

Grand Circle Travel®

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Your Grand Circle Travel Planning Guide



Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords

2025

Grand Circle Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with Grand Circle Travel. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

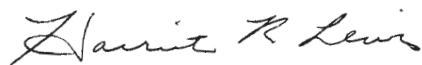
When you travel with us, you will enjoy a thoughtfully designed itinerary that balances unforgettable included discoveries with time for independent explorations. Your experience will be enriched by the company of like-minded American travelers and an **expert, local Program Director**. Assigned to a group of 30 travelers on average, these passionate leaders are ready and eager to share their homeland and insights as only a local can. Whether it is recommending their favorite restaurant, connecting travelers with people and culture, or providing the best regional maps to enhance your leisure time, your Program Director will be available to take care of all the details and ensure that you have a fun and carefree travel experience. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Throughout your explorations, you will experience Exclusive Discovery Series events designed to connect you with local people and culture. From sharing traditional fare and lively conversation during Home-Hosted Visits, to discussing Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, you'll gain an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-2610**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Grand Circle Travel

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Denali National Park

New! Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords

Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Talkeetna,
Seward, Anchorage

10 days starting from \$6,095

including airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit

www.gct.com/aks2025pricing

“The Last Frontier” is a land of unspoiled beauty. It’s where you can find verdant fields of green that blend into mighty mountainous backdrops, and where seas of blue are encompassed by gleaming glaciers. When you join us on this Grand Circle Tour, you’ll not only discover the majesty of Alaska’s natural setting during explorations of Denali and Kenai Fjords National Parks, but you’ll also feel the spirit of America’s 49th state as locals eagerly await to share their traditions with you.

IT’S INCLUDED

- Choose to purchase **Grand Circle’s airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- **10 nights accommodation**
- **21 meals:** 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 5 dinners
- **8 included features:** 4 guided tours and 4 exclusive Discovery Series events: Gold Rush experience • Northern Lights conversation • Dog musher visit • Musk ox farm visit
- Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- **Gratuities** on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- **Personal headset** for all included and optional tours on your main trip
- Private motorcoach land travel
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip**

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords



ITINERARY SUMMARY

1 • Fly to Fairbanks, Alaska

2 • Fairbanks

3-4 • Denali National Park Included Tour Denali National Park

5-6 • Talkeetna Included Tour Talkeetna

7-8 • Seward Included Tours Seward, Kenai Fjords National Park cruise

9 • Anchorage

10 • Depart Anchorage

WHAT TO EXPECT

1 2 3 4 5 Easy

Group Size

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

Pacing

- 5 locations in 10 days

Physical Requirements

- Walk 1-2 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe,

however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

Terrain & Transportation

- Uneven and slippery walking surfaces, including unpaved paths
- Travel by motorcoach, and public transportation that requires ability to stand up and hold handles while vehicle is in motion
- Public transportation including bus, train, and boat
- Balance and agility is required on the boat

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-80°F during touring season
- Nighttime temperatures can fall to 40-50°F

MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

all with FREE Single Supplements

Juneau, Alaska

PRE-TRIP: 3 nights from **\$2,095**

Valdez, Alaska

POST-TRIP: 3 nights from **\$1,995**

Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

3 nights in *Juneau, Alaska*

Day 1 Arrive Juneau, Alaska

Day 2 Juneau • Mendenhall Glacier visit • Goldbelt Tram ride

Day 3 Juneau • Whale watching cruise

Day 4 Arrive Fairbanks, Alaska

Day 1 Arrive Fairbanks, Alaska

- Destination: Fairbanks
- Accommodations: Pike's Waterfront Lodge or similar

Morning: Fly to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Afternoon: Upon arrival at the airport in Fairbanks, transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who took our *Juneau, Alaska* pre-trip extension. This modern frontier settlement still retains much of its Wild West Gold Rush flavor. Gold dredges and mining camps speckle its outlying areas. Tom Sawyer paddlewheelers still ply the river, sled-dog teams scamper through the long winter nights, and follies-style revues are a nightly occurrence in saloons and at the Alaskaland pioneer village.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend this evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 2 Fairbanks • Gold Rush experience • Trans-Alaskan Pipeline • Visit the Museum of the North

- Destination: Fairbanks
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Pike's Waterfront Lodge or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Briefing at the hotel. During this briefing, you will introduce yourself to the group and your Program Director will review your itinerary with you in more detail (including any changes that may need to occur). Your Program Director will also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer questions you may have.

Later, we'll depart for Gold Daughters, a local gold-panning site owned by two sisters. Here, we'll learn about the concept of "pay dirt," discuss the details of the Gold Rush era, and have a chance to roll up our sleeves and search for this precious material ourselves. Next,

we'll set off for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline. The pipeline carries oil discovered in Prudhoe Bay in 1968 some 800 miles to the ice-free port of Valdez. Authorized by former President Richard Nixon in 1977, the pipeline cost around \$8 billion to build. Precautions have been taken to minimize the pipeline's environmental impact including building 12 pumping stations that have special radiators in certain sections, which disperse the heat from the pumped oil to prevent the melting of the permafrost upon which the pipeline is built.

Afterward, we'll depart for the Morris Thompson Center, a cultural complex that offers services, public lands information, and world-class exhibits on various aspects of Alaska.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: This afternoon, you'll visit the Museum of the North, with its many exhibits on Native Alaskan cultures and art, natural wonders, wildlife and even dinosaur fossils discovered in the Arctic.

Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Explore Nenana • Transfer to Denali National Park

- Destination: Denali National Park
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Grand Denali Lodge or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Say goodbye to Fairbanks and begin your journey to your next destination: Denali National Park. Along the way, you'll stop in Nenana. Located on the river of the same name, Nenana is a simple town of single-story homes and log cabins where fewer than 1,000 people reside. Drive through the town to see this simple way of life and locals going about their daily routines. Your Program Director will also share details about the town's annual Nenana Ice Classic, a high stakes game in which a wooden pole is frozen into the river and locals bet on when the ice around the pole will break in the spring.

Lunch: At a local restaurant in the nearby town of Healy.

