

Walking Alaska 2012

~Adventure Memo~

Greetings from Vancouver, USA,

You are invited to join us next summer as we explore our 49th state. The area was derisively labeled "Seward's Folly" when the U.S. government purchased it from Russia in 1867, but it is more appropriately known by the native Aleut word, "*Alyeska*," meaning "the great land."

Yes, we are talking about our *Walking Alaska* Adventure offered next July. The program is offered in two parts—*Kenai Peninsula* and *Denali Delights*. To maximize your time and airfare, and see even more of our largest state, join us for both parts and receive a significant price reduction for the itinerary overlap in Anchorage.

Alaska—the Kenai Peninsula

At 200 miles long and 100 miles wide, the Kenai Peninsula has a slice of nearly every aspect of Alaska save for the tundra of the Far North: active volcanoes, calving glaciers in Kenai Fjords National Park, a plethora of bear and moose, seemingly unlimited halibut and schools of migrating salmon in the rushing rivers, puffins and terns, and a multitude of other bird life in Kachemak Bay and in the vast Kenai wetland! We explore the Kenai with a great series of walks and activities, including a 6-hour cruise on Resurrection Bay!

Alaska—Denali Delights

This part of the Adventure starts in Anchorage with opportunities for two walks — one a nature walk and the other featuring highlights of Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. The centerpiece of the trip is Denali National Park, with a nature walk in the park and a top-rated wilderness experience in search of wildlife (yes, grizzlies!). We're also hoping for views of that enormous, yet elusive massif — Mt. McKinley, tallest peak in North America! A magical dome car train ride takes us into Fairbanks where we spend two nights and take in worthwhile attractions of the area like the Alaska Pipeline and the *Riverboat Discovery* cruise.

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

To save yourself a spot, contact us to register with a \$500 payment as soon as possible. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

How do we arrange airfare for this Adventure?

Kenai Peninsula (Part 1) begins and ends at Anchorage International Airport. *Denali Delights* (Part 2) begins in Anchorage and ends in Fairbanks. Airfare to and from the start points is not included in the package price. We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. We repeatedly hear of travelers encountering situations (cancelled flights, hurricanes, volcanoes in Iceland erupting, etc) where the expertise of a travel agent is beneficial. More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information is provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer which will be mailed to you after you register for the Adventure.

Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name in writing to us before you register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the back of the General Tour Conditions sheet for more detailed information.)

Insurance – What if I need to place a claim?

Jumping through hoops to get results from large, bureaucratic organizations can be enough to try the patience of Job! Travel insurance companies, unfortunately, are not immune to bureaucracy. Ambiguity and forms-overload often seems to outweigh reason and simplicity. Ultimately, however, travelers are paid and the *Preferred Benefits* policy we recommend works! Though it is easy to view insurance as a necessary evil, we have seen the benefits of travel insurance time and again. We believe it is worth the cost...and hoop-jumping required!

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for some benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 15 days of your registration.** Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office within 15 days after you purchase your airfare. Airfare is NOT automatically covered by the insurance you purchase for the tour!!

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter, initial invoice, and Adventure Advice flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. **Please do not buy your airline tickets until you receive the Adventure Advice flyer.** The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

So there you have it — *Walking Alaska*. Exploring our 49th state evokes an abiding appreciation for this land of bountiful and teeming waterways, dense forests, expansive plains of tundra, and towering mountain ranges. What an amazing slice of America, and what a great way to enjoy it — a creative program of motorcoach, train, and ship travel melded together with walks that take us to places other visitors to Alaska will never experience! Join us for *Walking Alaska* next summer!

We look forward to Sharing the Adventure with you!



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