

# Alaskan Wilderness Adventure

Trip Code: WAW

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk the trails of Kenai Fjord, Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali National Parks
- Stay in tiny, remote outposts and scenic campsites along the way
- Search for Alaska's 'big five': grizzly bear, moose, caribou, wolf and Dall sheep!
- Trek on the Bonanza Mine Trail and explore the face of the calving Grewingk Glacier

## AT A GLANCE

- 11 days wilderness trekking
- Max. altitude - 1800m
- Join at Anchorage

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

# Introduction

It is impossible to truly convey the awesome size and scale of Alaska without visiting and experiencing its landscapes for yourself. With national parks the size of small nations and glaciers that stretch as far as the eye can see, this wild and rugged land is incredibly beautiful in its own raw and uncompromising way. This special two-week walking holiday will immerse you in a land where bears roam, eagles soar and the ghosts of gold rush-era miners linger. We will sample some of Alaska's premier walking trails, visit tiny fishing communities with their colourfully painted churches and experience one of the world's great road trips, as we trace the largely unpaved road from Denali to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Extraordinarily photogenic lakes will be hiked around and calving glaciers will be explored. We will trek in sight of glaciers and discover sprawling icefalls, stretching thousands of metres down the sides of majestic peaks. For many, the defining highlight will be two days spent exploring the Denali National Park, in the shadow of North America's highest peak and on the look-out for Alaska's own 'big five'; moose, bear, Dall sheep, caribou and wolf. Featuring a variety of accommodation, we will stay in hotels, lodges and rustic campsites where we will experience the warmth of great Alaskan hospitality.

## Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is designed to showcase the best of Alaska. There are three main regions explored: the vast Denali National Park, the mountainous Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Preserve and the Kenai Peninsula (including the Kenai Fjords National Park). Alaska's size mustn't be underestimated and the scenic road-trips are all part of the adventure. The day walks featured on this itinerary are all designed to immerse you into the wilderness on enjoyable paths and trails. The trek to Bonanza Mine features a long and steep climb from Kennicott and is totally optional. This holiday uses camping as a way to promote complete engagement with Alaska's wild and untamed backcountry and means we can stay in places other tourists can't. Perfect for those who want to experience Alaska at its most unrefined and elemental.

# Itinerary

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Version:

## Holiday Information

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### What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival and departure
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

### What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Departure Taxes (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Tips
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc

### Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Anchorage. A single timed transfer from Anchorage Airport is provided. Taxis are always available and provide the most cost-effective way of getting from the airport to the group hotel and vice versa.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

### Meal Plan

Included in your holiday price are 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 5 dinners. Whilst some picnic lunches and some dinners at the campgrounds are provided by the tour leader (with the participation of the group), he or she will also take the group to local diners to provide local interest and give variety to the meal choice. You will pay directly for your meals at all these diners. In total you will pay directly for 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 8 dinners. We recommend you budget £10 - 20 for each of these meals.

## Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as [Water-to-Go](#), which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Alaskan cuisine reflects the availability of locally-sourced ingredients. With so much coastline, it is no surprise to see menus dominated by cold-water seafood including halibut steaks or choice of red king, blue king, golden king, snow or Dungeness crab! Salmon can be found anywhere, and can be served up baked, grilled, steamed, smoked or even turned into jerky. Sourdough bread has long been part of the Alaskan repertoire, brought to the region during the Klondike Gold Rush in the 19th century. From the backcountry comes a wide selection of game including reindeer, elk and caribou with foraged wild berries and spruce tips.

On this trip, breakfast will either be served in a hotel (where you will pay directly), or at a campsite by our guide. Lunch will usually be self-made sandwiches with salads and snacks including cereal bars and fruit. Some evening meals when camping will be prepared by our guide and you will be invited to help with the preparation - this is a fun and sociable part of the evening and not to be missed! Choice will be wider when we are staying close to towns and large villages and some lunches and dinners will be taken in local cafes and restaurants and paid for directly. At all times there is access to fresh fruit and vegetables from local suppliers, and often fish, freshly landed and purchased directly from the fishermen.

