

HIKING ITINERARY
CASUAL INN TRIP

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Alaska

THE INSIDE PASSAGE AND GLACIER BAY

TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP CALL
800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)



Important Facts
at a glance

6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates
and pricing details

ROUTE RATING

Levels 1–3

See [below](#) for details.

**IN BUSINESS FOR
29 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE**

From the capital city of Juneau to historic Skagway and awesome Glacier Bay National Park, discover Alaska—by land, sea and sky. Hike through temperate rain forests dominated by Sitka spruce, watching for moose, bears and bald eagles along the way. Cruise through the brilliant blue waters of Glacier Bay, where calving glaciers take center stage, and fly just above North America's longest fjord. Take the historic Yukon train into Canada and ferry across the scenic Lynn Canal to the gold-mining town of Skagway. As you make your way through Alaska's Inside Passage, you're uniquely positioned to notice the finer details of this vast land, from indigenous and modern pioneers who call it home to the bounty of wild animals that roam within it. By day, this dynamic land will command your attention with its unpredictable weather, rugged wilderness and pioneering spirit, and come evening, you'll be warmly welcomed at three historic hotels.

DAY 1

Meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads T-shirts) at 11 a.m. at the Westmark Baranof in Juneau (127 North Franklin Street). **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes and bring a daypack filled with whatever you might need on today's hike (sunglasses, camera, extra layers, etc.) Be sure to have your rain gear handy!** See "Arriving & Departing" for additional logistics information.

PERSEVERANCE TRAIL HIKE 7 MILES (300-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: GRANITE CREEK 4 MILES (250-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: BASIN ROAD 8.5 MILES (300-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

Welcome to Juneau! After meeting, we get acquainted over lunch at the Westmark Baranof, where your Backroads leaders conduct a brief trip orientation before we shuttle to today's hike. Located at the foot of the Gastineau Channel, Juneau is the only state capital with no roads leading in or out. Your path follows the historic Perseverance Trail through Sitka spruce and Western hemlock forests. The trail was once a main thoroughfare for gold miners traveling between Gold Creek and Granite Basin, and you'll notice mining ruins along the route.

As you walk along the gentle grade of the valley, lined with columbine, shooting stars and chocolate lily wildflowers, enjoy views of Mount Juneau and Gastineau Peak. Back in town this afternoon, check out Juneau's galleries, gift shops and historic sites. This evening we celebrate our arrival in "the great land" with the first of many festive dinners together.

Lodging: Westmark Baranof



WESTMARK BARANOF
(1 night) A historic hotel offering classic amenities in the heart of the bustling Alaskan capital.
Juneau
phone: 800-544-0970
or 907-586-2660
www.westmarkhotels.com

WESTMARK INN SKAGWAY
(2 nights) The inn accommodates guests with warm hospitality in a rustic setting.
Skagway
phone: 907-983-6000
www.westmarkhotels.com

GLACIER BAY LODGE
(2 nights) A charming haven nestled amid spruce on the shore of Bartlett Cove, with a perpetually blazing fire and a menu of Alaskan delicacies and fresh-from-the-water seafood.
Bartlett Cove
phone: 888-229-8687
or 907-264-4600
www.visitglacierbay.com/
lodging.php

**EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS**

DAY 2

SHUTTLE TO JUNEAU AIRPORT 30 MINUTES

SCENIC FLIGHT TO HAINES 45 MINUTES

SHUTTLE TO SEDUCTION POINT TRAILHEAD 30 MINUTES

SEDUCTION POINT HIKE 5 MILES

SHORTER OPTION: MOOSE MEADOWS 4 MILES

LONGER OPTION: TWIN COVES 7 MILES

FERRY TO SKAGWAY 35 MINUTES

This morning we take a scenic flight up the Lynn Canal—North America’s longest and narrowest fjord—to Haines, situated on a forested peninsula surrounded by mountains. **(Please note that Alaskan weather is unpredictable and flights can be delayed or even canceled with short notice.)** Arriving in Haines, we shuttle to the Seduction Point trailhead, where we set out through Chilkat State Park. On a clear day, the route offers terrific views of Mount Riley, the Chilkat Inlet and Rainbow and Davidson Glaciers. As you follow the shoreline trail through a temperate rain forest, you’ll get a better sense of the vast wilderness that characterizes so much of Alaska. Keep an eye out for moose, grizzlies and black bears, scan the water for signs of porpoises and harbor seals, and look to the skies for soaring bald eagles.

Following the hike, we board a scenic fast ferry bound for the historic town of Skagway. Thanks to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, Skagway sprang up almost overnight when thousands of “stampedeers” flocked in hopes of striking it rich. We spend the next two nights at the Westmark Inn Skagway, which much like the town itself, continues to reflect the personality of those dynamic days. Tonight we dine at The Stowaway Café, a seaside restaurant that serves up local dishes with an international twist, from wasabi-encrusted salmon to innovative Thai dishes. Enjoy! *Lodging: Westmark Inn Skagway*

DAY 3

WHITE PASS & YUKON RAILWAY 1 HOUR

LAUGHTON GLACIER HIKE 5 MILES (200-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: SKAGWAY RIVER 3 MILES (100-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: TOE OF THE GLACIER 6 MILES (500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO SKAGWAY 1 HOUR

After a hearty breakfast, we take a train ride on the historic White Pass & Yukon Railway. This narrow-gauge railroad, constructed during the Klondike Gold Rush, traverses some of Alaska’s most rugged terrain and parallels the treacherous 40-mile White Pass Trail, which eager fortune hunters once used to reach the Klondike. The journey was so demanding that men were instructed to bring no less than one year’s supply of food and gear, all of which had to be hauled overland on foot and packhorse. The railway is one of the steepest in the world—it climbs nearly 3,000 feet in 20 miles and tackles grades of up to 3.9 percent.

After arriving at the Laughton Glacier Trailhead, begin your hike in the shadow of the Sawtooth Mountains, with peaks ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. The trail parallels the south bank of the rushing Skagway River and winds through Sitka spruce and hemlock, becoming steeper and more overgrown as it nears the Laughton Glacier. If you choose to hike to the toe of the glacier, continue on a steep quarter-mile climb up the rocky moraine for 360-degree views of this magnificent expanse of ice. As you look around, you’ll see the glacier cascading down the mountains—a truly spectacular sight. After hiking back, we re-



Top Reasons Why you should take this trip

We provide a variety of route options so you can do as much or as little activity as you like each day.

You don't have to sweat the details! Backroads takes care of everything—from making sure your luggage is waiting for you in your room to appearing with a cool drink or a lift when you need it the most—allowing you to enjoy a carefree vacation full of fun and relaxation.

Traveling with Backroads is about making connections: with places and people, history and culture, fellow travelers—perhaps you'll even discover something new about yourself!

Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

**WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE**

board the train and enjoy lunch as we complete our scenic journey over White Pass to Fraser, British Columbia. **(You will need a passport to cross the U.S./Canada border.)** This evening you're on your own for dinner in Skagway, and your Trip Leaders are happy to recommend their favorite spots. If you're looking to experience a bit of local color, stop in for a drink at the historic Red Onion, a century-old saloon and Skagway institution beloved by residents and visitors alike. *Lodging: Westmark Inn Skagway*

DAY 4

SCENIC FLIGHT TO GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK 45 MINUTES

SEA KAYAKING 2 HOURS AND HIKING 2 HOURS

Your morning flight to Glacier Bay National Park provides a bird's-eye view of the vast Chilkat Range before touching down in Gustavus at the mouth of Glacier Bay Inlet. It's a short shuttle to the put-in point for today's sea-kayaking excursion. Expert guides from Spirit Walkers Expeditions outfit you with equipment, and provide a demonstration of proper paddling and safety techniques. Take to the water in a stable tandem boat and paddle to Pleasant Island, which is covered in old-growth forest and offers stunning views of the Fairweather Range and the Cathedral Peaks.

