



Ryan Walker

MemberTeam.com

NOTICE: You DO Have the Right To Reprint or Resell this Book!

You Also MAY Give Away,
Sell or Share the Content Herein

© 2009 Copyright www.MemberTeam.com

All rights reserved

You may sell or give away this report as long as it is not altered in any way, falsely misrepresented or distributed in any illegal or immoral manner.

No Liability

In no event will the author of this product, or any distributors, be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, punitive, special, incidental, or other consequential damages arising directly or indirectly from the use of this product. This product is provided "as is" and without warranties. Use of this product constitutes acceptance of the "No Liability" policy.

Warranties

There are NO WARRANTIES express or implied and specifically no warranties regarding FITNESS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE or WARRANTY OF MERCHANT ABILITY of this product

Introduction

Dear colleague,

Books like this one sell for everything from \$5 to \$95 if you know *where to* and *how to* sell them.

If you want to make similar books – ***your 100% own products*** which you can resell for profits; or better still: **Build a very profitable Internet business around** – I recommend you download and read the FREE eBook [PLR Content Wealth System](#).

The only way to build ***unlimited wealth*** online is by *owning your own products!*

Learn how to by reading [PLR Content Wealth System](#).

To your success,

Ryan Walker

Ryan Walker

Table of Contents

Introduction3

Chapter 1: Touring Alaska.....5

Chapter 2: Cruising Through Alaska.....6

Chapter 3: The Alaskan Native.....7

Chapter 4: The Alaskan Pipeline.....9

Chapter 5: The Alaskan Malamute.....11

Chapter 6: How to Spot Wildlife In Alaska.....13

Chapter 7: The History of Alaska.....15

Chapter 8: The Siberian Husky.....17

Chapter 9: The Alaskan Adventure.....18

Chapter 10: The Alaskan Journey.....20

Questions and Answers About Alaska: 23

Chapter 1

Touring Alaska

Alaska is an unforgettable experience, whether you're just passing through on a cruise line port stop or flying direct. It seems that there is a natural human instinct to seek out "the final frontier" and visit the thriving towns that are dotted throughout this unique state. There are many nature reserves that give you that "I'm the only person in the world" sense.

The Alaska that you experience depends upon the choices you make along the way, so here are some tours and options that you can select.

In Juneau, a classic Alaskan tour is the "Four Glaciers By Helicopter & Dog Sled Adventure." On this once-in-a-lifetime expedition, you'll soar over four real glaciers, which are the Taku, the Hole-in-the-Wall, Dead Branch and East Twin, while catching a bird's eye view of moose, goats, bears and caribou.

Then you will land on Norris Glacier where you'll meet up with your Alaskan malamute and Alaskan husky dogsled team.

Your guide will describe the 1,000-mile Iditarod Race that traverses from Anchorage to Nome. Your trip will include some hiking through crevasses and navigating streams for two hours of ethereal zen. This journey is for the fearless, the cold-insensitive, the adventurous and the athletic.

Calling all fishermen!

Sitka offers a full-day excursion you won't want to miss! It's no secret that Alaska is home to some delicious seafood, particularly salmon, halibut and Alaskan king crab. This state is a beacon for any serious fisherman looking to fish the best of the best.

The captain will take you to proven spots where you can troll for king, silver or chum salmon or anchor-and-jig a halibut. You'll even be treated to lunch and snacks on this trip.

Lastly, you won't want to miss the "White Pass Scenic Railway" that takes you through the narrow escarpment and gives you a glimpse at the Alaska that Yukon gold prospectors may have seen. You'll ride an old-fashioned parlor car up the 2,800-foot mountain, past Bridal Vein Falls, Inspiration Point and Dead Horse Gulch.

You can take a three hour journey round-trip or choose to book a bus ride on the Klondike Highway. The rich history of Alaska can't be ignored on this tour, which is why it's one of the most recommended tours you can take.

Chapter 2

Cruising Through Alaska

Some say Alaskan cruises were born when 27-year-old writer Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore documented her first trip to Glacier Bay aboard "The Idaho" in 1883.

Of course, naturalist John Muir had been raving about Alaska's wilderness for years. After Scidmore's Alaskan adventure, she wrote about the mountains, forests, glaciers and bay in a series of newspaper and magazine articles, which later became a book.

