



Alaska Circle (9 Days)

Land Tour Featuring Anchorage, Denali National Park, Fairbanks & Valdez

July 16-24, 2022

Tour includes round-trip transportation & airfare from MSP & taxes/fees!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Iditarod Headquarters
- Denali National Park Tour
- "Mildwater" River Rafting
- Riverboat Discovery
- Gold Dredge 8
- Alaska Salmon Bake
- Cabin Nite Dinner Theater
- Alaska Railroad
- Alaska Native Heritage Museum
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- North Pole, Alaska
- & Much More!

MEALS INCLUDED

Breakfast (B): 7 Lunch (L): 3 Dinner (D): 2

PRICE PER PERSON

Reservation Deposit:	\$200
Double (2 people/room):	\$3975
Triple (3 people/room):	\$3925
Quad (4 people/room):	\$3875
Single (1 person/room):	\$4900

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Final Payment Due:	6/1/22
Cancel for a Full Refund:	5/16/22
Passport Required?	No

Riley Tours purchases a Global Trip Protection Group Pro for all tour passengers on this tour

Day 1 Anchorage, AK

Our journey to the great state of Alaska begins with our flight to Anchorage. Upon arrival, a Riley motor coach will be awaiting our arrival.

Day 2 Denali National Park, AK

We head north on the Parks Highway. Our first stop will be in Wasilla, home to the **Iditarod Headquarters**, which features a museum and gift shop. Next, we'll continue to the historic village of Talkeetna which is nestled at the base of North America's tallest peak, Denali. We will board the **Denali Star** and travel the **Alaska Railroad from Talkeetna to Denali National Park**. We'll follow the banks of the Susitna River, and maybe get a view of the famous, Denali across the river (weather permitting). After the Indian River Canyon, the track climbs toward tree line, crossing Hurricane Gulch, the longest bridge on the railroad at 914 feet long and hangs 296 feet above Hurricane Creek. The train will move into Broad Pass, at 2,363 feet, the highest point on the railroad. We'll be traveling in style

with Glass-dome ceilings and Upper-level outdoor viewing platforms for panoramic views of Alaska's beautiful countryside. Enjoy a **boxed lunch** while onboard. Upon arrival to Denali National Park, our motorcoach will be waiting our arrival. Our entertainment this evening is at the **Alaska Cabin Nite Dinner Theater**. The show tells the story of Fanny Quigley, a real pioneer in Kantishna back in the gold-rush days of the early 1900s—the same area that is now deep inside Denali National Park. The story is performed in an authentic, log-paneled roadhouse, and the actors and actresses do double-duty as your servers for the all-you-can-eat dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Denali National Park, AK

Today's adventure is one you will never forget! **"Mildwater" River Rafting** down the Nenana River. You may see moose, sheep, caribou and bear, as you raft downstream 11 miles. Hold on and enjoy this mild water introduction to rafting in Alaska. The most scenic portion of the river gives you a thrilling yet pleasant



Gold Dredge 8



Denali National Park



Fireweed

rafting experience. Afterwards, the day is at your leisure to relax at the hotel, explore the town or do an excursion such as flight seeing, ATV tour, Dog Sledding, biking and more! (B)

Day 4 Fairbanks, AK

Today will be spent aboard a special bus for the **Tundra Wilderness Tour of Denali National Park**. We will travel 63 miles into the park to Stony Hill Overlook and hopefully see the famous Denali-the highest mountain peak in North America. We'll also see incredible scenery, learn history of the park road and have some of the best opportunities to view the park's wildlife on this 6-8 hour tour. Keep an eye out for Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and grizzly bears. Afterwards, we will continue our trek north to Fairbanks on the Parks Highway, where we will spend the next two nights. (B)

Day 5 Fairbanks, AK

Our Alaskan adventure continues this morning! After a short tour of Fairbanks, we'll stop at the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

