



SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA TRAVEL/STUDY ECOTOUR JUNE 28 - JULY 11, 2008

Alaska is more than just a place ... it is a state of mind. The name Alaska in Aleut means "The Great Country," and it is just that! The landscapes of our 49th state are vast, and the scenery is superlative. This tour will examine the physical geography and natural history of southcentral Alaska including the glacier-wrapped Chugach Mountains and Alaska Range, Denali National Park and Preserve, Prince William Sound, the fjords of the Kenai Peninsula (often called Alaska's Riviera), and Resurrection Bay. Tour participants will also have the opportunity to explore the history and culture of Anchorage, Talkeetna, Valdez (terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline), Whittier, and Seward. This "ecotour" will feature environmentally sensitive travel that combines the pleasures of touring Alaska with the satisfaction of discovering and learning about Alaska's physical and cultural environments.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - June 28 (Saturday)

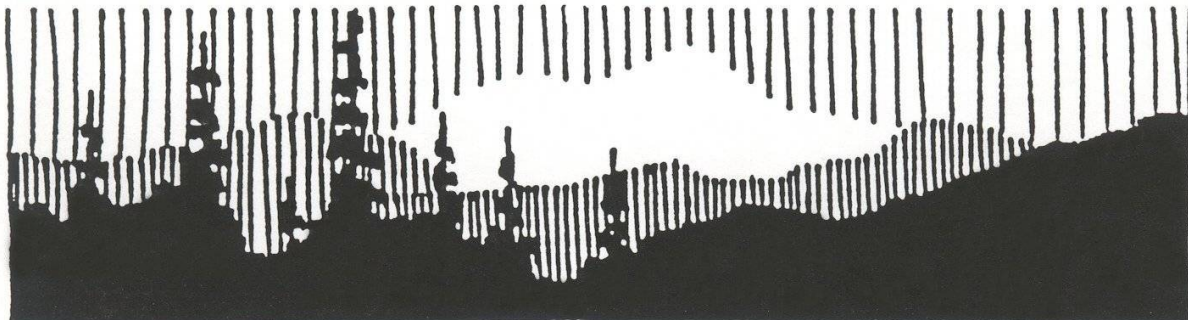
Travel to Anchorage from BWI Airport (late morning departure). Early evening arrival in Anchorage. Overnight at the Westmark Anchorage.

Day 2 – June 29 (Sunday)

Morning tour of the Anchorage Museum of History. Afternoon tour of the Alaska Native Heritage Center and selected stops in Anchorage. Evening free to explore Anchorage. Overnight at Westmark Anchorage.

Day 3 – June 30 (Monday)

Day trip from Anchorage along the picturesque Turnagain Arm section of the Seward Highway (National Forest Scenic Byway). Stops at the Chugach State Park, Portage Glacier, and Potter Marsh (part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge), along with stops to photograph the Turnagain Arm. Overnight at the Westmark Anchorage.



Day 4 - July 1 (Tuesday)

Drive to Denali National Park and Preserve via the Glenn and George Parks Highways. Stops enroute at the Eklutna Village Historical Park, the Musk Ox Development Corporation, the Iditarod Trail Committee headquarters in Wasilla, and Talkeetna (home of the annual "Moose Dropping Festival"), along with stops for photographs of Mt. McKinley. Overnight at the McKinley Chalet Resort.

Day 5 - July 2 (Wednesday)

All day National Park Service bus tour of the Denali National Park and Preserve (the 66-mile trip to the Eielson Visitor Center takes 5 hours one way!). The bus makes frequent stops to photograph the park's abundant wildlife (grizzly bears, caribou, Dall sheep, and wolves). Overnight at the McKinley Chalet Resort.

Day 6 - July 3 (Thursday)

Free day to explore Denali National Park and Preserve. Optional activities include backcountry hiking, whitewater rafting, flightseeing, or a day trip to Fairbanks. Overnight at the McKinley Chalet Resort.

Day 7 - July 4 (Friday)

Drive from Denali National Park to Valdez via the George Parks, Denali, and Richardson Highways. Stops enroute to photograph the glacial features and wildlife of the Alaska Range, the Trans Alaska Pipeline, the Wrangell-St. Elias Range, and Thompson Pass. Overnight at the Aspen Hotel Valdez.

Day 8 - July 5 (Saturday)

Morning drive on the Richardson Highway with stops at Keystone Canyon, Thompson Pass, and the Worthington Glacier. Afternoon whitewater raft trip on the Lowe River (class 3). Evening free to explore Valdez. Overnight at the Aspen Hotel Valdez.

Day 9 - July 6 (Sunday)

Travel from Valdez to Whittier via the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry (M/V Aurora). The 6-hour cruise on Prince William Sound includes numerous opportunities to photograph the Sound's tidewater glaciers and wildlife. Travel from Whittier to Portage and drive from Portage to Seward via the Seward Highway with stops enroute at Turnagain Pass and Tern Lake. Overnight at the Seward Windsong Lodge.

