



# Northern Lights Adventure

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## Trip Highlights

**WITNESS** the magic of the Northern Lights, including personal wake-up calls when the Aurora appears!

**RIDE** dog-sleds through the snowy spruce forests and fields of the great Alaskan wilderness.

**EXPLORE** an ice sculpture museum and enjoy a drink at their famous ice-bar.

**DISCOVER** how locals live in interior Alaska from natives and homesteaders.

**SOAK** in steaming geothermal hot springs under the starry night sky as you watch for the Aurora.

**HIKE** in the forest with friendly reindeer and learn about these gentle mammals from the family who raises them.

## TOUR DATES

**Our tour groups are up to 18 guests.**

Private departures are available for families & groups of 8-10 people or more upon request.

### **2024 Fall Departures**

Sept 14 - 21, 2024

Sept 21-28, 2024

Sept 28 - Oct 5, 2024

Oct 5 - 12, 2024

Oct 12 - 19, 2024

Oct 19 - 26, 2024

Oct 26 - Nov 2, 2024

Nov 2 - 9, 2024

Nov 9 - 16, 2024

Nov 16 - 23, 2024

Nov 30 - Dec 7, 2024

Dec 7 - 14, 2024

Dec 14 - 21, 2024

~~Dec 28 - Jan 4, 2025~~ — Full

## TOUR PRICE

**\$4,595 Per Person**

**\$700 Single Supplement added for solo travelers.**

### **2025 Winter Departures**

Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2025

Feb 1 - 8, 2025

Feb 8 - 15, 2025

Feb 15 - 22, 2025

Feb 22 - Mar 1, 2025

Mar 1 - 8, 2025

Mar 8 - 15, 2025

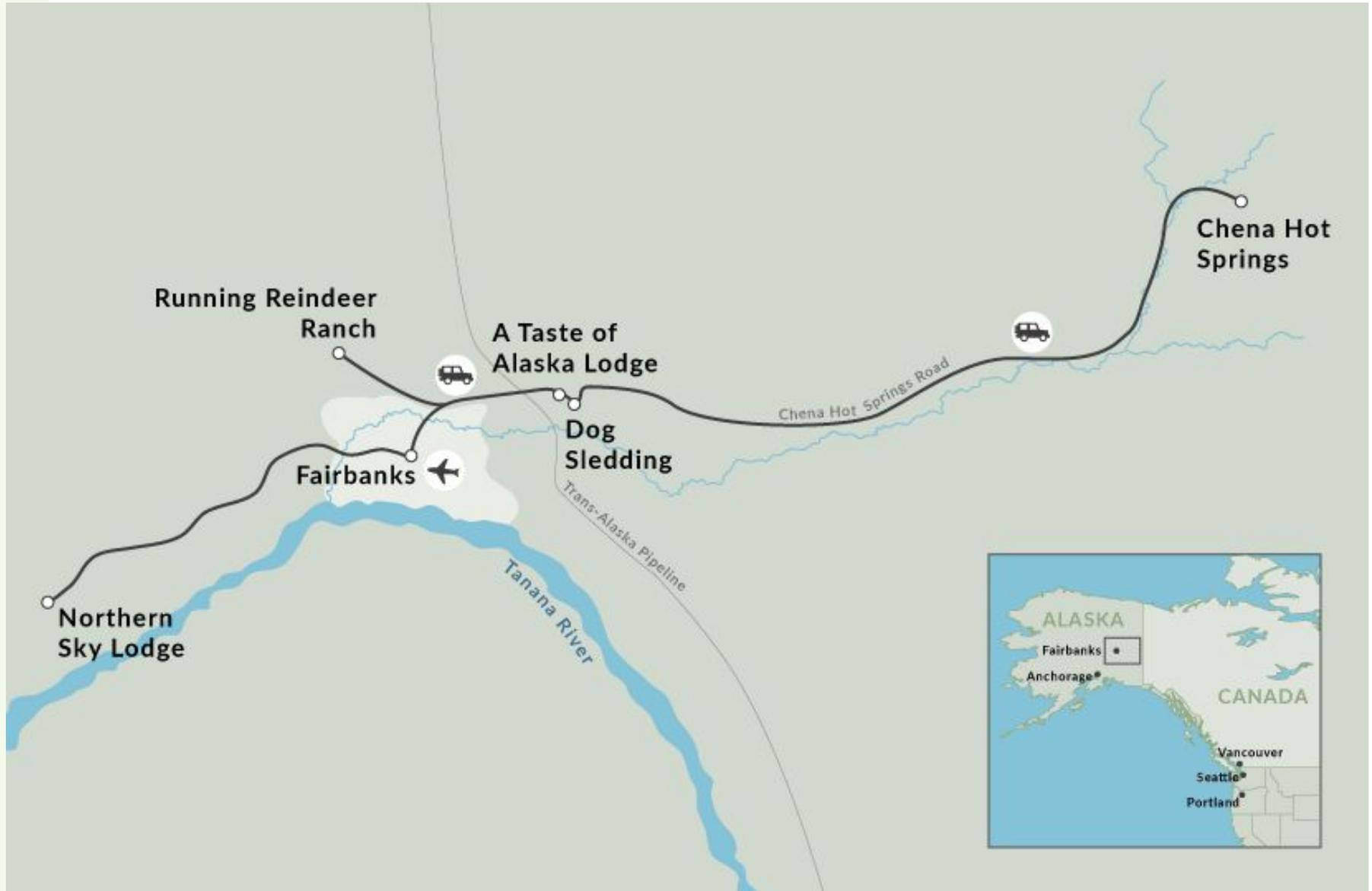
Mar 15 - 22, 2025

Mar 22 - 29, 2025

Mar 29 - Apr 5, 2025

Apr 5 - 12, 2025

# TOUR MAP





## What's Included

- Hotel accommodations in a charming family-owned lodge outside of Fairbanks
- Personal wake-up service and photography assistance when the Aurora is active
- Three expert guides — two for day activities and a third for Aurora watch
- All of your delicious Alaskan meals, as described in the daily itinerary
- Entry to Chena Hot Springs
- A visit with friendly reindeer and the people who raise them
