ALASKA BY RAIL
Fairbanks • Denali National Park • Anchorage • Seward • Whittier • Prince William Sound • The Coral Princess® • Hubbard Glacier • Glacier Bay National Park • Skagway • Juneau • Ketchikan • Inside Passage

Aboard the Alaska Railroad you will enjoy the Wilderness Express and Gold Star luxury dome cars with spectacular 360-degree panoramic viewing.

Tour Fairbanks the “Golden Heart City.” Embark on a highlight filled cruise on the Chena River aboard the Riverboat Discovery. You’ll be immersed in both modern and ancient Athabascan Indian Culture at the Chena Indian Village.

Fall is prime time for wildlife sightings in Denali National Park. This six million acre national treasure is home to Mount Denali (formerly Mount McKinley), the tallest mountain in North America!

Play with the puppies at Husky Homestead, home of four-time Iditarod Champion, Jeff King.

Approximately half of Alaska’s 750,000 residents live near Anchorage. We’ll enjoy a historic sightseeing tour of the area.

Then it’s seven spectacular days aboard the Coral Princess® visiting Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay National Park, Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan.

The Empire Builder’s routing through Glacier National Park will highlight our relaxing return trip from Seattle to Chicago.

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR (EXCEPT LAND ONLY* PACKAGE)

Day 1..................Arrive Fairbanks
Day 2..................Fairbanks
Day 3..................Alaska’s Railroad to Denali National Park
Day 4..................Husky Homestead / Anchorage
Day 5..................Anchorage
Day 6..................Seward
Day 7..................Whittier / Prince William Sound
Day 8..................Hubbard Glacier
Day 9..................Glacier Bay
Day 10...............Skagway
Day 11..............Juneau
Day 12...............Ketchikan
Day 13...............Cruising
Day 14...............Vancouver / Seattle
Days 15-16 ..........En Route to Chicago
Day 1: Arrive Fairbanks

Alaska by Rail tour members will find that flights to Fairbanks are surprisingly affordable. Upon arrival you’ll transfer to the hotel where your Tour Director will greet you.

This evening you may want to peek outside to see if the Aurora Borealis (northern lights) are visible!

Day 2: Fairbanks

Our Alaska guide will join us this morning and be with us throughout the land portion of our tour.

Following breakfast we’ll embark on a tour of the “Golden Heart City”. This afternoon we’ll board the Riverboat Discovery and embark on a highlight filled cruise on the Chena River. We’ll be introduced to a family who has made the rivers of Alaska a way of life for five generations. You will see a bush floatplane takeoff next to the boat, then visit the home and kennels of the late four-time Iditarod winner Susan Butcher and see her champion sled dogs in action. You will be immersed in ancient Athabascan Indian culture on a visit to the Chena Indian Village. Guides will explain how the wolf, fox, martin and beaver provided food and protection in the harsh Arctic climate. They will also share how the Athabascans survived for over 10,000 years and how they have adapted to Western culture during the past century.

This evening your Tour Director will host a Welcome Dinner. B & D

Day 3: Alaska Railroad / Denali National Park

This morning we will transfer to the Alaska Railroad Depot and board the Wilderness Express luxury dome car on the Denali Star route. These cars feature spectacular 360-degree panoramic viewing upstairs, complete with a full bar and coffee service. Enjoy a sumptuous, cooked-to-order breakfast in the full-service dining room on the lower level (included). Our arrival into the Denali Depot is scheduled for 12:10 p.m.

Denali National Park is six million acres of wild land, bisected by one ribbon of road. This afternoon we’ll embark on a 5 - 7 hour Tundra Wilderness Tour traveling 62 miles into the park. Spectacular scenery, a narrated history of the park and some of the best opportunities to view wildlife await. Have your camera ready as September is prime time for seeing fox, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and grizzly bears.

Rising 20,237 feet, Denali (formerly known as Mt. McKinley) is the tallest mountain in North America. If weather conditions allow we may see it today; if not we have 4 more days for it to show itself.

Following the tour we will transfer to our Denali hotel. B
Day 4: Husky Homestead / Anchorage

Following breakfast (included) we'll transfer the short distance to Husky Homestead, home of four-time Iditarod Champion Jeff King. We'll be greeted by cuddly puppies and learn how the dogs are selected for the roles they must perform. Jeff will entertain us with stories of mushing, Arctic survival and the challenge of raising girls in a house that has no running water!

