# Ultimate Alaska 🏵 Denali and the Inside Passage

NCLUDING HUBBARD GLACIER, SAWYER GLACIER AND A TUNDRA WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

4 night Denali Land Tour © 7 Nights on the Norwegian Sun © Ride the Rails in a Dome Railcar from Denali to Talkeetna August 11th - 22nd, 2016

Join TRIPS and experience Ultimate Alaska - land of bald eagles, totem poles, calving glaciers and majestic wildlife traveling by land, sea, rail and air! On this ultimate Alaska experience, you see spectacular Denali National Park with a full day of sightseeing deep into the Park.

The winding "Park Road" offers opportunities to see Denali's famed wildlife: Grizzlies, Caribou, Moose, Dall Sheep, Wolves and Eagles.

An exciting TRIPS exclusive during your tour is an Alaska rail experience traveling in a domed railcar from Denali to Talkeetna.

Enjoy spectacular 360 degree views during your ride unlike most tours that just include the standard rail car.

In Seward, board the Norwegian Sun for a 7 day cruise through the Inside Passage and into both Hubbard Glacier and Sawyer Glacier. Ports of call include Icy Strait Point, Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan. You've always wanted to see Alaska, and this 12 day tour is the best way for you to not just see Alaska, but to experience the ultimate that Alaska has to offer!

# Itinerary

#### August 11th, 2016 - Your Journey Begins!

Today you board your flight bound for **Fairbanks**! On arrival, you'll be met and assisted with your hotel transfer. After time to freshen up, enjoy dinner on your own at a local restaurant.

## Overnight: Fairbanks, Alaska

## August 12th, 2016 - Fairbanks to Denali!

Today you'll explore Fairbanks beginning with a ride on the **Riverboat Discovery** taking a journey back in time. You'll make an unforgettable stop at a **Chena Indian Village** before returning to Fairbanks for lunch on your own. Then, board your deluxe motor coach for the drive to Denali where you'll check in to your hotel with the remainder of the day on your own to enjoy this beautiful area.

Overnight: Denali, Alaska

## August 13th, 2016 - Denali Tundra Wilderness Tour!

Today you'll experience a Denali Tundra Wilderness Tour when you travel more than 50 miles deep into the park. Most tour companies offer the shorter 4 hour tour, at TRIPS we provide the most all encompassing tour offered by the National Park Service to ensure you see the best of Denali! Your National Parks driver/naturalist will be your guide on this diverse experience which will last 7 to 8 hours. Stop every 90 minutes or so along the way to stretch your legs and breath in the clean, crisp air of Alaska. Enjoy the incredible scenery and a narrated history by your driver/naturalist as well as some of the best opportunities to view the park's wildlife. Be sure to keep your camera and binoculars handy as you might spot Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and grizzly bears. And if you're lucky, you might enjoy a clear view of North America's tallest peak, 20,320 foot Mount McKinley. Return to your hotel with the remainder of the day to enjoy Denali on your own. Check with the activities desk at your hotel for a variety of guided walks or ranger talks. Or, relax with a hand-crafted cocktail and enjoy the spectacular views! Whatever you do, the grandeur of Denali will linger for years to come.

Overnight: Denali, Alaska

#### August 14th, 2016 - Ride the Rails!

As you arise this morning, you'll marvel at your previous days Denali experience. Enjoy this morning at leisure before you **ride the Alaska rails!** Your four hour journey from Denali to Talkeetna will be in a domed car with spectacular views. The rail line follows a historic, unspoiled route through beautiful countryside and there's a good chance of seeing a variety of wildlife. There are several dining options with food, beverage and bar service available to enjoy on your own. On arrival in the historic mining village of **Talkeetna** late this afternoon, check into the Talkeetna Lodge. Nestled at the base of Mt. McKinley, you'll have outstanding panoramic views of the Alaska Range. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure perhaps relaxing next to the gigantic river rock fireplace or shopping for native art in one of the local shops. Overnight: Talkeetna, Alaska

# August 15th, 2016 - Come Sail Away!

Check out of your lodge this morning taking a last look at the grand Alaska Range, then travel by motor coach to **Anchorage**. Surrounded by six mountain ranges, Alaska's largest city is beautiful and bustling! You have free time to explore downtown, perhaps enjoying a snack before departing for **Seward**. On arrival at the pier, you'll be assisted with your check-in boarding the **Norwegian Sun**. Sail this evening at 9:00pm. (D)

# August 16th, 2016 - Cruise Hubbard Glacier!

Today, you get up close and personal with gigantic **Hubbard Glacier**, the longest river of ice in North America at 75 miles! This is also one of the most active glaciers of its kind in Alaska measuring 1,350 square miles of translucent blue ice! The 300-foot wall of ice has been thickening and advancing toward the Gulf of Alaska in sharp contrast to most glaciers which have thinned and are retreating. Seeing Hubbard Glacier will surely be one of the many highlights of your cruise/tour! (B/L/D)

#### August 17st, 2016 - Icy Strait Point!

Dock this morning at the private port of **Icy Strait Point** at 9:00am. This historic town, once home to a fishing cannery offers a variety of excursions, fine dining and shopping at locally owned stores. You might choose a Hoonah sightseeing experience where you'll visit the world's largest **Tlingit** village. Hear how this village of 850 was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire during WWII and learn about the lifestyle of local fisherman. Or, opt for a **Bear Search** adventure in an area with one of the largest Brown bear populations in the world's Sail at 5:00pm. (B/L/D)

