

BIKING ALASKA

Casual Inn Trip



It's the raw immensity of the landscape. As far west as you can go. Youngest state, oldest place. The last frontier, not just a cliché but something you feel in your body. Super-natural things happen in Alaska. Grizzlies roam. Glaciers calve. Moose forage. You ride past rivers named Matanuska, circle volcanoes called Wrangell, stroll through famous towns like Valdez. Follow the trail of fur traders, copper miners, oil diggers and naturalists. One acre for every person. Things get put in perspective.

Biking

ALASKA



An Epic Bike Journey Through the Vast Alaskan Wilderness

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www.backroads.com

Open daily 7 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific time

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Day 1

Meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads T-shirts) at **9:30 a.m.** at the **4th Avenue entrance** to the **Hotel Captain Cook** in **Anchorage**. **Please arrive dressed in your biking clothes and have your rain gear handy.** See “Arriving & Departing” for additional logistics information.

Shuttle to Palmer 1 Hour

Gold Mint Route 37 Miles
(1,300-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Independence Mine 46 Miles
(3,250-foot elevation gain)

Welcome to Alaska! We begin the trip with a shuttle north to Palmer, where we enjoy a delicious picnic lunch à la Backroads beneath the soaring Chugach Mountains. Then your leaders fit your bike and give a brief talk on biking techniques and safety before you head out on rolling hills along the Little Susitna River and through the Talkeetna Mountains. You’ve come to Alaska for the biking, so we start off strong! Tackle a big climb up Hatcher Pass to the Independence Mine. At the top, have your warm layers ready for the fantastic descent that follows! After checking in at the Lake Lucille Inn, it’s a quick shuttle to Settler’s Bay Lodge, where we get further acquainted over a cocktail reception and dinner while gazing out at Cook Inlet and the Chugach Mountains. *Lodging: Best Western Lake Lucille Inn*



CONNECTING THE FIRST DAY

If you need to contact Backroads on the day your trip starts, please call the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn at 907-373-1776 and leave a message for your Trip Leaders.

If you can't reach the inn, please call the Backroads office at 800-GO-ACTIVE (800-462-2848), 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific time; if you're calling after office hours, leave a message at 510-527-1889 ext. 575.

Day 2

Matanuska Valley Route 54 Miles
(3,000-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Option: Chickaloon 41 Miles with Shuttle
(1,500-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Sheep Mountain Lodge 79 Miles
(4,500-foot elevation gain)

Shuttle to Hicks Creek 45 Minutes

Today's ride begins with rolling hills through the rich farmland of the Matanuska Valley, the site of an unusual experiment in American history. One of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal relief agencies set up the Matanuska Valley Colony for farm families debilitated by the Great Depression. In 1935, 203 families were picked from the hardest-hit areas of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota to start their lives over in this fertile land. Though many farms failed, some of the families' descendants still live in the valley—now one of Alaska's most productive farming communities—and a few are still operating original colony farms. Ride along the challenging terrain of the Glenn Highway, following the Matanuska River as the scenery gradually changes from lush farmland to rugged mountains. Relax over a picnic lunch on the banks of the Matanuska River in

the small town of Chickaloon. During our shuttle to Hicks Creek, decide how you'd like to spend the afternoon. Embark on a beautiful—and heart-pumping—stretch alongside the Matanuska River, or if you'd rather save energy for tomorrow's longer ride, shuttle part or all the way to the rustic cabins of Sheep Mountain Lodge. (**Note:** Due to a multiple-year road construction project, our route, including mileages, may change and additional shuttling may be required.)

From your cabin's porch, take in inspiring views of the remote Chugach Range and look for Dall sheep grazing behind the lodge. If you're feeling energetic, head out on an invigorating hike into the hills behind the lodge. This evening we gather for a wonderful home-cooked meal. If we're lucky, the lodge's co-owner, an Iditarod musher, may regale us with stories of his experiences in Alaska's legendary sled-dog race. *Lodging: Sheep Mountain Lodge*

Day 3

Glenn Highway Route 88 Miles

(2,970-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Options: Blackburn 39 Miles with Shuttle

(1,340-foot elevation gain)

or Drum 60 Miles with Shuttle

(1,950-foot elevation gain)

or Sanford 75 Miles with Shuttle

(2,650-foot elevation gain)

Returning to the Glenn Highway this morning, we follow a rugged corridor through the heart of the Alaskan wilderness. Along the way, views of drunken forests, river valleys and endless miles of mountains spread in every direction. With many small and large hills, headwinds, highway riding and rumble strips and the likelihood of rain and cold temperatures, this route will challenge your body and spirit, and bring about a unique appreciation for the sheer vastness of this land.

You'll reach the only turn of the day 75 miles into the ride in the town of Glennallen before continuing along the Richardson Highway to our next hotel. Stop en route for a hearty hot meal at one of Alaska's original roadhouses, Mendeltna Creek Lodge. In true Backroads fashion, whether you choose the shortest option, the longest option, or anything in between, your leaders will be covering some serious distances in the support van to provide food, water, encouragement and a lift for those who want it.

Our inviting destination is the Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge, located at the junction of the Klutina and Copper Rivers. On a clear day you'll have spectacular views of the Wrangell Mountains, which include some of North America's highest peaks: Mount Drum (12,010 feet), Mount Wrangell (14,163 feet), Mount Sanford (16,237 feet) and Mount Blackburn (16,390 feet). This evening, kick back and swap stories of the day's adventures while enjoying the magnificent scenery through the lodge's two-story wall of windows. *Lodging: Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge*

OUR ACCOMMODATIONS CASUAL INNS*



BEST WESTERN LAKE LUCILLE INN

(1 night) Enjoy views of picturesque Lake Lucille and the snowcapped peaks from your room.

Wasilla · phone: 907-373-1776

www.bestwestern.com

SHEEP MOUNTAIN LODGE

(1 night) Co-owned by five-time Iditarod competitor Zack Steer, the inn's individual wooden cabins are tucked in a beautiful wooded setting.

