

Traveler's Resource Website

New Hampshire PBS

Discover Alaska with Willem Lange



ANCHORAGE - SEWARD

MAY 21 - 28, 2025

800.624.0166 | 802.862.2200 | explore@american-expeditions.net | www.americanexpeditions.net

To register for the tour and to access your payment account click the button below.

REGISTER NOW / CLICK HERE FOR PAYMENT PORTAL!

Open the Menu bar by clicking on the icon in the upper left corner.

Click Here for Printable Itinerary



Updated on 10.1.24

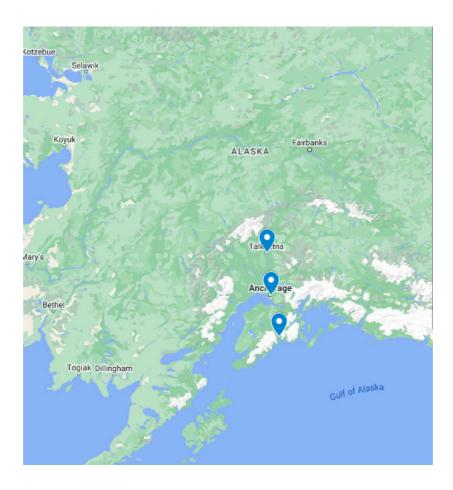


We look forward to providing you with helpful information through your group's custom Traveler's Resource Site in the months leading up to your departure. Hopefully, this site's features will make anticipating your trip even more exciting! Visit your site often to view your daily itinerary as it evolves, including hotel and flight details details, to read about the places you will visit, access links to destination-specific content, get advice on what to pack, and much more.

For quick access to any section of this website please click on the three bars in the upper left corner to access the drop-down index.

Your Traveler's Resource Site also offers convenient access to our web payment portal, where you can make your tour payments, view previous payments, and see upcoming payment dates.





Discover Alaska with NHPBS!

New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions invite you to explore Alaska! Travel on the journey of a lifetime to this expansive, beautiful state with thousands of years of rich history. Take in Alaska's incredible natural landscapes, unique culture, and fascinating history starting in Anchorage, continuing on to Seward, a launchpad for exploring Kenai Fjords National Park, and returning from Anchorage with a stop in Talkeetna, Denali's unique mountain town.

Alaska is the largest state, in area, of the United States and was admitted to the union as the 49th state in 1959; it is America's Last Frontier. Alaska is rich in history, with people inhabiting the area since 10,000 BC and rich in gold, with the Klondike Gold Rush sending close to 10,000 prospectors to the remote region of the Yukon in hopes of hitting it big in the late 1800s.

A state of extremes, Alaska homes 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States with Denali being the tallest mountain in North America. It also experiences the Midnight Sun during the summer months, with some areas of Northern Alaska experiencing 24 hours of sunlight. In comparison, some remote places in Alaska experience up to 2 months of winter darkness.

Alaska is a state that is best explored in person! Gain a firsthand experience of this state's rich history, dramatic landscape, raw wildlife, and welcoming people.

Discover local traditions with knowledgeable guides and forge friendships with fellow travelers, all while supporting New Hampshire PBS!

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DAY 1 | Wednesday, May 21

DEPART FOR ALASKA

The **NHPBS tour of Alaska** starts with a flight from **Boston** to **Anchorage**. Refer to your **AE tour handbook** for tips on making the journey smooth and comfortable.

7:00a Depart Boston Logan on Alaska Airlines #459.

10:23a Arrive in Seattle and transfer to your flight to Anchorage.

2:30p Depart Seattle on Alaska Airlines #131.

5:07p Arrive in Anchorage.

Welcome to **Alaska**! Your **American Expeditions tour manager** will be waiting to greet you in the arrivals area of **Anchorage International Airport**.