After fueling up with a tasty picnic lunch on the beach, switch gears and embark on a leisurely hike around the island, inhabited by an array of wildlife, including deer, bald eagles and bears. The old-growth forest lining the island's exterior opens up to meadows of muskeg, or peat bog, which blankets the landscape with beautiful shades of green and brown. In the summer, flowers grow wild. Traversing mossy logs and low tree limbs, we follow deer trails to get a true sense of this unspoiled forest. After the hike, hop back in your boat and paddle back to Gustavus, keeping an eye out for whales, seals or porpoises. A short shuttle brings us to Glacier Bay Lodge, nestled on beautiful Bartlett Cove. *Lodging: Glacier Bay Lodge*

DAY 5

ALL-DAY GLACIER BAY CRUISE

We get an early start and board a ferry for a full day of wildlife and glacier viewing in the heart of Glacier Bay. **Be sure to bring plenty of warm clothing and rain gear as temperatures on the boat can be very chilly.** The scenic cruise takes you through spectacular Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, a World Heritage site and home to numerous tidewater glaciers. The passage travels through ice-blue waters and up the West Arm of Glacier Bay to the face of the awe-inspiring Marjorie and Grand Pacific Glaciers. Perhaps you'll be treated to the spectacular sight and sound of a calving glacier—when giant slabs of ice break away and crash into the frigid water. As we cruise along the shoreline, keep an eye out for brown bears, mountain goats and bald eagles.

When you've reached the head of Glacier Bay, you'll notice a significant shift in temperature, which can drop as much as 20 degrees from shore due to the surrounding ice. This unique setting abounds with marine mammals, including graceful humpback whales (who spend their summers feeding near the bay), harbor seals, harbor porpoises, sea otters and sea lions. Floating along the water, tufted puffins are easy to recognize with their colorful bills and signature tufts of feathers curled back on each side of their heads.

Returning to the hotel, we enjoy a farewell cocktail reception and celebrate our Alaskan adventure with a three-course dinner at nearby Glacier Bay Country Inn. *Lodging: Glacier Bay Lodge*



Backroads' route rating system is the most comprehensive and accurate in the travel industry. To find out how these ratings translate into varying levels of physical challenge and activity, please visit our Web site —www.backroads.com— and select the route rating button for the trip of your choice.

LEVEL 1
2–5 miles/day
2–3 hours/day

LEVEL 2
5–7 miles/day
2–4 hours/day

LEVEL 3
7–9 miles/day
3–5 hours/day

**ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU**

DAY 6

BARTLETT RIVER ESTUARY WALK 5 MILES

LONGER OPTION: BARTLETT RIVER 6 MILES

SHUTTLE TO GUSTAVUS AIRPORT 30 MINUTES

SCENIC FLIGHT TO JUNEAU 45 MINUTES

After breakfast, cap off your journey with a beautiful hike that winds through a rain forest and out to the Bartlett River estuary, where ducks, geese and other waterfowl are plentiful. You might even spot black bears foraging for food along the river's edge. From a moss-shrouded forest, you'll descend to a quiet trail lined with wildflowers, mushrooms and blueberry bushes to Bartlett Cove. Or, you can choose to go on a whale-watching cruise to a popular feeding area for humpback whales. (Please note that the whale-watching cruise is not included in the trip price.) Following a farewell lunch at the lodge, we shuttle to the airport in Gustavus and board a small plane for Juneau. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

ARRIVING & DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

***** On Day 3 we take a train to Fraser, British Columbia. You will need a passport to cross the U.S./Canada border. *****

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, we meet at 11 a.m. at the Westmark Baranof in Juneau (127 North Franklin Street). Please inquire at the front desk for our exact meeting place. **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes and bring a daypack filled with whatever you might need on today's hike (sunglasses, camera, extra layers, etc.) Be sure to have your rain gear handy!**

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day of the trip, we take a charter flight from Glacier Bay back to Juneau, arriving at the Juneau International Airport at about 2:30 p.m. **Please be advised that all flights in Alaska are subject to change or cancellation due to inclement weather.**

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Juneau is inaccessible by car, so you must arrive by boat or plane. If you're flying directly to the trip start, your destination is Juneau International Airport (airport code: JNU).

