Tour: ALASKA – THE LAST FRONTIER

Destination: FAIRBANKS, ANCHORAGE & SEWARD, ALASKA, USA

Specialization: Physical Science, Animal Science, Marine Science, Earth & Space Sciences

Itinerary: 8-days / 7-nights in destination

Availability: Year-round. Please select the itinerary that corresponds with your specific travel dates.

### ALASKA - THE LAST FRONTIER - October through April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Travel to Fairbanks, Alaska; transfer to Fairbanks Hotel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>University of Alaska - North Lights &amp; Museum</td>
<td>Dog Mushing Adventure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Chena Hot Springs</td>
<td>Geothermal Renewable Energy Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Alaska Railroad: Ice Journey to Anchorage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Imaginarium Discovery Center</td>
<td>Shopping in Anchorage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Transfer to Seward</td>
<td>Alaska SeaLife Center - Overnight Marine Science Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Resurrection Bay Whale Watch Cruise</td>
<td>Big Game Conservation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer to Airport; Fly Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ALASKA - THE LAST FRONTIER - May through September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Travel to Fairbanks, Alaska; transfer to Fairbanks Hotel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Alaska Pipeline Master Class</td>
<td>Aurora Borealis Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Transfer to Denali</td>
<td>Denali Tundra Wildlife Tour &amp; Master Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Transfer to Anchorage</td>
<td>Native Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Imaginarium Discovery Center</td>
<td>Shopping in Anchorage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Transfer to Seward</td>
<td>Alaska SeaLife Center - Overnight Marine Science Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Resurrection Bay Whale Watch Cruise</td>
<td>Big Game Conservation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer to Airport; Fly Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.
Day 1

Fairbanks... Go deep inside Alaska, where the unparalleled meets the unexpected! Fairbanks emanates a quality of light, energy and warmth found nowhere else on Earth. The northern lights will change you, while the summer midnight sun charms you. Greet the Arctic wilderness on your doorstep or be amazed by Fairbanks’ magnificent neighbour, Denali. Be transported into the gold rush past or engaged in the art and culture of this vibrant and diverse city. Make your journey into the heart of the Last Frontier and experience the light, energy and warmth found only in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Before the construction of the Alaska Highway, the establishment of military bases and Alaska's induction into the union as the 49th state of the USA, Fairbanks was an energetic mining town. Italian immigrant, Felix Pedro is credited with the initial discovery of gold in 1902. As luck would have it, Captain E.T. Barnette's goal of building a trading post on the banks of the Chena River coincided with this, as well as other key gold strikes north of town. Subsequently, Fairbanks was incorporated in 1903.

More than one hundred years later, this small boomtown has a diversified economy, with oil, gas, gold and coal mining, military, tourism and the University of Alaska as key components. Fairbanks continues in its role as the services hub and gateway to Alaska's Interior and Arctic. With a population of close to 31,000, Fairbanks' citizenry swells to almost 97,000 when including the surrounding Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Did you know?

- Alaska's name is based on the Eskimo word ‘Alakshak’ meaning great lands or peninsula. The term ‘Alaska native’ refers to Alaska's original inhabitants including Aleut, Eskimo and Indian groups.
- Outsiders first discovered Alaska in 1741 when Danish explorer Vitus Jonassen Bering sighted it on a voyage from Siberia.
- Russian whalers and fur traders on Kodiak Island established the first settlement in Alaska in 1784.
- In 1867 United States Secretary of State William H. Seward offered Russia $7,200,000, or two cents per acre, for Alaska.
- Alaska's most important revenue source is the oil and natural gas industry. Alaska accounts for 25% of the oil produced in the United States. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline moves up to 88,000 barrels of oil per hour on its 800 mile journey to Valdez.
- The fishing and seafood industry is the state's largest private industry employer. Most of America's salmon, crab, halibut, and herring come from Alaska.
- Dog mushing is the official state sport. The Alaskan malamute sled dog is strong and heavily coated. It was developed as a breed by a group of Eskimos named the Malemiuts.
Nearly one-third of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle.