America was captivated by this pristine frontier. Now there are over 15 cruise lines that have sent almost a million passengers to Alaska.

"People go to Alaska to see wildlife for a reason, but you see it in many ways and in many circumstances," said Erik Elvejord, spokesman for Holland America Line.

"Don't expect a lineup of bears when you hit the pier, or pods of whales everywhere the ship goes."

Seeing wildlife in Alaska while on a cruise is all about careful planning, Alaskans say. While animals won't be flocking toward the ship, you can visit one of the port stop towns for guaranteed sightings. Carnival Cruise Lines recommends the Sea Otter Quest in Sitka, for example, because there's a 100% guarantee you'll see these playful creatures.

Holland America recommends the Whale Watching and Wildlife Quest in Auke Bay because humpback and orca feeding grounds are located right amid the Alaskan cruise route.

Bears can be a little more hit-or-miss, wildlife experts say. You can take a \$100 "Bear Search" at 7am in Icy Strait Point, although there's no guarantee you'll spot one.

Or you can take a \$300 - \$1,600 fly-in adventure to Pack Creek on Admiralty Island, Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park or the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, where bears reliably come to feed on salmon.

This summer, you can find some great deals on Alaskan cruises if you know where to look!

Since so many people flood Europe during the summer, you can find great savings.

For instance, Holland America Line offers 7-night premium cruises (with stops in Juneau, the Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria), with prices starting at \$699, down from \$1,629!

Summer is actually a great time to visit Alaska because the bears are out catching spawning salmon, there are many summer festivals, the flowers are in bloom, the days are longer and the weather's mild.

If you're looking to book Alaskan cruises, then you can choose a mega-ship like Holland America, Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Princess Cruises or Royal Caribbean.

Or you may want a mid-size vessel like Regent Seven-Seas Cruises or Silversea Cruises. Smaller vessels include American Safari Cruises (36 passengers), Cruise West (120), Discovery Voyages (20), Majestic America (220), Maple Leaf Adventures, Lindblad Expeditions or The Boat Company.

Chapter 3

The Alaskan Native

Although Alaska did not become a state until 1959; the land holds a rich history that began with behemoth dinosaurs and woolly mammoths dominating the landscape.

Archaeologists say humans moved to Alaska over the Bering Strait over 20,000 years ago, with the first Europeans settling from Scandinavia and Russia in 1748.

The early years brought Russian fur traders who almost brought the Alaskan mammals to extinction, and the Spanish explorers who favored the southeast's Prince of Wales Island.

Russian missionaries and Americans cut down timber from the forests for a profit. In 1896, gold was discovered in the Yukon, which began a long fascination with the territory, attracting settlers worldwide. All the while, 15% of the population was made up of Alaskan native tribes.

This population set up villages in Ketchikan, Anchorage and Kotzebue, subsisting off hunting, whaling and fishing. Today, visitors can see hundreds of preserved villages where Alaskans still hang onto cultural traditions and sell colorful, spiritual art to curious newcomers.

A good starting point to learn more about Alaska's indigenous people is to visit The Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage Alaska.

This world renowned cultural center and museum contains information, educational materials, video presentations, artwork and displays documenting the following Alaskan native peoples: the Athabascan, the Aleut & Alutiiq, the Yup'ik & Cup'ik, the Inupiaq & St. Lawrence Island Yupik, the Eyak, the Tlingit, the Haida and the Tsimshian.

Here you can view beaded artwork from the Athabascan people, learn about the spirituality of the Yup'ik and Cup'ik, who believed in good shamans for healing and bad shamans who placed curses on people, or gaze upon the festive Chilkat & raven's tail robe regalia worn at the Eyak potlach festivals.

Fairbanks Alaska is a good launching place for learning more about the Alaskan native peoples. The annual Native Arts Festival in February brings together artwork, crafts, dance and folklore.

In Nome, 54% of the population is comprised of native Eskimos and the main industries are mining and tourism. You can take a polar bear swim, watch a dog sled race, watch crab fishermen at work, pan for gold or buy native Alaskan art.

