

For tours departing beyond 2010, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2011 brochure (issued in Oct 10).

2010
Tour Dossier

EXPLORE!

USA Dossier Ref AK

Outdoor Alaska

Amended 17 May 2010. Valid from 01 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2010
Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: map; general info'.

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, www.explore.co.uk. Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

JOINING TOUR ABROAD

15 days/14 nights Land Only
Anchorage to Anchorage

Join Anchorage (day 1)
End Anchorage (day 15)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Anchorage. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

16 days/15 nights Tour including
Connecting Group Flights.
London-Anchorage-London

Depart from London Heathrow Airport, to arrive in Anchorage the same day (day 1 of Land Only itinerary).

Return from Anchorage (day 15 of Land Only itinerary), arriving London Heathrow the following day.

Passengers with non-group flights booked through Explore should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- * **SEWARD** Gateway to the spectacular landscapes of Kenai Fjords National Park.
- * **VALDEZ** Fabulous ferry ride across Prince William Sound.
- * **WRANGELL ST ELIAS N.P.** Home to 9 of North America's 16 highest peaks. Stunning hikes, breathtaking scenery and a range of optional activities.
- * **DENALI N.P.** One of the planet's truly inspiring wilderness areas. Mount

Carbon Offsets Included

As part of our responsible tourism policy we offset carbon emissions from all customer and staff flights booked by Explore. Our carbon offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to offset your carbon emissions through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.

McKinley, the highest mountain in North America. Spectacular hiking trails and abundant wildlife.

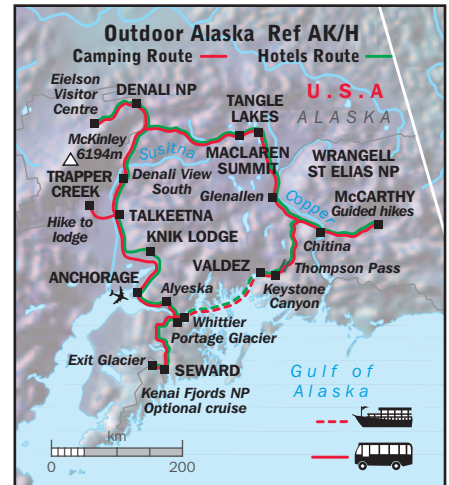
Alaska can boast some of North America's most impressive mountain scenery and some of the last truly untouched wilderness left on the planet. It is home to 17 of the continent's 20 highest peaks. It is a land of staggering contrasts: of taiga and tundra, glistening lakes and crystal clear mountain streams, huge volcanic giants covered with snow and dynamic glaciers that calve great bergs of glistening blue ice into the deep waters off the coast. In summer nature gets into top gear, as a dazzling array of flowers paint the meadows in a vibrant blanket of hues. The rivers become a churning maelstrom of spawning salmon, whilst the forests come alive with the cries of caribou, moose, wolves and grizzlies.

This spectacular journey into the heart of this great wilderness takes in the very best of Alaska's scenic, cultural and natural diversity, taking in the magnificence of Denali National Park and the iconic splendour of Mount McKinley, as well as some of the region's lesser-known areas, presenting us with a rich profusion of tradition and breathtaking wonder. From Anchorage our journey takes us south, along the Seward Highway to the majestic setting of Kenai Fjords National Park, an area of spectacular glaciers and icefields, where whales, seals and orcas hunt off the rugged coastline. From here we head across the waters of Prince William Sound, to Valdez, the vital terminus of the 800-mile Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, from where our journey takes us through some of the most spectacular scenery in the state. We head into the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and the tiny settlement of McCarthy, from where we have the opportunity to explore the park's abundant delights from water, land and air (optional). The final leg of our odyssey sees us travelling along the Denali Highway, crossing the tundra of Tangle Lakes, to the awe-inspiring majesty of Denali National Park, one of the world's last intact eco-systems, where we will have a chance to discover some of its rich wildlife and learn something of the importance of the park's remarkable dog sled teams, before trekking out to our remote lodge beneath the imposing slopes of Mt McKinley.