The discovery of gold in the Yukon began a gold rush in 1898. Later gold was discovered at Nome and Fairbanks.

Alaska is the USA’s largest state and is over twice the size of Texas. Measuring from north to south the state is approximately 1,400 miles long and measuring from east to west it is 2,700 miles wide. The state's coastline extends over 6,600 miles. When a scale map of Alaska is superimposed on a map of the 48 lower states of the USA, Alaska extends from coast to coast.

17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States are located in Alaska. At 20,320 feet above sea level, Mt. McKinley, located in Alaska’s interior, is the highest point in North America.

Juneau is the only capital city in the United States accessible only by boat or plane.

In 1915 the record high temperature in Alaska was 100 degrees Fahrenheit at Fort Yukon; the record low temperature was -80 degrees Fahrenheit at Prospect Creek Camp in 1971.

Groups participating in Vision’s ‘Alaska – The Last Frontier’ will generally arrive in Fairbanks in the late evening hours. Upon arrival, your motorcoach will be awaiting your school to transport you swiftly to your hotel. As it will be late evening, we’ll head straight to bed for the night and get ready for our fabulous journey starting tomorrow!

**Sample Winter Hotel – Wedgewood Lodge, Fairbanks** – Offering deluxe 1 & 2 bedroom suites in a wooded, campus environment, Wedgewood Resort is perfect for Visions groups. The Resort is located minutes from downtown Fairbanks and the University of Alaska, yet adjacent to miles of nature trails. Be sure to bring your binoculars to see some of Alaska’s unique animals in the Wedgewood Wildlife Sanctuary! Resort amenities include complimentary high-speed Internet access, guest laundry facilities, meeting facilities, restaurant and lounge (summer only). Room amenities include refrigerators, microwaves, hair dryers and coffee makers. Students sleep quad occupancy in two queen beds per room as standard; teachers sleep double occupancy in two queen beds per room.

**Sample Summer Hotel – Bridgewater Hotel, Fairbanks** – Located on the banks of the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks, the Bridgewater Hotel is within steps of museums, the Fairbanks Visitor Center, great restaurants, and many shops! With only 94 guest rooms, the hotel provides exceptional guest service. Guests are sure to enjoy the proximity to local activities as well as the spotless, charming accommodations. Amenities include complimentary high-speed Internet access, hair dryers and coffee makers. Students sleep quad occupancy in two queen beds per room as standard; teachers sleep double occupancy in two queen beds per room.

**Day 2**

Breakfast & Dinner

Rise and shine Fairbanks! After breakfast, we’ll have our Visions Welcome & Safety Meeting, and then get started on our action-packed itinerary straight away. Get ready to experience Alaska!

**IMPORTANT NOTE**: Please know that itineraries vary on Days 2 through 4 due to seasonality options. On these days, please review the section that is relevant to your specific travel dates. Travel dates include winter tour options during October through April annually, or summer tour options during May through September annually. Day 5 onwards corresponds to both sets of travel dates.
WINTER ITINERARY

University of Alaska Fairbanks – ‘The Arctic University’ - Alaskans take great pride in their individuality, and Alaska's flagship university campus is no different. UAF's 10,446 students come from Alaska, most other states, and 42 foreign countries. More than 250 are international students. Undergraduate students make up 88 percent of the total student body. The Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened its doors in 1922. The school grew quickly, and in 1935 became the University of Alaska. By the time Alaska became a state in 1959, students could earn Ph.D.s at the university. UAF remains the only campus in the state that awards doctoral degrees and it holds the distinction of being one of the few Land, Sea & Space Grant universities in the country.

http://www.uaf.edu

During our visit to the University, Visions groups will start by learning about the Aurora Borealis! Through a film presentation, we’ll learn what causes the magic of the Northern Lights. In the University’s Museum, the upper level contains ‘The Place Where You Go to Listen,’ a unique sound and light environment created by composer John Luther Adams. This ever-changing musical ecosystem gives voice to the rhythms of daylight and darkness, the phases of the moon, the seismic vibrations of the earth and the dance of the aurora borealis in real time. The Museum also houses exhibits on Alaska wildlife, culture, native people, and gold.

