

Denali Wilderness Hiking Tour

A cabin- or lodge-based wilderness adventure in Denali National Park

Experience the wonders of Denali National Park on this wilderness adventure. Hike, bike, fish, paddle a canoe and relax at magnificent Camp Denali or North Face Lodge in the heart of Denali's unspoiled Alaskan wilderness. Many park visitors never see "The Great One," but 90% of our guests catch more than a glimpse of North America's highest mountain from one of Alaska's most extraordinary locations. Living here--even for just a few days--makes all the difference! Return to Anchorage by train on the spectacular Denali Star, specially designed for sightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Note: The following describes our 5-day/4-night tour. A 4-day/3-night tour which provides the same amenities and activities is also available. See the tour prices and dates in the Tour Details section below.

Day 1. Scenic shuttle from Anchorage to Denali National Park, Camp Denali (907-683-2290 / cabins with a view) **or North Face Lodge** (907-683-2290 / rooms with private bath) <http://www.campdenali.com>

The tour begins with your departure with an Alaska Park Connection (Denali Express) motor coach, leaving Anchorage from the Anchorage Egan Center at the corner of 5th Avenue and "E" Street promptly at 7:00 a.m. Your driver-guide will be a lifelong Alaskan with an intimate knowledge of life in the last frontier. Please give the driver your confirmation number (see your pre-trip materials; no tickets are needed).

The route crosses the Matanuska and Sustina Rivers en route to Denali. Upon arrival at the Denali train station (two miles inside Denali National Park) at approximately 12:30 p.m., drivers from Camp Denali/North Face Lodge will be there to greet you. Simply locate their blue and white, clearly marked buses and the drivers instruct you from there. You may want to grab a snack or a light lunch as the picnic supper is fairly early.

The custom buses depart the train depot at 1:30 p.m. and your driver/naturalist/guide will share the natural and cultural history of this incredible national park with you during your journey to the lodges.

Stop for a picnic supper around 4:00 p.m., above the banks of the East Fork River at the base of Polychrome Pass. The supper is a delightful array of smoked salmon or halibut, pasta salad, freshly baked bread, dessert and drinks.

After the picnic, continue through the park to the more remote west end arriving at the lodges around 8:30 p.m. Your hosts during your stay will greet you with a fresh fruit, dessert and hot drink informal reception, then show you to your cabin (Camp Denali) or room (North Face Lodge).

- Scenic van shuttle from Anchorage to Denali National Park [237 miles; 5 1/2 hours]
- Bus shuttle from the Alaska Railroad's Denali Rail Station to Camp Denali/North Face Lodge [90 miles; 6-1/2 hours, including supper]

Day 2. Guided activities, Camp Denali or North Face Lodge

Each morning breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. A cold cereal bar is offered with fresh, homemade granola and yogurt and a different hot cereal each day. The breakfast cook will announce the hot breakfast entrée, which often includes freshly baked breakfast rolls or bread. The baker works through the night to prepare a wonderful start for your day.

Soon after breakfast your hosts will describe the guided options for the day and you will have the opportunity to select from a "naturalist foray", a moderate or a strenuous option. Once you have made your selection you will have a few free minutes before returning to the dining room to create your own lunch. The kitchen staff will fill a long table with freshly baked breads and cookies and a wonderful assortment of meats, cheeses and sandwich spreads, including vegetarian options. Take as much or as little as you like for your day in the field.

Guided options on day 2 begin around 9:30 a.m. and will start from the lodges and stay in the "local" area, where you'll have wonderful views of Mount McKinley and an introduction to the tundra ecology of Denali National Park. Camp Denali and North Face Lodge are known for their active, outdoor learning adventures that explore the wilderness of Denali. Daily naturalist-led hikes and field trips for wildlife observation, bird watching, and botanizing are planned around guests' interests and physical abilities. You can also explore independently, using interpretive booklets for local walks. Canoeing, biking, fishing and reading from the well-appointed library will round out your stay. Informative evening programs further acquaint you with the natural and cultural heritage of the Far North.

These outings will return to the lodges between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. depending on the level chosen. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and there will be an evening program at each lodge at 8:30 p.m. which focuses on some aspect of Denali's natural and cultural history, including birds, mammals, wildflowers, tundra ecology, geology,

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mountaineering, land use and natural resource issues. Each day there are three options to choose from:

- Naturalist Foray: short walks with discussions about the natural history of the park or drives along the park road observing the flora and fauna of the park.
- Guided walks can be moderate (3-5 miles in length with an elevation change of up to 1,000 feet)
- Guided walks can be strenuous (5-7 miles with an elevation change of up to 1,500 feet)

Day 3. Guided activities, Camp Denali or North Face Lodge

Today choose to venture back along the park road in a bus or van with a naturalist/guide and access some of the higher elevations of the park. These are the only lodges that can take guests past Wonder Lake to walk the tundra and high alpine valleys of the park. During the ride to and from the start of your walk, you will have additional opportunities to see grizzly bear, caribou, moose, fox, marmot, beaver and occasionally, wolf as the tundra opens up the wildlife sighting possibilities.

