

FAIRBANKS

Nicknamed the “Golden Heart of Alaska,” this northern frontier town is in a land of extremes. The depths of winter are spent in near total darkness, while some June days are filled with more than 20 hours of sunlight. When night does fall in Fairbanks, you may see the aurora borealis — the Northern Lights — setting the northern sky aglow.

Fairbanks was established in 1901, when Felix Pedro, a pioneering trader, couldn't get his sternwheeler any further up the Chena River. Just a year later, a gold strike would transform the spot where he had settled into a boomtown. Fairbanks still has working gold mines and is surrounded by mountains, marshes, rivers and streams, just as it was a century ago.

ACTIVITIES

Every Fairbanks visit includes at least one of the following experiences.



RIVERBOAT DISCOVERY

Explore the legacies of the Chena River onboard an old-fashioned sternwheeler. Stops include a Chena Indian village, where native Alaskans share their culture and traditions with you, and the former training headquarters of Iditarod champion Susan Butcher, where dog teams still “mush, mush!”



GOLD DREDGE 8

Catch gold fever at this National Historical Monument. Tour the old mine by train and see firsthand how the dredge worked the gold fields. Then it's your turn to pan for gold from your own “poke” filled with potential pay dirt.

FAIRBANKS CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Sit back and relax on the motor coach as your Adventure Specialist introduces you to the landmarks, monuments and other must-see sights of the city.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH

Delve into 2,000 years of Alaskan art, tradition and contemporary living through exhibits that showcase the state's five main regions. Displays feature ancient ivory carvings, paintings, photos and more.

In Fairbanks, you will enjoy a stay at one of the following hotel properties.*



Pike's Waterfront Lodge

A local institution on the banks of the Chena River.



Sophie Station Suites

This all-suite property features spacious accommodations and award-winning landscaping.



Wedgewood Resort

Located just a mile from downtown Fairbanks, this hotel is close to the University of Alaska in a beautifully landscaped wooded area.

*Hotel properties are subject to change based on availability.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR ADVENTURE

The Arctic Circle is within reach on a land-air tour offered out of Fairbanks. You'll be piloted across the Yukon River and the Arctic Circle, setting down in a remote community to experience life in the deep wilderness. You'll receive an official certificate that commemorates the crossing. **Optional excursions bookable only through Adventure Specialist.**



Family-friendly activities and tours.

TO SEE WHICH CRUISETOURS VISIT FAIRBANKS, PLEASE GO TO PAGE 8.

DENALI

The six million untamed acres of Denali National Park and Preserve are covered in ice and snow during long, cold winters. Yet between the spring thaws and the first frosts, the wilderness is bursting with life, from flowering plants and migrating birds to the moose, bears, wolves and other animals that roam freely on mountain slopes, the tundra and taiga forests.

The subarctic landscape rises up to the snowy mountains dominated by Mount McKinley, North America's highest peak that is also known as Denali — the Great One. Accompanied by an official park guide, travel along the lone ribbon of road that winds through Denali on a bus that offers expansive views of this pristine environment. Along the way, the experienced, knowledgeable and sharp-eyed guide is on the lookout for the wildlife, large and small, that make Denali home.

ACTIVITIES

Every Alaska Cruisetour includes at least one of the following experiences in Denali National Park.

TUNDRA WILDERNESS TOUR

Venture 53 miles into Denali National Park on a Parks Department bus for a narrated tour. This off-the-beaten-path experience gives you the best opportunity for wildlife sightings, plus the chance to see Mount McKinley in full view, weather permitting.

DENALI NATURAL HISTORY TOUR[†]

On this cultural expedition, learn about the efforts to establish the world's first national park aimed at conserving wildlife. Interpretive programs and award-winning presentations showcase how the wild landscapes influenced Alaskan natives and inspired early pioneers. Travel 17 miles into Denali National Park, with plenty of photo opportunities.

[†]On select itineraries, guests may upgrade to Tundra Wilderness Tour.



MURIE SCIENCE AND LEARNING CENTER DENALI NATIONAL PARK TOUR

During a 30-mile ride into Denali National Park, the whole family will enjoy interpretive stops that focus on the park's unique features and wildlife. Kids can get hands-on with preserved skins and skulls and all ages will be intrigued by the methods used to track animals in the sprawling preserve. This activity is only offered on tour #9.

In Denali, you will enjoy a stay at one of the following hotel properties.*



Denali Park Village

This property is located across from the banks of the Nenana River in the heart of the Denali preserve. Nestled in a lush spruce forest, it offers mountain views — and wildlife sightings on the grounds are not uncommon!



Grand Denali Lodge

The lodge's location on the slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain offers views of the wilderness, Nenana River Canyon, the railroad and more. Restaurant and lounges onsite.

*Hotel properties are subject to change based on availability.



TALKEETNA

Situated at the junction of three major rivers, this small town boasts the qualities often associated with the Frontier State: a quaint main street, historic buildings that house cafés and shops, an eclectic style, and a vibrant, independent spirit.

With a population of 800, this mountaineering outpost is one of Alaska's most peaceful and idyllic spots. But Talkeetna also delights in unexpected ways — like when the clouds lift, revealing spectacular vistas of Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range. Colorful characters who just might share a few tall tales over a local microbrew. Settle in for the day and embrace the offbeat charms of the 49th state.

FREE TIME TO EXPLORE

Throughout your Cruisetour, you'll enjoy free time to explore — and the overnight visit in Talkeetna is no exception. Browse the galleries and gift shops filled with works by local artists and artisans, relax over a hearty meal at a downtown eatery, or simply take a stroll, enjoying the pure mountain air and the views.