All camping equipment is provided, except a sleeping bag. Like many adventures of this type, much of the team spirit and fun is developed through mucking in and helping set up camp, prepare meals and other camp chores. Participants should therefore be prepared to help out as required. On occasions we camp at sites with limited facilities.

Earth Matters

- We use unleaded maxi-wagons for our tours in the United States, greatly reducing the emissions that would be caused if 12 people did a fly-drive. This mode of transport allows us to reach more remote spots not accessible to larger vehicles.
- On this tour we visit Denali NP, which is working to preserve the flora and fauna within this unique and beautiful area.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism>



Walking Grades and Fitness:

Grading is a somewhat difficult topic as much depends on the individuals own perception of his or her abilities. Whilst all activities are suitable for beginners, you should have a reasonable level of fitness to get the most from the tour. No special equipment required. This is rated **easy**.

Easy

Tend to be short day walks and rambles at low altitudes. Easy walks can be enjoyed by anyone who leads a reasonably active life and no special preparation is required. The only compulsory walk is the 3km hike to Denali View Chalet.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

Be Prepared: While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Places visited and routes may vary depending on local road and weather conditions. The final itinerary is subject to confirmation of the 2008 ferry schedules between Seward and Valdez.

Please note: Participation in canoeing, kayaking, or rafting (including white-water) requires that you are able to swim 25 metres unaided.

Accommodation and Included Meals: Please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

Day 1. Join tour Anchorage Overnight Hotel H+.

Day 2. AM drive to Seward via Exit Glacier
Leaving Anchorage this morning we drive to the town of Seward, a picturesque port ringed by a stunning landscape of mountains and glaciers, lying alongside the rich waters of Resurrection Bay. Founded at the turn of the 20th century by engineers building the railroad to the Interior, it benefited from its status as an ice-free port, prospering during the early years of the Nome gold rush and going on to become the gateway port for cruises into the spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park. We hope to walk out to the base of Exit Glacier today before making our way to our camp, where we will spend the next 3 nights amidst this majestic splendour. **3 nights camp C+ (Included meals: B, L, D).**

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Day 3. In Kenai Fjords National Park

Driving to Exit Glacier after breakfast we enter the breathtaking expanse of the Kenai Fjords National Park, a 580,000-acre wonderland of towering peaks, glaciers and coastline that is home to a rich diversity of marine wildlife, including sea otters, orcas, humpbacks and minke. The park is also the site of the immense Harding Icefield, a gigantic expanse of nearly 500sq km that feeds some 40 glaciers throughout these northern states, making it the largest icefield within the territories of the United States. The fjords have been created by the retreat of these mighty glaciers, leaving behind an awe inspiring vista of dramatic fjords and cliffs covered in nesting seabirds, whilst the tidewater glaciers on the coast regularly calve huge icebergs into the icy waters. Depending upon the interests of the group there may be a possibility to enjoy a walk at the glacier, or perhaps even make a day of it by exploring something of the Icefield. Those not wishing to partake in the walks today may like to check out Seward's impressive SeaLife Centre, a remarkable project partially funded by the Exxon Valdez disaster that combines a unique mix of research and education and affords an opportunity to watch stellar sea lions, harbour seals and puffins in their natural underwater environments. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

Day 4. In Seward

Free day for optionals Today has been left free for you to enjoy as you see fit. There is an option to take a 4 hour hike up nearby Mount Marathon, to enjoy some of the spectacular views out across the National Park and the coast. We would also recommend either a full day or half day cruise to Kenai Fjords National Park. A remnant from the last ice age, deep fjords stab the mountain ridges, with over 30 named glaciers plunging like frozen fingers from the vast expanse of the Harding Icefield, calving directly into the salt water along the coast. Porpoises, Humpback and Killer whales can sometimes be seen, along with tufted puffins and sea otters, while sealions bellow hoarsely from rocky cliffs. Other options include a helicopter flight over Godwin Glacier, dog sledding out into the surrounding country, horseriding, kayaking, or fishing from the campground. **(Included meals: B).**

Day 5. Road and ferry to Valdez via Portage Glacier and Whittier

Departing Seward this morning we follow the railway through the Chugach forest and over to Moose Pass, so named because in 1903 a mail carrier driving a team of dogs had considerable trouble gaining right of way from a giant moose! Heading for Portage Glacier Visitors Centre, we then continue through the old mountain tunnel to Whittier, at the western end of Prince William Sound. From here we board a ferry to take us to Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the western hemisphere, ringed by the snowcapped peaks at the end of the Valdez Narrows.