It was built as a means of transporting crude oil from the oil fields at Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope to Valdez. Then we will head out to **Gold Dredge 8** and strike it rich! Ride a replica of the **narrow-gauge Tanana Valley Railroad** while the conductor tell tales of prospectors who arrived by the thousands during the gold rush. We will see first-hand how the dredge worked the gold fields, then receive a brief but informative course on **gold panning** before panning for ourselves. This afternoon we will have an **included lunch** before we board the **Riverboat Discovery** to cruise along the Chena and Tanana Rivers. We'll experience a **real Alaskan Bush Pilot in action** as he takes off from the river; see the **home and kennels of Iditarod Champion**, the late **Susan Butcher** and see her champion sled dogs in action; learn about the area's Native cultures, lifestyles and experience frontier living first hand with a **tour of an Athabaskan Indian Village**. Tonight, **dinner is included at the All-you-can-eat Alaska Salmon Bake**. Your salmon is fire cooked on an open wood grill while the

Prime Rib is slow roasted. The Bering Sea Cod is directly from icy Alaskan waters and is beer battered to perfection. Included with our meal is a salad bar, soft drink and a yummy dessert! Afterwards, we'll walk over to **Pioneer Park** and see the **"Golden Heart Review"** a lighthearted, comic look at the colorful characters from early and present day Fairbanks. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Valdez, AK

Departing Fairbanks along the Richardson Highway, the first road known to gold seekers in 1898. Enjoy magnificent views of the Chugach Mountains and Alaska Range. Our first stop is in **North Pole, Alaska**. Here we'll stop at the **Santa Claus House**, home of the Original Letter from Santa. Mail your postcards and letters here for an authentic North Pole postmark. Browse the gift shop and visit with Santa and his reindeer. We'll continue on south making a stop at the Delta Junction Visitor Center, where you may have your picture taken with the monument in front that marks the end of the Alaska Highway or another favorite, the giant mosquito



Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise



Denali National Park



sculptures. Lunch on your own will be at Rika's Roadhouse, which housed travelers back in the early 1900s. Then we'll visit the **Copper Center Visitor Center** Complex to learn about **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park**. Continuing to Valdez, we'll travel through the beautiful **Thompson Pass** with its narrow chasms and jagged slopes. The highway winds through the **Keystone Canyon** passing **Bridal Veil Falls** as it plummets to the roadside. We will make stops along the way for photos. Upon arrival into Valdez, we will check into our hotel located right on the harbor. (B)

Day 7 Valdez, AK

Today we board a boat for a **cruise of Prince William Sound** passing Bligh Reef, where the Exxon Valdez spilled. We will cruise the majestic waters of Prince William Sound from Valdez to **Columbia Glacier** where you have a chance to view history in the making as Columbia Glacier retreats back into the Chugach Mountains. Our captain will travel the shoreline of the Valdez arm looking for the critters that call the Sound home. Watch for harbor seals,

sea otters, sea lions, whales, porpoise, eagles, puffins and other wildlife. He/She will share stories about the history of the Sound from early explorers, gold and copper mining, oil shipping, commercial fishing and the 1964 Earthquake. We'll see and float within thousands of icebergs, many larger than the boat we are in. It is recommended to bring a coat, gloves and hat if you plan to go outside of the boat. Lunch is included onboard. We will arrive back at the Valdez Harbor and the rest of the day is on your own. *Today you can have the option to spend the day fishing instead of doing the glacier cruise if you would like. Please call our office for more information and price.* (B, L)

Day 8 Anchorage, AK

This morning we travel on the Richardson Highway again. We'll make stops at **Horse Tail Falls** in the Keystone Canyon and **Worthington Glacier** on our way back through Thompson Pass. Along the way, we see beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers. Our stop for lunch (on your own) includes a view of Sheep Mountain, at an elevation

of 6,300 feet. Sheep are often seen high up on these slopes. We'll get a view of the Matanuska Glacier, the largest glacier accessible by a personal vehicle. This Glacier once reached all the way to Palmer, where we will make a stop at the visitor center and see the **Matanuska Valley Agricultural Showcase Garden**. This is our chance to view the vegetables you hear about all the time! We will continue to Anchorage. Upon arrival, we will visit the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** to experience a sample of Alaska's Native culture. More than just a museum, the Center proves an opportunity to explore the indigenous cultures of Alaska firsthand, cultures that continue to adapt to modern society, yet still maintain a vibrant identity for the Native people of Alaska. Next, we'll see the downtown area, where there will be free time to shop and explore. (B)

Day 9 Home

We say goodbye to our new friends and to this spectacular place. We will never forget the time we enjoyed in "the last frontier."

