

ALASKA BY DESIGN

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DISCOVER HOLIDAYS



Alaska's Mountains, Glaciers & Wildlife | First Time Favorites Drive Tour

2026

Alaska Self-Drive Road Trip

9 Days / 8 Nights Anchorage to Fairbanks
Not yet on sale

INTRODUCTION

Explore two of Alaska's most popular National Parks on this leisurely 9-day road trip from Anchorage to Fairbanks. This Alaska land tour is designed for travelers with limited time, but thoughtfully includes a Prince William Sound cruise, Homer on the Kenai Peninsula, Denali National Park and Kenai Fjords. You can also select your choice of tours at Denali National Park, from a Backcountry Adventure Tour to a Jeep Excursion or a Tundra Wilderness Tour.

Itinerary at a Glance

- DAY 1** Anchorage to Seward | Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise
- DAY 2** Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 11 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. Resurrection Bay Wildlife Tour
 - Option 5. Exit Glacier Hike
 - Option 6. Upgrade Option: Guided Walking Salmon Fishing - Seward Area
 - Option 7. Upgrade Option: Bear Glacier Iceberg Kayaking Adventure
 - Option 8. Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Flight with Landing

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Option 9. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled

Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled with Bear Glacier Tour

Option 11. Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Iceberg, Kayaking Adventure

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

Talkeetna | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions

Option 1. Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour

Option 2. Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing Experience | Small Aircraft

Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing | Small Aircraft

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



MAP

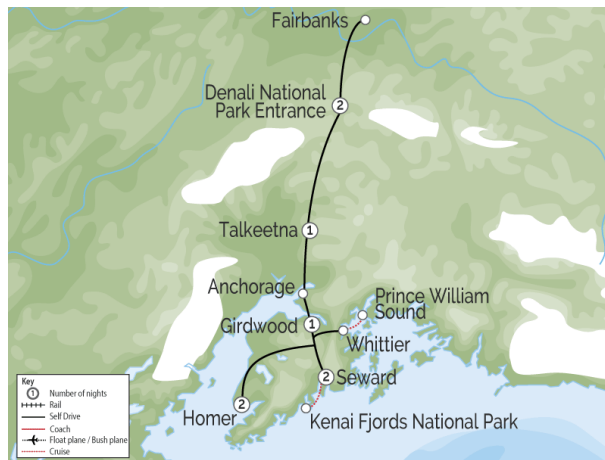
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DETAILED ITINERARY

The below itinerary reflects our recommendations for this specific trip. This itinerary is also available in the reverse direction.

Day 1 Anchorage to Seward | 239 km/149 mi | Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise

This morning travel along the Seward Highway towards scenic Turnagain Arm, 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. From Portage travel through mountain tunnels to the port town of Whittier. Board the 26 Glacier Cruise and venture deep into Prince William Sound, finding yourself so close to glaciers that you can "hear" them move and gaze at their brilliant blue hues. Discover several types of glaciers including Alpine hanging, Piedmont and Tidewater, plus watch for glacier calvings (broken pieces of ice that have fallen into the water and become icebergs). Lunch is included onboard. Following your cruise it is an approximate 2 hour drive to Seward.

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Day 2 Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 11 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. Resurrection Bay Wildlife Tour

Admire the icy blue waters of Resurrection Bay as your boat glides past glaciers, snowcapped mountains, and dramatic cliffs. On this 5-hour Kenai Fjords cruise, watch for whales, puffins, and otters with a wildlife guide. Visit Fox Island for a delicious lunch at a private lodge and enjoy skipping stones at a pebble beach. Learn about the area's natural history during this unforgettable Resurrection Bay adventure.

Option 5. 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 6. Upgrade Option: Guided Walking Salmon Fishing - Seward Area

Experience the thrill of a guided walking salmon fishing tour in Seward, Alaska. Stroll along scenic rivers and streams with an expert guide who will help you reel in the catch of the day. Learn about local fishing techniques while surrounded by stunning Alaskan wilderness. Perfect for all skill levels, this adventure offers an authentic taste of Alaska's fishing heritage in one of its most picturesque settings.

Option 7. Upgrade Option: Bear Glacier Iceberg Kayaking Adventure

Explore the massive icebergs deposited by Bear Glacier, the largest glacier of the Harding Icefield, from the comfort of your kayaks. Enjoy the stability of your boats as you glide through the glacier's calm lagoon, navigating a maze of floating ice. The lagoon's features change daily, and your guide will select the best route. Wildlife sightings, including harbor seals and black bears, are also likely on this adventure.