Afternoon: After lunch, continue on to Denali National Park where you'll check into your accommodations and have some time to relax. Your Program Director can recommend free time activities.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Explore Denali National Park

- Destination: Denali National Park
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Grand Denali Lodge or similar

Activity Note: You'll explore Denali National Park for 6 hours aboard a 55-passenger vintage school bus alongside travelers from other tour groups. Because of the nature of the park and its terrain, traveling by school bus is the only way to explore this landscape. You may travel over uneven and bumpy roads. And depending on weather conditions, it may be difficult to spot Denali's wildlife. The timing of today's tour will be assigned to us by Park Services a few days

in advance. Your Program Director will advise you in the event of any changes to the schedule detailed below.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll depart the hotel and board a vintage school bus for an exploration of Denali National Park. This experience will surely open your eyes to the true majesty of Alaska's wild wonders as you traverse park roads flanked by verdant fields and rugged mountains. Denali National Park has been designated an international biosphere reserve and was expanded to six million from 3.2 million acres by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. The park stretches out along the north side of the Alaska Range, just 250 miles from the southernmost edge of the Arctic Circle. Looming over it all is the mighty Mount Denali, America's tallest peak soaring just beyond 20,000 feet. On a clear day, you may be able to see the mountain's peak.

A local guide will accompany you on today's explorations, sharing insight into the history and ecological makeup of the park.

Lunch: A boxed lunch will be provided.

Afternoon: You continue exploring the wilds of Denali National Park before returning to your hotel early this afternoon. Then, you have the rest of the day free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Enjoy a free evening to spend as you prefer.

Day 5 Denali National Park • Talkeetna

- Destination: Talkeetna
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll visit a local kennel to meet with a professional dog musher for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion about sled dogs and mushing in Alaska, an occupation that predates American colonization of Alaska's territory. Dog sledding was used as a means of transporting goods across the state during harsh winters, but today, it is primarily a recreational activity. In fact, a popular competition, the Iditarod, is held annually, pitting the best sled dogs against each other as they face the elements on a 1000-mile journey from Anchorage to Nome.

You'll learn more about this competition during your visit today, as well as how the musher trains and prepares their huskies for sledding.

Later this morning, you'll head to the Denali Park Depot to catch a train to Talkeetna.

Lunch: Served onboard the train.

Afternoon: As you ride the rails, witness massive mountains, expansive fields dotted with spruces and aspens, and snaking rivers. Upon arrival, you'll transfer to your hotel to check in and you'll have some free time to get settled.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 6 Explore Talkeetna • Northern Lights conversation • Optional Denali Experience Flightseeing tour • Jet boat ride

- Destination: Talkeetna
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge or similar

Activity Note: You can choose to set off on one of two optional sightseeing flights today. The flight that departs this morning includes a glacier landing, while the flight that departs this evening offers only airborne discoveries.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Start the morning off with an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion in your hotel with a local photographer who specializes in capturing stunning images of the Northern Lights.

Then, enjoy a look at the region's natural beauty from a unique vantage point during a thrilling ride aboard a jet boat.

After, those who chose to join our optional Denali Flightseeing tour with an included glacier landing will set off to board their plane and see the mountains from the sky.

Lunch: On your own.

Afternoon: Set off on a walking tour of Talkeetna alongside your Program Director. With a little less than 900 residents, Talkeetna radiates the spirit of a small town in every sense. Log cabins can be found nestled within openings in the forest surrounding the town, the main street remains the only part of Talkeetna located on a paved road, and the inviting locals will make you feel like family. During our tour, you'll walk along the shores of the Susitna River where—weather permitting—you may catch glimpses of Denali Mountain's snow-capped peak. You'll also visit

the Ranger Station where people looking to climb Denali must attain permits. Around 1,000 climbers register every year. Learn about some of the people who made the climb at the station before continuing on to the Talkeetna Historical Society's museum. Here, you'll discover the Alaska Natives, gold miners, and explorers who made Talkeetna what it is today. Your Program Director will also accompany you to the town's shops where you can see residents going about their daily routines and browse for souvenirs.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide activity suggestions.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations. Later this evening, those who chose to join our optional Denali Flightseeing tour will set off to board their plane for their panoramic flight.

Day 7 Talkeetna • Musk Ox Farm • Seward

- Destination: Seward
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Windsong Lodge or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Say goodbye to Talkeetna and begin your journey to Seward, via Palmer. Along the way, you'll stop at a Musk Ox Farm, where these shaggy and hearty animals are raised for their qiviut, their wool-like coat. You'll learn about these magnificent beasts, how they are a holdover from the last Ice Age and uniquely adapted to the climate, and find out what makes qiviut such a special material for yarn. After, you'll arrive in Palmer, with an opportunity to explore some of the downtown area.

Lunch: At a local restaurant in Palmer.

Afternoon: Finish the last leg of your journey to Seward. Situated at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward is a picturesque seaside community where colorful homes line the bay's edge, boats bob in the water, and majestic mountains serve as a scenic backdrop. The town was named after William H. Seward, Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln. Seward negotiated the purchase of the Alaskan territories from Russia for \$7,200,000 in 1867.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 8 Seward • Kenai Fjord National Park cruise

- Destination: Seward
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Windsong Lodge or similar

Activity Note: Today's Kenai Fjords National Park tour and cruise is dependent on the weather, and wildlife sightings are not guaranteed.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off for Kenai Fjords National Park, where you'll get an up close view of Exit Glacier before the group takes to the waters for a 6-hour cruise through the park. Kenai Fjords National Park encompasses over 900 square miles of wilderness. Humpback whales and sea lions make their home among the park's glaciers, otters dart along the water's surface, and bald eagles soar through the blue skies above. A naturalist will be onboard with your group to point out these spectacular creatures during your explorations.

Lunch: Onboard during your cruise.

Afternoon: You'll continue your cruise well into the afternoon before returning to Seward. You are free to make your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 9 Seward • Alaska Sea Life Center visit • Picnic lunch at Exit Glacier • Transfer to Anchorage

- Destination: Anchorage
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Anchorage Marriott Downtown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart the hotel and set off for the Alaska Sea Life Center. Here, you'll learn about the marine research that is being conducted to better understand Alaska's underwater ecology. You'll also come face-to-face with some of the incredible creatures that reside here, including harbor seals, puffins, and jellyfish.

Next, you'll head back into Kenai Fjord National Park for a picnic lunch, during which you'll enjoy striking views of the icy wonder, Exit Glacier.

Lunch: Enjoy a picnic lunch in Kenai Fjord National Park.

