

Northern Lights

# Alaska Cultural Walking Adventure

CLASSIC JOURNEYS  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Northern Lights Exploration

Nothing can prepare you for your first sighting of the Northern Lights. The way they swirl through star-studded skies. The neon colors. The majestic silence. And the same goes for Alaska's winter landscape. The Last Frontier state is a wildlife wonderland—wolf packs, grizzlies, foxes and hares roam free while eagles soar overhead—and from electric blue glaciers to cinematic fjords, Mother Nature has truly outdone herself (no wonder Santa chose to live here, we wish we did too).

## DAY 1

## FAIRBANKS

- Gain insight into Alaskan history, nature and culture at the Museum of the North
- Get the chance to marvel at the iridescent glow of the aurora borealis

Welcome to "The Last Frontier", as Alaska is affectionately known. Your week begins in Fairbanks with an insightful visit to the University of Alaska's Museum of the North. Explore the exhibits to learn about Alaska Native cultures, natural wonders, diverse wildlife, and fascinating Arctic dinosaur fossils. Take in over 2,000 years of Alaska art as well as in-depth research on whales, artifacts, the aurora, and much more.

Next, you'll head north into the winter wonderland for an unforgettable evening of Aurora viewing. Excitement builds as your expert local guide ushers you to your Arctic Cube. Nightfall is when the real magic begins in Fairbanks, thanks to its prime position within the Auroral Oval. You'll spend the evening in astral awe as clear winter nights reveal radiant constellations and the iridescent glow of aurora borealis. Marvel at the stunning sky while you enjoy dinner in a craftsman-built yurt with Wickersham Dome and the White Mountains in the distance.

**Overnight:** Borealis Basecamp

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

## BOREALIS BASECAMP

- Hop into a dog sled for an incredibly fun ride
- Walk or fat tire bike through countryside trails

This morning you'll meet with some of the world's most impressively accomplished — and irresistibly adorable — athletes. Huskies. Dog sledding is more than a tradition in Alaska. It's part of life, celebrated annually at the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Meet pro mushers who'll recount their experiences of the harsh landscape and extreme weather synonymous with "The Last Great Race on Earth" and enjoy plenty of time petting their four-legged teammates, from roly-poly puppies you'll want to take home with you, to championship veterans with impressive accomplishments.

Then hop in your sled as a musher takes the reins and your new furry friends show you their favorite pastime. The excitement of the dogs is palpable as they prepare, and once they're off, it'll only take seconds — speeding through crisp air and utterly silent, snow-white forest — to realize why Alaskans fell so in love with this sport.

After a delicious local lunch, you'll hit the trail to experience the Alaska backcountry. Join your guide on a walk or fat tire bike ride through maintained trails throughout the property. Take in the winter wonderland at your own pace before enjoying more Aurora viewing this evening.

**Overnight:** Borealis Basecamp

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 3

## ANCHORAGE / GLACIER VIEW

- Dine on fresh Alaskan specialties at Long Rifle Lodge
- Enjoy a leisurely snowshoe walk in search of Alaska's wildlife

This morning you'll depart Fairbanks with a quick flight to Anchorage. Did you know that Alaska has over 12,000 rivers? You'll pass several of them as you make your way along the picturesque valleys before stopping for lunch at Long Rifle Lodge. Enjoy an Alaskan crafted microbrew as you dine with a view of Matanuska Glacier at this truly unique spot.

After checking into your charming and handcrafted cabin at Sheep Mountain Lodge, enjoy snowshoeing around the scenic property. Take in this stunning wonderland as you make tracks through the pristine snow. The tall trees and silent surroundings make for a picture-perfect backdrop. You'll work up an appetite for tonight's dinner featuring fresh seafood and steaks as well as homemade soups.

**Overnight:** Glacier View

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 4

### MATANUSKA GLACIER

- Take a helicopter ride to walk on a glacier
- Learn about Alaska's Indigenous cultures

Have you ever wanted to experience crystal clear blue ice on a glacier? Then get ready for today's excursion, which includes a short scenic flight around the jaw dropping Matanuska Valley and a walk on the ice through a glacier slot canyon. You'll see Matanuska Glacier, a mammoth 27-mile river of ice pouring from Chugach peaks. With your expert guide in the lead, you'll walk a cinematic route across this ancient natural phenomenon, passing ice-formed caves, spires, crevices, and curvatures of unfathomably bright white and electric blue. All of your equipment will be provided, as well as a delicious lunch at a local eatery. From salmon to venison and potatoes to wild berries, Alaska's fresh produce makes for magnificent mealtimes throughout this trip.

