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Alaska Ferry Vacations

12 Day Grande Denali

Reference ID : 5065

Travel Arrangements starting at US\$4,350.00 per person and is based on Double Occupancy

Single, Triple, and Quad Occupancy rates available upon request

2020: Departures: Daily Departures from May 29 to August 21.

Do you have Alaska Airlines miles sitting around begging to be used? Our agents are happy to help book your flights either with your miles or using our Tour Airfares from home to Alaska and back.

Day 1:

Flight from Seattle to Sitka

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Seattle to Sitka. Fly time is approximately 2.5 hours. Each passenger is allowed 2 free carry-on bags. Checked bags begin at \$25.00.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Sitka

Check out: **Day 3**

This hotel is conveniently located in downtown Sitka, Alaska on Sitka Harbor, less than two miles from the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport. Your hotel offers guests well-appointed accommodations and local cuisine at the Dock Shack, the restaurant and lounge, which provides patrons spectacular views of the local fishing fleet and Mt. Edgecumbe. Complimentary transfers are provided to and from the airport.

Sitka



Sitka is the only Inside Passage community that fronts the Pacific Ocean, hugging Baranof Island's west shore in the shadow of the impressive Mount Edgecumbe, a dormant volcano with a graceful cone reminiscent of Japan's Mount Fuji. Located on Sitka Sound and surrounded by a myriad of small, forested islands, the city of 8,615 residents is marked by the picturesque remnants of its Russian heritage, including the onion-shaped domes and gold colored crosses of the beloved Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Sitka offers superb hiking with trails that begin in the lush rainforest that surrounds the city and often end up high in the mountains. The Tongass National Forest can provide information and maps to more area trails for hiking and camping information.

For the nature lover, Sitka is home to a number of attractions that will amaze and educate visitors. These wildlife-oriented destinations include the Alaska Raptor Center and Fortress of the Bear. The Alaska Raptor Center rehabilitates injured birds and releases them back into the wild. The few who don't regain flight remain housed at the center and visible to guests. Fortress of the Bear features a three-quarter-acre habitat for orphaned brown bear cubs complete with covered viewing areas.

Day 2:

Wildlife Tour

Duration: 2.5 to 5 Hours (availability depending)

Discover Southeast Alaska's majestic landscape and wilderness by cruising Alaska style. Spend your time in Sitka embarking upon a personalized and exciting wildlife boat tour in which you will get to be up close to the magical creatures that are guaranteed to leave you in awe. Experience the smell of whale breath aboard your boat trip. Gaze at the famed puffins and laugh with the curious sea otters as you cruise by.



Day 3:

Flight from Sitka to Juneau

Duration: 45 Minutes, Mid-Day Departure

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Sitka to Juneau, Alaska's capital city. Fly time is approximately 45 minutes. Everyone gets a window seat! Each passenger is allowed up to 50lbs of luggage, but excess may be allowed. Carry-on baggage is stowed by crew before boarding. Make sure you have your camera in your lap for the endless photo opportunities offered on the flight.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Juneau

Check out: **Day 5**

This B&B features 14 deluxe suites in a unique Victorian-style Farmhouse. Come and spend a blissful night in a plush feather bed and indulge in the wonderful homespun comforts all while being nestled in a quiet rural setting in the Mendenhall Valley.

A complimentary full breakfast is provided each morning of your stay. Complimentary transfers to/from the airport or ferry terminal are available.

Juneau



Alaska's state capital is also one of its most beautiful cities and one of the most visited communities in the state. With so much to see and do, there's certain to be something for you in Juneau.

Downtown Juneau sits snugly between Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts and Gastineau Channel, and is a maze of narrow streets running past a mix of new structures, old storefronts and quaint houses featuring early 19th century architecture left over from the town's early gold mining days. The waterfront bustles with cruise ships, fishing boats and floatplanes zipping in and out. With no road access to Juneau, it is the only state capital in the United States that can only be reached by airplane or boat.

Juneau's lively downtown is compact, easy to navigate on foot and always a favorite with visitors. Within easy walking distance of the cruise ship docks are many of Juneau's main attractions, including the state capitol building, Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, several museums (Alaska State Museum is closed until April 2016) and historic South Franklin Street, where turn-of-the-century buildings today are gift shops, restaurants and pubs. Also nearby is the Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau with visitor information, displays and walking tour maps of the city.

Just a 15-minute drive from downtown, one of the city's most iconic sites sits at the edge of a residential neighborhood: Mendenhall Glacier. The glacier sits within the Tongass National Forest – the largest national forest in the United States – and visitors to the area can watch icebergs calve off its frozen face into Mendenhall Lake, go for a hike or check out the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Mendenhall Glacier is one of the 38 major glaciers that extend from the 1,500-square-mile Juneau Icefield, and many of them can be seen from the air as part of a flightseeing tour. Most helicopter tours offer glacier landings, glacier treks and glacier dog sled rides.