Afternoon: You'll then travel to your next and final destination on this itinerary: Anchorage. Make sure to take a look out your window during your travels to watch the spectacular scenery of Alaska unfold before your eyes. Mountains seemingly rise out of the endless fields and forests that mark your route. Upon arrival in Anchorage later this afternoon, you'll

check in at your hotel and the rest of the day is free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

The city is home to nearly half the state's population. Russian fur trappers lived here and traded with the local natives when Captain James Cook arrived in 1778 on his search for the Northwest Passage. Anchorage sits on the inlet named after Cook against a backdrop of the spectacular Chugach Mountains. The Gold Rush of the 1880s and the construction of the Alaska Railroad authorized by Woodrow Wilson in 1915 brought more settlers. The city's modern-day expansion resumed after World War I with the arrival of the military bases and installations during World War II and more defense spending during the 1950s. Alaska earned its statehood in 1959, but disaster followed on Good Friday 1964 when the epicenter of an earthquake shook Anchorage. Rebuilding commenced immediately and the discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay, and the construction of the TransAlaska Pipeline provided the fuel for exponential growth throughout the 1970s and beyond. The construction of the Anchorage International Airport in the 1970s cemented the geographic importance of Anchorage in US-Asian and international trade, as the city is almost exactly halfway between New York and Tokyo.

Dinner: Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 10 Anchorage • Return to U.S.

- Destination: Anchorage
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Anchorage Marriott Downtown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Explore the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Dedicated to enriching your knowledge of Alaska Natives, the center includes full-scale models of typical dwellings and demonstrations of local customs, traditions, and handicrafts. Today, Alaska is home to five main tribes: the Northwest Coast Indians, Inupiaqs, Yupiks, Aleuts, and the Athabascans. These indigenous people represent 16% of the state's population. While here, you'll have the opportunity to see members of these local tribes in authentic dress performing traditional dances. Afterward, you'll cap off your discoveries and head to downtown Anchorage.

Lunch: On your own. Your Program Director would be happy to recommend restaurant options.

Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Enjoy a few final hours to soak up Alaska's majesty. Or return to your hotel to pack for your journey home.

Evening: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

END YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

3 nights in *Valdez, Alaska*

Day 1 Arrive Valdez, Alaska

Day 2 Valdez • Prince William
Sound cruise

Day 3 Valdez • Fly to Anchorage

Day 4 Explore Anchorage • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases. We do not accept American Express.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Denali Experience Flightseeing

(Day 6 \$345 per person)

Board a plane for a “flightseeing” tour to see Denali’s summit from the sky, along with the Ruth Amphitheater and Great Gorge. You’ll fly past glaciers like Tokositna and Ruth Glacier, the jagged cliffs of Mount Huntington, the frozen face of Mount Hunter, and the legendary Moose’s Tooth.

Denali Experience Flightseeing with Glacier Landing

(Day 6 \$480 per person)

Board a plane for a “flightseeing” tour to see Denali’s summit from the sky, along with the Ruth Amphitheater and Great Gorge. You’ll fly past glaciers like Tokositna and Ruth Glacier, the jagged cliffs of Mount Huntington, the frozen face of Mount Hunter, and the legendary Moose’s Tooth. Then, go even further with views of Kahiltna Glacier and it’s Base Camp, with a special glacier landing.

PRE-TRIP

Juneau, Alaska

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » **Accommodations** for 3 nights
- » **5 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner
- » **2 included tours:** Mendenhall Glacier, Cruise on Mendenhall Lake
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Situated on the banks of the Gastineau Channel, opposite Mount Juneau, Alaska's capital boasts spectacular scenery. Travel just outside of the city to find the Mendenhall Glacier. Admire this glistening icy-blue treasure up close during a hike. And, discover the mix of natural and urban settings on this optional extension when you also experience the bustling atmosphere of Juneau's city center.

Day 1 Arrive Juneau, Alaska

- Destination: Juneau
- Accommodations: Four Points by Sheraton Juneau or similar

Morning: Fly to Juneau, Alaska's capital and one of the most scenically stunning cities in the United States.

Afternoon: Upon arrival, a Grand Circle representative will meet you and assist with the transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet your Program Director, who will offer you an orientation walk of the neighborhood around your hotel depending on the timing of your arrival. The rest of the day is free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

In addition to its gorgeous scenery, green vegetation and its amazing location on the Gastineau Channel, Juneau has a fascinating

history. On October 4, 1880, Richard Harris and Joe Juneau, guided by Chief Kowee of the Tlingit Auk clan, discovered quartz outcroppings heavily streaked with gold along the Gold Creek. Within 15 days, they had staked out a township originally named Harrisburgh. In 1881, the miner residents decided there were too many places in America named Harrisburgh, and renamed the town Juneau. In a quarter of a century, it grew from a Gold Rush boomtown to the state capital.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: Your evening is free to spend as you prefer.

Day 2 Juneau • Mendenhall Glacier visit • Goldbelt Tram ride

- Destination: Juneau
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Four Points by Sheraton Juneau or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll kick off your discoveries by setting off to see the glistening Mendenhall Glacier. Gaze upon 13 miles of ice wedged between two mountains, seemingly being squeezed out into Mendenhall Lake. Back at the Visitor Center, learn more about this natural wonder before setting off on a short walk to get an up-close view of a roaring waterfall tucked within Tongass National Forest.

After, you'll return to Juneau.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Shortly after lunch, enjoy a ride on the Goldbelt Tram. Journey 1,800 feet above sea level to find lush, alpine meadows, and take in a bird's-eye view of Alaska's Capital City, Stephens Passage to the south, and the Chilkat Mountains to the north. This is a wonderful photo opportunity for those looking to capture the stunning views all around.

The rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 3 Juneau • Whale watching cruise

- Destination: Juneau
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Four Points by Sheraton Juneau or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse of a whale breaching or gliding along the water's surface during a cruise along the Gastineau Channel this morning. Alaska is home to myriad whale species, including the great humpback whales, beautiful orcas, and lovable beluga whales.

Afterwards, you'll return to Juneau.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Arrive Fairbanks, Alaska

- Destination: Fairbanks
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: You'll receive a boxed breakfast at the hotel.

Morning: Depart the hotel and head to the airport to catch a flight to Fairbanks, with a connection in Anchorage.

Lunch: On your own. You may choose to grab lunch in Anchorage before your connecting flight or when you arrive at the airport.

Afternoon: Arrive in Fairbanks and begin your *Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords* vacation.

POST-TRIP

Valdez, Alaska

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » **Accommodations** for 3 nights
- » **7 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 1 dinner
- » **1 included tour:** Prince William Sound cruise
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Valdez's story is one of resilience. The city faced a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 1964 only to rebuild and then combat the detrimental environmental impacts of an oil spill in Prince William Sound in 1989. Today, Valdez is a city that proudly displays its history while aiming to also preserve its natural beauty. During this optional extension, enjoy a cruise on Prince William Sound to discover the flora and fauna that thrives here, and behold a spectacular collection of around 150 glaciers located along the water's edge.