Palmer · phone: 877-645-5121
or 907-745-5121

www.sheepmountain.com

COPPER RIVER PRINCESS WILDERNESS LODGE *(above)*

(1 night) A bluff-top lodge with views of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Copper Center · phone: 907-822-4000

www.princesslodges.com

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OUR ACCOMMODATIONS CASUAL INNS*



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BEST WESTERN VALDEZ HARBOR INN

(1 night) Located on the Valdez waterfront, this very basic hotel is our best option in the area.

Valdez · phone: 907-835-3434
www.valdezhaborinn.com

ALYESKA RESORT *(above)*

(1 night) A stylish hotel with an aerial tram to the top of Mount Alyeska. (pool)

Girdwood · phone: 800-880-3880 or
907-754-2111
www.alyeskaresort.com

**With one Premiere Inn night at Alyeska Resort*

Day 4

Pippin Lake Route 87 Miles with Shuttle
(2,650-foot elevation gain)

Shorter Options: Tiekel River 35 Miles with Shuttle
(1,360-foot elevation gain)

or Worthington Glacier 68 Miles with Shuttle
(2,000-foot elevation gain)

Longer Option: Valdez Century Ride 107 Miles
(3,500-foot elevation gain)

You'll be well served to eat a filling breakfast in preparation for the longest and most challenging ride of the trip. Today's breathtaking route rolls along the Richardson Highway, following the Tiekel and Tsaina Rivers with views of pristine forests, the Chugach Mountains and the Worthington Glacier. The truly adventurous can start out from the hotel to attempt an epic Alaskan century ride, with no shortage of hills, headwinds, inclement weather and, thankfully, incredible beauty to keep you motivated the whole way.

Take your time as you climb above the timberline to Thompson Pass at 2,678 feet, then let loose on an exhilarating eight-mile descent past tundra, lakes and streams. Biking through Keystone Canyon, carved by the turbulent Lowe River, you'll see several powerful waterfalls crashing down sheer rock walls. It's 20 more miles of rolling terrain to Valdez, a fishing village on Prince William Sound and the southern terminus of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

This area has experienced a great deal of devastation in recent history. In 1964 the strongest earthquake ever recorded in North America struck Alaska and leveled Valdez. After the quake, the shaken residents moved the town four miles west to its current location. In 1989, the infamous Exxon Valdez oil spill brought worldwide notoriety to this normally tranquil community. Our visit here gives us the unique opportunity to see an ecosystem in the process of recovery.

Tonight we stay in very simple accommodations at the Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn. While this hotel is far from lavish, it's our best option in the remote and picturesque town of Valdez. It's located right on the waterfront, with local shops and restaurants just a short walk away. Enjoy a leisurely evening in town and dinner on your own. *Lodging: Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn*

Day 5

Ferry to Whittier 3 Hours

Shuttle to Girdwood 45 Minutes

Sleep in and enjoy breakfast as you recover from yesterday's tough ride. Midday we take the Alaska Marine Highway's Chenega fast ferry across Prince William Sound, a trip which will expose you to some of the most astounding natural beauty in Alaska. Don't forget your valid photo ID this morning—you'll need it to board the ferry. The snowcapped peaks of the Chugach Mountains and the chance to see giant floating icebergs of the spectacular Columbia Glacier are sure to leave a lasting impression. Wildlife is plentiful in the sound, so keep an eye out for orcas, porpoises, seals, sea lions, otters, bald eagles and puffins.

We come ashore in the port of Whittier, a town founded during World War II in response to the Japanese bombing of the Aleutian Islands. Surrounded by glacially covered mountains and originally accessible only by train or boat, Whittier was the perfect location to base military operations—and its infamously bad weather didn't hurt either. Our shuttle route passes through the original train tunnel and heads inland through the mountains to Girdwood. Once we've arrived at the plush Alyeska Resort, feel free to soak in the hot tub or swim a few laps in the pool. This evening we toast our Alaskan adventure while enjoying culinary delights at Jack Sprat restaurant.

Lodging: Alyeska Resort



Day 6

Gird-to-Bird Route 20 Miles

Longer Option: Indian Creek 34 Miles

Shuttle to Anchorage 1 Hour

After breakfast at the Alyeska's Pond Café, you'll follow rolling traffic-free bike paths along the dramatic Turnagain Arm with views of tidal mudflats and picturesque mountains. Extreme high and low tides make Turnagain Arm one of the world's few bore tides—when conditions are right, water rushes in with such force that it forms a tidal wave powerful enough for the truly daring to surf.

If you'd rather relax in the comfortable setting of the Alyeska, take advantage of all the resort has to offer, including a spa, fitness room and more. We reconvene later for a picnic at the hotel before shuttling back to Anchorage, where our trip ends. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

ALWAYS IMPROVING

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, and meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.



Arriving & Departing

After reviewing the following information, please inform us of your arrival and departure plans on your Personal Information Form.

MEETING TIME & LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, we meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the **4th Avenue entrance** to the **Hotel Captain Cook**, located at 4th Avenue and K Street in **Anchorage**. (See “Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip” for details about this and other hotels in Anchorage.) **Please arrive dressed in your biking clothes and have your rain gear handy.**

If you're delayed and miss the pickup in Anchorage, it's possible for you to get to our first night's hotel on your own. Taxis from Anchorage to the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn in Wasilla cost \$75–\$85 for the 45-mile trip. Please call the Lake Lucille Inn at 907-373-1776 and leave a message for your Backroads leaders, letting them know when you plan to arrive.

If you can't reach the inn, please call the Backroads office at 800-GO-ACTIVE (800-462-2848), 7 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific time; if you're calling after office hours, leave a message at 510-527-1889 ext. 575.

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day of the trip, Backroads provides a shuttle from the Alyeska Resort back to Anchorage, arriving at the Hotel Captain Cook around 2:30 p.m. and continuing to the Anchorage International Airport, arriving at approximately 3 p.m. If you're flying out of Anchorage on the day your trip ends, please schedule your return flight for after 4:30 p.m. If you've scheduled a later flight and would like to spend some time exploring Anchorage, it may be possible for you to leave your luggage at the Hotel Captain Cook while you're in town.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We recommend flying into Anchorage International Airport (airport code: ANC; www.anchorageairport.com). For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent, please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE ANCHORAGE AIRPORT TO OUR MEETING LOCATION

The Hotel Captain Cook is located in downtown Anchorage, 6 miles from Anchorage International Airport. A taxi ride to the hotel takes about 10 minutes and costs approximately \$20. Door-to-door shuttle service is available from Eagle River Shuttle (phone: 907-694-8888; www.eaglerivershuttle.com), Shuttle Man (907-677-8537) and Talkeetna Shuttle (888-288-6008).

