

## **Name: 2012 Alaska 35-Day Caravan**

**Starting Date: July 18, 2012**

**Starting Location: Dawson Creek, BC, Canada - Ending Location: Prince George, BC, Canada**



**Caravan Hosts: Caravan Hosts: Gary and Hope Keighley**

**Mail Address: Vista RV Tours**

**P.O. Box 491**

**Conway, NH 03818-0491**

**Toll Free: 877-295-8687**

**Phone 603-356-2699**

**E-mail: [tour@vistarvtours.com](mailto:tour@vistarvtours.com)**

**Website: <http://www.vistarvtours.com>**

**Vista RV Tours and Adventure Treks LLC are proud to offer this 35 day Caravan to Alaska in 2012.**

Independent and Adventurous travelers will not want to miss this chance to see some of the most magnificent scenery in the world and to experience its beauty and history firsthand.

July 18, 2012...Our 35-day, 4,300 mile Caravan is designed for the RV enthusiasts who want to immerse themselves in the scenery, wildlife, history and culture of Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia.

Our RV Caravan Tours allow you to experience the unspoiled wilderness and local culture in your own RV without the hassles of planning your stops or worrying about where to get food or fuel. We make sure you are free to enjoy your vacation.

- xxx • We plan the entire route so that you don't miss the fun things to do
- xxx • We reserve space for your RV in first-rate RV parks
- xxx • We provide a daily itinerary and an experienced guide so that you can safely travel in remote areas
  
- xxx • We plan and conduct all the events that will enhance your experience by immersing you in the history, culture, xxxx geography and wildlife of your destination
- xxx • We are there to help you in case you break down

### **Tour Guide**

We feature an experienced guide who will guide you along every mile of the trek. They begin by conducting a group meeting to make sure you are well informed about the trek ahead of you. They distribute your copy of the Milepost and a binder that contains maps and a daily itinerary as well as other useful information like the best places to stock up on food and where to get fuel. Your guide will periodically conduct update meetings along the way and is always available for your questions. If you want, the guide can assign you a Traveling Buddy so that you can watch out for each other during the day's travels. The guide will check you in each night to make sure that you arrive safely and make sure you get help if you fail to check-in.

## **Assistant Guide**

This guide always is the last to leave each day. He will travel behind you to make sure that he is there to help if you break down along the way. The Assistant carries tools and fuel to assist you. If he can't make the repairs needed to get you going again, he will summon help and will always be at your side until help arrives.

## **Travel Itinerary Book**

The Travel Itinerary Book that you will receive at the beginning of the trek includes all of the information you will need to get safely through each day. It includes maps for each segment of the trek, a mileage log, suggested activities along the way, all planned events and safety information. This will be your daily reference. By the way, we plan each segment so that you are not too rushed. There is plenty of time to sight-see and stop whenever you want.

We have planned the entire Alaska Adventure. All reservations are made at first rate RV parks. Most of the RV parks have full hook-ups including water, sewer and electricity. Some even provide cable TV. Fuel stops will be noted in the Travel Itinerary Book.

## **Itinerary - 35-Day Alaska "Two Way" Adventure**

### **Day 1 Dawson Creek**

We begin our trek with a welcome dinner, orientation and social in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Dawson Creek is Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway and Mile 0 of our 4,300 mile tour of British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska.

### **Day 2 Ft. Nelson**

Our first stop is Ft. Nelson, BC. Here we will receive a Visitor Presentation and see the Heritage Center.

### **Day 3 Muncho Lake**

Our next stop will be at beautiful Muncho Lake . Muncho Lake gets its deep azure color from minerals leached from the surrounding mountains. Here we take a boat tour of Muncho Lake and have a Wine and Cheese Party.

### **Day 4 Watson Lake**

Today we travel to Watson Lake where we tour the Sign Post Village and see an informative video on the Alaska Highway Construction.

### **Day 5 Teslin**

We stop for the night on the shores of Nisutlin Lake and visit the Yukon Wildlife Gallery.

### **Day 6 Whitehorse**

Tour Whitehorse. See the grand old sternwheeler, the SS Klondike, visit the longest wooden fish ladder in North America, the scenic Whitehorse Dam, the Yukon Visitor Center, and Miles Canyon lookout.

