

This year, travel with The Planetary Society as we explore **Alaska Aurora Borealis**

Come see the Greatest Light Show on Earth!

February 28 - March 6, 2027

Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us as we explore the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the famed Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, the greatest light show on Earth!

We will gather in **Anchorage, Alaska**, to begin our adventure. After our welcome in Anchorage, we'll drive along the Chugach Mountains and Turnagain Arm to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. We will see some of Alaska's major land mammals including birds of prey, moose, and muskox.

The following day we will take the classic train journey from Anchorage to **Fairbanks**, passing North America's tallest and most awesome mountain, **20,310-foot Denali** en route.



We will arrive in Fairbanks to enjoy **the World of Ice Art Festival** and to discover the delights of Fairbanks and the night skies.

Our visits will include the **Geophysical Institute** at the University of Alaska



Fairbanks, which was established to study the Aurora and its effects.

In Fairbanks we will go to some of the best locations in the evening to look at the Aurora Borealis: **Mt. Aurora, Chatanika, and Creamer's Field**. We will enjoy hospitality in rustic lodges while looking for the Aurora.

You will have afternoons to discover other delights of this snowy wonderland. We will see sled dogs and they will demonstrate this popular winter sport. We will also learn about the **Poker Flat**

Research Range which launches rockets to study the Aurora Borealis.

Leading this expedition will be popular astronomer **Dr. Joe Llama**. Joe is an astronomer at Lowell Observatory, a keen photographer and Northern Lights hunter.

We invite travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery to explore the day and night winter wonderland of our 49th state this winter!

Sincerely,

Bill Nye

Bill Nye
CEO,
The Planetary Society



 **THE
PLANETARY
SOCIETY**

Aurora Borealis Itinerary

Day 1 Home to Anchorage

Expedition members fly from their nearest gateway city to Anchorage, Alaska. Transfer on your own to our *Hotel (2 nights)*. Afternoon at leisure, or visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for a fascinating introduction to the people and wildlife of Alaska. Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. (D)

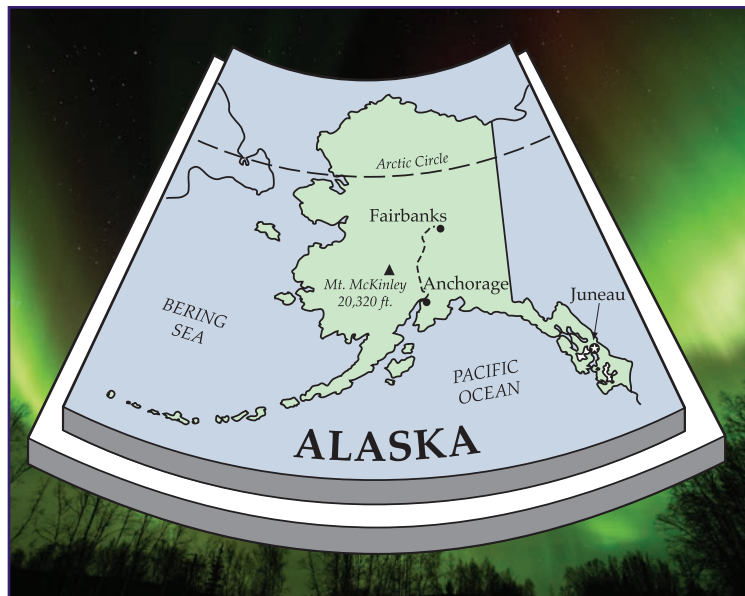
Day 2 Anchorage & Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

Today we will travel south by Turnagain Arm and through the Church National Forest to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. AWCC takes in orphaned and injured animals along with restorative conservation projects. (B)

Day 3 Anchorage to Fairbanks by Train

This morning we will board the famous Alaska Railroad for a scenic journey from Anchorage to Fairbanks, situated in the interior of this vast state. The rail trip will take about twelve hours, with stops along the way to allow locals to get to and from their homes when snow blocks many of the smaller roads.

In winter, the views of Mt. McKinley, at 20,310 feet, can be outstanding with clear skies. The train has a dining car for meals. Arrive in Fairbanks and transfer to our *Hotel (4 nights)*. (B)



Day 4 Aurora Photography & Geophysical Institute

This morning we will have an introduction to photographing the Aurora Borealis. We will learn about the different types of Auroras, the colors and movements. Sound at different wavelengths is also emitted by Auroras, but whether a human can hear the sounds has long been debated. We will also learn about the Poker Flat Research Range. Poker Flat is the world's only university-owned and operated rocket range. The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research.

This afternoon we will visit the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Institute has a long history of Aurora research and visit the University of Alaska Museum of the North today. Here, we will see examples of the many peoples who inhabit interior Alaska and displays of both migratory and non-migratory wildlife.

Following dinner on your own, we will drive to the wildlife refuge, Creamer's Field, to be joined by local star gazers to view the night sky, and the Aurora Borealis. (B)

Day 5 Sled Dogs & Mt. Aurora

After breakfast, we will then visit a kennel of dogs and learn about the art of raising sled dogs and driving dogsleds through the Alaskan wilderness. You may register for an optional sled dog ride!

