

Alaska Grizzly Adventure 2023

8 days / June 14 – 21, 2023

Wednesday, June 14th – Arrivals into Anchorage

Your Alaska Adventure begins upon landing into Anchorage, Alaska where you will experience your first day with 19 hours and 17 minutes of sunlight! In reality, it will never get dark your first night. We will check into the [Hyatt House](#) with a king and sofa bed. The rest of the day can be spent relaxing from your travels in your room or stroll into downtown Anchorage.

Thursday, June 15th – Kincaid Park

After a stroll through charming downtown Anchorage, we take e-bikes for a leisurely bike ride through Kincaid Park in search of a moose that everyone swears they encounter all the time. I have come across black bears, but never a moose. The path is fully paved with beautiful views of the Cook Inlet and lush green foliage. It is a relatively flat ride with only a few mild hills to contend with.



Kincaid Park

Friday, June 16th – Whittier, Glacier Cruise, Wildlife Conservation Tour

Friday morning, we take our own private drive along the scenic Alaska Route 1 Highway with incredible views of the Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet, through North America's longest tunnel and into Whittier, Alaska. We actually share and drive on the railroad tracks through the tunnel!



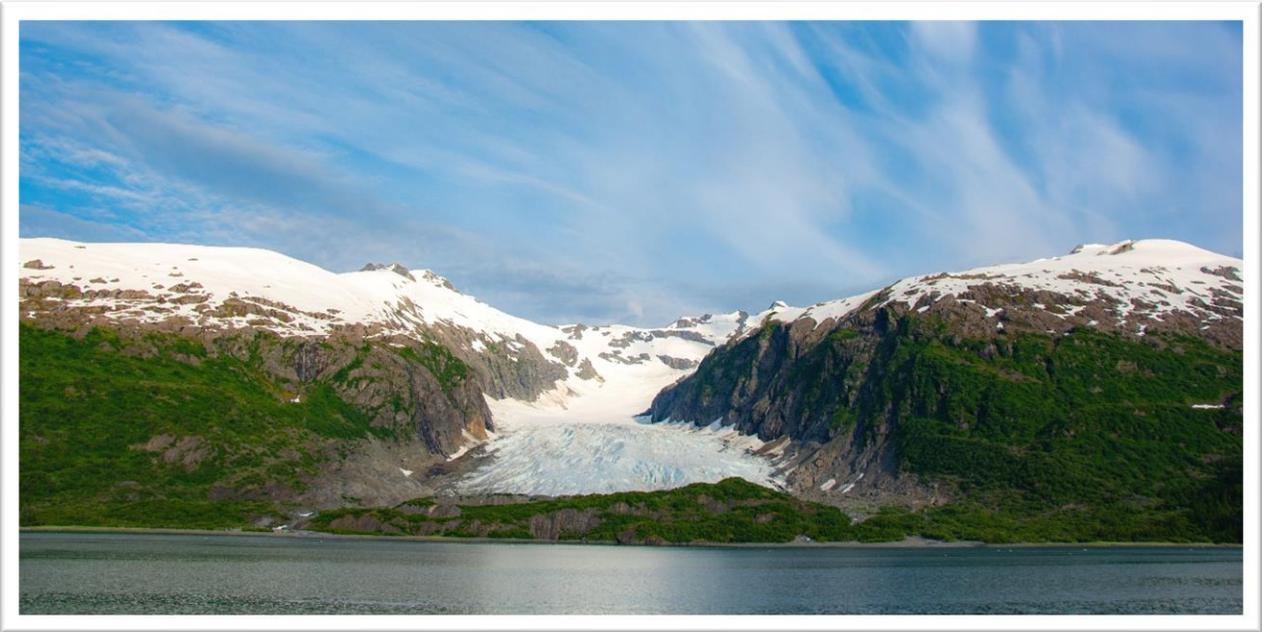
Whittier

Whittier is a beautiful seaside village at the head of the Prince William Sound. You can choose a nice local lunch at my favorite little dive restaurant, or a more elegant lunch at the Inn at Whittier, both overlooking the harbor.

Afterwards we board a 3.75 hour [Glacier Cruise](#) in the Prince William Sound to witness the incredible glaciers calving into the sea. We will visit Blackstone Bay, a dramatic deep-water fjord where two tidewater glaciers and several alpine glaciers await. The white spray of glistening waterfalls cascading down to the sea from glaciers perched on the mountain peaks catches the light creating a stunning contrast against the dark gray shale and graywacke rocks.



Keep an eye out for sea otters, Steller sea lions, bears, mountain goats, whales and more! Get an up-close view of a kittiwake bird rookery inhabited by more than 10,000 birds nesting on the rocky cliffs in Passage Canal.



Our next stop is to [Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center](#), who takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and provides them with spacious enclosures and quality animal care.