Afterwards, we’ll have lunch on our own and then we’re off for some mushing!

Alaska Dog Sledding - Our next stop will be a ride on an Alaska Dog Sled! The winter Alaska dog sledding season usually runs from November through March, with the famous Iditarod race held in early March. In warmer months, your Alaska dog sledding tour may be given in a wheeled cart rather than on snow, or on a glacier. Each ride will cover approximately a mile to two miles.

Later in the afternoon we will leave the city of Fairbanks and away from city lights for a viewing of the majesty of the Northern Lights. If you are travelling in March, groups will enjoy the Winter Carnival and the annual ice sculpture competitions. Afterwards, we will return to our hotel at Wedgewood Resort and enjoy dinner and a great night's rest!

SUMMER ITINERARY

The morning begins with a visit to the Alaska Pipeline where Visions students will learn what it takes to move the oil from the North Slope to Valdez!

The Alaska Pipeline – The 800-mile-long Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) is one of the world's largest pipeline systems. Starting in Prudhoe Bay on Alaska’s North Slope, TAPS stretches through rugged and beautiful terrain to Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in North America. Since pipeline start up in 1977, Alyeska - TAPS’ operator - has successfully transported more than 16 billion barrels of oil.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System includes the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, 11 pump stations, several hundred miles of feeder pipelines, and the Valdez Marine Terminal. The pipeline was built between 1974 and 1977 after the 1973 oil crisis caused a sharp rise in oil prices in the United States. This rise made exploration of the Prudhoe Bay oil field economically feasible. Environmental, legal, and political debates followed the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968, and the pipeline was built only after the oil crisis provoked the passage of legislation designed to remove legal challenges to the project.
The task of building the pipeline had to address a wide range of difficulties, stemming mainly from the extreme cold and the difficult, isolated terrain. The construction of the pipeline was one of the first large-scale projects to deal with problems caused by permafrost, and special construction techniques had to be developed to cope with the frozen ground. The project attracted tens of thousands of workers to Alaska, causing a boomtown atmosphere in Valdez, Fairbanks and Anchorage. [http://www.alyeska-pipe.com](http://www.alyeska-pipe.com)

- Length - 800 miles; Diameter: 48 inches.
- Crosses three mountain ranges and over 800 rivers and streams.
- Cost to build: $8 billion in 1977, the largest privately funded construction project at that time.
- Construction began on March 27, 1975 and was completed on May 31, 1977. The first oil moved through the pipeline on June 20, 1977.
- Over 15 billion barrels have moved through the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.
- The first tanker to carry crude oil from Valdez: ARCO Juneau, August 1, 1977. Tankers loaded at Valdez: 19,625 through April 30, 2008.
- Storage tanks in Valdez - 18 with total storage capacity of 9.1 million barrels total.

Next it is on to the University of Alaska Fairbanks!

**University of Alaska Fairbanks – ‘The Arctic University’** - Alaskans take great pride in their individuality, and Alaska's flagship university campus is no different. UAF's 10,446 students come from Alaska, most other states, and 42 foreign countries. More than 250 are international students. Undergraduate students make up 88 percent of the total student body. The Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened its doors in 1922. The school grew quickly, and in 1935 became the University of Alaska. By the time Alaska became a state in 1959, students could earn Ph.D.s at the university. UAF remains the only campus in the state that awards doctoral degrees and it holds the distinction of being one of the few Land, Sea & Space Grant universities in the country.

During our visit to the University, Visions groups will start by learning about the Aurora Borealis! Through a film presentation, we'll learn what causes the magic of the Northern Lights. In the University's Museum, the upper level contains ‘The Place Where You Go to Listen,’ a unique sound and light environment created by composer John Luther Adams. This ever-changing musical ecosystem gives voice to the rhythms of daylight and darkness, the phases of the moon, the seismic vibrations of the earth and the dance of the aurora borealis in real time. The Museum also houses exhibits on Alaska wildlife, culture, native people, and gold.