Barrow boasts the world's largest Inupiat Eskimo settlement, where you'll see how fishing and hunting are still a way of life, but have been combined with modern conveniences, like snowmobiles and tools. The Heritage Center has been called "a must-see for every visitor." If you visit Barrow in the late winter, then be sure to look for the awe-inspiring Northern Lights!

These are just a few of the native villages, of course. If you are taking an Alaskan cruise or planning a bundled trip, then your travel agent should be able to point you in the right direction.

Alaska is a "must" for anyone with a pioneering spirit, who is looking for "the last great adventure." There is something about the lonely expanse of snow that makes one question his or her existence.

While you're there, you'll find yourself reflecting upon various time periods of history, from the Ice Age of woolly mammoths, and ancient Alaskan native survivalism, to the Yukon gold rush of the 1800s and European migration over the Bering Strait.

Some come for big game hunting and fishing, while others come for a broader understanding of geology or archaeology and the wildlife exploration. Regardless, it is a wild Alaskan frontier that shouldn't be missed.

Chapter 4

The Alaskan Pipeline

"Part of the problem in Washington is that a lot of our Democratic friends, year after year, have tried to stand in the way of more energy production," Vice President Dick Cheney told the New York Republic Committee on May 29th, 2008.

"The plain truth is we can get a lot more energy here in America, and we can do it in an environmentally sound and friendly way."

He was, of course, talking about expanding drilling and excavating for Alaskan oil.

Drilling in Alaska has been a contentious issue since the 1970s, with environmentalists raising a clamor about protecting the national wildlife refuges and the pristine wilderness.

Some feared that oil exploration would cause undue harm from oil spills and would disrupt the thriving tourism industry, as well as the centuries-old wildlife migration patterns.

However, with the looming energy crisis, the Alaskan pipeline may be the only solution.

"Suddenly people started coming into town," described JB Carnahan, former police officer in Fairbanks Alaska. "It happened kind of rapidly when it took off.

Because I don't think anybody really believed this monstrous project was going to impact us. I mean, maybe the politicians did, but I think the average guy was just kind of going, 'Oh sure, we've heard this before,' because this has always been a boom or bust town. And suddenly, there it was."

When the Trans-Alaskan pipeline project began, a flood of people came to town with \$3,000 - \$5,000 cash burning holes in their pockets, beautiful women arrived from New York and Florida, welders and construction workers drove up from Oklahoma and Texas, South American and Irish immigrants came to collect a check and everyone from secretaries and teachers, to prostitutes and pimps came looking for their fortune.

Fairbanks hadn't seen such activity since the gold rush of the late 1800s!

Within a year, the population had doubled in size to 40,000 strong, and the pipeline project had transformed this sleepy two-cop town into a bustling metropolis.

Unfortunately, along with all of the business came higher rents, more drugs and more crime.

Building the Alaskan pipeline was an immense feat, taking three years, utilizing more than 70,000 people and costing over \$8 billion.

Engineer Bill Howitt said that organization was one of the biggest challenges. "Getting all that stuff and the materials and the ability to sustain 10,000 people working in a place where no one has worked before. And there was no infrastructure -- that was the big deal."

For the contractors, they worked hard but they partied hard too. Diane Benson commented, "We used to joke around that you could tell what union somebody belonged to by what drug of choice they had. I mean it seemed like operators were drunks or the Teamsters were the coke freaks and the laborers were the potheads."

Today, there have been many international talks of expanding the Alaskan pipeline. In April 2008, Russian natural gas monopoly OAO Gazprom submitted a bid to build a multibillion-dollar pipeline that would carry Alaskan gas directly to the lower 48 US states.

Similarly, the Transcanada Corp announced a \$26-billion plan to build an Alaskan natural gas pipeline from Alaska, through Alberta and into Eastern Canada and the US. According to their study released in May, the project would bring \$261 billion in revenues for the state and \$147 billion for Alaska's major energy producers over 25 years, making it a favorable option for Alaska's Governor Sarah Palin.

Alaska's oil giants BP and ConocoPhillips have already moved on plans to extend the pipeline 700 miles through Alaska, the Yukon Territory, British Columbia and Alberta.

One thing is certain: the Alaskan oil and the pipeline is the key to our energy independence and is the American bargaining chip.

Chapter 5

The Alaskan Malamute

Some people find it hard to tell an Alaskan Malamute from a Siberian Husky, Alaskan Husky or an Eskimo Dog.

Malamutes are large (from 23 - 26 inches) and are built with a powerful bone structure to pull heavy loads. Pure-bred Mals must have brown eyes. The ears are set further back, the head is broad and deep, the muzzle is bulky, the back is sloped and the tail is a waving plume, curled loosely. The double coat can be silver, reddish, brownish or black, with white.

A common facial characteristic is the "mask" look. The Alaskans love this adorable breed and they are a popular choice for families, primarily due to their affectionate disposition.

Alaskan Malamutes are a very affectionate breed of dog that thrive on human companionship.

Ideally, your pet will be able to come and go as it pleases through a doggie-door, having the freedom to lounge outside in the shade or be at the heart of human interaction on command.

Speaking of "commands," Mals can be stubborn dogs if you don't take the time to train them when they're young.

Don't worry: they are intelligent and quick learners if you use positive rewards. Be sure to let them know who is the "Alpha Dog" in your house early on!

This breed gets bored easily and needs a lot of exercise. Your Malamute may be a digger, so it's best to set up a shaded area where your dog can dig his paws into the cool dirt if need be.

If you're looking for a guard dog, then forget it; this breed enjoys humans far too much!

While the males are sometimes aggressive with other males, Mals are said to be good family pets.

If you have cats, small dogs or farm animals, then you may want to reconsider getting this sort of breed. Perhaps it's the hunter instinct that emerges, but this native Alaskan canine does not typically get along with other small mammals.

One of the things you'll come to love about your Mal is its "Chewbacca" woofs. While they're a generally quiet dog, they do like to talk a bit, and sometimes even howl like a wolf!

Since dog breeds are a "human invention," there are always certain health hazards associated with each breed. For the Alaskan Malamute, the average life span is around 10 years and most dogs die of cancer.

Like the slope-backed variety of German Shepherd, hip dysplasia is also common with the Mal. Heredity cataract and progressive retinal atrophy occur in a number of older dogs. Inherited polyneuropathy and chondrodysplasia exists in some lines too.

When purchasing a dog, it's always good to look at the family lineage and be sure you're with a breeder you can trust.

If you think you can handle a little bit of digging and a bit more exercise, then you can begin searching for a breeder.

To buy a Malamute, you can look for a local chapter of the Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association. You can expect to pay around \$700 for a pure-bred puppy.

The easiest way to find a dog is usually through the local newspaper. However, you may also want to check a site like PuppyFind.org, where you can find both puppies and older dogs who are up for adoption.

Chapter 6

How to Spot Wildlife in Alaska

In Alaska, some say the moose are running the city of Anchorage.

Hundreds mill around, feasting on sweet grass and birch shrubs within city limits, weighing as much as 1,600 pounds!

Grizzlies, black bears and polar bears mostly keep to themselves, stalking down their prey in the remote parts of the 49th state.

There are bald eagles soaring overhead, humpback whales and orcas patrolling the sea, the red fox eats a furry pika on the tundra and there are sea otters playing alongside boats for the entertainment of spectators.

If you're captivated by wildlife and want a more up close view, then an Alaskan adventure is a must!

Whale-watching is one of the main tours that people take in the state of Alaska.

"The time the cruise ships are up there is when humpbacks and orcas are feeding, so there's a good chance you'll see them," says Robert Blythman, director for Carnival Cruise Lines.

He says some excursions, like the Whale Watching and Wildlife Quest in Auke Bay, comes with a money back guarantee. "It's a 100 percent guarantee that you'll see the otters," Blythman added, noting that there are 70,000 of these playful critters swimming in Alaskan waters.

He personally recommends the Sea Otter Quest from the town of Sitka. Humpback whales and killer whales can be seen surfacing and breaching the Inside Passage, which is a popular Alaskan cruise route, or in Prince William Sound, the Kodiak archipelago, Glacier Bay National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park.

Humpbacks sometimes disappear for thirty minutes at a time, but the orcas usually move in pods with the ships.