## Accommodation

The first and last night of this holiday will be in a comfortable hotel in downtown Anchorage. There will be nine days of participatory camping in a range of campsites, some of which are in the wilderness with only basic facilities. They have been selected for their location and character to enable ease of access into the magnificent natural environment of Alaska. There are two nights in quite simple hotel/guesthouse accommodation where the option of single room occupancy may not be possible.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader.

## Spending Money

We recommend you allow £550 for your personal expenses, tips, non-included meals and bar bills. Your money can be carried in the form of cash (American Dollars) or it is possible to withdraw your money from ATMs using your debit or credit card. There are ATMs in all towns but facilities are limited once on the road.

## **Guidance on Tipping**

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend \$6-\$10 per person per guide. Where we are joined by additional local expert guides we suggest an additional \$5 per guide.

## **Baggage Allowance**

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

## **Group Size & Holiday Status**

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Visa USA

UK passport holders, in general, do not require a visa for short stays. You DO require an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any US-bound aircraft or ship. The fee is USD\$14 and you should apply for it at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>. With the ESTA complete, the majority of British Citizen passport holders can enter the US under the Visa Waiver Programme, VWP. Note that if you have travelled to Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since March 2011 you will have to apply for a visa rather than the Visa Waiver Programme.

## Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

## VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

## Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 4 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running and swimming are also good for developing cardio vascular fitness and stamina.

## Climate

The summer season in Alaska is comparatively short. In coastal regions in July, average day time temperatures hover around 18°C. Heading into the interior, moving away from the stabilising maritime climate, temperatures fluctuate between 17°C and 25°C occasionally peaking at 30°C. However, summer quickly retreats at the end of August, bringing cooler temperatures and a riotous display of autumnal colours across the forest and tundra landscapes, making it a paradise for photographers. Temperatures after nightfall can drop and can dip below freezing. Rain does increase through July and August and is most noticeable in Denali National Park.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should try to keep the

weight of your equipment to a minimum. The climate in Alaska can vary and you should be prepared for both hot and sunny days as well as cool and wet. It is sound advice to opt for a system of layers.

## **YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- Hiking boots
- Trainers for travelling and casual wear
- Socks and Underwear
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Baselayer shirt(s)
- T-shirts / casual shirts / tops
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Insulated jacket (down or synthetic, the latter being better for potentially damp environments)
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Daypack 30-40 litres
- Sleeping bag (comfort rating -7 degrees Celsius)
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottle (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Small Towel
- Small padlock (to lock your KE trek bag)
- Insect repellent
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, insect repellent, plasters, and blister treatment.

## **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:**

- Shorts
- Gaiters
- Travel clothes
- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Pen-knife (always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Tents and inflatable mattresses (5cm thick) are provided.

## **Cotswold Outdoor**



Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Anchorage, United States. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Anchorage International Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please refer to the 'Joining arrangements & transfers' for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

## Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London (Heathrow) to Anchorage with Virgin/Delta via Seattle. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the morning, arriving in the evening of the same day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart in the morning of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the morning the next day. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

To avoid paying more for your flight, we recommend that you book as early as possible, especially during peak times as there are only a limited number of seats available at the advertised price. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures, we will contact you with an alternative quote. We are also able to quote for premium, business and first class seats. Please be aware that you may be asked to pay for your flights in advance of your final holiday balance. Remember if you book a package including flights with KE, you will benefit from full financial protection.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE?

This is one of the least explored corners of the United States and, to many, logistically challenging. Experience majestic mountain landscapes, salmon migrations, ambling bears and abandoned mining communities. Towns and villages are far apart and our comfortable camping itinerary gives us the freedom to stay in remote locations. We will venture deep into Alaskan backcountry to explore its finest national parks; using ferries and walking trails to gain a unique perspective on this wild frontier.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change