

TOM'S CHRISTIAN TOURS

Presents

ALASKA 2024

June 4-15

\$5,100 per person with two in a room

DAY ONE, Tues. June 4--Welcome to the trip of a lifetime! Today a tour director from Tom's Christian Tours will accompany the deluxe coach shuttle of participants to Chicago and then on to Alaska via our non-stop American Airlines flight. Our Riley's Motor Coach and skilled driver will be waiting in Anchorage to shuttle us to our downtown hotel for the evening. Night in Anchorage, AK.

DAY TWO, Wed. June 5--(B,L) An **included breakfast** will start our day before we begin seeing the beauty of Alaska. Today our travels will take us along **Turnagain Arm to Portage**. We will stop at the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**. There we will see many of the native Alaskan animals in an environment in which they can rehab and for some to eventually be introduced back into the wild. Then it is back to Girdwood. We visit the **Alyeska Resort**. At the resort we will enjoy an **included lunch** at the top of the mountain. To get there, we will take the 2,300 foot ascent on the **Alyeska Aerial Tramway**. After lunch, choose where you would like to explore--the top of the mountain and/or back at the resort. After a city tour of Anchorage, the group will have **free time** in downtown Anchorage for dinner. Night in Anchorage.

DAY THREE, Thur. June 6--(B) After an **included breakfast**, we will travel towards **Valdez** on the Glennallen Highway, much of which is a National Scenic Byway. We will enjoy a picnic lunch in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. We will then make stops at **Worthington Glacier** and **Thompson Pass**, Alaska's snowiest location, and **Bridal Veil Falls**. The evening will be yours to explore Valdez. You may want to take time to head to the docks and see the fish caught by people on fishing excursions that day. Dinner is on our own. Night in Valdez.

DAY FOUR, Fri. June 7--(B,L) Our day will start with an **included breakfast** at the hotel. Valdez, known as the "Switzerland of Alaska", is our focus today. It is also the southern terminus of the Alaska pipeline. Our adventure for the day is a **full day cruise through the fjords and glaciers** of Prince William Sound. This is the day to be on the lookout for sea life. Sea lions, orca whales, humpback whales, otters, puffins, and many birds are often spotted on this cruise. Dinner is on your own in this small village. Night in Valdez.

DAY FIVE, Sat. June 8--(B,D) An **included breakfast** will start our day as we start our journey north on the Richardson Highway following the path of the Alaska pipeline to Fairbanks. We will stop again for lunch supplies at a local grocery store. Our stops today will include **Delta Junction**, to see the marker for the end of the Alaska Highway and a visit to an oil pipeline suspension bridge. Late afternoon we will check into our downtown Fairbanks hotel for a three night stay. We will relax during our **included dinner** at one of Fairbank's most famous restaurants. Night in Fairbanks.

DAY SIX, Sun. June 9--(B,D) After an **included breakfast**, we will enjoy the city of Fairbanks. We will begin at the **Fairbanks Visitor Center** which has a great museum teaching us about Fairbanks. Then it is off to visit **North Pole, AK**, for some shopping and post card sending. Maybe we will see Santa Clause. We will see some reindeer and a beautiful Christmas store. Then it is back to Fairbanks for lunch on your own or go back to the hotel and take a break. After some time downtown to explore and learn, we will head to the **Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum**. It is a treasure filled with a world-class collection of vintage automobiles and period clothing. This evening we'll help ourselves to grilled salmon, cod,

prime rib and all the fixin's at the **Salmon Bake at Pioneer Park**. Afterwards, our toes will be tappin' and we'll be laughin' through "**The Golden Hearts Review**" show. Night in Fairbanks, AK.