During the two hour crossing you may be able to glimpse the Columbia Glacier. Valdez is the terminus of the 800 mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline which begins in Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean. This astounding feat of engineering traverses the Brooks Range, crossing rivers and valleys, above and below ground, before finally feeding its oil into the waiting tankers. The economy of the town depends very much on the oil industry and salmon fisheries and is our base for tonight. **Overnight camp C+ (Included meals: B, L).**

Day 6. Drive to McCarthy

Our route today takes us through some of the most spectacular scenery in Alaska, as we drive through forested hills and past cascading rivers, fed by small glaciers on the Chugach Mountains. The numerous rivers in this area are full of fish. Five species of salmon are found in Alaska and the spawning season, in midsummer, is a major event for all the animals, with bears and birds waiting to catch the weakened fish, exhausted from their spawning runs. The views are even more dramatic as we reach Keystone Canyon, where sheer cliff walls covered in lime green moss present cascades of crystal water tumbling over the edge to the river below. 'Bridal Veil' and 'Horsetail' Falls evocatively describe the scene. The canyon is steeped in history from the gold rush period and this was once the scene of a bloody gun battle, whilst the remains of the sled trail used in the early days are still visible. Crossing Thompson Pass we visit the Worthington Glacier, heading south through Chitina and onto the McCarthy road. Stopping at the Copper River, we then cross the Kuskulana River on a narrow railroad bridge high above the water and continue through a vast expanse of untouched wilderness, following an unpaved road through the remote forests. At the end of the road we reach the small town of McCarthy (pop 42), which grew to serve the Copper mine at Kennicott, located 4.5 miles up the valley. Here we camp next to the Kennicott River with views of the Stairway Icefall (the largest non-polar icefall in the world), Mt Blackthorn (18000ft) to the North and the mighty Chugach Mountains to the South. **3 nights camp C (Included meals: B, L, D).**

Day 7. Walking in the Wrangell St Elias National Park

Nestling amongst the wild landscapes of the Wrangell St. Elias National Park, McCarthy presents us with an ideal base from which to explore this stunning setting further. Less accessible than Denali, Wrangell St Elias contains the largest concentration of glaciers on the continent and some 13.2 million acres of the park system have been declared a UN World Heritage area. Shaped by volcanoes and ice, the park has 9 of the 16 highest peaks in the United States, including Mount St Elias, the second highest in the US. Mount Wrangell (4,318m) erupted as recently as 1930 and its thermal mud springs are evidence of continued volcanic activity. Mountain goats and Dall sheep with long curly horns can be

found on the upper slopes while wolves, black bears, coyotes, bison and caribou range through the interior of the park. There will be an opportunity today to walk the Bonanza Mine trail, a 16km, straightforward, but fairly strenuous walk that follows the ridges and tram lines to the old mine, taking in the magnificent panoramas of the Chugach Mountains, Mt Blackburn and the Kennicott Glacier along the way. The road is steep, climbing to an elevation of some 1200m as the path negotiates the trail from the mill town to the old mine, affording a unique glimpse of part of this country's fascinating history, as well as its breathtaking landscapes. From the ridge above the mine there are some spectacular views across to the University Range in the St Elias Mountains. Return to Kennicott via the same path and head back to the campsite. **(Included meals: B, L).**

Day 8. Free day for optionals

Today has once again been left free for you to enjoy at your leisure. You may like to try some of the other spectacular walks through the park, perhaps taking an optional hike along the Kennicott Glacier, or undertaking some optional ice-climbing (accompanied by professional guides). Flight-seeing trips over the park are also available – without doubt one of the most spectacular outings to be had in Alaska, whilst the powerful rivers present some exhilarating rafting opportunities. Those looking for some more sedate activities might like to explore the old mining town of Kennicott. Designated as a National Historic landmark and considered the finest remaining example of an early 20th century copper mine anywhere, the town remains a fascinating monument to a long forgotten era of America's pioneering past. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

Day 9. Drive along the Denali Highway to Maclaren summit

Heading north today we take the Denali Highway towards Tangle Lakes, stopping en route to see the remarkable fishwheels on the Copper River, an ingenious method of catching the abundant salmon that follow the river to spawn. Stopping at the Wrangell St. Elias Visitors Centre for a short visit, we then continue on to Glenallen, our gateway into the beautiful setting of the Maclaren summit, one of the most accessible of Alaska's wild and pristine wilderness areas. This is a region of

Booking a Single Room

All of our tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. On this particular tour we are pleased to be able to offer customers the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room. Due to the variety of accommodation used on this tour, single rooms are available for a majority of the nightstays, however it would still mean sharing at: McKinley Wilderness Retreat on days 12 & 13.

EXPLORE ACCOMMODATION RATINGS : An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round.

To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning.

Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

H++ : Comfortable hotels, lodges or guesthouses with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. With air-conditioning/heating where appropriate and with reliable hot and cold water. Generally good levels of service and often with added amenities such as restaurant, bar, gardens or swimming pool.

H+ : Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

H : Basic hotels, lodges or guesthouses (also village houses, mountain huts, hotels etc often come into this category). Accommodation may be communal or dorm-style, and WC / washing facilities are usually shared. Running hot and cold water may be unreliable or even unavailable. These can be the most rewarding and memorable places to stay, but comfort levels are low.

Camping

C++ : Comfortable, full service camping generally in permanent, fixed camps with walk-in tents, proper beds and often with en-suite facilities and other amenities such as dining area, bar, gardens and a swimming pool. Your bed-linen is provided.

C+ : Standard camping in private or public campsites, usually with WC and washing / showering facilities in a shared ablutions building. Typically in two person tents, and some level of participation is often required. Generally bed linen or sleeping bags are not provided.

C : Basic camping in wild camps where facilities / amenities may be limited or non-existent. Generally there is no running water, and we dig a temporary bush toilet. Two person tents are often used, but occasionally we sleep under the stars. Participation normally required and sleeping bags usually not provided.

Note: other accommodation, for example, aboard boats or on overnight sleeper trains is described individually at the appropriate point in the tour itinerary above.

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open tundra, glacial lakes and mountain ridges, blessed with an abundance of natural beauty, cultural traditions and spectacular wildlife. On arrival we should have time to enjoy a short walk in the alpine tundra, a haven for caribou, wolves and grizzlies and soon to be the site of a controversial platinum strip mining operation. The area is also home to the remnants of ancient nomadic peoples and contains some of the richest concentrations of archaeological remains in the sub-arctic regions of North America.

Overnight camp C+ (Included meals: B, L, D).

Day 10. Drive to Denali National Park

Continuing northwards, the highway takes us over a rugged landscape, where the views are breathtaking and, weather permitting, we may get a glimpse of Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America (6188m). The Athabaskan Indians called it 'Denali' meaning 'the high one' and this towering pyramid of rock, ice and snow is often shrouded in a blanket of mist and cloud. Denali National Park represents one of the world's last intact ecosystems, over 6 million acres of tundra, glaciers and mountains that present a unique opportunity to observe the natural behaviour of wild animals still unaffected by the often destructive influence of man. The park provides a haven for bears, caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, moose, red foxes, wolverine and over 160 species of birds, and is without doubt one of the highlights of our remarkable journey. Our destination today is the Carlo Creek campsite, nestling amongst 32 acres of woodland just to the south of the park entrance. **2 nights camp C+ (Included meals: B, L, D).**

Day 11. In Denali NP

This morning we will drive to the visitors centre on the edge of the National Park and transfer to a shuttle bus for our journey into the park itself. Established as a national park in 1917, the area was designated as an international biosphere reserve in 1976 and contains everything from 1200 pound moose to 1.5 gram shrews. In order to preserve the wilderness for the wildlife, vehicle access is restricted, so these shuttle buses are the only way that visitors can enter this incredible natural treasure trove. The buses run to either the Eilson Visitors Centre or the poetically named 'Wonder Lake' and during the journey there is a good chance of spotting some of the larger mammals that inhabit the park, not to mention the incredible views of the sheer mountain walls that rise majestically from the plains. Returning to the visitors centre at the park entrance later today, we rendezvous with our maxiwagon to return to the campsite. **(Included meals: B, L).**

