ALASKA BY DESIGN

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Alaska's Scenic National Parks Road Trip

Alaska Self-Drive Road Trip

15 Days / 14 Nights Anchorage to Anchorage

Priced at USD $4,714 per person

Prices are per person and include all taxes.

Child age 10 yrs & under

INTRODUCTION

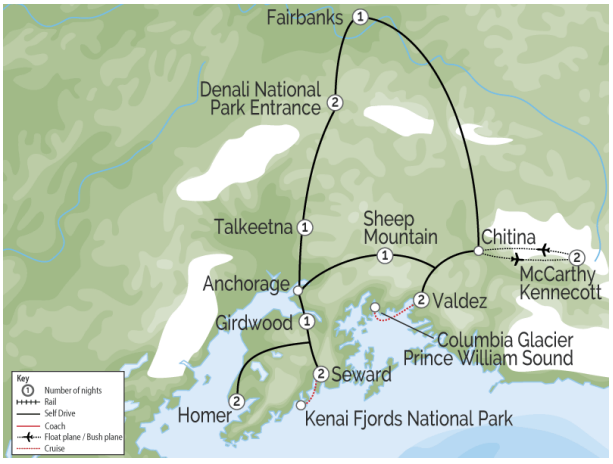
This epic Alaska road trip is comprehensive, wide ranging, and no holds barred. A self drive that screams 'go big or go home,' you'll depart Anchorage for 15 days of exploring Alaska's most popular and accessible National Parks. Embark on your choice of tours in Seward, plus see Homer, Cooper Landing and Talkeetna. Enjoy your choice of tours once again at Denali National Park, then continue to Fairbanks, Chitina, McCarthy and Valdez with a cruise into Prince William Sound.

Itinerary at a Glance

DAY 1	Anchorage to Seward
DAY 2	Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions
	Option 1. Tonsina Point Resurrection Bay Kayaking Adventure
	Option 2. Bear Lake Kayak | Canoe Trip
	Option 3. Wilderness Dog Sled ride Tour
	Option 4. Exit Glacier Hike
	Option 5. Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise
DAY 3	Seward to Homer
DAY 4	Homer | Day at Leisure

DAY 5	Homer to Girdwood
DAY 6	Girdwood to Talkeetna
DAY 7	Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance
DAY 8	Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
	Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion | Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion
	Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour | Coach Tour
	Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing | Small Aircraft
	Option 4. Upgrade Option : Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter
DAY 9	Denali National Park to Fairbanks | Sternwheeler Riverboat Cruise
DAY 10	Fairbanks to Chitina | Chitina to McCarthy | Flight
DAY 11	McCarthy | Kennicott | Root Glacier Hike
DAY 12	McCarthy to Chitina | Flight | Chitina to Valdez
DAY 13	Valdez | Prince William Sound Columbia Glacier Cruise with lunch
DAY 14	Valdez to Sheep Mountain Lodge
DAY 15	Sheep Mountain Lodge to Anchorage

MAP



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Anchorage to Seward | 204 km/127 mi
This morning travel along the Seward Highway towards scenic Turnagain Arm. Turnagain Arm is a body of water featuring the world's second highest tides at over 30 feet. Keep an eye out for Beluga whales chasing salmon in the bay or Dall sheep along the highway.

Day 2 Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions
Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions
Option 1. Tonsina Point Resurrection Bay Kayaking Adventure
Resurrection Bay is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and home to several Alaska state parks that offer abundant opportunities to hike, sea kayak and explore!
Option 2. Bear Lake Kayak | Canoe Trip
Kayak or canoe on this scenic local lake with fun-loving guides. Bear Lake is located just outside Seward, Alaska and normally offers flat calm waters, and a home for Sockeye salmon. On the way there is a stop to visit the salmon weir and learn about their life cycle. Eagles, loons, and bears are often seen while on this adventure
Option 3. Wilderness Dog Sled ride Tour
Visit the Seavey Family Homestead in Seward, and tour the beautiful tether free summer camp for Iditarod athletes! Meet the dogs, feel their excitement as teams are hitched to comfortable summer sleds, then mush for two miles through the scenic rainforest.
Option 4. Exit Glacier Hike
This moderate hiking adventure is great for viewing the jewel of the Resurrection River Valley - Exit Glacier. This massive wall of blue ice descends the mountainside from the Harding Ice Field, down to the Resurrection River.
Option 5. Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise
Treat yourself to an abundance of wildlife viewing with this 31/2 hour Kenai Fjords cruise in Resurrection Bay. Travel 55 miles (round-trip) along a rugged coastline and snap plenty of memorable photos as you sail past Bear Glacier. Sail close to sea lion colonies and seabird rookeries, and keep your eyes peeled for whales, sea otters, Dall's porpoises & eagles.

