

*A northern lights adventure so special
it only happens every eleven years!*



CELEBRATING THE IDITAROD
ALASKA WINTER SPECTACULAR
February 27-March 7, 2025

Step into an authentic Alaskan experience and witness the heart and soul of the Last Frontier from a new perspective. Take part in celebrating what few ever experience – the Iditarod! Meet the mushers during the race's ceremonial start and enjoy the lively Rondo festival. There will also be snow- and ice-sculpting competitions, dog sledding, and the northern lights. Visit the North Pole, explore Alaska's Native cultures, and soak in the soothing waters of the area's natural hot springs!

Space is limited.
**Register
today!**





Iditarod Ceremonial Start



Alaska Native Heritage Center

DAY 1 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ANCHORAGE

Today we will transfer to the airport for our flight to **Anchorage, Alaska**, to settle into the beautiful **Anchorage Hilton Hotel** for the next three nights. This property is the ideal location to witness the exhilaration of the Iditarod Ceremonial Start and the **Fur Rendezvous Festival**, known locally as Rondo. This lively festival has been proudly epitomizing the pioneering spirit of Alaskans since 1935 and is one of the biggest winter celebrations in the United States. Events include the Outhouse Races with custom outhouses on skis, the Fur Auction honoring the historic economic importance of the Alaska fur trade, the Blanket Toss which was developed to help hunters on the treeless tundra spot game in the distance, and the exciting Rondo Carnival. The evening is yours to explore the area and have dinner on your own.

DAY 2 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

ANCHORAGE

(Breakfast, Dinner)

With the festivities just steps from the hotel, it will be easy to enjoy Rondo's fun and crazy events, browse the shops, and explore Anchorage's museums on our own. For those seeking unique adventures, two optional excursions are available. The first is a thrilling ninety-minute **glacier and wildlife flightseeing tour** and the other is an **introduction to the art of snowshoeing**. This afternoon includes a visit to the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** to explore Alaska's eleven major Native cultures and their traditions. The center features permanent collections as well as traditional Native dwellings that circle Lake Tiulana. Dinner this evening will be at one of Anchorage's top restaurants. *(Optional excursions can be purchased at final payment and are subject to availability.)*

DAY 3 SATURDAY, MARCH 1

ANCHORAGE

(Breakfast, Dinner)

We will feel the pulse of excitement in the air as we witness the **ceremonial start of the Iditarod**. This morning the Iditarod teams will be lined up on 4th Avenue awaiting their turn to start their eleven-mile journey through the city via streets and trails. Be sure to cheer on your favorites after breakfast! The Iditarod, nicknamed "The Last Great Race on Earth," is the premier event in dog sled racing. The competition is almost as fierce as the forces of nature that are faced in this battle from Anchorage to Nome. Today is the perfect opportunity to meet mushers, gather autographs, and take photographs of them with their dog sled teams. These four-legged athletes receive superior care and nutrition before and during the Iditarod. Browse souvenirs from street vendors and then have lunch at one of the many restaurants or enjoy a tasty reindeer sausage from a food stand. Consider exploring the **GCI Snow Sculpture Competition** in which artists compete for snow dominance and the chance to represent Alaska at the U.S. Nationals. The display of carvings made from eight-foot blocks of compressed snow is impressive! Or head to the **Ulu Knife Factory** to learn about one of Alaska's top souvenirs dating back 5,000 years and how it played an important role in the survival of the Inuit people. A can't miss is a festival highlight, the **"Running of the Reindeer."** Similar to Spain's "Running of the Bulls," "Running of the Reindeer" is exactly that, but this wacky event features many runners dressed in hilarious costumes. Tonight the excitement continues with an evening of great food, popcorn throwing, and laughter! We will enjoy dinner and have a fun-filled evening at the **Fur Rondo Melodrama**, one of the festival's most popular events.

