



[www.luxworldtravel.com](http://www.luxworldtravel.com)

160 Oakland Street

Rochester

NY

14620

1. 866.269.2659

[info@luxworldtravel.com](mailto:info@luxworldtravel.com)

## **ALASKA: Deluxe Camping Family Vacation**

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

Multiple Dates for Summer 2009

Causal Inn and Itineraries also available



### **OVERVIEW**

Alaska's vibrant frontier spirit and overwhelming natural grandeur have the power to consume the senses. And the Kenai Peninsula is often said to encapsulate the best of Alaska. Here 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 on the Kenai Peninsula, paddle in the sheltered coves and lagoons off picturesque Yukon Island, and stare down at an enormous ice field. At night, relax at wilderness retreats that reflect the hardy character of this great land.

## 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

Meet your Trip Leaders at **9 a.m.** at the **Millennium Alaskan Hotel** in Anchorage, located at 4800 Spenard Road. **Please arrive dressed to ride, with your rain gear handy and your hiking clothes and shoes in a daypack for the afternoon.**

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

Family Option: Kincaid Park 10 Miles

**Shuttle to Primrose Trail** 2½ Hours

**Primrose Trail Hike** 5 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

Welcome to Alaska! After we meet in Anchorage, your trip leaders fit your bike and give a brief demonstration of biking techniques and safety. We begin our adventure 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 that often share the trail with bikers and walkers. Then head inland and encounter our big climb for the day to our lunch spot in Kincaid Park, a haven for outdoor enthusiasts.

After a wonderful picnic lunch we drive along Seward Highway, which follows the earliest routes used by native Alaskans, sled dogs and miners. The highway 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. Arriving at the Primrose Trail on the shores of spectacular Kenai Lake, we don hiking shoes and head into the Chugach National Forest. The trail climbs through spruce and hemlock forests en route to Porcupine Falls. After snapping photos (and picking blueberries if the season is right!) we return the way we came and shuttle to our home for the next three nights, Trail River Campground. At tonight's welcome dinner, sit back and let our Camp Chef wow you with delicious culinary creations. You'll be amazed by what we can do with a camp stove!

**Campground: Trail River Campground**

## DAY TWO

**Shuttle to Seward** 1½ Hours Round-Trip

**Sled-Dog Tour** 1½ Hours

**Exit Glacier Hike (Kids)** 1.5 Miles

**Harding Icefield Hike (Adults)** 8 Miles (3,000-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Options: Marmot Meadows 4 Miles (1,500-foot elevation gain)

or Alpine Meadows 6 Miles (2,000-foot elevation gain)

**Bring your daypack stocked with rain gear and warm layers, including a hat and gloves, for the hike.**

**Bring a second shower bag with toiletries, a towel and a change of clothes.**

After a hearty breakfast, we head south to Seward. Here we meet competitors in the Iditarod, an annual sled-dog race from Anchorage to Nome. After a brief introduction, hop into a dog-powered sled for a two-mile excursion through the Alaskan forest. If the timing's right, there may even be puppies! Afterward, we shuttle into the spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park for today's hikes. Accompanied by a trip leader, the kids hike to Exit Glacier on a short trail that takes them to the terminal face, with views of deep blue crevasses and snowcapped mountains. The route continues past the icy beginnings of the Resurrection River and ends at a picnic spot. After an energizing lunch, they head for Seward to explore the fascinating Sea Life Center, home to sea lions, harbor seals, Alaskan king crabs, puffins and other marine wildlife.

Meanwhile, adults are in for the hike of a lifetime to the Harding Icefield, which spans more than 900 sq. mi. and conceals a 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 incredibly rewarding. The trail follows the edge of Exit Glacier through a dense forest, home to mountain goats, moose, black bears and marmots. When you reach the tree line, all obstructions disappear, exposing a landscape of snow and ice that stretches in every direction. 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 (and maybe a lot of it). You'll be glad you carried those extra layers!

After our hikes, we all shuttle to Seward for hot showers before returning to camp to celebrate our feats on the trail.

**Campground: Trail River Campground**

## DAY THREE

**Shuttle to Lowell Point** 1 Hour

**Sea Kayaking** 3 Hours

**Tonsina Creek Walk** 4 Miles (500-foot elevation gain)

**Shuttle to Campground** 30 Minutes

**Bring your daypack stocked with rain gear, hiking shoes, toiletries, a towel and a change of clothes.**

We begin the day with a delicious camp breakfast before shuttling south to Lowell Point, the put-in spot for our sea-kayaking excursion on Resurrection Bay. The Kenai Peninsula is known for its cloudy days and frequent showers, but rain or shine, today's activities provide fantastic opportunities to connect with nature. Expert guides from Sunny Cove Sea Kayaking will demonstrate basic paddling strokes and safety skills. As you kayak past temperate rain forest, protected coves and pebbled beaches, look for bald eagles, sea otters and porpoises. (Please note that the minimum age to kayak is 8 years old.)

Back on land, we eat lunch near the beach before setting off on a scenic walk to Tonsina Creek. The trail climbs through a dense forest of Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, alder and patches of salmonberry bushes before descending to the creek. If you and your family travel in July or early August, you might get to observe a wonder of the natural world—salmon returning home to spawn. After we stop for showers in Seward, explore the town—one of Alaska's oldest and most scenic communities. Quaint shops and art galleries surround the bustling harbor and historic downtown district. Back at camp, soak up the Alaskan wilderness and enjoy some true campfire camaraderie.