Day 1 Arrive Valdez, Alaska

- Destination: Valdez
- Included Meals: Lunch
- Accommodations: Totem Hotel and Suites or similar

Activity Note: The total travel time to Valdez is 7 hours with stops along the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll say goodbye to your *Alaskan Discovery: Denali National Park & the Kenai Fjords* group and depart the hotel in Anchorage. Board a motorcoach set for Valdez and begin your 7-hour journey to the "snow capital."

Lunch: At a local restaurant along the way in Glenallen.

Afternoon: You'll continue on, stopping early this afternoon at the Thompson Pass outlook. Nestled between the Chugach Mountains, Thompson Pass is known as Alaska's snowiest location, with around 500 inches falling annually. After taking some time to absorb the natural beauty of this landscape, you'll finish the last leg of your journey to Valdez, arriving later this afternoon.

Upon arrival, you'll check in at your hotel and enjoy some free time to get settled or start exploring on your own.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 2 Valdez • Prince William Sound cruise

- Destination: Valdez
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Totem Hotel and Suites or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll set off for the Prince William Sound this morning for a 6-hour cruise. The sparkling blue waters of forest-shrouded, isle-studded Prince William Sound are a playground both for boaters and marine mammals. Keep an eye out for harbor seals dancing in the sea, and seagulls soaring overhead. And, gaze out at glaciers—around 150 of them—glistening along the water's edge—at times calving icebergs into the blue expanse of the sound.

Lunch: Included onboard during your cruise.

Afternoon: Continue cruising until later this afternoon when you have free time to explore as you please.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Valdez • Fly to Anchorage

- Destination: Anchorage
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Anchorage Marriott Downtown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll depart the hotel and set off for the airport where you'll catch a flight to Anchorage.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Upon arrival, you'll transfer to your hotel and check in. Then, enjoy the rest of the afternoon to relax or explore at your own pace. You might explore the city center where you can browse the myriad shops or grab a coffee at a local café.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 Explore Anchorage • Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Activity Note: If you are arranging your own airfare, we recommend departing in the evening or the following morning in order to participate in today's included activities. Our Travel Counselors can help you arrange a day room or overnight accommodations.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart for a tour of Anchorage, the "Big Apple of the North." After a brief city tour, you'll head over to the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Dedicated to enriching your knowledge of Alaska Natives, the center includes full-scale models of typical dwellings and demonstrations of local customs, traditions, and handicrafts. Today, Alaska is home to five main tribes: the Northwest Coast Indians, Inupiaqs, Yupiks, Aleuts, and the Athabascans. These indigenous people represent 16% of the state's population. While here, you'll have the opportunity to see members of these local tribes in authentic dress performing traditional dances.

Lunch: On your own.

Afternoon: Return to your hotel in Anchorage.

Evening: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Keep Your Abilities In Mind

Please review the information below prior to departing on this trip. We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

GROUP SIZE

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

PACING

- 5 locations in 10 days

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 1-2 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven and slippery walking surfaces, including unpaved paths
- Travel by motorcoach, and public transportation that requires ability to stand up and hold handles while vehicle is in motion
- Public transportation including bus, train, and boat
- Balance and agility is required on the boat

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-80°F during touring season
- Nighttime temperatures can fall to 40-50°F

Health Check

Feeling healthy and confident of your mobility is essential to fully enjoy your trip. If you have ongoing medical conditions or concerns about your health, we highly recommend that you schedule a checkup with your personal physician at least six weeks in advance of your departure date.

- Discuss with your doctor any aspects of your itinerary that may affect your health and be guided by his or her advice. (You can use the “Keep Your Abilities in Mind” on the previous page as a guideline to discuss with him or her.)
- You may want to have a dental exam before your trip. A loose filling or developing cavity would be difficult to remedy while you are traveling.
- If you have a condition that requires special equipment or treatment, you must bring and be responsible for all necessary items related to your condition.

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Select “Find International Travel Information” then select “Country Information”; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Your Health Abroad” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.

- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments:** some cash, an ATM card, and a credit card
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high. It's more practical to view them as a last resort in the event of a special situation.
- **Keep a few smaller bills on hand.** It makes both tipping and small purchases easier.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$5 each time you use an out-of-network ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

United States: ATMs can be hard to find in rural areas such as national parks, but are common in large cities and small towns. Our suggestion is to hit up the ATM in town before you head out for the day. Don't forget to let your bank know that you'll be traveling before you leave home—if they see a lot of out-of-town withdrawals they might put a freeze on your account because of suspected fraud.

Credit & Debit Cards

Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although the Discover card is accepted in some countries outside the U.S., it is not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines. To make it easy for you to budget, we have quoted the amounts in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars.

- **Grand Circle Program Director:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your GCT Program Director at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$7–\$10 per traveler for each day their Program Director is with them. *Please note that tips for your Program Director can only be in the form of cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Program Director during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Hotel Housekeeping:** Many travelers will leave \$1–\$2 per day, per room for the hotel housekeeping staff.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Time at Leisure: During the times that you explore independently, you may dine in a local restaurant, take a taxi, or avail yourself of some other service where tipping is customary. Tip throughout your tour as you normally would at home. Your Program Director will tip waiters for the included meals when the group dines together.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Personalized Air:** You booked international air with us, and have customized it in some way. If you have customized your trip's dates to arrive early, stay longer, or stop on your own in a connecting city, airport transfers will NOT be included. You must also arrange your own accommodations for any additional nights. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.gct.com/myplanner under "My Reservations".

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased air with Grand Circle Travel, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more Grand Circle travelers who depart the U.S. from your gateway city, it is our goal to have a Grand Circle Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time.
- **Arrival:** Once you arrive, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. A Grand Circle Representative will meet you outside of customs and assist you with your transfer to the hotel or ship. Important note on porters: Airport porters are NOT allowed in the baggage claim area. On arrival, you must take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a cart, which you will then move through customs. When you exit customs, you'll handle your cart until reaching your transfer vehicle. Your driver will load your luggage into the transfer vehicle.
- **Flight Delays:** Grand Circle Travel is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations. In the unfortunate circumstance that your flight is delayed or changed, please try to reach the regional Grand Circle office (their number will be in your Final Documents) in order to make new arrangements for your transfer. Due to airline regulations our staff is not notified of flight rerouting, and our local representative won't necessarily be aware of your new arrival time. In these cases you will need to arrange your transfer by taxi to your hotel.

