

## **AK Kenai to Kodiak**

- ⇒ 7 days trip, small group up to 10 people
- ⇒ Starts on SATURDAY, finishes FRIDAY

### **Day 1: Anchorage to Girdwood**

**Anchorage to Girdwood (40 miles, 50 minutes)**

**Visit Gold rush village**

**Hike Iditarod trail, Crow Pass Trail (3.5 miles, 2000 ft elevation gain to Raven glacier, crow pass).**

**Descend to Alyeska resort (add 2.5 miles)**

**Dinner at 7 Glaciers restaurant atop Alyeska**

**Night in Alyeska resort**

From Anchorage we will travel a short distance south along the scenic Turnagain Arm to the charming ski town of Girdwood. First important in the Alaskan gold rush and now the setting of a world renowned ski resort, we will spend the day in the mountains above town, visiting the historical remnants of a gold rush encampment and hiking through the old growth forest to our first night's accommodation in the welcoming Alyeska resort. In the evening we will travel by the ski resort gondola to a meal with a view at the majestic mountaintop resort restaurant.

### **Day 2: Kenai River Raft**

**Drive from Girdwood to Cooper Landing (66 miles, approx 1.25 hours)**

**Raft Kenai River, float and canyon day trip, lunch enroute**

**Camp at Skilak Lake, dinner at camp**

After a relaxing evening in Alyeska another short drive will bring us around the corner of the Turnagain arm, where we will leave the scent of salt air behind for a few days as we cross the Turnagain pass and travel deeper into the stunning mountain and valley landscape to make our way to the headwaters of the Kenai River. Here we will board inflatable rafts for an unforgettably scenic day long excursion on the crystal clear glacially sourced Kenai river. As the destination for thousands of spawning salmon every summer, the Kenai River is a thriving wildlife habitat with a healthy population of bears, moose and bald eagles. You will spend the day scanning the banks for wildlife as the river winds its way through this incredible natural setting until arriving at camp in a wildlife refuge exhilarated and awed by the day on the river.

### **Day 3: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to Homer**

**Skilak Lake Overlook Hike (2miles one way, 800 ft elevation gain)**

**Drive Skilak Lake Trail to Homer (120 miles, approx 2.5 hours)**

**Sightsee enroute (Russian Orthodox churches in Kenai, Volcanoes across Inlet, Village of Ninilchik)**

**Night in Lands End Resort, Homer Spit, dinner at Homer Restaurant**

Day 3 begins with a hike in the wildlife refuge where we will make a moderate climb to a memorable reward: a view down on the expansive glacially carved lake where yesterday's float ended, and a look ahead to the western horizon where the day's drive will take us, the western coastline of the Kenai peninsula where the river meets the Cook Inlet. Historic,

distinctive Russian churches dot the cliff-top villages and bear witness to the area's importance as a point of contact for early seafaring Russian merchants. On a clear day the snow-covered volcanoes across the Cook Inlet seem impossibly close and fill the western horizon as you drive south to the road's end in the charming, picturesque village of Homer.

Situated idyllically in the southwestern corner of the Kenai peninsula, where the Cook Inlet curls into the 40 miles long Kachemak Bay, Homer looks out from green hills into a captivating scene of salt water ringed by snow-capped mountains. One short stroll along the shoreline will leave you show you why the area has continuously attracted artists and a thriving creative community, and the land beyond the bay will beckon you to come closer.

#### **Day 4: Hiking at Kachemak State Park**

##### **Water taxi to Kachemak Bay State Park**

**Hike to Grewingk Lake, begin glacier spit, traverse Saddle trailhead (4.2 miles, 500 ft)**

**Return to Homer late afternoon by water taxi**

**Dinner on Spit, Salty Dawg**

**Overnight ferry to Kodiak island, 2 or 4 berth cabins**

The Kachemak bay state park is Alaska's only state park not accessible by road, so after an evening in Homer we will travel by water taxi across the bay to enjoy the superb hiking opportunities in this off-the-grid gem. After a day exploring the state park's trails we will return by water taxi to Homer with time to visit the unique, unforgettable Spit—a 5 mile long sandbar where Homer meets the ocean in a boardwalk of seafood restaurants, boutiques and the Salty Dawg, a bar so memorable it's become a historic landmark.

At the Spit's end we will board the Alaska marine ferry for our voyage to Kodiak Island.

#### **Day 5 & 6: Explore Kodiak Island**

**Arrive either 8:15 am or 10:15 am by ferry**

**Kodiak Island 2 Day Visit to include: Scenic drive to Cape Chiniak (50 miles one way)**

**Kayaking tour, Camping 2 nights**

**Various hiking options (white Sands beach, Barometer Mountain, Anton Larsen Bay)**

**Bear Viewing option**

The second largest island in America (only the big island of Hawaii is bigger), Kodiak is known as Alaska's emerald island.

Kodiak is a natural wonder of old growth forests white capped mountains and miles of wild coastline where salt air mingles with the fragrance of spruce and hemlock forests, where sea sprayed cliff faces ring with puffin calls and the occasional organ pipe like bellows of exhaling humpbacks feeding in the shallows.

From our camp base in a former WWII coastal defensive setting, we will explore the emerald island in a variety of memorable settings less visited by the majority of Alaska's summer tourists.

#### **Day 7: Flight back from Kodiak Island to Anchorage**

##### **Late Afternoon flight back to Anchorage**

The Kenai to Kodiak Explorer concludes conveniently in Anchorage after a short but scenic flight from Kodiak Island back to the Anchorage airport, leaving you time to visit Alaska's largest city or connect to an evening departure return flight home.