We'll transfer to the Denali Depot and once again enjoy Wilderness Express luxury accommodations and more incredible scenery as we head south to Anchorage. Lunch and dinner are available downstairs in the dining room. Arrival is scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

Day 5: Anchorage

Approximately half of Alaska’s 750,000 residents live near Anchorage. This morning we’ll set out on a historic sightseeing tour of this beautiful area.

You are free the rest of the day to pursue all that this fine city has to offer. The Alaska Zoo is the only zoo in North America that specializes in northern animals, focusing on species ranging from wolverines and moose to caribou and Dall sheep. Of course the bears figure prominently with all four Alaskan species (brown (grizzly/Kodiak), black, glacier and polar). The Anchorage Museum and Alaska Native Heritage Center are culturally rich attractions. Another option is a flightseeing excursion.

Interesting fact: Anchorage’s prime global location combined with the growth of China’s tech exports have made Ted Stevens International Airport the number three airport in the world for cargo traffic, ranking only behind Hong Kong and Memphis (the U.S. hub for Federal Express). Both FedEx and UPS operate major hubs here.

Day 6: Seward

This morning we will board the Alaska Railroad for the Coastal Classic, described as the most scenic rail route in Alaska, so based on what we’ve seen so far, we are in for a real treat! We will be pampered with Gold Star Service, the Alaska Railroad’s premium class. These cars are similar to the private Wilderness Express cars we’ve enjoyed previously, but with one major difference, an outdoor, upper-level viewing platform -- the only one of its kind in the world, offering fresh air and an excellent vantage point for photos! Enjoy a full service breakfast on the lower level (included).

Our arrival into the port city of Seward is scheduled for 11:05 a.m. Upon arrival we will enjoy a city tour and visit the amazing Alaska SeaLife Center.

Day 7: Whittier / Prince William Sound

Following breakfast this morning (included) we’ll transfer to what may be the most unique community you’ve ever visited, Whittier, “The City Under One Roof”.

When the Japanese invaded the Aleutian Islands during World War II, the U.S. Army sought to build a secret military installation. Whittier was perfect due to the surrounding mountain peaks that often keep it shrouded in clouds. For access to the Seward Highway, the Army blasted a 2.5-mile train tunnel through Maynard Mountain. The Army left in 1960, leaving behind the 14-story Begich Towers, where most of Whittier’s 190 residents live today, sharing the space with a police station, a health clinic, a church and a laundromat.

We will embark on a spectacular 5-hour glacier and wildlife cruise through majestic Prince William Sound, which has the densest concentration of tidewater glaciers in the world and is home to sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, bald eagles, seabirds and whales. Lunch is included.
Upon our return to Whittier we will board the luxurious Coral Princess, our beautiful home for the next seven days. The Princess Patter newspaper is delivered nightly to your stateroom and will be your guide to the activities and events of the following day. Departure is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. B, L & D

Those opting for the “land-only” package will transfer to Anchorage and fly home this evening.

Day 8: Hubbard Glacier (cruising)

Create your own schedule today; do as little or as much as you care to. Pamper yourself with a massage or facial at the Lotus Spa & Salon. Shop in the extensive boutiques for duty-free liquor, designer clothing and gifts. Head to the internet café or library. Tee up at the putting course. There is a jogging track and state-of-the-art fitness center for those looking to work off some of the fantastic cuisine. Swim in one of three sparkling pools (one heated) or relax in the spa. You’re never too far from one of the five relaxing hot tubs.

Try your luck at the Casino featuring a variety of table games, slots (including nickel slots for the not-so-high roller), video poker, etc. Other daily activities include bingo, craft-making, art auctions, pool games, trivia contests, wine and cocktail tasting and that traditional cruise-favorite, shuffleboard! Watch first run movies, concerts and sporting events on the 300-square-foot Movies Under the Stars outdoor screen (enjoy with popcorn and a blanket in the evening).

Princess is renowned for fine cuisine. Dine casually at the Horizon Court, Prego Pizzeria, or Trident Grill. Dining rooms include the Bordeaux and Provence. There is also an ice cream bar, afternoon tea and 24-hour room service.