- **Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more Grand Circle travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, a Grand Circle Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Grand Circle Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.
- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as GCT travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: **www.rome2rio.com**

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with Grand Circle Travel, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Air Itineraries:** We'll be sending you a preliminary flight itinerary—and posting it online in My Planner—no later than 100 days prior to your departure. (If you booked your trip inside 100 days, then expect it a week or two after booking.) Due to restrictions from the airlines, air itineraries cannot be confirmed more than 320 days before your travel dates. If you have booked your trip a year in advance, we cannot send you a preliminary itinerary or answer questions about your flights until you are inside this 320 days timeline.

- **Flight Delays:** Grand Circle Travel is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations. In the unfortunate circumstance that your flight is delayed or changed, please try to reach the regional GCT office (their number will be in your Final Documents). Due to airline regulations our staff is not notified of flight rerouting, and your Program Director won't necessarily be aware of your new arrival time.
- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.

Due to the remoteness of Alaska, the majority of flights departing from Alaska are red-eye flights. The average travel time to the continental USA is 10 to 12 hours to the Central and Mountain time zones, and 12 to 15 hours to the East Coast.

All Travelers: Check Your License or ID

What are you checking for? To see if is compliant with the Real ID Act, passed in 2005 (and also to confirm that it won't expire before your trip).

Starting October 1, 2021 you must have a Real ID compliant document in order to fly domestically within the U.S. Passports and passport cards are Real ID compliant and will be accepted, but only some state-issued IDs will work. If you plan to fly on or after October 1 with your driver's license or state ID, double-check that is Real ID compliant. Most Real ID licenses will have a star logo in the top right corner and/or have the word "enhanced" printed on them. If you are unsure about your ID, check with your local DMV or appropriate government office. And give yourself enough time to renew your license if needed—the change is expected to cause delays.

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your vacation by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Program Director can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)

- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as “OPT Boston”.
- Your Program Director will give you details on the optional tours while you’re on the trip. But if you’d like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.gct.com/myplanner).

Reserve Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you reserve the following optional tours in advance. Unless otherwise noted, the deadline to do so is 45 days prior to your departure. Occasionally, space will be available for booking onsite, but this not guaranteed.

Denali Experience Flightseeing

Board a plane for a “flightseeing” tour to see Denali’s summit from the sky, along with the Ruth Amphitheater and Great Gorge. You’ll fly past glaciers like Tokositna and Ruth Glacier, the jagged cliffs of Mount Huntington, the frozen face of Mount Hunter, and the legendary Moose’s Tooth.

This optional tour is offered during the main trip. The cost is \$345 per person.

Denali Experience Flightseeing with Glacier Landing

Board a plane for a “flightseeing” tour to see Denali’s summit from the sky, along with the Ruth Amphitheater and Great Gorge. You’ll fly past glaciers like Tokositna and Ruth Glacier, the jagged cliffs of Mount Huntington, the frozen face of Mount Hunter, and the legendary Moose’s Tooth. Then, go even further with views of Kahiltna Glacier and it’s Base Camp, with a special glacier landing.

This optional tour is offered during the main trip. The cost is \$480 per person.

Communicating with Home

Your phone service may vary from what you’re used to in terms of strength and connectivity, as providers have different levels of saturation throughout the U.S. In rural or remote areas, it may be harder to get a signal. Costs will vary depending upon your contract.

Data usage, however, can pile up costs if you rely on it heavily. Those handy apps can run up download/connection fees. The simplest solution is to shut down all cell phone functions, automatic data feeds and roaming options, and take advantage of the apps via available Wi-Fi. With an Internet VOIP app (like Skype) you can make inexpensive calls. If necessary, turn roaming back on and your phone will work as usual, albeit at some cost.

App quality, availability and costs vary—as do platforms (iPhone, Android, Blackberry), so again you'll need to do some legwork. But there's a lot of choice: apps for packing lists, currency converters, maps, journals, Wi-Fi hotspot finders, etc.

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.

TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS
The extensions have the same luggage restrictions as the main trip.

REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS
<p>One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check a suitcase.</p> <p>Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p> <p>Limitations on the Scenic Train Ride: You will not have access to your main luggage during the train ride from Denali to Talkeetna due to storage limitations on the train. Your checked bags and any larger rolling bags will be transported by motorcoach while you enjoy a scenic train ride and you will retrieve your luggage upon arrival to the hotel in Talkeetna. Anything that you will need during the day should be packed into your carry-on (or you may consider packing a small daypack to be used for this purpose). You will have access to all of your luggage for all overnight stays.</p>

Don't Forget

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Warm layers:** You'll experience a variety of temperatures throughout this trip, so we suggest that you bring a light layer and a warm layer (such as a fleece) to put on and take off throughout the day as temperatures fluctuate. Even during the summer months, Alaska can be cold at night and during the early morning hours (40s-50s).
- **Comfortable, supportive walking shoes are essential:** These destinations truly invite exploration by foot. But negotiating the pathways can put great demands on your feet. For your comfort, you'll need supportive walking shoes that offer good traction.
- **Rain gear:** Be sure to pack a rain coat or waterproof windbreaker.
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy.
- **Pack casual clothes:** The presiding clothing style of this trip is casual. Men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need nice dresses—bring these only if you are planning a special night out on your own.
- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits. For more packing and luggage tips, you might want to visit www.travelite.org.
- **Learn from previous travelers:** Our travelers' top three comments about packing are "I wish I had brought less," "I should have double-checked the weather," and "You said I'd need (insert something you don't need here) and I didn't." Our suggestions are springboards, not requirements – take them with a grain of salt. Finally, remember the Golden Rule of Packing Light: whatever you think you need at first—take half the clothes and twice the money.

What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Program Directors and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the "Climate" chapter of this handbook.