- Entry to the museums and attractions outlined in the itinerary; and gratuities for all non-Gondwana local activity guides
- A dog-sledding excursion
- All of your transportation in Alaska

**We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your trip's impact on the environment.**



## TOUR ITINERARY

Note that we reserve the right to slightly alter the itinerary due to seasonality, weather or availability

## Seasonality

Below is a sample itinerary. Note that the day-by-day activities may be shuffled in a different order depending on the season and availabilities. Activities may also change based on snow conditions. In early fall, snowshoeing is replaced with hiking and dogsledding will instead be a dog-cart ride due to the lack of snow.

Aurora is a natural occurrence and while we have an incredible track record of seeing the lights on 98+ percent of our tours, we cannot guarantee that you will see the northern lights.

## Personal Wake-Up Calls

The Northern Lights are on many people's bucket lists for good reason. The mystical colors and formations of this phenomenon can only be witnessed in the right place at the right time. We travel to a region directly under the Aurora belt during the darkest and most active times of year. Our guides spend the night watching for lights and wake you as soon as they appear, offering expert photo advice and attentive service.



## Day One

After you arrive in Fairbanks and collect your luggage, you'll board a shuttle to SpringHill Suites in downtown Fairbanks. After you check in to your room you can, depending on the time you arrive and your energy level, either relax or explore downtown on foot. Fairbanks is pedestrian-friendly and home to an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants. If you don't feel like exploring, the hotel has an onsite restaurant and small convenience store. Today is an arrival day and we have no scheduled activities. Enjoy your time and relax from your travels.



