

~~ *The Call of the Wild Soul* ~~
“Alaska...The Last Frontier”
July 15 – 25, 2013



July 26th post trip option – full day bear viewing!

Dream your Wilderness Adventure.....Then Live it in Alaska!
...Go Where the Wild Things Are...

“Alaska’s Wildness “ is legendary with its endless acres of untamed wilderness and astounding wildlife still roaming wild and free. Indescribable adventure awaits you every moment as you find yourself in the midst of breaching whales, bears foraging along the shore, the crack of calving ice from awe-inspiring glaciers, snow-capped soaring mountains and towering forests. Everything about Alaska including the historic waterfront towns urge you to linger and discover it’s wonders and to give yourself the freedom to answer the “Call of the Wild Soul”. Join Gayle Lawrence on a 10 day Wild Wilderness Adventure....with all of the creature comforts....in the Land of the Midnight Sun, the final frontier.....Alaska!

July 15, 2013 Day 1: Depart your home city for Anchorage Alaska



Welcome to Anchorage. Upon arrival you will transfer to the Clarion Suites Hotel which offers a 24 hour courtesy airport shuttle. Your Alaska adventure begins in the thriving city of Anchorage, where you will find all the makings of a wild Alaskan adventure with every modern convenience. This exciting community offers a unique taste of Alaska’s signature traits. Depending on your arrival time, you could enjoy fishing, wildlife viewing, and dog sled shows without even leaving the city limit. You’ll spend your first night in Alaska at the Clarion Suites Hotel ideally located in the heart of downtown Anchorage and within walking distance of many area attractions. Coffee and a continental breakfast are included in your room rate and there is also a heated pool, hot tub and free high-speed wireless internet service. <http://www.clarionsuitesak.com/>



July 16 Day 2: Anchorage – Girdwood - Seward (B,L)

After a restful night and a good breakfast, the group will meet in the lobby and then board our bus for a scenic drive along the Seward Highway – a National Scenic byway with beautiful mountain and ocean views to the coastal fishing community of Seward. Nestled in the glacier carved mountains of the Chugach Range, this picturesque destination is the perfect place from which to explore Kenai Fjords National Park.



As we travel along the Resurrection River toward Seward and Exit Glacier our driver / guide will tell us about the topography, vegetation and natural habitats surrounding a glacial environment. On our drive to Seward we may spot beluga whales, Dall sheep and other wildlife and will stop to view them. We’ll make a stop at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to view rehabilitated wildlife up close, such as moose, Dall sheep, bears and many other creatures and then continue on to the small mountain community of Girdwood.



Upon arrival in Girdwood we’ll take the Alyeska Aerial Tram up to the top of Mt. Alyeska. This is a seven minute ride up to a viewing deck with breathtaking panoramic views of mountains, hanging glaciers, streams, spruce, and an array of wildlife. We’ll enjoy a relaxed midday lunch at the Glacier Express Café on Mt. Alyeska’s observation

deck, 2,300 feet above sea level. Telescopes on the Glacier Terminal viewing deck intensify the breath taking view of a spectacular landscape.



Upon arrival in Seward we'll check into the Seward Windsong Lodge, located in a quiet forest setting on the banks of the Resurrection River.

Just up the road from Seward Windsong Lodge is the jewel of the Resurrection River Valley, Exit Glacier. This massive wall of blue ice descends the mountainside from the Harding Ice Field down to Resurrection River. If the group is up for it we'll join a naturalist guide on beautiful walking trails that wind through the alders and rock croppings to this amazing mass of glistening ice. If you've had enough adventure for one day, we can do the glacier hike the next morning. A good choice for dinner is the Resurrection Roadhouse. Known for terrific burgers and huge plates of nachos, the restaurant also serves fresh seafood, steaks, specialty salads and hand-tossed pizzas which are sure to delight your taste buds. Sample one of the many types of ale on tap as you watch for the sun to set on the mountains.