Head to your centrally located hotel in Anchorage. Tonight, the **NHPBS Discover Alaska Tour with Willem Lange** kicks off with a **welcome dinnerat a local restaurant.**



DAY 2 | Thursday, May 22

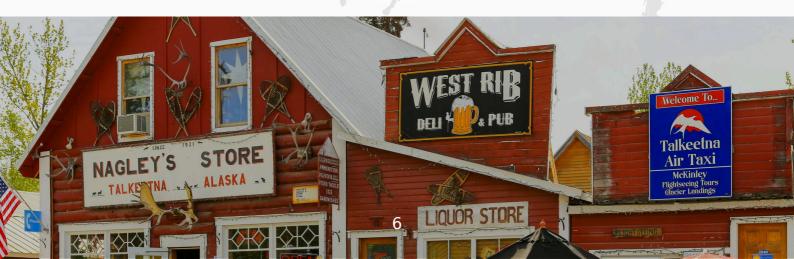
SIGHTSEEING IN ANCHORAGE | BIRD SANCTUARY

Enjoy waking up to your first full day in beautiful Alaska with a hearty breakfast at the hotel.

Board your deluxe motorcoach for a **city tour**, including **Historic Downtown Anchorage**, **Lake Hood**, the world's busiest seaplane base, and **Earthquake Park**.

After, enjoy a visit to **Potter Marsh**, a bird sanctuary and listen to a local speaker tell you about the wildlife and birds that migrate to Alaska.

The rest of the afternoon is free. Perhaps visit the Alaska Botanical Gardens, as Alaska's spring flora bloom in the extended daylight. Or if you're feeling adventurous, head out on a flightseeing adventure to get a bird's eye view of wilderness and the glaciers.



DAY 3 | Friday, May 23 DAY EXCURSION TO TALKEETNA

Today, transfer to the Anchorage Rail Depot where you **board the deluxe dome rail** to the community of **Talkeetna**. Glass-dome ceilings allow for panoramic views as Alaska unfolds along the tracks, and you have access to a unique outdoor viewing platform to take spectacular photos.

Talkeetna served as a supply station for miners in the early years of the 20th century and later became the headquarters for the Alaska Railroad engineers who built the railroad route north to the Tanana River. The town was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1993 and has served as a staging area for Mt. McKinley climbers for years.

Breakfast is served on board the rails. Upon arrival in Talkeetna, enjoy exploring the quaint town, where there is a museum and gift shops, Talkeetna Ranger Station if it's open for the summer season and more. In the late afternoon, board your private motor coach and head back south to Anchorage. This evening, enjoy **dinner** together with the group.

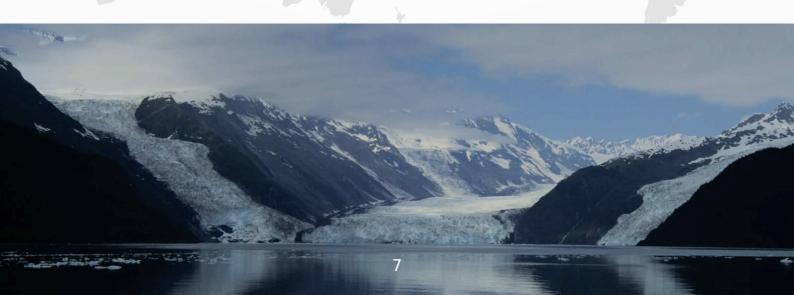


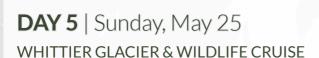
DAY 4 | Saturday, May 24 SIGHTSEEING IN ANCHORAGE | MUSK OX FARM

After breakfast this morning, visit the **Alaska Native HeritageCenter** to learn about Alaska's Indigenous People and Cultures.

This afternoon, travel north to the Matanuska Valley where you will visit the **Musk Ox Farm** to learn about these prehistoric animals. Then continue to a **local sled dog kennel** to learn about the "Last Great Race" and how to train and care for the stars of the team, the dogs.