PRICES & SCHEDULES

All prices and schedules were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time.

During Your Trip

ACCOMMODATIONS

Alaska is a land of rustic and rugged beauty, and while Backroads utilizes the best properties in the places we visit, simplicity and comfort outweigh elegance and luxury in this great state. The Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn is especially basic, but its picturesque setting and the unique corner of Alaska we get to explore en route to Valdez more than make up for the simple accommodations. All rooms have private baths. Single room availability is very limited on this trip.

ROOMMATES

Backroads will try to find a roommate (of the same gender) for guests wishing to share a room. If you sign up more than 95 days in advance of your trip and no roommate is available, 50 percent of the private room charge will be due at final payment. Should a roommate be found before your trip departs, the private room charge will be refunded. If you sign up less than 95 days in advance of departure and no roommate is available, the full private room charge will apply. If a roommate is found before your trip departs, the private room charge will be refunded. On some trips, twin availability is limited; a private room charge applies if a shared twin room is not available, regardless of the number of days before departure. On rare occasions, twin rooms consist of one bed and one rollaway or fold-out sleeper. Please be sure to speak with your Trip Consultant to confirm your room arrangements.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Visit www.backroads.com/trip_prep for links to other websites offering helpful travel information.

MEALS

All meals except for one dinner are included in the trip price. If you have special dietary requirements, please include them on the Personal Information Form.

Please note that alcoholic beverages at meals are not included in the trip price, unless otherwise noted.

RECOMMENDED DINNER ATTIRE

Restaurants on this Casual Inn trip are just that—casual. You'll feel comfortable wearing anything from jeans and T-shirts to slacks and dressier shirts, and everything in between.

ALASKAN SERVICE

Service in Alaska can seem slow and brusque when compared with the high standards of customer service often found in the hospitality industry. Your best bet is to be patient, keep a sense of humor and appreciate the cultural differences that abound in this population-sparse setting.

TRIP GUEST LIST

During the trip, your leaders will distribute a guest list that includes the names and contact information of everyone on the trip. If you do not want your contact information to appear on the guest list, please inform your Trip Consultant at least 30 days prior to the trip start.

TRIP LEADERS

Each of your Trip Leaders plays many roles during your vacation: Guide. Host. Caretaker. Naturalist. Chef. Historian. Trouble-shooter. Interpreter. These remarkable individuals have highly developed instincts for making people comfortable, for smoothly handling the logistics of travel and for successfully navigating a wide range of unexpected situations. They're passionately committed to ensuring you enjoy an exceptional vacation—smooth, flexible and tailored to your needs. According to past guests, the caliber of our leaders is what sets Backroads apart from all other travel companies. With their knowledge, professionalism, enthusiasm and service ethic, they're the number-one reason people return to travel with us again and again. We look forward to having you meet them.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for most services during your trip are covered in the overall cost. We are often asked, however, whether it is appropriate to tip the Backroads Trip Leaders and what a reasonable amount might be. While we have considered including such gratuities in the overall trip cost, we always come back to the belief that recognizing excellent service is a personal matter. If you feel your leaders have provided an exceptional trip experience, gratuities are encouraged—and welcomed—at the end of the trip. The amount is at your discretion, but a sum of about 5 percent of your trip price can be considered a general tipping standard; this will then be divided among your leaders.



Destination Details

CLIMATE

Keep in mind that weather conditions in south-central Alaska are highly unpredictable and can change significantly throughout the day or week. **Because rain, hail and even snow are possible year-round, you will most likely experience wet, cool and even cold weather during your trip. It is essential that you bring appropriate clothing.** High-quality rain gear (waterproof, breathable, windproof jacket and pants) and plenty of warm biking clothes (non-cotton base layer, warm sweater or fleece jacket, long-fingered gloves, arm and leg warmers, hat and warm socks) will help ensure that you are prepared for all weather conditions. See “Suggested Packing List” for more details on clothing and gear.

Anchorage

Average:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
High °F	22	25	33	43	55	62
Low °F	8	11	17	28	39	47
Precip. inches	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0
Average:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High °F	65	63	55	41	28	22
Low °F	51	49	41	28	15	10
Precip. inches	1.9	2.4	2.7	1.9	1.1	1.1

TIME ZONE

Alaska is 1 hour earlier than Pacific time and 4 hours earlier than Eastern time.

EXTENDED DAYLIGHT HOURS

Alaska enjoys extended daylight hours throughout the summer—the month of June averages 19 hours of daylight (compared with 5½ hours in December). Although these conditions may increase your energy level, they may also make sleeping more difficult. If you’re a light sleeper and think you might be affected by the increased daylight, bring a pair of eyeshades or consult your doctor about other remedies.

TOURIST INFORMATION

For more information traveling to Alaska, visit www.travelalaska.com.

Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note: most travel agents charge a fee for consulting services.)

Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels we visit on this trip; see the sidebar on pages 5 and 6 for details.

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide for starting double-occupancy rates. Note that the ratings reflect Internet and/or best available rates, which were current at the time of printing, but **hotel rates are always subject to change**. Also be aware that due to high demand, some hotels may require a two-night minimum stay.

When selecting hotels in Alaska, keep in mind that rates are very expensive compared to other cities in the continental United States, and the quality is substantially different than what you may be used to, given limited hotel availability and high demand in the summer.

