

4 Day Denali Rail Explorer

4 days

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Highlights

- Alaska Railroad from Anchorage to Talkeetna to Denali to Fairbanks in gold class
- Full day Denali wildlife tour including lunch
- Denali river rafting experience

Inclusions

- 3 nights of accommodation
- All transfers, sightseeing and attractions as listed

Exclusions

- Tips and gratuities
- Pre/post accommodation
- Travel insurance (Strongly recommended, ask us for a quote!)
- Items (attractions and sightseeing & entrance fees) not listed as included in the itinerary

All prices are per person based on double occupancy and subject to local taxes - GST, PST or HST.

Itinerary

Day 1: Anchorage - Talkeetna with Alaska Railroad

Anchorage is headquarters to the Alaska Railroad and the journey to Fairbanks begins here. Several miles into the trip, the heavy birch forests of Eagle River and Chugiak lead to the Knik and Matanuska Rivers. The expansive watershed harbors wildlife like moose, bear, the occasional wolf and abundant waterfowl. About 40 miles from Anchorage comes the Matanuska Valley, Alaska's agricultural center and home to the towns of Palmer and Wasilla. Just south of Talkeetna, 70 miles further, the first view emerges of Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak. The train takes its first stop in Talkeetna, a small town with a mining history and now, a popular takeoff point for climbers to Mt. McKinley.

Overnight: Talkeetna

Day 2: Talkeetna - Denali with Alaska Railroad

From Talkeetna, the track follows the serpentine banks of the Susitna River. On clear days, more views of Mt. McKinley emerge across the river presenting many chances for photos. Black and brown bear frequent the sandbars and scuttle into the brush as the train approaches. Next, the Indian River Canyon is home to many beavers and beaver lodges can be seen in the ponds along the way. The track climbs toward tree line, first crossing Hurricane Gulch, the longest bridge on the railroad just over 914 feet and 296 feet above Hurricane Creek. The train moves into Broad Pass, at 2,363 feet it's the highest point on the railroad, and where caribou migrate through during the fall. Thousands of travelers visit Denali National Park and Preserve to see wildlife like wolves, caribou, Dall sheep, moose and bear, and, of course, Mt. McKinley.

Overnight: Denali

Day 3: Denali National Park Sightseeing

Today's tour to view the abundant wildlife that thrives in Denali will be a trip highlight. You'll enjoy sightings of moose, black and grizzly bear, caribou, Dall sheep, coyotes, foxes and possibly wolves, while bald and golden eagles soar overhead. In the afternoon, choose from one of many complimentary park-sponsored activities and optional Denali tours including guided hikes plus white-water rafting, fixed-wing flightseeing and horseback riding

Overnight:

Day 4: Denali - Fairbanks with Alaska Railroad

The coal-mining town of Healy follows after a 10-mile jaunt through Healy canyon, where the surging waters of the Nenana River cuts through the steep-sided cliffs. As the track levels out, Nenana comes into view. It is home to one of the remaining original Alaska Railroad Depots, now a museum and gift shop. The track cuts through the northern boreal forests of interior Alaska. Birch, aspen and willow fill this landscape where gold miners first came to seek their fortunes. Fifty-eight miles from Nenana, Fairbanks, the "Golden Heart City" signals the end of the line - but just the beginning for more adventure, culture and history in the Last Frontier

Overnight: