



Good Times Travel

# Alaska Iditarod & Northern Lights

Alaska Railroad's *Aurora Winter Train*, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Iditarod Festivities

February 25–March 4, 2024 – 9 Day Tour

## Tour Highlights

- ◆ Stay two nights in Fairbanks with aurora borealis viewing and a Fairbanks city tour to include the Morris Thompson Cultural Center and Trans-Alaska Pipeline, along with optional excursions including dog mushing and an Arctic Circle air adventure
- ◆ Visit Denali National Park including a visit to the Murie Science and Learning Center, an opportunity to snowshoe and aurora borealis viewing
- ◆ Enjoy "Adventure Class" seating while traveling onboard Alaska Railroad's *Aurora Winter Train* from Denali to Anchorage
- ◆ Enjoy a 5-night stay in Anchorage with a city tour and visits to the Anchorage Museum and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to see Alaska's wildlife up-close
- ◆ Iditarod festivities including the Musher's Banquet, visit to an Iditarod champion's kennel, visit to the Iditarod Headquarters, and attend both the official Ceremonial Start and the official Restart in Willow



Iditarod Ceremonial Start



Happy Trails Kennel



Alaska Railroad's Aurora Winter Train



Mount Denali – Denali National Park

## Tour Inclusions

- ◆ 8 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 10 Meals – 1 dinner, 1 lunch, 8 breakfasts
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with a professional tour director/local guide
- ◆ Transportation aboard a deluxe vehicle and aboard Alaska Railroad's *Aurora Winter Train*
- ◆ Roundtrip airport-hotel transfers
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour

## Tour Prices

Double Occupancy: \$2,299 per person  
Single Occupancy (no roommate): Add \$500  
Roundtrip airfare from \$995 per person

## Itinerary

*Embark on a magical journey to see Alaska as it was meant to be seen – in the winter – when the northern lights and the excitement of the world famous Iditarod are underway. On this adventure of a lifetime led by an Alaskan guide, you'll discover our nation's largest and perhaps most beautiful natural wonder while exploring Fairbanks, Anchorage and Denali National Park with a ride aboard Alaska Railroad's Aurora Winter Train providing a true Alaska winter wonderland!*

### Day 1 – Welcome to Fairbanks!

Optional transfers from home or one of our departure points this morning will have you at LAX for a connecting flight to **Fairbanks, Alaska**. *Those guests making their own flight arrangements may arrive in Fairbanks at any time.* You'll board a deluxe vehicle (motorcoach or van depending on the size of the group) and continue to your Fairbanks hotel with the balance of the evening at leisure.

### Day 2 – Fairbanks, Northern Lights

Following an included breakfast, embark on a guided **Fairbanks city tour** including a visit to the **Morris Thompson Cultural Center** and the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline**. This afternoon relax at the hotel or take advantage of optional excursions including dog mushing and an Arctic Circle air adventure. *Optional excursions are additional with bookings/payments made with your tour director while on tour and available as weather permits.* This evening, travel just outside the city for **aurora borealis viewing** with an included hot beverage. The northern lights are beautiful dancing waves of light that occur when energized particles from the sun collide with Earth's upper atmosphere. *Northern lights are not guaranteed as they are based on weather and solar activity.* Return to the hotel late tonight. (Breakfast

## Reservations



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## Accommodations

- ♦ Nights 1-2 **Pike's Waterfront Lodge** or similar Fairbanks, AK
- ♦ Night 3 **Aurora Denali Lodge** or similar Denali/Healy, AK
- ♦ Nights 4-8 **Sheraton Anchorage** or similar Anchorage, AK

## Optional Roundtrip Airfare

Airfare is available as an optional add-on as advertised on the front of this brochure. Because airfare generally increases closer to departure, it's best to purchase airfare as soon as possible to lock in the lowest price and best schedule.

## Optional Airport Transfers

Roundtrip airport transfers are available from our departure points in these cities for \$99 p.p.

- ♦Fountain Valley ♦Laguna Hills
- ♦Long Beach ♦Seal Beach

## Payment Information

- ♦ Full payment due at time of booking
- ♦ Payment may be made by check or by credit card at [www.goodtimestravel.com](http://www.goodtimestravel.com)

## Cancellation/Travel Protection

A travel protection policy (which includes cancellation protection and other benefits) is highly recommended and available through a third-party. A travel protection brochure will be provided with your payment receipt and invoice. Regardless of the reason, cancellations, credits and transfers of paid bookings require us to retain an administrative fee (ranging from \$50-\$250 depending on the date of cancellation) in addition to all non-recoverable fees paid to our tour suppliers on your behalf. Those guests who have purchased travel protection and must cancel for a covered reason, will be reimbursed by the travel protection company the balance of any non-refunded or credited monies (minus the premium itself). Visit [www.goodtimestravel.com](http://www.goodtimestravel.com) or see our tour catalog for our full cancellation policy and other terms and conditions.

