

ALASKA

The Last Frontier

June 1 – 14, 2021

\$6450

14 Days / 13 Nights

Single supplement \$1650

With tour leaders Jim & Cindy
Beckman

June 17 - 30, 2021

\$6450

14 Days / 13 Nights

Single supplement \$1650

With tour leaders Paul & Amy
Thompson

Barrow Extension

June 14 – 17

4 Days / 3 Nights

\$2350

Single supplement \$500



DETAILED ITINERARY, June 1 – 14 Tour

Day 1: Arrival

You will arrive in Anchorage today and take the Comfort Inn's free shuttle to your hotel. For those who arrive early enough, the group will meet in the lobby and then go as a group for a welcome dinner at 7:00 PM.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Anchorage (D)

Day 2: Anchorage Birding

Today we will visit some of the best birding spots around Anchorage, including Potter Marsh, Westchester Lagoon, Eagle River Nature Center and Turnagain Arm (where we have a chance of seeing Beluga Whales!). Some of the target species for today include Arctic Tern, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, American Dipper, and Bohemian Waxwing, among others.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Anchorage (D)



Day 3: Anchorage to Nome

We will take an early morning (6:00 AM) flight to Nome, providing we can get seats once we have received all registrations and deposits for this tour. If no seats are available when we are ready to make reservations, we will have to take an evening flight (so get those forms and deposits to us as soon as possible!). Once in Nome, we will travel in two SUVs to explore the area.

Aurora Inn (BLD)

Days 4 – 5: Nome



We will explore three main roads leading out of Nome to find as many of the local specialties as possible. Nome-Council Road and Kougatok Road (Nome-Taylor Highway) are the two most important, so we'll concentrate our time there. We hope to find Arctic and Yellow-billed Loons, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Bluethroat, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, and Northern Wheatear, among many others.

Aurora Inn (BLD)

Day 6 Nome – Anchorage

We will catch an evening flight back to Anchorage, using the morning and afternoon to try to sweep up any species we might have missed. Upon arrival in Anchorage, we'll head straight to our hotel and check in for a good night's sleep before heading off to Denali in the morning.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Anchorage (BLD)

Day 7: Anchorage - Denali

We will drive from Anchorage to Denali along the Parks Highway through boreal forest, stopping en route at likely birding spots. Boreal wetland species like Horned Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, and Blackpoll Warblers are likely in and around forest ponds. Forest species like Varied Thrush and Townsend's Warblers are also likely, among many others.

Denali Park Hotel (BLD)

Day 8: Denali National Park

The only way to access Denali National Park beyond the first 12 miles of the Park Road is via the park shuttle buses. We will take a shuttle in as far as Eielson Visitor Center, located in the most dramatic section of the road. We'll spend a few hours birding in the area around the visitors' center, where we're likely to find Arctic Warbler, Northern Wheatear, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Long-tailed Jaeger, Rock and Willow Ptarmigans, and of course, chances to see Grizzlies, Caribou, Moose, and maybe even Wolves!

Denali Park Hotel (BLD)



Day 9: Denali Area

Today we'll explore the area near Denali along the western half of the Denali Highway. We'll try to make it as far as the Maclaren River, but how much we will be able to cover will depend on the time spent birding along the way, and the group's preferences. Target species in this area include Merlin, Wandering Tattler, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, Canada Jay, Trumpeter Swan, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and many more.

Denali Park Hotel (BLD)

Day 10: Denali - Anchorage

We will drive from Denali Anchorage today, along the same Parks Highway through boreal forest, stopping en route at likely birding spots to try to find species we might have missed on the way up.

Microtel Hotel, Anchorage (BLD)

Day 11: Anchorage - Seward

We'll drive to Seward today, a 2 – 3 hour journey from Anchorage that will likely take longer as we stop to bird along the way. We'll make a stop at Turnagain Arm for another chance to spot the increasingly rare Belugas, and we'll stop at Tern Lake for Arctic Tern, swans, waterfowl, and boreal shorebirds.

Best Western, Seward (BLD)

Day 12: Seward

We have scheduled a full-day private boat tour for our group. We'll visit Resurrection Bay and Kenai Fjords National Park as we search for Horned and Tufted Puffins, Marbled, Kittlitz's and Ancient Murrelets, and Rhinoceros Auklet, to name but a few.



Best Western, Seward (BLD)

Day 13: Seward

We will explore the area around Seward today, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Sea Life Center. Of course, you can't visit this area without seeing Exit Glacier, so we'll also spend some time there.

Best Western, Seward (BLD)

Day 14: Seward to Anchorage

After a bit of early morning touring around Seward, we'll head back to Anchorage. People who are taking the extension will catch a 3:00 PM flight to Barrow, while the rest of the group will continue with the guide, visiting some of the group's favorite spots in the Anchorage area before going to dinner and proceeding to the airport for evening flights home.

End of Tour (BLD)

NOTE: This tour was originally scheduled for 2020 but was postponed until 2021 due to the Coronavirus. Lodging may change, depending on availability.

