

NORTHERN LIGHTS

*NORTHERN LIGHTS IS A WILD
AND RUGGED IMMERSION IN
THE LAST FRONTIER.*





TRIP OVERVIEW

Wilderness of a completely different scale sets the scene for our most challenging and thrilling experience in Alaska. This Northern Lights trip is one part immersion, one part navigation, all parts rugged and wild. You'll backpack a wilderness without trails, sea kayak a sound full of glaciers, climb walls of dense ice and raft on glacier melt. All the while you'll be in the twilight of the true north, in a place more untouched, and unspoiled than anywhere else in the country. The scale of Alaska will change and challenge your latitude, longitude, and life lens.



EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Take a multi-day sea kayaking expedition among the glaciers of the Prince William Sound
Spend 8 days on a backcountry expedition trekking the remote Talkeetna Mountain Range
Raft the glacier fed Matanuska River
Learn to ice climb on the Matanuska Glacier

DAY 1-2

Fly into the land of the midnight sun at the Anchorage Airport. Meet your group, and travel to your first campsite to begin orienting yourself to the long summer twilight. Then, travel east through the rugged landscapes of Alaska as you get to the base of the Matanuska glacier. Here, you'll get ready for ice climbing.

DAY 3-4

Get your crampons and axes out for your first foray on the Matanuska Glacier. This spectacular ice river is 26 miles long, and 4 miles wide at the base. Its location and size are so massive it even affects the surrounding weather systems in the area. You'll learn to navigate specialized gear, rope maintenance, and belay systems for safe travel on glaciers. Then you'll get vertical and climb spires and walls of ice. Spend this time surrounded by cobalt blue sculptures, crevasses, and moulins in this diverse and incredible terrain.

DAY 5-12

Travel to the Talkeetnas to begin your backpacking section. Using braided river beds and geological features, you'll navigate this stunning wilderness. This expedition will immerse you in map reading and off-trail travel, as well as how to live comfortably in the wilderness. You'll spend each day traveling across vast alpine tundra, up and down jagged peaks. Each night, you'll select and build camp, and learn to cook and make a home in the wilderness with your team. You'll get in the rhythm of expedition life and the art of simple living- this is a true wilderness immersion, and is a life changing experience.

**Itinerary and order of activities subject to variation.*





DAY 13-14

After over a week deep in the Talkeetnas, you'll arrive at the banks of the Matanuska River. After a night of a well deserved feast and a big bonfire, you and your team will raft out of the backcountry. The Matanuska River features class III and class IV rapids, and silty glacier melted waters. After 8 days of carrying a pack, the raft will be doing all the lifting.

DAY 15-19

Catch a ferry that will take you deep into the Prince William Sound. On a glacier-fed fjord, you'll get familiar with your ocean kayak and learn the fundamentals of paddling and coastal navigation. You'll spend the next few days paddling deeper into the sound, exploring rugged coastlines, and going to places only accessible by boat. You'll camp on beaches where you can hear glaciers calving at night, and learn the art of carrying everything you need in your kayak.

DAY 20-21

Travel back to Anchorage with your team, stronger and more wild than you've ever been. Spend the night celebrating and remembering the incredible adventures you've had at a final banquet.





Alaska

Canada



Alaska

Talkeetna Mountains

Chickaloon River

Matanuska Glacier

Anchorage

Ted Stevens Anchorage Airport (ANC)

Blackstone Bay

Anchor Point

Prince William Sound



“My biggest takeaway is that I can do it. No matter what it is, I’m so much stronger than I think I am. I am capable and I am powerful and my priorities feel like they’re finally in order.”

» COURTNEY HOGAN, ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA



TRIP DETAILS

LENGTH	21 Days
GRADE FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR	10th-12th
BEGINS/ENDS	Anchorage, AK (ANC)
<i>Suggested flight window provided upon acceptance</i>	
GROUP SIZE	11 Students
AVERAGE AIRFARE FROM EAST COAST	\$1,000

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three dynamic trip leaders
- Professionally outfitted activities
 - Ice climbing
 - White water rafting
 - Sea kayaking
- Accommodations
 - 3 + 4 person tents
- All group gear
 - Cooking equipment
 - Maps
- Private ground transportation
- All meals
- Photos taken during your trip

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from Anchorage, AK (ANC)
- Baggage fees
- Personal clothing + equipment
 - Full clothing + equipment list provided upon acceptance
- Personal spending money (\$225 recommended)
- Trip Insurance (Highly recommended)

CONTACT

ADMISSIONS

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EXPERIENCE MOONDANCE IN 2022