Abercrombie & Kent



# ALASKA EXPLORER

For spectacular wilderness, Alaska is unparalleled. This is America’s last frontier, a land of raw tundra, soaring peaks, turbulent rivers and curious wildlife, where Arctic landscapes sparkle in the Midnight Sun and glaciers calve into icy waters.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

North America, USA

7 days from AU$17,940 pp

Private

# Journey Overview

For spectacular wilderness, Alaska is unparalleled. This is America’s last frontier, a land of raw tundra, soaring peaks, turbulent rivers and curious wildlife, where Arctic landscapes sparkle in the Midnight Sun and glaciers calve into icy waters which are a haven for otters, whales and orcas. View the spectacular scenery of America’s largest state from the air, clattering along the tracks, on foot and from the water and be amazed by its native culture, bountiful produce and craft beers.

### Journey Highlights

- Kayak serenely among icebergs on a remote glacial lake and enjoy a guided hike through a lush, old-growth forest
- Take a cruise keeping an eye out for calving glaciers and marine wildlife including orcas, humpback whales, sea lions and harbour seals
- Seek out wild bears feeding on the shores of Chinitna Bay
- View the six-million acre Denali National Park on a scenic flight with glacier landing
- Visit the sled-dog kennels of a champion Iditarod musher, and try your hand at leading a team



# Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrive Anchorage, Alaska

Arrive in Anchorage, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. The gateway to North America’s greatest frontier, Anchorage offers both big-city comfort and beautiful scenic backdrops, along with an exceptionally colourful history infused with native traditions.

***Hotel Captain Cook***

### Day 2: Anchorage – Alyeska

Fly by bush plane to Chinitna Bay, where you can watch for bears that may come out to feed on the river’s banks. Continue on to the château-style Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, free to explore your beautiful resort or ride the Alyeska Aerial Tram up to the observation deck for the breathtaking views of the surrounding majestic mountains, dangling glaciers, sparkling streams and towering spruce. While on the mountain you may like to go for a short hike, berry picking or simply relax and admire the view.

***The Hotel Alyeska | Meals: B***

### Day 3: Kenai Peninsula

Drive to Whittier for a glacier-and-wildlife cruise. Depending on the day’s weather and local conditions, your itinerary could include a thrilling cruise among the towering tidewater glaciers in Harriman Fjord. Alternatively, you might cruise into the heart of Prince William Sound to spy orcas and humpback whales. Explore shorelines, bird rookeries, marine wildlife and calving glaciers. Go ashore on a remote beach for some tide pooling or a short hike into this northernmost rainforest. Other wildlife you can expect to see include sea otters, harbour seals, sea lions, Dall's porpoises and plenty of sea birds, including colourful puffins — a fitting finale to an amazing day-long adventure.

***The Hotel Alyeska | Meals: BL***

### Day 4: Kenai Peninsula

Hop on the Alaska Railroad's Coastal Classic train this morning for a scenic ride to the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop. Disembark to set out by kayak, paddling with your guide among icebergs on a remote glacial lake enjoying the peaceful serenity of the natural surroundings. This is the only place in Alaska that you can weave through glacial ice on a calm lake.

Afterward, continue your adventure with an 11-kilometre float down the Placer River. Watch for wildlife along the banks and relax as your guide steers the raft. Back in Portage, return to Girdwood for an evening at leisure.

***The Hotel Alyeska | Meals: BL***

### Day 5: Kenai Peninsula – Talkeetna

This morning, depart Girdwood to explore the quaint downtown of Talkeetna before continuing to your accommodations in a rustic-modern lodge that overlooks Denali (formerly Mount McKinley) — North America's highest peak (6,190 metres) — and Denali National Park.

After checking in, an adventure is in store where you climb aboard a ski-plane for a thrilling flight over the peaks and glaciers of Denali National Park. Fly to the western end of the park, past the towering peaks of Denali and Mt Foraker, as massive glaciers are revealed around every corner. Soar above the Kahiltna Glacier, the longest in the Alaska Range, before landing on it (weather permitting) for exceptional photographic opportunities and stories from your pilot.

This afternoon, enjoy a short guided nature walk giving you the chance to learn of local flora and fauna as well as the earliest settlers in the area, the trappers and the Dena'ina Indians. Watch for wildlife such as moose, bears and eagles as you traverse through lush, old-growth forest alive with songbirds and wildflowers.

***Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Meals: B***

### Day 6: Talkeetna

Following breakfast, head out to enjoy a private Alaska sled dog experience. Visit the Talkeetna kennels of Iditarod champion Dallas Seavey. Hear about the gruelling Iditarod Sled Dog Race, meet the dogs (and their puppies) and learn how these endurance athletes are raised and trained. Then, climb aboard a wheeled racing rig used to train dog teams without snow and take an exhilarating ride through the Talkeetna woods.

Afterward, set off on a wilderness jet boat excursion, watching for bald eagles and other wildlife as you explore the wilderness around Talkeetna. Your captain and naturalist guide will share stories of human and natural history of the area as you visit a Native Alaskan camp and a historic trapper's cabin. On a clear day, you'll have the opportunity to take in the breathtaking views of the Alaska range.

***Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Meals: B***

### Day 7: Talkeetna – Depart Anchorage

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

***Meals: B***

# Map


USA
ALASKA
Denali
Talkeetna
Anchorage
Girdwood
Chinitna Bay
Kenai Peninsula
GULF OF ALASKA
ARRIVE/DEPART
AIR
ROAD
RAIL

# Accommodation

## The Hotel Captain Cook, Alaska



The Hotel Captain Cook, inducted into the Historic Hotels of America, provides fine lodging in the heart of Anchorage. Upper floors have expansive views of the Cook Inlet and Chugach Mountains. The Captain Cook is the perfect base for your Anchorage experience, offering the best cultural, retail and natural highlights just steps from your door. Featuring four restaurants, twelve shops and top-notch guest services, the Captain Cook has something for everyone.

### Why we like it

- Most convenient hotel to begin your Alaskan adventure in downtown Anchorage
- Perfect location to take advantage of Anchorage's best cultural, retail and natural highlights
- Each of the comfortable rooms and suites offer a stunning view of the neighbouring Cook Inlet or the Chugach Mountains
- Perched atop Tower 3, the Crow's Nest restaurant offers a AAA-four diamond fine dining restaurant

## Hotel Alyeska



Nestled in the Chugach Mountain Range in the resort community of Girdwood, Alyeska Resort, a chateau-style hotel is surrounded by mountain peaks, hanging glaciers and ocean views, is only 60kms from downtown Anchorage. Alyeska Resort is centrally located and provides convenient access to many Alaskan travel highlights and is a perfect base for exploring the Kenai Peninsula.

Rooms are comfortable with warm organic interiors and native artworks. The floor-to-ceiling windows in the fireside lobby and grand staircase offer unobstructed views of the north face of Mount Alyeska. Guests can keep active by frequenting the indoor lap pool and fitness centre or relax in the 16-person spa.

The new Nordic Spa at Alyeska, the first of its kind in Alaska, invites guests to relax and reconnect with nature with a series of outdoor hot and cold Hydrotherapy pools, massage treatments and wellness offerings. Refresh and rejuvenate with cold water plunges and waterfalls, aromatherapy infused steam rooms, saunas and an exfoliation cabin offering Alaskan sea salt services. The resort also features five different restaurants and cafes specialising in all different cuisines.

### Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge



Talkeetna spans several pretty log buildings which houses the main lodge and 212 guest rooms in separate buildings overlooking the forest. The Mountain View Rooms are our favourite, with sweeping views of the Alaska Range and Mt McKinley, while other rooms look out onto pretty green vistas. The Main lodge has a spacious lobby with high cathedral ceilings and a beautiful stone fireplace, built with enormous logs from beetle-killed spruce trees of the Ninilchik area and stones from the Matanuska River.

There are many lovely wilderness trails nearby for exploring, either on foot or by hiring bikes. Flightseeing, fishing, jet boating, zip lining and float trips are also on offer. The Base Camp Bistro and Lounge is ideal for casual dining including filling breakfasts; Foraker Restaurant serves up wild Alaskan seafood and game for fine dining with magnificent views of the mountains. Mount Hunter Coffee Co. and gift shop is ideal for picking up supplies and souvenirs to take home.

### Why we like it

- Set on a ridge, overlooking the impressive Mt. McKinley
- Set at the point where the Talkeetna and the Chulitna River join the Susitna River
- Foraker, the onsite fine dining restaurant, offers wild Alaska seafood and game
- The only Talkeetna lodging with rooms that face Mt. McKinley

Abercrombie & Kent

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