Day 12. AM visit to Denali Visitors Centre. PM drive and walk to McKinley Wilderness Retreat

Returning to the Denali Visitors Centre this morning we enjoy a demonstration of the park's sled dogs, which are used for patrolling in the winter season and have been an integral part of Denali for so long that they have become part of the cultural traditions of the area. Their existence here represents an important landmark in the history of the park, signifying a direct link with its native and pioneering heritage and they remain the only sled dogs in the entire U.S. who help directly in the preservation of the park and its wildlife. After our visit we continue along the George Parks Highway to Denali View South, before continuing to Trappers Creek and an early dinner at the historic Forks Roadhouse. From here we drive the last few miles to the trailhead for the McKinley Wilderness Retreat, from where we walk the last remaining 3km to our lodge. You will need to take enough clothes and toiletries with you for the next two nights, as our access to this remote lodge is by foot only. This spectacular location is just 36 miles south of the summit of Mount McKinley. Please note there are 4 beds to a room at this lodge. **2 nights lodge H (Included meals: B).**

Day 13. AM guided walk, then free time

This morning you might like to take advantage of a guided walk through the local area, before some free time to relax or continue exploring at your own leisure. With some free time later you might like to take advantage of a canoe excursion on nearby Lake Kroto. The diversity of the landscape here is matched by its resident animal populations, with wolves, lynx, coyotes and beaver being frequent visitors to the park. There have also been more than 130 species of bird recorded in the park annually, including the willow ptarmigan (the state bird), boreal chickadees and long distant Arctic terns, who fly some 12,000 miles to breed amidst these mountain landscapes. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

Day 14. Drive to Anchorage.

Today, we head back towards Anchorage where we can relax and enjoy our last evening. **1 night Hotel H+ (Included meals: B).**

Day 15. Tour ends Anchorage

All Group travel from London passengers will be transferred to the airport by hotel shuttle bus. This will not be accompanied by the tour leader. **(Included meals: B).**

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Foreign Exchange

Local Currency: US Dollars

Recommended Currency for Exchange:

Bring your money in US\$ cash or Travellers Cheques which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over \$50.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability: ATMs are generally available everywhere.

Credit Card Acceptance: Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Travellers Cheques: US Dollar Travellers Cheques are best.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

Meal Plan

Local Food and Drink: 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 7 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Alaska
Tea/coffee	£1.20	US\$1.50
Soft drink	0.80	2.00
Bottle of Beer	2.50	5.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	17.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	25.00
Bottle of wine	10.00	20.00

*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

**Typical food in a simple, reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

Tipping

Local Staff: In this area, tipping is an essential and recognised part of life. A minimum of 18% tipping is expected in restaurants and bars.

Tour Leaders: You might also consider tipping your tour leaders in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive. Please remember that this style of tour means your leaders are also your guides/drivers/cooks. In recognition of this, please allow at least US\$50. Of course you may be likely to wish to tip more than that, or a different amount, at your discretion.

Other Sightseeing

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

SEWARD Kenai Fjords cruise half day US\$150; Half day deep-sea fishing US\$120; Full day US\$200; Godwin glacier - helicopter and dogsled ride US\$450; Iditaride dog sled rides US\$59; Sea kayaking US\$65-135; Horse riding US\$85 2 hours.

MCCARTHY Glacier walk full day US\$110 half day US\$65; Small plane overflight US\$150; Ice climbing US\$125; Rafting US\$275 per person including a bush flight back to McCarthy; Kennicott Mine US\$25.

DENALI Kayaking/canoeing on Lake Kroto, this is unguided and free.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Seasonal Climate

Summer is the best time to visit Alaska, when it can be warm, dry and pleasant, though temperatures can be cooler on the coast or in elevated areas, particularly at night. Most of the frost is gone by the end of spring, allowing us to camp and explore on foot. Please note that the weather can be changeable at any time of the year.