## Day Two

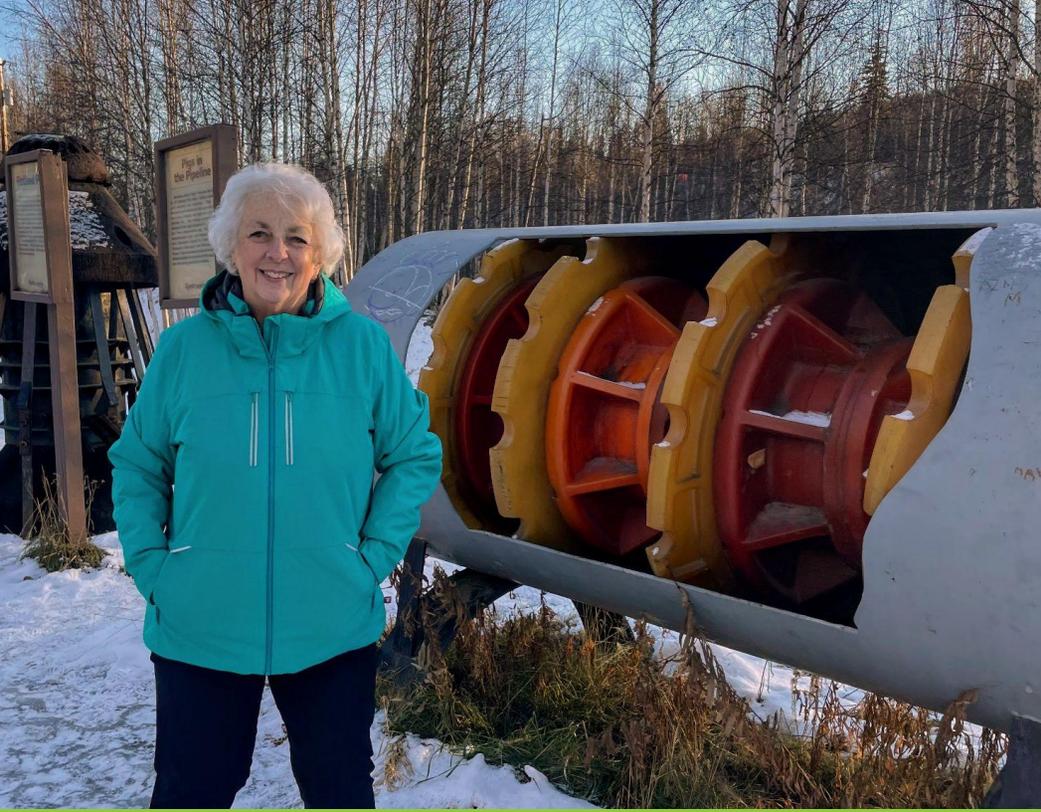
After a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, enjoy the morning until it's time to checkout. You'll meet the rest of the group and our guide(s) late morning in the lobby. Once we've done introductions and boarded the small bus our afternoon includes lunch at a nearby restaurant and a visit to the Morris Thompson Cultural Center. Explore world-class exhibits on Alaska's history and seasons and learn about traditional native art, dance, and music. It's a great introduction to Interior Alaska! We'll head to the lodge in the afternoon where we'll have a chance to unpack, relax, eat dinner, and learn about the aurora borealis.

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**

## Day Three

After breakfast we head into town for a city tour of Fairbanks and visit the famous Trans-Alaska Pipeline, followed by lunch at a great local spot. Back at the lodge you can explore the hiking trails that surround the lodge or just grab a hot cocoa and relax in your new home base. Following dinner you can come 'hunt' for the Northern Lights with us, or stay in the warmth of the lodge. Your guide will alert you if the Aurora appears.

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**



## Day Four

After breakfast at the lodge you have free time to take a casual hike around the property and try snowshoeing if the conditions are right. Not into hiking? Enjoy a warm beverage in the cozy common room. Following lunch we will head to a family ranch to meet reindeer and take a walk with them through a beautiful birch forest. Try some hot tea and Jane's homemade cookies inside and learn more about reindeer. Later we'll enjoy a delicious dinner together, and, if we're lucky, aurora viewing tonight!

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**





## Day Five

Today we have a chance to visit some different sights around town. These can vary depending on the time of year, and may include unique souvenir shopping, a visit to the antique automobile museum, or seasonal events in the area. This is followed by a visit to the famous Museum of the North on the University of Alaska campus to learn about the natural and cultural history of the region. Tonight we'll relax and share stories over dinner, and watch for Aurora too!

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**



## Day Six

Today visit the remote and beautiful Chena Hot Springs. Soak in the steaming waters surrounded by snow; if it is really cold your hair might even freeze! While there we visit an ice sculpture museum where you can observe delicate artwork and sip an apple martini in a carved glass from the ice bar. The drive home from the Hot Springs provides a wonderful opportunity to search for the Northern Lights and spot moose.

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**



## Day Seven

Enjoy another tasty breakfast before our most exciting excursion yet — dog sledding! Meet the friendly dogs (and maybe even some puppies!) and learn about mushing before hopping on a sled for a ride through the forest. Depending on the season, after lunch we may have a curling lesson with local players at the Fairbanks Curling Club. Test your skills by challenging your new friends — curling is so much more fun than you might expect! We'll enjoy a final farewell dinner together tonight, toasting each other's company and the great moments of the past week.