Day 4:

Tracy Arm Boat Trip

Duration: 10 Hours, Morning Departure

Full Day Tracy Arm Boat Tour: Board the 56' ship for a cruise to a fjord you won't forget. Tracy Arm is a classic fjord, with snow-capped peaks, hanging glaciers, shear rock palisades, waterfalls, rainbows and the Twin Sawyer Glaciers that crash icebergs right into the sea before your eyes. Drift among the icebergs with a front-row seat and view of the twin tidewater glaciers.



Day 5:

Flight from Juneau to Petersburg

Duration: 45 Minutes

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Juneau to Petersburg, Alaska's "Little Norway". Fly time is approximately 45 minutes. Each passenger is allowed 3 checked bags for no charge and 2 free carry-on bags when flying in Alaska.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Petersburg

Check out: **Day 7**

Your hotel is located right downtown on Main Street in Petersburg. Complimentary transportation is included, both from the ferry terminal and airport as needed. It has 35 rooms in four stories with a coffee shop next to the comfortable lobby. A light continental breakfast is served for your enjoyment.

Petersburg



"Little Norway, Big Adventure"

At the north end of the Wrangell Narrows, a 22-mile channel that is only 300 feet wide and 19 feet deep in places, is Petersburg, the center of Norwegian culture in Alaska.

This community of roughly 3,000 is centered around its busy and scenic waterfront, which is lined with wharfs, working boats and weathered boathouses, while tidy homes and businesses – many decorated with distinctive flowery Norwegian rosemaling – line the quiet streets. The best examples of rosemaling are seen along Sing Lee Alley, the center of old Petersburg. Most of the street is built on pilings over Hammer Slough and dominated by the Sons of Norway Hall, a large white building that was built in 1912 on pilings. Hammer Slough itself is a delight to photographers providing colorful images of Petersburg's waterfront.

Founded by Peter Buschmann of Norway in 1897, the town's fine harbor, abundant fish and a ready supply of ice from nearby LeConte Glacier led him to build a cannery in the area. He enticed his Norwegian friends to relocate and gave his first name to the resulting town. Today Petersburg's Norwegian past can be seen from its street names to its phone book.

LeConte Glacier lies 25 miles east of Petersburg. Day cruises to view the glacier and flightseeing excursions over the glacier are popular. More adventurous travelers can join guided kayak trips to view the glacier and the seals that often gather on its icebergs. Closer to Petersburg, there are more opportunities to kayak, hike and rent public-use cabins.

One of the most popular activities in Petersburg is whale watching. From mid-May to mid-September humpback whales migrate through and feed in Frederick Sound, northwest of town. The peak feeding period is July and August when you also might spot Steller sea lions, orcas and seals.

Day 6:

Whale Watching

Duration: 8 Hours

The Inside waters of Southeast Alaska are well protected from the weather and are incredibly rich with marine life. Frederick Sound is the summer home to a large humpback whale population, where they can be found feeding and playing from May through September. You may also experience killer whales, Dall's porpoise, Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, and bald eagles while on your tour. Snacks and beverages are included.



Day 7:

Flight from Petersburg to Anchorage

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Petersburg to Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Fly time is approximately 2.5 hours. Each passenger is allowed 3 checked bags for no charge and 2 free carry-on bags when flying in Alaska.

Accommodation for 1 night in Anchorage

Check out: **Day 8**

Your tour features an Anchorage hotel in downtown near the Alaska Railroad Depot. Ideally located on the banks of Ship Creek, the property is within walking distance of lovely downtown Anchorage. Attractions that are just minutes away include the Alaska Railroad and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

Anchorage



Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, lies between the mountains and the sea and yet is no stranger to the wilderness. There is no other urban area like it.

Among the northernmost cities on Earth, Anchorage is a place with big-city amenities: fine restaurants, museums, theaters and an excellent music scene. Creating the backdrop are the salmon-rich waters of Cook Inlet and the 5,000-foot-plus peaks of Chugach State Park. Within a short drive from downtown are dozens of wilderness adventures and a short plane ride opens up the possibility of almost any type adventure. That's one reason why Anchorage's Lake Hood is the world's busiest floatplane base. Anchorage's 284,994 residents embrace both the urban amenities and the wilderness beyond it.