<http://www.sewardwindsong.com/>

July 17 Day 3: Seward – free day for optional activities / costs not included in tour price

Today is a free day and you can pick and choose which activities you would like to experience or just hang out around the lodge and kick back and relax. List of options is below with their costs.

Grand Day kayak tour, horseback ride and glacier dog sledding must be reserved in advance



2-Hr Horseback Ride - \$97.00 per person

This area of Seward, Alaska is only accessible by horseback. View bald eagles up close, see where they nest and watch them feed. It is rare that you can't ride your horse right under the trees where they majestically perch. You will ride through part of the old town of Seward that was destroyed by the great earthquake of 1964. You will hear the stories of the people who lived through it. The horses will then take you to the shore of the bay where the wild flowers meet the ocean. The bird life of this area is very diverse, active and up close. This Trail Ride could very well be the wilderness highlight of your trip to Seward and Alaska. Rides depart at 12pm and 3pm daily

All riders ought to be less than 275 lb. Please let Explore Tours know in advance if your party has riders over 250 pounds, that way we may request the appropriate horse for the rider.

Seward Alaska Sealife Center - \$19.00 per person

Take the complimentary shuttle from the lodge and visit The Alaska SeaLife Center which offers an unrivaled, up-close and personal experience with Gulf of Alaska marine wildlife. Witness a 2000+ pound Steller sea lion gliding past underwater viewing windows, puffins diving in a carefully crafted naturalistic habitat, and harbor seals resting on rocky beaches. Alaskan king crab, sea stars, and the Giant Pacific octopus also await you, as well as a whole variety of intertidal creatures and deep sea fishes.



Local Artists - Ride the complimentary shuttle into Seward and shop for books by local authors, pottery, wood carvings, Alaska Native arts and crafts and hand blown glass beads in a variety of shops around town. Take home some of these special treasures to remind you of your Alaska vacation and enjoy lunch or dinner in one of the local hangouts.



Hike and Explore Kenai Fjords National Park: The guest lodges at Seward Windsong Lodge are connected to the main lodge and Resurrection Roadhouse by a series of paved trails that wind their way throughout the property. Wildflowers, ferns and spruce trees accent the natural beauty of this temperate rain forest. Not far from the lodge is the entrance to Kenai Fjords National Park. Access by foot via the Resurrection Trail and Exit Glacier trail system provides hours of exploration into Alaska's backcountry.

Grand Day Kayaking Tour - \$403.00 per person

Our charter boat will transport you to Aialik (pronounced 'eye-al-ick') Bay with stops along the way to view wildlife we may see such as whales, harbor seals, Stellar sea lions, tufted and horned puffins, bald eagles, Dall's porpoise and more. After a bakery lunch aboard our boat we will launch our kayaks and paddle amidst some of the most spectacular scenery that coastal Alaska has to offer. Crackling icebergs, towering glaciers and wildlife encounters will bedazzle your senses as we spend the afternoon paddling. Includes kayaking instruction, equipment, use of rubber boots & dry bags. No prior paddling experience necessary.



Glacier Dog Sledding Expedition - \$381.00 per person

Take off in one of our helicopters and find yourself landing at Dog Camp atop an ancient glacier. A team of sled dogs anxiously awaits gliding you across perfect white snow. After your sled ride, take a look at our puppies, take pictures in a place where everyone's a great photographer, and talk with your musher about his best trail stories. We have all the gear and equipment you'll need for your experience, you just need to bring your camera. This is a 1.5 hour experience that includes 15 minutes of flightseeing. It has a low activity level, making it ideal for all ages.

July 18 Day 4: Seward – Wilderness Sled dog Tour is included today



Today head over to the sled dog kennel of Iditarod champion Mitch Seavey for an exciting look at a truly Alaskan sport. Talk with expert mushers and learn about these terrific animals. Ride behind a powerful team of sled dogs on a thrilling ride through the wooded trails of this beautiful region. Be sure to spend some time with the kennels newest puppies before you go. This tour departs from the lodge 3 times daily and is 2 hours in duration: 8:30 am, 3 pm and 6 pm. This leaves lots of time for other optional activities today. We may visit the sled dogs as a group or you can do this on your own before or after other activities you may want to schedule.

