

Alaskan Adventure!

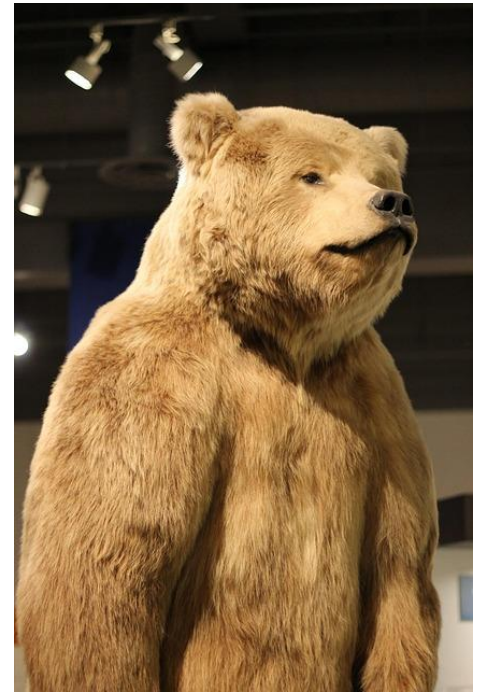
May 24– June 1, 2025



Alaska holds a special place in Dea's heart, as she grew up hearing stories from her parents about their time living in the 49th state and all the colorful characters and amazing sights they experienced. There is no place quite like Alaska, and we are going at one of the best times to see wildlife, including bears, caribou, moose and more. One year we even saw a lynx! So please join us as we explore the best of Alaska, traveling from the interior of Fairbanks to Anchorage and the coast, experiencing a state unlike any other.

May 24, 2025: We're on our way!

Meet Dea and Declan at St. Louis Lambert Airport to board your included air flight round-trip to Alaska. We fly first to Seattle and then on to Fairbanks, where we will board our private motorcoach and head to the hotel. We travel 3,242 air miles with our transfer in Seattle. We always strive for the fewest connections and the most direct route to maximize precious tour time. The largest city in the north of Alaska, Fairbanks experiences the largest temperature differentials of any city in the world, with summer temperatures reaching over 90 degrees and winter temperatures falling to -40 or more! Fortunately, May temperatures are wonderful with highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s, with a 4:20 am sunrise and 11:17 pm sunset. We will arrive at about 3 in the afternoon and visit the **University of Alaska Museum of the North**. The museum houses the state's largest public display of gold plus Blue Babe, an almost 50,000-year-old mummified steppe bison. We then head to our hotel, **Pike's Lodge**, our home for the next two nights. You will love being on the banks of the **Chena River**!



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May 25, 2025: Exploring Fairbanks

This morning we enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading out for an exciting day exploring Fairbanks. We start with a city tour before cruising the Chena River on the Riverboat Discovery. As we sail down the river, we will have various demonstrations from along the shoreline as well as a stop in a recreated Chena Indian Village. By the time we return to the dock, you will have been fully immersed in the life and culture of this arid climate area in the north.



But perhaps the most exciting stop is at Trail Breaker Kennel, where cute puppies grow into dog sled champions! Trail Breaker Kennel is the home of David Monson, a champion dog sled musher who won the Yukon Quest, and it is where he and his wife, four-time Iditarod Champion Susan Butcher, trained their dogs and raised their family for many years. Susan passed away in 2006, but her legacy lives on through the many other mushers who have trained at Trail Breaker Kennel, including David and Susan's daughter, Tekla, who is now mushing with her own team of dogs. Enjoy a wonderful meal and demonstration of how humans and dogs prepare for a race. Then we have the highlight of the day: **holding the cute puppies!** This helps acclimate them to being around lots of humans when they race! Dinner tonight is at a local favorite, **The Turtle Club**, a quirky Fairbanks



restaurant with amazing fish and prime rib. Everyone we have brought there raves about it! **(B,L,D)**

May 26, 2025: From the North Pole to The Great One, Denali

After breakfast this morning, pack your bags to depart for **North Pole, Alaska!** No, we're not at the tip of the globe, but we are in a place that answers letters from Santa and has a special postmark showing the letter came from: The North Pole! We'll stop at the store so bring your Christmas cards and get them out early this year by leaving them here to be postmarked with North Pole and sent out in November or purchase one of the pre-written letters from Santa to have mailed this Christmas. One development company's advertising idea to rename the town of Davis to North Pole in hopes of getting a toy company to establish there never materialized. But the name remains.