In the Afternoon, we'll climb aboard for a cruise down the Tanana River in an authentic Paddlewheeler!

**Riverboat Discovery Cruise** - Welcome aboard! Our three hour cruise will take us into the heart of Alaska and the heart of a family who has made the rivers of Alaska a way of life for four generations. We will see a bush floatplane taking off alongside a "bush" style runway, visit the home and kennels of the late four-time Iditarod winner Susan Butcher, and gain insight into the ancient Athabascan Indian culture.

The highlight of the cruise is a one-hour stop at the Chena Indian Village, where Alaskan Native guides will take us on a guided tour. We'll see an Athabascan Indian village with cabins made of spruce logs, a cache used for storing supplies, and fur pelts. Our guides will explain how the wolf, fox, martin, and beaver were used to provide food and protection in the harsh Arctic climate.

Our guides will show us a spruce bark hut, which Athabascans used as primitive shelters, and an authentic birch bark canoe made without metal fasteners. When one of our guides models an Athabascan Yukon-style women's winter parka with sunshine ruff, you'll want to have your camera ready! To the side of the cabin are hides of the largest game animals in the Interior--moose, bear, and caribou. You'll learn how Athabascan Indians called animals, how they tanned the hides, and how they preserved them.

In the evening, we’re off to an all-you-can-eat Salmon Bake followed by a night of entertainment!
Day 3
Breakfast & Dinner
Good morning Alaska! After breakfast, we’ll start our day!

**WINTER ITINERARY**

This morning, we’ll travel 60 miles north of Fairbanks to Chena Hot Springs with the opportunity to swim in the natural hot springs and tour the geothermal energy centre.

**Chena Hot Springs Resort** - Welcome to Alaska's only year round 100+ year old hot springs destination! Chena Hot Springs is the most accessible and developed hot spring in Alaska's interior. Discovered in August 1905, Chena became famous for curing crippled prospectors of their aches and pains. Today, visitors from around the world enjoy the natural outdoor hot springs. One of the first things you notice when arriving at Chena is the plume of steam rising from the outdoor natural rock lake and the smell of sulphur. The outdoor rock lake is truly natural in every sense of the word including the earthy smell of sulphur. In addition to the hot springs, a geothermal renewable energy tour offers students an opportunity to learn more about the energy saving projects by touring the Power Plant, Chena Greenhouses and ice museum absorption chiller. [www.chenahotsprings.com](http://www.chenahotsprings.com)

Also included is a visit to the Aurora Ice Museum - the world’s largest year-round ice museum. It was completed in January 2005 and stays a cool 20°F inside year round. Keeping the museum icy cold in the heat of summer comes from the patented absorption chiller, the first of its kind in the world used for this purpose!

This evening we'll have dinner and a free evening at the Wedgewood Lodge.

**SUMMER ITINERARY**

This morning, we'll board the Alaska Railroad for a trip to Denali National Park!

**The Alaska Railroad** – Riding the Alaskan rails is an experience that’s impossible to duplicate. Snow-capped mountains and wildlife fill the ever-changing panorama of your window, making for the easiest and most luxurious way to drink in the scenery. The 470 total miles of train track run from Seward on the Kenai Peninsula up through Anchorage, to Denali National Park and on into Fairbanks. There are 3 different routes and all of the stretches of track are unforgettable, and many miles run past places inaccessible by car. All seats on the Alaska Railroad are comfortable and spacious with large picture windows. Our train will depart at 08:15 for a short 4-hour journey to Denali. [http://www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com)

Upon arriving in Denali, we’ll check into our new accommodations. Following check-in, we’ll depart for a Tundra Wilderness Tour going 60 miles into the park. Bring the binoculars as there is no predicting where we will see wildlife! We’ll set our sights to find moose, caribou, sheep, goats, wolves, bears and numerous other forms of wildlife. Unless you travel into the park you have missed the beauty of the interior of Alaska!
**Denali National Park** – Roughly 400,000 intrepid travellers journey to Denali National Park and Preserve each year, primarily between late May and early September. Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska is nearly 6 million acres and over 9,419 square miles in size! Most visitors come in search of wildlife or glimpses of the 20,320' tall Mt. McKinley, the ‘roof of North America.’ [http://www.nps.gov/dena/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/dena/index.htm)