Anchorage features dozens of parks and 122 miles of paved bike paths. Warmed by a maritime climate, you can spend the day fishing Ship Creek downtown, hiking the nearby mountains, photographing glaciers and dining at a four-star restaurant. Within a 15-minute drive from downtown is the tree-lined trailhead of Anchorage's most popular hike, Flattop Mountain. In winter, the city transforms into fluffy white playground, with 130 kilometers of maintained Nordic ski trails, dog sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling, ice sculptures and more. Just 45 minutes away is Alaska's premier alpine ski resort, Alyeska Resort.

Anchorage wasn't officially founded until 1915, even though British explorer Captain James Cook sailed past the site in 1779 and gold prospectors discovered the bounty of Ship Creek in the late 1800s. It wasn't until the Alaska Railroad set up a construction camp in 1915 that Anchorage was established and became a booming tent city of 2,000 people. Anchorage proved to be the ideal center for Alaska's rail, air and highway systems with the military build up of World War II and the discovery of oil in Cook Inlet in the 1950s, adding to its steady growth. After the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, the city was rebuilding itself when another opportunity arose: the discovery of a \$10-billion oil reserve in Prudhoe Bay. Though the Trans-Alaska Pipeline doesn't come within 185 miles of Anchorage, the city became the headquarters of various petroleum and service companies.

Day 8:

Train from Anchorage to Denali - Gold Star Service

Duration: 8 Hours, Morning Departure

The Denali Star, the Alaska Railroad's flagship train, links Anchorage to Fairbanks with stops in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Denali Park. GoldStar, first-class service aboard double-deck dome cars, luxury rail travel has never been better. Reserved upper-level dome car seating, priority check-in, upper-level outdoor viewing deck, exclusive lower-level dining room, and complimentary Breakfast and Lunch and non-alcoholic beverages.



Accommodation for 2 nights in Denali National Park

Check out: **Day 10**

The lodge is on Sugarloaf Mountain and is designed with your comfort and convenience in mind. Your first stop is the main lodge, where you will experience warm log architecture with a rock fireplace and vaulted ceilings. The interior design highlights the Alaska Native Heritage of its owners while it offers panoramic views of the surrounding Denali wilderness and the Nenana River canyon. You'll find the lodge is a very special place where you can truly relax, meet friends, share a meal, or simply take in the beauty all around you.

Denali



The towering granite spires and snowy summits of Denali National Park and Preserve straddles 160 miles of the Alaska Range and display so much elevation they are often lost in the clouds. Dominating this skyline is North America's highest peak; Denali standing tall at 20,237 feet and one of the most amazing sights in Alaska. But it's not just the mountain that makes Denali National Park a special place. The park is also home to 37 species of mammals, ranging from lynx, marmots and Dall sheep, to foxes and snowshoe hares, while 130 different bird species have been spotted here, including the impressive golden eagle. Most visitors, however, want to see four animals in particular: moose, caribou, wolf and everybody's favorite: the brown, or grizzly, bear. Here at Denali, unlike most wilderness areas in the country, you don't have to be a backpacker to see this wildlife - people who never sleep in a tent have excellent once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to get a close look at these magnificent creatures roaming free in their natural habitat.

Not surprisingly then, visitors come here in droves; the park is a popular place, attracting 432,000 visitors annually. Over the years the National Park Service (NPS) has developed unique visitor-management strategies, including closing its only road to most vehicles. As a result Denali National Park is still the great wilderness it was 20 years ago. The entrance has changed, but the park itself hasn't, and a brown bear meandering on a tundra ridge still provides the same quiet thrill as it did when the park first opened in 1917.

Although generations of Athabascans had wandered through what is now the park, the first permanent settlement was established in 1905, when a gold miners' rush gave birth to the town of Kantishna. A year later, naturalist and noted hunter Charles Sheldon was stunned by the beauty of the land and horrified at the reckless abandon of the miners and big-game hunters. Sheldon returned in 1907 and traveled the area with guide Harry Karstens in an effort to set up boundaries for a proposed national park. Sheldon was successful as the area was established as Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 with Karstens serving as the park's first superintendent. As a result of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the park was enlarged to more than 6 million acres and renamed Denali National Park and Preserve. Denali now comprises an area slightly larger than the state of Massachusetts and is generally ranked as one of Alaska's top attractions.

Day 9:

Tundra Wilderness Tour

Duration: 6-8 Hours, Early Morning Departure

The Tundra Wilderness Tour is a 6-8 Hour fully narrated tour that travels 53 miles into the Denali Park and Preserve. This tour includes a snack and beverage. The Tour has departure points from all the major area hotels. Departure times are announced the day before your tour and are available from the desk in the lobby upon arrival. Check in is 30 minutes prior to departure.



Day 10:

Train from Denali to Fairbanks - Gold Star Service

Departure: 04:00 pm

Travel aboard the Denali Star with GoldStar service; first-class service aboard double-deck dome cars, luxury rail travel has never been better. Reserved upper-level dome car seating, priority check-in, upper-level outdoor viewing deck, exclusive lower-level dining room, and complimentary Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages.



