

Alaska: Mountains, Glaciers and Coast

Photography Workshop

- * 8 Days: Fairbanks to Anchorage
- * 5 Participants Maximum
- * Trip Leader: David W. Shaw
- * For Dates and Details: [CLICK HERE](#)



Trip Overview

Alaska: Mountains, Glaciers, and Coast

Alaska is big. That is one of the state's assets, and for photographers, one of its greatest challenges. It's impossible to cover all of Alaska in one trip; it's just too big, too diverse, too rugged and wild. But it is possible to get a good cross section of the state, and this trip does just that. From the boreal forest of the interior, to the remote eastern Alaska Range, fishing towns, wild coastlines, and tidewater glaciers, this photo workshop is the perfect introduction to the state of Alaska.

Starting in the interior Alaska city of Fairbanks, we'll journey south. Instead of battling the crowds of tourists in Denali National Park, we'll head to the eastern Alaska Range, where we can find some solitude among the lakes, mountains, alpine glaciers, and rushing streams. While there, we will explore rarely photographed landscapes, walk the tundra in search of wildflowers and waterfalls, and photograph glaciers as they tumble off the rugged mountains.

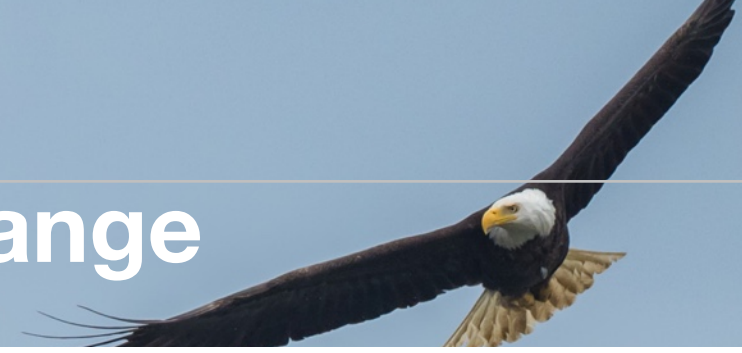
From the Alaska Range we will continue moving south to the fishing town of Valdez. Located on Prince William Sound and surrounded by the Chugach Mountains, Valdez is an idyllic place for photography. Waterfalls tumble down the steep mountainsides, black bears prowl for Pink Salmon in the many streams, and tidewater glaciers slide down the mountains where they calve into the wildlife rich waters of the Sound.

From Valdez, we'll take the Alaska State Ferry west to Whittier then drive on to Seward. Seward is the stepping off point for Kenai Fjords National Park, and during our days there, we will explore the park by boat, and on foot. With visits to tidewater glaciers, whale watching, and hikes to the toe of Exit Glacier, we'll experience it all.

\$4800/person (double occupancy)



Days 1-3: Fairbanks and Alaska Range



DAY 1

Travel: Meet in Fairbanks, drive to the Black Rapids Lodge in the eastern Alaska Range.

Night: Black Rapids Lodge

Meals Provided: L, D

Key Points: Boreal Forest, AK Range scenery, potential wildlife

DAY 2

Travel: Local explorations

Night: Black Rapids Lodge

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: Gulkana and Castner Glaciers, eastern Denali Highway, Summit Lake

DAY 3

Travel: Drive Alaska Range to Valdez

Night: Harbor View Inn, Valdez

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: Chugach Mountains, Worthington Glacier, Waterfalls

From Fairbanks, the road to the eastern Alaska Range rolls through boreal forest covered hills, by lakes, and along the shore of the braided Tanana River. At first the mountains are just distant forms on the horizon, but by the time we stop for a picnic lunch near Delta Junction, a farm town, the mountains will loom close.

After lunch, we'll continue our drive south, climbing up the Delta River valley to the Black Rapids Lodge. The lodge is a beautiful building perched on a slope with views across the valley and the surrounding mountains. With great food, and comfortable rooms, it's also a perfect base for our explorations of the Alaska Range.

Weather permitting, we'll head out for a sunset shoot after dinner, venturing up toward the Castner Glacier. We'll also have all the following day to explore the Alaska Range, which we'll spend on the eastern end of the Denali Highway, walking along the outflow of the Gulkana Glacier and making images of the mountains, rivers, wildflowers, and wildlife we encounter.

On the morning of Day 3, we'll bid farewell to the Black Rapids Lodge and continue south down the Richardson Highway, over the continental divide and into the basin of the famous Copper River. We'll have a picnic lunch along the way, eventually climbing up to the summit of Thompson Pass where we'll take a break to admire the Worthington Glacier before descending through Keystone Canyon and on to the fishing town of Valdez.