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner is included**

## Day Eight

One more breakfast before wrapping up our adventure and saying goodbye to new friends. We depart the lodge late morning\* with the entire group and luggage. Depending on your preference, the guides will either drop you off at the airport or at a downtown hotel where you can relax in their lounge or store luggage and explore town before boarding a shuttle to the airport. Head home with memories of unique and exciting activities and the Alaskan locals you got to know along the way.

**Breakfast is included**

*\*if your outbound flight is before 1:30pm, you'll have to organize a taxi or Lyft to bring you to the airport. See our Pre-Trip Guide for more information.*



## ACCOMMODATIONS



# SpringHill Suites

## Night 1

SpringHill Suites is a Marriott property in downtown Fairbanks.

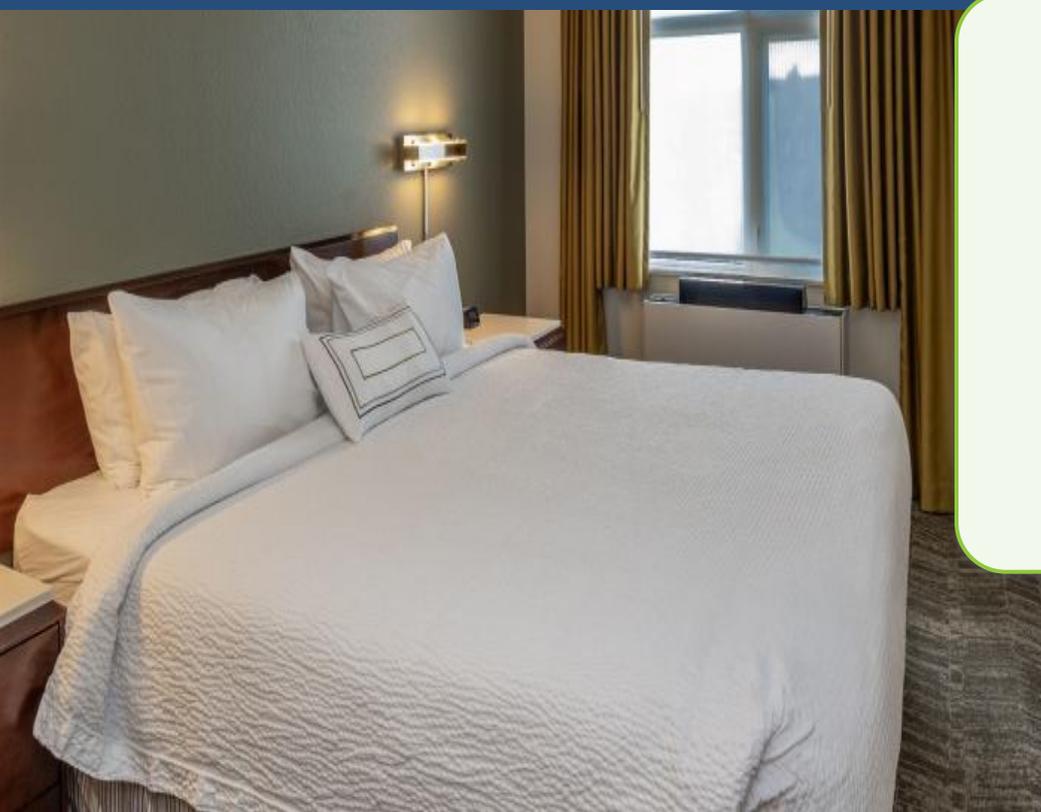
The hotel offers modern amenities such as free high-speed Wi-Fi, a hot tub, indoor pool, and an on-site convenience store and restaurant. The downtown location means easy walking distance to Fairbanks' eclectic dining and shopping. The hotel overlooks the Chena River and its comfortable rooms make for a great place to relax after a long day of traveling.

“

My husband and I went on the Northern Lights tour with another couple in March. To say it was an outstanding experience barely expresses the experience. The tour guides were excellent, very knowledgeable and fun!

Seeing the lights was a spectacle to behold for sure!!! And the daytime activities were amazing, exciting and adventurous. We have recommended this tour to many and look forward to doing another tour with Gondwana”

- Jan D.



