pedal beneath glacier-carved peaks, paddle in the sheltered coves and lagoons off picturesque Yukon Island, and walk above North America's largest ice field. By day, come face-to-face with nature's grandeur and the forces that shape it, and at night, relax at wilderness retreats that reflect the hardy character of this vast land. Exploring this rugged wilderness by land and water, you and your family will find yourselves up close to the many wonders of this last frontier.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, we meet at 9 a.m. at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel in Anchorage. The hotel is located at 4800 Spenard Road. **Please arrive at the trip start dressed to ride, with your rain gear handy and your hiking clothes and shoes in a daypack for the afternoon.**

DAY ONE

Coastal Trail Biking Route 15 Miles (200-foot elevation gain)

Family Option: Kincaid Park 10 Miles

Shuttle to Seward 2½ Hours

Welcome to Alaska! After we meet in Anchorage, your leaders fit your bike and give a brief talk on biking techniques and safety. We begin our journey by riding along city bike paths before picking up the rolling Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Lined with devil's club, elderberry and spruce, the trail lends itself to photo opportunities. On a clear day, enjoy stunning views of Cook Inlet and the Alaska Range. Ride past Earthquake Park, named for the 1964 Good Friday trembler that registered 9.2 on the Richter scale and leveled most of Anchorage. Winding your way through lush forest, watch for moose, which often share the trail with bikers and walkers. Head inland and encounter our big climb for the day en route to our lunch spot in Kincaid Park, a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, with 43 miles of trails crisscrossing 1,400 acres.

After a delicious picnic, we drive along Seward Highway, which follows the earliest routes used by native Alaskans, sled dogs and miners, and has been designated an "All-American Road" for its spectacular scenery. Our destination is the Kenai Peninsula—a wonderland of rugged mountains, glaciers, fjords and lakes.

Settle in at Seward Windsong Lodge, located in the mountain-rimmed Resurrection River Valley. The valley was named by Alexander Baranof, who took shelter here during a storm in 1791 on the Russian Sunday of the Resurrection. This evening, raise a glass to the beginning of your Alaskan adventure at a dinner at Ray's restaurant, where beautiful harbor views accompany your fresh feast.

Lodging: Seward Windsong Lodge

DAY TWO

Sled-Dog Ride 1½ Hours

Exit Glacier Hike (Kids) 1.5 Miles

Harding Icefield Hike (Adults) 8 Miles (3,200-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Options: Marmot Meadows 4 Miles (1,500-foot elevation gain) or Alpine Meadows 6 Miles (2,200-foot elevation gain)

This morning you'll meet some of the competitors in Alaska's most famous race, the Iditarod, an annual sled-dog race from Anchorage to Nome. (If the timing's right, there may be puppies!) After a brief introduction, hop into a dog-powered sled for a two-mile excursion through the Alaskan forest.

Afterward we shuttle into the spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park for today's fantastic hikes. Accompanied by a group leader, the kids hike to Exit Glacier on a short trail that takes them right to the terminal face, with views of deep blue crevasses and snowcapped mountains. After an energizing lunch, the kids head for Seward to explore the fascinating Sea Life Center, home to sea lions, harbor seals, Alaskan king crabs, puffins and other marine wildlife.

Adults are in for the hike of a lifetime to the Harding Icefield, which spans more than 900 square miles and conceals an entire mountain range under several thousand feet of ice. The steep ascent may be one of the toughest you've ever attempted, but it promises to be an incredibly rewarding experience. The trail follows the edge of Exit Glacier through a dense forest that's home to mountain goats, moose, black bears and marmots. When you reach the tree line, all obstructions disappear, exposing an expansive landscape of snow and ice. If you're determined to hike the entire distance, or if you're hiking in the early summer months, you're sure to encounter snow—potentially quite a lot of it. Carrying some extra layers in your daypack is always an excellent idea!

Tonight, adults enjoy dinner at the rustic Resurrection Roadhouse in our hotel, featuring fresh seafood and delicious steaks. Meanwhile, the youngsters enjoy a special kid-friendly meal—fish and chips, anyone?

Lodging:

Seward Windsong Lodge

DAY THREE

Shuttle to Cooper Landing 1½ Hours

Float Trip on Kenai River 2 Hours

Russian River Hike 5 Miles

This morning we shuttle to Cooper Landing, a popular destination for adventure lovers because of prime hiking, rafting, fishing, canoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities. The town's lifeline is the Kenai River, whose waters teem with salmon. In the company of expert guides from Alaska Wildland Adventures, we enjoy a float trip through the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. As you learn about the area's natural and cultural history, watch for moose, eagles, Dall sheep, beavers and bears. (Please note that kids must be 5 years old for the float trip.)

Back on dry land, we shuttle to a picnic spot overlooking the river for a well-deserved lunch. There's even a fire pit to warm up on chilly days! Gather your energy for an afternoon hike to the Russian River, where we may see salmon jumping upstream in their frantic journey to mate. Framed by the Chugach Mountains as it merges with the Kenai River, the Russian River flows with such force that it's a wonder these amazing fish ever reach their destination.