ANCHORAGE

Hotel Captain Cook (Our meeting location on Day 1 and a drop-off location on Day 6)

A member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, this grand hotel fills an entire city block in the heart of Anchorage. Guest rooms offer panoramic views of the Cook Inlet or Chugach Mountains. Dine at one of the hotel’s distinctive restaurants, including the top-floor Crow’s Nest (most tables offer outstanding views), get in a workout at the fully equipped athletic club, and peruse a variety of on-site shops. 939 West 5th Avenue; Phone: 800-843-1950 or 907-276-6000; www.captaincook.com; 547 rooms & suites. Rates: ♦♦♦

Anchorage Hilton

Centrally located in downtown Anchorage and a 15-minute drive from the airport, the Hilton offers both convenience and comfort. The Museum of History and Fine Art, numerous shops and a bounty of restaurants are all within walking distance. The fitness center includes a health club, indoor heated pool and steam room. Most guest rooms offer great views of the Chugach Mountain Range, Cook Inlet or the city

skyline. 500 West 3rd Avenue; Phone: 907-272-7411; www.hilton.com; 592 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦

Clarion Suites Downtown

At Clarion Suites, you'll enjoy spacious guest rooms, a swimming pool, complimentary breakfast and wireless high-speed Internet access. Museums, shops and restaurants are a short walk away, and a business center and fitness facility are on site. 325 W. 8th Avenue; Phone: 877-424-6423 (reservations) or 907-222-5005; www.clarionhotel.com; 110 suites. Rates: ♦♦♦

Historic Anchorage Hotel

This 1916 Anchorage landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located 6 miles from the airport with proximity of some of the best shopping and dining in downtown Anchorage. The hotel has a quaint charm, with its cozy lobby warmed by a crackling fire, friendly staff and interesting history. Light sleepers should request a room facing away from the street. 330 E Street; Phone: 800-544-0988 or 907-272-4553; www.historicanchoragehotel.com; 26 rooms & suites. Rates: ♦♦♦

Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites

Just south of downtown, Alaska's first high-rise hotel offers spectacular views of the inlet, mountains and city center. Remodeled guest rooms are spacious, contemporary and well appointed. A complimentary shuttle to and from downtown, and the airport, is available. 1200 L Street; Phone: 800-544-0786 or 907-276-0110; www.inlettower.com; 180 rooms & suites. Rates: ♦♦♦

HOTEL ROOM RATE GUIDE
(U.S. DOLLARS PER NIGHT)

Up to \$100	♦
\$101 to \$200	♦♦
\$201 to \$300	♦♦♦
\$301 to \$500	♦♦♦♦
\$501 and up	♦♦♦♦♦

Alaskan Frontier Gardens Bed-&-Breakfast

Set on 3 wooded acres 20 minutes from downtown, this cedar lodge offers a wonderful blend of rustic elegance and homey comfort. Lounge on the wraparound decks by day and stargaze from the eight-person hot tub by night. Breakfast includes Belgian waffles with rum peaches, french toast, blueberry pancakes and reindeer sausage. The charming accommodations aside, your gracious host, Rita Gittins, is what makes this inn a true find. 7440 Alatna Avenue; Phone: 907-345-6556; www.alaskafrontiergardens.com; 4 suites. Rates: ♦♦

EXTENDING YOUR VACATION

Denali National Park

If you'd like to explore Denali National Park before your Backroads trip, we recommend arriving in Alaska at least two nights before the trip start and spending the night prior to the trip in Anchorage. The park is truly one of the world's last

wild frontiers and should be high on your list of places to visit. It's home to North America's highest peak, 20,320-foot Mount McKinley, flanked by five giant glaciers and countless icefalls. (Although the mountain's official name is Mount McKinley, locals still refer to it as Denali, an Athabasca Indian word meaning "the great one.") Denali is

considered the world's greatest wildlife sanctuary, encompassing 8,900 square miles of untrammled Alaskan wilderness. The terrain is mainly rock, ice and subalpine tundra; there are virtually no trees, allowing for ideal wildlife viewing. Visiting the interior of the park, you're likely to see grizzly bears, moose and caribou, as well as glimpses of golden eagles, marmots, Dall sheep, foxes, wolves and beavers.



Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip (continued)

EXTENDING YOUR VACATION (CONTINUED)

Denali National Park (continued)

Traffic into Denali, both on foot and in cars, is strictly regulated to preserve the park's pristine state and ensure that future generations can enjoy this unique wildlife habitat. There is only one 90-mile road leading into the park, and private vehicles aren't allowed farther than the first 15 miles.

Access to the interior is via the park's shuttle bus service, which gives visitors the option of getting on and off the bus to see different areas. Approximately 65 percent of the shuttle bus seats are available through advance reservations. (See "Shuttle Bus & Tour Reservations" at the end of this section.) Any remaining seats may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis at the visitor center. During the summer months, buses fill up quickly, and there can be a one- to two-day wait for an available shuttle. Shuttle fees for adults are \$24–\$46, depending on how far into the park you wish to go.

There are only a few designated hiking trails in Denali National Park, but visitors are encouraged to leave the shuttle buses to hike and explore. For short hikes, the treeless tundra can be easily navigated. Park officials supply backpackers on longer excursions with detailed maps and bear-resistant food containers. For excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities, we also recommend taking a National Park Service bus tour. The Denali Natural History bus tour lasts 5 hours and costs \$60.75 for adults. The Tundra Wilderness Tour is 6–8 hours long, and tickets are \$103 for adults. Tour prices include a light snack.

Bicycling in Denali is a challenging but worthwhile option. A mountain bike is necessary on the gravel and dirt road, and the route is quite strenuous with many hills and two steep passes. Although bicycles aren't allowed off-road, the relatively traffic-free route and the long daylight hours make for a great biking experience.

Shuttle Bus & Tour Reservations: Advance reservations for shuttle buses and tours are highly recommended. You can make reservations online or download a reservation fax form at www.reservedenali.com. If you prefer to phone in your reservation, call 800-622-7275 (toll free within the U.S.) or 907-272-7275.

Transportation from Anchorage to Denali

Denali National Park is located 236 miles north of Anchorage, and there are several options for getting there:

The Denali Star Train (phone: 800-544-0552 or 907-265-2494; www.alaskarailroad.com) runs daily between Anchorage and Denali; the trip takes about 8 hours. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made online or by phone. For the most current schedules and fare information, contact Alaska Railroad directly.

Alaska/Yukon Trails (800-770-7275;

www.alaskashuttle.com) offers shuttle bus service (daily scheduled departures and private charters) between Anchorage and Denali. A daily scheduled departure takes 6 hours and costs \$75 one-way.