Featured Accommodations



Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

Set on a ridge just above the town, this upscale lodge offers great views of the Alaska Range. Perfect for chilly evenings, with a 46-foot fireplace in the lobby.

OPTIONAL LAND EXCURSIONS*

There are numerous possibilities to enhance your Alaska experience during the Cruisetour. Your Adventure Specialist will help you find the activity that is right for you — and handle all of the arrangements, so your free time is spent enjoying, not planning. Among the options in Talkeetna are:

- Summit Tour with Glacier Landing: Climb to over 20,000 feet and pass over the summits of McKinley, Foraker and Hunter mountains.
- Talkeetna River Float: Admire the wilderness along a swift-moving but smooth stretch of the glacially-fed waterway.

*Optional Land Excursions are booked directly with the Adventure Specialist during the Cruisetour. Additional fees apply.

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ANCHORAGE

City sophistication meets frontier flair in Alaska's largest metro area, home to nearly half the state's citizens as well as a sizeable population of bears and moose. Surrounded by such natural splendors as the sparkling waters of Cook Inlet and the snow-capped Chugach Mountains, wilderness is an essential part of the urban fabric in Anchorage.

At local museums, gain an appreciation of the indigenous cultures that shaped this vast state. Browse the downtown shops for a special souvenir, such as a beautiful piece of jewelry. Dine in fine restaurants or a funky café, where you can savor local specialties such as fresh-caught seafood, wood fire-grilled steaks and only-in-Alaska fare, like reindeer sausage.

ACTIVITIES



ANCHORAGE MUSEUM AND IMAGINARIUM DISCOVERY CENTER

The museum's recent redesign received international accolades. New exhibits featuring Alaskan artifacts and artworks are ingenious, interactive and sure to wow. Kids can get hands-on at the Imaginarium Discovery Center, with an earthquake simulator and touch-tanks filled with all kinds of marine creatures.

THE ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER

This modern space is a fascinating forum for storytellers, dancers, and artisans dedicated to preserving cultural traditions. In the birch forest outside, alongside totems made by the state's best carvers, six traditional dwellings represent each of Alaska's main cultural groups.

ANCHORAGE CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Discover the fascinating history of this city, founded as a railroad work camp a century ago, on a scenic drive that takes in the must-sees.

Featured Accommodations



Anchorage Downtown Marriott

Convenient access to shopping, dining and cultural attractions in the heart of downtown.

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ALYESKA (GIRDWOOD)

Alyeska is Alaska's biggest ski mountain. Sitting at its base — and just 38 miles from Anchorage — is the resort community of Girdwood. Outdoor enthusiasts flock year-round to this spectacular setting in the Chugach valley, on the Turnagain Arm waterway and surrounded by seven hanging glaciers.

The settlement that began as a supply camp for gold prospectors was originally called Glacier City. It was renamed for Colonel James Girdwood, a Scottish entrepreneur and merchant who staked the first gold claims along Crow Creek in 1896.

ACTIVITIES



MOUNT ALYESKA TRAM RIDE

On your 2,300-foot ascent above the valley floor, admire hanging glaciers and the unique rock formations on high peaks. At the top, enjoy panoramic views, hiking trails, and a choice of several dining venues, including the Seven Glaciers. A recipient of the AAA Four Diamond Award, the restaurant serves signature dishes in an elegant mountaintop setting. Reservations recommended.

ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

Learn about native wildlife at this nonprofit refuge for orphaned, injured and ill animals, offering care for those that cannot survive on their own in the wild. See the animals up close inside the Center's spacious enclosures. Be sure to bring a camera along for an educational experience to remember.

Featured Accommodations



The Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood

This resort destination at the base of the mountain features fine dining, shopping a saltwater pool and easy access to walking paths and nature trails.

TO SEE WHICH CRUISETOURS VISIT ALYESKA, PLEASE GO TO PAGE 8.



SEWARD

The land and sea portions of Royal Caribbean® Alaska Cruisetours intersect in this picturesque seaport. Seward is the gateway to Kenai Fjords, where you'll explore an ecosystem forged by ice over the millennia and rich with wildlife.

One of Alaska's oldest communities is perched on a peninsula where the ice age has had lasting power. Glaciers have long shaped the coast and continue to flow from the massive Harding Icefield. Where the ocean and mountains meet, frosty waters support a diverse community of birds, sea mammals and other marine life.

ACTIVITIES



RESURRECTION BAY WILDLIFE CRUISE

Aboard a smaller vessel that hugs the coastline, enjoy up-close views of glaciers, among them the giant Bear Glacier, rugged cliffs and rocky coves. A National Park Ranger narrates as you cruise past busy bird rookeries and colonies of sea lions. You might spot seals, sea otters and Dall's porpoises as well as puffins and other colorful seabirds. Keep a close watch for humpback whales and orca.

On select Cruisetours, this is a longer boating excursion that includes a grilled-salmon buffet lunch on Fox Island.



ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

Learn about this dynamic marine ecosystem from experts during a tour of the state's only public aquarium and ocean wildlife rescue center. See seals, sea lions, octopus and more — and get a fish-like perspective on ocean life via an underwater viewing gallery.

Featured Accommodations



Seward Windsong Lodge

Enjoy river and mountain views in a forested setting. A restaurant, lounge, gift shop, and espresso bar are all onsite.

ROYAL TRAVEL TIP

Share suitcases with your travel companion. Dress in Alaska is always casual, so why not streamline by packing cruise outfits in one case, and land-tour clothes in another? Plus it's one less piece of luggage to manage — and the second bag is always within easy reach, stored securely on the bus.