

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Alaska

The Kenai Peninsula



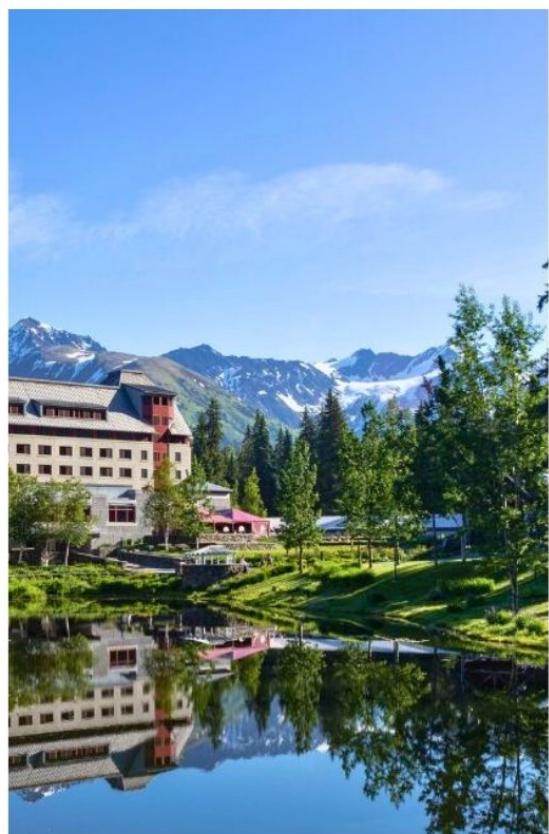
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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Mountains, Fjords & Glaciers

Half the people we know have cruised to Alaska. The other half plans to. But as much as we love a cruise, it just seems a shame to float right past some of the most spectacular landscapes on earth. After all, the Kenai Peninsula offers a range of wonderful walking options that don't require 'bush' skills. There's the world's most northerly rain forest...Exit Glacier where a scenic path allows us to experience its awesome scale up-close...Resurrection Bay with its humpback whales and orcas...the wildflower meadows too far from shore to ever be spotted by a landing party. With Classic Journeys, you'll see it all—and you'll meet native Aleuts, local fishermen, gold mining experts, naturalists and other friends. Accommodations include historic lodges and hotels. Even if we don't offer a 2 a.m. dessert buffet, we think you'll take home equally happy memories of a lakeside salmon-bake followed by fresh-picked blueberries. And then you'll know you've truly touched Alaska.



DAY 1 »

Bird Point / Girdwood

- Warm up with a nature walk to spot wildlife
- Settle in over a festive dinner of local specialties

Meet your expert local guide before departing Anchorage for famous Bird Point, the start of your first spectacular walk of the week. It's here that you could see pods of Beluga whales that make the Turnagain Arm their home. Your walk follows the Byron Glacier Trail. Through an alderwood forest carpeted with ferns, getting scenic views of the Kenai Mountains, Alyeska and the flats of Turnagain Arm. Have your camera ready; as you can often see a variety of Alaskan wildlife, and with a bit of luck, we may even spot moose.

Late this afternoon, arrive in the quaint resort town of Girdwood, your home for the night. After the chance to relax and take in the surroundings, enjoy a festive dinner at a local restaurant.

MEALS: D OVERNIGHT: GIRDWOOD

DAY 2 »

Girdwood / Seward

- Explore a historic gold mine
- Ride the Mt. Alyeska tramway for spectacular views

Your morning walk begins at the site of Alaska's richest gold mine, built in 1898. Eight of the buildings have been restored and are on the Register of National Historic Places. After a short exploration of the mining camp, your guide shares stories of Alaska's fascinating mining history. Even today, locals and visitors come to the mine to relive the days of the gold rush and recover some of the precious metal that has been left behind. From here, depart on a morning walk along our favorite section of the historic Iditarod Trail through tall spruce and hemlock forests and past a series of small waterfalls. Lush ferns, devil's club, blueberry bushes and horsetail line the route, and along the way our guide points out the local fauna, including moose, bears and a variety of songbirds.

In time for lunch, board the Mt. Alyeska tramway for the spectacular ride 2300 feet above the valley floor. Enjoy lunch high atop Mt. Alyeska with panoramic views of the rugged Chugach Mountains, Turnigan Arm and Seven Glaciers. After lunch, you'll have time to explore one of the various trails ideal for capturing the beautiful Alaskan scenery.

Late this afternoon, a scenic drive brings you to one of Alaska's oldest towns, Seward, your home for two nights. After dinner, relax at the waterfront hotel, or set out to explore the local shops and galleries that line Seward's charming streets.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: SEWARD

DAY 3 »

Seward

- Walk on a glacier to see a waterfall and ice fields
- Cruise through the stunning Kenai Fjords

Just a few miles outside of Seward is landlocked Exit Glacier where you'll follow an easy path to the face of this slow-moving sea of ice. The 3-mile-long glacier, fractured and crackling, pours 2,500 feet down out of the Harding Icefield. Your walk takes us up to the face of the glacier where you might feel dwarfed in its enormous shadow. If you like, continue on a more rugged footpath that leads up glacier-scoured rock from the moraine to a beautiful vista of the glacier, waterfall and ice fields; a truly Alaskan view. Then return to Seward looking for moose, eagles, and black bears along the way. After lunch, we've arranged a special visit to the unrivaled Alaska SeaLife Center. The world's first cold water marine institute, the SeaLife Center is dedicated to the research, rescue and rehabilitation of Alaska's marine environment.

