



PHOTO BY DEBBIE STURDIVANT JORDAN

ALASKA

Wildlife and Conservation in America's Last Frontier

10 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **JUN - AUGUST**

Learn about the wildlife and ecology first-hand on an overland journey to Alaska's natural treasures of Prince William Sound and Denali State Park. Alaska is a unique and fascinating destination for those wishing to encounter the last frontier through a variety of activities, such as kayaking, boating and hiking. Perhaps no place fills the senses more than Cordova, Alaska's hidden treasure. Cordova is a small, coastal town surrounded by glacier-carved mountains, and nestled at the head of Orca Inlet in Eastern Prince William Sound. The area will dazzle you with wildlife, rich wetlands, lush forests, and countless waterways. A myriad of activities take you into the natural grandeur and each day you'll enjoy hearty meals – home-cooked with local ingredients and plenty of fresh seafood. Fly over Chugach State Park and transfer to Talkeetna, a small outpost town nestled at the base of North America's tallest peak, Mt. Denali. Our knowledgeable naturalist guides practice responsible tourism and facilitate your active explorations of the breathtaking scenery, biological wonders and glacier-carved mountains.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and home to sea otters and seals.
- Visit the massive Childs Glacier, the Copper River Delta, and the famous Million Dollar Bridge.
- Take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet to see the world's largest population of sea otters.
- Participate in a discussion on global warming before heading to the Sheridan Glacier for an ice kayaking excursion.
- In Anchorage, learn about Alaska Audubon's conservation initiatives and see the collections at the Anchorage Museum.
- View the stunning landscapes and watch for abundant wildlife from the glacial waters of Chulitna River on a rafting and hiking excursion.
- Experience Alaska's incredible beauty at Byers Lake and surrounding mountains, with a chance to see nesting trumpeter swans, loons, eagles, or bears foraging for spawning salmon.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Naturalist guides
- Internal flights
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

AVAILABLE DATES

The following dates are available for leaders, organizations, or groups to charter:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • July 19, 2018 | • July 5, 2019 |
| • June 14, 2019 | • July 19, 2019 |
| • June 28, 2019 | • August 2, 2019 |



KAYAKING IN ALASKA BY CHRIS BENSLEY

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage, travel on your own by shuttle to the hotel. With most flights arriving late into the evening, our group will meet for orientation the next morning. *Overnight at Quality Suites Historic Downtown or similar.*

DAY 2 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, begin your Alaska exploration with an orientation at the hotel, followed by a brief walking tour. Stop at the nearby Anchorage Museum, Alaska's largest museum with collections on the art, history, science and culture of Alaska. Next, meet with our friends at Alaska Audubon for a talk on Audubon Alaska's conservation initiatives. After lunch, take the shuttle to the airport for an afternoon flight to Cordova. Upon arrival, meet your guide for our transfer to the lodge, enjoying some initial sights along the way including swan nests on the delta and Cordova docks and town center. After dinner, engage in a talk on plate tectonics and changes in recent decades. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, participate in a discussion on global warming before heading to the Sheridan Glacier for a hiking and kayaking excursion. The Sheridan Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska, and after a short hike through the moraine, you will be see the dramatic frozen river of ancient ice! Our guide orients us on kayaking, then we view crystal blue caves and jagged crevasses and an ever changing terrain as we navigate in your kayak. Have a picnic lunch on shore or on a small

island. After lunch, return to town and visit the Cordova Historical Museum and Eyak Museum and Cultural Center, giving us a greater sense of the rich history and livelihood of this thriving fishing community. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - CORDOVA

After breakfast take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet, where you will have the opportunity to see the world's largest population of sea otters and observe their interaction within the pod. Your guide for the day has been involved in sea otter studies for 15 years. Afterwards, stop at a remote beach for a short hike to explore tidepools. Next head to Hinchinbrook Island, where you will enjoy your lunch at another beautiful, remote beach. After lunch, visit a Kittiwake colony, and observe these nesting sea birds. Late afternoon, take in a discussion of the life cycle of salmon and their importance to the economy. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*



SEA OTTER BY JERRY GOFFE, NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

DAY 5 - CORDOVA

After breakfast depart for a full day tour of the Copper River Delta for the highlight of the day, the massive Child's Glacier. Keep an eye out for moose, eagles and bear as you travel by bus through the scenic Chugach National Forest to the 27-mile point of the Copper River Delta Highway and cross the river. Travel by van to the park across from the towering Childs Glacier to the famous Million Dollar Bridge. This now inaccessible bridge is a great backdrop to the Wrangell St. Elias Park and the Miles Glacier. Near the bridge visit the sonar station, manned by three researchers who spend their entire field season living completely cut off from the outside world. The researchers will explain and demonstrate the sonar and its use in fishery management before we head to the viewing area of the Childs Glacier. Enjoy lunch by the glacier while listening to the powerful sounds of huge ice chunks crashing into the river less than 1/4 mile away. Tonight enjoy a salmon barbecue for dinner. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast, participate in a kayaking adventure from the lodge. Enjoy the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and home to sea otters and seals. After lunch, transfer to the airport for your flight to Anchorage. Upon arrival you will be met by a driver for the 2-hour transfer to historic outpost town of Talkeetna, our base for the next three nights. Check in to our comfortable lodge. After dinner this evening, enjoy a talk on the Alaska's Natural History by our Talkeetna guide, and a briefing on our upcoming activities. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - TALKEETNA

