

The Arctic Aurora Photography Workshop

- * 5 Days/4 Nights: Starting and Ending in Fairbanks, Alaska
- * 6 Participants Maximum
- * Trip Leader: David W. Shaw
- * For Dates and Details: [CLICK HERE](#)



Trip Overview

Arctic Aurora Workshop

If there is a formula for success in aurora photography it's this: good chances for clear weather, a location near the Arctic Circle, no light pollution, and a dramatic landscape. The central Brooks Range village of Wiseman, Alaska, in March and early April has every one of those elements.

The northern lights are an elusive quarry for photographers. They are highly seasonal and their visibility is dependent on the weather, and solar and geomagnetic activity. Few places in the world offer excellent odds for clear skies, the perfect northerly location, and a dramatic landscape to set the stage. One of those few is Alaska's central Brooks Range.

With four full nights to chase the aurora, this trip has an excellent history of success. Wiseman, our base, lies directly under the portion of the northern sky where the aurora forms. Even quiet northern lights displays can be dramatic affairs in this arctic village, where the lights swirl directly overhead while the surrounding mountains offer an ideal backdrop.

The aurora is the focus of this trip, but you'll also have the chance to experience the arctic wilderness in daylight. After leisurely mornings, we'll venture out with our cameras, exploring one day as far north as Atigun Pass, and possibly over the continental divide and down onto Alaska's Arctic Slope.

Trip starts and ends in Fairbanks, AK.

\$2700/person



5 Days/4 Nights

DAY 1

Travel: Depart Fairbanks and drive north up the Dalton Highway to Wiseman.

Night: Boreal Lodging, Wiseman AK.

Meals Provided: L, D

Key Points: Scenic drive, potential for wildlife, boreal and alpine scenery.

DAY 2-4

Travel: Local

Night: Boreal Lodging, Wiseman AK.

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: Late nights of aurora photography, daytime explorations of the Brooks Range.

DAY 5

Travel: Return drive down the Dalton Highway to Fairbanks. Arrive Fairbanks, late afternoon.

Night: Independent.

Meals Provided: B, L

Key Points: Dalton Highway scenery and wildlife.

Our journey begins in the city of Fairbanks, Alaska where I'll pick you up at your hotel around 9am. From Fairbanks, we will journey north into the rolling, boreal-forest covered hills and mountains of interior Alaska. About 60 miles north of town, we will turn onto the famous Dalton Highway (or Haul Road). The Dalton is mostly dirt, winding, and hilly, and is the only way to drive to the Brooks Range.

It can be a bumpy ride, depending on road conditions, but the scenery is constantly changing and beautiful. We will stop often for photos, and a picnic lunch at the Yukon River. By early afternoon, we'll cross the Arctic Circle, then work our way up the Koyukuk River valley, into the mountains of the Brooks Range, eventually arriving in the tiny village of Wiseman, Alaska. Wiseman is a town of around a dozen people, log cabins, lots of history, and our base for our days in the arctic.

Our focus on the aurora borealis means late nights. Each evening, around dark, we will head out with our cameras, venturing out via vehicle to locations where dramatic mountains loom close and provide compelling foregrounds. One night, we will linger in Wiseman, using the historic cabins, and river valley as elements in our shots.

We'll be up into the wee hours, which means we dedicate much of the morning to sleep and recovery. But after a late breakfast, we'll venture out to see the Brooks Range in daylight. One day, weather permitting, we will drive as far north as the highest road-accessible pass in Alaska, Atigun Pass. To the north of the pass the mountains of the Brooks Range descend onto Alaska's north slope. If time allows, we will drive down into the Atigun River Valley to the northern extent of the mountains.

Our final morning, we will re-pack the vehicle and head south back down the Haul Road toward Fairbanks. Depending on weather and road conditions, we will arrive back in town by mid-afternoon.

Signup, Dates, and Details

[Click HERE](#)



Disclaimer on Trip Itineraries: These trip descriptions are accurate to the degree possible, however natural phenomenon and wildlife are dependent on conditions outside of our control. I put every effort into arranging my trips to encounter the best possible photography and viewing opportunities, but described situations cannot be guaranteed. Schedules and hotels are subject to change based on weather, local conditions, and availability.

Have Questions? Feel free to contact me:

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