Day 3 Seward to Homer | 270 km/168 miles
Continue your journey and follow the Sterling Highway, a designated scenic highway covering miles of spectacular landscape. Along the way view snowcapped mountains, active volcanoes including Mt. Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt and Mt. Augustine, deep ocean bluffs, excellent salmon fishing opportunities along the Kenai River, and a magnificent coastline.

Day 4 Homer | Day at Leisure
Homer "Halibut Capital of the World" provides you with truly incredible panoramic views of mountain ranges, white peaks, glaciers and the famous Homer Spit. Use the day to explore the area - kayak to a remote cove, take a scenic cruise and spot wildlife including whales, seals, sea otters and many shorebirds. If you prefer to observe Grizzly bears up close, take an optional scenic flightseeing tour to the Katmai Coast.

Day 5 Homer to Girdwood | 297 km/185 mi
This morning, drive north on the scenic Sterling and Seward Highways back towards Girdwood. Along the way we have included admission to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center which provides care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wildlife. Here you can safely get close, observe, and photograph some of Alaska's largest land animals including moose, bison, elk, deer, caribou, bears, muskox. Continuing to Girdwood, take an aerial tram up Alyeska Mountain for views of Turnagain Arm, up to seven "hanging" glaciers and the endless peaks of the Chugach Mountain Range. At the base of the tram is your overnight accommodation at Alyeska Resort.

Day 6 Girdwood to Talkeetna | 241 km/150mi
Drive north from Girdwood along scenic Turnagain Arm, traveling through Anchorage and the agricultural region of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, to the small, picturesque town of Talkeetna. Talkeetna serves as a base camp for Mt. Denali climbers; the community of 857 residents is located at the confluence of the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers. A turn-of-the-20th-century gold-mining centre, the town has retained much of its early Alaskan flavour.

Day 7 Talkeetna to Denali National Park | 257 km/153 mi
In the morning you have time to take a sightseeing flight to Mount Denali, the tallest mountain in North America, before continuing north along the scenic Parks Highway. Your route will travel along the boundary of Denali State Park and Hurricane Gulch with massive peaks of the Alaska Range in view nearly the entire route. At 6 million acres, Denali National Park is one of the world's last great frontiers for wilderness adventure.

Day 8 Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions

Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion | Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion
Ranked #2 in Drives of a Lifetime by National Geographic Traveler magazine, experience the natural wonders of Alaska's Denali Highway — this time by Jeep! This 4-hour guided excursion travels along a 135 mi (217 km) gravel road & takes you off the beaten path in a 4 x 4 to enjoy scenic views of Denali, the Alaska Range, glaciers and wildlife.
Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour | Coach Tour
This half day tour offers incredible scenery, a narrated history of the park road and opportunities to view the park's wildlife inhabitants. Picturesque highlights include the craggy cliffside of Cathedral Mountain, wildlife rich Sable Pass and braided wash of the East Fork River in Denali National Park.
Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing | Small Aircraft
Get a closer look at Alaska's majestic Denali from the comfortable window seat of a small aircraft. Slip on your provided headset to hear commentary from your guide as you fly over the snow-covered peaks, jagged ridgelines, and glacier carved valleys of Denali National Park, and get within half a mile of the mountain peak.
Option 4. Upgrade Option : Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter
Be immersed in the vastness of the Denali National Preserve. On your way to the massive Yanert Glacier, your pilot will serve as your guide through this unique glacially-carved environment. Soar over the rolling tundra, keeping an eye out for local residents – caribou, moose, bear, and Dall sheep. Snow capped peaks and glaciers abound on this journey before you set down on a river of ice.

Day 9 Denali National Park to Fairbanks | 198 km/123 mi | Sternwheeler Riverboat Cruise
Continue on the George Parks Highway north to Fairbanks. Accompanied by incredible forest and mountain landscapes, you drive through the communities of Healy, Nenana and Ester - an old mining camp. In the afternoon, climb aboard the Riverboat Discovery III for an unforgettable 3-hour cruise into the Alaskan Interior, traveling the Chena and Tanana Rivers on the only authentic sternwheeler riverboat operating in Alaska. This narrated tour provides background on the area's natural history and the Athabascan Indian culture.

Day 10 Fairbanks to Chitina | 498 km/310 mi | Chitina to McCarthy | Flight
Settle in for a day of driving through some of Alaska's most diverse and dynamic landscapes. You'll drive the Richardson Highway along the Tanana River through Delta Junction, home to the Delta Bison Sanctuary. Once you've reached Copper Center you'll turn east to the small town of Chinitna. Flying from Chitina is the best way to get to McCarthy-Kennicott and the flightseeing that is included in the trip makes it a great value. On the way to McCarthy fly alongside 16,000' Mt. Blackburn, over the Kennicott and Root Glaciers, past the Erie Mine and view the awe-inspiring Stairway Icefall. A flyby of Kennicott and McCarthy before landing will orient you to the area you are about to explore. Along the way your pilot will describe landforms, point out wildlife and fill you in on a bit of the human history of the area. (Please note: Flying has the added benefit of saving 4-5 hours of driving on the single lane, gravel surfaced McCarthy road)

Day 11 McCarthy | Kennicott | Root Glacier Hike
Spend the morning exploring the dynamic features of nearby Root Glacier on a guided trail and ice hike. The afternoon is yours to visit the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark and the funky-rustic nearby enclave of McCarthy.