July 19 Day 5: Seward – Full Day Cruise Kenai Fjords National Park (Lunch)



Today depart the Seward small Boat Harbor and enjoy a fun-filled, glacier and wildlife cruise that travels through the Kenai Fjords National Park and the Chiswell Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Cruise along Alaska's picturesque coastline and see the abundant wildlife and breathtaking scenery of this region. Your captain narrates the tour and shares many fascinating facts about the wildlife that you see along the way. Watch sea otters grooming their fur as they float along. Expect to be greeted by sea lions, harbor seals and a variety of bird life nesting in the sheer cliffs of the park. Keep an eye out for pods of orcas or humpback whales as you draw closer to the tidewater glaciers of this beautiful region. The cruise visits both the Ajalik and Holgate Glaciers and as the boat nears the glacier, the captain idles down the engine so you can hear the ice calving as it breaks away and plummets into the sea. With photo opportunities galore this cruise will be unforgettable!

After a memorable tour of Kenai Fjords your boat pays a visit to the green, secluded shores of Fox Island. Step off the boat and into the Fox Island Day Lodge where you will enjoy a scrumptious buffet lunch of freshly prepared Alaska salmon and prime rib, rice pilaf, green salad, hot sourdough bread, hot coffee or tea and full dessert bar. After a delicious

meal, get ready to take those last few pictures as the boat returns to Seward and you look forward to another relaxing night at the Seward Windsong Lodge.

What To Wear

Due to unpredictable Alaskan weather, we advise dressing in layers, which will allow you to stay warm and dry as the outdoor environment changes. Even on warm summer days, temperatures can be cool on the boat when it is underway or stopped at a glacier. A rain coat or rain gear is recommended for inclement weather.



July 20 Day 6: Seward to Talkeetna

Today we depart Seward and travel north to the quaint town of Talkeetna. Our private motor coach makes this journey one of comfort as you journey north from Seward, over the pass and along Turnagain Arm to Anchorage and from there on to the small, close knit community of Talkeetna. Upon arrival, check into the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. Set on a ridge above the small community of Talkeetna on the south side of Mt. McKinley, the lodge offers unforgettable views of Mt. McKinley and the Alaska Range. Enjoy the view as you look out over Denali and relax by the 46-foot river rock fireplace in the grand lobby. The lodge offers casual or fine dining, an authentic Alaskan gift shop, and a perfect atmosphere to enjoy the panoramic mountain views.

<http://www.talkeetnalodge.com/>



July 21 Day 7: Talkeetna to Denali National Park by train

Get up early and explore Talkeetna before we board Alaska's scenic rail line and continue the journey north to the main entrance of Denali National Park. Shortly after rolling out of Talkeetna, traverse one of the greatest engineering feats of the Alaska Railroad, the historic bridge over Hurricane Gulch. The view from your comfortable rail car extends for miles over untouched forests and sweeping tundra with Alaska's enormous peaks towering in the backdrop. Learn about the railroad's fascinating history from a friendly guide who narrates the tour and helps to point out wildlife along the way. Quality accommodations and a wealth of attractions await you at the main entrance to Denali National Park. After disembarking from the train, catch a courtesy shuttle to The McKinley chalet Resort.

<http://www.denaliparkresorts.com/accommodations/mckinley-chalet-resort.aspx>

Train departs Talkeetna at 11 am arrives at Denali Depot at 3:45pm

July 22 Day 8: Denali National Park – Kantishna Roadhouse Lodge (Dinner)

The morning is free to do some local exploring around the McKinley Resort and visit the Denali National Park Visitors Center. Allow time to have lunch before meeting at the Denali Park Depot at 12:45 pm with your luggage to check in and board the bus. (**IMPORTANT:** *Guests are limited to one (1) piece of checked baggage and one small carry-on that will fit overhead or at your feet. Excess baggage will be charged at \$50.00 per piece with no exceptions.*)

Our access to the more than 6 million acres of protected wilderness within Denali National Park and Preserve is accomplished in style and comfort aboard a private bus bound for our accommodations, the Kantishna Roadhouse Backcountry Lodge. In addition to our travel group, you'll have the opportunity to meet a few other like-minded travelers seeking Denali's beauty through a more personalized, small group experience.