### **Day 7 Whitehorse**

We will also enjoy a beautiful river cruise across Lake Schwatka and up the famous Yukon River, through Miles Canyon. Next we attend the Frantic Follies vaudeville review a turn-of-the-century show that presents a lively evening of fun and nostalgia for the entire family.

**Day 8 Destruction Bay**

Our next stop is at Destruction Bay along the western shore of Kluane Lake, the largest lake in the Yukon.

**Day 9 Tok**

We then travel into Alaska and stop for the night in Tok. Here we will partake of a delicious salmon bake dinner and see a dog sled demonstration.

**Day 10 Fairbanks**

We then travel to the end of the Alaska Highway in Delta Junction and on to Fairbanks which is known as "The Heart of Alaska".

**Day 11 Fairbanks**

Cruise into the history of Interior Alaska, aboard the authentic sternwheeler Riverboat Discovery III.

You will see:

- Guided walking tour of the Athabascan Chena Village
- xxx • Susan Butcher's Iditarod dogs in action
- xxx • Bush pilot demo
- xxx • Complimentary coffee and donuts
- xxx • Trading Post visit
- xxx • View the convergence of the Chena and Nenana Rivers
- xxx • Athabascan Subsistence Fish Camp
- xxx • Replica of the Pioneer Hotel

**Day 12 Fairbanks**

Visit the University of Alaska Museum and Botanical Gardens.

**Day 13 Denali NP**

Travel south on the Parks Highway through Nenana and Healy to Denali National Park. Here we attend the Cabin Night Dinner and Show; an evening filled with entertainment, hospitality and good food.

**Day 14 Denali NP**

Narrated bus tour takes you into the heart of Denali National Park for spectacular scenery and wildlife. See 20,320 ft. Mt. McKinley, North America's tallest peak.

**Day 15 Talkeetna**

Stop over at Talkeetna, Alaska, the traditional departing place for Denali climbers. Here you will learn about the history of the local settlers and walk through the original town site.

**Day 16 Anchorage**

Continue traveling south on the Parks Highway to Anchorage, Alaska. We will be staying in Anchorage for 2 days. Join the staff for an Ice Cream Social.

**Day 17 Anchorage**

Trolley Tour - A great way to see the highlights of Anchorage visiting popular destinations including the Anchorage Museum of History & Art, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Earthquake Park and Merrill Field. Sourdough Mining Company - Dine in an atmosphere of warm Alaskan hospitality. The Sourdough Mining Company Restaurant is a replica of an old mill house. After your delicious dinner,

see "The Adventures of Dusty Sourdough" in the sourdough Tent City Theater. Dusty will take you back to the gold rush days with song, storytelling and humor.

**Day 18 Seward**

Travel to Seward, Alaska and tour the Exit Glacier. There is nothing like walking up to the face of this slow moving river of ice.

**Day 19 Seward**

Take a boat cruise to Kenai Fjords National Park where you will see sea life (including puffins, otters, whales and stellar sea lions), snow capped mountains and glaciers. Dine on an Alaska Salmon bake on Fox Island.

**Day 20 Homer**

Travel the Seward Highway down the Kenai Peninsula to Homer, Alaska. Along the way, stop at the Chugach State Park and Kenai Peninsula Visitor Centers and Portage Glacier.

**Day 21 Homer**

Visit the Carl Wynn Nature Center and explore the sub-alpine Lutz spruce forest, enjoy the diversity of wildflowers and Alaska native plants. Visit the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center and the Historical Harbor Walking Tour.

**Day 22 Palmer**

Travel up the Seward and Glenn Highway to Palmer, Alaska. Here we will visit a MuskoX Farm. Palmer is in the Mat-Su Valley, Alaska's farming center. Here the long summer days produce gigantic vegetables.

**Day 23 Glennallen**

Continue on the Glenn Highway to Glennallen, Alaska. Stop at the Copper River Valley Visitor Information Center.

**Day 24 Valdez**

Travel south on the Richardson Highway to Valdez, Alaska. Valdez is the terminus of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline where huge tankers transport oil to the "Lower 48".

**Day 25 Valdez**

Visit the Valdez Museum and Annex where you will see a replica of the Old Town, as it looked before the 1964 earthquake. See a documentary film that describes the impact of the earthquake. Visit the salmon spawning area and Duck Flats.

**Day 26 Tok**

Travel to Tok, Alaska. Along the way see Keystone Canyon and the Worthington Glacier.

