



Please see the **NOTICES ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.

Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to COVID-19 regulations.



Alaska: Wildlife Alliance Expedition™

Journey to the Last Frontier and explore Alaska's great wilderness while immersing yourself in learning about the 49th state's majestic wildlife and participating in wildlife conservation activities.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will be immersed in experiences involving many of Alaska's iconic wildlife species. See and learn about a large variety of terrestrial and marine wildlife, their biology, and the threats they face. You will also help in animal care and habitat restoration activities in this largest U.S. state (so large, in fact, that if it was divided in half, each half would still be larger than any other state). Because it's so big, we'll keep our trip focused on exploring the southcentral region. Hike to a glacier, raft a river, take a wildlife cruise, ride a train, pan for gold, and meet some sled dogs!

10-DAY PROGRAM

June 24 – July 3, 2022
July 6 – July 15, 2022
July 18 – July 27, 2022
July 30 – August 8, 2022

Tuition: \$5,999
Service Hours: 15
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 18
Age Range: 14-18
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Airport: ANC

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Get up close and personal with unique Alaskan wildlife
- ★ Visit wildlife conservation facilities featured on the TV show "Alaska Animal Rescue"
- ★ View wildlife during hiking, river rafting, a marine cruise, and a backcountry train ride
- ★ Become a citizen scientist for an endangered species
- ★ Learn about traditional customs of Alaska's Indigenous Peoples

***No passport required for U.S. citizens.**

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Human encroachment into Alaska's many wilderness areas has put wildlife at risk. Help with conservation projects, such as the care of rescued animals and their facilities, removal of invasive species and habitat restoration. The specific service activity may vary depending upon the specific needs at the time of your trip. Participate in a citizen science project by learning about what monitoring sessions for endangered beluga whales look like. Also, you will receive a one-year membership with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, a nonprofit protecting Alaska's wildlife through education and citizen mobilization.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule and order of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO ALASKA!

Touch down in Anchorage, the capital of Alaska. GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to our Home Base outside the city center. Home Base in Anchorage is an ecolodge camp with rustic, homey cabins. Tonight we'll settle in, bond as a group and get ready for a whirlwind of activities and adventure over the next week and a half.

DAY 2: NATIVE HISTORY & CULTURE + WILDLIFE INTRODUCTION

After orientation on our first full morning in Alaska, we're going to dive into the state's history and learn about the unique culture of Alaska's Indigenous Natives. We'll visit Anchorage's Alaska Native Heritage Center, which has a mission to preserve and strengthen the traditions, languages, and art of Alaska's Native People. Stroll through the authentic, life-sized Native dwellings, guided by a Cultural Bearer who will introduce you to the history and lifestyles of several Native Alaskan tribes. We may have a chance to learn about some Alaskan Native games and see how they're played -- and maybe even have a chance to try them ourselves!

We'll have lunch near downtown before we head to a local reindeer farm to learn about the various inhabitants that call this farm home (hint: there are a lot more than reindeer here!) You'll have a chance to feed some of the farm's residents and learn about the other wildlife who also live here.



DAY 3: WILDLIFE EDUCATION & AERIAL TRAM RIDE

Today we're going to check out some more well-known spots that are wildlife refuge areas. First, we'll check out Potter's Marsh Boardwalk, an easily accessible boardwalk winding 1,550 feet through the marsh and creek, the perfect habitat for various birds and fish that we'll be learning about on the program. Keep an eye peeled for bald eagles, Canada geese and yellowlegs, along with spawning chinook, coho or humpback salmon (you'll learn even





more about these later on!). The marsh is also known to be frequented by moose year-round, foraging for food.

Next, we'll take a stop at Bird Point, which is better known as a beluga whale viewing/monitoring area. While belugas are not often spotted in summer, you can learn a lot about their unique features, as well as the drastic reduction in the beluga population since the 1970s. As future wildlife conservationists, it's important to learn about how and why wildlife has been impacted and what's being done to support the return of dwindling populations. What data do scientists and conservationists collect? And how is that used?



After our wildlife stops, we'll continue a little farther down the highway to Girdwood, a small mountain town known for its ski resorts. We'll hop on the Alyeska Aerial Tram and ride more than 2,300 feet to the top of Mt. Alyeska, getting sweeping views all along the way. At the top, we can hike around a bit before having lunch at the mountaintop deli -- now that's an epic lunch view!

DAY 4: ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER EXPLORATION & SERVICE

Today is going to be centered on a student- and staff-favorite organization — the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. AWCC is a sanctuary dedicated to preserving Alaska's wildlife through conservation, education, research and quality animal care. We'll not only have a chance to tour the grounds with a wildlife expert and learn about the animals in the care of this refuge (black bears, brown bears, moose, wolves, foxes, porcupines, musk ox, Wood bison and more!), but also support a service project to help the AWCC team. We may support a habitat clean-up, invasive species removal or other projects requested by the organization at the time of our visit. Learn about the work that AWCC does while also lending a hand to lighten their load where possible.



