

ALASKA BY DESIGN

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DISCOVER HOLIDAYS



Grand Alaska Rail Tour Cruise Connector

2026

Alaska Rail Vacation

5 Days / 4 Nights Whittier or Seward to Fairbanks
Not yet on sale

INTRODUCTION

Before or after your cruise, embark on a 5-day Alaska Rail tour through the heart of Alaska. Departing from either the Seward or Whittier cruise ship terminal, you'll explore Anchorage with an option to go bear viewing and travel to Denali National Park onboard Alaska Railroad. Enjoy the style and comfort of a Goldstar railcar, with glass-domed ceilings, upper-level outdoor viewing platforms, inclusive dining, a private bar and full commentary of your journey.

Itinerary at a Glance

- DAY 1** Seward or Whittier to Anchorage
- Option 1. Seward Cruise Ship Terminal to Anchorage | Small Group Tour
 - Option 2. Whittier Cruise Ship Terminal to Anchorage | Small Group Tour
- DAY 2** Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions
- Option 1. Anchorage Brew Tour
 - Option 2. Turnagain Arm Wildlife Tour with Alyeska Tram
 - Option 3. Hatcher Pass Hike and History Tour
 - Option 4. Anchorage Flightseeing Safari
 - Option 5. Sunset Photo Safari
 - Option 6. Anchorage Scenic City Tour

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Call 1 855 465 1001 Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm PST Saturday: 8am - 4:30pm PST Sunday: 11am - 5pm PST

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Suite 1200, 675 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1N2, Canada

Option 7. Instalaska Smartphone Turnagain Tour

Option 8. Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour

Option 9. Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion

Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion

DAY 3 Anchorage to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad

DAY 4 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 5 Denali National Park Entrance to Fairbanks | Alaska Railroad



MAP



DETAILED ITINERARY

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

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Day 1 Seward or Whittier to Anchorage*Option 1. Seward Cruise Ship Terminal to Anchorage | Small Group Tour*

Disembark the ship and begin your adventure with a short and easy walk to see views of Exit Glacier. Next, visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center which provides care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wildlife. Here you can safely observe and photograph some of Alaska's largest land animals including moose, bison, elk, deer, caribou, bears and muskox. 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, then continue to Anchorage to arrive late afternoon. (Lunch is included today)

Option 2. Whittier Cruise Ship Terminal to Anchorage | Small Group Tour

Disembark the ship to tour north through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel – the longest highway tunnel in North America. Visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Centre 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. Then 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. Continue on to Anchorage to arrive late afternoon. (Lunch is included today)

Day 2 Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions

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

Option 1. Anchorage Brew Tour

Get the inside scoop on Anchorage's beer culture and brewery history on a half-day guided tour. Sample six tasty offerings at three different venues, including three classic breweries that you're sure to enjoy.

Option 2. Turnagain Arm Wildlife Tour with Alyeska Tram

This full day tour from Anchorage includes a aerial tram ride up Mt. Alyeska, fresh lunch in Girdwood and tour of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center home to moose, brown and black bears, wolves, bald eagles, musk oxen, and reindeer, giving guests an opportunity to view each species up close.

Option 3. Hatcher Pass Hike and History Tour

This half-day afternoon excursion from Anchorage includes a local guide, a tour at Independence Mine State Historical Park, gold panning and an interpretive hike along the Mill Loop Trail (an easy .9-mile trail with 177-feet of elevation gain). Travel along the Knik Arm, ascend into the Talkeetna Mountains and witness the breathtaking alpine area known as Hatcher Pass.

Option 4. Anchorage Flightseeing Safari

View Alaska's largest city from above! On this 30-minute introductory flight, you'll launch from Lake Hood and fly to some of the most scenic sites in the area. Options include the stunning backdrop of Anchorage, the Chugach Mountain Range, Turnagain Arm or the Cook Inlet – all with great opportunities to spot wildlife from the air. Please note that wheeled planes may be used early and late season.

