

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

JULY 13-20, 2024

BEARS, WHALES AND GLACIERS
**KENAI FJORDS
& LAKE CLARK**
NATIONAL PARKS

SEEK

ALASKA'S LEGENDARY
WILDLIFE

LEARN

HOW NPCA PROTECTS SALMON
AND BEAR POPULATIONS

EXPLORE

ON FOOT AND BY KAYAK
OR CANOE

Slope Mountain, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

**PARK HIGHLIGHTS**

- In search of **Alaska's extraordinary wildlife**: keep your eyes peeled for puffins and humpbacks on our unforgettable journey
- 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 walks with a naturalist, sea kayaking and views of nearby Pedersen 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 role** in achieving a recent victory over the proposed Pebble Mine
- Embark on a **guided hike to an otherworldly, massive active glacier** and explore the sharp, rocky landscape its retreat reveals
- Hear from **NPCA's Bear Coast expert Jen Christopherson**, 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 we're building strong partnerships to protect the Kenai and its marine and coastal animals from climate change

**FEATURED BIO: JEN CHRISTOPHERSON**

Jen Christopherson serves as NPCA's Alaska Program Manager. Before joining NPCA, she worked as a park ranger in several areas in Utah and Alaska. Her focus is on preserving the incredible and pristine wildlife habitats along the Bear Coast of Alaska.

Bears, Whales and Glaciers

Kenai Fjords and Lake Clark National Parks

AVAILABLE DATES: July 13-20, 2024 | **Min/Max:** 8/14

Length of Tour: 8 days/7 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$7,195 per person double occupancy; \$8,995 single occupancy

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

Arrive/Depart: Anchorage, AK

Reservations: Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at **1.800.628.7275** or email 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 a 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 to arrival location and from departure location, 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 experience 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

icons. 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 the incredible results of these efforts, which continue to keep the parks unhindered and wild.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate





ITINERARY

DAY 1 JULY 13: Arrivals into Anchorage

1 Plan to arrive in Alaska no later than 2:00 PM and make your way to **The Lakefront Anchorage hotel**. Courtesy shuttles from the airport are provided. At 4:00 PM, we'll meet our 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. [*The Lakefront Anchorage \(or equivalent\) \(D\)*](#)

DAY 2 JULY 14: Anchorage to Seward and Exit Glacier

2 Today, we'll 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 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. In the afternoon, we'll learn about Alaska's coastal environment with a special visit to the **Alaska SeaLife Center**, a marine wildlife and maritime museum. The center's spectacular two-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 dinner at **Resurrection Roadhouse**. [*Seward Windsong Lodge \(B, L, D\)*](#)

DAY 3 JULY 15: Kenai Fjords National Park and Glacier Lodge

We'll 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 us to explore the rugged coastlines. We'll enjoy lunch in front of a calving glacier before arriving at our exclusive lodge desti-

nation: **Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge**. Nestled in a protected tidal lagoon area, the Glacier Lodge offers miles of expansive beachfront and views of the stunning **Pedersen Glacier**. In the afternoon, we'll meet our guides for a lodge orientation and settle into our private cabins. This evening, we'll enjoy dinner and evening presentations. [*Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge \(B, L, D\)*](#)



Orca whale in front of glaciers at Kenai Fjords National Park

DAY 4-5 JULY 16-17: Kenai Fjords National Park
 For two full days, we'll explore the wild delights of **Kenai Fjords National Park**. After breakfast in the main lodge, choose from a variety of activities best suited to your energy level and interest. Guided options include **walks with a naturalist, 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. Upon return to the main lodge, we'll share stories from our day's adventure with other guests and join local expert guides or guest speakers for a natural history presentation in the evening. [Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