Activities will return later due to the distance traveled to and from the hiking areas. Dinner will again be at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the evening program.

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- Guided walks can be moderate (3-5 miles in length with an elevation change of up to 1,000 feet)
- Guided walks can be strenuous (5-7 miles with an elevation change of up to 1,500 feet)

Day 4. Hiking, biking, canoeing, and fishing options, Camp Denali or North Face Lodge

This is the best day of all. Breakfast is again at 7:30 a.m., after which your hosts will explain the three levels of guided outings. Or this may be the day you choose to spend on your own. Options include:

- Mountain biking: Bikes available at each lodge. A wonderful way to spend the day is to put one on board a bus or van that is going back along the park road for hiking, and get off at Eielson Visitor's Center (22 miles away) to ride "home". You will be on a gravel road, riding towards Denali and enjoying an elevation loss of 2,000 feet. You can leave the bike by the side of the road and hike to a tundra knoll for lunch. Enjoy the solitude and wilderness of this 6-million acre national park as you pedal westward.
- Canoeing: Five canoes are moored at the north end of 2.5 mile long Wonder Lake (200 feet deep and glacier-fed). Watching the light change on Denali from the lake or tracing it's reflection in the still waters is a wonderful way to spend your day.
- Fishing: For those of you who would like to drop a fishing line into Moose Creek, which runs between the two lodges, you

Tour Details

Type of Trip: Cabin- or lodge-based tour. Guests are not accompanied by a The World Outdoors guide but naturalist guides from Camp Denali and North Face Lodge will be leading activities daily.

might catch an Arctic Grayling. You can also fish for lake trout in Wonder Lake. It's catch and release only, so if you are seeking the "world class" big fish of Alaska, you will want to plan a visit to the Kenai Peninsula or other areas in Alaska known for their big fish.

- Relaxing: As owner, Wally Cole, likes to remind guests, "relaxation is a valid use of vacation time". Remember that a quiet afternoon in the natural history resource center at Camp Denali, or in the library at either lodge, might be just what the day calls for.

Day 5. Shuttle through Denali National Park and Train Ride to Anchorage

This is departure day and the breakfast bells rings at 6:00 a.m. to invite you into the dining room for that first cup of coffee/tea of the day. Immediately following breakfast the bus is rolling at 6:45 a.m. Because there is no meal stop and east-bound traffic has the right-of-way on the narrow park road, you will be back to the park entrance/train depot by 11:15 a.m. This is perfect timing to meet the southbound Denali Star train to Anchorage, which arrives into the station at 12:15 p.m. Your prepaid tickets have been reserved in your name and should be picked up at the station.

Whether you're in it for romance, history, socializing, sightseeing, or just along for the ride, the Alaska Railroad is the best way to traverse Alaska. Award-winning service, comfortable seating and knowledgeable tour guides are all part of the tradition and experience. Or you can upgrade to GoldStar Service [at an additional cost of \$100], introduced in 2005 with the addition of two new custom double-deck railcars. The glass-covered observation deck is the first of its kind on any rail service in the world, with panoramic views that will bring you even closer to Alaska's unique wilderness. This first-class service upgrade includes confirmed seating in the new luxury cars, complimentary appetizers, and access to a private outdoor viewing platform reserved exclusively for GoldStar guests. The dome-level reclining seats can even rotate to accommodate conversations among groups of four. A 36-seat dining area has large picture windows and a full-time bar attendant is available for those looking for a libation.

You arrive back in Anchorage at 8:00 p.m., in time to catch a late night flight home...or one more night of rest before your flight the following day.

- Bus shuttle from Camp Denali/North Face Lodge to the Alaska Railroad's Denali Rail Station [90 miles; 4 hours, 30 minutes]
- Scenic train ride on the Alaska Railroad's Denali Star to Anchorage [7 hours and 45 minutes, arriving at 8:00 p.m.]