**Day 27 Chicken**

Travel up the Taylor Highway to the famous town of Chicken, Alaska. Tour this rustic and remote town's 4 unique stores.

**Day 28** Beaver Creek

Have a rip-roaring time at the Rendezvous Dinner Theater.

**Day 29** Whitehorse

Free day.

**Day 30** Skagway

A fully narrated train and motor coach trip between Skagway, Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The iron trail was born during the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush and built through some of the North's most ruggedly beautiful terrain. Today, it's a comfortable ride in refurbished train cars following the original route of the hopeful Stampeders of 1898.

**Day 31** Rancheria

Travel south on the Alaska Highway to Watson Lake. Join the staff for a Bingo Night with prizes.

**Day 32** Iskut

Travel the Cassier Highway to the beautiful Mountain Shadow RV Park in Iskut, British Columbia. On the way stop at Jade City for unique jade art.

**Day 33** Hyder

It's back into Alaska where we visit Hyder. Along the way see the magnificent Bear Glacier nestled among beautiful snow capped peaks. Tour Fish Creek Wildlife Viewing area where you will see grizzlies, black bear and bald eagles feeding on the abundant supply of salmon in the streams. Be sure to bring your camera.

**Day 34** Smithers

Visit the beautiful city of Smithers. Here we camp at a golf resort in case you want to play a round.

**Day 35** Prince George

Farewell Dinner and Social in Prince George, BC.

**Caravan Fees:**

\$5,095 - Coach with 2 people

\$4,745 - Coach with one person

\$1,995 - Additional Person

A \$200 deposit is required per person. Make check payable to "Vista RV Tours"

Final payment is due 60 days prior to tour.

Minimum 10 Coaches

Maximum 17 Coaches

Gary Keighley  
Vista RV Tours  
P. O. Box 491  
Conway, NH 03818

Phone 603-356-2699  
Toll Free 877-295-8687

E-Mail: [tour@vistarvtours.com](mailto:tour@vistarvtours.com) Website: <http://www.vistarvtours.com>

## **Alaska Optional Extra Cost Tours**

### **Day in Barrow Alaska - \$590 per person**

Enjoy a flight departing from Fairbanks to Barrow, the northernmost city in the US. A tour guide will meet you in Barrow and escort you to the Cultural Center, Inupiat Traditional Dances, and Blanket Toss. Bring your swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the Arctic Ocean. Spend the entire day in Barrow before boarding your flight back to Fairbanks. Duration is all-day.

### **Journey Above the Arctic Circle - \$360 per person**

A narrated journey to Bush Alaska, where the Yukon River crosses above the Arctic Circle. Guides show you contemporary life in the Native Village of Fort Yukon. Enjoy the spectacular scenery of the White Mountains and Yukon Flats from the window seat of your twin-engine aircraft. Fly over Fort Knox Gold Mine, the largest open pit gold mine in North America. Duration is approximately 4 hours.

### **Brooks Range, Gates of the Arctic National Park - \$640 per person**

Ancient mountains, arctic tundra, Eskimo culture, come together for a truly memorable Arctic Journey, far above the Arctic Circle. The Brooks Range is one of the most remote regions in the world. Fly with modern day bush pilots on scheduled bush-mail flights and experience how Alaskans travel and live above the Arctic Circle where there are no roads. Enjoy spectacular scenery from the window seat of your twin-engine aircraft, flying over the Alaska Oil Pipeline, across the Yukon River and into Gates of the Arctic National Park. Experience today's life in the Nunamiut Eskimo Village of Anaktuvuk Pass and visit a small cultural history museum of the Nunamiut people, the Simon Paneak Memorial Museum. Duration is all-day.

### **McKinley (Denali) Summit Tour - \$280 per person**

Experience flying around the summit of Mt. McKinley. On this extensive flight, you will have fantastic vistas of both sides of Mt. McKinley. You will see the Kahiltna Glacier, the Climber's High Camp at 14,000 feet, Wickersham Wall, and the Don Sheldon Amphitheater on the Ruth Glacier. See climbers ascending to the summit. Duration is 1 ½ hours.

### **Salmon and Halibut Fishing - \$340 per person**

A full-day, guided fishing expedition for salmon and halibut. All tackle and bait is provided and the deck hands are eager to assist you in reeling in your catch. Nearby packers can fast-freeze and ship your catch anywhere in the US. Duration is all-day.