After hiking out of the river valley, we shuttle to our next hotel, the Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge. Tucked among 43 acres on the bank of the Kenai River, the lodge features horseshoe and shuffleboard games for the young—and young at heart. Indulge in fresh Alaskan cuisine at the lodge's Eagle's Crest Dining Room, whose centerpiece is a huge river-rock fireplace.

Lodging: Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge

DAY FOUR

Shuttle to Anchor Point State Park 2½ Hours

Anchor Point to Homer Spit Biking Route 32 Miles

Family Option: 9 Miles with Shuttle

Shorter Option: Overlook Option 22 Miles with Shuttle

This morning we shuttle along the picturesque Sterling Highway to Anchor Point State Park, situated along Cook Inlet. If it's a clear day, we'll see dramatic snow-covered volcanoes—part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions surrounding the Pacific Ocean basin. Keep an eye out for Homer's most famous inhabitant, the bald eagle, during lunch at Halibut Campground before beginning today's ride. Rolling, lightly trafficked terrain eventually gives way to a busier, more challenging section.

But not to worry—anyone wishing to avoid this section can shuttle to the vista overlooking Homer, Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountains. Many people consider Homer one of Alaska's most beautiful towns and after seeing it from up here, you'll understand why.

After taking in the magnificent view, continue on a fast and winding descent that brings you back to sea level. Along the way, visit the Bear Valley Winery, featuring many intriguing non-grape wines and, for the younger set, a circular swing that's bound to entertain. The final stretch of pedaling leads to Homer Spit, the world's second-longest natural spit.

Our destination, the Land's End Resort, is located four miles out in the middle of Kachemak Bay and affords amazing views of the water and the Kenai Mountains. You're on your own for dinner tonight; your Trip Leaders are happy to recommend their favorite dining spots. Remember, Homer is the halibut capital of the world!

Lodging: Land's End Resort

DAY FIVE

Water Taxi to Yukon Island 1 Hour Round-Trip

All-Day Sea Kayaking

This morning we travel by water taxi across Kachemak Bay to Yukon Island, part of the U.S. Maritime Fish and Wildlife Refuge that provides a haven for otters, seals and a variety of nesting birds. Yukon's vast sheltered coves and lagoons create a playground for kayakers. We spend the day circling the island, paddling among dramatic mountains, interesting rock formations and lush vegetation. Revel in your new vantage point as you cruise past temperate rain forests, protected coves and pebbled beaches, all the while watching for bald eagles, sea otters, harbor seals and porpoises. You may even be able to spot the volcanic Mount St. Augustine blowing off some steam on the opposite side of Cook Inlet. (Please note that kids must be 6 years old to kayak.)

Midday we break for a delicious lunch on a secluded beach. Afterward you can continue exploring the waters until it's time for us to board a water taxi back to Homer.

If you'd rather spend the day halibut fishing, several companies in Homer offer half-day and full-day excursions.

This afternoon, there's time to explore Homer's shops and marina. Enjoy a coffee or an ice cream and watch as Homer's many anglers bring in the daily catch. You can also relax indoors and take advantage of the hotel's hot tub. We gather this evening for a farewell dinner in the Chart Room Restaurant, with breathtaking views of the bay.

Lodging: Land's End Resort



DAY SIX

Carl E. Wynn Nature Center Walk 2 Miles (100-foot elevation gain)

Shuttle to Anchorage 5 Hours

Savor the trip's last fantastic breakfast before we shuttle the short distance to the Carl E. Wynn Nature Center. This former homestead is now a wildlife refuge, with hiking trails, great bird-watching and an undeveloped migration corridor for moose and black bears. We head out on foot with a naturalist and learn about the native uses of the trees, plants and wildflowers found here in the transitional zone between northern coastal forest and southern boreal forest.

Returning to the nature center, we relish a farewell lunch while listening for the calls of migratory song birds. Then hop in the van and settle in for the long but scenic ride back to Anchorage, where the trip ends.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING AND DEPARTING WITH YOUR LUX WORLD TRAVEL TRIP CONSULTANT.**

TRIPS FOR ALL ABILITIES

On this Family Trip, our routes follow gentle terrain with little significant gain or loss in elevation. Liberal van shuttling is incorporated into the itinerary to facilitate our activities and mileage is kept moderate to enable you to spend more time exploring on your own. **Longer options are available for stronger riders and hikers.**

ACCOMMODATIONS



Seward Windsong Lodge: Seward (2 nights) It's all about the views - feast your eyes on the snow-covered Chugach Mountains and the shimmering Resurrection River.



Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge: Cooper Landing (1 night) With in-room wood-burning stoves and a deck overlooking the Kenai River, this is an ideal spot to overnight in the wild.