# <u>August 18th, 2015 - Juneau and Cruising Sawyer Glacier!</u>

You dock at **Juneau**, the capital of Alaska, at 7am. Accessible only by water or air, it is not surprising that wildlife thrives in this stunning

frontier landscape. You might choose to enjoy a whale watching excursion and marvel at the power and strength of these stunning creatures! In fact, tours from Juneau guarantee that you'll see whales! And don't miss 12 mile long **Mendenhall Glacier** just 13 miles from downtown Juneau! Return to the Sun for a 1:15pm departure. The remained of the day is spent sailing through world famous **Sawyer Glacier**, where only a handful of ships are allowed every year! Your transit offers a relaxing and tranquil experience as you view this pristine landscape in comfort and luxury from the Norwegian Sun's abundant floor-to-ceiling windows and expansive decks. Marvel at the beauty of your surroundings, which just centuries ago were completely covered with ice and are now home to stunning plants and wildlife! Without a doubt, this is the most relaxing and breathtaking way to experience Alaska! (B/L/D)

# <u> August 19th, 2015 - Skagway: Salmon and Gold!</u>

You arrive in **Skagway** at 7:00am. At the end of the 19th century, Skagway was known to hopeful gold rushers as the gateway to the gold fields. Today, the flavor of that past has been preserved on Broadway Street with its charming false-front buildings and gold rush museums. You'll have the morning free to explore the town on your own. Then as an extra special treat this afternoon, we've included an excursion to the **Liarsville Gold Rush Camp and Salmon Bake**, located at the foot of the White Pass Trail and nestled beside a shimmering waterfall. You'll feast on freshly grilled filet of wild Alaskan salmon along with baked chicken, rice pilaf, a variety of salads, baked beans and dessert. After your meal, wander over to the camp and enjoy the waterfall and authentic exhibits of Liarsville where a cast of sourdoughs and dance hall girls will entertain you with a hilarious melodrama and a poem while teaching you the art of panning for gold! Then, you'll be set free in the Liarsville Gold Fields where you can pan for the precious metal that drove men and women wild with gold fever! Be sure and dress comfortably and bring your camera! Your ship sails at 5pm. (B/L/D)

### <u>August 20th, 2016 - Ketchikan: Flightseeing to Totem Poles!</u>

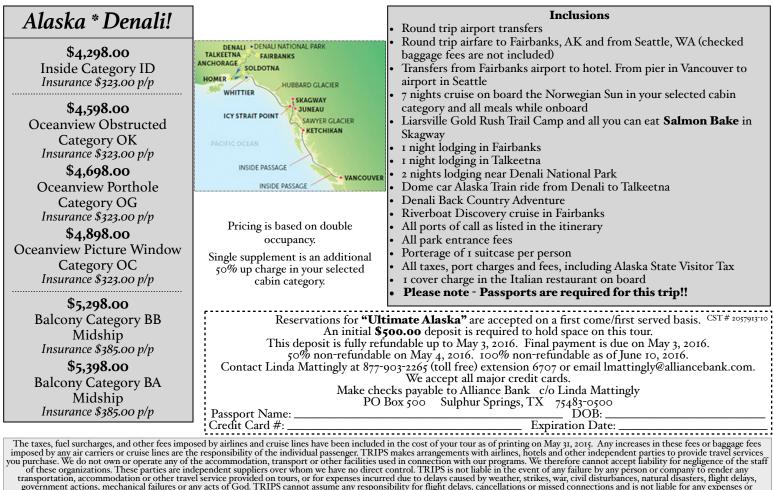
After sailing through the night and morning, dock at **Ketchikan** at 1pm this afternoon. It is often referred to as the "First City", because for many visitors it is their first stop in Alaska. Here, you have an option to experience a float plane flight to **Misty Fjords.** You see waterfalls that plunge 1,000 feet, beautiful river valleys and serene crystalline lakes surrounded by pristine forests. This is truly a wonderful experience that you won't soon forget! This favorite port of call also boasts an outdoor museum of native art with the largest collection of totem poles in the world! Your ship sails at 8pm. (B/L/D)

# <u>August 21st, 2016 - Cruise the Inside Passage!</u>

Today you cruise the **Inside Passage**. Protected within Alaska's Panhandle, this beautiful waterway features 274 miles of dramatic scenery. The towering glaciers, the brilliant blue ice, the emerald green of the hemlock and spruce forests and the plunging waterfalls all provide an unparalleled opportunity for stunning photographs and video footage. But this pristine area does more than provide grand vistas. It takes you into prime habitat for bald eagles, sea lions, porpoise and whales. There are few places as well preserved and as ruggedly beautiful as Alaska and you will find yourself marveling at the wild and glorious scenery of our northernmost state as you cruise the Inside Passage. (B/L/D)

## August 22nd, 2016 - Heading Home!

After a wonderful cruise/tour of Alaska, it's time to head home. The Sun docks in **Vancouver** at 8:00am. You'll be assisted with your disembarkation, then board your motor coach bound for the airport in Seattle and your flight home. **Memories of Denali and your Alaskan cruise are sure to be with you for years to come!** (B)



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