Another (albeit expensive) option is chartering a plane and flying from Denali to Anchorage with **K-2 Aviation**. Visit www.flyk2.com or contact them at 800-764-2291.

You can also rent a car and drive to the park. Rental agencies with offices in Anchorage include Avis (800-331-1212), Budget (800-527-0700), Hertz (800-654-3131) and National (800-227-7368).

Fishing Between Anchorage and Denali

If you're planning to drive from Anchorage to Denali, a fishing trip can be a good excuse to break up your trip. The Little Susitna River, nicknamed "Little Su," is located 90 minutes north of Anchorage, and all five species of Pacific salmon can be found in its waters. **Fishtale River Guides** (www.fish4salmon.com), **Fisherman's Choice Charters** (www.akfishermanschoice.com) and several other outfitters offer day trips. If you're short on time, even urban fishing is possible in Alaska! Join the crowds for king or silver salmon fishing at Ship Creek, on the north side of downtown Anchorage. For more information on fishing excursions near Anchorage, visit the city's Convention & Visitors Bureau at




SPECIAL HOTEL SAVINGS
Backroads has negotiated special rates for our guests at many hotels around the world. To find hotels with these exclusive Backroads savings, please visit www.backroads.com/hotelsavings.

www.anchorage.net/591.cfm. If you're interested in fishing elsewhere in Alaska, visit the state's tourism website: www.travelalaska.com (click on the Fishing link in the Things to Do drop-down menu; outfitters are organized by type of fishing).

Suggested Accommodations Near Denali National Park

McKinley Village Lodge and McKinley Chalet Resort are both minutes from the park entrance. The Village Lodge is 8 miles away on the banks of the Nenana River, while the Chalet Resort is just 1 mile away. For reservations and information for both hotels, please call 800-276-7234 or visit www.denaliparkhotels.com. McKinley Village Lodge: 151 rooms; McKinley Chalet Resort: 345 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦♦

Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge, Alaska's largest hotel, is just 1 mile from the park entrance along the Nenana River. Phone: 800-426-0500 or 907-683-2282; www.princesslodges.com; 661 rooms. Rates: ♦♦♦

Denali Cabins is 8 miles south of the park entrance. You can combine your stay with a one-day Denali Backcountry Adventure tour. The tour, \$169 per person, includes lunch, snacks and drinks, and an activity at Denali Backcountry Lodge in Kantishna. Phone: 877-233-6254 or 907-376-1992; www.denali-cabins.com; 45 cabins. Rates: ♦♦

Getting Active for Your Trip

CONDITIONING TIPS

Terrain

Long rolling hills with several steeper grades characterize the terrain on this trip. The majority of our routes are on remote yet moderately busy two-lane highways, most with narrow rough shoulders containing long stretches of rubble strips (grooves put into the pavement to alert drivers if they swerve off the road) and some gravel. While traffic is generally not too heavy, vehicles are fast-moving and often large. **Please also note that Alaska's unpredictable weather, especially rain, cold weather and head/crosswinds, can make biking conditions more challenging.**

Each day you'll have a choice of mileage options (as shown in the "Itinerary" section), so you can decide how active you want to be—it's always up to you. To get ready for this trip, we suggest biking regularly with hills beforehand. Conditioning is important; you should feel comfortable riding at least 35–45 miles a day—including hills—and still have the strength and enthusiasm to get up and do it all over again the next day.

To ride safely along the sometimes trafficked and narrow roads in Alaska, it is important to **develop good balance on your bike, and this can only be**

achieved by riding on the road. We recognize that not everyone lives in an area conducive to outdoor riding, but please keep in mind that while running, riding a stationary bike, spinning and other aerobic exercise will help improve your strength, endurance and cardiovascular health, these activities will not help with balance or your general comfort biking with traffic and in weather.

Pacing & Endurance

It's important to pace yourself throughout the day, so you have the stamina to ride as far and as long as you'd like. Keep your energy level constant by eating high-energy snacks (your leaders will have plenty on hand). Drink fluids often—before you are thirsty—to avoid dehydration.

ROUTE RATING INFORMATION

The routes on this trip are rated Levels 3–5.

LEVEL 3

31–40 miles/day
3–5 hours/day

LEVEL 4

41–55 miles/day
4–6 hours/day

LEVEL 5

56–75+ miles/day
5–7+ hours/day



Getting Active for Your Trip (continued)

Cadence & Gearing

The steady rate at which you pedal is called “cadence.” Ideally you should try to maintain a constant high cadence in any gear. This technique not only lets you bike for longer periods without tiring, but also puts less strain on your knees. Shifting to lower gears when riding up hills will help you maintain the same cadence you established on more level terrain and get you up the hills without overextending yourself. Using lower gears also helps you to be more efficient when riding against the wind.

Resources

One book we really like is the *HubBub Guide to Cycling* by Diane Lingelbach. Written in a low-key, highly readable style, it offers valuable tips on how to prepare for an organized bike tour, and includes a comprehensive section on choosing the proper clothing and gear. (To order a copy, call 800-888-2027 or purchase online at www.hubbub.com/store; cost is \$14.95 plus shipping.)

Visit *Bicycling* magazine’s website, www.bicycling.com, and browse for tips on how to improve your biking technique, as well as advice on proper nutrition, gear and safety, and basic bike maintenance.

Your local bike or outdoor store can be an excellent resource too; ask to speak with an employee who is an experienced cyclist.

STAYING COMFORTABLE

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I prevent soreness while bicycling? Think padding! Padded shorts make sitting on the bicycle seat a lot more comfortable, and padded bicycling gloves help prevent blisters and hand numbness.

Should I buy a pair of biking shoes for my trip? Rigid shoes maximize the power of your pedaling stroke, but there’s really no need to purchase a pair of biking shoes just for this trip. Any athletic shoes—provided they have stiff soles—will be sufficient.

It’s not really going to rain, is it? As much as we don’t like to think about it, rain is possible no matter where you travel and Alaska is no exception! **It is very likely that you will experience wet, cool and even cold weather during your trip.** Your best bet for staying comfortable during a shower is to wear quality rain gear that is both waterproof and breathable. A jacket and pants made of Gore-Tex will keep you dry even in the fiercest downpour.

