

ALASKA BY DESIGN

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Signature Alaska Rail Vacation

2026

Alaska Rail Vacation

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

INTRODUCTION

Visit popular destinations like Kenai Fjords and Denali National Park on this 9-day signature Alaska rail vacation. Enjoy bear viewing by floatplane in Redoubt Bay, a Glacier Dog Sled Helicopter Tour in Girdwood, a cruise in the Northwestern Fjord and Goldstar Service on Alaska Railroad. Everything is included on this signature trip!

Itinerary at a Glance

DAY 1	Anchorage Arrival
DAY 2	Anchorage Floatplane Fly-in Bear Viewing Excursion
DAY 3	Anchorage to Girdwood Glacier Dog Sled Heli-Tour
DAY 4	Girdwood to Seward Small Group Tour
DAY 5	Seward Kenai Fjords Northwestern Fjord Cruise
DAY 6	Seward to Talkeetna Coach
DAY 7	Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance Alaska Railroad
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

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

Option 4. Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter

DAY 9

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.

Day 1 Anchorage | Arrival

Upon arrival in Anchorage transfer at your own cost to your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the sights.

Day 2 Anchorage | Floatplane Fly-in Bear Viewing Excursion

Experience an unforgettable half-day guided tour to witness Alaska's black and brown bears in their natural habitat. Your adventure begins with a scenic float plane flight from Anchorage, taking you southwest to one of several prime bear-viewing locations—Redoubt Bay, Katmai National Park, Lake Clark, or Chinitna Bay—depending on the season and where the bears are actively foraging for food. Once there, you'll have the rare opportunity to observe Alaska's magnificent brown bears up close as they fish, forage, and interact in their untouched environment.

Day 3 Anchorage to Girdwood | Glacier Dog Sled Heli-Tour

Explore Anchorage this morning on a private tour before traveling to the mountain town of Girdwood. Following Turnagain Arm with stops to look for wildlife and take in the beauty of Chugach State Park, you'll board a helicopter for a glacier landing & dog sledding tour – the best way to experience Alaska! Returning to the heliport you will be transferred back to Alyeska Resort, with the rest of the day at leisure. We have included air tram tickets for the ride to the peak of Alyeska.

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Day 4 Girdwood to Seward | Small Group Tour

Join your coach midday for a short drive to lunch, then 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. If time allows, stop at Exit Glacier where a short and easy walk provides an up-close and personal view of a magnificent glacier. Upon arrival in Seward, you'll be transferred to your hotel. (Lunch is included today)

Day 5 Seward | Kenai Fjords Northwestern Fjord Cruise

Today we have arranged for you to take an all-day Kenai Fjords Cruise. Travel farther into Kenai Fjords National Park than with any other cruise and visit the magnificent Northwestern Fjord, home to three amazing tidewater glaciers, numerous alpine glaciers and marine wildlife like Stellar sea lions, seals, humpbacks, orcas and otters. (A continental breakfast & deli-style lunch is included onboard)

Day 6 Seward to Talkeetna | Coach

Mid-morning, board a scheduled motorcoach to Talkeetna. The Seward Highway showcases the natural beauty of south central Alaska. Relax and enjoy the scenery while your driver gives you some history of the area along the way. Stop in Anchorage at midday for approx. 90 minutes before continuing to Talkeetna.

Day 7 Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad

This morning take the Denali Star, Alaska Railroad's flagship train, in the Goldstar Railcar to Denali National Park. The afternoon is open for optional activities such as whitewater rafting down the Nenana River, helicopter flightseeing over the Park, landing on a glacier or hiking. (Lunch is included onboard the train today)

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 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)

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INCLUDED

Package Includes:

- Accommodation including taxes for 8 nights
- Fly-In Bear Viewing Safari with lunch
- Private Anchorage City Tour with transfer to/ from Girdwood
- Glacier Dog Sled Helicopter Tour
- Day tour from Girdwood to Seward with lunch and the following inclusions:
 - Admission to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Northwestern Fjord Cruise with continental breakfast & lunch
- Shuttle to/from small boat harbour to accommodation
- Seward to Talkeetna scheduled coach transfer with driver commentary
- Alaska Railroad - Talkeetna to Denali Goldstar Service
(Dome car seating and private outdoor viewing deck with 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 and private outdoor viewing deck with meals included onboard train)
- Meals as per Itinerary

Hotel & Rail Information | Moderate Grade:

- Anchorage - Hilton Anchorage Hotel | Standard Room
- Girdwood - Alyeska Resort | Deluxe Room
- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Main Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Denali Cabins | Standard Cabin

Hotel & Rail Information | Superior Grade:

- Anchorage - Hotel Captain Cook | Deluxe Room
- Girdwood - Alyeska Resort | Deluxe Room
- Seward - Seward Windsong Lodge | Standard Room with Deck
- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Mountainside Lodge Room

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- 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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