

# NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

JULY 15-22, 2023

BEARS, WHALES & GLACIERS

# Kenai Fjords & Lake Clark

NATIONAL PARKS

**SEE**

ALASKA'S LEGENDARY  
WILDLIFE

**LEARN**

HOW NPCA PROTECTS SALMON  
AND BEAR POPULATIONS

**EXPLORE**

ON FOOT, VIA KAYAK  
OR CANOE

*Harding Icefield, Kenai Fjords National Park*



**PARK HIGHLIGHTS**

- From playful puffins to feeding humpbacks: **observe Alaska's extraordinary wildlife** and intricate ecosystems
- Enjoy a **flightseeing tour** over snow-covered volcanoes and jagged mountains to **Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**, one of the hardest to access national parks in the United States
- Stay at the only wilderness lodge within **Alaska's 700,000-acre Kenai Fjords National Park** and enjoy naturalist walks, sea kayaking and views of nearby Pederson Glacier

**NPCA EXCLUSIVES**

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- Learn about **NPCA's decade-long work to protect salmon and bear populations** from two proposed gold and copper mines in the region, offshore oil and gas spills, overhunting and visitor impacts
- Enjoy a **guided hike to an otherworldly, massive active glacier**, exploring the sharp, rocky landscape its retreat reveals
- Hear from **NPCA's Bear Coast expert Jen Woolworth**, a former ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service
- Get a **behind-the-scenes look** from NPCA and our partners on how NPCA is building strong partnerships to protect the Kenai and its marine and coastal animals from climate change

**FEATURED BIO: BART MELTON**

**Bart Melton** leads NPCA's Wildlife Program, focusing on the critical issues facing national park wildlife across the country. He has expertise on many natural resource policy issues including mountaintop removal coal mining, climate change, energy development on public lands, wildlife policy and other conservation challenges facing the national parks.

## Bears, Whales and Glaciers

# Kenai Fjords and Lake Clark National Parks

**AVAILABLE DATES:** July 15-22, 2023 | **Min/Max:** 8/14

**Length of Tour:** 8 days/7 nights

**NPCA Member Price:** \$6,995 per person double occupancy; \$1,755 single supplement

**Deposit:** \$1,000 per person due at registration

**Arrive/Depart:** Anchorage, AK

**Reservations:** Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Associate Director of the Educational Travel Program, at **1.800.628.7275** or email the Travel Program at **travel@npca.org**.

**Activity Level:** Travelers should be prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing and sitting. This trip is intended for guests of average physical condition. The group will divide into smaller groups from time to time to match energy levels. As a general guideline, participants should be able to walk at a steady pace for three or four hours without difficulty. Guides will offer active and casual options. By far the most important qualifications are a positive mental attitude, a spirit of adventure, a sense of humor and a willingness to try new and different experiences. For the bear viewing day trip on Day 7, guests will enjoy excellent aerial views from the small aircraft which will take guests from Anchorage to Lake Clark National Park (and back). Once in Lake Clark, guests will access the bear viewing habitat via escorted pontoon boat. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

**Inclusions:** All outlined accommodations, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner) and non-alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), all transportation as noted, park user fees, best of gear and equipment, all guided activities, services of an experienced Trip Leader, all ground shuttle transfers and luggage handling.

**Exclusions:** Airfare, additional accommodations or activities outside of program description, alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), optional guide gratuities and travel insurance.

Explore two of Alaska's most stunning National Parks — Kenai Fjords and Lake Clark — and discover a deep connection to nature in some of North America's wildest places. Incredible scenery abounds, from Alaska's rugged coastline and tidewater glaciers to lush mountain valleys covered with colorful wildflowers. This trip is a wildlife lover's delight — we'll visit prime habitats to seek whales and

bears, among other Alaskan wildlife. Your NPCA expert guides will lead you through hard-to-access and lesser-known areas of the parks, while providing in-depth information on the important role of NPCA and key local partners in the ongoing efforts to preserve Alaska's bear coast. We'll have the opportunity to witness first-hand the incredible results of these efforts which continue to keep the parks unhindered and wild.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL**