Beluga whales are most easily seen in Cook Inlet and Turnagain Arm, near Anchorage. Many drivers pull over between Beluga Point (Mile 110) and Bird Point Scenic Overlook

(Mile 96) for a magnificent view of these endangered whales. Bowhead whales, the state marine mammal of Alaska, can be seen in the Arctic Ocean and the Northern Bering Sea.

Another group of wildlife spectators in Alaska come for the bears.

There are roughly 100,000 black bears and 30,000 grizzlies, which represent 98% of the total US grizzly population.

You can take a \$100 "Bear Search" from the port of Icy Strait Point or take a \$300 - \$1,600 fly-in to more remote locations, like Pack Creek (Admiralty Island) or the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary.

At Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park, grizzlies often feed on spawning salmon during the summer months, which you can see from a viewing deck. You can catch a glimpse of grizzlies sleeping or browsing on a Denali National Park bus tour.

The Kenai River occasionally has fishermen and bear meeting points.

Black bears generally congregate at Anan Creek, south of Wrangell. Polar bears live along the Arctic Ocean and down the Bering Sea coast. The Alaska Zoo in Anchorage is the easiest place to see this elusive creature.

Often, you don't have to try at all to see wildlife in Alaska. You could be at a salmon bake at the Taku Glacier Lodge when a grizzly decides he's coming to your grill for a snack.

Or you could be fishing on Chilkat River when a bald eagle swoops down for breakfast.

Since so much emphasis is on conservation in Alaska, you'll probably want to invest in one of the \$100 tours at Denali National Park for a more in-depth view, if wildlife is a crucial part of your Alaskan adventure.

Check out wildlife.alaska.gov for more details!

Chapter 7

The History of Alaska

To know Alaska is to love Alaska.

While places like Antarctica, Siberia and the state of Alaska generally rank low on the tourist agenda, due to the infamous weather and unforgiving winter temperatures, there is a wealth of activities and historical artifacts to be seen.

Whether you're looking for the freshest salmon, a glimpse of "Babe," the ox frozen in ice, a lumberjack song & dance, a dog sled race, a polar bear swim, towering totem poles or the playful sea otters, you won't leave disappointed.

There is truly something for everyone in this breathtaking state, but before you make your journey, first consider the rich historical context of Alaska so you can fully appreciate and understand what you're seeing.

The first Alaskans were thought to have crossed the Bering Strait between 60,000 and 50,000 BC.

By the mid 1700s, there were 60-80,000 Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos living in Alaska.

The Indians of Alaska included the Tlingits and Haidas in the Southeast, and the Athabaskans of the Interior Passage; together, they numbered about 20,000 strong.

The 15,000 Aleuts inhabited the Aleutian Islands and a Southwest portion of the Alaska Peninsula.

Lastly, 30,000 Eskimos lived along the Alaskan coast from the Arctic Ocean to Yakutat, stretching to the Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula and Prince William Sound.

The early inhabitants of the state of Alaska lived in a hunter-gatherer society and used every part of the beasts they hunted, making long houses, tools, igloos, weapons, clothing, blankets, jewelry, dishes and canoes. Shamans battled for good and evil, with some providing spiritual healing, while others cast curses.

Wealth was shared through ceremonies, like Tlingit potlatches, Athabaskan festivals, Eskimo messenger feasts, and Aleut theatrical performances.

For thousands of years, these indigenous groups would be the only population on the Alaskan frontier, but that changed and the Alaska native became just 15% of the total population.

Vasco de Balboa claimed all North American lands under the Spanish crown as early as 1513, but Spanish explorers didn't really investigate the prospect of Alaska until the 1770s.

In 1790, Spanish explorers named the towns of Cordova and Valdez after their conquistadors, and some architectural influences and Spanish nomenclature is still evident in these ice-free ports.

The French also had a stake in fur trading with the Aleut people, although the unregulated deals soon turned bloody.

The Russians staked their claim in Alaska when Peter the Great sent Vitus Bering to establish Sitka as their first settlement. Bering had trouble navigating the wild seas and much of his crew died from scurvy. Subsequent Russian voyagers tried to make their way to the ports to set up fur trading businesses.

Of course, the local Tlingits weren't willing to relinquish their Sitka territory that easily, nor were the Aleuts willing to give up Kodiak Island lands.