Day 12 McCarthy to Chitina | Flight | Chitina to Valdez | 194 km/120 mi
Today fly back to Chitina by bush plane while enjoying great views of the Wrangell Mountains. From Chitina continue south where you will begin to enter the Chugach Mountains that ring the coast of Alaska from Prince William Sound. At Thompson Pass you may wish to stop at one of the pullouts for the scenery and views of Worthington Glacier before you begin the descent into Valdez.

Day 13 Valdez | Prince William Sound Columbia Glacier Cruise with lunch
Discover the magic of Alaska on this 7-hour Columbia Glacier cruise from Valdez. A local captain and crew will guide you through the Trans Alaska Pipeline Terminal and Columbia Bay before arriving at Columbia Glacier, the largest tidewater glacier in South Central Alaska. Look out for wildlife along the way; if you're lucky you could spot porpoises, puffins, sea lions and sea otters among other creatures. (Lunch included)

Day 14 Valdez to Sheep Mountain Lodge | 309 km/192 mi
Today you will drive back north on the Richardson Highway with great views of the Wrangell Mountains as you return to Glennallen (weather permitting).Here you follow the Glenn Highway towards Palmer/Anchorage until you reach Sheep Mountain Lodge. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the scenic mountain views or recreational activities in the area. There are over 20 km/12 mi of trails near the lodge perfect for exploring. Birds and wildflowers abound. Maps are provided in each cabin for self-guided hiking.

Day 15 Sheep Mountain Lodge to Anchorage | 172 km/107 mi
Drive the Glenn Highway south to Anchorage. Highlights on this part of today's trip include the Independence Mine in beautiful Hatcher Pass and the many communities in the Mat-Su Valley. This valley contains many farms and offers beautiful views of the Chugach Range. Upon arrival in Anchorage your incredible Alaska self drive adventure comes to an end.

INCLUDED

Package Includes:

- Accommodation including taxes for 15 nights
- Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 5 Excursions
  - Tonsina Point Resurrection Bay Kayaking Adventure
  - Bear Lake Kayak | Canoe Trip
  - Wilderness Dog Sled ride Tour
  - Exit Glacier Hike
  - Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise
- Admission to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Alyeska Scenic Tram Ride
- Talkeetna Wilderness Adventure Jet Boat Tour
- Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
  - Denali Highway Jeep Excursion
  - Tundra Wilderness Tour
  - Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing by Plane
  - Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing by Helicopter
- Sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Scenic Return Flight Chitina - McCarthy
- Kennecott Mill Town Tour
- McCarthy | Kennicott Morning Glacier Hike
- Prince William Sound Columbia Glacier Cruise with lunch
- Meals as per itinerary

Hotel Information | Moderate Grade

- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room
- Homer - Land's End Resort | Midship Bay Room
- Girdwood - Alyeska Resort | Deluxe Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Main Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Denali Cabins | Standard Cabin

- Fairbanks - Rivers Edge Resort | Garden Cottage
- McCarthy - Ma Johnson Hotel | Standard Room
- Valdez - Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn | Standard Room
- Sheep Mountain - Sheep Mountain Lodge | Premier Cabin

Hotel Information | Superior Grade

- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room with Deck
- Homer - Land's End Resort | Stateroom
- Girdwood - Alyeska Resort | Deluxe Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Mountainside Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Grande Denali Lodge | Standard Room
- Fairbanks - Rivers Edge Resort | River Cottage
- McCarthy - Ma Johnson Hotel | Standard Room
- Valdez - Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn | Standard Room
- Sheep Mountain - Sheep Mountain Lodge | Premier Cabin

Homer, McCarthy & Valdez accommodation is the best available in the area and considered lower end of 3 star.

Not included:

- Gratuities
- Activities other than specified
- Portage fees
- Rental car
- Road and tunnel tolls

DATES & PRICING

Departs from Anchorage: Daily

(Tour Code: SDA27)

DATE	TWIN	SINGLE	TRIPLE	CHILD
Moderate Grade				
18 May 24 - 31 May 24	$5,123	$8,314	$4,159	$1,554
01 Jun 24 - 07 Sep 24	$5,619	$9,231	$4,516	$1,554
08 Sep 24 - 12 Sep 24	$4,714	$7,496	$3,886	$1,554
Superior Grade				
18 May 24 - 31 May 24	$5,647	$9,364	$4,514	$1,554
01 Jun 24 - 07 Sep 24	$5,947	$9,887	$4,740	$1,554
08 Sep 24 - 12 Sep 24	$5,238	$8,546	$4,242	$1,554

Pricing in USD$. Prices are per person and include all taxes. Child age 10 yrs & under