Does wearing layers really make a difference? Yes! The trick for staying comfortable in fluctuating temperatures is to wear three basic layers of lightweight clothing: innerwear (to wick moisture away from your skin), insulating garments (for warmth) and outerwear (to protect against wind or rain). The different layers let you add or remove clothing in response to changes in the weather or your internal temperature.

Bicycle Safety & Equipment

RULES OF BICYCLING SAFETY

Good judgment and alertness are the most important factors for safe bicycling. Follow these rules at all times to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

- Wear a helmet. Bicycling without a helmet is extremely dangerous. Backroads requires that all guests wear helmets while biking.
- Ride predictably, defensively and in a straight line.
- When biking with others, ride single file and maintain several bike lengths between cyclists. Allow more distance when riding downhill.
- Do not use headphones while biking; you might not hear traffic coming up behind you.
- Be as courteous to motorists as you would like them to be to you, and get completely off the road when you stop.
- Keep your speed under control on down hills. Use both brakes simultaneously, but be aware that the front brake is more powerful than the rear. Gently pump your brakes on long descents for maximum effectiveness. Check brakes frequently to make sure nothing is loose or dangling.
- Wet slippery roads require extra caution and greater stopping distance—especially on downhills. Wet brakes must be dried by pumping before they have an effect, so start braking early in damp weather.
- When riding on sand or gravel, downshift into low gear so you can spin your pedals faster while still going slowly.
- Obey all traffic regulations. Stop at all stop signs and red lights, yield the right-of-way and use hand signals when turning, slowing down or stopping. Ride on the right side of the road (except in countries where traffic moves on the left), at a safe distance from traffic.

SAFETY FIRST

When biking with others, ride single file and maintain several bike lengths between cyclists. Allow more distance when riding downhill.

- Be cautious around road obstacles. It is safest to dismount and walk your bike across railroad tracks and cattle guards. If you decide to bike across them, do so at right angles. Avoid potholes, metal grates, glass, rocks and thorns. Ride at a safe distance from parked cars and watch for vehicles pulling out and/or doors opening in your path.
- Do not ride too close to the bike in front of you; keeping several bike lengths between you and the bike ahead gives you more time to brake or go around obstacles.
- You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Do not ride on sidewalks.
- When making a left turn (or a right turn in countries where traffic moves on the left), it is safest to pull off the road, dismount, look both ways for traffic and then walk your bike across the road. Never follow other cyclists when turning without confirming for yourself that it is safe to do so.
 - Listen carefully for approaching motorists. (Look over your shoulder only if you can do so without swerving.)
 - We do not bike after dark on Backroads trips. If you decide to do so on your own, you must bring your own bike equipped with a white light on the front, a red light on the rear and reflectors on the spokes and pedals.
- If a dog chases you and you are not able to ride away quickly, stop your bike and walk out of the dog's territory, keeping the bike between you and the animal.
- Wear appropriate clothing for bicycling. Brightly colored clothes make you more visible to motorists. Double-tie shoelaces and tuck them inside your shoes.
- You should wear corrective lenses while bicycling if you use them while driving.



Bicycle Safety & Equipment

(continued)

BICYCLE EQUIPMENT

The following items are included with all Backroads bikes. Trip Leaders also have full tool kits on hand and are available to do mechanical repairs.

- bike helmet
- pedals with toe clips (straps) if requested
- two water bottles
- handlebar bag or trunk bag and map case
- safety triangle
- lock and cable
- rear rack and strap
- wide-range gears (27 speeds)
- tube and patch kit with tire levers (if requested on trip)
- bike hand pump (if requested on trip)

If you are bringing your own bike and are comfortable doing minor on-the-road adjustments, you may want to bring a universal tool. If your bike is highly specialized, bring any tools—and extra spokes and tubes!—that are specific to your bike. Use the above list as a guide for recommended equipment if you are bringing your own bike (Backroads provides water bottles for everyone).

BRINGING YOUR OWN GEAR

You're welcome to bring your own gear, such as pedals, seat, helmet and cyclometer, to use with your Backroads bike. If you choose to bring a cyclometer, please be prepared to mount it yourself on your Backroads bike; your leaders will be happy to assist you if time permits. We suggest bringing wireless computers; those with pedal cadence functions are not recommended. If the computer is not wireless, please allow extra time for installation and, if possible, bring the mounting instructions with you.

BRINGING YOUR OWN BICYCLE

If you plan to bring your own bike, it should be tuned and in excellent mechanical condition. Otherwise, you should use a Backroads bike. If your bike is new, ride it at least 50 miles (to break it in) and then have it adjusted by a mechanic. Please bring only one bike per person.

The following items on your bike should be properly adjusted and in good condition: brakes and brake pads; the headset, pedals, cranks and hubs; gears; derailleurs; handlebars; tires and tubes; brake and derailleur cables; and the chain. Make sure the bike is well lubricated, the wheels are true, and the seat, seatpost and handlebars are adjusted and tight.

Transporting Your Bike

If you will be arriving at the trip start by plane, train or bus, find out if there are any special requirements for transporting a bike. You can obtain a bike box from a bike shop or from most airlines. Larger boxes, such as those obtained from airlines, will help you avoid disassembling your bike more than necessary. Most shops will box your bike for a fee. If you will be disassembling and packing your own bike, the Backroads bike mechanics suggest following the steps below. **Please note: You are responsible for reassembling your bike at the trip start;** Backroads Trip Leaders will assist you

if time allows.

1. Pad all frame tubes using packing material (available at bike shops and moving stores) or foam pipe insulation (available at most hardware stores).
2. Remove the front wheel, then remove the front wheel's quick-release skewer and tape it to a spoke on the front wheel for safe keeping. Place a fork support (available at bike shops) in the front dropouts.
3. Remove the pedals. The right-side (drive-side) pedal unscrews from the right crank arm counterclockwise; while the left-side pedal unscrews from the left crank arm clockwise. When you remove the pedals, note that they are marked with an "L" or an "R," usually on the end of the spindle. (This is obviously important for reinstalling the pedals.)
4. Place the pedals in a small box or bag to be packed along with the bike in the larger box.