DAY 4 SUNDAY, MARCH 2

GIRDWOOD

(Breakfast, Box Lunch)

Today we say goodbye to Anchorage and **travel to Whittier via a 2.5-mile tunnel**, the longest combined rail and highway tunnel in North America. Upon arrival we'll **board the Voyager and cruise Blackstone Bay**, traveling to the face of the Beloit and Blackstone tidewater glaciers and past numerous frozen waterfalls and hanging glaciers. Once back on land, we will head to **Girdwood**, learning along the way about the fascinating science of the aurora borealis in preparation for evenings to come. The trip south is one of the most scenic in Alaska, with the waters of Turnagain Arm on one side and the Chugach Mountains on the other. Along the way, we will stop at the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** to view wildlife up close. The Center takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and maintains over 200 acres of large, spacious habitats for the animals to feel at home and display their natural behavior. Our hotel is the gem of Alaska, the **Alyeska Resort** in the Chugach Mountains. This luxurious resort offers beautiful guest rooms and amazing views. Settle in and then join the group for an **aerial tram ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska** to take in the spectacular vistas. At an elevation of 2,300 feet, the views include Turnagain Arm, seven hanging glaciers, and endless peaks of the Chugach Mountain Range. This evening will be our first opportunity to witness the amazing wonder and awe of the **northern lights**! Auroral intensity varies from night to night and hour by hour, so a northern light wake-up call is a great option.



DAY 5 MONDAY, MARCH 3

TALKEETNA

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Our day's adventure begins with a visit to **The Musk Ox Farm** for an educational walking tour that will teach us about these animals with a two-layered coat well-adapted to the frigid climate. Qiviut is the soft underwool that is used to create beautiful garments softer than cashmere and eight times warmer than wool. Time will be available to shop for unique qiviut items before we venture to the **Iditarod Headquarters**. Up next is **Talkeetna**. Historic Talkeetna was established as a mining town and trading post, and it is here where we will stop in to see **Aurora Dora** to hear aurora hunting tales and browse her breathtaking photography. We'll also discover the colorful history and frontier spirit of this quirky village at the **Talkeetna Historical Society**. Our accommodations this evening will be at the **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge** (or similar) with its majestic views of the Alaska Range and Denali. Following dinner, consider sitting near the crackling fire to await the amazing **aurora borealis** that beautifully highlights Denali. Sign up for an aurora wake-up call tonight if you would like.

DAY 6 TUESDAY, MARCH 4

FAIRBANKS

(Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we will travel to **Fairbanks**, known as "The Golden Heart City" due to its gold rush history and welcoming people. Upon arrival we'll settle into the **Springhill Suites** in the heart of downtown and freshen up for dinner. The excitement will continue tonight as we venture to the **Ice Alaska World Ice Art Championship** to view over 100 competition sculptures and exhibition pieces. Each year the finest sculptors from around the globe converge on Fairbanks to compete in the world's most challenging and prestigious ice sculpting competition. The incredible, illuminated sculptures can be viewed on a leisurely stroll along a winding forest path. You won't believe your eyes at the skill and incredible detail of these masterpieces! Later this evening, you may choose an **optional ice fishing and aurora viewing excursion**. This 3.5-hour tour includes everything you need to ice fish in a heated cabin while also hunting the aurora.

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

FAIRBANKS

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Today is a day for dreams to come true and experiences to touch your soul, and it all begins with an **exhilarating dog sled ride!** Sit back and relax as a skilled musher leads their dog sled team on a trip of a lifetime. We'll glide along a snow-covered trail into a magical winter wonderland where the only sounds to hear are the musher's commands and those of our hearts as they pump with excitement. Afterward we will return to Fairbanks for some time to explore the quaint shops filled with Alaskan treasures and enjoy lunch on our own. Consider visiting the Yukon Quest Visitor Center which tells the story of the famous 1,000-mile Yukon Quest international dog sled race. Then it's time to check into **Chena Hot Springs Resort**, which is world-renowned as one of the best places on Earth to see the aurora borealis. A **geothermal renewable energy tour** highlighting the resort's power plant and greenhouses awaits us here. The geothermal system is fed by water that has been circulating deep underground for thousands of years. Next up is a guided tour of the **Aurora Ice Museum**. The museum was built from over 1,000 tons of ice and snow and boasts a number of iconic ice sculptures! A lovely dinner is included followed by plenty of time to enjoy the resort's **natural hot springs rock lake**. As you soak in these soothing mineral waters, enjoy every moment while awaiting the northern lights that will dance above your head. It makes for a thrilling evening!