To say the nightlife onboard is entertaining is an understatement. The performers are seasoned professionals and their performances are of the same caliber as what you would see on a Broadway stage.

Early this afternoon we will be approaching Hubbard Glacier. Nicknamed the “Galloping Glacier,” it is the largest tidewater glacier in North America. The immenseness and blue hues are enchanting, even from afar, but as we draw closer it is the towering 400-foot face with snowcapped mountains in the background that really impresses! You’ll have a prime viewing spot for this very active glacier and hopefully witness some calving. B, L & D

Day 9: Glacier Bay National Park (cruising)

Covering 3.3 million acres of rugged mountains, dynamic glaciers, temperate rainforest, wild coastlines and deep sheltered fjords, Glacier Bay National Park is a highlight of Alaska’s Inside Passage and part of a 25-million acre World Heritage Site, one of the world’s largest international protected areas.

This morning National Park Rangers will come aboard our ship to set up an information desk and provide narration. Our captain will do his best to get us up close and personal to the more active glaciers. The park is home to an amazing array of marine life, including humpback whales, sea otters, porpoises, sea lions and harbor seals. Both black and brown (grizzly) bears are commonly seen as are moose, mountain goats, bald eagles and tufted puffins. B, L & D

Day 10: Skagway

Skagway was the gateway to the gold fields for the thousands who flocked to Alaska and the Yukon with the hope of striking it rich. Skagway may have boasted the shortest route to the Klondike, but it wasn’t the easiest. The gold rush was a boon and by 1898, Skagway was Alaska’s largest town with a population of about 20,000. Today, Skagway has less than 1,000 residents.

Optional shore excursions include: White Pass Scenic Railway, Skagway City Tour, Klondike Summit, Liarsville Experience & Gold Panning, To the Klondike Summit,

princess cruises
Day 11: Juneau

There are no roads that lead to Juneau. Named after Joseph Juneau who discovered gold in the 1880s, Alaska’s capital city gracefully balances frontier ruggedness with cosmopolitan flair. Mendenhall Glacier, a spectacular river of ice measuring 1.5 miles wide and over 12 miles long, hugs Juneau’s north side. And of course no visit to Juneau is complete without a stop at the world-famous Red Dog Saloon.


Day 12: Ketchikan

Ketchikan is located within the 16 million acre Tongass National Forest. The evergreen mountains and lush landscape are a stark contrast to the lunar landscapes of northern Alaska. Ketchikan also boasts the world’s largest collection of Northwest totems and is often regarded as the salmon capital of the world.

Optional shore excursions include: Lighthouse, Totems & Eagles Excursion, Misty Fjords & Wilderness Explorer Cruise, Coastal Wildlife Cruise, Misty Fjords Seaplane Exploration, Cultural Treasures of Annette Island, City Highlights, Totems & Creek Street by Trolley. B, L & D

Day 13: Cruising

Ah, a full day to relax and enjoy this magnificent ship. Indulge yourself with a relaxing massage. Shop in the duty-free Boutique featuring designer clothing and gifts. Or just cuddle up with a good book. B, L & D

Day 14: Vancouver / Seattle

Following breakfast we will disembark the ship, board our motorcoach and head for Seattle’s King Street Station. We will board the Empire Builder for the 4:40 p.m. departure to Chicago. This evening you can enjoy an optional full-course dinner in the dining car; lighter fare is available in the lounge car. B

Day 15: En Route

Today a dramatic panorama of snow-capped Rocky Mountain peaks will begin to rise above the horizon, becoming increasingly dynamic as we approach Glacier National Park. The scenery is striking as we wind past waterfalls, river gorges and other sights. The rest of the day we’ll cross the remote flatlands of eastern Montana and western North Dakota.

Day 16: En Route to Chicago

After we go through Minneapolis-St. Paul we head south along the west bank of the Mississippi River. The train winds between the river bank and high bluffs. Later in the morning, we pass through the picturesque Dells Country of Wisconsin. The Empire Builder is scheduled to arrive in Chicago’s Union Station late this afternoon.