Moderate





## DAILY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 JULY 15: Arrivals into Anchorage

1 Plan to arrive in Alaska by at least 2:00 PM in the afternoon today and make your way to the **Lakefront Anchorage hotel**. Courtesy shuttles from the airport are provided. At 4:00 PM this afternoon, meet your NPCA Trip Leader and fellow travelers in the hotel lobby for introductions, followed by a visit to the **Anchorage Museum** to get an overview of this incredible destination. After the museum tour, we'll gather for a special reception and dinner at a well-known local restaurant for Alaskan infused cuisine and enjoy an orientation of the days ahead. [Lakefront Anchorage Hotel \(D\)](#)

### DAY 2 JULY 16: Anchorage to Seward and Exit Glacier

2 Meet your Trip Leader and fellow travelers promptly at 8:00 AM in the hotel lobby. Enjoy a scenic drive south, through **Anchorage** and along **Turnagain Arm** and the **Chugach National Forest** to the stunning seacoast town of **Seward**. Our destination today will be **Exit Glacier**, the only section of the **Harding Icefield** that is accessible by road. We'll make a stop at the **Exit Glacier Nature Center** before embarking on a guided hike of the area to learn more about Alaska's fascinating glaciers. This afternoon, we'll learn about Alaska's amazing coastal environment with a special visit to the **Alaska SeaLife Center**, a marine wildlife and maritime museum. The Center's spectacular 2-story aquarium allows visitors to watch playful and charismatic puffins dive and "fly" underwater with grace and ease. We'll recap the day's activities during a fabulous dinner at **Resurrection Roadhouse**. [Seward Windsong Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

### DAY 3 JULY 17: Kenai Fjords National Park and Glacier Lodge

3 Bid farewell to Seward and board a small boat bound for **Kenai Fjords National Park**—home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife including whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins and more! A half-day marine wildlife cruise will allow you to explore the rugged coastlines. Enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at your exclusive lodge destination: **Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge**. Nestled in a protected tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers miles of pristine beachfront for exploring and enjoying views of the stunning **Pederson Glacier**.



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Kenai Peninsula

This afternoon, meet your guides for a lodge orientation and settle into your private cabins. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations. [Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

### DAY 4-5 JULY 18-19: Kenai Fjords National Park

4-5 Explore the wild delights of **Kenai Fjords National Park** for two full days. After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a wide array of activities that are best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include **naturalist walks**, **sea kayaking**, **group canoe paddles** and more. In the spirit of adventure and to take advantage of tidal and weather patterns, guides will discuss specific nature outings and options with our group this morning. All activities are suitable for beginners and require no previous experience. For those seeking a more relaxed approach, the main lodge offers ideal comfort with direct views of nature. Curious sea otters and seals frequent the lagoon, just steps from the main lodge deck. In a nearby meadow, we can sometimes glimpse bears and other wildlife from a safe distance. The **natural history library** offers amazing resources and interesting reads — cozy up with a good book and let your worries drift out with the tide! Upon return to the main lodge, share stories from your day's adventure with other guests and join local expert guides or guest speakers for a natural history presentation this evening. [Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

### DAY 6 JULY 20: Kenai Fjords National Park to Anchorage

6 Savor another morning in the wilds of **Kenai Fjords National Park**. A morning outing allows for another opportunity to kayak, canoe, hike or beach comb for a half-day before boarding our boat for the return wildlife cruise to **Seward**. Along the way, photograph the sheer cliff walls teeming with birds, plants and other vegetation and scan for more marine wildlife. As we try to spot feeding humpback whales or harbor seals sunning themselves on ice chunks, we'll learn how NPCA is building strong partnerships to protect the park and its marine and coastal animals from climate change. We'll return to **Anchorage** this evening aboard the historic **Alaska Railroad**. Enjoy the spectacular scenery on your rail journey, with Gold Star seating in domed viewing cars; a delicious dinner will be served on board. You'll arrive at the **downtown Anchorage depot** by 10:15 PM and overnight at Lakefront Anchorage. [Lakefront Anchorage \(B, L, D\)](#)