DAY 8 THURSDAY, MARCH 6

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

This morning's touring will take us to the **North Pole** for a photo stop. This pole is one of two poles made during a campaign to properly mark the top of the Earth. On December 11, 1951, its twin was pushed out of an aircraft to mark the Geographic North Pole. A stop at the North Pole wouldn't be complete without a visit to the **Santa Claus House**. Time will be available to shop for holiday treasures and even have letters from Santa sent to friends and family. We will then head back to Fairbanks for lunch followed by a stop at the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline Viewpoint** for photos. This impressive pipeline carries oil 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean to the pipeline terminus at Port Valdez. Fasten your seatbelts for our next stop, the **Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum** voted one of the best car museums in the world! It features an outstanding collection of vintage automobiles and period fashions complemented by fascinating exhibits, accessories, photographs, and archival videos from Victorian times through the Art Deco era. After a spectacular farewell dinner, we'll head to the airport for our overnight flight home.

DAY 9 FRIDAY, MARCH 7

HOME

We will arrive home early this morning.



INCLUSIONS

- Round-Trip Airport Transfers
- Round-Trip Air to Anchorage & Return From Fairbanks
- Private Motorcoach Transportation
- 7 Nights' Accommodations
- 15 Meals (7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
- Admission to Attractions as Stated on Itinerary
- Porter Service of One Bag Per Person at Hotels
- Taxes & Gratuities for Included Services
- Star Destinations Tour Manager in Alaska

Not included in the price of this tour: meals other than those listed on the itinerary, beverages other than tea/coffee/water with included meals, items of a personal nature/souvenirs, optional excursions, optional excursion driver/guide gratuities, travel protection plan, current baggage fees at the airport as assessed by the airline, and any service not listed in the above inclusions.

Activity Level: Moderate

In order to participate in this tour, **you must:**

- Be able to walk/stand 3-4 hours at a time at an easy pace in all weather conditions
- Be able to regularly maneuver stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces without assistance

TOUR PRICING*

\$5,825 per person, Double Occupancy
\$6,559 per person, Single Occupancy

*Tour cost subject to 3% credit card transaction fee.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Guthrie County State Bank RECOMMENDS that all travelers purchase a Travel Protection Plan. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services.

See the included Travelex Insurance Services flyer for pricing.
(Payment may be sent with your deposit or with final payment to Guthrie County State Bank)

Travel Protection Plan may be purchased any time before or with final payment to Guthrie County State Bank.

Travel Insurance is underwritten by Zurich American Insurance Company, (NAIC #16535). Any person who knowingly presents a false or fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit or knowingly presents false information in an application for insurance is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in prison. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. Travelex Insurance Services Inc. ("Travelex Insurance") maintains an updated list of alerts and financial defaults on its website available at <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/customer-service/travel-alerts/travel-supplier>.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC # 16535).

A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form in order to reserve your spot by:

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE:
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Tour requires a minimum of 14 passengers to operate.