Denali National Park and Preserve has one road, simply called the Denali Park Road, and it is the main avenue for visitors to see and experience Denali. The road is 92 miles long and only the first 15 miles of it are paved. That paved portion, leading from the park entrance to Savage River, is open during the summer for public vehicles to drive. Summer travel beyond mile 15 is by shuttle or tour bus, or under human power. The summer season in Denali runs from late May through early September.

The Denali Park Road parallels the Alaska Range and travels through low valleys and high mountain passes. Along its route, beautiful scenery can be seen at every turn, and there are many opportunities to view Mt. McKinley - if the normally cloudy skies permit. Wildlife can often be seen, too, though sightings are not guaranteed - they are, after all, wild animals roaming an unfenced land!

![Park Road Map](http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/route-guide.htm)

**Tundra Wilderness Tour** - Spend a day and travel almost 60 miles into the wilderness of Denali National Park and the heart of bear country! On the fully-guided Denali Tundra Wilderness Tour, we’ll get interpretation from our driver/guide, along with hours of wildlife spotting and spectacular scenery. If the weather cooperates, we’ll see Mount McKinley up close. [http://alaska.org/denali/tundra-wilderness-tours.jsp](http://alaska.org/denali/tundra-wilderness-tours.jsp)
During the early part of the trip, watch for moose: there are some huge bulls that hang out in the taiga forest between headquarters and Savage Campground. Look for caribou anywhere above treeline but don't be surprised if wildlife is sparse in those early miles—it's not unusual to see no animals on this section of road, depending on the time of day and season. The tip of Mount McKinley first comes into view at Mile 9. You'll ride over high mountain passes and usually see Dall sheep on the mountainsides. If you're lucky, you'll spot bears too. It's not uncommon to see wolves from Teklanika on.

A high point—literally and figuratively—is the drive over Polychrome Pass, which offers a grand view of the Plains of Murie, stretching to the Alaska Range on the horizon. The colours of the mountains seem to change depending on light and time of day. Just on the other side of Polychrome Pass is the Toklat River and Toklat Bridge. Watch for bears ambling along the tundra or riverbeds and for Mount McKinley, which will be in and out of view the rest of the trip. The bus goes over Highway Pass and stops at the Toklat River rest area. There, Mount McKinley looms about 40 miles away—a perfect photo opportunity.

Tonight, we’ll overnight at Denali Park.

**Day 4**

Breakfast & Dinner

Rise and shine Alaska! After breakfast at our hotel, we’ll start our day!

**WINTER ITINERARY**

Today we’ll board the Alaska Railroad for an all-day journey across this Winter Wonderland! As we travel across the pristine Wilderness from Fairbanks to Anchorage we’ll keep an eye out for moose and caribou along the tracks. Those who are fortunate enough to do this trip in the winter are awed by the majestic beauty of this landscape! The serenity of Alaska in the winter is an experience not to be forgotten. The train ride is an all day adventure departing Fairbanks at 08:00 and arriving in Anchorage at 19:30. Lunch and dinner are included whilst on the train.

*The Alaska Railroad* – Riding the Alaskan rails is an experience that’s impossible to duplicate. Glaciers, mountains, and wildlife fill the ever-changing panorama of your window, making for the easiest and most luxurious way to drink in the scenery. Chug along as you experience the 360-degree view from a dome car: you may pass by huge hanging glaciers, spectacular Mt. McKinley, or a Beluga whale swimming off-shore. The total 470 miles of train track run from Seward on the Kenai Peninsula up through Anchorage, to Denali National Park and on into Fairbanks. There are 3 different routes and all of the stretches of track are unforgettable, and many miles run past places inaccessible by car. All seats on the Alaska Railroad are comfortable and spacious with large picture windows. [http://www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com)

After our fascinating journey, we’ll check into our Anchorage accommodations at the Inlet Towers Hotel.