Option 8. Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Flight with Landing

Fly into Kenai Fjords National Park for a breathtaking flight over Bear Glacier, showcasing its massive crevasses and iceberg-filled lagoon. Land on the shore to spend 35 minutes exploring with a pilot/guide. This is a unique opportunity to explore a remote Alaskan beach, hear and see the actively calving glacier, and interact with icebergs near the shore. Moose, Dall sheep, marine wildlife, and black bears are often spotted on this tour.

Option 9. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled

Experience the thrill of mushing your own sled-dog team on real snow in summer. Begin with a helicopter ride over glaciers, spotting wildlife like moose and bears. Land on a glacier and enjoy an hour with an Alaskan Champion dogsled team, operated by 6-time Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey.

Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled with Bear Glacier Tour

Experience the thrill of mushing your own sled-dog team on real snow in summer. Begin with a helicopter ride over glaciers, spotting wildlife like moose and bears. Land on a glacier and enjoy an hour with an Alaskan Champion dogsled team, operated by 6-time Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey. Then, soar across Resurrection Bay into Kenai Fjords National Park to explore Bear Glacier, with its massive icebergs and calving glacier

Option 11. Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Iceberg, Kayaking Adventure

Experience the ultimate Alaskan adventure by escaping the crowds and discovering an untouched gem. Start with a scenic helicopter ride over mountains and glaciers, then kayak through a freshwater lagoon filled with monumental icebergs. Bear Glacier, one of the largest off the Harding Ice Field in Kenai Fjords National Park, offers a unique and dynamic environment, where seals and bears can be spotted. Routes vary based on current ice conditions, ensuring each trip is a one-of-a-kind experience.

Day 3 Seward to Homer | 270 km/168 miles

Continue your self-drive 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.

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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*Talkeetna | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions*

Today you can personalize your day by choosing one of these excursions

Option 1. Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour

Embark on a narrated river cruise into Alaska's wilderness, with views of Denali. Travel 20 miles as a naturalist shares insights on local history, wildlife, and Denali. Explore a Dena'ina Indian encampment and a historic trapper's cabin, learn about trapping, and discover edible plants used by Native communities.

Option 2. Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing Experience | Small Aircraft

This flightseeing tour brings you within 6 miles of Denali's north (19,470 ft.) and south (20,320 ft.) summits. Explore rugged peaks, glacier-filled valleys, and Denali's south and east faces. View the dramatic rise from 2,000 ft. to over 20,320 ft., the Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge, and stunning blue meltwater pools.

Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing | Small Aircraft

Fly within 6 miles of Denali's north summit (19,470 ft) and south summit (20,320 ft), showcasing a landscape of rugged peaks, snow-capped mountains, and glacier-filled valleys. Explore the south and east faces of Denali, witnessing its dramatic rise from 2,000 ft to over 20,320 ft. Highlights include the flowing Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge with mile-high granite walls, and striking blue meltwater pools.

After your excursion, drive the Parks Highway north to Denali National Park, passing by incredible forest and mountain landscapes. You'll have as much time as you like to experience the majesty of Denali National Park, take in the sights of the George Parks Highway or arrive at your hotel near the park entrance to take advantage of an optional excursion or a visit to the Denali Visitor Centre.

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

Continue on the George Parks Highway north to Fairbanks. Accompanied by incredible forest and mountain landscapes, you'll drive through the communities of Healy, Nenana and Ester - an old mining camp. Upon arrival into Fairbanks your incredible Alaska self drive adventure comes to an end.

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INCLUDED

Package Includes:

- Accommodation including taxes for 8 nights
- Prince William Sound 26 Glacier Cruise + Lunch onboard the cruise
- Seward | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 11 Excursions
- Tonsina Point Resurrection Bay Kayaking Adventure
- Bear Lake Kayak | Canoe Trip
- Wilderness Dog Sled Ride Tour
- Resurrection Bay Wildlife Cruise
- Exit Glacier Hike
- Upgrade Option: Guided Walking Salmon Fishing | Seward Area
- Upgrade Option: Bear Glacier Iceberg Kayaking Adventure
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Flight with Landing
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled with Bear Glacier Tour
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter Bear Glacier Iceberg, Kayaking Adventure
- Admission to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Alyeska Scenic Tram Ride
- Talkeetna | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 3 Excursions
- Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour
- Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing Experience
- Upgrade Option: Denali Flightseeing Experience with Glacier Landing
- 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
- Meals as per itinerary

Hotel Information | Moderate Grade

- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room

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- 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

Hotel Information | Superior Grade

- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room with Deck
- Homer - Land's End Resort | Staterooms
- Girdwood - Alyeska Resort | Deluxe Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Mountainside Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Grande Denali Lodge | Standard Room

Not included:

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

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