

A large, white, geodesic dome structure, likely an astronomical observatory, is the central focus. It sits on a white cylindrical base with a dark door and small windows. The scene is set at night, with a vibrant green aurora borealis (Northern Lights) dancing in the sky above a dark forest of evergreen trees. The foreground is covered in snow and some wooden logs.

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MOUNTAINS, GLACIERS AND PARKS

ALASKA

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Denali National Park

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Day 1

Arrive in Anchorage by air or water. In one of the world's most northern cities, take the opportunity to explore the many museums, restaurants and eclectic boutiques and stores. A visit to the **Alaska Aviation Museum** is a must, and do not miss the spectacular views during dinner at the Crow's Nest atop The Hotel Captain Cook. For the second day, explore the wildlife and glaciers of Alaska. Take one of the many tours available that range from 2.5 to eight hours long. Customize your day to include the **Portage Glacier**, **Mount Alyeska** or **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**. Cruise across **Portage Lake** to see glaciers and learn from guides about the plants and animals in **Portage Valley**. Ride a tram to the summit of **Mount Alyeska** to view the Turnagain Arm off Cook Inlet and many alpine glaciers. Those visiting the wildlife center will see wolves, elk and grizzly bears.

Accommodation: Anchorage

ANCHORAGE TO KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA

Start the morning at the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** to see dwellings and demonstrations that introduce the state's 11 major cultural groups. Those who are adventurous can follow a 2.4-kilometer trail and hike to the summit of the 1,070-meter **Flattop Mountain**. In the afternoon, take a 45-minute flight from Anchorage to Kodiak Island for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Kodiak Island

KODIAK ISLAND TO ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Day 2

On Kodiak Island, take a guided sightseeing excursion or sea float tour to see some of the 3,000 bears living on the island. Alternatively, rent a car and explore the island by yourself. The island, the second largest in the USA after Hawaii, is one of the country's true adventure destinations. Take an early evening flight back to Anchorage.

Accommodation: Anchorage

ANCHORAGE TO DENALI, ALASKA

Day 3

Depart Anchorage on a scenic journey aboard the **Denali Star Train to Denali National Park**. Consider upgrading to a dome car for better sightseeing. Your journey will take you north through Talkeetna, with spectacular views of **Mount McKinley** and the Alaska wilderness en route. Alternatives to the train are the Park Connection Motorcoach that runs daily and may be a faster way to get to your destination. Many people choose to ride the train in one direction and the bus the other way to view different scenery. Another option is air service, which also operates from Anchorage to Denali.

Accommodation: Denali

Fairbanks, Alaska



Day 4

Enjoy a full day exploring Denali. Covering more than 2 million hectares, this remote wilderness features the tallest peak in North America as well as alpine forests, tundra and glaciers. Bus tours take you through the park via 148-kilometer Denali Park Road. Tours range from 4.5 to 13 hours, and advance reservations should be made. Choose from nature and wildlife tours as well as the Kantishna Tour, which

deposits you in a historic gold town. Denali has no shortage of outdoor recreational opportunities. Set off on a hike from the visitor's center or **Savage River**. Join a ranger-led walk or program, go white-water rafting on the **Nenana River**, try mountain biking or visit the Denali sled dog kennels to see a demonstration.

Accommodation: Denali

DENALI TO ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Day 5

Return to Anchorage by bus, train or airplane and enjoy an afternoon and evening discovering the shopping, arts, crafts, museums and dining options in the city.

Accommodation: Anchorage

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