

# HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



## ALASKA FAMILY ADVENTURE

JULY 29–AUGUST 6, 2024

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

On this family friendly adventure, spend eight days exploring magnificent Alaska. Experience the northernmost rainforest areas of Alaska and gear up for a full day, guided rafting adventure on the Kenai River. Enjoy amazing marine life and lunch in front of a tidewater glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. Choose from an array of guided activities such as hiking, kayaking, and canoeing. Board the historic Alaska Railroad for an unforgettable trip through Alaska's backcountry.

**ACCOMMODATES:** 8–14 guests. *This is a Harvard exclusive program.*

**PRICING:** Adult: \$6,995 per person double occupancy / \$8,495 single occupancy

Child (ages 5-11): \$6,495

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner*

### SUNDAY, JULY 28–MONDAY, JULY 29 DEPART FROM HOME CITY

The program begins on Monday, July 29 in Anchorage. Depending on available flights from your home city, some participants might need to plan to depart on Sunday, July 28. If you need independent arrival arrangements and accommodations, please contact Harvard Alumni Travels.

### MONDAY, JULY 29 ARRIVE ANCHORAGE

Plan to arrive in Anchorage by 3:00 P.M. In the evening, meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers for dinner and orientation. Dine at a well-known local restaurant and enjoy local sights such as art galleries, shops, and other Anchorage attractions.

Overnight in Anchorage (D)

### TUESDAY, JULY 30 GIRDWOOD

Travel south along the majestic Turnagain Arm to the small mountain community of Girdwood. Today's adventure takes you through the northernmost rainforest areas of Alaska on a guided hike through a protected forest canopy.

Upon reaching a local gorge, board a hand-tram for unique transport across Glacier Creek. After the hike, more amazing views can be captured as you ride the resort tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska for spectacular views of the seven surrounding glaciers. During the 8-minute tram ride, gain more than 2,000 feet of elevation, with a bird's eye view of winter ski routes and flower-covered valleys.

Continue south to Kenai Riverside Lodge, situated in scenic Cooper Landing, surrounded by the forested, lower slopes and glacier covered summits of the Chugach National Forest, with local mountain peaks ranging in elevation from 4,000 ft. to 10,000 ft. and higher.

Upon arrival at the lodge, enjoy orientation and take in the amazing sights on the riverfront. Kenai Riverside Lodge features a

large riverside deck with fire pit, self-guided nature paths, a wood-fired sauna and more! Appetizers and dinner are served in the main lodge this evening.

Overnight at *Kenai Riverside Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 KENAI RIVER RAFTING ADVENTURE**

After a hearty breakfast in the main lodge, your guides will outfit you in river gear for a full day guided rafting adventure on the Kenai River. Explore the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge while your raft guide offers natural history interpretation and stories behind the sights. Scan for eagles and birds, salmon, and trout swimming in the turquoise water and possibly moose or bears on the banks of the Kenai River.

Enjoy a delicious pack lunch on the banks of the Kenai River.

This afternoon, settle in to your backcountry retreat at Kenai Backcountry Lodge, nestled on the shores of the glacially carved Skilak Lake, inside Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. After an amazing dinner, relax near the lake and listen to the loon calls (Alaska is home to all five species of loons, and Skilak Lake is home to many of them!).

Overnight at *Kenai Backcountry Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Today, select from an array of activity options.

You can learn about Alaska's diverse flora as you hike through three different ecosystems on the Cottonwood Creek Trail.

Or opt to take a motorized skiff tour around Skilak Lake, making short stops to hike to scenic vistas for photo opportunities.

Depending on lake conditions, evening kayak paddles on the lake will be available.

Overnight at *Kenai Backcountry Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK VIA SEWARD**

After breakfast, transfer to the stunning seacoast town of Seward and board a small ship bound for Kenai Fjords National Park, home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife such as whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins, and more! A half-day marine wildlife cruise allows an exploration of the rugged coastlines.

Enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at the exclusive Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge.

Nestled in a protected tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers miles of pristine beachfront for exploring and views of the stunning Pedersen Glacier.

This afternoon, meet your guides for a lodge orientation and settle into your private cabins. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations.

Overnight *Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 3–SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK**

Explore the wild delights of Kenai Fjords National Park for two full days. After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a wide array of activities best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include naturalist-led walks, sea kayaking, group canoe paddles, and more.

In the spirit of adventure (and to take advantage of tidal and weather patterns), guides will discuss specific nature outings and options with the group this morning. All activities are suitable for beginners and require no previous experience.

For those seeking a more relaxed approach, the main lodge offers ideal comfort with direct views of nature. Curious sea otters and seals frequent the lagoon, just steps from the main lodge deck. In a nearby meadow, you may sometimes glimpse bears and other wildlife from a safe distance. The lodge's natural

history library offers amazing resources and interesting reads.

Upon return to the main lodge, share stories from your day's adventure with other guests and join an evening natural history presentation, given by local expert guides or guest speakers.

Overnight *Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge* (B, L, D)

## **MONDAY, AUGUST 5 ANCHORAGE VIA BACK COUNTRY RAIL JOURNEY FROM SEWARD**

This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, canoe or beachcomb for a half-day before boarding your boat for the return wildlife cruise to Seward.

Board the historic Alaska Railroad for a scenic backcountry rail tour back to Anchorage.

Enjoy a festive farewell dinner on the train.

Overnight in Anchorage (B, L, D)

## **TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 DEPARTURES**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, followed by airport shuttles. (B)