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Visa Requirements

Holders of the UK, AUS, NZ, CAN and several EU country passports can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if they hold a machine readable passport. They must also be entering the country by sea or air on a carrier participating in the visa waiver scheme, holding a return/onward ticket. As well as being machine readable, if your passport was issued on or after 26 October 2005, it must contain both a digital photograph of the holder and also an integrated circuit chip that stores biographic information.

From 12 January 2009 all passengers travelling to the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme must provide their details online no later than 72 hours prior to travel. British travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be detained and sent home. In addition to passport information, you must also supply the full address of your first night's accommodation in the USA. This information can be obtained from your joining instructions which are sent out approximately 3 weeks before travel.

For more information, and to apply online, please visit the following website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Once obtained, the application will be valid for a period of two years, or for the validity of your passport (whichever is shorter). At present, US authorities do not propose to levy a charge for this service, although they have reserved the right to consider doing so in the future.

For more information about who is eligible for the VWP, or any other questions you may have regarding your eligibility, or machine readable passports, please contact your local consular office, or visit www.usembassy.org.uk. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

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Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio.

Special Note: Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel. Your policy document must also indicate that you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip. If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority.

Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination including safety and security, local laws and customs entry requirements and health. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's '**General Information Booklet**', available only after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

Luggage: Bring only the bare essentials – one main bag plus a daysac for walking and for personal items. Main luggage cannot be accessed during the day. Soft luggage is more practical. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry. Laundry facilities are available throughout the tour. Total allowance: **30lbs/14kgs** as it is stored on the roof rack and you must be able to lift it.

Clothing: Pack as for '**All Tours**'. A waterproof jacket and trousers and a pair of gloves and a hat are essential. Include some long-sleeved shirts and warm clothing. Thermal underwear is advised for chilly nights all through the summer. Bring swimwear and a sun hat as well. Be aware that Alaska is notorious for biting insects, so you may wish to bring long trousers and long sleeved tops to try and avoid the worst excesses.

Footwear: Good quality waterproof walking boots, trainers and/or sandals for travelling. Be aware that even if you are not doing any of the optional walks, the hike into Denali View Chalet crosses wet tundra.

Equipment: Bring a water bottle, (head) torch, some plastic bags, sunblock, insect repellent and binoculars. An umbrella, eye mask for sleeping and mosquito head net may be useful. Bring a 3-4-season (temperature -10°C to -0°C) sleeping bag (a sleeping sheet is useful) and a towel. A good quality self-inflatable thermarest is provided.

Personal First Aid Kit: For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore

Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore for further information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:

USA: 9,826,630 sq km.

Alaska: 1,530,694 sq km.

Population:

USA: 301 million.

Alaska: 643,000.

Language: English 82%, Spanish 11%, Indo-European 4%, Asian & Pacific islands 3%.

Religion: Protestant 52%, Catholic 24%, Mormon 2%, Jewish 1%, Muslim 1%, Others 10%.

Local Time: GMT -9 (Alaska).

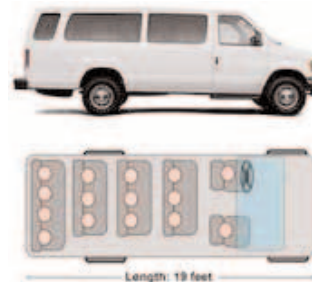
Electric Supply & Plugs:

110v 60Hz. American-style plug with two parallel flat blades above a circular pin, or two parallel flat blades only.

Recommended Books: *Jack London: The Call of the Wild*, *Lonely Planet Guide*, *John Krakauer: Into the Wild*, *Rough Guide to Alaska*, *John Muir: Travels in Alaska*, *John Pezzenti: Alaska*.

Your Transport

This tour utilises maxi-wagons which can carry up to 14 people plus a driver. Space inside is limited so we try to rotate seating positions regularly. Luggage and equipment are generally carried on the roof, so don't bring too much.



To book please call 0844 499 0901 • www.explore.co.uk

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

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