The evening is yours to explore Anchorage on your own. Perhaps take a visit to Anchorage's midtown and take a stroll down this bustling neighborhood filled with quaint shops and cafes.





Today, NHPBS will take an excursion to **Whittier**. Drive the **AntonAnderson Memorial Tunnel**, the longest tunnel in North America at 2.5 miles in length! This unique one-lane tunnel, shared by both cars and trains, is the only way to get to Whittier via land and it is an engineering feat not to be missed.

Upon arrival in **Whitter**, hop aboard the **Glacier & Wildlife Cruise** and explore the stunning **Prince William Sound** in the afternoon. A light **lunch** is served on the cruise.

The cruise takes you from **Whittier** to **Blackstone Bay**, a dramatic deep-water fjord where two tidewater glaciers and several alpine glaciers await. The dense spruce forest provides a dark-green backdrop for the white spray of waterfalls stemming from the eight glaciers that hug the mountain peaks along the route. Cruise the calm waters of the Sound and enjoy narration by a **Chugach National Forest Service Ranger** as the boat grants you an up-close look at these towering glaciers. Be sure to keep your eyes open for wildlife; this area is abundant with whales, bald eagles, and sea otters.

Return to the hotel in Anchorage this evening and rest up for the following day's adventures.



DAY 6 | Monday, May 26

ANCHORAGE - SEWARD

Following breakfast at the hotel, check out and board your coach as you head south today to the coastal community of **Seward,** a fishing town at the Southern edge of the Kenai Peninsula.

Board your motorcoach and begin your journey to Seward. Time permitting, a visit to the **Alaska Aviation Museum** may be arranged, with four hangers of exhibitions and vintage aircrafts you learn about the history and importance of aviation in Alaska from a local bush pilot.

Continue your touring with a visit to the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** where you'll get an up-close view of some of the state's unique creatures. The Alaskan Wildlife Conversation Center's mission is to preserve Alaska's wildlife through conservation, research, education and quality animal rehabilitation. The center, which opened to the public in 1993, also educates visitors about Alaska's wildlife.

Continue on to **Seward** and check in to your hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own at the hotel or nearby.



DAY 7 | Tuesday, May 27

CRUISING IN SEWARD

After **breakfast** this morning, board your marine vessel and **cruise into Kenai Fjords National Park** looking for migrating whales, marine wildlife, glaciers, and mountainous landscapes. A light **lunch** will be served on board.

Tonight, we'll have our **farewell dinner** at a restaurant near the hotel and reflect on our adventures together.



DAY 8 | Wednesday, May 28

RETURN HOME

This morning, check out of your hotel and depart for Anchorage International Airport.

The **NHPBS Discover Alaska with Willem Lange** ends with an overnight flight from **Anchorage** back to **Boston**. Heartfelt goodbyes are exchanged at the airport, and your group is sent off with a fond, "Farewell - until we meet again!"

4:00p Depart Anchorage on Alaska Airlines #254.

8:28p Arrive in **Seattle** and transfer to your flight to **Boston**.

10:15p Depart on Alaska Airlines #536.

6:41a* (+1 May 29) Arrive in Boston on Thursday, May 29.

*Some visits are weather-dependent and may not allow for full visitation due to weather/accessibility issues.
**Flight schedule is subject to change.





Your Tour INCLUDES:

FLIGHTS - professionally managed with group airfare

Roundtrip flights from Boston to Anchorage

Our flight team handles custom flight requests and upgrades

ACCOMMODATIONS - thoughtfully selected to match group needs

7 nights in 4 star hotels, as follows:

- 5 nights in Anchorage
- 2 nights in Seward

MEALS - varied, flavorful, and highlighting local cuisine

Breakfast served daily at your hotel.