The Denali Park Road is the only road in the park, and extends 91 miles to the old mining community of Kantishna. Along the way on our narrated wildlife drive, we'll cross rolling mountainsides, cliffs, scenic vistas and prime wildlife viewing areas. It is not uncommon to encounter wildlife right on the park road, as Denali's "Big Four" - caribou, moose, Dall sheep and grizzlies – use this pathway on natural migrations. Ground travel is the most productive manner by which to spot the most wildlife as well as the most dramatic Alaska Range perspectives, and this active sightseeing experience is a guest favorite.



Upon arrival at the Kantishna Roadhouse, enjoy dinner and settle into your cozy cabin accommodations. Kantishna Roadhouse is an all-inclusive, eco-friendly, authentic Alaskan lodge located deep in Denali National Park & Preserve. Experience the magnificent landscapes and abundant wildlife of Denali Park and learn firsthand the history and culture of the area. Hike in full view of Mt. McKinley, visit Wonder Lake and Reflection Pond. A Kantishna guide will give a talk about all of the activities available at the lodge and be available to help you with questions or planning.

The Kantishna Roadhouse is owned and operated by Doyon Native Corporation whose shareholders are of Athabascan Indian descent and have ties to the land that date back thousands of years. You will have the opportunity to interact with many Alaska Native staff members at the Kantishna Roadhouse. These lifelong Alaskans are happy to share information about their culture and heritage as well as their personal stories of life in modern-day Alaska. Alaska is a vast state with a total population of less than one million people spread across millions of acres. The road system is very limited and many Alaska Native villages are only accessible by air. Therefore, many visitors come to Alaska and never interact with real Alaskans; but at the Kantishna Roadhouse you will have that unique and rewarding opportunity.

Your all-inclusive stay provides meals, a variety of interpretive activities, hiking, naturalist programs and the chance to observe wildlife in their natural habitat and experience the breathtaking scenery of Denali Park, up close and personal.



Sparkling clean, Cold Moose Creek runs through the Kantishna Roadhouse property and the beautiful grounds offer quiet settings for solitude and relaxation. You can fish for arctic grayling or just sit quietly on the banks of the creek and let Mother Nature work her magic—reducing tension and stress and offering up peace and tranquility. Leave the hectic pace of your everyday life behind—no cell phones, no email, and none of the multitude of other demands on your time...just you, surrounded by 6 million acres of true Alaska wilderness! Imagine it. Better yet...Experience it! Dinner included tonight. www.kantishnaroadhouse.com

July 23 Day 9: Denali Kantishna Roadhouse (B,L,D)

Today is your day for exploration and hiking in the Kantishna region of Denali National Park. There are lots of options to choose from and all of the following activities are included during your stay at Kantishna Roadhouse.

Hiking: Guided hiking is our premier activity at the Roadhouse. Join us on our popular daily walking and hiking excursions. Guided hikes leave the Roadhouse each morning—you can choose a two hour walk or take a bag lunch and hike for up to six hours. Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or advanced trekker, the Roadhouse offers an opportunity for you to explore the Park on foot and learn about the wildlife and flora of the Kantishna Hills from one of our experienced Naturalist Guides. Footwear is important and good hiking boots are a must. Please be sure to bring a pair of boots with good ankle support that are water resistant as you will be hiking over rocks and through boggy tundra at times on most of our intermediate and challenging hikes.



Fly Fishing: Moose Creek flows through our property and Arctic Grayling (member of the trout family) are abundant; if you've always wanted to try your hand at fly fishing or you're an experienced fishing enthusiast, this is the activity for you. Hip boots and both fly and spinning rods are available for guest use and your first lure or fly is complimentary. A selection of tackle is available for purchase at the front desk and fishing licenses are not required in the Park.