*Sample Hotel – Inlet Towers Hotel, Anchorage* – At every turn, postcard perfect views are just outside your window at Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites, the preferred boutique lodging choice among Anchorage hotels. Whether majestic Mt. Susitna, our “Sleeping Lady” of the Chugach Mountains, or the amazing Cook Inlet, these mesmerizing sights are sure to leave a lifelong impression. Resort amenities include complimentary high-speed Internet access, safety deposit boxes, 24-hour business centre, fitness centre and on-site restaurant. Room amenities include microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, cable TV with in-room movies, hair dryers, and CD clock radio. Students sleep quad occupancy in two queen beds per room; teachers sleep double occupancy in two queen beds per room. [http://www.inlettower.com](http://www.inlettower.com)

Tonight we’ll have dinner and free time to explore Anchorage!
SUMMER ITINERARY

Today we’ll meet our motorcoach for a morning departure from Denali to Anchorage. Once in Anchorage, we'll spend time at the fantastic Alaska Native Heritage Center!

**Alaska Native Heritage Center** - The Alaska Native Heritage Center, a renowned cultural centre and museum in Anchorage, is an exciting place where students of all ages can come to expand their understanding of Alaska's first people. Here you'll learn about the rich heritage of Alaska's eleven cultural groups drawing upon the lifeways of long ago, the wisdom of the elders, and the traditions that endure. At the Heritage Center, local residents and visitors to Alaska are introduced to Native traditions and customs of both the past and present. Feel the heartbeat of Alaska's indigenous people. Hear their stories, explore their history and discover a cultural heritage still living and thriving today. [http://www.alaskanative.net](http://www.alaskanative.net)

After our tour, we'll have dinner and then the evening is free for some fun!

**Day 5**

Breakfast & Dinner

Good morning Anchorage! After breakfast at our hotel we’ll visit the Imaginarium!

**The Anchorage Museum & Imaginarium Discovery Center** - The Imaginarium Discovery Center is Alaska's hands-on, minds-on science discovery centre, a place where students of all ages can explore art, history and science. The 9,000-square-foot centre features more than 80 exhibits, including the Imaginarium's most beloved features, as well as renowned exhibits from the world's best science museums. About 25 percent of exhibits at the museum were conceived specifically for the Imaginarium Discovery Center. Students will experience simulated earthquakes and auroras, explore live animal touch tanks and interactive exhibits that blend technology and art. [http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/expansion/imaginarium.aspx](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/expansion/imaginarium.aspx)

All of these and more are presented in four unique areas:

- **BP Kinetic Space** - Explore the “electrifying” world of physics, including the principles of energy, force and motion.
- **Planetarium Hall** - Journey through the Earth's atmosphere, the solar system and beyond!
- **Earth and Life Science** - Learn the difference between geology and geography and find out why zoology has nothing to do with zoos!
- **Thomas Planetarium** - Take trips through the solar system to explore the night sky in the brand new planetarium. Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen, the planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more.

This afternoon we'll have free time. Possibly some shopping in Anchorage! Later we'll have dinner at our hotel.
Day 6

Breakfast & Dinner

Rise & shine Alaska! After breakfast in our hotel we’ll travel to Seward in the morning and then the Alaska SeaLife Center this afternoon!

**Seward** - Situated at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward is one of Alaska’s oldest and most scenic communities. Known as the ‘Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park,’ Seward is a picturesque town located 126 miles south of Anchorage. [http://www.sewardak.org](http://www.sewardak.org)

Voted an All America City in 2005, you’ll discover a bustling harbour and historic downtown district filled with quaint shops and art galleries. Visitors can experience trophy sport fishing, glacier and wildlife cruises, sailing, hiking, sled rides, and more. Seward is also a winter wonderland offering cross-country skiing and snow machine adventures.