*We alternate accommodations on this tour and cannot guarantee a specific hotel. We ensure all accommodations are similar in location and quality. As is common with boutique hotels, room sizes and views are often different within the same property. Please note that we assign guest rooms on a first come, first serve basis. No exceptions.*



# Pike's Waterfront Lodge

## Night 1

Pike's Waterfront Lodge is a family-run hotel nestled on the Chena River.

Originally established in the 1950's as a restaurant by a local homesteader, the property has been a constant fixture in the Fairbanks area and expanded in 2000 once the lodge was built. Enjoy its cozy charms with Alaskan artwork and furniture from the territorial days, embracing you with the ambiance of the Last Frontier.

The lodge also offers modern amenities such as free Wi-Fi, on-site gift store, foosball, bocce ball courts, and a complimentary putting green and miniature golf course. The location is next door to the tasty Pike's Landing restaurant and is a short drive away from downtown Fairbanks.



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# A Taste of Alaska

## Nights 2-7

We've been staying here since our first Northern Lights tour and it's a unique and beautiful property. Located 11 miles away from downtown Fairbanks on 280 acres of private land, the lodge is a family enterprise that goes back three generations. Current owner Kory Eberhardt's grandparents moved from Idaho to this plot of land in 1947. They started out growing hay and vegetables. Kory's parents opened the lodge in 1992, and Kory became the owner in 2010.



A Taste of Alaska offers views of the Alaska Range, Mt. Denali, and Fairbanks in the distance. Visitors get a first-hand look at Alaska's natural beauty from here, including northern lights in the winter and wildlife year-round, all while enjoying the comforts and conveniences of cozy lodging.

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# Northern Sky Lodge B&B

## Nights 2-7

We alternate lodges on our departures and this log cabin-style lodge is located 32 miles outside of downtown Fairbanks in a beautiful natural setting with phenomenal aurora viewing.

The Northern Sky is a small, family-owned Alaskan lodge with a large common area, dining and sitting area. Snowshoes are available for use whenever you'd like to venture outside to explore the multi-use trails!

Since the lodge is located in a rural area, many cell providers don't have reliable coverage here. AT&T tends to be the best service provider and there's of course WiFi available to all guests. Note that the individual rooms do not have televisions, but there's a TV in the common sitting area as well as a collection of books and board games.



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# Restaurants

Note that these are sample restaurants that we often visit on this tour and not guaranteed visits.



The tour package includes delicious homemade breakfasts, along with all lunches and dinners on Days 2-7. Meals will either be served at the lodge or our guides will take you to pre-reserved local cafes and restaurants and you and the other guests in your group will eat together and select what you'd like to order from the menu. While the selection of locations sometimes changes, here are some examples of the places we frequently feast.

**We can accommodate vegetarians, vegans and other dietary restrictions, just let us know!**



## The Turtle Club

The Turtle Club is a fine dining institution in Fairbanks. The restaurant has served delicious meals for almost 75 years and locals come here for date nights, to celebrate special occasions, or just to have a great night out. Their signature dishes include ribs, deep fried halibut, and a selection of dessert.

## The Pump House

Located in Gold Rush-style building, the menu is served "Alaskan Style", with large portions of fresh seafood, meat and pasta dishes. Enjoy the unique decor and cozy atmosphere. Don't miss their famous seafood chowder and delicious elk meatloaf!

## The Crepery

This casual spot offers both sweet and savory gourmet options. Choices include Prosciutto & Fig, Smoked Salmon & Avocado, Pear & Brie and Creme Brulee & Berries. They are so proud of their food that they offer a money-back guarantee!

## Lulu's Bread & Bagels

This Fairbanks favorite located next to the Fairbanks Art Co-op offers artisan breads and baked goods made from scratch on site. Choose from delicious bagels, quiches, sandwiches and more and warm up with a cup of Kaladi Brothers coffee, a local Alaskan roaster.

“

The Northern Lights tour was hands down the best trip of my life. The guides were both so knowledgeable, personable and welcoming.

The entire week was spectacular. I especially loved the dog sledding. Thank you Gondwana for the amazing experience”

- Shelley H.



WHOLE WHEAT  
SOURDOUGH



## Our Guides

We work with a carefully selected crew of expert guides. Our guides know this part of Alaska very well and are familiar with the area's geography, natural history, flora, fauna, and some also have in-depth knowledge about the Alaska Natives' history and customs. All of our guides are personable, professional, courteous, friendly, and excited to show our guests some of the most incredible parts of Alaska. All of our guides are vetted, trained, and hold relevant certifications such as CDL, Wilderness Medicine, and / or First Responder.