Your accommodations will supply soap, body wash, and shampoo/conditioner. If you prefer a certain brand you may want to bring your own, but otherwise you can rely on what they provide. **And don't forget a reusable water bottle**—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, sunscreen, etc.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- ☐ Sunglasses with a neck strap
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Swimsuit if your hotel has a pool
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- ☐ Compact umbrella
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial “waterless” hand cleanser
- ☐ Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards, prescriptions for your medicines
- ☐ Compact binoculars (for Denali National Park)
- ☐ Items for your comfort on the bus (pillow, blanket, etc.). This tour involves several long drives.
- ☐ Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards
- ☐ Collapsible walking staff

Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Rain jacket/windbreaker with hood

- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Socks and undergarments
- ☐ A warm layer, such as a sweater, fleece pullover, or jacket—even during the summer, temperatures drop at night and in the early morning

Medicines

- ☐ All over-the-counter medications and first aid supplies listed below are available locally. But you may want to bring your own for convenience.
- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Vitamins
- ☐ Cold remedies: Sudafed/Dristan
- ☐ Pain relievers: Ibuprofen/aspirin/Naproxen
- ☐ Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- ☐ Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- ☐ Band-Aids, Moleskin foot pads
- ☐ Antibiotic creams: Neosporin/Bacitracin

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Alaska: While freezing temperatures abound during the winter, Alaska enjoys temperate summers ranging from the 40s to mid-60s, with cooler temperatures at night and in the early morning. Remember, the sun is present for most of the day (18-22 hours, depending on city) during the summer months – you’ll experience more daylight hours the further north you go. Spring and fall bring cooler temperatures in the 20s-50s during the day and fewer daylight hours.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use www.weather.com for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	FAIRBANKS, ALASKA			ANCHORAGE, ALASKA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Precipitation	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	8 to -1	--	9	23 to 11	74 to 73	0.7
FEB	13 to 1	--	6	27 to 14	74 to 67	0.7
MAR	21 to 5	--	7	34 to 19	72 to 57	0.6
APR	40 to 22	--	6	45 to 29	75 to 54	0.5
MAY	54 to 37	--	10	56 to 40	73 to 50	0.7
JUN	65 to 48	--	13	63 to 48	74 to 55	1.0
JUL	66 to 50	--	16	65 to 52	80 to 62	1.8
AUG	60 to 46	--	16	64 to 50	84 to 64	3.3
SEP	48 to 35	--	13	55 to 42	84 to 64	3.0
OCT	29 to 18	--	12	41 to 29	78 to 67	2.0
NOV	14 to 4	--	10	28 to 17	78 to 74	1.2
DEC	12 to 1	--	9	25 to 13	78 to 76	1.1

MONTH	JUNEAU, ALASKA			VALDEZ, ALASKA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	33 to 24	82 to 79	5.4	25 to 12	88	4.7
FEB	35 to 25	83 to 74	4.1	30 to 16	85	5.4
MAR	40 to 28	85 to 69	3.8	33 to 18	87	3.8
APR	48 to 33	88 to 63	2.9	43 to 28	88	3.3
MAY	57 to 41	88 to 62	3.4	52 to 36	83	2.9
JUN	62 to 47	87 to 64	3.2	59 to 44	83	2.8
JUL	64 to 50	88 to 70	4.6	61 to 46	83	5.1
AUG	63 to 49	91 to 73	5.7	60 to 45	85	5.6
SEP	56 to 44	93 to 78	8.6	53 to 39	85	8.8
OCT	47 to 38	90 to 80	8.6	44 to 32	84	7.5
NOV	38 to 29	86 to 81	6.0	31 to 21	83	6.5
DEC	34 to 26	85 to 83	5.8	26 to 15	87	5.7

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

Your Program Director

During your exclusive Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site Grand Circle Travel Program Director. Your Program Director is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. He or she is supported along the way by local tour guides, who guide you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Grand Circle Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, training that is based on what we've learned from thousands of past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

Your Program Director will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need. You will be in the company of a Program Director throughout your vacation.

Alaska Culture

Alaska's diverse culture bears the imprints of many groups who have made our largest state their home—from the first Ice Age nomads to the Russian fur traders, the gold miners seeking their fortunes, and the more than 200 federally recognized Native tribes spread over the vast wilderness.

While Alaska's indigenous peoples have their own distinct customs, traditions, and language, a common thread that unites them is a subsistence lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and gathering food—skills that have enabled them to thrive for thousands of years in some of the world's harshest and most challenging environments.

Native Alaskans currently make up about 15% of the state's population. This is down from 45% of the population in 1940, 26% in 1950, and 19% at the time of statehood in 1959. Native Alaskans are often divided into three groups: the Aleuts, the Inuit, and dozens of other different Indian tribes. The Aleuts, who have been living in the Aleutian Islands off the coast of mainland Alaska for thousands of years, call themselves *Unangan*, which means "Original People." With a culture based primarily on the sea, Aleuts are renowned for their skills in fishing, hunting sea mammals, and basketry. In fact, the elegant baskets they create are considered among the finest in the world.

Instead of the ice-free waters enjoyed by the Aleuts, the Inuit were surrounded by the ice-filled northern seas of Western Alaska. More mobile than the Aleuts, the Inuit depended on the sea for everything—with food, clothing, fuel, and more coming from the whales, seals, and other marine life they hunted.

Of the numerous tribes that make up the third group of Native Alaskans (also known as First Nations), the Tlingit and Haida are among the largest. Residing in the southeastern inland region of Alaska, these groups were hunter gatherers that moved between seasons and were skilled at fishing. Cultural touchstones include totem poles and potlatches, traditional gatherings for a milestone event in an individual's life such as a first hunt or a funeral.

With no written language, the carved wooden poles (Europeans first named them "totem poles") were used to record a tribal family's heritage. Meant to be read from the bottom up, the totemic design might include symbols of Alaskan wildlife such as the wolf or eagle and would tell the story of a family's history or one particularly important event (potlatch) like a wedding or battle. The height of the pole was also an indication of a family's wealth and power.

An enduring Alaskan tradition is dog sledding. More commonly referred to as mushing, it has roots that go back to Eskimos of the 15th century and was the primary mode of winter transportation until pilots began flying air routes in the 1920s. The Iditarod, a famous annual dog sledding race from Anchorage to Nome, is said to have been inspired by the famous "Serum Run" of 1925, when the residents of Nome sent an urgent plea for help during a diphtheria epidemic, and the life-saving serum arrived by dog sled from Anchorage.

Alaska's Native cultures can be experienced in both villages and city museums and galleries. Alaskan culture is also celebrated through performances of tribal dances, drumming, music, and craft exhibits. You should look for the "silver hand" emblem and a "made in Alaska" symbol to ensure that any item that catches your fancy was made by an Alaska Native craftsman or artist.