DAY SEVEN, Mon. June 10--(B,L). Breakfast again is included at the hotel. This morning, we'll board the **Discovery III Riverboat** to travel down the Chena River. Native guides will accompany us ashore for a tour of a recreated **Athabaskan Indian fishing and trapping camp**. We'll see Indian fish wheels and enjoy a sled dog demonstration. After a hearty **included lunch** at the docks, we'll experience an authentic mining camp and pan for gold at **Gold Dredge 8**. You may strike it rich! Night in Fairbanks

DAY EIGHT, Tues. June 11--(B,L) After an **included breakfast**, it is time to go south. We will enjoy the scenery along the way with a stop in **Nenana** to learn about this small town. After an **included lunch**, you will have time to enjoy our beautiful hotel with its magnificent views or enjoy a late afternoon option of **white water rafting** (additional charge). The rafting is an 11 mile journey down the Nenana River through a breathtaking gorge and some great rapids. A professional guide will be on board to do all the work so we can enjoy. This has been a favorite for our travelers for many years. It is something to "write home about"! (You will receive more information on this activity with your second payment invoice in December.) Night in Denali, AK.

DAY NINE, Wed. June 12--(B,L,D) Breakfast is included at the hotel. This morning we'll board a **tundra wildlife tour bus** for an exciting journey into **Denali National Park**. Grizzly bears, caribou, wolves, moose, red foxes, mountain goats, and Dall sheep could be anywhere. (Bring **binoculars** and pack warm clothes and rain gear because weather conditions can change rapidly from one side of the park to the other.) Weather permitting, we'll see **Denali** tower above us during this day filled with magnificent views. The **tour includes a very light lunch** box. Time will be allowed to explore the visitor center at the park. This evening an **included dinner show** will round out a scenery filled day. Night in Denali, AK

DAY TEN, Thur. June 13--(B,D) After an **included breakfast**, we continue south on the beautiful Parks Highway. Our first stop is **Talkeetna**. In Talkeetna, you are invited to enjoy this quirky village on the Susitna River. There will be free time to get lunch and explore. This afternoon we head to Wasilla keeping alert for glimpses of the highest mountain in North America, Denali. We will visit **Happy Trails Kennels**, where we will learn about the Iditarod, enjoy a dog sled demonstration, and then be able to pet and hold the pups. We will gather together for an **included dinner** in Wasilla. Night in Wasilla, AK.

DAY ELEVEN, Fri. June 14--(B,D). An **included breakfast** begins our final day in Alaska. We will begin our day at the **Iditarod Trail Headquarters**. You can have a chance to ride on a dog sled. Later this morning, we visit a **musk ox farm**. A walking tour will have us wandering among the pens of these amazing creatures and learning how they are making a come-back and providing income for the local people. Around noon we will move on to the heart of the Matanuska Valley, the breadbasket of Alaska's agricultural region. We'll see how the extra hours of daylight in **Palmer** produce heavy-weight vegetables and monstrous flowers. Palmer has a large market on Fridays, so you will have a chance to find lunch at a food truck and get your last minute shopping finished. As we make our way back to Anchorage, we will stop at **Eklutna** to view unique Native American burial grounds. We will visit the **Alaska Native Cultural Center**, where Alaska's 11 major cultural groups share their past. This evening the group will enjoy an **included farewell dinner** at a popular Anchorage restaurant. After dinner, we will head to the airport for our late non-stop flight back to Chicago.

DAY TWELVE, Sat. June 15-- Early morning we'll land in Chicago. A deluxe coach will be waiting to carry us home. We may come home tired, yet filled with memories of new friends and amazing Alaskan adventures. Drop-off locations will be the same as pick-up.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE: All lodging, all entrance fees, all transportation (land, water, air), tip for airport shuttle driver, and main meals (listed in itinerary) are included in the low price of **\$5100 per person with double occupancy; \$4600pp triple, \$4400 pp quad, and \$6800 pp single**. TCT reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if it serves the best interest of the participants and/or if there are changes in public transportation.

NOT INCLUDED: Meals not listed, optional activities, tips for Alaska driver, and tips for TCT tour directors.