### **Bear Viewing Day Trip - \$590 per person**

This scenic flight takes you to the western coast of Cook Inlet to Katmai National Park. Bear viewing, flight seeing, glaciers, volcanoes, salmon, wildlife...this trip offers it all. Witness Alaska brown bears as they fish for migrating salmon. Our guide allows us to approach safely for those up close photo

opportunities. Mid-June through Mid-August are the best times to view bears. Tour includes pilot/guide experienced in bear behavior. Duration – all day.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How many miles do we drive per day?** The mileage varies each day based on availability of campgrounds and road conditions. The daily mileage is planned so that if you leave the campground by 9:00 am, you can easily arrive at the next campground by 2:00 pm.

**2. I want to bring my motor home. Do I need a towed vehicle?** While it is not required that you tow a vehicle, many guests enjoy using it to sightsee and run errands after they arrive at the campground. You must weigh the chance that it could get damaged from the gravel roads, the extra cost in tolls/ferries/insurance against the convenience of having available transportation.

**3. Can I get a refund on my tour?** You will get a refund as follows:

xxx • Up to 60 days prior to rendezvous you will get a 100% refund

xxx • Between 60 days prior to rendezvous and the departure date you will get a 100% refund less \$300 administrative fee xxx and any non-refundable deposits made on your behalf

xxx • While on the tour you will get a prorated refund

**4. Is internet access available?** Yes. Most campgrounds have dial-up or wireless connections. You must have an 802.11b card in your computer in order to use the wireless service.

**5. How can my family contact me in case of an emergency?** We provide a list of the campgrounds we will be staying at each day of the journey including contact information. Many of our guests leave a copy of this with their loved ones in case they need to contact them.

**6. Is emergency medical service available?** Yes. Keep in mind though that when we travel in remote areas, response times will generally be slower.

**7. What if I breakdown on the road?** Our assistant travels in the back of the pack. He will not pass any coach on our tour. When he sees one of our coaches stopped along the highway, he will stop and provide assistance if needed.

**8. Can I bring my pet?** Absolutely. We only stay at campgrounds that allow pets. Most campgrounds offer pet sitting services if you need to be away for extended periods of time.

**9. Do we have full services every night of the tour?** Generally, there is electric, water and sewer available at the campgrounds. In the more remote areas only 15 amp service, and water are available. There may be several nights of dry camping planned for your tour.

**10. How much free time is available?** A lot. Travel times are generally planned so that you will get to the campground by 2:00 pm. There are also free days in the schedule.

**11. Can we buy food along the way?** All major towns have grocery stores. Our trip documentation will help you to plan food purchases. Almost all of the campgrounds have restaurants within walking distance.

**12. Are there any evening activities?** We plan an Ice Cream Social, a Wine and Cheese Party, several dessert nights and based on the desires of the group, we plan bingo, cards and potluck dinners.

### **How Our Caravan is Different**

1. We only run small caravans (17 coaches or less). We feel that the small caravans are much more enjoyable for our guests. Many of our guests have built friendships that have endured far beyond the end of the trek.

2. We treat our guests as individuals. Our staff gets to know each guest on a first name basis. We don't make you wear company logo hats or jackets.

3. We don't run our caravans like a military excursion. Our guests are free to leave the campground when they want each morning. Our guests can travel on their own during the day if they want and

rejoin the group at the next campground. Our guests can even leave the caravan and rejoin at a later date. We offer the maximum amount of personal freedom and choice.

4. We provide each guest a complete itinerary at the start of the tour. The itinerary not only includes everything that we do as a group, but also includes;

xxx • suggestions of things to see and do while traveling,

xxx • maps and driving directions so that you can find the campgrounds

xxx • a wealth of other useful information like where to buy fuel, the location of the Wal-Marts and emergency contact information

5. We provide morning coffee to help get you going.

6. Our guide arrives at the next campground early and is waiting with pre-assigned campsites for each of our guests. You don't even need to check-in at the office.

7. All of our tours include downloadable, electronic GPS data that includes routes and points-of-interest. We even include recommended routes to the rendezvous campground.

8. Our guides have gone through an exhaustive selection process and training program. They are there to make sure you have a safe and enjoyable tour.

9. Once you reserve a tour, our prices are guaranteed not to increase. If you need to cancel while on a tour, you receive a pro-rated refund. You only pay for what you get.

**NOTE:** *Events and schedule are subject to change.*