Alaskan Cuisine:

While a part of the United States, Alaska was the second to last country to join the union in 1959 and as such has an abundance of history and culture separate from most of the mainland U.S. With the state head deep in the North Pacific Ocean, it is no surprise that Alaskan cuisine centers around seafood, like salmon and crab, and wild meats, like reindeer. Some dishes to try include:

- **Reindeer sausage:** a popular breakfast food, reindeer sausage can be found anywhere in the state, whether as a side dish or as an included ingredient, such as in Alaska's award-winning reindeer chili
- **Eskimo ice cream:** also called *Aqutak* or *Agutuk*, eskimo ice cream is an Alaskan dessert made from seal oil, reindeer fat, snow, and wild Alaskan berries
- **Muktuk:** this dish is whale blubber and skin frozen together, eaten raw. As whales are protected under federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, *muktuk* can best be found and appreciated (legally) in native villages (due to high populations of people with Alaska Native heritage, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau are considered native villages by law).
- **Wild meats:** Much like whales, wild game like moose, caribou, black bear, mountain goat, porcupine, and Sitka black-tailed deer are protected species and will not be found in restaurants or grocery stores. Sitting down with a local hunter would be the most efficient way to get your hands on some cuts, sausages, or jerkies.

Anchorage in Brief

City Layout and Details

Located along the coast of Alaska's Southcentral region, Anchorage is the largest city in the state and has a booming cultural scene with restaurants, museums, theaters, and musical performances. The city offers many parks, 122 miles of paved bike paths, and easy access to several hiking trails.

In the downtown area, streets are laid out in a grid pattern with lettered streets running vertically and increasing from A Street (on the eastern side of the downtown area) to U Street (along the western edge). Numbered avenues run horizontally, beginning with 1st Ave in the north and increasing southwards. The numbered avenues are also broken down between "East" and "West" with A Street serving as the dividing line.

Local Transportation

The People Mover is Anchorage's public bus system that operates 14 routes across the city. Buses run seven days a week, from approximately 6:00 am to midnight on weekdays and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on weekends (timing varies by route). A one-way ticket costs \$2 or there are options for day and multi-day passes. Discounts may be available for riders under 18 and over 60. Tickets are available to purchase through the the People Mover mTicket app or at the Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) in the Downtown Transit Center.

Juneau in Brief

City Layout and Details

Juneau is one of Alaska's oldest cities and serves as the state capital. The city's history is associated with gold mining and was once home to the largest hard-rock gold mine in the world. Located in the Inside Passage, the downtown area sits along the Gastineau Channel and is the only state capital which is only accessible by air or boat. The city offers a bustling waterfront area which is within walking distance of many museums, restaurants, and historic sites.

Local Transportation

While downtown Juneau is best discovered by foot, Juneau's public bus system (the Capital Transit) operates 14 local and express routes between downtown Juneau, the Mendenhall Valley, and the Douglas area, including access to the airport. A one-way fare costs \$2 and must be purchased in cash with exact change upon entering the bus. For frequent riders, monthly passes and tokens (sold 20 tokens at a time) are also available for purchase in some locations. For more information, please visit <http://juneaucapitaltransit.org>.

Valdez in Brief

City Layout and Details

Valdez is situated in the Prince William Sound among some of the tallest coastal mountains in the world. This city, with a total of approximately 4,500 residents, is also the southern terminus for the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

The downtown is centered around a small harbor and is easy to explore by foot. Egan Avenue is the main street where you'll find the Valdez Museum and an open-air market. There are several small surrounding streets with shops and restaurants scattered throughout.

Local Transportation

While downtown Valdez can be easily explored by foot, the best method to explore outside of the town is by renting a car. Valdez U Drive, www.valdezudrive.com, is the only car rental in the town. Other options for transportation to areas outside of downtown Valdez includes taxi services and the public ferry.

If the weather is nice, for transport around downtown, rent a bike and experience Valdez, or the nearby scenic routes, as you ride.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your vacation. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. Grand Circle is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly. If the shop is outside the country, you should expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from the standards you are used to, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Alaska

Popular souvenirs to bring home from the Last Frontier include *ulu* (a traditional knife used by Inuit, Yupik, and Aleut women), ivory *billiken* (a good luck token), birch syrup, gold, "bear claws" wooden salad tongs, burl bowls, Alaska native artwork, Alaskan photography, jade jewelry, mineral-rich glacial mud, fur products, *mukluks* (traditionally Inuit, soft boots lined with fur), or moose nugget tokens.

Sales Tax in the Alaska

Alaska does not have a general sales tax, but cities and towns may collect sales tax up to 7%.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, **www.cbp.gov** has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Alaska

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

Area: 663,268 square miles

Capital: Juneau

Motto: North to the Future

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Languages: English & Alaska Native Languages (Ahtna, Alutiiq, Dena'ina, Deg Xinag, Eyak, Gwich'in, Haida, Han, Holikachuk, Inupiaq, Koyukon, Lower Tanana, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Tanacross, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Unangax, Upper Kuskokwim, Upper Tanana, Yup'ik)

Location: The northernmost and westernmost state in the Union, Alaska borders Canada to the east, the Bering Sea and the Chukchi Sea to the west, the Gulf of Alaska and the rest of the North Pacific Ocean to the south, and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

Geography: Alaska is the largest state in the United States, commonly separated into six regions: South Central, Southeast, Interior, Southwest, North Slope, and the Aleutian Islands. South Central is the most populated area of Alaska, with Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, and the Kani Peninsula. The Southeast, or the Inside Passage, is the area closest to the lower 48 states and where the first non-indigenous settlements were set up. This area primarily consists of the Alexander Archipelago and the Tongass National Forest, the largest national forest in the U.S. The Interior is the largest region, consisting mostly of uninhabited wilderness, with the city of Fairbanks, Denali National Park and Reserve, and Denali (the highest mountain in North America) located there. The 500 miles of coast along the Bering Sea and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta makes up the Southwest region. The North Slope is mostly tundra, bordering the Arctic Ocean, and is known for its crude oil reserves. The Aleutian Islands are 300 small volcanic islands, stretching over 1,200 miles into the Pacific Ocean.

Population: 710,249

Time zone: Alaska is on Alaska Standard Time, 4 hours behind Eastern Standard Time. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 2am in Alaska.