SAFETY FIRST

Wear a helmet. Bicycling without a helmet is extremely dangerous. Backroads requires that all guests wear helmets while biking.

Trip Documents, Cancellation Info & More

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

Inside your Pre-Departure Packet is a brochure describing our Travel Protection Plan, which covers trip cancellation for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, accidental death, lost baggage, medical evacuation and airline cancellation charges. **Because so many guests purchase this plan, we have made it convenient for you to obtain**

by automatically adding the cost to your invoice. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of this plan. Should you not be interested, simply deduct the amount from the invoice total. **Please note that deposits cannot be applied toward your Travel Protection Plan** and coverage is not effective until final trip payment has been made. **You must be a citizen or resident of the United States or Canada to be eligible.** Please see brochure for more coverage details.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

If you must cancel your reservation, a fee will be charged. Please review your trip invoice for cancellation policy details. **Exceptions to this policy cannot be made for any reason,** including those of weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for joining a trip late or leaving early. Private room charges

are considered part of the trip price and are subject to cancellation fees. If you fail to provide signed "Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risks and Arbitration Agreement" and Personal Information forms prior to your trip departure, you will not be allowed to join the trip and will be subject to Backroads' cancellation policy.

On the rare occasions when Backroads must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, which constitutes full settlement. Backroads is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any cancelled trips, such as airline tickets or for costs incurred due to travel delays, flight cancellations or illness.

5. Remove the stem from the frame. The handlebar and stem can be removed as a unit; the cables likely can remain connected. Tie, strap or zip-tie the handlebar to the left side of the bike's top tube in such a way that the stem hangs below the top tube.
6. Tie, strap or zip-tie the front wheel to the left side of the bike in such a way that the left crank arm fits between the front wheel's spokes when the crank arm is resting parallel to the floor.
7. Remove the seat/seatpost. Before removing the post, mark your height with a piece of tape. This step will make it easy to refit your bike when building it back up.
8. The bike is now ready to be packed into its box. Place the smaller box containing the pedals inside the box first; then pack the bike and seat/seatpost. (The seat/seatpost will usually fit nicely in one of the corners.)
9. Tape the box closed securely with packing tape. Write "Fragile" and "Up" (with accurate arrows) on the box using a thick marker. Clearly write your name, address, phone number and destination, as well as the Backroads trip name and start date.

WHY A TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN?

To make your Backroads vacation even more carefree, we highly recommend purchasing our Travel Protection Plan. Our program is designed to protect you around the world in case of lost luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, or an unavoidable yet costly flight delay. Created for our active travelers, this plan offers comprehensive coverage and peace of mind. For more information, see the brochure in your Pre-Departure Packet.



Trip Documents, Cancellation Info & More (continued)

TRANSFERS

With the exception of Private and Custom Trips, you may transfer from one trip to another without penalty, within the parameters of your trip's transfer policy. When transferring to a different date or trip, if the trip costs more than your original trip, you are responsible for the difference in cost. Please review your trip invoice for additional transfer policy details. After the allowable transfer date, our cancellation policy applies. Cancellation penalties will not be charged if you are able to fill the vacancy with another guest(s).

ITINERARY CHANGES

If unforeseen circumstances require a change in the trip itinerary, Backroads will make every effort to select alternative hotels of the same high quality and to keep the route modifications minimal.

EXPENSIVE ELECTRONICS & OTHER VALUABLES

Backroads recommends that you not bring valuable personal electronics including, but not limited to, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers and expensive cameras. While we will transport them from place to place during the trip as a convenience, **we do not assume responsibility for any damage, loss or loss of function to the devices.** This policy also applies to other items such as expensive jewelry, and fragile and delicate accessories, whether purchased on the trip or otherwise.

Alaska Biking

Suggested Packing List

ESSENTIAL

Travel Items

- wallet (credit cards, traveler's checks, bank cards, ID)
- cash for incidentals, gratuities
- airline tickets/e-ticket confirmation details
- one quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag to carry all liquids, gels and aerosols in carry-on luggage (liquids, gels and aerosols must be in 3-ounce or smaller containers)
- medications and copies of prescriptions
- toiletries
- sunscreen and lip ointment
- insect repellent

Clothing & Gear

- clothing and shoes for downtime and restaurants (see "Recommended Dinner Attire")
- breathable, windproof and waterproof rain jacket
- biking shoes or stiff-soled sneakers
- biking shorts
- short-fingered biking gloves
- brightly colored biking jerseys or synthetic T-shirts
- synthetic biking socks
- lightweight jacket/vest or warm sweater
- arm and knee/leg warmers (for biking)
- heavier-weight long-sleeved, synthetic undershirt
- non-cotton base layers of varying weights (fabric such as polypropylene, Capilene or Coolmax)
- waterproof walking/hiking shoes
- hat with brim
- long-fingered gloves
- sleepwear
- underwear and socks
- sunglasses
- daypack and/or waist pack



LUGGAGE REMINDERS

Please limit your luggage to one soft-sided medium-sized suitcase and one small carry-on bag. Mark your luggage with your name, address and phone number.

RECOMMENDED

Clothing, Gear & Items

- biking tights
- windproof outer gloves (worn over biking gloves)
- long-sleeved biking jerseys and synthetic T-shirts
- headband that covers ears (worn under helmet)
- lightweight but warm cycling cap that fits under helmet (skullcap)
- swimsuit

Backroads provides water bottles

- continued on next page-



Suggested Packing List

(continued)

OPTIONAL

Clothing & Gear

- warm jacket
- CamelBak or similar “hydration backpack”
- toe covers or booties (worn over clip-in bike shoes)
- personal biking gear, including helmet*
(see “Bringing Your Own Gear”)
- eyeshades for sleeping

Other Items

- cell phone
- binoculars
- camera, memory card/film, charger/spare batteries
- travel alarm clock
- small umbrella
- reading material
- field guide
- list of important addresses and contact numbers

* Backroads has these items on-hand, but you may prefer to bring your own.

Visit www.backroads.com/gearup for a list of some of our favorite gear and gadget retailers.



WEATHER INFORMATION

Please refer to the “Climate” section for temperature and precipitation information.

