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THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

ALASKA

A Bear Viewing & Kenai Wilderness Odyssey

June 3 - 10, 2021

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe and photograph the playful curiosity of Brown Bear cubs and their families just out of hibernation during two days at Bear Camp
- Hike across glaciers, kayak, river-float, and flightsee over Alaska's pristine landscapes, basking in the long hours of summer daylight
- Cruise the Kenai Fjords in the company of whales, dolphins, puffins, and sea lions as bald eagles soar overhead
- Discover the unique Alaska lifestyle, its Russian history, and its artistic Native American traditions in charming Homer

TRIP ROUTE

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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

Day 1	arrive in Anchorage, pack your bag for Bear Camp
Day 2	take a bush plane to Bear Camp, afternoon bear viewing
Day 3	morning to explore camp, optional yoga on the beach, bear viewing
Day 4	morning bear viewing, scenic flight to Adventure Lodge
Day 5	short glacier hike, cruise to watch for wildlife and icebergs calving
Day 6	float down the Kenai River, lunch on the riverbank
Day 7	explore the “end of the road” - Homer, Alaska, farewell dinner
Day 8	optional kayaking or fishing, fly to Anchorage, depart Alaska

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Active

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: $5,290
Optional Single Accommodations: $800
Internal Air: $375

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your adventure in depth

DAY 1
Thursday
6/3/21

Arrive in Anchorage

Venture above the 49th parallel to America's "Last Frontier" for 19 hours of sunlight and the best Alaska brown bear viewing you can find! Particularly adorable are those bear cubs seeing their first summer, frolicking in the grass and streams, while their mothers teach them survival skills. Hungry from their winter hibernation, brown bears are also busy fattening up on the rich fish, grass, nuts, and berries that burst forth in Alaska's short summer season.

During your adventure, you'll get to know your Alaska-based guides, who will help you discover this incredible wilderness area in Alaska. You are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information	Arrive in Anchorage, Alaska (ANC) today before 5:00pm.
Arrival and Transfer	Arrive in Anchorage and transfer by free hotel shuttle to the Comfort Inn Ship Creek in downtown Anchorage, where your AdventureWomen Ambassador is waiting.
Dinner and Evening Plan	Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00pm for introductions and orientation. Dinner is on your own tonight, but if you have the energy, you may want to go grab a bite to eat with some of your fellow travelers.
Repack Your Bags	You will want to pack the few things you need at Bear Camp in your day pack tonight. The rest of your belongings will stay in your main bag, which will be stored at the Adventure Lodge for the two nights that you are at Bear Camp. You only need a couple of days of clothing - most women just bring one outfit and a change of socks and underwear!

Accommodations
Comfort Inn, Ship Creek

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ALASKA

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your adventure in depth

DAY 2
Friday
6/4/21

Anchorage to Bear Camp

Your remote Alaska bear viewing camp is located on the shores of Lake Clark National Park in the rugged Alaskan wilderness. You will have unlimited opportunities to view and photograph brown bears (also known as grizzly bears) and their cubs, just emerging from their winter dens to feed on the succulent saltwater and sedge grasses found around the Bear Camp.

Transfer, Gear Organizing, and Lunch

You will be picked up by vehicle and transferred to the Great Alaska Adventure Lodge, where you will make a brief stop for any last-minute gear organizing, trip orientation, and a delicious lunch.

Bush Plane Flight

Travel to the airstrip where you will board bush planes for a spectacular flight to Bear Camp, a truly remote experience in every sense of the word. Perched on the edge of Lake Clark National Park and on the shores of Cook Inlet, with towering mountains behind and rugged coastline ahead, you know as soon as you land on the beach that this is a very special place. Bear Camp is accessible only by bush plane – a quintessential Alaskan adventure. You will land on a beach surrounded by endless vistas of snowy peaks with not even a cabin or highway in sight.

Bear Camp Orientation

Meet your guides on the beach for an orientation about bear country safety. You can walk unattended around Bear Camp itself, but only during the day. Forays beyond the camp perimeter only take place as a group, and only when accompanied by a guide carrying a shotgun.

Note: About the shotguns carried by the guides – they are for your safety. The bears are so focused on foraging for food that the guns, in our experience, have not been de-slung from the guides' shoulders.

Relax at Camp

After your first bear viewing opportunities, retire to your Weather Port accompanied by the sounds of gulls circling the bay.