Arise for an early breakfast for a full day hike and raft wilderness adventure. Starts with a scenic drive to Denali State Park. There, hike from lush boreal forest steadily up to treeline and beyond for spectacular panoramic views, including the best views of Denali from any trail (weather permitting). Along the way, your experienced naturalist guide will share stories and insights about the area and its wildlife. Enjoy a hearty lunch at the historic McKinley View Lodge, followed by a rafting trip back to Talkeetna. Relax and ride the glacial waters of the free-flowing Chulitna River under the care of your expert river guide. Take in stunning landscapes and scenery as you watch for the area's abundant wildlife all the way back to Talkeetna.

Tonight dinner in Talkeetna is on own, giving you a chance to select your restaurant of choice. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn. (BL)*

DAY 8 - TALKEETNA

After breakfast, take a walking tour of Talkeetna. Visit Susitna Salmon Center, the Historical Society and famous Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. Next, head out on your Talkeetna Lakes Hike with a naturalist guide. A new scene of beauty unfolds around every turn on this three-mile moderate hike. Look for loons and kingfishers on the lakes, moose and bears in the woods, and Denali on the horizon. This lush old-growth forest is alive with songbirds, wildflowers, berries, and mushrooms. Hear stories about wildlife encounters, life in Talkeetna, and how native people survived in

this wild land. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the historic Talkeetna Roadhouse, followed by an evening talk at lodge: Climbing Mt. Denali, a personal story. *Overnight at Denali Overlook Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - TALKEETNA TO ANCHORAGE

After breakfast, your morning is free for optional activities in Talkeetna (not included in price). Take in a flight tour around Denali or try other activities on your own. Meet late morning for our adventure and picnic at Byers Lake in Denali State Park. Experience Alaska's incredible beauty on a two-mile nature walk

with magnificent views of Byers Lake and surrounding mountains, perhaps even majestic Denali. Learn about the area's animal and plant life, and take home a healing salve made from native plants. Explore a log cabin that once belonged to a pioneering couple. You may see nesting trumpeter swans, loons, eagles, or bears foraging for spawning salmon. Late afternoon, transfer to Anchorage Airport for your flight home. *(BL)*

DAY 10 - FLIGHT HOME

Late evening or early morning departure from Anchorage airport for your flight home.

2-NIGHT OPTIONAL EXTENSION AT DENALI NATIONAL PARK

2 Days starting from \$1,290

After Byer's lake hike, take a 1 hour transfer to the entrance of Denali National Park. Check in to your lodge. Enjoy a night at leisure with an array of optional activities. Spend the night at a spacious Denali-area



lodge located just a mile from the entrance to Denali National Park. Next morning, embark on a Tundra Wilderness Tour, a 7-8 hour excursion into the park with a certified driver-naturalist. This tour provides in-depth information about the history of the park, while maintaining a keen eye in search of wildlife and photography opportunities. A box lunch and beverages are provided. The next day, enjoy a morning at leisure. Later, board the train and for the journey by the spectacular Alaska and Talkeetna ranges toward Anchorage, then transfer to the airport for your flight home.

PROGRAM PRICING

Call for pricing

Program includes flights within Alaska as mentioned.

Participant airfare to and from Anchorage, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2019.

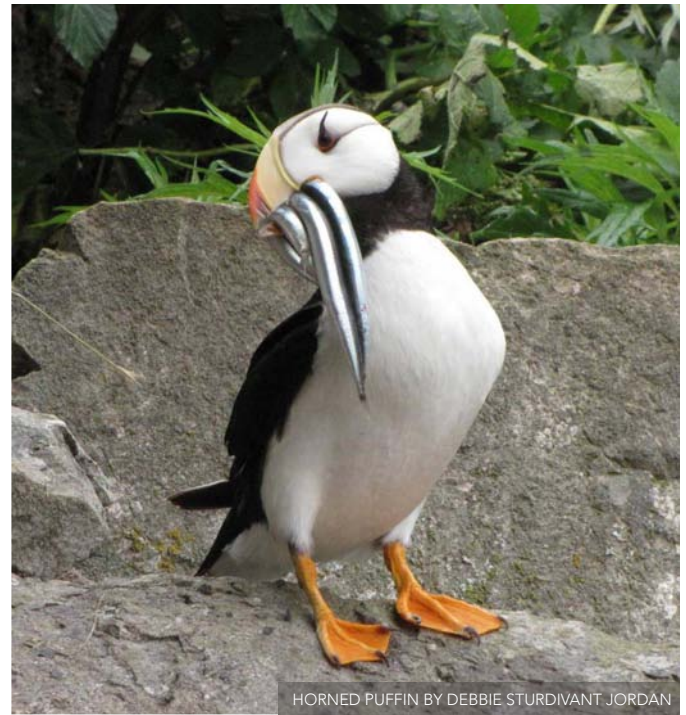
THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Australia will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.



HORNED PUFFIN BY DEBBIE STURDIVANT JORDAN



ORCA ADVENTURE LODGE BY CHRIS BENSLEY



DENALI OVERLOOK INN BY CHRIS BENSLEY