At 3,022 feet, towering Mt. Marathon provides a breathtaking backdrop for the town. Behind Mt. Marathon and extending down the coast lies the Harding Icefield, measuring 35 by 20 miles. Flowing from the Harding Icefield are many glaciers, eight of which are tidewater glaciers, calving icebergs into the sea, reaching the coastline between Seward and Homer.

**The Alaska SeaLife Center** – Alaska’s only public aquarium and ocean wildlife rescue centre is located in beautiful Seward on the shores of Resurrection Bay. Visitors can enjoy close encounters with puffins, octopus, Steller sea lions and other marine animals while peeking over the shoulders of scientists studying life in Alaska’s arctic and subarctic marine ecosystems. The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska’s marine ecosystems. [http://www.alaskasealife.org](http://www.alaskasealife.org)

- **Research & Conservation Science** - The Alaska SeaLife Center is one of the only non-profit organizations in the world that has both a public aquarium and fully supported research facility in the same building. With state-of-the-art laboratories, aquarium animals that participate in research and our extensive field work, the Alaska SeaLife Center has quickly become the cold-water research facility in the United States. We are affiliated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and also collaborate with numerous state, federal and international agencies and universities—which can mean only one thing—our research is conducted by some of the top marine scientists in the world!

- **Rescue & Rehabilitation** - The ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Program is an important part of the Center’s commitment to understand and maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska through research, rehabilitation and public education. Through this program, the centre rescues, treats, and releases stranded animals. It is the policy of the Alaska SeaLife Center to make every reasonable effort to rehabilitate and release as many rescued animals as possible. The main objective of the Rehabilitation Program is to return healthy rehabilitated animals back to their natural habitat.

  - The Alaska SeaLife Center is the only permanent stranding facility for marine mammals in Alaska. Operating as a designated marine mammal “stranding centre” within a marine research facility allows veterinarians and staff to learn a great deal about these animals during the rehabilitation process.

---

Kaleidoscope Adventures | 800-774-7337
[www.kaleidoscopeadventures.com](http://www.kaleidoscopeadventures.com) | info@kaleidoscopeadventures.com
Rescued and rehabilitated animals provide ASLC with insight to their biology and physiology. This information adds to the pool of knowledge necessary to conserve threatened and endangered species. This program also assists with monitoring the status of wild populations through scientific study of ill or orphaned marine mammals and birds. Through communication and education programs, they increase public knowledge of the marine environment and public awareness of its importance to our ecosystem.

The ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Program is authorized by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to respond to marine mammal and bird strandings from the entire gulf coast of Alaska. The program includes a veterinary staff, interns, and volunteers trained to respond and care for marine mammals and birds.

- Education - The Alaska SeaLife Center Discovery Education Department has a variety of exciting programs for educators and their students. Developed in accordance with Alaska’s Science Content and Performance Standards and the National Science Education Standards, our programs connect your classroom activities with hands-on, below-the-surface adventures in a world class research and rehabilitation facility.

- Exhibits - The Alaska SeaLife Center offers an unrivalled, up-close and personal experience with Gulf of Alaska marine wildlife. Witness a 2000+ pound Steller sea lion gliding past underwater viewing windows, puffins diving in a carefully crafted naturalistic habitat, and harbour seals resting on rocky beaches. Alaskan king crab, sea stars, and the Giant Pacific octopus also await you, as well as a whole variety of intertidal creatures and deep sea fishes.

Our afternoon at ASLC is dedicated to a scavenger hunt inside the Sea Life Center where we will be required to make scientific observations to win the prize. Tonight we will spend the night at the Sea Life Center and participate in the ‘Nocturne’ program.

The Nocturne Program – Visions groups will enjoy an overnight adventure at the ASLC! Students will spend the evening hours honing observation skills and participating in hands-on marine science programs. At night we'll fall asleep with the seabirds, Steller sea lions and harbour seals. Nocturnes start at 17:00 and last until 09:00 the next morning. Each Nocturne Sleepover includes dinner, a light breakfast, free time to tour the ASLC, and your choice of two of the following programs:

- Sea Duck Scientists – Research the threatened Steller's eider as you practice scientific field work, laboratory studies, and captive sea duck husbandry.