Land's End Resort: Homer (2 nights) Commune with eagles, otters and seals, where land meets sea on Kachemak Bay.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S AGES

Recommended minimum age for the trip: 6 years

Minimum age restriction to ride own bike: 7 years

Minimum age restriction to kayak: 8 years

Minimum age restriction to raft: 10 years Minimum age restriction for float trip: 5 years

This trip is designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests and fitness levels. We know your pace may vary from one day to the next-and your traveling companion's may differ somewhat from yours. So we present a range of mileage options, and each day you decide exactly what and how much you want to do.

We strongly encourage families to join our Family Trips, designed with kid- and adult-friendly features. Please note that we have a minimum age requirement of 1 year for all Inn trips and 2 years for all Camping trips. Other than that, we do not *restrict* trips to a minimum age except in the rare case of a hotel age restriction.

We do, however, *recommend* minimum ages based on the following criteria:

- 12+ cultural appreciation, difficulty of activities and route
- 9+ difficulty of activities and route
- 6+ several long adult dinners; parent may not be able to pull a Burley and/or there may be multiple activity restrictions
- 3+ riding is on bike paths, making it great for young kids; Burley and Piccolos are available; there are few or no activity restrictions; and no long dinners (or we offer alternatives)

PACKAGE DATE AND PRICING

Multiple Travel Dates for 2010:

June 12- 17	June 19-24	June 26- July 1	July 10- 15	July 17-22	July 24-29
July 31- August 5	August 7 – 12	August 14- 19	August 21- 26		

Adult Vacation Price	\$2598 pp
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Based on double occupancy

Single Supplement	\$ 470 pp
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Reserve early for the best available price. Prices may change during the course of the year--if they do change, the best prices are available earlier. Once you book your trip, your price is guaranteed.

On all **Family Camping trips**, and on **Family Inn trips** where children are sharing a room with two adults, youths receive the following tiered discounts:

- 75% off for children 2 and under
- 40% off for ages 3-6
- 20% off for ages 7-10
- 10% off for ages 11-16

On Camping Trips we provide spacious four-person tents with prices based on double occupancy per tent. If a family requests an additional tent, there will be a single supplement applied, but children will still receive a discount based on their age.

On **non-Family Trips**, children 16 and younger receive 10% off on Camping Trips and on Inn Trips when sharing a tent/room with two adults. All minors (under 18 years) must be accompanied by at least one adult. When one youth is in a single room the full single supplement will apply.

TRIP CONCLUSION

On the last day of the trip, you are provided a shuttle from Denali National Park back to Anchorage, arriving at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel around 5 p.m. and the airport at approximately 5:30 p.m. If you're flying out of Anchorage on the day our trip ends, please schedule your return flight for after 7 p.m.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation fees may vary based upon departure date. Please review the grid below:

Number of Days Prior to Trip Start	Cancellation Fees per person)	Departure Dates
96+ days	\$200	
61-95 days	30%	
31-60 days	60%	
0-30 days	100%	

Cancellation penalties imposed on LUX World Travel by its suppliers are stringent, and are per person for land arrangements. Airline tickets are different, and hold a completely separate penalty and we will advise you at the time of your cancellation of this additional penalty if you purchased your airfare with our Air Desk.

LUX World Travel reserves the right to cancel this retreat to lack of participation to create a minimum number of passengers, or for any other foreseen reason that may create hazards or jeopardy to our clients. In the case that LUX World Travel needs to cancel or post-pone any tour, all monies collected will be returned in full for the land portion. Penalties from the airlines may occur depending on the type of air purchased, for which LUX World Travel is not responsible. We do highly recommend **Cancel for Any Reason Insurance** for at least the flight portion of your journey to insure our clients with full flight protection coverage.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Guests are required to provide a signed "Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risks, and Arbitration Agreement" form and a completed Personal Information Form prior to trip departure; you will receive these materials shortly after reserving your trip. We are unable to allow guests to participate in any aspect of this trip without a signed release form.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance for this journey. We will be happy to provide you with a variety of quotes to fit your specific travel needs. **1.866.269.2659**.

TO BOOK THIS VACATION

To book this vacation, please call us directly at **1-866-269-2659** or email us at:

AlaskaFamilyVacation@luxworldtravel.com

YOUR RIPPLE EFFECT

LUX World Travel will donate \$25 per adult traveler and \$15 per child traveler in your name to **Defenders of Wildlife**. Defenders of Wildlife (www.defenders.org) is dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities. They focus on programs on what scientists consider two of the most serious environmental threats to the planet: the accelerating rate of extinction of species and the associated loss of biological diversity, and habitat alteration and destruction. Long known for leadership on endangered species issues, Defenders of Wildlife also advocates new approaches to wildlife conservation that will help keep species from becoming endangered. Their programs encourage protection of entire ecosystems and interconnected habitats while protecting predators that serve as *indicator* species for ecosystem health.

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Travel for the Journey Inside You

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