We typically assign guides to specific departure dates a few months out and you'll receive more information about your specific guide or guides before you travel. For tours with less than ten guests we typically have one guide. On tours with nine to eighteen guests, we have two guides. In addition, we have a night-time aurora guide.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

## FAQ - GETTING THERE AND BACK

### What kind of clothing do I need and is it possible to reserve it?

- When you sign up we will send you a pre-trip guide with a comprehensive packing list and other info for planning your adventure! You may borrow heavy duty parkas, snow pants, and winter boots for the duration of the tour. Upon booking you will have a chance to reserve these items — we won't let you freeze! We also have two camera kits available for rent; first come, first serve.

### Is this trip for me?

- Our Northern Lights Adventure requires low to moderate mobility and physical fitness. You must be able to walk one mile unassisted and go up and down a flight of stairs multiple times a day (depending on the lodge you stay at, there may be a set of outdoor stairs to enter the lodge in addition to stairs indoors—there are no elevators in either lodge). Additionally, you must be able to enter and exit a large vehicle without assistance. If you're unable to do these things, this tour may not be a great fit for you.

Conditions vary widely throughout the season, and it's often very cold, icy, and/or slippery. Guests should prepare for the possibility of extremely low temperatures during the middle of the winter.

### How likely am I to see the Northern Lights?

- While nature can never be guaranteed, if you spend a minimum of four nights in Fairbanks and are actively looking in the evening hours, your chance of seeing the Aurora Borealis is around 90 percent. During our past seasons we saw Aurora at least once on every tour but one! The destination, careful planning, and our diligent Aurora guides were key to this success.

### How do I sign up?

- Secure your spots with a \$500 per person deposit (via phone, email, or on our [website](#)) that is fully refundable within 30 days of payment, provided your trip starts at least 121 days from the time of booking. The remaining balance is due 120 days before the tour departs. Read our complete [Booking Agreement here >](#)
- After signing up, we will send you a confirmation message and valuable information to prepare you for the trip. We will also send you two easy forms to submit with your registration information and flight details.

## WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

**AURORA WAKE UP CALLS** Our night guides stay up watching the skies and provide personal wake up calls when the Aurora appears. You can stay well rested and warm and still catch the best of the Northern Lights!

**REMOTE LODGE WITH PRIME VIEWING** Our lodges are located 20-30 mins outside of Fairbanks, surrounded by beautiful forests and trails and far from the lights of town which makes for better Aurora viewing and better photography. Enjoy viewing steps from your room, right outside the lodge so you can stay warm and enjoy the show.

**SMALL GROUPS** Our groups are never larger than 18, so you can really get to know your guide and fellow travelers. Ask plenty of questions and never feel like you are getting lost in the crowd. As a small company, we can adapt our plans to the needs of our guests, so it's not just a trip, it's YOUR trip.

**AUTHENTIC CULTURE** We only work with guides and partners who embody the local spirit of Interior Alaska. Meet with a native author, homesteaders, dog-mushers and others who live and share this unique culture.

**GONDWANA EXCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES** Many of our activities have been developed exclusively for our tours. You won't get experiences like this with anyone else!

**FRIENDLY GUIDES** Our guides are knowledgeable and always have interesting stories to share.

**ATTENTIVE 24/7 SERVICE** We have you covered from beginning to end. All your transportation in Alaska is arranged, and our guides escort you to all activities and meals. We do everything together as a group, and by the end of our trip we have always made new friends. Our night-time aurora guide will alert you when the lights are active and share their knowledge about the aurora borealis.

**EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANCE** It is tricky to capture the magic of the Northern Lights, but our guides have been doing it for years and can assist you in getting your camera primed and ready to nail the perfect shot!



#shotoniphone



## We hope you'll join us in Alaska on this Northern Lights Adventure!

A \$500 per person deposit is all that's needed to reserve this adventure. Contact us via phone or email to reserve your spot!

(877) 587-8479

[info@gondwanaecotours.com](mailto:info@gondwanaecotours.com)

[PAY DEPOSIT >](#)

Visit us anytime at [GondwanaEcotours.com](http://GondwanaEcotours.com) to plan your next vacation!