DAY 6 JULY 18: Kenai Fjords National Park to Anchorage
 We'll savor another morning in the wilds of **Kenai Fjords National Park**. A morning outing allows for another opportunity to kayak, canoe, hike or explore the beach for a half-day before boarding our boat for the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Along the way, there will be ample opportunity to photograph the sheer cliff walls teeming with birds, plants and other vegetation and scan for more marine wildlife. As we try to spot feeding hump-back 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** and enjoy the spectacular scenery on our rail journey, with Gold Star seating in domed viewing cars and a delicious dinner served on board. We'll arrive at the **downtown Anchorage depot** by 10:15 PM and overnight in Anchorage. [The Lakefront Anchorage \(or equivalent\) \(B, L, D\)](#)



Baby bear in Bristol Bay

DAY 7 JULY 19: Bear Viewing in Lake Clark National Park
 Starting from the **Lake Hood Seaplane Base in Anchorage**, we'll prepare for an exciting day of adventure to **Lake Clark National Park** to view bears in this incredible habitat. We'll take a scenic 1-hour, 10-minute stunning flightseeing tour via floatplane from **Anchorage to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**. Our expert pilot will land at **Redoubt Mountain Lodge** located on the incredibly blue **Crescent Lake** where we will spend our day. Upon arrival we'll meet our knowledgeable **bear viewing guide** who will escort us by covered pontoon boat to lakeside areas where bears feed on spawning wild Alaska salmon. While we observe the important relationship between the world-famous brown bear and wild Alaska salmon, we'll have an opportunity to hear about NPCA's role in achieving a recent victory over the proposed Pebble Mine. Situated at the headwaters of **Bristol Bay, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve** is an epitome of the Alaska wilderness landscape. At 4 million acres, the park encompasses volcanoes, jagged mountains, glaciers, wild rivers, waterfalls and diverse Alaska wildlife populations. We'll return to **Anchorage** for our final evening of the tour. [The Lakefront Anchorage \(or equivalent\) \(B, L, D\)](#)



Exit Glacier Trail, Kenai Fjords National Park

DAY 8 JULY 20: Departure for home
 After breakfast, 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 where Indigenous populations and local communities mostly rely on subsistence hunting and fishing. Shuttles to the **Anchorage Interna-**

tional Airport will start at noon; earlier or later departures can be accommodated through the hotel's 24/7 shuttle service. **(B)**
Accommodations and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond NPCA's control.

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 participating in a trip. Travelers are also 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 are as follows:

121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	April 15, 2024	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 has developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. 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. Our curated itineraries offer more than just sightseeing. With NPCA, you'll delve into the cultural and natural history of each destination, guided by passionate experts who bring these stories to life. We believe that true appreciation for our parks goes hand in hand with awareness of the conservation efforts being made to protect them. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local communities as they share their invaluable insights and discuss the challenges and triumphs of safeguarding these natural treasures. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

ACCESS NPCA STAFF EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures led by our team of knowledgeable staff who represent a wide range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, our staff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insights into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, climate change and Indigenous perspectives. Together, we'll explore the multifaceted aspects of these remarkable landscapes.

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey – you're making a meaningful impact. Our commitment to conservation runs deep, and we are proud to share that a portion of every trip's fees directly supports NPCA's vital work. Your choice to travel with us helps protect and strengthen the National Park System for generations to come.

ENJOY PERSONALIZED AND INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Escape the crowds and embrace the beauty of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. Our trips offer a more intimate setting, allowing you to forge meaningful connections with fellow travelers who share your passion for adventure and conservation.

CONNECT WITH NPCA PARTNERS AND LOCAL EXPERTS

Collaborate with key NPCA partners and local experts who are deeply connected to the destinations we visit. Engage in dialogue with scientists, community leaders and Tribal members who are at the forefront of conservation and preservation efforts. Their firsthand accounts and valuable perspectives will deepen your understanding of the challenges and successes in protecting our national parks.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Embrace the spirit of responsible travel as you embark on a journey that leaves a positive footprint on the planet. At NPCA, we prioritize partnering with responsible tour operators who share our commitment to sustainability and conservation. With their expertise and dedication, we ensure that every step of your trip aligns with our shared values.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

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.