



SMITH COLLEGE



Insider's
Alaska

JULY 4-12, 2016

Insider's *Alaska*

Dear Smith Travelers,

You are invited on a remarkable journey to Alaska, the Land of the Midnight Sun. Your itinerary emphasizes two National Parks – Denali and Kenai Fjords, highlighting the interior as well as the shoreline. In addition to the Parks there are unusual experiences waiting on this last frontier of America. For nine days in July you will marvel at stunning mountain ranges, lush rainforests, and beautiful stretches of coast, all in one seamless adventure.

Along the way you will observe Alaska's iconic wildlife: bears, caribou, moose and wolves on land and whales, otters and sea lions in the water. Guided activities keep you connected to nature through hiking, kayaking and canoeing. Evening

discussions with naturalists enhance your appreciation of Alaska's unique natural and cultural history.

Since this adventure is limited to just 16 travelers, an early registration is suggested.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Bigwood'.

Liz Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel



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Please join Smith and explore amazing places in the Last Frontier.



Monday, July 4

Arrivals to Fairbanks

Arrive independently into Alaska's largest interior city, Fairbanks. Today, explore the Museum of the North, as well as the famed Alaska Pipeline. This evening after a full-trip orientation, enjoy dinner together as a group, and get an overview of the exciting activities and destinations that lie ahead.

Pike's Waterfront Lodge. (D)

Tuesday, July 5

Alaska Railroad to Denali

Travel aboard the historic Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park and embark on a narrated Denali wildlife drive. After a stop for lunch, leave the crowds at the park entrance behind and travel deep into the park by a comfortable, private bus (five to six hour drive). Watch for caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, resident and migratory birds, and – if weather permits – gaze upon the splendor of Denali (Mt. McKinley)! Evening lectures on Alaskan natural and native history will be featured nightly.

Denali Backcountry Lodge. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, July 6

Denali

Enjoy a full day of exploration, including a guided morning hike and afternoon gold panning. Many guests find flakes of gold in Moose Creek! Optional add-on flightseeing tours will be offered during your stay at the lodge.

Denali Backcountry Lodge. (B, L, D)

Thursday, July 7

Denali to Talkeetna

Following an early breakfast, embark on a scenic drive through Denali and watch for wildlife while heading for the entrance of the park. Once at the park entrance, continue the journey south to Talkeetna, for special evening programs. Experience the local flavor of a small mountain town.

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. (B, L, D)

Friday, July 8

Talkeetna to Seward

Journey from interior Alaska to the stunning coastal port of Seward. Gain an up-close-and-personal vantage point of the massive Exit Glacier on a special hike.

Seward Windsong Lodge. (B, L, D)

Saturday, July 9

Kenai Fjords National Park

This morning, board a small private boat bound for Kenai Fjords National Park – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife including whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins, and more! A scenic and spectacular half-day marine wildlife cruise will allow for an exploration of the rugged coastlines.

Home for the next two nights is the award-winning Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. This exclusive property is surrounded by a 1700-acre wildlife sanctuary, and you will enjoy special access as this is the only lodge located inside the 700,000 acre Kenai Fjords National Park! This afternoon, take a group canoe trip to acclimate yourself to the property. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations on coastal Alaskan issues, such as global climate change.

Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)

Sunday, July 10

Kenai Fjords National Park

Explore the wild delights of Kenai Fjords National Park for a full day. Amazing kayaking, canoeing, and nature walks fill the day—with options to satisfy all, from the rank beginner to the outdoors expert. Free time late this afternoon will allow you to enjoy the private deck views from your cabin before dinner together in the lodge.

Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)

Monday, July 11

Kenai Fjords National Park to Anchorage

This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, canoe, or beach comb for a half day before the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Board the historic Alaska Railroad for a scenic backcountry rail tour, and enjoy a festive farewell dinner on the train. Arrive Anchorage in the evening.

The Lakefront Anchorage. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, July 12

Departures

This morning, visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center, featuring amazing exhibits and local artisans, followed by airport shuttles. (B)

Included meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

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What to Expect

Travelers on this journey should be in average physical shape and comfortable walking at least one mile on uneven terrain (unpaved nature paths), at a casual pace, with ample stops for water breaks.

A typical day will include up to four or five hours of outdoor activity. Evenings will feature free time to relax in private guest cabins or enjoy educational lectures and presentations on various topics such as Alaskan natural and cultural history. Activities on this trip are led by expert naturalist guides who hold safety certifications and permits, such as the Wilderness First Aid Responder license. When in "bear country," guides will provide thorough safety briefings for all travelers.

Please be prepared for any type of weather. Often, temperatures are between the 40s and 60s in the summer, but it could be warmer or cooler. Typically the weather during the summer months is surprisingly mild. It rains in every month of the summer. For this week-long program, guests should plan for at least one day of rain.

Lodging

A mix of authentic Alaskan wilderness lodges and comfortable hotels have been selected for this journey. All guest rooms/cabins will feature a minimum of two double beds, private en suite bathroom/shower and on-demand electricity and heat.