The sanctuary maintains over 200 acres of spacious habitats for resident animals to feel at home displaying their natural wild behavior as education ambassadors for their species. It is common for visitors to see brown bears, moose, wood bison, muskox, wolves, porcupines, and more.

If time permits, we will take a moderate hike to Byron Glacier to see it firsthand.



Stock photo

Saturday, June 17th – Katmai Grizzly Adventure!

Depart Anchorage to King Salmon and then board a sea plane for a scenic ride to Katmai Peninsula.



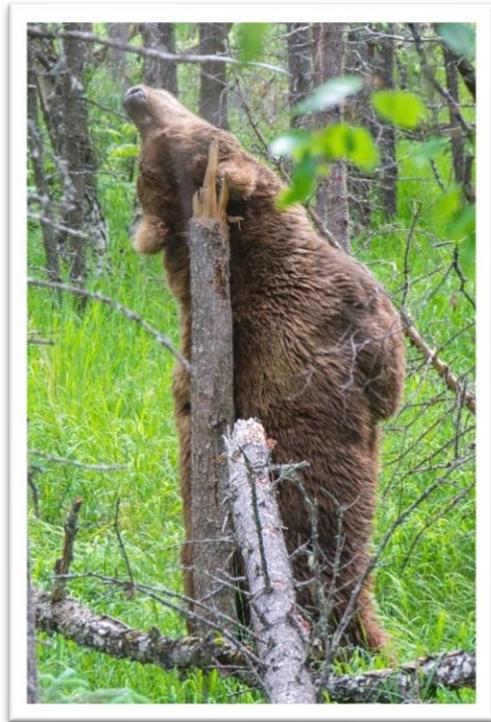
Sea Plane to Katmai

Upon arrival, you will take a short Grizzly awareness program, check into your rustic cabin, and we're off on a short walk to Brooks Bridge to experience these magnificent bears feasting on hundreds of salmon flying through the air to spawn their eggs. Primarily occurring between mid-June and mid-July, our timing will be perfect to capture this annual phenomenon at its peak season.

At Brooks Bridge, there is a viewing platform overlooking the falls that gives you prime viewing of bears and leaping salmon. You do not need a telephoto lens as we are incredibly close to the action and camera phones would give fantastic shots. Wildlife is never predictable, so every minute is unique. Turn away for a second and you may miss a bear catching a salmon in midair. Leave for lunch and you may miss two bears fighting for the best fishing spot or mating. It is so exciting because you never know what will happen next.



Brooks Falls Viewing Platform



Evenings are spent relaxing around the lodge fire exchanging the day's stories and meeting new friends from all over the world.



Brooks Lodge

Lodging is a rustic cabin with 2 sets of bunk beds, small bathroom, and a shower. Four typically share a cabin, but a private cabin can sometimes be accommodated. Since most of your day is spent exploring, the cabins are the perfect alternative to tenting in the campsite. For those who prefer a more affordable solution, I do have two campsite reservations.



Sunday, June 18th – Valley of 10,000 Smokes Tour or Fly Fishing

Valley of 10,000 Smokes - Departing at 8am, we board a small bus and journey into the back country of Katmai. The 23-mile drive to Overlook Cabin is broken up with stops for scenic views and wildlife viewing. At Overlook Cabin you'll have time for lunch and then hike down with our tour



guide to examine the ash and pumice "Valley" floor. Those preferring to relax can look over displays and historic photos of the "Valley of 10,000 Smokes."

The June 1912 eruption of Novarupta Volcano altered the Katmai area dramatically. Severe earthquakes rocked the area for a week



before Novarupta exploded with cataclysmic force. Enormous quantities of hot, glowing pumice and ash were ejected from Novarupta and nearby fissures. This material flowed over the terrain, destroying all life in its path. For several days, ash, pumice, and gas were ejected, and a haze darkened the sky over most of the

Northern Hemisphere. At nearby Kodiak, for two days a person could not see a lantern held at arm's length. Acid rain caused clothes to disintegrate on clotheslines in distant Vancouver, Canada. The eruption was 10 times more forceful than the 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens. Eventually Novarupta became dormant but left a fascinating landscape for us to enjoy.



Fly Fishing, Canoeing, or Kayaking Option – As an alternative to the 10,000 Smokes tour, superb flyfishing is available adjacent to the lodge on the Brooks River and on the Brooks and Naknek Lakes. You have the option to rent your gear or hire a guide to take you upstream to not only fish in the river, but also get even closer to the bears.

Monday, June 19th – Last day in Katmai



After one last visit to Brooks Falls, we bid farewell to Katmai as we board our seaplanes back to Anchorage to reflect on the incredible experiences you just experienced.