A solitary morning or evening spent casting in the ripples is a unique and wonderful way to connect with nature. (Note: We practice Catch and Release fishing at the Roadhouse.)

Mountain Biking: If mountain biking is on the top of your list as a favorite outdoor activity, rev up the pedals of one of our mountain bikes and spend some time exploring the countryside. Pedal to Wonder Lake or investigate the old mining roads in the area. Ask a guide to assist you with a bike selection and please wear the required helmet for your protection. Daypacks and water bottles are also available for your use.

Dog Team Presentation: One of our most uniquely Alaskan activities is our dog team presentation. Emmitt Peters Jr., son of Iditarod Dog Mushing Champion Emmitt Peters Sr., will regale you with a talk about dog mushing in Alaska. Afterwards, he will take you to meet our team of Alaskan sled dogs, harness them up and take them for a run. Since there is no snow in summer to run a sled on, the team is run with an ATV, which is a common way to exercise dogs in the summer. This presentation is educational as well as entertaining—be sure to have your camera ready!



Gold Panning: The Kantishna district was the sight of a gold rush in the early 1900s. Every afternoon you will have a chance to slip on a pair of rubber boots, grab a pan and head for Moose Creek with a guide to learn the history and methods of the old-time prospectors and try your hand at panning for a little "color". Any gold you find is yours to keep and we are happy to create a complimentary "Gold Card" for you at the front desk—your gold flakes will shimmer and shine when they are laminated onto the black card. Kids of all ages—9 to 90--thoroughly enjoy this activity and are astounded to learn about the legendary lives and times of the early prospectors.

Also available at additional cost: Therapeutic Massage

Give yourself a true gift and the special attention you deserve during your stay with a full body massage. Our in-house massage therapist offers one-hour and 1.5 hour massage treatments in a private and tranquil spa setting. After an adventurous day of hiking, biking or fishing, any aches, pains, or tension will be released as you connect with yourself and with nature during this luxuriating treatment. Chair massage is also available in the afternoons. (Note: Massage is not included in the package price.)



Flightseeing Tours: Cost: \$245.00 / 3 person minimum. Advance reservations recommended for specific date.

This can be booked at the Roadhouse front desk. For those seeking a bird's eye perspective of the park and Mt. McKinley, you may sign up for an optional flightseeing tour that departs the Kantishna airstrip daily.

<http://katair.com/alaska-glacier-tours.html>

Return to the main lodge for dinner, conversation and a relaxing evening. Overnight at Kantishna Roadhouse. Breakfast, lunch, dinner included today



July 24 Day 10: Denali National Park to Anchorage by train (Breakfast)

Following a very early breakfast we'll leave Kantishna on a return scenic drive back to the park entrance and watch for wildlife we may spot along the way. At the Denali Park Depot we board the Alaska Railroad for passage on a memorable 365-mile route of scenic unspoiled backcountry scenery en route to Anchorage. Along the way, traverse breathtaking river gorges via single-span bridges, make old-fashioned whistle stops. Enjoy Lunch and dinner on the train (not included) You'll arrive at the Anchorage Rail Depot (located at 411 West 1st Avenue) at approximately 8:30 p.m. Private coach transfer to the Clarion Suites Downtown and overnight.



July 25 Day 11: Anchorage – full day excursion (Breakfast)

Sleep in a little and then enjoy a complimentary breakfast at the hotel starting at 6 a.m. At 10 am we'll meet our guide in the hotel lobby, board our private coach and the group will head north to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, to meet local artisans and get a glimpse into the culture and traditions of Alaska Natives past and present.



These beautiful people have a unique heritage that celebrates and is deeply connected with nature. Their artifacts are functional yet beautifully designed. Experience the historical exhibits of their everyday lives living in harmony with the land and gain an understanding of their various cultures. Enjoy lunch at the Center.



