



**Discover Corps**

*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*



## **ALASKA:** THE GREAT EXPLORATION



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Get up-close with puffins at the Alaska Sealife Center**
- **Cruise through the Kenai Fjords National Park spotting whales, eagles, otters, and more along the way**
- **Marvel at your surroundings as you ride through the mountains in a glass-top train**
- **Visit an oyster farm with a local nonprofit (and sample oysters!)**
- **Hop on a dog sled through the wilderness**
- **Practice "belly biology" with local sea life experts**

*Learn from the local community as you explore the incredible Alaskan wilderness*



## TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Days / 6 Nights

**GROUP SIZE** Average 8, Maximum 12

**LODGING** Standard

**PHYSICAL DEMAND** Moderate



## ANCHORAGE

**DAY 1** - Arrive and head to your boutique inn in downtown Anchorage. Dine at a local brewhouse for your welcome dinner

**DAY 2** - Visit the Anchorage Museum's Arctic Studies Center, enjoy a hike in Chugach State Park, and meet with a member of the Beluga Whale Alliance

## SEWARD

**DAY 3** - Hop aboard a glass-top train for your journey to Seward. In the afternoon, hop aboard a boat for wildlife and glacier viewing in the Kenai Fjords National Park

**DAY 4** - Visit the Alaska Sealife Center for a puffin encounter before a dog sled ride through the wilderness

## HOMER

**DAY 5** - Meet the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies and explore marine invertebrate life with a naturalist guide

**DAY 6** - Explore the Homer Spit in the morning before heading to an oyster farm in the afternoon with a local nonprofit. View plankton under a microscope, use an underwater remote vehicle to explore, and practice "belly biology" on the docks

**DAY 7** - Drive back to Anchorage for flights home, with a stop at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center along the way.

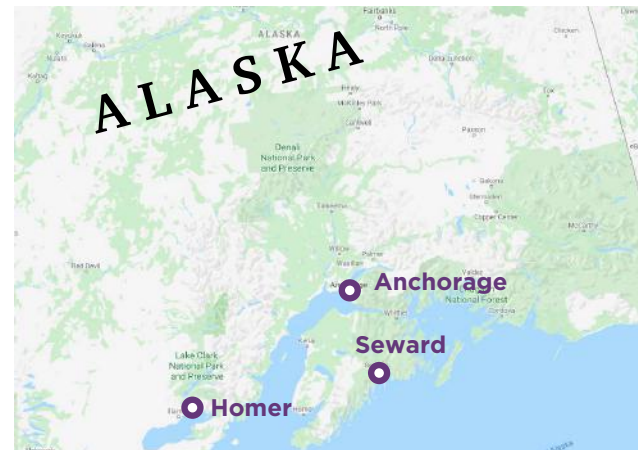
## ALASKA: THE GREAT EXPLORATION

### OUR PURPOSE

As America's last frontier, Alaska boasts a nearly endless amount of natural beauty. From glaciers that rival the size of some states to snow-capped mountains that scrape the sky, the rugged Alaskan landscape is unrivaled. Add to that a litany of land and marine life found nowhere else in the U.S. and you have one of the most awe-inspiring experiences available to travelers today.

But dig below the surface and you will quickly see that there is an overriding sense of concern amongst the local population about the changing climate, rising seas and environmental degradation. Whether it's the rising ocean temperature or the glaciers that continue to recede, the extreme isolation of Alaska also puts it at an even higher risk of eminent change.

On this Discover Corps Vacation with Purpose, we'll venture across the famed Kenai Peninsula to witness the epic beauty of Alaska's coast, mountains and people. Along the way, we'll take you to leading organizations and introduce you to some of the most dedicated individuals working to protect the wildlife and resources of the 49th state. Learn about puffin conservation at the Alaska Sealife Center, explore creatures of the docks by way of 'belly biology', take a boat to a remote scientific field station, visit an oyster farm (and try the oysters!) and get hands-on experience of true Alaskan dog sledding, riding with a local family that has dedicated their life to this tradition. The Great Exploration across this region of Alaska will show you a side of Alaska that few others get to experience and provide you with a deeper sense of what is being done to protect it for future generations.





## HIGHLIGHTS



### PUFFIN EXPERIENCE

While you will surely see puffins in their natural habitat throughout your time in Alaska, the Alaska Sealife Center is one of the few places in the world where you can get an up-close experience. Meet the resident puffins at the center as you venture inside their habitat. Learn more about how the extreme seasons in Alaska influence their behavior and appearance throughout the year, as well as the many conservation efforts in place to protect these vulnerable birds.



### KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK

Kenai Fjords National Park is one of the most spectacular places in the state of Alaska. The fjords, or glacial valleys, offer breathtaking views of nature inhabited by brown and black bears, moose, sea otters, harbor seals, bald eagles, and humpback and killer whales. Enjoy a tour of the park by boat, fully narrated by a National Park Ranger, as you cruise through Aialik Bay towards the mighty Holgate Glacier -- an actively calving tidewater glacier. We will spend time in front of the glacier to watch for calving, where giant chunks of glacial ice break off and crash into the water.



### VISIT AN OYSTER FARM

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies is a nonprofit 'place based ecology education' organization that will take you behind-the-scenes to learn about ocean research. Get an insider's look at a local oyster farm (and enjoy a tasting!), explore different sea life with an underwater remote operating vehicle and microscopes, and get hands-on with "belly biology" where you will, you guessed it, lay on your belly at the end of the docks to learn about the critters that are so often under your feet. A truly immersive, educational experience designed to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of this very special place.



### DOG SLEDDING ON THE TRAIL

Seavey's Ididaride dog sledding is a local homestead kennel where guests get to know their beloved team of huskies living in a tether-free environment. Learn how mushing runs deep within the family line, an Alaskan way of life and then, you're off!

Feel the power, excitement, and energy of the experience on a 2-mile dog sled ride through the forest at the base of Resurrection Mountain and along Box Canyon Creek.



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: Arrive in Anchorage

Our Alaskan adventure begins in its charming city of Anchorage. Arrive into Ted Stevens International Airport (ANC) and meet your local Alaskan guide. We'll get a brief introduction to the area before settling into our accommodations at a boutique inn in downtown Anchorage. Dine alongside locals at a brewhouse and get to know one another as we gear up for the week ahead. (D)

## DAY 2: Learn about Alaska's History and Meet a Member of the Beluga Whale Alliance

Today's adventure takes us to the Anchorage Museum's Arctic Studies Exhibit. Here we will learn about Alaska's many native cultures to celebrate and understand both the way things were done in the past and the traditions they hold onto and preserve today. In the afternoon, enjoy a picnic lunch and guided hike\* into the snow capped mountains of the Chugach State Park. Stop along the way to discuss the stunning geography of the area while learning about Alaska history as you gaze over aerial views of Anchorage.

Before dinner, we'll get a visit from a member of the Beluga Whale Alliance to discuss the declining Beluga Whale population of nearby Cook Inlet and their effort to sustain the species by volunteer driven data collection. Enjoy dinner with a view overlooking the Cook Inlet, named after Captain James Cook during his search for the Northwest Passage. (B,L)

*\*This hike is all abilities level and will be based on group pace with 3 different routes to choose between.*

## DAY 3: Ride a Glass-Top Train to Seward & Explore Kenai Fjords National Park

Rise early for an adventure down the Alaskan coast. Hop aboard the Coastal Classic train and venture from Anchorage to Seward in style. Often ranked as the top ten train rides in North America, you'll wind along Turnagain Arm, where the steep mountains of the Chugach Range plunge directly to the sea before entering into the backcountry wilderness. Take in the panoramic vistas of Alaska's beauty under the glass dome ceiling railcars. This 4.5 hour scenic ride will offer plenty of photo opportunities of wildflowers, rivers, and possible wildlife sightings so be sure to keep your camera handy! Arrive into the quaint, fishing town of Seward where you'll go from train to boat for an afternoon of wildlife and glacier viewing in the remarkable Kenai Fjords National Park. Keep an eye out for whales, porpoises, puffins,





sea otters, the stellar sea lion, and more as we cruise through Aialik Bay towards the mighty Holgate Glacier, an actively calving tidewater glacier. We will spend time in front of the glacier to watch for calving, where giant chunks of glacial ice break off and crash into the water. The tour is fully narrated by a National Park Ranger *(B,L,D)*

## **DAY 4:** Join the Alaska Sealife Center for a Puffin Experience before a Dog Sled Tour Through the Wilderness

Wake to the sounds of fishing boats departing for the day and views of towering Mt. Marathon and Mt. Alice outside your window. Today we will head to Alaska's only marine rescue and research facility, The Alaska Sealife Center. You'll have the opportunity to learn about how the center is protecting marine wildlife through rescue and rehabilitation. Enjoy a deep dive with researchers to learn about a range of animals from stellar sea lions, ringed & spotted seals as well as the giant pacific octopus. Learn about the characteristics and traits of a puffin and why their bright orange beaks change colors during the year which is how they've earned their nickname, clowns of the sea!