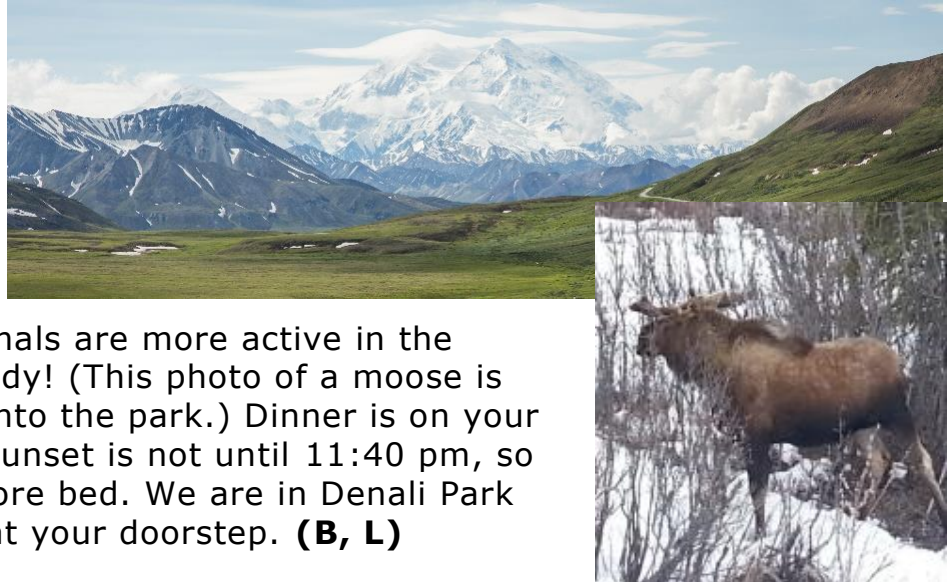
We'll then go to a local favorite, the **Pagoda Chinese Restaurant**. Featured on *Dine-Ins, Diners & Dives* as well as *Guy's Grocery Games*, you will be sure to find something you like at the possibly the world's northernmost Chinese Restaurant. After our lunch stop, we will backtrack through Fairbanks and head south towards one of the most beautiful National Parks in the country, **Denali National Park**. We will travel along the Parks Highway and learn about the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline**, permafrost and



more along the way. We may see some wildlife along the road, so have your camera ready. Then we check into our home for the next two nights, the **Denali Park Village** located in **Alaska's Denali National Park & Preserve**. Tonight we have a special treat – the Cabin Nite Dinner Show! Learn more about the 49th state in this entertaining comedy, from the history of the state to its unique traditions, the gold rush and especially about those who lived in the wilderness. And the food is delicious as well!
(B,L,D)

May 27, 2025: Denali National Park Backcountry Adventure

Enjoy an early riser breakfast this morning before our early morning tour into Denali National Park. We are embarking on a Tundra Wilderness Tour that will allow us to see the most of any one-day tour in the park. The only way to see more is to hike and camp through the park yourself! The animals are more active in the morning, so have your cameras ready! (This photo of a moose is one of Declan's from our last tour into the park.) Dinner is on your own this evening. Remember, the sunset is not until 11:40 pm, so we'll have a few daylight hours before bed. We are in Denali Park Village, so everything you need is at your doorstep. **(B, L)**



May 28, 2025: Ride the Rails on the Wilderness Train!

After breakfast, we make a stop at the **Denali Visitor Center** before we board the **Wilderness Train** to Talkeetna. Don't forget your National Parks Passport Book if you want your official Denali Park stamp! We will arrive at the Railroad Depot where we travel on the Alaska Railroad's *Denali Star*. Keep an eye out for all sorts of animals while we ride – we have seen caribou, moose and one year Declan even saw a porcupine climbing a tree! Enjoy lunch on board as we ride in the Gold Star Service Class for the most scenic meal on the rails! This afternoon we arrive and check into our home for tonight, the Talkeetna Lodge. We have reserved all mountain view rooms so everyone will have a view. Wildlife is constantly near the lodge so keep your curtains open and a keen eye out for whatever may pass by. Enjoy dinner at the lodge or take the shuttle into town. **(B, L)**



May 29, 2025: The Quirky Town of Talkeetna

Enjoy a wonderful day in Talkeetna. The town featured in *Northern Exposure* is inspired by Talkeetna, and while the show ended in the 1990s, the quirkiness of Talkeetna lives on today. The mayor of the town had been a cat named Stubbs from 1998 until his death in 2017 – it was widely rumored that one of his kittens, Denali, will follow in his father's paw-steps. Talkeetna is also home to the Talkeetna Bachelor Society, where men fill out a form on what they are looking for in a woman and women compete in various contests to prove their skills fitting an Alaskan bride. One gentleman's perfect woman was one who owned a late model truck and a gas-powered chain saw! It's why they say in Alaska if you're a woman looking for a man, "The odds are good, but the goods are odd!" **(B)**



May 30, 2025: Musk Ox Farm

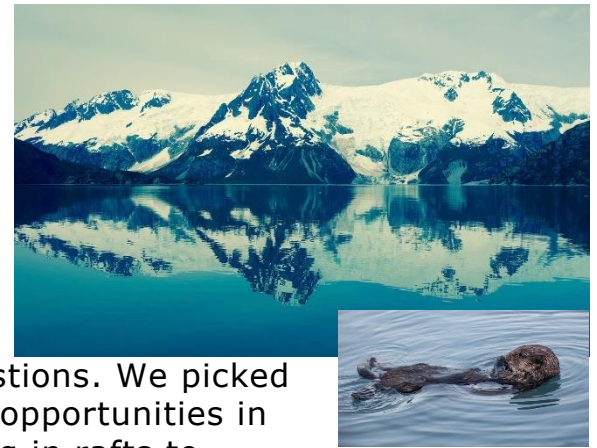
This morning after breakfast we enjoy a scenic drive through the **Mat-Su Valley**.