Accommodations
Bear Camp

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 3
Saturday
6/5/21

Bear Camp

Unlimited time on the platform and ground level viewing stations, with no more than 12 guests at any time, ensure a remarkable bear viewing experience at the "picnic benches," a viewing blind set across a small stream from a lush green meadow. In early summer, this coastal plain becomes a prime breeding ground and nursery due to its delectable grasses and sedges. Bears can consume 90 pounds of vegetation in a single day!

Morning at Your Leisure	Wake up to the smell of hot coffee and then spend the morning with the royalty of Alaska Wildlife – the incredible brown bear.
Optional Yoga Class	If the weather is nice, you may have yoga on the beach. No roads or trails access this area, so you get a glimpse of the "homesteader experience" and true Alaskan wilderness as you feel your internal clock reset to a different pace.
Bear Viewing	Spend time today observing the amazing bears that this area is known for. Whisper with your new AdventureWomen friends as you see the bears foraging and playing.
Evening Campfire	This evening may include a fire on the beach as the sun almost sets.

Accommodations
Bear Camp

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4
Sunday
6/6/21

Bear Camp to the Kenai Peninsula

"Focusing my binoculars as we settled into the blind, I saw over 20 bears in the meadow – mothers and cubs, one or two lone females, and small gangs of rowdy adolescents. Through powerful viewing scopes, we observed the bears' muscular shoulder humps and concave profiles… and watched the triplets, two and a half year-old siblings, who had just been weaned. Overheated by the warm afternoon, they jumped and splashed in the river, then sat up on their hindquarters and sparred with their forepaws, before piling together on the grass for a nap." from a bear viewing account at "Bear Camp," named "Best Bush Camp in North America" by Outside Magazine and "One of America's Best Adventures" by National Geographic Traveler.

Morning Bear Viewing	Indulge in more photographing and viewing bears from the viewing stations situated throughout the area. Stand witness as bald eagles circle the heavens and bears lumber through the channels, splashing in the rivulets, and devouring the delectable grass.
Fly to the Adventure Lodge	After lunch the bush planes arrive and you fly back to "civilization" and the Adventure Lodge, with all its creature comforts.
Transfer to the Lodge and Dinner	Transfer back to the lodge, settle in, and enjoy happy hour and dinner, ending another exciting day.

Accommodations
Adventure Lodge

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5
Monday
6/7/21

Kenai Peninsula

Kenai Fjords National Park is at the edge of the North Pacific, where storms develop and feed this land of ice. The Harding Ice Field crowns the park and feeds at least 38 glaciers. The gigantic rivers of ice have shaped the earth beneath them and are now receding to reveal their work.

Drive to Seward

Depart the Adventure Lodge for a beautiful drive to Seward, called the "gateway to Alaska."

Short Hike to Exit Glacier

Stop to stretch your legs and take a hike to the face of Exit Glacier, a retreating glacier, almost close enough to touch.

Wildlife Cruise

Once in Seward, board a large cruise boat for an extensive wildlife cruise through Resurrection Bay and Kenai Fjords National Park on the Kenai Peninsula's western shore. This is the beginning of Prince William Sound, made famous by the tanker "Exxon Valdez." Whales, dolphins, mountain goats, puffins, sea lions, seals, otters, and sea birds join the glaciers, mountains, and fjords on this beautiful adventure near the Harding Icefield.

While cruising, the captain offers a thorough narration of your surroundings. The boat is designed so that you can experience and photograph the sights comfortably from inside the cabin, or outside on the observation deck. Visit a glacier, one of the many tidewater glaciers that are fed by the massive Harding Icefield. Spend time listening and watching for icebergs to "calve" into the sea. As you continue to cruise, the Captain shares facts about local geology as you photograph bald eagles, harbor seals, cormorants, sea otters, and maybe humpbacks and orcas as they play and feed.

Dinner

Enjoy happy hour and dinner at the lodge.

Accommodations
Adventure Lodge

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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ALASKA

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DAY 6
Tuesday
6/8/21

Kenai Peninsula

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is often called “Alaska in miniature” and is home to a diverse number of species, including moose, eagles, brown and black bears, lynx, wolves, and trumpeter swans.

Transfer to Upper Kenai River

Leave the Adventure Lodge and travel to the Upper Kenai River for a scenic float trip through the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Kenai Canyon.