Two lunches, served as follows:

- Light lunch on Glacier & Wildlife Cruise
- Light lunch on Kenai Fiords National Park Cruise

Three dinners, served as follows:

- Welcome dinner at hotel in Anchorage
- Dinner in Anchorage
- Farewell dinner in Seward

Additional meals can be arranged upon request

ACTIVITIES + TOURS + ENTRANCES - handpicked for your travelers

Experience fabulous sightseeing with our entertaining and informative guides

- City Tour of Anchorage
- Potter Marsh Bird Sanctuary
- Glacier & Wildlife Cruise on Prince William Sound, Whittier
- Excursion to Talkeetna by Train
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Visit to Musk Ox Farm & Dog Sled Kennel
- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise in Kenai Fjord National Park

TOUR MANAGER to handle on-the-road logistics

To accompany your group every step of the way from arrival through departure, you will have an American Expeditions full-time Tour Manager and local Alaskan Tour Guides along the way. Our beloved tour managers assist with:

- Greeting and gathering the group upon arriva
- Expediting hotel check-ins and check-outs
- Liaising with reception desks, coach drivers, and guides
- Directing on-site entrances and activities, handling tickets and vouchers
- Keeping each day well-paced
- Sharing cultural and historical content and interpreting local customs
- Sending everyone home with fond memories & hopes to travel together again soon!

TRANSPORTATION in a private, modern, climate-controlled motor coach with a professional driver

For all services specified in your itinerary

INSURANCE that covers our commitment to you

American Expeditions, Inc. holds \$5,000,000.00 of Travel Agent and Tour Operator Professional Liability Insurance.

TOUR ENHANCEMENT MATERIALS to help plan, promote, and prepare for your tour

- A customized Tour Handbook with hourly itinerary, packing tips and lists, practical "Things to Know", destination background, and other function content. This printed booklet is provided for each traveler about a month before departure.
- A luggage tag, passport/document holder, and outlet adaptor for each traveler is also included.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONS SERVICE goes beyond logistics

- A unique opportunity to make lifelong friends through travel and pilgrimage! When we bring groups together, friendships develop that frequently extend to years of heartfelt reunions on tours we plan around the world.
- You are in good hands! We've got 30+ years' experience arranging custom cultural and special interest tours, performance tours, and festivals for choirs. bands. and orchestras.
- Our American Expeditions team is the best in the business! We are paddlers, musicians, teachers, event planners, parents, performers, volunteers, travelers, linguists, athletes, and more, from many countries, sharing our expertise at producing great tour experiences.

CONVENIENT ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

American Expeditions has a secure, password-protected, online payment site where tour members register and pay for their tour in increments. Reminders and statements are sent electronically.



TOUR PACKAGE PRICESyou can rely on

LAND PACKAGE PRICES:

• \$6,380.00 per person based on double occupancy, minimum of 20 paying travelers

AIRFARE:

• \$1,059.00 per person

This price includes flight taxes and fuel surcharges, which are subject to change until tickets are issued. If flight taxes or fuel surcharges change before tickets are issued, your invoice will be adjusted accordingly.

TOTAL LAND & AIR:

• \$7,439.00 per person based on double occupancy, minimum of 20 paying travelers