Accommodation for 2 nights in Fairbanks

Check out: **Day 12**

This riverfront seasonal resort is 2.2 miles from Fairbanks International Airport, 3.7 miles from the University of Alaska's Museum of the North, and 3.9 miles from the train station. The traditional hotel rooms are equipped with cable TV and coffeemakers. Quaint cottages add private patios; some overlook the river. There's also a riverside restaurant with a terrace, and a free airport and train station shuttle service.

Fairbanks



Alaska's second-largest city – Hub of the Interior, Gateway to the Bush, the Golden Heart City – call it what you will, Fairbanks is as diverse and distinct as any place in Alaska. The Fairbanks area is home to just over 100,000 hearty souls, making this region the second-largest population center in Alaska. The city features a university, an Army base and an Air Force Base and is known for dog mushing, northern lights and its extremes of light, dark, warmth and cold. In winter, temperatures as low as -62 degrees have been recorded; temperatures in the 80s are common in summer. Summer days are also long – Fairbanks enjoys more than 22 hours of daylight when the solstice arrives on June 21.

Fairbanks is one of Alaska's best year-round destinations, and visitors will find plenty to do whether they come for the long, warm summer days or to watch spectacular northern lights displays color the night sky in winter. A wide range of activities are available, including shopping the many art galleries filled with pottery, painting, textiles and Alaska Native art and jewelry; rafting or kayaking the meandering Chena River; golfing; fishing; snowmobiling; enjoying tours and attractions like Pioneer Park that celebrate the town's gold history; cross-country and Alpine skiing; wildlife viewing; soaking in hot springs; or even enjoying a locally brewed beer.

Fairbanks is home to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Museum of the North, where the collections feature both natural history and art items. It's rightfully considered one of the finest museums in the state.

Fairbanks is also a gateway for trips further into the Interior and the Arctic. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is accessible by small plane, and any trip up the famous Dalton Highway to Prudhoe Bay – also known as the "Haul Road" – begins in Fairbanks. Check out the city's new Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center for planning help. The center houses the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.

Day 11:

Riverboat Discovery

Duration: 3 Hours, Morning or Afternoon departure

Board the Sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery that will take you into the heart of Alaska and a family who has made the river their way of life for five generations. Be immersed in frontier living first hand with a guided walking tour of an Athabaskan Indian village. It's an Indian village with cabins made of spruce logs, a cache used for storing supplies, a primitive spruce bark hut and fur pelts. The guides will explain how the wolf, fox, martin and beaver were used to provide food and protection in the harsh Arctic climate. They will also share how the Athabascans skillfully survived for over 10,000 years and how they adapted to village life and Western culture in the past century. At the end of your guided tour, you will have time to explore the village on your own, interact with the guides and visit dogs from Iditarod winner Susan Butcher's kennels.



Day 12:

Flight from Fairbanks to Seattle

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Sit back and relax on this scenic flight from Fairbanks to Seattle. Fly time is approximately 3.5 hours. Each passenger is allowed 2 free carry-on bags. Checked bags begin at \$25.00.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS ALASKA TOURS

“Plan-To-Go Deposit”: Agents typically spend up to an hour planning alternative options for you at no charge. After that, your agent will request a small fee (and apply it to the cost of your tour) to cover the time our Alaska Tour Planning Specialists spend further customizing your tour to your timeframe and budget. This fee usually is \$50 per adult.

Reservations: Please make your reservations as early as possible to confirm specific departures. A deposit 50% of the total tour is required at time of booking. Full payment is required 60 days prior to departure.

Itemized Prices: All tours are presented as a package and individual prices will not be broken out due to contractual agreements with vendors.

Cancellations and refunds: Deposits and other payments are non-refundable. Travel Insurance is HIGHLY recommended.

Late reservations: Reservations booked within 30 days of departure are on a request basis and are subject to availability. Late reservations are subject to a \$25 Express Handling fee.

Weather Related Delays/Cancellations: Due to the ever-changing weather in Alaska, cancellation or change of some of tour components may be necessary and are non-refundable.

Travel Insurance: Trip Cancellation, Baggage, Personal Accident, Injury and Liability Insurance is highly recommended at time of booking. Ask your reservations agent about the policies available from Viking Travel, Inc. or consult your insurance agent.

Responsibility: Viking Travel, Inc. acts as agents only and shall not be liable for any inconvenience, loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of defect or through the act of omissions of any person or company performing or rendering services. Viking Travel, Inc. uses independent contractors who are not servants or joint ventures with Viking Travel, Inc.