For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent, please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)



Note

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

ORGANIZE A BACKROADS PRIVATE TRIP FOR YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Hotel Room Rate Guide (U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

GROUND TRANSPORTATION FROM THE JUNEAU AIRPORT TO THE WESTMARK BARANOF

Taxis: A cab ride from the airport to the Westmark Baranof costs about \$22.

Buses: If you arrive on a weekday, Juneau's Capital Transit buses (907-789-6901) stop at the opposite end of the terminal from the airport baggage claim area every 11 minutes past the hour, from 7:11 a.m.–5:11 p.m. Bus fare is \$1.50 per person (exact change is required). You will need to transfer to the downtown bus at the Nugget Mall and then get off at the Franklin stop. The Westmark Baranof is one block away; the entire trip takes about 35 minutes. If you arrive on a weekend, buses run from the Nugget Mall (about a 5-minute walk from the airport) to the Franklin stop.

TAKING THE FERRY FROM WASHINGTON TO JUNEAU

The Alaska Marine Highway ferry system offers service throughout Alaska's Inside Passage. It departs Bellingham, Washington, and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, on a weekly basis and stops at several towns along the Inside Passage. You may want to spend a few extra days visiting some of the towns along the way, including Ketchikan, Sitka and Petersburg. The cost from Bellingham to Juneau is \$326; the trip takes 2½ days, leaving Bellingham at 6 p.m. every Friday and arriving in Juneau early Monday morning. Staterooms are available; we strongly suggest making reservations early, as rooms fill quickly. For more information on traveling by ferry or to request a current schedule, call 800-382-9229 or 907-235-8449. You can also find information on the Alaska Ferry Adventures Web site at www.akmhs.com.

WHERE TO STAY BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for their consulting services.)

Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details.

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide in the sidebar for starting double-occupancy rates. Note that the chart reflects the Internet and/or Best Available rates, which were accurate at the time of printing, but **hotel rates are always subject to change**.

JUNEAU

WESTMARK BARANOF (OUR MEETING LOCATION AND LODGING ON DAY 1)

Ideally located near Juneau's major attractions, including Mendenhall Glacier, Perseverance Theatre, Mount Roberts Tramway and Juneau Observatory, this popular hotel has attractive and relaxing décor. The Gold Room Restaurant and Bubble Room lounge are comfortable retreats after a day of exploration. If you choose to stay at the Westmark Baranoff before the trip, please mention that you will be joining a Backroads trip when making your reservation. 127 North Franklin Street; Phone: 800-544-0970 or 907-586-2660; www.westmarkhotels.com; 196 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

ALASKA’S CAPITAL INN BED AND BREAKFAST

Built in 1906, this beautifully restored mansion is full of charming details that include a potbellied stove, an 1879 pump organ set in the parlor, Persian rugs and original (electrified) gas lamps. Owners Linda Wendeborn and Mark Thorson have won awards and gained national attention for their efforts. Guest rooms are comfortably outfitted, with quilts and fine trim, and breakfast includes such specialties as Dungeness crab eggs Benedict and lemon soufflé hotcakes. 113 West Fifth Street; Phone: 888-588-6507 or 907-586-6507; www.alaskacapitalinn.com; 7 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

BEST WESTERN GRANDMA’S FEATHER BED

Comfortable and pleasant, Grandma’s Feather Bed is the smallest hotel in the Best Western chain. The shingled, Victorian-style farmhouse exterior is charming and full of character while the interior guest rooms offer feather beds and Jacuzzi tubs. Although it is outside the city, the hotel’s location near the airport and Mendenhall Glacier makes it a convenient starting point for all your Alaskan adventures. 9300 Glacier Hwy.; Phone: 888-781-5005 or 907-789-5005; www.grandmasfeatherbed.com; 14 suites. Rates: ◆◆