**Campground: Trail River Campground**

## DAY FOUR

**Shuttle to Girdwood** 2 Hours **Gird-to-Bird Biking Route** 10 Miles

Kids Option: 6.5 Miles Longer Option: Indian Creek 24 Miles

**Shuttle to Anchorage Airport** 1 Hour

**Flight to Summit** 1½ Hours (weather-dependent)

or **Van Shuttle** (if flight is canceled) 5 Hours

**Shuttle to Carlo Creek Campground** 30 Minutes

Today is a big travel day—from the fjords of Kenai to the mountains of Denali National Park. We begin the day by shuttling north to the resort town of Girdwood. Tucked in the Chugach Mountains, it's a lovely starting point for our bike ride to Bird Point. Today's route follows rolling traffic-free bike paths along a beautiful stretch of the Turnagain Arm, with views of tidal mudflats and picturesque mountains.

Turnagain Arm has one of the world's few bore tides: when conditions are right, water rushes in with such force that it forms a tidal wave. The truly daring have even surfed it!

Adults interested in adding more miles can spin past Bird Point for an out-and-back ride to Indian Creek, enjoying coastal views as you weave in and out of spruce and aspen forests. But be warned: where there's water there's usually wind, so expect an extra challenge in one direction or the other.

This afternoon we shuttle to Anchorage and board a small chartered plane for a scenic flight (weather permitting) to Summit, a remote gravel airstrip just outside Denali National Park. (Please note that Alaska's weather is unpredictable and flights can be delayed or canceled with short notice. If the flight is canceled, we will travel to Summit by van.) One of the world's last frontiers, Denali National Park is home to North America's highest peak, 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, flanked by giant glaciers and icefalls. Locals still refer to the mountain as Denali, an Athabasca Indian word meaning —the great one. □ Cross your fingers that the weather cooperates; there's about a one-in-four chance it will be clear enough to view this spectacular sight. Our home near Denali is the family-owned Carlo Creek Campground. With the creek running right by our group's private campsite, it's a scenic spot to pitch our tents for the last two nights.

### **Campground: Carlo Creek Campground**

## **DAY FIVE**

**Mount Healy Overlook Trail Hike** 5 Miles (1,700-foot elevation gain)

Family Option: Denali Kennels Visit & Hike 2.5 Miles

or **Savage River Biking Route** 27 Miles (1,500-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Carlo Creek 34 Miles **White-Water Rafting** 3 Hours

Denali National Park spans more than six million acres and encompasses a complete subarctic ecosystem. Car and foot traffic are strictly regulated to preserve the park and ensure that future generations can enjoy its unique wildlife habitat. We shuttle from camp to the park's main entrance and new visitor center, our base for exploration today. Hikers will enjoy the challenging but rewarding 1,700-foot climb on the Mount Healy Overlook Trail, which ends in the alpine tundra zone and offers spectacular views of the surrounding Nenana River Valley. Or you might choose to take your kids for an up-close-and-personal encounter with lovable Alaskan huskies at a sled-dog kennel, followed by a short hike. If you'd prefer to explore on two wheels, tackle the mostly uphill ride on the main park road out to Savage River before reaping the reward for your efforts with an exhilarating downhill return. **(Please note that park regulations prohibit guided walks or bike rides, so you'll be walking or biking on your own, without your Trip Leaders.)**

We reconvene this afternoon for a white-water rafting trip down the Nenana River. This adrenaline-pumping adventure (a Class III or IV run, depending on the water level) takes you through ten major rapids and the beautiful Nenana River Gorge. (Please note that the minimum age for rafting this section of the river is 10 years old. Children ages 5–9 can take a guided float trip on a calmer section with a parent or guardian; however, the float trip runs earlier, which may conflict with the other scheduled activities today. Children under 5 may not raft.) Our farewell dinner is another memorable feast under the vast Alaskan sky.

### **Campground: Carlo Creek Campground**



## **DAY SIX**

**Horseshoe Lake Walk** 1.5 Miles

**Shuttle to Anchorage** 5 Hours

After another fantastic camp breakfast, we shuttle to the park's visitor center and head out on a short hike through a spruce forest to tranquil Horseshoe Lake. The lake, whose clear waters are set off by the stunning backdrop of Mount Healy, is prime beaver habitat and an excellent place to spot moose. Returning to the visitor center, hop in the van, pack lunch in hand, for the long ride back to Anchorage, where our Alaskan adventure 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 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



### **Trail River Campground**

#### **Chugach National Forest (3 nights)**

Spacious campsites set amid tall spruce trees on the shore of Lower Trail River. Your home base is beautiful but rustic: there are no flushing toilets, running water or hot showers. Shuttles will be provided to hot showers in Seward.

### **Carlo Creek Campground**

#### **Denali National Park (2 nights)**

A historic Alaskan homestead bordered by beautiful Carlo Creek, Nenana River and Denali National Park. This 32-acre family-run retreat, provides the comforts of hot showers and laundry facilities.

## RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S AGES

### **Recommended minimum age for the trip: 5 years**

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 2009:

**June 21- 26**

**June 28- July 3**

**July 19- 24**

**August 2 - 7**

**August 16 - 21**

### **Adult Vacation Price**

**\$1998 pp**

Based on double occupancy

### **Internal Air**

**\$ 430 pp**

### **Single Supplement**

**\$ 100 pp**

**Deposit Required: \$750 per person**

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 Inn Trips when a child shares a room with one adult or two children share a room, a 10% discount applies to children 16 and younger. The third and fourth youths in a room with an adult will receive the tiered discounts described above. When one youth is in a separate room a 10% discount is applied to the trip price, but the full single supplement applies.

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	\$300	2009
61-95 days	30%	06/28, 07/19, 06/21, 08/02, 08/16
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 you 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 REGISTER FOR THIS VACATION

To register for this tour, please call us directly at **1-866-269-2659** or email us at [info@luxworldtravel.com](mailto:info@luxworldtravel.com) for a Registration Form and a Credit Card Payment Form.

### 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](http://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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1.866.269.2659

1.585.672.5587