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Trip Length: 5 days/4 nights or 4 days/3 nights

2012 Departure Dates for the 5 day/4 night tour: June 4-8, June 11-15, June 18-22, June 25-29, July 2-6, July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27, July 30-August 3, August 6-10, August 13-17, August 20-24, August 27-31, September 3-7

2012 Departure Dates for the 4 day/3 night tour: June 8-11, June 15-18, June 22-25, June 29-July 2, July 6-9, July 13-16, July 20-23, July 27-30, August 3-6, August 10-13, August 17-20, August 24-27, August 31-September 3, September 7-10

2013 Departure Dates for the 5 day/4 night tour: June 3-7, June 10-14, June 17-21, June 24-28, July 1-5, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29-August 2, August 5-9, August 12-16, August 19-23, August 26-30, September 2-6

2013 Departure Dates for the 4 day/3 night tour: June 7-10, June 14-17, June 21-24, June 28-July 1, July 5-8, July 12-15, July 19-22, July 26-29, August 2-5, August 9-12, August 16-19, August 23-26, August 30-September 2, September 6-9

2012 Price: \$2625/ person for the 5 day/4 night tour; \$2100/ person for the 4 day/3 night tour

2013 Price: \$2825/ person for the 5 day/4 night tour (\$2075 under age 12); \$2200/ person for the 4 day/3 night tour (\$1600 for under age 12)

Single Supplement: \$500 for the 5 day/4 night tour; \$375/ person for the 4 day/3 night tour

GoldStar Train Service Supplement: \$100 (\$50 for under age 12)

Trip Rating: Moderately Easy

Meeting/Departure Time and Place: The motor coach by Alaska Park Connection Denali Express leaves promptly at 7:00 a.m. on Day 1 from the Anchorage Egan Center at the corner of 5th Avenue and "E" Street. Please be there no later than 6:45 a.m. with your vouchers.

Conclusion Time and Place: The Alaska Railroad's Denali Star train arrives at the Anchorage train station at 8:00 p.m. on the last day.

Trip Fees Include: One-way van fare from Anchorage to Denali, round-trip bus transport from Denali Park Station to Camp Denali/North Face Lodge, four nights lodging (double occupancy), all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 5, guided outings, natural and cultural history interpretation, evening programs, use of recreational equipment, park entry fee and standard class of service on the Alaska Railroad Denali Star from Denali to Anchorage. Towels, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion are all provided by the accommodations.

Trip Fees Exclude: Personal insurance, miscellaneous hotel expenses (phone, fax, laundry, etc.), transfers to Anchorage's Egan Center and from the Anchorage train station, meal on the train, tips, activities not included in package, and expenses of a personal nature.

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

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Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Marriner, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call Frosch Travel, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at Georgia.Terry@frosch.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What are the accommodations like?

Camp Denali was founded in 1952 and is Alaska's—perhaps the nation's—first business to engage in experiential learning about natural and cultural heritage, long before the term “ecotourism” was coined. The Cole family became Camp Denali's second owners in 1975 and purchased nearby **North Face Lodge** in 1986. Each facility accommodates just 35 to 40 guests and has no TV or bar (you may bring your own alcohol, however). The lodges are more than wilderness hideaways with exclusive views of North America's highest peak. They also feature learning adventures for active travelers who want more than a brief introduction to Denali National Park. Guests hike the park's alpine ridges and learn about its birds and mammals from naturalist-guides, and further explore Alaska's natural and cultural heritage during informal evening gatherings. Family-owned and operated, these lodges represent a more than fifty-year tradition where active learning, the camaraderie of fellow adventurers and staff are blended together in a wilderness setting without parallel. The programs are unique, being the only business authorized to provide guided hiking, natural history interpretation and wildlife observation from anywhere along the park road. The lodges also are uniquely allowed to moor canoes on Wonder Lake.

Camp Denali amenities: For over fifty years Camp Denali's extraordinary setting has inspired people from around the world. It is the only park lodging with full views of Mount McKinley and no less than eight major mountains of the Alaska Range command the view from its unique hillside. The camp has 17 ridge top cabins each with a small wood-burning stove, wall-mounted propane lights and a gas hot plate for heating water. There is no electricity. Each cabin is decorated with colorful hand-crafted patchwork quilts and Alaskan artwork. Each has its own private outhouse located no more than 30 ft. from the cabin that's cleaned daily by the camp staff. It has a drop toilette with a toilette seat. There is also a modern bathroom facility near the main lodge (separate ones for men and women) with hot showers with adjoining changing rooms, sinks with hot and cold water, mirrors and flush toilettes. Each cabin is no more than a 7 minute walk from the historic, hand-hewn log lodge and informal dining room. The lodge serves as the camp “living room” with a cozy stove, library, book store, gift shop and couches to nestle into on a cool summer evening.