DETAILED ITINERARY, June 17 – 30 Tour

Day 1: Arrival

You will arrive in Anchorage today and take the Microtel Hotel's free shuttle to your hotel. For those who arrive early enough, the group will meet in the lobby and then go as a group for a welcome dinner at 7:00 PM.

Microtel Hotel, Anchorage (D)

Day 2: Anchorage to Nome

We will take an early morning (6:00 AM) flight to Nome, providing we can get seats once we have received all registrations and deposits for this tour. If no seats are available when we are ready to make reservations, we will have to take an evening flight (so get those forms and deposits to us as soon as possible!). Once in Nome, we will travel in two SUVs to explore the area.

Aurora Inn (BLD)

Days 3 - 4: Nome

We will explore three main roads leading out of Nome to find as many of the local specialties as possible. Nome-Council Road and Kougarok Road (Nome-Taylor Highway) are the two most important, so we'll concentrate our time there. We



hope to find Arctic and Yellow-billed Loons, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Bluethroat, Easter Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, and Northern Wheatear, among many others.

Aurora Inn (BLD)

Day 5: Nome – Anchorage

We will catch an evening flight back to Anchorage, using the morning and afternoon to try to sweep up any species we might have missed. Upon arrival in Anchorage, we'll head straight to our hotel and check in for a good night's sleep to prepare for birding in the morning.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Anchorage (BLD)

Day 6: Anchorage Birding

Today we will visit some of the best birding spots around Anchorage, including Potter Marsh, Westchester Lagoon, Eagle River Nature Center and Turnagain Arm (where we have a chance of seeing Beluga Whales!). Some of the target species for today include Arctic Tern, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, American Dipper, and Bohemian Waxwing, among others.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Anchorage (D)



Day 7: Anchorage - Denali

We will drive from Anchorage to Denali along the Parks Highway through boreal forest, stopping en route at likely birding spots. Boreal wetland species like Horned Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, and Blackpoll Warblers are likely in and around forest ponds. Forest species like Varied Thrush and Townsend's Warblers are also likely, among many others.

Hotel TBA (BLD)

Day 8: Denali National Park

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Hotel TBA (BLD)



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Hotel TBA (BLD)

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Best Western, Seward (BLD)



Day 13: Seward

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Best Western, Seward (BLD)

Day 14: Seward to Anchorage

The group can choose what time we want to head back to Anchorage. This day can be spent visiting some of the

group's favorite spots in either Seward or the Anchorage area before going to dinner in Anchorage and proceeding to the airport for evening flights home.

End of Tour (BLD)



NOTE: This tour was originally scheduled for 2020 but was postponed until 2021 due to the Coronavirus. Lodging may change, depending on availability.

Barrow Extension

Day 1 (June 14): Arrive in Barrow

The group will fly to Barrow on a 3:05 PM flight. If you are going on the first Alaska tour, you will arrive from Seward in time for the flight. If you are taking the second tour, you will need to arrive in Anchorage by 1:00 PM in order to make this flight.

Top of the World (D)

Day 2 (June 15): Half-day cultural tour / Birding

Barrow, Alaska is the northernmost city in the United States and offers visitors a unique experience of the Arctic region. While touring the Inupiat village you will visit culturally specific destinations meeting indigenous Eskimos of the Arctic region. You may witness and experience traditional events and customs. The guide will walk you through the tundra to the ancient remains of the sod huts, stop at iconic sites such as the whalebone arches and the historically registered whaling post. You might even want to dip your toes and fingers into the Arctic Ocean, earning a **Polar Bear Plunge Certificate**. Keep your eye out for the diverse wildlife: polar bears, a variety of whales, walrus, seals, Snowy Owls, and more.



Imagine tapping your foot to traditional drumming, watching the movement of the fur covered mitts, the bouncing pom-poms of the beaded hide mukluks and being invited to dance the native dances during the cultural performance. You will hear the accent of the Eskimos as they generously share with you to describe their history, their art, their way of life through their stories in song.

During the tour through the Inupiat Heritage Center, the guide will share with you about migration patterns, neighboring villages, subsistence living, festivals, and celebrations. In the traditional room, you may watch Inupiat artisans hone their skills while making tools, crafting native art or possibly working on their umiaqs for whaling season. Experience the Arctic hands-on.

After our half-day cultural tour, we will spend the remainder of the day birding in the area with our birding guide.

Top of the World (BLD)

Day 3 (June 16): Birding Barrow

We have a full day with our birding guide to explore the area around Barrow.

Top of the World (BLD)

Day 4: Barrow - Anchorage

We have another full day with our birding guide to explore the area around Barrow before catching our 7:35 PM flight back to Anchorage, arriving at 8:55 PM. People who are going home at the end of this tour must schedule flights that leave Anchorage after 10:30 PM or the next day (hotel for June 17 is not included in tour price). People who are continuing to the second Alaska tour will take the hotel shuttle to Microtel Hotel in Anchorage.

End of Tour (BLD)