Days 4-6: Valdez

DAY 4

Travel: Valdez, local

Night: Harbor View Inn, Valdez

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: boat trip on Prince William Sound, local landscapes and wildlife, Keystone Canyon waterfalls

DAY 5

Travel: Valdez, local

Night: Harbor View Inn, Valdez

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: Photo explorations around Valdez. Waterfalls, Worthington and Valdez Glaciers, Keystone Canyon, possible Black Bears

DAY 6

Travel: Valdez to Whittier by ferry, drive to Seward

Night: Creekside Cabins, Seward

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: Scenic ferry trip on Prince William Sound, evening at Exit Glacier

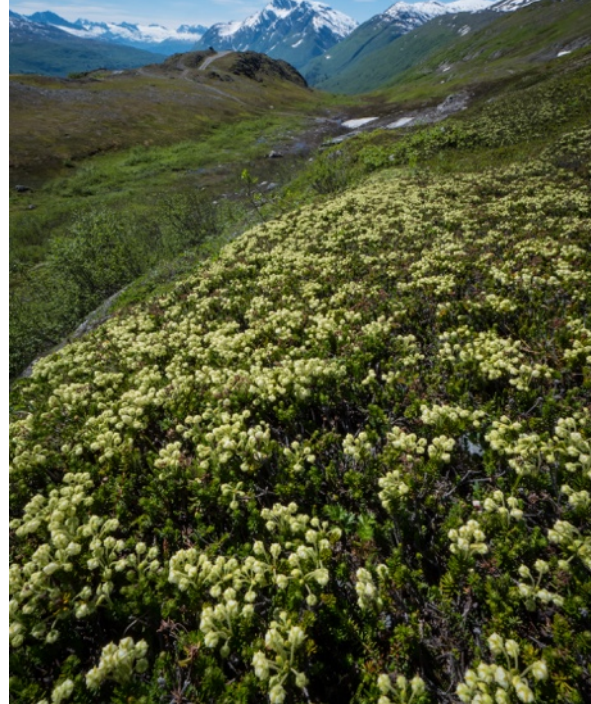
Valdez is a town of contrasts. On one side it is a fishing town, a place where sport and commercial fishermen, and canneries operate to catch and process the abundant runs of salmon. On the other side it is an adventure tourism hub. Valdez and the surrounding Chugach Mountains are famous for backcountry heli-skiing and ice climbing which draws adventurers during late winter and spring. Also, as the terminus of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Valdez has an industrial component, which contrasts with the incredible beauty of the natural world that is present in the mountains, glaciers, forests, and wild coasts that surround the town.

It's also a wonderful place for photography! Within a short drive there are numerous tall waterfalls, alpine and valley glaciers, high alpine scenery, forests, salmon streams, a small boat harbor, and (via boat) tidewater glaciers, whales, sea lions, otters and other marine life.

With two full days to explore, we'll dedicate one to local explorations of the area: Keystone Canyon waterfalls, Thompson Pass, Worthington Glacier, Bald Eagles at the harbor, and searching for Black Bears at Solomon Gulch.

The second day we'll head out for an all-day boat trip which will take us to the Meares or Columbia Glaciers (schedule dependent). Aboard the boat, we'll be looking for humpback whales, sea lions, otters, mountain goats, seabirds, and other wildlife. And of course we'll be making images of ice bergs, calving glaciers, and of the blue water and mountains of Prince William Sound.

On the morning of Day 6 we'll board the Alaska Ferry for the trip across Prince William Sound to Whittier.



Days 7 and 8: Seward

DAY 7

Travel: Seward, local

Night: Creekside Cabins, Seward

Meals Provided: B, L, D

Key Points: small boat trip in Kenai Fjords National Park, local photography

DAY 8

Travel: Seward to Anchorage

Night: Independent

Meals Provided: B, L

Key Points: Morning in Seward, return to Anchorage by mid-afternoon in time for evening flights.

INCLUDE THE BEARS OF KATMAI!

Extend your trip to experience the famous bears of Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park! Combine this trip with the **Bears of Katmai workshop**, save \$250 on the combined price, and get two nights free in Anchorage. Find out all the details **[HERE!](#)**

After our arrival in Whittier on Day 6, we will drive through the famous Whittier Tunnel (a one-way, once railroad tunnel beneath the Chugach Mountains) to the shore of Turnagain Arm. From there we'll turn our wheels south toward Seward, Alaska.

Seward is a popular destination in summer for visitors and Alaskans alike. As a deepwater port, the Seward Harbor can handle big cargo ships, cruise ships, and all manner of small fishing boats and pleasure vessels. Despite the busy-ness around the harbor, Seward offers a great deal to photographers. Kenai Fjords National Park lies just outside of town, accessible by road at Exit Glacier, and by boat in the park's many fjords. We'll take advantage of both ways to see the park.

After dinner on our first night we'll make the short drive to Exit Glacier, where we can walk to the glacier overlook, and make images of the deep blue ice field.

Day 7 is a trip highlight. After breakfast, we'll board a small boat, chartered just for our group, and motor out into Resurrection Bay and on into Kenai Fjords National Park. With the day to explore, we'll look for Humpback Whales, orcas, sea lions, seals, eagles, puffins, tidewater glaciers, and the epic scenery of this part of Alaska.

We will disembark just before dinner, after which we'll spend the evening exploring the Seward Harbor, looking for eagles along the coast, and re-visiting favorite spots from the previous afternoon.

Our final morning, we'll visit the Seward Sealife Center, before loading up the vehicle and heading back to Anchorage. We'll arrive in the city by mid-afternoon, in time to catch evening flights home, or head off on further adventures in Alaska.



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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