For further information or questions, please contact:

Gayle Shackelford
(641) 755-4023
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Custom designed
tour by



DOCUMENTATION: A current government-issued photo ID is required for this trip. **Effective May 7, 2025: All travelers on domestic flights must have a Real ID-compliant form of identification to board. Driver's licenses with a star inside a gold circle in the upper corner are Real ID-compliant, as are passports. You can apply to get a compliant ID by visiting your local DMV.**

OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Guthrie County State Bank recommends that you purchase a Travel Protection Plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected so you can relax and enjoy your trip. Participants may purchase this coverage from the provider of your choice. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan, 360° Group Premier provided by Travelex Insurance Services, that helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage, and more. For more information, please see the product flyer included with this brochure. If you would like to purchase the offered plan, please check the applicable box on the registration form. **Please Note:** The plan cannot be purchased after final payment. To view/download the Policy, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, go to: <https://policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPZ-1023>. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. The purchase of this product is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service. Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You may have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel policy offered through Travelex with any existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is offered on behalf of and under the direction of Travelex Insurance Services. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC# 16535).

CANCELLATION: Full refund of all monies is made if cancellation is received in writing to Guthrie County State Bank prior to final payment, less the non-refundable 3% credit card transaction fee (if credit card is used). A 100% fee is charged if the cancellation occurs between final payment and departure. If the reason for cancellation is due to a medical or other reason that is covered by Travel Protection, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider.

TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: You must advise Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) at the time of registration of any disability requiring special attention. SDI will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of travelers. The Americans with Disabilities Act is applicable only in the U.S., and accommodations outside the U.S. may be more limited. Travelers requiring assistance are required to be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the assistance. Neither SDI personnel nor its suppliers may lift or physically assist with travelers' special needs including, but not limited to, walking, dining, or other routine activities. Travelers thinking they may need assistance should call SDI to determine what accommodations may reasonably be provided. Arrangements at an additional cost are the financial responsibility of the traveler.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) acts as an agent for suppliers such as airlines, hotels, or activities to provide you with the travel services and accommodations. Although great care is taken in choosing suppliers, we are unable to control them and, therefore, cannot be held responsible or liable for their acts or omissions. Should a contracted supplier be unable to perform the required services, SDI reserves the right to substitute advertised services with similar services. SDI is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or expenses arising out of injury, accident or death, damage, loss, trip delay, delay of baggage, cancellation, or other inconvenience resulting from mechanical breakdowns, fire, theft, civil disturbances, government actions, weather, and other factors beyond our control. In the case of a pandemic or worldwide or localized disturbance that interrupts or cancels your planned tour, SDI will do everything possible to retrieve any refundable components of your tour but cannot be held responsible for any non-refundable portions of the tour. In addition, SDI reserves the right to vary the tour price advertised or printed to cover any increase in airfare, volatile fuel prices, government taxes and charges, exchange rate fluctuations, or other tour-related tariffs or newly announced travel costs. Pricing and restrictions may be increased due to unexpected requirements for health, safety, or economic welfare of tour members. Be aware that any public interaction carries an inherent risk of exposure to infectious disease or illness and travelers assume personal risk upon tour registration. If you request a variation or change to your booking, SDI may choose to accept or reject that request. If accepted, you are responsible for any fees associated with it. If the minimum number of passengers required to operate the tour is not met, SDI reserves the right to cancel the tour.

It is the sole discretion of SDI to refuse transport to any passenger, or require any passenger to leave the tour, if it is reasonably believed that the passenger (1) is dangerous to others or himself or herself; (2) is engaged in, or is threatening to engage in behavior that may adversely affect the safety, security, enjoyment, or well-being of other passengers, including behavior that is disruptive, verbally or physically abusive, obnoxious, harassing, or obscene; or (3) has failed or refused to follow SDI's rules and procedures or the instructions of its representatives. In the event a passenger is removed, such passenger may be left at any location without any liability to SDI or its representatives. SDI shall not be required to refund any portion of the price paid by any passenger who is removed, nor shall SDI be responsible for any further expenses incurred by the passenger. SDI shall be entitled to recover from the passenger any costs or expenses incurred by SDI or its representatives in the removal of the passenger or the exercise or enforcement of this clause.