Sheltered by the Alaskan Range and the Talkeetna Mountains, the valley is the fastest growing area of Alaska, both in population as well as with world-record sized cabbages and assorted vegetables. We then head to Palmer and stop to tour the **Musk Ox farm**. These animals date back to the Ice Age but were on the brink of extinction in the 1940s until John Teal created a non-profit in 1954 to domesticate the herd and save the species. The wool is incredibly warm and makes wonderful yarn. After lunch at a local favorite, we continue to Seward. We stay at the Harbor 360 Hotel, located directly on the Seward Small Boat Harbor, featuring stunning 360 degree views of Resurrection Bay and the surrounding Kenai Mountains. **(B)**

May 31, 2025: Fjords of Kenai

After breakfast we walk down to our hotel lobby and depart on a Major Marine cruise to head to the famous Fjords of Kenai, where the orcas play in the shadow of glaciers. The 7.5 hour cruise takes us deep into Kenai Fjords National Park, full of amazing wildlife and great sights. The captain and crew will provide full narration, while naturalists will be on hand to provide more information and answer any questions. We picked this cruise to have the best chance for wildlife viewing opportunities in the area, from Steller sea lion colonies to otters floating in rafts to rookeries home to 1,000s of nesting seabirds. And fingers crossed – we might even see whales! We will also spend time in front of two active tidewater glaciers: Holgate and Aialik Glaciers and we mean up close. It will be an amazing day, so keep your camera charged! **(B,L)**



June 1, 2025: Farewell to Alaska

We bid farewell to Alaska this morning after breakfast, and begin our flight home to St. Louis, with our minds and cameras full of the memories we have made on this trip. Thank you for traveling with us! **(B)**

This Alaska Are We There Yet? Select Tour includes:

- ✓ Round-trip airfare on Alaska Airlines from STL (ask about other departure locations)
- ✓ Luxury Motorcoach with only 48 seats = more legroom!! Plus a restroom onboard.
- ✓ Enjoy 2-night stays throughout the tour, including at Denali National Park!
- ✓ Visit Trailbreaker Kennel & Cruise Aboard Discovery Riverboat Experience
- ✓ 8 Hour Tundra Wilderness Tour into Denali Park
- ✓ Alaska Railroad in Gold Star service from Denali to Talkeetna – includes lunch onboard
- ✓ Talkeetna visit and relaxing day to hike and enjoy
- ✓ Mat-Su Valley tour, including Musk Ox farm
- ✓ Kenai Fjords cruise round-trip Seward aboard 150 passenger catamaran
- ✓ 15 meals, including special dining you can't do on your own like at Trailbreaker Kennel!
- ✓ All other Activities as indicated
- ✓ Baggage Handling at all lodging locations
- ✓ Professional Tour Directors Dea Hoover and Declan Rutan
- ✓ All gratuities to step-on guides, at included meals, driver and director – YES ALL TIPS!!!!

\$5,624 pp, dbl per person, double occupancy

\$7,082 per person, single occupancy \$5,207 per person, triple/quad occupancy

Save 4% on this tour! Have an Alaskan Adventure of a lifetime for just \$5,399 pp dbl occ* when you pay with check, cash or money order!

\$5,399 per person double occupancy

\$6,799 per person, single occupancy \$4,999 per person, triple/quad occupancy

Airfare is based on current tax rate and fuel surcharges. If there is an increase in either or you book after the deadline, a supplement will be assessed. Call us if you want to fly from another location! -You may ALWAYS book your own air. Just be sure to arrive before the group. Ask for adjustment in pricing.

A **deposit of \$2,000** per person is due when signing up for this tour. Final Payment is due March 24, 2025. Multiple payments and types of payment are accepted towards the tour.

We have over 30 people requesting this tour. If you want to go, please call our office and you can also email you want to go. We will allow 7 days for your check to arrive or you can pay with credit card at the above rate. We are working in a new system called Group Collect. You may pay online with credit card too but receive no discount. If you enter your own bank account info and pay it then receive a 1.8% discount off the price.

We encourage trip interruption and cancellation insurance. You will want to send that with your deposit so as to cover pre-existing conditions. We are also offering coverage through TripMate in conjunction with GroupCollect and can begin offering it on tours not previously booked. The pricing on group insurance is NOT based on age, just the price of the tour.

The individual is based on both age and price of tour. We can check for best fit. We also offer Cancel Any Time policies but they are often much more expensive and you receive 80% of what you paid for the tour if reason is not a covered reason. If it is covered, you will receive the full amount once the claim information has been filed and approved by the insurance company. It takes 8-12 weeks typically. Ask Maggie when you sign up.

Call us at 314-304-3508 or email us at info@arewethereyetdea.com to reserve your space.