National Holidays: USA

While many major holidays have a fixed date, some move around from year to year (Thanksgiving, Easter). To find out if you will be traveling during a holiday, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

1/1 New Year's Day

Matin Luther King Jr Day, 3rd Monday in January

Presidents Day, 3rd Monday in February

Seward's Day, last Monday in March

Memorial Day, last Monday in May

4/4 Independence Day

Labor Day, first Monday in September

10/19 Alaska Day

11/11 Veteran's Day

12/25 Christmas Day

Alaska: A Brief History

Before Europeans arrived, Alaska was inhabited by multiple tribes of indigenous peoples who arrived to the land sometime around 10,000 BCE when they crossed from Siberia to eastern Alaska on the Bering land bridge. These tribes include the Athabaskans, Aleuts, Inuit, Yupik, Tlingit, and Haida. Much of their history is unrecorded and it isn't until European settlers arrived in the 18th century that history focuses on Alaska once more.

In 1728, the Russian Tsar, Peter the Great, ordered an expedition led by the Danish explorer Vitus Bering, to discover the new land spotted off the coast of Siberia. During the first expedition, it was determined the land was not connected to Russia, but it wasn't until the second expedition in 1741 that the crew managed to set foot on Alaska.

Following the European discovery of Alaska, Russia built a settlement at Three Saints Bay in 1784, a site near the present-day city of Kodiak, and established a lucrative fur trading business. With their arrival, many of the local Aleuts were killed, overworked, or infected with Old World diseases.

Kodiak remained the capital of Alaska until 1806, when the Russian-American Company, established in 1799, moved to Sitka, on the hunt for more sea otter furs. There, the chief manager and the governor of the Russian colonies in Alaska, Aleksandr Baranov, faced backlash from the Native Alaskans, with the Tlingit's destroying his settlement in Old Harbor and escalating into armed battle at Novo-Arkhangelsk. The Russian-American Company cultivated positive relationships with the native Aleuts and Yupik, with many Aleuts marrying Russians or willingly working for the company.

The Russian-American Company governed Alaska until the land was purchased from Russia by the U.S. on October 18th, 1867 (commemorated in Alaska as Alaska Day). Due to the near extinction of sea otters, the source of Company's fur trade, and the aftereffects of the Crimean War, Russia was more than happy to sell Alaska off for \$7.2 million. As the deal was negotiated by the Secretary of States, William H. Seward, and Alaska, with its near extinction of sea otters and dwindling fur trade, was considered worthless, the deal was called "Seward's Folly".

Little changed for the first decade governed under the U.S., but in 1878, a salmon cannery was built, the start of the largest salmon industry in the world. Gold was found in Juneau and Fortymile Creek, kick starting a gold rush across the entire territory. In 1884, federal district country and schools were set up and in 1906, Alaska's first representative, a non-voting position, was elected into Congress.

In World War II, the Agattu, Attu, and Kiska islands of the Aleutian Island chain were invaded by Japanese forces, and Unalaska Island was bombed. This led to the construction of airfields and the Alaska Highway, a strip of 1,5000 connecting British Columbia with Fairbanks. The war also led to the U.S. army throwing many Aleuts out of their homes on the Aleutian Islands and sending them to work at canneries, sawmills, hospital, schools, or internment camps.

Alaskans voted for statehood in the Union in 1946 and Congress approved it in 1959.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

Alaska

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah (2018, Fiction) Set in 1970s-era Alaska, this sweeping epic is about a family moving to the Kenai Peninsula ill-prepared for the hardships and natural dangers that await in this vast and unforgiving landscape. All is well until winter arrives, when it turns into a gripping page-turner with elements of domestic violence, survival, and a mother-daughter's love.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer (1996, Non-Fiction) An exploration into the mysterious death of a young man who hitchhiked to Alaska in 1992 and vanished into the wild, only for his body to be discovered four months later.

Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival by Velma Willis (1993, Fiction) Passed through generations of Alaskan Athabaskans, this is the legendary tale of two women who were abandoned by their tribe and must fight to survive the winter.

Shadows on the Koyukuk: An Alaskan Native's Life Along the River by Sidney Huntington and translated by Jim Reardon (1993, Autobiography). Sidney Huntington, the son of an Athapaskan mother and white trader father, details his 78 years living in the Alaskan interior, along the Koyukuk River. Reader follow him through his struggles and successes as he compares his story to the traditions and tales handed down to him.

Where the Sea Breaks its Back by Corey Ford (1966, Historical Nonfiction). A biography of the story of Georg Whlhelm Steller and the Russian Alaksa expedition from 1741 to 1742. This book outlines the discoveries and struggles of Steller, one of Europe's most renowned naturalists, the explorer Vitus Bering, and their expedition team.

Suggested Films & Videos

Alaska

Togo (2019, Drama). A true story of serum run to Nome during the winter of 1925, when an outbreak of diphtheria left a small town without the needed diphtheria antitoxin serum to make it through the epidemic. Leonhard Seppala and his sled dog team, led by titular Togo, struggle through harsh weather conditions as they struggle to deliver the serum the 600 miles to Nome.

Big Miracle (2012, Drama/Romance). Based on Tom Rose's *Freeing the Whales*, a story on the 1988 international Operation Breakthrough to rescue trapped gray whales, *Big Miracle* is about an up-and-coming news reports from a small Alaskan town teaming up with his ex-girlfriend and Greenpeace volunteer to save a trapped family of gray whales. Matters get complicated with politics, love, and even nature itself seem set on stopping them.

Grizzly Man (2005, Documentary) Directed by the always fascinating Werner Herzog, this is a riveting documentary about the life and death of Timothy Treadwell, who spent 13 summers filming himself living alongside grizzly bears in Alaska's Katmai National Park—until a bear killed him and his girlfriend in 2003.

Mystery, Alaska (1999, Sport/Comedy). A comedy about the residents of fictional Mystery, Alaska as their local amateur ice hockey team is picked to compete against the New York Rangers in a televised exhibition match.

Spirit of the Wind (1979, Drama). A semi-biographical story of the early life and rise of George Attla, Jr., a famous Alaska Native dog sled diver. Beginning with his start as a Athabaskan trapper, watchers follow him through his life-changing leg injury and his rise as “the Huslia Hustler” and his rise the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame as a champion spirit dog musher.

Useful Websites

Grand Circle Forum (tips from previous travelers)
www.gct.com/forum

Grand Circle Frequently Asked Questions
www.gct.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)
www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs
www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates
www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators
www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather
www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)
www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips
www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection
www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center
www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide
www.timeanddate.com/holidays

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App, Skype, or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more

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from Mt. Sterling, KY



Submitted by David Woods, first-time
traveler from Rockport, TX



Created by Barbara Werren, 31-time traveler
from Lakewood, CO



Created by Sharon Fleury, 8-time traveler
from Poughkeepsie, NY



Created by Susan Karski, 5-time traveler
from Wimauma, FL



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