2027 Alaska Mountains & Coast Summarized Itinerary

TRIP BEGINS: Anchorage, AK
TRIP ENDS: Anchorage, AK

Day 1: We will meet at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport this afternoon. Once everyone has arrived, we will load up our van and trailer and make the short drive to our first campsite, where we will get to know each other, cook a tasty dinner, and start getting excited for our adventure ahead.

Day 2: We will spend our first full day in Alaska exploring Chugach State Park, the third-largest state park in the country. We will get our first taste of the Alaskan wilderness as we hike through stunning landscapes just minutes from Anchorage. In the evening, we will dive into our backcountry preparations to get ready for our exciting backpacking loop!

Days 3-5: On the morning of Day 3, we will head back into Chugach State Park for a three-day, two-night expedition in the spectacular Williwaw Lakes region. Along the way, we will cross glacier-carved valleys, camp beside pristine backcountry lakes, and keep our eyes open for moose, mountain goats, and Arctic ground squirrels. The climbs will be challenging, but the sense of accomplishment and the panoramic views of the Alaska Range, Talkeetna Mountains, and even Denali will make every step worth it.

Days 6-7: After emerging from our backpacking loop on Day 5, we will spend the morning of Day 6 engaging with local communities through a meaningful service project. Afterwards, we will travel past the dramatic Turnagain Arm to the coastal town of Seward, where we will take time to relax and resupply (and do some much-needed laundry) for the next leg of our adventure.

Days 8-9: Bright and early on Day 8, we will meet our professional sea kayaking guides for two incredible days of paddling through the breathtaking fjords of Resurrection Bay. Our journey will include a hike to an old military fort on the slopes of beautiful Callisto Peak. As we paddle from Lowell Point to Caine's Head, we will keep an eye out for sea otters, seals, eagles, and puffins. That night, we will camp on a beach beneath the stars, lulled to sleep by the gentle rhythm of the waves. On our paddle back to Seward, we may even be lucky enough to spot humpback or orca whales in the bay.

Day 10: Led by professional glacier guides, we will spend Day 10 exploring the Antarctic-like landscape of Exit Glacier, one of the most notable glaciers flowing from the Harding Icefield—the largest contained icefield in the country. After a warm-up hike to the glacier's edge, we will strap-on crampons, harnesses, helmets, and trekking poles to experience the awe-inspiring sensation of walking on ice. We will even have the chance to be lowered into crevasses and, using ice tools, climb our way back to the surface.

Days 11-12: For our final full day together in Alaska, we will make our way back to Anchorage, where we will explore the city before gathering for a celebratory dinner—a wonderful way to reflect on an unforgettable adventure. Finally, on Day 12, we will return to the Anchorage airport to bid farewell to our new friends and the amazing landscapes we have explored together.

Please note that we may operate the Alaska Mountains & Coast program with two groups in the field concurrently—an "A" group and a "B" group. Both groups will participate in very similar activities, though the order of those activities may differ. Students will be assigned to their group and will receive their detailed, night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change based on weather, logistics, and group needs.

Questions? 207.725.7025 or info@apogeeadventures.com