# Alaska & the Yukon

12 days from Anchorage to Anchorage

#### **Vacation Overview**

This Undiscovered Alaska and the Yukon Territory tour features many of the most popular scenic vistas that Alaska and the Yukon Territory have to offer—beginning and ending in Anchorage. Along the way, take a boat to view breathtaking Mears Glacier on Prince William Sound and watch for eagles, whales, dolphins, mountain goats, and more. Between Valdez and Tok, enjoy views of Bridal Veil Falls, Worthington Glacier, and Thompson Pass. Between Tok and Whitehorse, behold spectacular vistas of Kluane National Park's rugged mountains. Between Dawson City and Fairbanks, delight in the stunning scenery as you motor over the Top of the World Highway.

More magnificent scenery awaits you on your journey aboard the Alaska Railroad between Fairbanks and Denali National Park. Travel through untamed wilderness and delight in viewing the awe-inspiring scenery via wide windows and the domed-roof car. With its six million acres, Denali National Park & Preserve is home to North America's highest peak and offers majestic landscapes. Your two nights in Denali give you the opportunity to explore on your own or to take optional outings, such as a helicopter ride over the park or a wilderness tour to seek out grizzly bears, moose, and more.

In addition to witnessing breathtaking scenery, this Alaska and Yukon Territory tour offers you a chance to learn about the Klondike Gold Rush. Follow the Trail of '98 over the same mountains that determined gold seekers traveled in the middle of winter. Visit Skagway, where thousands of hopeful miners came in 1898, and stroll the wooden sidewalks. In Dawson City, see where the first gold strike was made and enjoy the ragtime music, can-can girls, and old-fashioned casino just as the prospectors did over a century ago.

All of this and more await you on this value-minded tour through Alaska and the Yukon Territory!





Add an Alaska Cruise to Your Vacation (8365)



# **Itinerary**

#### Day 1 ANCHORAGE

Welcome to Anchorage! Your Tour Director is on hand late this afternoon to answer any questions.

# Day 2 ANCHORAGE-WHITTIER-VALDEZ

As you enter Whittier from North America's longest tunnel, the panoramic view of the ocean, mountains, and glaciers greet you. As the gateway to Prince William Sound, this is where you'll board a Glacier cruise for an up-close look along the 3-mile face of Meares Glacier, and the epicenter of the Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964. Watch for eagles, whales, mountain goats, dolphins, and sea lions! Overnight in Valdez, the "Switzerland of Alaska."

# Day 3 VALDEZ-TOK

Leave Valdez, home of the Alyeska Pipeline Terminal, and enjoy views of Bridal Veil Falls, Worthington Glacier, and Thompson Pass. Visit the Wrangell–St. Elias Visitor Center and

discover why this vast national park measures in size six times that of Yellowstone National Park, and rises from the ocean to 18,008 feet. Overnight in Tok, the "Dog Sled Capital of the World."

# Day 4 TOK-WHITEHORSE

Join the Alaska Highway and follow along the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. Skirt the shores of Kluane Lake, once a meeting place for crews constructing the Alaska Highway. Behold spectacular vistas of the rugged mountains of Kluane National Park, home to 19,551-foot-high Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak. The next two nights are in Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon and the territorial headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

# Day 5 WHITEHORSE. EXCURSION TO SKAGWAY

Follow the Trail of '98 over the same mountains that thousands of determined gold seekers scaled on foot in the dead of winter while heading for the Klondike. From Fraser, your Tour Director will suggest an optional train trip on the narrow-gauge White Pass & Yukon Railway to Skagway. Otherwise, continue by motorcoach to Skagway. Stroll the wooden sidewalks past charming false-front buildings and colorful saloons.

#### NOTE:

Operation of the White Pass & Yukon Railway to Skagway is subject to seasonal conditions.

# Day 6 WHITEHORSE-DAWSON CITY

Head northwest through the town of Carmacks, once an important supply station for gold seekers on their way to the Klondike. A stop at the Five Finger Rapids, a major obstacle to the hordes of fortune seekers that passed this way. Reach Dawson City, the center of excitement after the first gold strike in the Klondike in 1896, which led to the world's largest gold rush. Tonight, enjoy the high-flying entertainment of Dimond Tooth Gertie's Saloon, featuring ragtime music, can-can girls, and an old-fashioned casino.

#### Day 7 DAWSON CITY

Highlights on your morning sightseeing tour include Bonanza Creek, site of Claim #1, where the first gold strike was made; and Robert Service Interpretive Centre, where you'll get a first-hand glimpse into the life of this famous wordsmith, along with genuine Gold Rush era items. Enjoy a photo opportunity at the SS Keno, the last sternwheeler to run between Dawson and Whitehorse. The rest of your day is free to soak up the exciting history of this Gold Rush town at your own pace. Perhaps a return to Diamond Tooth Gertie's Saloon is in order?

#### Day 8 DAWSON CITY-FAIRBANKS

A full day and well worth it, as the scenery is magnificent. Have your camera ready for photo opportunities at Dawson overlook and Top of the World Highway, where the motorcoach will reenter Alaska, and visit one of the last surviving gold rush towns in Alaska before heading west on the Alaska Highway. Stop at an authentic Alaska roadhouse before your evening arrival in Fairbanks.

#### Day 9 FAIRBANKS

Morning sightseeing features highlights of Alaska's second-largest city and a visit to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Board the Sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery III for a leisurely cruise on the Chena River. You will see a bush floatplane take off alongside the boat, visit the home and kennels of the late four-time Iditarod winner, Susan Butcher, and see her champion sled dogs in action. Be immersed into the ancient Athabascan Indian culture when our Alaskan Native Guides take you on a personalized tour of the Chena Indian Village.

#### Day 10 FAIRBANKS-ALASKA RAILROAD-DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Board the world-famous Alaska Railroad for a memorable journey through untamed wilderness. Sit back in comfort and enjoy spectacular scenery through wide windows. Be sure to take advantage of the domed-roof car. The ride ends in Denali National Park & Preserve. North America's highest peak, 20,310-foot Denali, formerly known as Mount McKinley, dominates the park's six million acres of glacial streams, river valleys, and multicolored tundra. After a short orientation tour of Denali, the afternoon is free to explore on your own.

#### Day 11 DENALI NATIONAL PARK

A free day for independent activities. A hike along the many wilderness trails might be good fun. Also take advantage of several optional outings, including a wildlife tour to seek out grizzly bears, caribou, moose, and Dall sheep; a raft trip down the Nenana River; or a helicopter ride over the park. Your Tour Director will have plenty of other suggestions.

# Day 12 DENALI NATIONAL PARK-ANCHORAGE

Relish one last look at the outstanding scenery and wildlife of Denali before traveling south toward Anchorage. Stop along the way at the Iditarod Headquarters, home of the great dogsled race. Continue to Anchorage and the Dimond Centre for guests extending their stay in Alaska. For guests with homebound flights, the trip ends at Anchorage International Airport. However, with possible delays for weather, we strongly suggest that guests do not book flights prior to 5 pm.