Tuesday, June 20th – Anchorage

Last chance to check out the various must sees in Anchorage. If you need to cut your trip short, you can depart Tuesday, but most flights leave early in the morning, so most sleep in to catch up from the adrenaline of Katmai. I highly suggest relaxing and enjoy the many attractions in Anchorage.



Wednesday – Departures

Finally, our 8-day adventure comes to an end as we fly back to our respective cities. In these 8 days, you will have experienced the most stunning areas of Alaska few have seen. It is only after our tour will you realize no Alaska Cruise holds a candle to what you have seen. Our experiences on Katmai will rival that of African Safaris. You will have travelled by sea plane, boats to glaciers, and even bike to breathe all that is Alaska. Without a doubt, the stories you share will end up on many other's Bucket Lists.

I look forward to bringing this to you.

Your Adventure Leader,

Johnny G.

Prices:

\$3,900 per/person	Based on double occupancy (Quad in Katmai cabin)
+ \$900 p/couple	Katmai cabin for two (Upon availability)
+ \$420	Private room for one in Anchorage 6/14-17
+ \$280	Private room for one in Anchorage 6/19-20
- \$88	Opt out of 10,000 Smokes tour.
+	Link to fishing and kayak rental prices
+	Link to all-u-can-eat buffet at Katmai Lodge

*Katmai lodging is booked two years in advance, limited to a lottery, and expensive. The cabins are rustic cabins with two single bunk beds designed for four people per cabin. (See photos on page 5) For two people preferring to keep their cabin to themselves, please add \$900 for the couple, per above price table. Those traveling single but would like to share a cabin in Katmai, please contact me and we will see what we can work out with others. Keep in mind, nearly all your time in Katmai will be outside the cabin on adventures or at the lodge. There is a private bathroom and shower in each cabin room but no privacy between bunk beds.

Price includes:

- All travel *within* Alaska.
- All lodging.
- All adventures and tours except for + activities listed in above table.

Price does not include:

- Airfare to and from Anchorage.
- Meals or beverages.
- Activities listed with a price.

What to Bring and other Frequently Asked Questions

- **Are there weight limitations?** There is a strict 40 lb weight limit from Anchorage to Katmai including carry on. This is not very much weight, but you only need clothes for 3 days. You can keep the rest of your clothes in your main luggage back at the hotel in Anchorage. *Weigh your small duffle beforehand.*
- **What luggage should I bring?** We are not doing anything fancy so leave the formal clothes behind and pack light. Jeans and shorts for everything. There is a laundry mat in Anchorage. Bring a backpack or small duffle for 3 days clothes in Katmai plus a small day pack for during the day to keep that rain slicker handy. In summary: 1 main suit case, 1 small duffle for Katmai, and 1 day pack for every day hikes and adventures. Boots are not needed but handy in case walking shoes get wet.
- **What will the weather be like?** Weather in Alaska changes daily so you cannot predict past 24 hours. Plan for rain at some point, but for the most part, it looks good based on 3 weather forecasts. Rain slicker or poncho highly recommended. Range lower 60's to upper 70's.
- **Accessories** – Camera and memory cards. Sunglasses, hat (with mosquito netting even better), Light waterproof poncho or jacket. Sunscreen, maybe binoculars. And don't forget your flask.
- **Are meals included?** No.
- **Are the Grizzlies dangerous?** Yes.
- **Will we be close to the Grizzlies?** Extremely.
- **Are we in danger?** There has only been one bear attacking humans and it was because Timothy Treadwell (The [Grizzly Man](#) who became a much-deserved Grizzly Meal) was an idiot who thought he could hang out with the bears. There has never been an attack in Katmai where we will be. Do not bring pepper spray as it will be confiscated at the airport and it only makes the bear angry. (The only thing worse than a hungry bear is an angry bear)
- **How bad are the mosquitos?** I have been to Alaska five times over four years and they were never as bad as I have heard from those who have never been to Alaska. Wear light-colored clothes and either Avon Skin-so-Soft or Picaridin.

Itinerary At-A-Glance

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						June 23
						Fairbanks Arrivals Check into: River's Edge Resort 4200 Boat Street (907) 474-0286 Dinner TBD
June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30
Fairbanks Riverboat Discovery Tour	Fairbanks-Denali Alaska Rail Road Gold Star Class Check into: Denali Park Village	Denali National Park Denali Back Country Adventure	Denali-Anchorage Alaska Rail Road Gold Star Class Check into: Voyager Inn	Anchorage Bike Kincaid Park	Anchorage-Katmai Anchorage to King Salmon Float plane to Katmai Check into: Katmai Cabins Bear viewing	Katmai 10,000 Smokes Tour Bear viewing
July 1	July 2	July 3				
Katmai-Anchorage Bear viewing Float plane to King Salmon King Salmon to Anchorage Check into: Voyager Inn	Whittier Glacier Quest Cruise	Anchorage Departures				