In the afternoon, enjoy some free time in Seward before a visit to a local homestead kennel for a look into Alaska's Iditarod dog sledding family, The Seaveys. Get to know their beloved team of huskies, a tether-free environment, and how mushing runs deep within the family line and their way of life. Your adventure begins with a 2-mile dog sled ride. Feel the power, excitement, and energy of these amazing sled dogs as they are harnessed to comfortable wheeled sleds on this hour and a half dog sled tour. Mush through the Seward Alaska wilderness to the base of Resurrection Mountain and along Box Canyon Creek. *(B,L,D)*

## **DAY 5:** Head to Homer & Visit the Wynn Nature Center in stunning Kachemak Bay

After breakfast, we will hit the road and head to the other side of the Kenai Peninsula stopping along the way in the old gold mining town of Cooper Landing. We'll arrive in Homer and visit the Wynn Nature Center at the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies, whose mission is to protect the unique marine and coastal ecosystems of Kachemak Bay through science-based environmental education and stewardship. Get to know the 150-acre wildlife corridor with a habitat that includes spruce, black cottonwood, and alder trees and is the epicenter for a range of birds from the Black-capped Chickadee to the Orange-crowned warbler. The preserve is located on top of a bluff 1200 feet above Kachemak Bay. Later in the day, we'll check-in to our hotel and have a free evening to explore Homer. *(B,L)*





## DAY 6: Meet with the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies for "Belly Biology"

Rise for a delicious breakfast followed by a trip down to the Homer Marina with a trained naturalist guide. You'll have the unique chance to explore marine invertebrate life living on & around the Homer Harbor Docks in an activity called, belly biology. Afterwards, we will board a boat for yet another engaging ocean experience. This time we will explore Kachemak Bay stopping at a local oyster farm to enjoy a tasting! Learn about ocean research by participating in a plankton tow, viewing them under a microscope and using an underwater remote operating vehicle to explore the ocean bed and all the creatures that call this place home! We'll stop at the secluded Peterson Bay Field Station & visit Intertidal Creature Touch Tanks. Later in the evening, we'll come together for a memorable Farewell Dinner to cap off our great Alaskan adventure! (B,L,D)

## DAY 7: Explore the Homer Spit before Returning Home

Enjoy a relaxing final morning in Homer. Head into town for souvenir shopping or beach combing along the oceanfront. In the afternoon, we'll drive back to Anchorage stopping along the way at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center for some viewing of bears, moose, elk, lynx, bison, and reindeer. We'll bid the group farewell. (B,L)

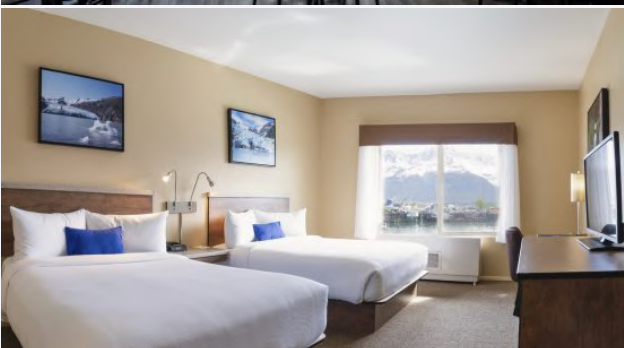
## Distinctive Accommodations

Start your trip at a boutique hotel in the heart of Anchorage. Enjoy all the comforts of home, walking distance to local breweries, shops, restaurants, and everything Anchorage has to offer.

In Seward, stay at Harbor 360 - a waterfront hotel in this small, scenic fishing town. Located directly in the Seward Small Boat Harbor, enjoy stunning 360 degree views of Resurrection Bay and the surrounding Mountains, and views of the harbor while soaking in the hot tub or swimming in Seward's only hotel pool. Harbor 360 Hotel is also a certified "Green Business" through the Adventure Green Alaska Program, committed to reducing their impact on the environment by using biodegradable service items, eliminating as much single-use plastic as possible, reducing energy use, and participating in local environmental sustainability programs.

Finally, end your Alaskan adventure at Aspen Hotels in Homer. Each room is a suite that includes a work desk, generously sized guest rooms, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, and mountain views you won't soon forget!.

*Please note: Lodging for this trip will vary based on the size of the group and types of rooms needed.*





# ALASKA: THE GREAT EXPLORATION

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
June 15-21, 2024	<b>\$5,995</b>	<b>\$5,795</b>
July 20-26, 2024	<b>\$5,995</b>	<b>\$5,795</b>
August 3-9, 2024	<b>\$5,995</b>	<b>\$5,795</b>

*The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$1295 per person. You are required to pay the SRS fee if Discover Corps cannot find a suitable roommate.*

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Double-occupancy lodging for 6 nights
- 16 meals throughout the trip, including one soft drink, local beer, or local wine with dinner
- Expert guide there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All reliable land and water transportation with experienced drivers, including public transportation
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- Discover Corps pre-departure information booklet
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare
- Alcoholic beverages beyond one per dinner
- One lunch and two dinners
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry services, phone, and Internet services

## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

## MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

**Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.**



# Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	KENYA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BHUTAN	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	THAILAND
EGYPT	UGANDA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



**Discover Corps**  
*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*

Visit [discovercorps.com/register](https://discovercorps.com/register) to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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