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

• Single Supplement \$1,184.00 per person

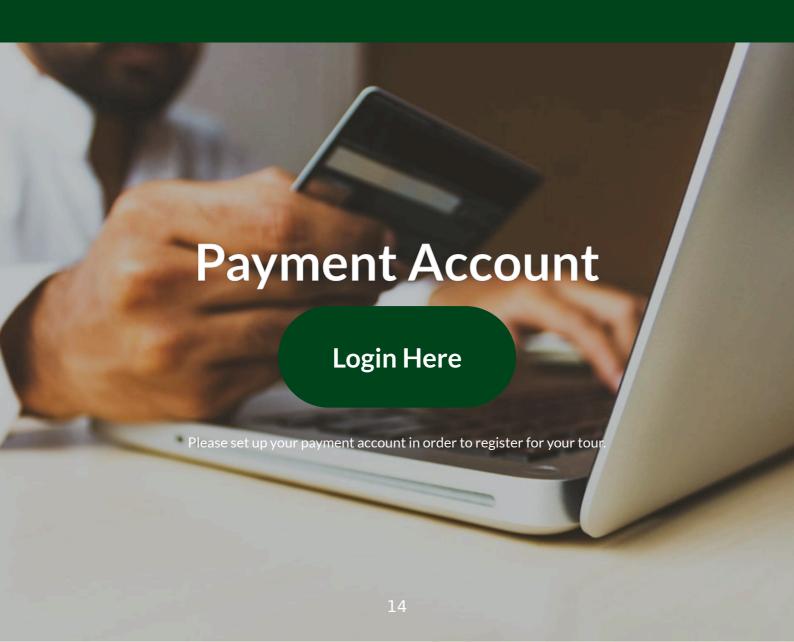
Your tour includes everything above. Here's what's not included:

Passport, official ID, visa or other required travel documents | Immunizations | Fees for extra, oversize or overweight baggage | Luggage handling at airports and hotels | Transportation of oversized instruments | Meeting room | Meals, entrance fees, and coach transfers not mentioned above | Drinks with meals unless specified | Gratuities for tour managers, local guides, hotel staff | Travel insurance (additional information on insurance can be provided).

Please let us know if you would like any of these items added to your tour.

TRAVEL PROTECTION is recommended!

American Expeditions recommends purchasing a travel protection plan through <u>Travel Insured</u>. This link is also available online via your Traveler's Resource Site. Please review coverage options very carefully and contact Travel Insured Inc. directly with any insurance-related questions.



Travel Tips

Packing



LUGGAGE:

We recommend that you travel with one suitcase with wheels that you can easily maneuver and one compact bag, backpack or purse. Limiting your luggage to one piece makes it easier for you to handle getting in and out of buses and hotels.

Please refer to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov or your individual airline's website for up-to-date packing restrictions. Note that certain items are not allowed in your carry-on bag, such as bottles full of water or large tubes of toothpaste. For a comprehensive list of these items, refer to your airline's website.

We recommend that you carry all of your valuables including your medication, jewelry, money, passport, eyeglasses, contact lenses, camera, computer, and chargers onto the plane with you to reduce the chance of their being lost. We also recommend carrying your toothbrush and a change of shirt and underclothes, in case your suitcase is delayed.

AIRLINE ALLOWANCES:

- CHECKED BAGGAGE: Alaskan Airlines charges a fee of \$35 for the first checked bag and \$45 for the second checked bag for bags that weigh up to 50 lb and have a maximum dimension of 62" total (length + width + height). Again, check the airline website for latest updates. Checked baggage fees may apply. Fees for checked baggage can be paid during online check-in, at a bag tag station, or at any of our airport ticket counters.
- WEIGHT LIMIT: Not to exceed 50 lbs per bag.
- ONE CARRY ON: Alaskan Airlines allow one complimentary carry-on bag (to fit in the overhead compartment no larger than 22" x 14" x 9" these dimensions include the wheels and handles) and one complimentary personal item (to fit under the seat in front of you). The airline will strictly enforce the carry-on bag rules. Please keep in mind that all carry-on bags are subject to search.

3-1-1 LIQUIDS RULE:

• You are permitted by the TSA to bring one quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes through the checkpoint. These are limited to 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. Check the TSA website for further details.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Photo ID or Passport
- Tour handbook
- Flight e-ticket record, located inside your AE neck wallet
- Credit and debit cards with PIN numbers
- Cash in small denominations in home or local currency (best used only as back up to credit and debit cards with PINs)
- Secure purse or wallet for your valuables, ideally with a zipper
- Pen or pencil for note taking and journal writing
- Phone and/or camera with extra memory card
- Chargers for electronics and phone
- AE electrical adapter (we will send this to your Group Leader prior to travel)
- Personal toiletries
- Medications in original bottles
- Reading material, music, headphones
- Eye shades, ear plugs, inflatable pillow
- Weather-appropriate touring clothes
- Shawl to cover shoulders/legs and to keep you warm
- Comfortable, weather-resistant walking shoes or sneakers
- Sunglasses & sunscreen
- A weatherproof jacket or raincoat
- Collapsible umbrella, just in case!
- Eye glasses, contact lenses and lens solution
- Wash cloth
- Hand wipes or liquid sanitizer
- Band aids and tissues
- Refillable water bottle (a clear bottle is ideal, as some attractions to do not allow visitors to bring opaque bottles)
- Snacks

PACKING MEDICATION:

- Individuals who must carry medications in large supplies (such as insulin for diabetics) are advised to carry a memo on physician's letterhead stating the following: full name of the drug, condition for which it was prescribed, dosage per day, quantity of drug necessary for the period of time traveling and a section stating that it is required for the well-being of the individual. It is also suggested that all medications be carried in their original containers with the pharmacist's label attached.
- It may be required to show such documentation when passing through customs. Please refer to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov or your individual airline's website for official instructions on transporting medications.

PACKING TIPS:

When preparing for a trip, remember that packing light can really make your tour experience more enjoyable. Here are a few packing tips of our own that we find helpful when preparing for a trip:

- Luggage It is best to travel with wheeled luggage or bags that can comfortably be strapped over one or both shoulders to make it easier for you to maneuver or carry. We recommend walking around with your luggage at home to test whether or not it is manageable to move with before your trip. It is also advisable to bring a small day bag to use as your carry-on so that you can comfortably carry items around with you while on tour.
- Pack light! Before departing for your trip, make a list and go through each individual object that you are considering to decide whether or not it is crucial to have with you. The less you bring, the less you will need to roll or carry when you arrive in airports and hotels and get on and off the bus. Plan your attire for each day of your tour so you can maximize on the mix and match options. A pair of black pants for example can be worn for a few days with different tops. One blazer can serve for many different outfits.
- Organization When packing your luggage, remember that you will want your clothing and other items to be easily
 accessible. Rolling clothing, rather than folding and stacking it, helps to conserve room in your suitcase and will help
 ensure that that outfits are easily reached. When folding items that wrinkle easily such as dress shirts, try laying a t-shirt
 or other non-wrinkle item on it and folding that into the shirt; this will help to keep deep creases from forming. Most
 hotels will have an iron in your room that you can also use to make sure your clothes look nice.
- Footwear We recommend bringing as few pairs of shoes as possible on your tour since they take up a lot of space and can be heavy. You should be sure to bring shoes that are comfortable, have been broken in and have proper walking support since you will be spending a fair amount of time on your feet.

Staying in touch



CALLING:

HOTEL ROOM PHONES:

The phone in your hotel room is a great way to communicate from room to room and for receiving wake up calls. We do not, however, recommend using your room phone to make calls outside of the hotel as many hotels charge high service fees.

WI-FI:

The most effective way to contact friends and family back home is by using Wi-Fi either at your hotel or at a Wi-Fi hotspot. Please check with the front desk for any fees associated with using Wi-Fi at the hotel.

- Apps such as Skype, Viber and FaceTime allow you to make both voice and video calls for free. The quality of the calls will depend upon the strength of the Wi-Fi signal.
- For Apple users, iMessage allows you to text other Apple users for free over Wi-Fi from anywhere in the world. However, data roaming fees will apply if you contact a non-Apple user. To avoid this, go to settings / messages and turn off the "send as SMS" option.

ALWAYS REACHABLE:

Regardless of how you choose to communicate with friends and family back home, you may always be reached at your hotel. Hotel phone numbers are listed in your handbook. The person trying to reach you need only call the hotel and ask for you by name. The hotel will forward the call to your room or pass on a message if you are out.