- Scientists in Action: Veterinarian – How do vets care for stranded or injured marine animals? Get an insider's view of the ASLC’s rehabilitation program.

- The Scoop on Poop - Why are the Steller sea lions disappearing? Analyze the scat of these endangered animals to search for clues regarding their dramatic decline.

To prepare for your Nocturne Program, please click here: http://www.alaskasealife.org/New/education/index.php?page=visiting-school-groups.php

Day 7

Breakfast & Dinner
Rise & shine Seward! After our fabulous morning at the ASLC, we’ll explore Resurrection Bay via cruise!

**Kenai Fjords Resurrection Bay Cruise** - Learn about the rich history of Resurrection Bay while viewing the jagged cliffs, seabirds, marine wildlife and alpine glaciers! A rich variety of wildlife thrives year-round in Resurrection Bay, and you can cruise these spectacular waters in the comfort of our spacious heated cabins. Weather is no obstacle to your enjoying the beauty of alpine glaciers, jagged shorelines and towering rocky outcroppings through the vessels' large picture windows. Common sightings include Steller sea lions, sea otters, Dall's porpoise, and even Orca or Humpback whales. View Bear Glacier, a piedmont glacier stemming from the Harding Field located in Kenai Fjords National Park. The hanging glaciers of Resurrection Bay will provide a scenic backdrop for your photos! 2.5-hour duration. [http://www.kenalijords.com](http://www.kenalijords.com)

This afternoon, we’ll take a motorcoach to return to Anchorage, making a stop at the Alaska Wildlife ‘Big Game’ Conservation Center!

**Alaska Wildlife ‘Big Game’ Conservation Center** – The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Alaska’s wildlife through public education. AWCC takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and provides spacious enclosures and quality animal care. Animals that cannot be released into the wild are given a permanent home at the centre. [http://www.alaskawildlife.org](http://www.alaskawildlife.org)

Tonight we’ll have dinner and overnight in Anchorage.

**Day 8**

Breakfast

Rise & shine Anchorage! After breakfast in our hotel we will formally check-out and start to say goodbye to this wonderful land – The Last Frontier! We will wave to our new friends as we leave for the airport and hopefully, take away memories that will last a lifetime!
ALASKA – THE FINAL FRONTIER

Minimum Booking Numbers: 25 students

What’s Included - Winter:
- Return flights with a scheduled carrier
- 7-nights’ accommodation in destination
- Breakfasts & dinners daily
- Airport transfers and transportation as shown on itinerary
- University Alaska Fairbanks Museum Northern Lights Program
- Dog Sled Ride
- Chena Hot Springs, Ice House Museum & Geothermal tour
- SnowCoach to view Aurora Borealis
- Alaska Railroad: Fairbanks to Denali
- Overnight Program at The Alaska SeaLife Center
- Anchorage Museum & Imaginarium Discovery Center
- Kenai Fjord 2.5-hour Resurrection Bay Cruise
- Alaska Wildlife ‘Big Game’ Conservation Center
- Full-time Tour Ambassador
- 24-hour emergency cover

What’s Included - Summer:
- Return flights with a scheduled carrier
- 7-nights’ accommodation in destination
- Breakfasts & dinners daily
- Airport transfers and transportation as shown on itinerary
- University Alaska Fairbanks Museum Northern Lights Program
- Alaska Pipeline Program
- Paddlewheel Cruise
- Denali Wildlife Tundra Tour
- Alaska Railroad: Fairbanks to Denali
- Denali National Park & Tundra Wilderness Tour
- Overnight Program at The Alaska SeaLife Center
- Anchorage Museum & Imaginarium Discovery Center
- Kenai Fjord 2.5-hour Resurrection Bay Cruise
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Alaska Wildlife ‘Big Game’ Conservation Center
- Full-time Tour Ambassador
- 24-hour emergency cover

What’s Not Included:
- Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
- Transfers to/from home airport
- Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
- Lunches in resort
- Cost of visas, full or collective passports
- Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
- Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc
- Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid service, bellman service, area guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff is available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.