From the gold boom of the 1890s to the oil boom of the 1960s, the proliferation of Alaska can be credited to profitable exploration.

Despite the harsh climate and the inaccessibility, the American pioneering spirit prevailed and yielded astounding results.

Roughly 80% of the state's income derives from the petroleum industry. In 2005, its per-capita GSP for 2005 was \$60,079, ranking 3rd in the nation.

Today, Alaska has a population of 626,932, which is still one of the least populous states, though it is the largest. Yet it is this empty space and remoteness that draws millions of tourists to Alaska each year.

The preserved wilderness and wildlife, combined with the spoils of modern capitalism, is a juxtaposition one surely must witness in his or her lifetime.

Chapter 8

The Siberian Husky

If you're not from the state of Alaska or you are not a big fan of the Siberian Husky, then chances are you've never heard of the "Iditarod Race." Yet, this unique event began in 1973 and has since garnered sponsors like Wells Fargo, Chrysler and Cabela's.

The dog sled race takes teams of Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Samoyas and Eskimo dogs 1,150 miles across the frozen tundra.

The team of twelve to sixteen dogs race from checkpoint to checkpoint, all the while hauling their musher. A small microchip is embedded in their shoulders, which are scanned to ensure everything is fair in the race and safe for the animals.

The time to beat for this massive trek is currently around 11 days. For many tourists, the Iditarod Race is a memorable, Alaskan experience.

One needn't be a die-hard racer to love the Siberian Husky. Sure, these dogs are clearly bred for racing. Their slender, agile frames shout "long distance runner," while their thick double coat and heavily padded feet exude "endurance."

This breed is incredibly resilient, requiring little food and little sleep, but demands exercise and attention.

The Alaskan Husky likes to dig, loves to run and enjoys the hunt. Smaller dogs, cats and other animals may become prey for this wolf-like dog, so they function best with similar-sized dogs of the opposite sex and the companionship of the whole family.

Early obedience classes will help these native Alaskan dogs be all they can be and it should be understood that positive reward works best for these docile and devoted animals.

Finding a Siberian Husky isn't difficult, although you should pay special attention to the breeder's history.

Visit the compound, take a look around at the other dogs and spend some time observing the prospective parents first. Don't feel pressured to buy from the first

breeder you meet. Since you will be paying around \$700 for a puppy, you'll want to make sure he or she will be healthy and attractive.

If you are interested, you can find specialized breeders who raise all-sled dogs or all-AKC show dogs. Or, if you're just looking for a pet, then you may even consider an Alaskan Malamute/Husky mix.

"Other than getting banged up in the buffalo tunnels, I enjoyed the heck out of my race," said fifty-year-old Liz Parrish, an Iditarod racer.

After passing a snowless swatch of trail just past Rohn, slippery frozen water pools incited the Siberian Husky sled dogs to run faster, sending sleds and mushers flying!

Despite the blowing wind and the pelting snow, the racer says, "My dogs did well. I was on a magic carpet ride as far as the dogs went. They were healthy, strong and cooperative. Every time I asked them to go, they said, 'Sure, let's go,'"

And that, many owners say, is the quality that is most appealing about this dog, as well as the devotion and positive energy that this sled dog brings all the time, whether racing or at home.

Chapter 9

The Alaskan Adventure

An Alaskan cruise is the best way for first-timers to catch a glimpse of Alaska.

You'll experience all of the Alaskan goodies, such as whales, glaciers, fjord valleys, native Alaskans, national parks, bears, eagles, Yukon gold rush mines, train rides and more.

The best part is that many cruises offer all-inclusive packages and include unlimited food and drink while on the ship. On your next journey, you may choose to stay a while in one of the many quaint coastal towns or enter that dog sled race you've always wanted to try.

Alaskan adventures hold a multitude of options.

If it's your first visit, then travel veterans will tell you an Alaskan Cruise is the ultimate way to see and experience the state of Alaska.

Do you dream of seven-night cruises in pleasant sixty-to-seventy degree weather, while feasting on fresh-caught salmon, caribou steaks or reindeer sausages, and sipping on local micro-brews?

Wouldn't it be great if all your tours were pre-arranged and you could pan for gold, visit a glacial park, whale watch, take a jeep and canoe safari, watch a 1900s Lumberjack Show and see towering native Inuit totem poles?