Stellar Sea Lions Resting

**DAY 7** JULY 21: Bear Viewing in Lake Clark National Park

Starting from the **Lake Hood Seaplane Base** in **Anchorage**, prepare for an exciting day of adventure to **Lake Clark National Park** to view bears in this incredible habitat. Enjoy a scenic 1-hour and 10-minute stunning flightseeing tour via floatplane from **Anchorage** to **Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**. Your expert pilot will land at Redoubt Mountain Lodge located on the incredible blue **Crescent Lake** where you will spend your day. Upon arrival you'll meet your knowledgeable **bear viewing guide** who will escort you by covered pontoon boat to lakeside areas where bears feed on spawning wild Alaska salmon. While you observe the important relationship between the world-famous brown bear and wild Alaska salmon, you'll have an opportunity to hear about NPCA's priorities in protecting these iconic species. Situated at the headwaters of **Bristol Bay, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve** is an epitome of the Alaska wilderness landscape. At

four million acres, the Park encompasses volcanoes, jagged mountains, glaciers, wild rivers, waterfalls and diverse Alaska wildlife populations. You'll never forget your visit to one of America's most inaccessible and breathtaking national parks. This unforgettable park and the surrounding landscape provide crucial wildlife habitat and subsistence resources for Alaska Natives, but the looming threats of mining continue to put the people and wildlife of this critical area at risk. Your NPCA staff expert will share details about the decade-long fight against proposed mining in the region. Return to **Anchorage** this evening and overnight at the Lakefront Anchorage. [Lakefront Anchorage \(B, L, D\)](#)

**DAY 8** JULY 22: Departure for home

After breakfast this morning, we will conclude our adventure with a visit to the renowned **Alaska Native Heritage Center**, featuring amazing exhibits and an opportunity to meet local artisans from bush Alaska, a remote region of Alaska in which Indigenous populations and local communities mostly rely on subsistence hunting and fishing. Shuttles to the **Anchorage International Airport** will start at noon; earlier or later departures can be accommodated through the hotel's 24/7 shuttle service. **(B)**

**Please note:** This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.



Coastal Brown Bears



Humpback Whale Breaches Pacific Ocean

**Travel Insurance:** To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

**Traveler Responsibility:** Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form, and accept Alaska Wildland Adventures' Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

**Trip Cancellation Policy:** Written cancellations must be received in the Alaska Wildland Adventure's sales office for a cancellation to be valid. NPCA strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance.

**Cancellation charges will be as follows:**

121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	April 17, 2023	90-46 days prior	45-0 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	Deposit is refundable minus a \$600 fee	Final payment is due	50% of trip cost is refundable	No refund

**COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. **In order to participate in this trip, you must be up to date on all COVID-19 vaccinations, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Please contact us for details.





# Why Travel with NPCA?

Our goal is to offer premium itineraries in educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

For over 100 years, NPCA has worked to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand with our knowledgeable staff and partners. Each of our mission-driven trips is custom-designed exclusively by NPCA for you, our closest supporters. Gain valuable insights into our advocacy and conservation efforts by taking a personal look at NPCA's important contributions to park protection. You'll come away with a deeper understanding of, and connection to, this crucial work, made possible only by your support.

## **GAIN ACCESS TO OUR EXPERTS**

Spend quality time with your knowledgeable NPCA trip experts as you experience the national parks alongside those who have fought to protect them. Our trips provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other fascinating specialists who bring these places and their stories to life, providing insights into the cultural, natural, and historical significance of the areas and topics explored.

## **SUPPORT NPCA'S MISSION**

By traveling on any of our trips as an NPCA member, a percentage of your trip goes back to support NPCA's work to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

## **ENJOY SMALL GROUPS**

Group size on each of our land trips is guaranteed to be no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, boost educational opportunities and allow the group to access lesser-visited places that larger groups cannot. You'll be joined by other park enthusiasts from around the country to share in the experience.

## **TRAVEL WITH EASE**

With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning on your own. Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, expert speakers, transportation at the destination, and all activities (unless otherwise stated). We have also worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic.

## **TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY**

Each NPCA travel operator partner is selected based on criteria that includes a commitment to environmentally and socially responsible travel so that we can ensure our parks are preserved in perpetuity.

Tanalian Mountain, Lake Clark National Park

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Over 70% of our funding comes from donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at [npca.org](https://www.npca.org).