



# ALL ABOUT ALASKA

**T**he USA's biggest state by land area, Alaska is also home to the country's highest peak, its largest national parks and almost all of America's grizzly bears. Its capital – Juneau – is the nation's most isolated, whilst there are more glaciers and lakes than anyone can count. Alaska's sheer scale might mean a lot of ground to cover, but here are five of the best ways to appreciate this destination of superlatives.

## CRUISE THE INSIDE PASSAGE

This famous sea route provides a fantastic insight into the history, culture and natural treasures of Alaska. A small ship cruise immerses travellers amid waterfall-lined fjords, enormous glaciers and lush islands. Inspect totem poles, paddle amongst seal and orca, and maybe even take a polar plunge.

## VIEW MT DENALI AND THE "SLAM"

Flightseeing is a thrilling way to take in Mt Denali, North America's loftiest mountain whilst the park that encompasses it harbours wildlife of epic proportions. Tick off the "Denali Slam" – Dall sheep, wolf, grizzly, moose and caribou – on a bus trip into the park or on hikes from a cosy backcountry lodge.

## SEE GRIZZLIES FISHING

Some of Alaska's heftiest grizzlies are found in Katmai and Lake Clark national parks. Protected from hunting, bears here are tolerant of incredibly close-up viewing. From mid-June to mid-September, these normally solitary animals gather in waterways to feast on migrating salmon – a sight to behold!

## DOGSLED ON A GLACIER

Few things are more Alaskan than dogsledding - except mushing across a glacier. Fly over spectacular rainforests and ice-capped summits by helicopter to reach a dogsled camp where you'll learn how to steer a dog pack and hear stories about the legendary Iditarod Race, run from Anchorage to Nome.

## EXPERIENCE ESKIMO TRADITIONS

Visit the United States' northernmost settlement – Barrow – for a taste of authentic Inupiat Eskimo culture. Take part in a traditional blanket toss ceremony, witness a dance performance and enjoy the opportunity to dip your toes into the frigid Arctic Ocean.

To start planning your Alaska adventure, contact us on 1300 363 302.













# ON TOP OF THE WORLD

**The geographic North Pole is the northernmost point on our planet and the first time anybody actually stood there was in 1948. Since then, only a tiny handful of intrepid travellers have set foot on the shifting pack ice at 90° North. If you've ever dreamt of being a member of this privileged club, our expedition to the top of the world is for you.**

This once-in-a-lifetime voyage takes place aboard the 50 Years of Victory, the most powerful icebreaker ever built, and departs thrice yearly from Murmansk in Russia, or Helsinki in Finland. Reaching the North Pole in 4 days (instead of 7) in 2008, this formidable ship holds the speed record from her home port of Murmansk, and her ability to effortlessly crush through dense pack ice never fails to astound.

Whilst the main objective of the trip is to reach the North Pole, highlights throughout the cruise include the opportunity to enjoy helicopter scenic flights over the ephemeral blue-and-white windswept landscapes of the Arctic. Where possible, the crew will lower the gangway for passengers to stretch their legs out on firm ground. You'll also be able to join the captain and ship's officers on the bridge at any time of day, to watch for whales and other iconic polar species as you journey north.

On arrival at 90° North, disembark onto the ice for a minute's silence, to honour the many past explorers that struggled to reach this hallowed place. Then it's time for celebrations, with a festive barbecue meal if the weather permits and a chance to plunge into the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean if you dare.

Even after you've ticked the North Pole off your bucket list, there's more. The route south takes in Franz Josef Land, a wild and remote archipelago that lies wholly within the Arctic Circle. In a nimble Zodiac, you'll trace cliffs heaving with seabirds and skirt shores where polar bear and walrus roam. You may also inspect ruins left behind by failed exploratory missions.

For further information on this unique journey please contact our Arctic experts on 1300 363 302.



