



Betchart Expeditions INC.

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THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDESM

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
AAAS, Sigma XI & ACS

ALASKA ANCHORAGE - DENALI - FAIRBANKS PRE Cruise Trip Extension

May 29 - June 4, 2017

OVERVIEW

We invite you to join other members of AAAS, Sigma Xi and ACS on this pre-cruise extension to the June 4-11, 2017 Alaska Cruise.

Our trip will begin with flights to **Anchorage** May 29 which is in a magnificent setting on Cook's Inlet, surrounded by the Chugach mountain range.

On May 30th we will see the Portage Glacier and Wildlife Conservation Center. The following day, we depart for **Denali National Park**, one of the largest national parks in the world, and the best place to see large mammals in Alaska. We will stay two nights near the park entrance at the *Grizzly Bear Resort*, and enjoy an afternoon river rafting trip the first day.

We will have an all day trip into the heart of Denali to observe wildlife, photograph, and enjoy the vast beauty and wildness of the park. We will then drive back through Denali to the park entrance, looking for golden grizzlies, Dall sheep, and other wildlife en route.

The next day, we will head for **Fairbanks**, one of the early gold mining towns in Alaska. It is the inland "metropolis" of Alaska, terminus of the railroad, home to the state's largest university, and gateway to the Arctic Ocean.

Here we will see the Alaska Oil Pipeline and Museum of the North, and have a special visit to the Large Animal Research Station. Special lectures at the Geophysical Institute will be a highlight.

Our Denali Extension will conclude when we depart for Juneau on June 4, 2017 to begin the Alaska Voyage, June 4-11, 2017.

Leading the extension will be an excellent wildlife biologist who has led numerous Alaska expeditions for Betchart Expeditions.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 SEATTLE TO ANCHORAGE

Mon May 29

Passengers flying to Anchorage directly from the lower 48 :

1:00 pm

Depart Seattle for Anchorage on Alaska Airlines flight AS#97.

3:27

Flight arrives Anchorage.

Transfer independently by taxi to our *Hotel (2 nights)*.

At leisure.

Day 2 ANCHORAGE TO EARTHQUAKE PARK

Tues May 30 **& PORTAGE GLACIER**

Breakfast at the hotel.

All passengers depart by 15-passenger van for Earthquake Park, site of the Easter Sunday earthquake in 1964.

Continue to Potter's Marsh (a great place for birds) en route to Portage Glacier. See Portage Glacier and Visitor Center.

Lunch.

Afternoon visit to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to learn about their program and see moose, elk, musk ox, and grizzly bears.

Dinner.

(B,L,D)

Day 3 ANCHORAGE TO DENALI - RAFT TRIP

Wed May 31

Early breakfast at the hotel, and luggage out.

7:00 am

Morning drive past Wasilla to the entrance to Denali National Park.

Lunch.

Arrive for the afternoon Canyon Run rafting trip on the Nenana River.

2:00 pm

Depart on the raft trip.

5:30

Arrive back at the van.

Take a short drive to the *Grizzly Bear Resort (2 nights)* near the entrance to Denali National Park.

Dinner.

(B,L,D)

Day 4 DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Thurs June 1

Early breakfast.

Depart on an early wilderness excursion by national park bus into Denali National Park. Denali is the indigenous name for Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet.

(This is about an 8-10 hour day driving into the heart of the park, and returning.)

Look for golden grizzlies and ground squirrels on the slopes below the road and Dall sheep on the hilltops.

As you drive further into the park, the massive ramparts of Denali may appear before you (weather permitting).

Picnic lunch.

Return drive through the park to the entrance. Look for caribou and other wildlife en route, and enjoy the breathtaking vistas if the mountains are not covered by clouds or fog.

Dinner.

(B,L,D)

Day 5 DENALI TO FAIRBANKS - LARGE ANIMAL RESEARCH STATION
Fri June 2

Breakfast.
Drive north to Fairbanks, of gold mining fame, and site of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
12 Noon Arrive Fairbanks, and check in at our *Hotel (2 nights)*.
Lunch at a local restaurant.
1:45 pm Depart for the Large Animal Research Station to learn about their work, and see the muskox and other animals.
Continue to the Alaska Pipeline, to learn about this critical path for oil to cross Alaska to Valdez.
Return to hotel.
Dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 6 FAIRBANKS - GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE LECTURES
Sat June 3

Breakfast at hotel.
8:30 am Morning at the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute for lectures on the major physical processes in the Arctic. Learn about Alaska's dynamic geological heritage and more.
Lunch.
Afternoon visit to the Museum of the North which has the most comprehensive exhibits on the natural and cultural heritage of Northern Alaska.
At leisure to explore on your own.
Farewell dinner in celebration of your journey. (B,L,D)

Day 7 FAIRBANKS TO JUNEAU
Sun June 4

Early shuttle transfer to the airport to check in for your flights to Juneau.
Passengers on the Alaska Cruise June 4-11, 2017:
8:50 am Depart on AS flight #2802 to Anchorage.
9:55 Flight arrives Anchorage.
11:05 Depart on AS#64 for Juneau.
12:43 pm Flight arrives Juneau.
At leisure to explore Juneau on your own until your cruise begins.

Please Note: This itinerary is a guide only and is subject to change due to local circumstances or weather. Passengers should be prepared to be active and out of doors in any weather.

Alaska Extension Trip Fee of \$3,690 per person twin share Includes: Accommodations twin share; transfer in Fairbanks by shuttle; transportation and tours as indicated; meals as indicated; half-day river rafting trip; day visit to Denali National Park by park bus including lunch; special lectures at the Geophysical Institute; group entrance fees; leadership by an excellent naturalist; administration. **Single Supplement:** \$795 per person.

Trip Fee Does Not Include: Air Fare (quoted separately); Anchorage transfer; Juneau transfer; tips to naturalist-guide; personal expenses such as beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, internet, snacks and sodas, laundry, or phone.

**Questions: Please call April Milne, (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910
or email: betchartexapril@earthlink.net**

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RESERVATIONS #1461Ext

YES! I/We want to join the **Denali Pre-trip, May 29-June 4, 2017** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please reserve _____ double or twin, or _____ single accommodations for the Denali Pre-Trip. A deposit of \$500 per person is enclosed.

Please mail to: **Denali Pre-Trip 2017**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014