We will visit the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the 800-mile-long pipe that carries crude oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez for shipment by enormous oil tankers to the "lower 48." We will continue northeast of Fairbanks through the rounded, snow-covered schist hills which were the focus of gold mining at the turn of the century.

Millions of ounces of gold were taken from this region over a period of 60 years.

We continue to Poker Flat if open for visitors, then return to Fairbanks for dinner. and evening Aurora viewing. Late return to our hotel. (B,D)

Day 6 Ice Festival & Aurora Borealis

Relax and enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel. After lunch, we will visit the World Ice Art Festival. Here, tantalizing images of moose, swans, and other fanciful works of imagination have been carved from massive blocks of ice and illuminated by colored lights to enhance the effects of size and realism. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Tonight we will watch and photograph the Aurora from an Aurora-viewing facility outside of Fairbanks. This may be the perfect opportunity to photograph the star trails as well. These dark nights might be a time to experience some of the hearty beverages that keep away the cold. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Fairbanks to Home

After breakfast, transfer to the Fairbanks Airport. Connect with a flight to Anchorage and fly to the “lower 48” states. (B)



Reservations

#1800

Yes! I/We want to join the **Alaska Aurora Borealis Expedition, February 28 - March 6, 2027**, offered by **The Planetary Society and Betchart Expeditions Inc.** Please reserve _____ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s): _____ Age _____ Sex _____
_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____
Work (_____) _____

Email: _____

Citizenship: ____ USA ____ Canada Other: _____

Member: ____ Planetary Society ____ AAAS ____ Sigma Xi ____ ACS

Accommodations Preference:
____ Double ____ Single Twin Share ____ with a friend *or*
____ assign a roommate
____ Nonsmoker ____ Smoker

Signature: Date: _____

Signature: Date: _____

Please Mail To: Alaska Aurora Borealis 2027
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Mystique of MOROCCO

Total Solar Eclipse

July 25 - August 3, 2027



Magical moments await you on this wonderful adventure to explore the mystique of the Kingdom of Morocco!

Morocco possesses a wealth of opportunities for the traveler, spectacular landscapes and fascinating cultural experiences. Visit Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, the blue city of Chefchaouen & observe almost 5 minutes of Totality over the Mediterranean near Tangier. Optional pre-trip to the delightful city of Marrakech.

For a detailed brochure, contact: info@betchartexpeditions.com
Phone 800-252-4910 USA • 408-252-4910 Int'l

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$4,695 per person twin share for 7 days (plus airfare to Anchorage, Alaska, with return from Fairbanks).

Singles: We encourage singles to register on a "twin share" basis. Should you desire single accommodations, the single supplement is \$995. If you do not have a roommate and we cannot assign one, you must pay the single supplement.

What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy experiencing the great beauty of Alaska in winter, including "the greatest light show on Earth"—the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center for the winter wildlife and great scenery. Travel on the classic train journey from Anchorage to Fairbanks, passing North America's greatest mountain, Mt. McKinley, en route. See ice sculptures in Fairbanks, learn about the Aurora Borealis at a scientific institute, and visit the Museum of the North. Evenings view the Aurora at Cleary Summit, and Creamer's Field.

The Aurora is normally seen on 80% of the clear nights in March and an active Aurora on 4 out of 10 nights in March. There may be some nights when no Aurora is seen, or there could be bad weather (we hope not, but be prepared for this possibility). Two trips in 20 years have seen no Aurora.

Typically, it will be from 15° to 35°F during the days; with temperatures dropping to 10° to -30°F at night. If you have any questions, please consult your physician before you register. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport by coach, train, or vans; six nights accommodations in first-class hotels, twin share with bath; breakfast daily, one lunch, and three dinners; group entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Airfare to Anchorage with return from Fairbanks; arrival transfers in Anchorage; and some meals; independent airport transfers; optional activities; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, soda, snacks, or personal insurance.

Airfares & Airline Ticketing: Please make flight arrangements directly with the airlines to arrive in Anchorage by 4:00 p.m. February 28 and to depart from Fairbanks late morning on March 6.

FOR RESERVATIONS

Please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit check for \$500 per person to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone (800) 252-4910 (USA)
or (408) 252-4910 (International)

Email: BetchartTerri@gmail.com

Final payment is due October 28, 2026

Look on the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com



Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 120 days before departure less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 120-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of \$250 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. Please inquire.

Questions?

Please call **Terri Stevens**

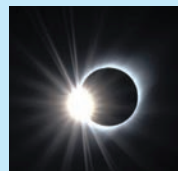
Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Phone: (800) 252-4910 (USA)

or (408) 252-4910

(International)

Email: BetchartTerri@gmail.com



Discover Malta, Sicily & Capri by Yacht on our Total Solar Eclipse Expedition July 28 - August 7, 2027

We invite you to embark on a journey from Valetta, the captivating capital of Malta to Naples, Italy for an enthralling exploration of Malta, Sicily and Southern Italy.

Visit the impressive sites, cities and beaches of Syracuse, Catania, Lipari and Capri with scenic cruising along the famed Amalfi Coast and the volcanic island of Stromboli to watch sparks of lava light up the dark sky!



On Monday, August 2, 2027 we will position the yacht in the center of the moon's shadow approximately 135 nm from Valetta to observe the Total Solar Eclipse with almost 6 minutes of Totality.



Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercise every care possible. We can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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