After lunch on-site (is anyone keen to try a reindeer hot dog?), we'll head back down the highway to our home for the next couple of nights, Cooper Landing. We'll get acquainted with our new home before diving into some GLA leadership curriculum and preparing for days ahead.

DAYS 5-6: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & WILD ALASKAN ADVENTURE

Human encroachment into Alaska's many wilderness areas has put wildlife at risk. Here in Cooper Landing, we'll support stream restoration work on the Kenai River to ensure that river wildlife such as salmon and otters have healthy and safe habitats. Did you know that more than 2 million visitors come to Alaska every year? Tourism is integral to the economy of southeast Alaska, including here on the Kenai River, but these visitors put stress on the natural resources and local environment. Support the health of Alaska's coastline by taking part in a coastal clean-up and removing debris from waterways, or by planting native species in place of invasive ones.



With our partner organization, the Kenai Watershed Forum, we're going to blend together service and adventure. We'll go rafting down the Kenai River and stop along the way to work on a service project in areas that are inaccessible by foot. We'll be utilizing our river raft to help us get to these remote areas that are greatly in need of support.



We'll also take a break from service work and take in the breathtaking beauty



of Alaska's wilderness. We'll take a hike in the wilderness to see this land by foot and you'll be able to get an up-close view of a glacier. Keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife, as we may cross paths with moose or bears!

DAY 7: FISH HATCHERY SERVICE & EDUCATION

Today, we'll depart Cooper Landing and head toward Seward, our southernmost stop of the trip. We'll stop to visit a salmon hatchery to learn about the importance of sustainable salmon harvesting and how hatcheries benefit Alaska's economy. Take a tour of the hatchery and see how the salmon are cared for before they are released into the wild.



After lunch, we'll head out with the hatchery workers to support a project that is most needed at the time of our visit. We may help with the construction of a weir (a low dam built across a river to raise the level of water upstream or regulate its flow) that helps with salmon counting, support a waterway clean-up or help with wildlife habitat restoration.

DAY 8: MARINE WILDLIFE EXTRAVAGANZA

Today, you'll learn all about the marine wildlife here in Southeast Alaska. First, we'll visit the Alaska SeaLife Center, a top-notch aquarium and Alaska's only permanent marine mammal rehabilitation facility. Learn about puffins, octopus, harbor seals, sea lions and other marine life while learning about the work that ASLC does within marine research, education and wildlife response.



Afterward, we'll hop aboard a marine wildlife cruise, where we'll have the opportunity to see these marine animals in their natural habitat. While you can never guarantee wildlife spotting, it is common to see sea otters, sea lions, porpoises, harbor seals, bald eagles and even mountain goats during this half-day cruise experience. Hang outside or inside the boat cabin while the captain tells you about the history of wildlife in the Kenai Fjords and helps you spot the various wildlife throughout the day.



DAY 9: SLED DOGS, GLACIER HIKE & BACKCOUNTRY TRAIN RIDE

Have you ever wanted to get to know the sled dogs who run in the Alaskan Iditarod? Today is your lucky day! We will visit a family-run dog kennel, whose dogs pull sleds in the legendary 1,000-mile Iditarod race. Dog sledding -- or mushing -- is a unique sport to Alaska and has been part of Alaskan heritage for thousands of years. Learn about the sport and the dogs before hiking to a glacier and taking in the stunning views.



We'll say goodbye to Seward as we say hello to the stunning backcountry wilderness. You'll have a chance to see awe-inspiring outdoor landscapes on one of the most fun modes of transportation: the train. We'll be riding from Seward back to Anchorage, giving you about four hours to lounge with large-window views of scenic Alaskan mountains, lakes and rivers. You can try to grab a seat in the dome car for even more expansive views.

DAY 10: GOOD-BYE, ALASKA!

It's time to say goodbye and head back to the continental U.S. After breakfast, we'll depart for the Anchorage airport together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.

TRAVELING TO ALASKA

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base is a collection of cabins or an ecolodge in Anchorage and Seward. Lodging will be rustic, but cozy, and provide a real Alaskan experience to students. Bathrooms will be shared in cabins or in separate bathroom facilities by the lodge.

FOOD | Students will have standard American fare, with a focus on popular Alaskan dishes that are sustainably sourced. Popular meal components include salmon, halibut, crab and berries.

CLIMATE | Summers in Alaska are mild, with average high temperatures between 58°F (14.4°C) and 64°F (17.7°C). Nights drop to an average of 50°F (10°C) to 55°F (12.7°C).

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY™**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe

seventeen

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2022, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

Our Expectations

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

We're Here to Help

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.