## Tour Pace & Activity Level



Visit our website for further explanation of what each of these designations means to assist you in determining which tour is right for you based on your physical abilities and the pacing you prefer.

## Itinerary

### Day 3 – Fairbanks to Healy, Denali National Park

After an included breakfast, travel south to Denali with a stop to visit the town of **Nenana**, home of the Nenana Ice Classic! Upon arrival in **Denali National Park**, visit the **Murie Science and Learning Center** (elevation 3,000') which acts as the Denali visitor center in the wintertime. Enjoy the national park film *Heartbeats of Denali*, hear from a park ranger and take advantage of an opportunity to go snow shoeing! This evening, a second opportunity to see the aurora borealis. Overnight in Healy. (Breakfast, Boxed Lunch)

### Day 4 – Denali to Anchorage Via Alaska Railroad

Following an included breakfast, we'll board the deluxe railcars of the world-famous Alaska Railroad's **Aurora Winter Train**. Your "Adventure Class" seating offers comfortable, forward-facing seats, large picture windows and Alaskan tour guides. Experience the quiet serenity of Alaska's backcountry in winter while keeping an eye out for views of Mount Denali, the tallest peak in North America. Begin a five-night stay at a deluxe hotel in **Anchorage** this evening. (Breakfast)

### Day 5 – Anchorage

After an included breakfast, embark on a guided **Anchorage city tour**. Visit the historic downtown district and **Lake Hood** where float planes take off and land. Visit **Earthquake Park** to learn about the massive earthquake in 1964. Travel south this afternoon along the scenic Seward Highway and Alaska's spectacular **Turnagain Arm** framed by the Chugach Mountains and ocean vistas. Visit the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** to see some of Alaska's largest wildlife like moose, bison, elk, deer, caribou, musk ox, fox and birds of prey. Tonight, take part in official Iditarod festivities with an included dinner at the official **Musher's Banquet** where you'll meet the mushers who will compete in this year's Iditarod. *Attendance at the banquet is only guaranteed for guests paid by January 1, 2024.* (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Day 6 – Anchorage

Following an included breakfast, travel north to **Happy Trails Kennel** to meet Martin Buser, four-time Iditarod Champion, who will share his personal stories from the Iditarod trail. Also, an included visit to the **Iditarod Headquarters** to see a replica Iditarod Trail station first-hand. (Breakfast)

### Day 7 – Anchorage, Iditarod Ceremonial Start

The big day has arrived! Following an included breakfast, head to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Anchorage, providing a great viewing location of the official **Ceremonial Start of the Iditarod**, known as the "Last Great Race" (weather and snow conditions permitting). Cheer on mushers and dogs from all over the world as they burst through the Iditarod start line, and take part in other Iditarod festivities at leisure. This afternoon, visit the **Anchorage Museum** – an impressive art, history, ethnography, ecology and science museum in the heart of downtown Anchorage. (Breakfast)

### Day 8 – Willow, Iditarod Restart

Following an included breakfast, travel north to the quaint community of **Willow, Alaska** for the official **Restart of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**. Prepare for a bit of a walk to find the perfect spot along the race fence line. Cheer on the mushers and dogs as they take off every two minutes across Willow Lake on their 1,049 mile journey into the Alaska Wilderness for Nome. The Willow Community Center is open and offers a break from the cold with vendors selling food and drinks as well as local crafts. Return to Anchorage this evening. (Breakfast)

### Day 9 – Journey Home

Following an included breakfast, an included transfer to the Anchorage International Airport for a return flight to Los Angeles. *Those guests making their own flight arrangements can depart Anchorage at any time today.* Upon arrival in Los Angeles, those guests with pre-arranged transfers will be returned to their respective drop-off points. Return home with many fond memories of the incredible scenery and the excitement of the Iditarod and northern lights on this unique winter adventure. (Breakfast)

*In the rare event the Iditarod Restart is relocated north beyond Willow due to weather and trail conditions, a full day of activities in Anchorage will be substituted and will include a visit to the Alaska Aviation Museum, an opportunity to meet an Alaskan bush pilot, an included lunch at a locals' favorite and visit to the E. Street Theater to see an interactive movie about the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.*

*This tour may be different from other tours offered by Good Times Travel due to the cold temperatures, snow and ice underfoot. Guests should be in good health and able to walk reasonable distances over slippery surfaces. Comfortable, waterproof shoes or boots as well as winter clothing are required for this tour.*

*The land portion of this unique tour is operated by a local tour operator partner of ours that specializes in this region and provides a professional, Alaskan tour director to lead the group upon arrival in Fairbanks. Our group will be joined by guests from other parts of the U.S. A Good Times Travel tour director will accompany our group only with a minimum number of Good Times Travel guests.*