Option 5. Sunset Photo Safari

Chase the best light of the day, which during summer in Alaska can last for several glorious hours before sunset. You'll be transported to scenic locations around Anchorage and Chugach State Park to shoot a variety of enchanting subjects. The itinerary is flexible and allows for spontaneous stops to photograph wildlife en route. Along the way, you'll be offered creative and technical support from your Alaska Photo Treks guide

Option 6. Anchorage Scenic City Tour

Embark on a historical tour starting in downtown Anchorage, where you'll explore the origins of the city at Ship Creek. Witness Chinook salmon in the world's only urban King salmon fishery. Discover Dena'ina heritage, visit Earthquake Park, and experience the world's busiest seaplane base at Lake Hood. Conclude with panoramic views from Anchorage's Hillside, where wildlife sightings, including moose and eagles, are possible.

Option 7. Instalaska Smartphone Turnagain Tour

Experience a thrilling smartphone photography tour that takes you from downtown Anchorage along the scenic Seward Highway. Capture stunning panoramas of Turnagain Arm, surrounded by towering mountains. Discover a variety of photo opportunities, from breathtaking landscapes to iconic Alaskan wildlife like Dall sheep, moose, and beluga whales. Grab your selfie stick and join us for an unforgettable adventure!

Option 8. Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour

Enjoy a half day guided tour with an opportunity to see Alaska's black and brown bears in their natural habitat. Depending on the time of year and where the bears are foraging for food, you will fly southwest of Anchorage by float plane to either Lake Clark National Park, Redoubt Bay or Chinitna Bay. Here you can view Alaskan resident brown bears up close.

Option 9. Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion

Experience some of the world's best salmon and trout fishing in Alaska's back country, only 35 minutes away from Anchorage by seaplane. The entire day is a not to be missed fishing & wilderness adventure. Fishing trips cater to both the experienced and novice fisherman.

Option 10. Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion

Start this adventure with a spectacular helicopter ride over glaciers and icebergs. We often see moose, black bears, Dall sheep, and mountain goats. Land on a huge snowfield high on a glacier and enjoy a whole hour with Alaskan sled dogs and their mushers. Take the dog team for an exhilarating dogsled ride through real snow

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Day 3 Anchorage to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad

Early this morning take the Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, in the Goldstar Railcar with service to Denali National Park. Watch for views of Denali and keep an eye out for wildlife. Arrive mid-afternoon; the rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy an optional activity. (Breakfast & lunch is included onboard the train today)

Day 4 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 cliffsides 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 5 Denali National Park Entrance to Fairbanks | Alaska Railroad

This morning is at leisure to enjoy optional activities such as: whitewater rafting down the Nenana River, helicopter flightseeing over the park, landing on a glacier or hiking. By early afternoon, board Alaska Railroad's Denali Star Train in the Goldstar Railcar to Fairbanks. Enjoy the late afternoon scenery as you travel north to Fairbanks where your incredible Alaskan adventure ends. (Dinner is included on board the train today)

**INCLUDED****Package Includes:**

- Accommodation including taxes for 4 nights
- Anchorage to Seward or Whittier Tour + lunch with the following inclusions
 - Aerial tram ride to the peak of Alyeska
 - Admission to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
 - Hotel or Cruise Ship pick-up & drop-off
- Anchorage | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 10 Excursions

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- Upgrade Option: Alaska Bear Viewing Tour
- Upgrade Option: Fly-in Guided Fishing Excursion
- Upgrade Option: Helicopter & Glacier Dogsled Excursion
- Alaska Railroad - Anchorage to Denali Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- 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
- Alaska Railroad - Denali to Fairbanks Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Meals as per Itinerary

Hotel & Rail Information | Moderate Grade

- Anchorage - Hilton Anchorage Hotel | Standard Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Denali Cabins | Standard Cabins

Hotel & Rail Information | Superior Grade

- Anchorage - Hotel Captain Cook | Deluxe Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Grande Denali Lodge | Standard Room

Alaska Railroad | Goldstar All our itineraries except the Glacier Discovery Train includes Gold Star Dome Service. These railcars feature large, curved glass windows that run the full length of the car, allowing excellent 360 degree viewing plus a private outdoor viewing deck. The service is inclusive of all meals that are served in the lower-level dining room.

Not Included:

- Gratuities
- Activities other than specified
- Portage fees

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