Recommended Reading

The more you know about your destination before you go, the more you'll appreciate all that you see when you get there. The following selection of favorite, new and hard-to-find books was prepared for your journey by Backroads' well-traveled staff in collaboration with Longitude, a specialty mail-order book service. For your convenience, you may call 800-342-2164 to order these books directly from Longitude. To order online, and to get the latest, most comprehensive selection of books for your trip, go directly to reading.longitudebooks.com/B43868.

LONGITUDE



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additional book up to a
maximum of \$9.95

Book prices and
availability subject to
change. Checks, Visa,
MasterCard, American
Express and Discover
accepted.

ESSENTIAL ALASKA READING

The following five items are available as a package for \$75 including shipping; this is 15% off the retail price (Item EXALA257). Any additional books ordered are shipped free.

Deb Vanasse

Insiders' Guide to Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska

2009, PAPER, 222 PAGES, \$23.95

This compact guide covers not just Anchorage but also the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound and Denali National Park in depth. (Item ALA268)

Alan Ryan

The Reader's Companion to Alaska

1997, PAPER, 395 PAGES, \$17.00

A volume of 28 eyewitness reports on the Alaskan wilderness over the past 100 years, including pieces by John Muir and Jon Krakauer. The long excerpts are presented geographically with separate sections on the Inside Passage, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Denali. (Item ALA53)

John McPhee

Coming into the Country

1976, PAPER, 438 PAGES, \$17.00

McPhee's lyrical portrait of frontier life and some unforgettable Alaskan characters captures the spirit of the place like no other. (Item ALA04)

Pocket Naturalist

Alaska Wildlife

2000, PLASTIC CARD, \$5.95

This laminated card features color drawings and short descriptions of commonly encountered birds, mammals and reptiles of Alaska. (Item ALA123)

Coastal Cruise Tour Guides

Canada's Yukon and South Central Alaska Map

1998, MAP, \$15.95

Featuring handsome topographic maps that fold down into a booklet, this guide also includes sections on visitor attractions and highlights. With seven fold-out maps of Prince William Sound, Kodiak Island, Denali National Park, Katmai and Kenai Peninsula. (Item ALA55)

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Insight Guides

Insight Guide Alaska

2010, PAPER, 392 PAGES, \$23.99

A profusely illustrated overview of the region, this travel guide features concise essays by well-regarded authors on nature, history, peoples and culture. (Item ALA42)



Recommended Reading

(continued)

ALSO RECOMMENDED (CONTINUED)

Trails Illustrated

Prince William Sound, West Map

MAP, \$11.95

A topographic map of Prince William Sound (including Chugach National Park) at a scale of 1:105,600. (Item ALA85)

Longitude also carries **Prince William Sound Map, East** (Item ALA159, \$9.95).

Trails Illustrated

Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park Map

MAP, \$11.95

A folded, full-color map of Alaska's Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park with good topographic relief at a scale of 1:375,000.

(Item ALA110)

George Herben

Picture Journeys in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias

1997, PAPER, 128 PAGES, \$24.95

An illustrated portrait of the national park. In words and photographs, Herben captures the spirit of Kennecott, McCarthy and the backcountry. (Item ALA200)

John Keeble, Natalie Fobes (Photographer)

Out of the Channel: The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in Prince William Sound

1999, PAPER, 350 PAGES, \$14.00

First published in 1990, this book has been updated to reflect the impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, ten years after the event. (Item ALA86)

John Muir

Travels in Alaska

2002, PAPER, 248 PAGES, \$12.00

The centerpiece of this beloved classic is Muir's wide-eyed account of the discovery of Glacier Bay. A touchstone of the early 20th-century romance with wild places. (Item ALA16)

James Michener

Alaska

2002, PAPER, 1073 PAGES, \$15.95

Michener tackles the 49th state in this rousing epic tale of men and wildlife on the frontier. (Item ALA56)

Margaret Murie, Olaus Murie

Two in the Far North

2003, PAPER, 369 PAGES, \$16.95

Murie's field biologist husband supplies not only fodder for the stories, but also the illustrations for this tale of life on the Alaskan frontier. (Item ALA57)

Jon Krakauer

Into the Wild

1997, PAPER, 224 PAGES, 14.95

The gripping tale of a young man searching for experience, wilderness and self, who meets his end in the wilds north of Mount McKinley. (Item ALA52)

Walter R. Borneman

Alaska: Saga of a Bold Land

2004, PAPER, 608 PAGES, 16.99

In this wide-ranging history, Borneman captures the personalities, bravado and challenges of Alaska, describing the days of the fur traders and explorers, the gold rush, the building of the railroads and current controversies. (Item ALA187)

Michael Melford (Photographer), Jeff Rennie

Treasures of Alaska: Last Great American Wilderness

2010, PAPER, 200 PAGES, \$15.00

A magazine-style portrait of the Alaskan wilds in the National Geographic Destinations series. (Item ALA170)

Dana Stabenow

A Deeper Sleep (A Kate Shugak Novel)

2008, PAPER, 319 PAGES, 7.99

A shocking tale about a man who gets away with murder—or does he? In this thrilling mystery, Anchorage P.I. Kate Shugak is on the trail of an acquitted murderer whom she believes to be guilty. (Item ALA265)

Stan Jones

White Sky, Black Ice

2003, PAPER, 264 PAGES, \$14.00

In this first-rate murder mystery state trooper Nathan Active returns to Chukchi from Anchorage to confront a memorable cast of characters—and figure out why two young men have killed themselves. (Item ALA164)

Kate Wynne

Marine Mammals of Alaska

2007, FLEXI-BOUND, 75 PAGES, \$25.00

Designed for use in the field, this indispensable guide features large color photographs, key information and detailed range maps for all the whales, seals and other marine creatures of Alaska and the Bering Sea across to Russia. (Item ALA08)

James Kavanagh (Editor), Raymond Leung (Illustrator)

The Nature of Alaska

2006, PAPER, 176 PAGES, 14.95

A basic illustrated field guide to the mammals, birds, seashore life, fishes, trees, shrubs and wildflowers of Alaska with 300 color illustrations. (Item ALA137)