Located 90 miles within Denali National Park in the shadow of Mt. McKinley, Camp Denali is a unique wilderness retreat for those seeking an in depth experience in the sub-arctic.

Founded in 1951, Camp Denali is Alaska's original vacation lodge and nature center, which strives to help visitors gain a personal knowledge and appreciation for the natural history of Denali National Park. Owned and operated by the Cole Family since 1975, it is Alaska at its best. Accommodations at Camp Denali are individual cabins situated along a ridge with commanding views of Mt. McKinley and other major peaks of the Alaska Range. Each cabin is furnished with a wood stove, propane lights and hotplate, handcrafted quilts and Alaskan artwork. A central shower facility is located within a three to seven minute walk from each cabin. The natural history resource center, complete with dissecting microscope, herbarium, library and artifacts is available for guest use.

Camp Denali provides daily, guided nature outings and hikes. The staff of knowledgeable naturalists assists guests in first hand exploration of the Alaska landscape—searching for wolves, moose, bears and caribou, as well as looking for nesting birds and wildflowers. Nightly programs focus on some aspect of Denali's natural and cultural history, including birds, mammals, wildflowers, tundra ecology, geology, mountaineering, land use and natural resource issues. Unique to Camp Denali is the Special Emphasis Series, which utilizes visiting experts through evening presentations and workshops. In addition to guided activities, mountain bikes, canoes and fishing equipment are also available.

North Face Lodge amenities: Built in 1973 and situated on a tundra meadow in the Moose Creek Valley, the inn boasts fine views of the crests of Mount McKinley and six other major peaks of the Alaska Range. In the mid-eighties, North Face Lodge was purchased and renovated by Camp Denali's owners. Its fifteen small, well-appointed guestrooms, each with private bath, connect to a covered walkway that leads to the inn's comfortably furnished living room and dining room. On cool mornings, a crackling fire in the stone fireplace complements fine Denali views from the living room's tall windows. On warm, sunny afternoons, a spacious patio invites relaxation in view of Denali's summit.

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North Face Lodge is located two miles from Wonder Lake and provides traditional accommodations in well-appointed rooms with private baths, down comforters and Alaskan artwork. Designed with the atmosphere of a comfortable north country guesthouse, the lodge features a spacious living room with stone fireplace, dining room, large patio and covered porch—all with incredible views of Mt. McKinley.

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What weather conditions can I expect? Summer is a miraculous time in Alaska, when the sun refuses to set and people are filled with seemingly limitless energy. June is the driest of the three summer months and July is the warmest. Average daytime highs are in the mid 60s to mid 70’s, nighttime lows in the 40’s and 50’s. But be prepared for anything... from mild sunny days in the 80’s to windy, rainy outings in the 30’s. The best way to prepare for such a range of weather is with layers.

How difficult is this trip? ... Really: This trip is Moderately Easy to Moderate. It is intended for the active adult who feels comfortable being active 4-6 hours a day, hiking 6-8 miles with options of up to 10 miles, and with climbs of up to 2200 feet.

Tipping: Gratuities are discretionary. 5%-8% of the price of your stay is recommended. Deposit tips in the Tip Box and it will be distributed among the staff, no individual tipping is needed.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Marriner at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Airline Information: Almost all the major airlines fly into Anchorage International Airport. However, if you plan to arrange any flights within Alaska before or after your trip, the following are the two major in-state airlines.

- Alaska Airlines 800-252-7522 www.alaskaair.com
- Era Aviation 800-866-8394 www.era-aviation.com/

Pre/Post Trip Lodging: If you arrive in Anchorage the evening before a trip, or stay over after the trip, we recommend the following hotels:

- Extended Deluxe Sweets 907-868-1605 <http://www.extendedstayhotels.com>
- Parkside Guest House 907-683-2290 www.campdenali.com [rate: \$165-\$195]
- Historic Anchorage Hotel 907-272-4553 www.historicanchoragehotel.com [rate: \$209]
- Coast International Inn 907-134-249 www.intlinnananchorage.com [rate: \$134-\$249]
- Courtyard by Marriott 800-321-2211 / 907-222-9000 www.marriott.com/courtyard/default.mi [rate: \$89-179]
- Millennium Hotel 907-243-2300 <http://www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumanchorage/index.html>
[rate: \$209-280]
- Best Western Barratt Inn 907-243-3131 www.bestwestern.com [rate: \$125-199]
- Holiday Inn Express 907-248-8848 www.ihotelsgroup.com [rate: \$152-\$269]

We’re Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip’s planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

Carbon Offsetting: If you would like to offset the carbon emissions from your trip, please visit the following link: https://sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op_carboncalcs.html