

Alaska

August 15 – 23, 2024

Led By: Anne Rogalski and Jennifer Hess



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point





An Itinerary for Alaska 2024 August 15 – 23, 2024

Journey through America’s last great frontier to discover awe-inspiring beauty, inviting locals, and rich cultural heritage. Learn the art of gold panning from two local sisters in Fairbanks, and see the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline up close. Meet mushers and the dogs of the Trail Breaker Kennel. Travel the scenic Alaska Railroad from Fairbanks to Denali in a domed railcar. Head into Denali National Park on a full-day Tundra Wilderness Tour. Experience small-town Alaskan life in Talkeetna. Then meet new furry friends at Musk Ox Farm. Visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center to delve into the region’s indigenous culture. Embark on a glacier cruise of Prince William Sound, narrated by an expert guide. This is Alaska – a land without parallel.

Trip Leaders: Anne Rogalski and Jennifer Hess

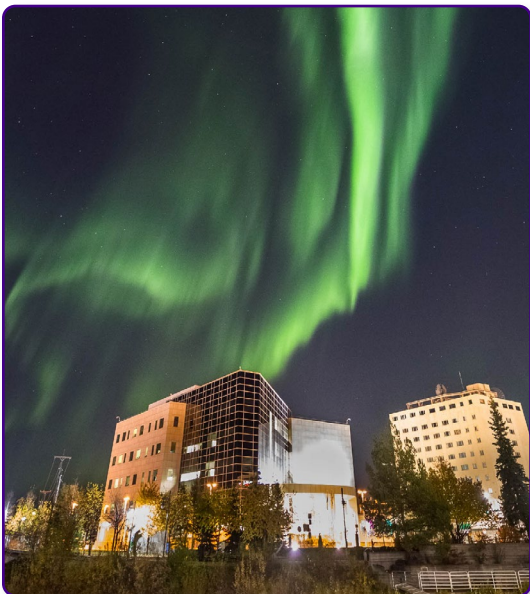
Trip Size: 16 - 24 travelers, including trip leaders

Itinerary at a Glance

- August 15 – 17 | Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska
 - August 18 – 19 | Denali Bluffs Hotel, Denali, Alaska
 - August 20 | Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, Talkeetna, Alaska
 - August 21 – 22 | Hilton Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska
- (On some dates alternate hotels may be used.)*

Thursday, August 15, 2024

- Fairbanks Alaska Tour Begins
- Your Alaskan adventure begins with a 3-night stay in Fairbanks – the “golden heart city.”
 - Discover this gold rush boomtown’s unique mix of contemporary culture and rich history.





Friday, August 16, 2024

- [Fairbanks](#)
- Tap into Alaska's "golden heart" with a visit to a locally owned gold panning experience, where you will learn about the region's gold mining past and try your hand at panning for some pay dirt yourself.
- Get to know Fairbanks on a city tour, including a stop at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, an engineering marvel that delivers oil across the state to the port city of Valdez.
- Free time in the afternoon.
- Visit legendary [Trail Breaker Kennel](#) where you will meet mushers and their happy pups.
 - Witness the dogs in their element on a training run before enjoying dinner on the kennel's scenic property.



Saturday, August 17, 2024

- [Fairbanks](#)
- This morning, visit the [Museum of the North at the University of Alaska](#).
 - Light filled spaces and expansive windows highlight the spectacular views of the Alaskan range. Inside, the museum tells the state's rich history through art, artifacts and film.
- The afternoon is on your own **-OR-** take a cruise on the [Riverboat Discovery](#) to get a glimpse into everyday life along Alaska's rivers.

Sunday, August 18, 2024

- [Fairbanks - Denali](#)
- Denali National Park
 - Behold beautiful scenery as you relax and have breakfast in a deluxe domed railcar on your way to Denali National Park. Upon arrival in Denali, enjoy an included lunch and some free time.
- After, it's your choice! Join your Tour Manager on an easy hike and discover wildflowers and gorgeous views in every direction **-OR-** take a bus into the park where a ranger will introduce you to the park's sled dogs – the traditional mode of Alaskan wilderness transportation.
- The evening is on your own to explore Denali National Park.