At the conclusion of the tour some travelers will continue to home destinations. Others will spend the night in Chicago and continue home tomorrow.
REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:
A deposit of $500 per person, of which $250 per person is non-refundable, is required to finalize registration. The balance is due 120 days prior to departure. Amtrak accommodation upgrades and any connecting transportation charges are due at time of registration. If payments are not received by the due date specified, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

TOUR CANCELLATIONS:
If cancellation is received by America by Rail more than 120 days prior to departure, $250 of your deposit will be retained. For cancellations received within 120 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply:
- 76-120 days prior to departure: 25% of total tour cost.
- 61-75 days prior to departure: 50% of total tour cost.
- 31-60 days prior to departure: 85% of total tour cost.
- 30 days or less prior to departure through duration of the tour: 100% of total tour cost.

The total tour cost includes tour price, add-ons and upgrades. Air and connecting rail cancellations are subject to the carrier’s policy.

Refunds will be made approximately 30 days after the conclusion of the tour.

Payment / cancellation exceptions are noted on tours.

All pricing is per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

TRANSPORTATION
Rail transportation over the tour route and motorcoach, van, or other modes of transportation where specified in the tour.

TRAIN ACCOMMODATIONS
As specified in the tour itinerary, upgrades may be available at an additional cost.

CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS
Rail / Sail tours include inside staterooms (double occupancy) on cruise ships. Upgraded staterooms may be available at an additional cost.

HOTELS
Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room. Two-bedroom rooms are provided in most instances, however, sometimes their availability is limited. If a two-bedroom room is required, please notify America by Rail at time of registration. America by Rail reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in any tour description, when necessary. Every effort is made to have hotel rooms available for occupancy upon arrival. There may be instances when rooms are not available until later.

SINGLE ROOMS
Single rooms at hotels and Amtrak Roomettes on a single basis are available at a single cost.

SIGHTSEEING / ADMISSIONS
Sightseeing, as outlined in the itineraries, will be provided by motorcoach or in most instances. Admission fees are included as specified. Sightseeing tour arrangements may be altered if required.

MEALS
All included meals are listed in the tour itinerary. Persons requiring a special diet must inform America by Rail at the time of registration. Not all restaurants / trains will be able to accept or retain any individuals as members of the tour. The acceptance of any service provided as part of an America by Rail tour, or any ticket or voucher, shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent to these conditions.

All rates published herein are in U.S. dollars and based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on the printing date of the tour brochure. Prices and arrangements are subject to change without notice.

American by Rail reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept or retain any individuals as members of the tour. The acceptance of any service provided as part of an America by Rail tour, or any ticket or voucher, shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent to these conditions.

AMTRAK STATEMENT:
The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is not to be held responsible for any act, omissions, or events during the time passengers are not on board their trains or conveyance. The passenger contract in use of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and purchaser of these tours and / or passenger. All conditions are subject to the laws of the District of Columbia, U.S.A.

SMOKING:
Smoking is not permitted on America by Rail motorcoaches. Those who smoke may do so at any of the frequent stops we make. All Amtrak and VIA Rail trains are completely smoke-free. If time is available at station stops, it will be announced by the conductor. Cruise ships policies vary from line to line, but all have designated areas to accommodate smokers.

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Persons, other than a representative of America by Rail, authorized by a document in writing, may vary, add or waive any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

A $50 per person fee will be assessed for each itinerary alteration requested after final arrangements are confirmed.

It is our company policy to issue a tour roster to all tour participants containing all tour participants’ names and addresses. If you do not want your address included, you must let us know at time of reservation.

Times, schedules, entertainment and activities are subject to change without notice.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FUEL SUPPLEMENT:
Please be advised America by Rail reserves the right to apply a fuel supplement for all guests should the price of oil warrant it.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:
America by Rail acts only in the capacity as an agent for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation, hotel or other services. All tour services, tickets and vouchers are subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such means of transportation, hotel or other services are offered or provided. America by Rail shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever, for any loss, injury or damage from acts of God, sickness, theft, weather, strikes, war, or quarantine however caused or arising.

America by Rail reserves the right to cancel a tour in the event tour participation does not meet minimum requirements.

America by Rail shall not be obligated to honor any booking resulting from, nor shall be responsible or liable whatsoever in connection with, misprints or errors of any kind, whether in brochures, advertisements, on the Internet, during the booking process or otherwise, that result in traveler being undercharged for the tour. America by Rail reserves the right, prior to departure, to collect the correct fare or cancel the booking and refund any payment made by traveler.

AMTRAK STATEMENT:
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