Or, if you'd like, you can still view the majestic glaciers along the Inside Passage, yet stay on the ship for all your entertainment, including casinos, movies, fitness centers, internet centers, spas, libraries, swimming pools, Broadway-style shows, game centers and educational native Alaskan presentations.

A cruising Alaskan adventure is the perfect option for people who despise the organizing, arranging and "now what should we do" aspects of a vacation but love experiencing new things, all for one inclusive price. During the summer months, you can even find a seven-night cruise for as low as \$799!

The Saxman Native Village and The Alaskan Native Heritage Center are great places to learn about the first people of Alaska, some of whom still reside in the state to this day.

Kids and adults alike will love the White Pass railroad, as you will see remnants of the great 1898 Yukon gold rush, where over 20,000 people traversed from all around the world to make their fortune.

The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and the town of Skagway have a lot of cultural artifacts and activities related to the gold rush time period. You can even try panning for gold yourself or following the same route the prospectors took from British Columbia!

You'll notice the Russian and Scandinavian influence in a place like Petersburg, Alaska, where you'll be treated to ethnic dances and cathedral tours, if you so desire.

Instead of a cruise or helicopter ride, you may choose to travel the Alaskan landscape by land.

If you're the "road trip" type, then take the Palmer Highway out of Anchorage and travel 190 miles east through the Chugach Range and the Matanuska Valley to Glennallen, where you'll find the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

You won't want to miss the 13 million acres of glaciers, mountains, waterfalls and moose!

Another land route is the Richardson Highway, which takes you from Fairbanks to Valdez along a 350-mile stretch of gold-mining history.

The George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Anchorage is a classic interior route that takes you right to Denali National Park, with its amazing wildlife viewing and hikes.

If you'd rather not drive, then you can get a dog sled team of Malamutes and Huskies in Juneau, Skagway and Seward during the summer months.

Chapter 10

The Alaskan Journey

The Alaskan journey is one that we must all take one day.

Somewhere deep inside us, there is an urge to traverse the most remote parts of the globe and endure the most extreme conditions, to see things for ourselves that we had only previously encountered on the National Geographic Channel, and to delve into the most exotic places on the planet in hopes of coming home all the wiser.

The Alaska you choose to see can be a wild, untamed, unconquered Alaska, full of glaciers, grizzlies, pristine tundra and soaring bald eagles.

Or the Alaska you choose can be a rich cultural epicenter, with Inuit artwork and totem poles, gold mining remnants, historic railroad routes and dog sled teams of Malamutes and Huskies ready and raring to go.

Choose wisely, but keep in mind that you will probably be back here again one day. When you want it, things have a way of working out.

If it's your first visit, then travel veterans will tell you an Alaskan Cruise is the ultimate way to see and experience the state of Alaska.

Do you dream of seven-night cruises in pleasant sixty-to-seventy degree weather, while feasting on fresh-caught salmon, caribou steaks or reindeer sausages, and sipping on local micro-brews?

Wouldn't it be great if all your tours were pre-arranged and you could pan for gold, visit a glacial park, whale watch, take a jeep and canoe safari, watch a 1900s Lumberjack Show and see towering native Inuit totem poles?

Or, if you'd like, you can still view the majestic glaciers along the Inside Passage, yet stay on the ship for all your entertainment, including casinos, movies, fitness centers, internet centers, spas, libraries, swimming pools, Broadway-style shows, game centers and educational native Alaskan presentations.

A cruising Alaskan adventure is the perfect option for people who despise the organizing, arranging and "now what should we do" aspects of a vacation but love experiencing new things, all for one inclusive price. During the summer months, you can even find a **seven-night cruise for as low as \$799!**

Perhaps you came to Alaska for an adventure.

The last thing you want to do is sit in a cliché hotel, eat the usual cheeseburger while drinking the usual Budweiser beer, see a movie or go on some far-removed helicopter tour of the tundra.

You want to be in the middle of the action, risking life and limb just to say you "did it."

You want to experience the ultimate adrenaline rush. You've come to the right place!

The Alaskan experience will take you to a dog sled race out of Juneau, Skagway and Seward in the summer months. Winters in Seward offer the bravest souls a dip into the icy arctic waters in one of the world-famous polar bear swims.