Later, you'll head indoors to learn about Alaska's Indigenous cultures at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Enjoy a guided private tour that offers a unique experience for you to explore the traditional and contemporary ways of Alaska's Indigenous cultures.

**Overnight:** Anchorage

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 5

### GIRDWOOD / MT. ALYESKA

- Ride a tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska
- Visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Enjoy a farewell dinner

Today you'll explore the gold mining-turned-ski-town of Girdwood. Formerly known as Glacier City, it borders the half million acres of gorgeous glacial wilderness that makes up the Chugach State Park. You'll soon be peering over the park's vast majesty from above, after a ride on Girdwood's famous tramway. Up at the top of Mt. Alyeska, you're 2300 feet above sea level, turning in every direction for soaring sights of hanging glaciers, endless wilderness and the Turnagain Arm below. You'll immediately see what Captain Cook couldn't see from the water — that the passageway to Europe doesn't exist (Cook eventually turned back, hence the name, Turnagain).

Your afternoon adventure will be learning about (and spotting) animals at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. Such starkness and silence surround you that it's hard to imagine how Alaska's wildlife exists. Spanning 200 acres and guarded by the Chugach peaks on the shore of the Turnagain Arm, the center is dedicated to preserving, protecting and providing a home for Alaska's orphaned, injured, and endangered wildlife. Watch playful bears, crafty foxes, and skulking lynx, and see just how enormous wood bison grow as you explore the grounds. You'll also meet the amazing people who care for them and hear some incredibly daring rescue stories.

This evening, you'll still be talking about the amazing wildlife as you enjoy a farewell feast together.

**Overnight:** Anchorage

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 6

### ANCHORAGE / DEPART

- Part company at your Anchorage hotel

After breakfast, you'll transfer independently to the Anchorage airport for onward travel with fun memories and shared experiences of your time in Alaska.

**Meals:** B

# DAILY ITINERARY

Alaska: Northern Lights | Cultural Walking Adventure

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## Tour Hotels



### **Borealis Basecamp**

Just 25 miles from the city of Fairbanks, Borealis Basecamp offers a unique experience on 100 acres of pristine boreal forest. View the dancing lights of the aurora borealis from a cozy cube hideaway with large floor to ceiling windows, explore the rugged landscape, and understand the allure of the far north.

**OVERNIGHT:** Fairbanks | **NIGHTS:** 2



### **Sheep Mountain Lodge**

Located in a picturesque setting in the Matanuska Valley, Sheep Mountain Lodge is full of history and hospitality. The modern handcrafted cabins offer exquisite views of the surrounding mountains and Alaska wildlife.

**OVERNIGHT:** Glacier View | **NIGHTS:** 1



### **Hotel Captain Cook**

This luxury hotel sits in the heart of downtown Anchorage within an easy walk of restaurants, shops and museums. Rooms boast spectacular views of Cook Inlet, the Chugach Mountains and Mt. McKinley. Amenities include an indoor swimming pool and spa.

**OVERNIGHT:** Anchorage | **NIGHTS:** 2

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

<b>TRIP LENGTH</b>	6 Days, 5 Nights
<b>START</b>	Lobby of Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska
<b>END</b>	Lobby of Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska
<b>TERRAIN</b>	Easy to moderate on good trails, with mini-van support.

## What's Included

- Well-sited boutique hotels and lodges that provide you unrivaled access to the people and places, culture and natural environment you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



**Luxurious Lodgings:**  
Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



**Included Activities:**  
You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



**Local Guides:**  
Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



**Small Group Travel:**  
With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



**Amazing Cuisine:**  
From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



**Unmatched Value:**  
"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Alaska...

- Watching the neon colors of the Northern Lights as they swirl through star-studded skies
- Photographing wolves, foxes and other wildlife with expert naturalist guides
- Dog sledding with real Alaskan racing sled dogs
- Gaping at icebergs floating in cinematic fjords
- Following an expert guide as you hike on an electric blue glacier

"We loved that we didn't have to plan anything and our days were filled with fun activities, opportunities for learning and quality time spent together everyday."

-Leslie N.,