Monday, August 19, 2024

- **Denali National Park**
- Bring your binoculars and camera as you head into Denali National Park on a full-day **Tundra Wilderness Tour**.
 - Travel over 40 miles into the park and enjoy a wide range of incredible scenery, narrated history, and some of the best opportunities to view the park's abundant wildlife.

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

- **Denali - Talkeetna**
- Leave Denali National Park behind and step into small-town life in Talkeetna.
- Check into the iconic **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge**, perched on a ridge offering unforgettable views of Denali.
- Perhaps you will take an optional **Flightseeing tour**
 - Witness the park's breathtaking beauty from the air before landing on a glacier for incomparable views of the Alaskan Range.
- Later, meet up with a local for a discussion on the down-to-earth Alaskan lifestyle.

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

- **Talkeetna - Anchorage**
- On your way to Anchorage, discover the pastoral charm of **Matanuska Valley**. Enjoy free time in Palmer for lunch before you take a step into the past with a visit to a Musk Ox Farm.
- Learn about the **Musk Ox Project**.
 - A sustainable domestication effort that has worked to preserve, protect, and increase awareness for these woolly creatures since 1954.
- Get acquainted with Anchorage on a panoramic city tour before enjoying an evening at leisure to discover what Alaska's largest city has to offer.

Thursday, August 22, 2024

- Anchorage
- Delve into the area's indigenous culture this morning at the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** where you will learn about Alaska Native customs, dances, songs, and local crafts.
- Head to Whittier and embrace the sheer magnitude of Alaska's natural beauty on a glacier cruise through Prince William Sound.
 - Listen to an expert narrate your journey through a geological wonderland as blue skies collide with stark white glaciers and playful otters dip in and out of the calm waters.
- Tonight, gather at a local restaurant to toast your journey through America's last great frontier.

Friday, August 23, 2024

- Anchorage
- Tour Ends-Your Alaskan adventure comes to a close today.



Your Trip Leaders

Anne Rogalski, UWSP CE Associate Director, has hosted several trips for Continuing Education, including Yosemite National Park, Acadia National Park, Iceland, New York, New Orleans, Kentucky, and Savannah. When not working, Anne can be found hiking with her husband and dogs; in 2022 she became an official Thousand Miler after completing the Ice Age Trail.



Jennifer Hess, travel enthusiast and Associate Director at UWSP Continuing Education, has led group travel in New York City since 2013. Some of her favorite NYC activities include watching Broadway shows, walking the High Line, visiting unique restaurants, exploring lesser-known museums like the Tenement Museum and Spy Museum, visiting Central Park, and photographing the city from the Brooklyn Bridge. Most of all she enjoys discovering the unexpected, a Chinatown park twinkling with lights in the evening, a lunchtime samba concert in the park, or walking into a show along side a celebrity such as Michael J. Fox.



Pricing

Registration Fee

Double occupancy rate: **\$7,119 per person**

Single occupancy rate: **\$8,719**

***Registration closes February 13, 2024 at noon!**

Payment Schedule:

\$698 non-refundable deposit due at registration

\$3,250.50 due by **Friday, April 12, 2024**

\$3,250.50 due by **Friday, June 14, 2024**

*Since we make financial commitments in advance, no refunds will be issued for cancellations 90 days or less prior to the trip. Cancellations received in writing more than 90 days before the trip will receive a full refund minus \$698. However, you may send a substitute in your place. Please email us at uwspceweb@uwsp.edu to inform us of a cancellation or substitution.

Price includes:

- Flights, lodging, activities, and all travel as listed in itinerary.
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners

Important Notes

- **Traveling for this trip requires some frequent walking. Walking two to four miles in a day is common, with occasional uneven trails and moderate hills, and handling altitudes of up to 6,000 feet.**
- Travelers under age 21 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Travelers may wish to explore purchasing **traveler's insurance** which is offered by Collette, our travel partner. UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education does not provide travel insurance, medical, or emergency evacuation and thus you are 100% responsible for these expenses. UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education cannot recommend any particular company.