Pikes Waterfront Lodge is located on the banks of the Chena River in Fairbanks. Guest rooms feature two double beds, private bath, free cable and wi-fi, hairdryer and heat/air conditioning. There is a large riverside deck for relaxing and two restaurants on the premises. Courtesy shuttles to/from the Fairbanks Airport are provided 24 hours a day.

Denali Backcountry Lodge is located deep inside Denali National Park. Guest cabins are well-appointed in nature settings near Moose Creek in the Kantishna Valley, with mountain views. Each cabin features two double-beds and private bath. The main lodge area features dining and places to relax, including a roomy guest lounge and bar, with a massive deck overlooking the creek.

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge is located in the quaint mountain town of Talkeetna, the gateway of Denali National Park. The guest lodge features spacious private rooms with two double-beds and private bath, located near expansive walking paths with mountain views.

Seward Windsong Lodge is located near downtown Seward, in close proximity to the stunning Exit Glacier. Guest rooms are located in a natural setting, with two double-beds and private bath.

Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge is the only lodge inside the 700,000 acre Kenai Fjords National Park. Private guest cabins are situated in nature settings with views of Pedersen Glacier and Lagoon. Each cabin features a minimum of two double beds and private bath. There are areas in the main lodge for dining and relaxing, including a large deck overlooking the lagoon.

The Lakefront Anchorage is located in Anchorage, near Lake Hood, a popular destination for float planes. Guest rooms feature two double beds and private bath, with additional creature comforts like TV, wireless internet and more. Courtesy shuttles to/from Anchorage airport and local Anchorage destinations provided 24 hours a day. airport and local Anchorage destinations provided 24 hours a day.



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Tour Details

Tour Cost – \$5825 per adult, plus tax, based on double occupancy. \$6025 for single occupancy. *\$100 per person can be deducted for triple and quad occupancy (generally in two double beds), if available.*

Includes – All accommodations, meals as indicated; non-alcoholic drinks including potable or bottled water; all transportation as noted; all transfers and luggage handling within the program; hotel/airport transfers (provided by the hotels in Fairbanks and Anchorage at beginning and end of program); park user fees; gear and equipment for outdoor activities; all guided activities; services of a professional Trip Leader; evening discussions and lectures.

Not Included – Airfare, beer, wine, liquor, local taxes (approximately \$75 per person), optional flightseeing tour, additional accommodations or activities outside of program description, trip cancellation insurance.

Insurance – Information on travel protection and insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Air Arrangements – Travelers are responsible for arranging their airfare to and from Alaska. For assistance in arranging flights, feel free to contact your travel agent or Alaska Travel Source at 907-562-2213 or info@alaskatravelsource.com. Alaska Travel Source is a recommended travel agency of our tour operator, Alaska Wildland Adventures (AWA).

Arrival: Travelers should schedule inbound flights to the Fairbanks International Airport to arrive before 2:30 pm on July 4, 2016.

Departure: Travelers should schedule return flights home departing the Anchorage International Airport on July 12, 2016, after noontime.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Written cancellations must be received in writing by the Smith Travel office in order to be valid. Non-appearance for the program will result in no refund. Advance purchase of trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Cancellation penalties will be levied as follows:

More than 90 days prior to departure..... \$600 per person
89 to 45 days prior to departure.....50% of per person trip cost
Within 45 days prior to departure..... 100% of per person trip cost

College Disclaimer

The Alumnae Association of Smith College is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its Alumnae and Friends. The Alumnae Association strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Smith family. Please note that the Alumnae Association does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. The Alumnae Association of Smith College acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for

completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. The Alumnae Association encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The Alumnae Association of Smith College is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.





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Reservation Form

To reserve a space on this tour, please send your registration form and deposit check for \$1000 per person, payable to **Alaska Wildland Adventures**, P.O. Box 389, Girdwood, AK 99587. Reservation forms may be faxed to (907) 783-2130 or emailed to reservations@alaska-wildland.com. You may also register by phone by calling Alaska Wildland Adventures at (800) 334-8730. For general questions, please contact Smith Travel at alumtrav@smith.edu or (800) 225-2029. Final Payment is due by 90 days prior to departure, payable by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

Please reserve place(s) on Insider's Alaska, July 4 - 12, 2016

Name(s) Smith Affiliation

Name(s) Smith Affiliation

Address Email

City State Zip

Telephone (evening) (day)

Enclosed is a deposit of US\$ (\$1000 per person; check payable to Alaska Wildland Adventures)

Or, charge my deposit on Visa MasterCard Discover Credit card number

Expiration Date 3-Digit Verification No.

Name on card Signature of cardholder

A Participant Agreement Form (which includes a Release of Liability, Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks) will be forwarded to each applicant upon receipt of deposit (or upon request) and will need to be signed by each participant prior to departure.

I/We have read and agree to the **College Disclaimer** for this tour (included in this brochure).

Signature(s) Date