Late afternoon, board a local boat for a spectacular excursion into Kenai Fjords National Park for an up-close view of the marine wildlife and magnificent glaciers. In addition to the breathtaking vistas and awesome glaciers, you have the opportunity to see the wildlife that makes Alaska famous, including bald eagles, puffins and the endangered stellar sea lions. With a bit of luck, you may also see humpback whales and orcas.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: SEWARD

DAY 4 »

Homer

- Spot animals and birds at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- Enjoy a gentle river raft ride on the Kenai River

This morning, bid farewell to Seward on a spectacular route through Kenai National Wildlife Refuge watching for Alaska's big game, including moose, bear, caribou, Dall sheep and mountain goats. Your first stop is the tiny town of Cooper Landing to enjoy a gentle rafting excursion down the Kenai River with the Kenai Ridge and Cecil Rhodes Peak as a breathtaking backdrop. As you float down the calm river, our rafting guide will share stories of the local natural history of the area's glaciers, as well as the history of the Kenaitze Tribe who made its life on the river's shores.

Make our way to Old Town Kenai in time for lunch and a visit to one of the oldest standing Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska. The church is a designated National Historic Landmark and has been the principal representative of Russian culture in Alaska.

Arrive in Homer late this afternoon to enjoy spectacular views of Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountain Range from the terraces of our lodge hotel located at the end of the Homer Spit. If you like, take an early evening walk along the Spit as the local fishing boats return from sea to unload the day's catch. Tonight, dinner is on your own, affording you the opportunity to immerse yourself into this small Alaskan community and enjoy one of several exceptional local restaurants.

MEALS: B, L OVERNIGHT: HOMER

DAY 5 »

Grewingk Glacier Trail / Homer

- Hike to a glacial lake to see icebergs up close
- Boat past otters, eagles, oyster farms, and a puffin rookery

After a leisurely breakfast, take a spectacular boat ride across the bay for an exciting day in the Kachemak Bay State Park. En route, pass a local rookery where you might see a variety of seabirds including puffins, cormorants, kittiwakes, murres and even the rare fork-tailed storm petrel.

The path follows the coast where commercial fishing operations can be seen seining (fishing with a large net) for salmon next to the beach and then turns inland through stands of spruce and cottonwood trees with views of Grewingk Glacier and the surrounding Alaskan wilderness. Your walk brings you to the banks of a glacier-fed lake for a chance to rest your feet and enjoy a delightful picnic of Alaskan specialties.

After lunch, return along a saddle trail that offers spectacular views of Halibut Cove, Grewingk Glacier and lower Cook Inlet. Early in the season, you'll be treated to colorful wildflowers and later in the summer the wild berries are abundant along the trail.

Back in Homer in the late afternoon, there's plenty to do after our return from a very active day. The Pratt Museum has an exhibit on the 1989 Prince William oil spill – and you'll really appreciate the scale of that event now that you've seen so much of the rugged coastline. Tonight we've arranged a special farewell seafood feast at our favorite restaurant in Homer.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: HOMER

DAY 6 »

Homer

- Visit to local artists' farmstead and art studios
- Choose an optional bush plane ride for an amazing end to your trip in Anchorage

Homer is renowned throughout Alaska as having one of the most active communities of artists in the state. The area's natural beauty is a source of inspiration for potters, painters, printmakers, jewelers, weavers, sculptors and stained-glass workers from all over the world. This morning, you'll meet Alaskan artists to learn more about the creative Alaskan lifestyle, including a visit of their farmstead, gallery and art studios overlooking Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountains.

DAILY ITINERARY
ALASKA | CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Part company this afternoon at Homer airport. From here, you have two options for how to return to Anchorage. You can fly commercially (Aleutian has multiple departures daily for the one hour flight) or privately. If you choose the private option, you will board your own bush plane for an amazing flightseeing excursion. Your unforgettable flight of about 90 minutes ends in Anchorage.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



The Hotel Alyeska

Tucked amid Alaska's Chugach Mountains, this luxurious chateau-style resort is surrounded by hanging glaciers and spectacular ocean views. Amenities include an indoor saltwater pool, fitness center, and a hot tub overlooking the north face of Mt. Alyeska.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Harbor 360 Hotel

Your gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park in the scenic harbor town of Seward, Alaska. Located directly on the waterfront of the Seward Small Boat Harbor, Harbor 360 Hotel offers guests stunning 360 degree views of Resurrection Bay.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



Land's End Resort

Watch otters, seals, whales and eagles from your room's private deck on the shores of Kachemak Bay. Take in 180-degree view of the Kenai Mountain Range from the oceanfront spa and outdoor hot tub.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Hotel Captain Cook
CITY: Anchorage, Alaska
TIME: 1:00 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Homer Airport
CITY: Homer, Alaska
TIME: 1:00 PM
You can arrange a private flightseeing tour, or a scheduled commercial flight, from Homer to Anchorage.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

▶ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.

▶ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.