This afternoon you are in store for an unusual experience as we visit a musk ox farm. We'll observe, photograph and interact with these Ice Age animals at close range, as we learn from our guides and educational exhibits about their fascinating natural history, the domestication project, and how their fine under wool, called qiviut. Their wool is the basis of an Arctic native textile industry which provides an economic supplement to subsistence communities throughout Alaska. The Musk Ox Farm is nestled in the Matanuska Valley just outside of Palmer, Alaska which is a scenic fifty-minute drive from downtown Anchorage. The picturesque Colony farm, where a unique domestication project began sixty years ago, is home to a lively herd of sixty musk ox, from powerful bulls to frolicking calves.

Return to Anchorage late afternoon.

For those who have scheduled a late night flight back to their home city, you will transfer to the airport.

For those staying for the bear viewing on the next day, you will overnight at the Clarion Suites Hotel



July 26 Day 12: Optional bear viewing (B, L)

Cost: \$735.00 PP bear viewing
plus extra night Clarion Suites Hotel

The bush plane can only take a maximum of 5 people
reservations with deposits must be made well in advance

Watch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZAibFfwMWU>

Alaska Bear Viewing at Silver Salmon Creek is the ultimate bear viewing experience! Silver Salmon Creek is located on the shores of the Cook Inlet, in the pristine Lake Clark National Park. This ocean front setting is the ultimate bear habitat as the creek running through the prairie land is loaded with Silver Salmon. This attracts a large resident Brown Bear population all summer long. It's not uncommon here to see a few black bears as well. The tall grass and a backdrop of the Iliamna Volcano are the ideal setting for some spectacular photos of the bears.

Your bear viewing adventure begins as you depart Anchorage on a bush plane and fly south along the Cook Inlet. The 1 hour scenic flight is fantastic as you fly by 3 active volcanoes, numerous salmon streams, glaciers, and other Alaskan sights. You land on the beach at low tide where your naturalist bear guide will meet the plane and bring you up to the lodge for a brief bear orientation. Then it's time to have some up-close-and personal time with the bears in this ideal bear habitat as they interact with each other in the wild. There are no barriers, fences or platforms separating you from the bears and other wildlife as you watch the bears grazing on sedge grass, playing together, resting, digging up clams, fishing and mother bears with their cubs. After an exciting morning of Bear Viewing, head back to the lodge for a hearty homemade lunch. Relax in the comfort of the lodge before heading back out for more thrilling bear encounters. After an exciting day with the magnificent brown bears of Alaska, you'll fly by bush plane back to Anchorage.

You can schedule your return flight to your home city on a late departure the evening of July 26th.

Welcome Home from an amazing adventure in Alaska! Your Soul has experienced the “Call of the Wild” inside yourself and made that connection with the profound beauty, energy and abundant wildlife of The Last Frontier.

Tour Cost Per Person: \$3,899.00

Based on a minimum group of 10 guests double occupancy

\$500.00 deposit required to reserve your space

Supplement Cost: \$1,550.00

Post Trip Optional Bear Viewing: \$735.00 PP plus additional night Clarion Suites Hotel

\$350.00 deposit required to reserve your space / bush plane maximum 5 guests / must be reserved well in advance

Tour Includes:

- 10 night's accommodations double occupancy
- Meals as specified in trip itinerary
- Private, locally chartered motor coach for all land transportation as outlined
- Round trip luggage handling
- General Admission to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Tram Ride and Lunch Girdwood, Exit Glacier Hike, Wilderness Sled Dog Tour, Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise w/lunch on Fox Island, inclusive tours at the Kantishna Roadhouse, Admission to the Native Heritage Center, Admission into the Musk Ox Farm
- Adventure rail service from Talketna to Denali / rail service from Denali to Anchorage

Tour Does Not Include:

- Airfare to Anchorage, Alaska
- Meals not specified in the trip itinerary
- Costs for optional activities not included in the tour cost
- Items of a personal nature, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry etc.
- Tips and gratuities to hotel staff, restaurants, drivers, guides
- Any item not specifically listed in the tour program
- Trip cancellation / emergency medical travel insurance