GOLDBELT HOTEL JUNEAU

The Goldbelt Hotel Juneau sits on the waterfront in downtown Juneau. Not to be missed is the hotel’s permanent collection of original, museum-quality Tlingit artwork, on display in the Chinook Restaurant and lobby. When making your reservation, request a room with water or mountain views. The hotel provides complimentary transportation to and from the airport. 51 Egan Drive; Phone: 888-478-6909 or 907-586-6900; www.goldbelttours.com; 105 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

ANCHORAGE

ALASKAN FRONTIER GARDENS BED-AND-BREAKFAST

Located on 3 wooded acres, 20 minutes from downtown, this cedar lodge offers a wonderful blend of rustic comfort and casual elegance. Lounge on the wrap-around decks by day and stargaze from the blissful eight-person hot tub at night. Begin the day with a breakfast including Belgian waffles with rum peaches, French toast, blueberry pancakes and reindeer sausage. Ask for the Ivory Suite and enjoy a Jacuzzi, fireplace, sauna and spectacular views. 7440 Alatna Avenue; Phone: 907-345-6556; www.alaskafrontiergardens.com; 4 suites. Rates: ◆◆

CLARION SUITES ANCHORAGE

Spacious guest rooms, a swimming pool and breakfast on the house all contribute to this all-suite inn’s AAA three-diamond rating. Museums, shops and restaurants are just a short walk away, and a business center and fitness facility are available on site. 325 W. 8th Ave; Phone: 907-274-1000; www.choicehotels.com; 110 suites. Rates: ◆◆

INLET TOWER HOTEL AND SUITES

This high-rise hotel offers spectacular views of the inlet—or of the breathtaking mountains, if you’d prefer, in a contemporary space where luxury and convenience artfully intersect. A complimentary airport shuttle is provided. 1200 L Street; Phone: 800-544-0786 or 907-276-0110; www.inlettower.com; 180 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

ANCHORAGE HILTON

Set in the heart of downtown Anchorage, this luxurious hotel is a wonderful combination of convenience and comfort. Many of Anchorage’s highlights are just a few blocks from the hotel, including the Museum of History and Fine Art, numerous shops and a bounty of restaurants. Be sure to check out the fare and the view from its 15th-floor restaurant. Most rooms offer magnificent views of the Chugach Mountain Range, Cook Inlet or the city skyline. 500 West 3rd Ave.; Phone: 907-272-7411; www.hilton.com; 592 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

HISTORIC ANCHORAGE HOTEL

This 1916 Anchorage landmark is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is centrally located in downtown, just 6 miles from the airport and a short walk from some of the finest shopping and dining in Alaska. Families are welcome here and can spread out in the spacious suites with kitchenettes. Light sleepers should request a room facing away from the street. 330 E Street; Phone: 800-544-0988 or 907-272-4553; www.historicanchoragehotel.com; 26 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆◆

HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

A member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, this luxurious hotel sits in the heart of Anchorage. Guest rooms offer panoramic views of the Cook Inlet or Chugach Mountains. Dine at your choice of distinctive eateries (including the Crow’s Nest, downtown’s only AAA four-diamond restaurant), get in a workout at the fully equipped athletic club, and peruse a variety of on-site shops. 4th and K Streets; Phone: 800-843-1950 or 907-276-6000; www.captaincook.com; 547 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆◆

MILLENNIUM ALASKAN HOTEL

Ideally designed for adventurers seeking to soak up the great Alaskan wilderness, the Millennium Alaskan Hotel is located on the eastern shore of Lake Spenard and features magnificent panoramas, Alaskan wildlife displays, a massive lobby fireplace and a private floatplane dock where you can depart for sightseeing or sportfishing outings. Basic yet comfortable rooms are enhanced by its convenient location—just 10 minutes from downtown and 1 mile from the airport. 4800 Spenard Road; Phone: 866-866-8086 or 907-243-2300; www.millenniumhotels.com; 248 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.