Floating the Kenai River

Your rafts take you through spectacular Kenai Canyon, a remarkable area teeming with moose, black bear, and salmon. At times you will float over spawning beds of salmon, watching them jostle for position! In turn, you can view bald eagles and bears as they maneuver for the best fishing spots. The prodigious spawning salmon feed native trout populations, bald eagles, and grizzlies. This important ecosystem is generally considered the “cradle” of the area’s animal life.

You will want rain gear and warm clothes today. Rubber boots will be provided. Enjoy lunch shoreside.

Back at the Lodge

Happy hour and hors d’oeuvres await you back at the Adventure Lodge before dinner.

Accommodations
Adventure Lodge

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7
Wednesday
6/9/21

Kenai Peninsula

Homer, Alaska, nicknamed "the end of the road" is on the southwest side of the Kenai Peninsula. The Homer Spit features the longest road into ocean waters in the world - the true end of the road. There are numerous cafes and restaurants, art galleries, museums, and shops to explore.

Explore Homer

No trip to Alaska is complete without a visit to the charming, historic, and scenic "End of the Road" town of Homer and Kachemak Bay. On the way you will pass early Russian churches, active volcanoes, and most likely view baby moose with their mothers. It is a truly unforgettable and fun-filled day of exploring the art and uniqueness of the famous boardwalk at "Land's End."

The Kenai Mountains loom behind every building, and the town is a nature lover's nirvana where common sights can include moose grazing, a black bear crossing the road, or porpoises playing in the surf.

In downtown Homer, you can sample delicious seafood and visit art galleries, museums, and shops that sell locally made crafts. Nearby is Halibut Cove, a unique fishing and artists' enclave where the roads are made of water.

Return to the Adventure Lodge

Return to the Adventure Lodge on the banks of the Kenai River, surrounded by Alaska's stunning wilderness this afternoon.

Farewell Dinner

After nightly happy hour, enjoy your last dinner and evening together, reminiscing about bears, whales, and all the amazing activities you've shared throughout the week.

Accommodations
Adventure Lodge

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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ALASKA

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your adventure in depth

DAY 8
Thursday
6/10/21

Depart Alaska

Time to say your farewells to the Adventure Lodge and bid goodbye to all the amazing flora, fauna, and landscapes you've experienced this week.

Optional Morning Activities	This morning, choose between two options. You can paddle in sea kayaks on the Swan Lakes Wilderness Trail, to watch for moose, swans, eagles, and countless ducks. Alternatively, enjoy a morning of guided sport fishing with one of the lodge's expert guides (additional fee required).
Depart the Adventure Lodge	Depart for the Kenai Airport, stopping to view wildlife along the way. Fly from Kenai to Anchorage, arriving at approximately 4:45pm. You may choose to take a plane out this evening or stay another night in Anchorage on your own.
Departure Information	Depart from Anchorage, Alaska (ANC) today after 6:00pm.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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Accommodation Details

Comfort Inn, Ship Creek

On the banks of Ship Creek, this waterfront hotel is 1.8 miles from Downtown Anchorage and 7.5 miles from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. All rooms and suites include free WiFi and have en suite bathrooms with showers, as well as flat-screen TVs and coffeemakers.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Bear Camp

The camp is, well, “cushy.” Accommodations are in what the Alaskans call Weather Ports, which are Quonset-hut-like structures made of high-tech fabric stretched over ribs. Your comfortable Weather-Port cabin/tents are on raised platforms with small decks out front and twin beds in each cabin. They feature wooden floors, solid doors, propane heat, and light.

Amenities: Hot showers and washrooms with eco friendly, hi tech composting toilets are in a separate building; the tents all have a small porta potty in a separate curtained area for overnights.

Adventure Lodge

The Lodge, which was originally an Alaskan homestead, sits on 25 acres overlooking the confluence of the Kenai and Moose Rivers. Its huge deck overlooks the Kenai and Chugach Mountains as they bisect the massive Harding Icefield. The Lodge is the terminus for the Swan Lake Wilderness Canoe Trail, and its back-door swings open to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The unique and special location of the Adventure Lodge allows unlimited access for wilderness recreation.

Amenities: private bath

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Included:

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- Flights within Alaska as listed in the itinerary (priced separately from the main trip)
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- Professional, Alaska-based guides
- Happy hour (includes complimentary wine and beer) each evening

Not Included:

- Airfare to and from Alaska
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities

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your adventure in depth

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1 -60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self- sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!