

# APOGEE ADVENTURES

## 2023 Alaska Mountains & Coast

### Summarized Itinerary

**TRIP BEGINS:** Anchorage, AK

**TRIP ENDS:** Anchorage, AK

- Day 1:** We'll meet at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport this afternoon. Once everyone has arrived, we'll load up the van and make the short trip to our first campsite, where we'll start getting to know each other, make a tasty dinner, and get excited about the trip. Not wasting any time, we'll spend this evening prepping for our first overnight backpacking trip tomorrow.
- Days 2-6:** We'll spend the next several days exploring the third-largest state park in the country, Chugach State Park. We'll get our first taste of the Alaskan wilderness during a two-day, one-night trip that follows the south fork of Eagle River in a stunning alpine valley between towering, rocky peaks. We'll camp next to a pristine mountain lake before hiking back to the trailhead the next day. After a brief return to civilization, we'll head back into Chugach, this time on a three-day, two-night expedition into the spectacular Williwaw Lakes Region. Here, we'll cross glacier-cut valleys, sleep on the shores of isolated, pristine backcountry lakes, and keep our eyes peeled for moose, mountain goat, and Arctic ground squirrels. The climbs will be challenging, but the feeling of accomplishment and the panoramic views of the Alaska Range, Talkeetna Mountains, and even Denali, will be more than worth the effort.
- Days 7-8:** Emerging from our second backpacking excursion, we'll spend a morning engaging with local communities through a community service project. Afterwards, we'll transfer past the dramatic Turnagain Arm to the coastal town of Seward, where we will enjoy a day of recuperation and resupplying for the next leg of our adventure.
- Days 9-10:** Bright and early on Day 9, we'll meet our professional sea kayaking guides for two action-packed days of paddling through the stunning fjords of Resurrection Bay, highlighted by a hike to an old military fort on the side of stunning Callisto Peak. We'll paddle from Lowell Point to Caine's Head and along the way we'll watch for snuggling sea otters, playful seals, iconic eagles, and adorable puffins. We'll spend the night camping on a beach under the stars, lulled to sleep by quietly lapping waves. On our paddle back to Seward, we might even be lucky enough to spot humpback or orca whales in the Bay.
- Day 11:** Led by professional glacier guides, we'll spend Day 11 on the Antarctic-like landscape of Exit Glacier, one of the most notable glaciers branching off of the Harding Icefield, the largest contained icefield in the country. After a warm-up hike to the glacier's entry point, we'll don crampons, harnesses, helmets, and trekking poles and experience the awe-inspiring feeling of walking on a glacier. We'll even have the opportunity to be lowered into crevasses and, using ice tools, ice climb to the top.
- Days 12-13:** For our last full day together in Alaska, we'll make our way back to Anchorage, where we'll explore the city before enjoying a celebratory dinner together – a great way to cap an amazing adventure. Finally, and reluctantly, we'll head back to the Anchorage airport on Day 13 to bid our new friends farewell.

*Please note that we may run Alaska Mountains & Coast with two groups in the field concurrently, an "A" and "B" group. Both groups will include very similar activities but might be in a different order. Students will be placed into groups and will receive their night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change.*

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