Day 10 - July 7 (Monday)

Morning tour of the Alaska SeaLife Center. Afternoon tour of the Exit Glacier. Overnight at the Seward Windsong Lodge.

Day 11 - July 8 (Tuesday)

Free day to explore Seward. Optional activities include hiking one of the many trails in the area, halibut or salmon fishing, sailing or sea kayaking on Resurrection Bay, or exploring the town of Seward. Overnight at the Seward Windsong Lodge.

Day 12 - July 9 (Wednesday)

All day cruise on Resurrection Bay (the 6-hour cruise provides numerous opportunities to photograph the Bay's abundant marine wildlife, the Holgate Glacier, and scenic vistas). Travel to Anchorage via the Alaska

Railroad. Overnight at the Westmark Anchorage.

Day 13 - July 10 (Thursday)

Free day to explore Anchorage. Travel to Baltimore from Anchorage International Airport (early evening departure).

Day 14 - July 11 (Friday)

Morning arrival at BWI.



TOUR LEADERS

Dr. John Morgan is a Professor of Geography and Environmental Planning and Director of the Geospatial Research and Education Laboratory at Towson University. Charles Davis is a free lance ecologist, an instructor in the Certificate in Environmental Studies Program at the Johns Hopkins University, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Natural History Society of Maryland. Dr. Morgan has traveled extensively throughout North America, parts of Europe, and Australia, and has conducted thirteen prior Alaska travel/study ecotours. Mr. Davis has traveled extensively throughout North America, parts of Europe and Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and has conducted one prior Alaska travel/study ecotour. Their knowledge of natural history, physical geography, wildlife biology, ecology, environmental studies, and the history and cultural heritage of Alaska--along with their experience in conducting field trips to Alaska and other destinations--makes them well qualified to make this tour an educational and enjoyable experience.

CONDITIONS

Space Availability

Space is limited to 27 participants and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All are welcome! Note: you do not need to be a Towson University student to participate on this tour.

Academic Credit

The tour may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit in geography (from 3 to 6 semester hours). Contact Dr. Morgan at 410-704-2964 for additional information.

Tour Cost

The tour cost is \$3,595 per person if paid in full by Monday, March 28, 2008. After that date, the tour cost is \$3,795 per person. The tour cost is based on a minimum of 20 participants and includes:

- Roundtrip airfare (coach class) to and from Baltimore and Anchorage.
- Quality lodging (double occupancy) at all locations. Single room supplement available upon request for an additional cost.
- All ground transportation costs in Alaska including use of 7 passenger minivans, Denali National Park and Preserve bus tour ticket, Alaska Marine Highway ticket (Valdez to Whittier), Resurrection Bay cruise ticket, and Alaska Railroad ticket (Seward to Anchorage).
- Costs for all listed group activities.
- Continental breakfast while in Valdez; lunch during Resurrection Bay cruise; farewell dinner in

Seward.

- Two comprehensive pre-tour briefings at Towson University.
- A reference packet with literature, maps, and other materials.
- Membership in the Alaska Natural History Association (provides a 15 percent discount at all ANHA bookstores, discounts on purchases at Natural History Association outlets at parks and public lands throughout the United States, and other benefits).
- Services of two experienced faculty members who will guide and lecture throughout the tour.

Not included in the tour cost are meals (other than those indicated), tuition and fees for those individuals interested in earning academic credit, and costs for optional individual free-time activities.

Reservations

A \$1,000 deposit is required to secure a reservation. The balance of the tour cost is due by Friday, March 28, 2008. Reservations received after Friday, March 28, 2008 must include payment of the full tour cost. Make your check payable to the "Geography Department Travel/Study Account" and mail it to:

Dr. John M. Morgan, III, Professor
 Department of Geography and Environmental Planning
 Towson University
 8000 York Road
 Baltimore, Maryland 21252-0001



The deposit or full tour cost may be paid by check or with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover) via PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com>). Contact Dr. Morgan at 410-704-2964 or jmorgan@towson.edu for additional information.

Notes

The tour leaders reserve the right to make adjustments to the itinerary should the need arise. Written notice is required to cancel a reservation. Cancellation is subject to a \$250 handling fee before March 28, 2008 and a \$500 handling fee thereafter. In the event of cancellation, payments (minus the handling fee) will be returned within 30 days following receipt of the written cancellation notice. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are nonrefundable unless the space is resold, in which case a \$500 handling fee will apply. The tour organizers do not act as agents for airlines, motels, transportation companies, and other suppliers, and as such are free of liability for injury, delay, or damage from any cause, including additional costs incurred by participants due to the above. All prices are based on current rates and are subject to change. No refunds for unused portions. Travel insurance for at least the cost of the air/ground travel to and from Alaska is strongly recommended.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the tour contact Dr. John Morgan at 410-704-2964 or jmorgan@towson.edu, or visit the tour Web site at <http://alaska.towson.edu>.