Spectators who'd rather not get wet can enjoy turkey bowling, oyster slurping and bachelor/bachelorette auctions from the sidelines.

You may want to white water raft through Class IV and Class V rapids on the Sixmile Creek (with NovAlaska) or kayak to see marine wildlife up-close and personal from one of the tours. Kayak tours can be arranged in coastal towns such as Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Cordova, Seward, Homer, Whittier or Kodiak.

If air is more your thing, then take an exhilarating canopy zip-line ride through the tree tops in Juneau Alaska.

The Alaskan wildlife is plentiful and, in some instances, exclusive to this frigid landscape. Aside from a zoo, where else can you see polar bears, orcas, seals, walruses, grizzlies, wolves, musk oxen and caribou?

Denali National Park is one of the best places to experience nature up close. The park is now closed off to individual vehicles, so you'll have to purchase one of the tour bus packages, but it's well worth it to see bear pawing at spawning salmon, a wolf howling for its mate, or an arctic fox chasing a hare.

Bald eagles are another sight to see in Haines at the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. You can take bear watching trips out of Icy Strait Point, Pack Creek, the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, Brooks Falls/Katmai National Park, the Kenai River, Anan Creek or the zoo in Anchorage Alaska to see polar bears!

Whale watching is most popular through the Inside Passage, which is a popular Alaskan cruise route, or in Prince William Sound, the Kodiak archipelago, Glacier Bay National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park. You can also see beluga whales from the road along Beluga Point (Mile 110) and Bird Point Scenic Overlook (Mile 96).

Questions and Answers About Alaska

It is said that Alaska is home to the last wild frontier of the wilderness. It is not any wonder. It is the northern most state in the United States of America. Home to a wide diversity of wildlife and a climate that is comprised of six months of light and six months of darkness, Alaska is the final frontier of the wilderness.

Those who call Alaska their home must be a special hearty breed for it is not a forgiving climate for those who make mistakes. Bears are just some of what the wilds dish out daily to inhabitants and visitors to this great landscape.

Even more fantastic than the wildlife and the wilderness is the rich and diverse history that Alaska offers.

In this article we will address some of the questions you may have regarding this great state.

What is the history of Alaska?

Alaska's story is fantastic and is detailed.

It was originally discovered by the Russian explorer Vitus Bering in 1741. But it was not until 1784 that the first settlement was established.

It was not a profitable venture on the part of the Russians but it proved so for the Americans when U.S. Secretary of State, William H. Seward, purchased Alaska for 7.2 million dollars. That is 2 cents an acre.

A phenomenal deal, especially considering that gold was found in the Yukon and thousands of settlers eagerly made their way during the gold rushes of 1890.

Who was Alaska purchased from and when?

Alaska was purchased from the Russians by U.S. Secretary of state William Seward in 1867.

The United States paid 7.2 million dollars or roughly 2 cents an acre for this bountiful, wild frontier. This was a great bargain especially when later gold and oil were found in

this natural setting. It had not been much of a go for the Russians but for the Americans purchasing Alaska was a great boon to the economy.

What is it like living in Alaska?

Alaska is a beautiful frontier. Its long coastline means plenty of fishing opportunities and the wilds of the state are perfect for those who want to get back to nature.

But it takes someone special to be able to handle this last wild frontier. With six months of winter darkness and six months of light during summer it can play havoc with the senses.

Residents have to be prepared for Arctic temperatures during the winter months and living in isolation during these times. It is not an environment for everyone.

Residents must also deal with the high price of goods. It has long been much more expensive to live in Alaska than it has anywhere else.

Why is this? It is due to the fact that most products have to be trucked or shipped into the state. Some cities have enjoyed a decline in the prices for consumer goods but rural residents still have to deal with the high prices.

What is the main export of Alaska?

The main export of Alaska is oil and timber along with fish.

Half of the fish caught in the Western part of the U.S. comes from the Bering Sea. That is a lot of fish. Bristol Bay is home to the largest Sockeye Salmon fishery in the United States.

Another main gross product of Alaska is tourism. Tourists flock to the beauty of Alaska's rugged coast and tundra just to see the wildlife.