• In case of emergency, your family can also contact American Expeditions and our staff will contact you through your tour manager. To reach American Expeditions call: 1-802-862-2200 or 1-800-624-0166

Money



CARDS:

Bring your ATM card and your credit card along with your Personal Identification Numbers (PIN). Remember to store your PIN numbers with you in a secure location. Machines are often available and offer convenient cash 24 hours a day. Many ATMs are compatible with major credit cards and Plus and Cirrus networks.

GRATUITY:

We recommend designating one person in the group to be in charge of tipping for the group. Tips should preferably be offered in cash, in either USD or local currency.



TOUR MANAGER

It is customary that the group tip the tour manager at the end of the tour \$5-8/per person, per day.



LOCAL GUIDES

Local guides who join the group for halfday city tours should be tipped between \$40-50 per tour.



FOOD & DRINK

Gratuity is included for all group meals. For any other meals purchased, it is customary to leave a 10% tip if no service charge is included.



HOUSE-KEEPING

It is customary to leave a small tip for the hotel attendants in the amount of \$1/per person, per





BUS DRIVER

It is appropriate to tip the bus driver at the end of the tour, or at the end of the day if you are getting a new driver the next day \$3/per person, per day.



TAXIS

For taxi rides, a 10% tip is customary, or simply rounding up (i.e. "keep the change").

Please tip the respective parties an equivalent amount in their local currency.

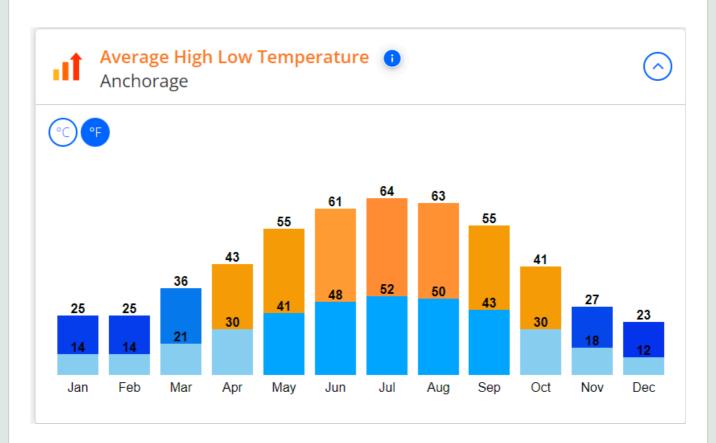
Climate

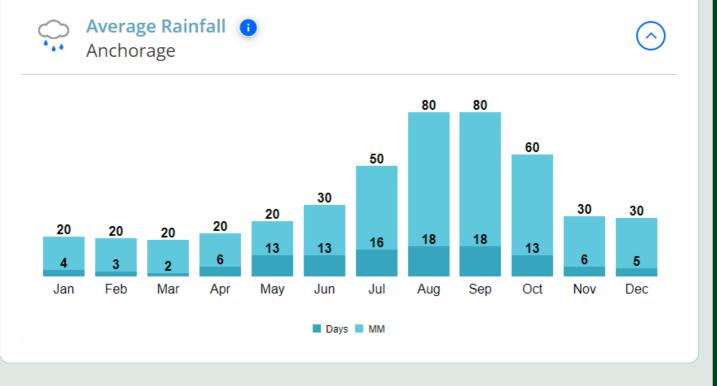


Any weather can be great for touring! It is a good idea to know in advance what the weather will be so you can plan accordingly. About a week before your departure, you can begin to see reliable forecasts for the cities and regions you will visit. Check those forecasts online or in an international newspaper and plan for the specific weather you are likely to encounter.

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine." -Anthony J. D'Angelo

Anchorage





Airline policies



SEATS:

Group flight reservations do not accommodate specific seat assignment requests. American Expeditions cannot accept seating requests from travelers. Your group's seats will be allocated by the airline. These seats will be located within the economy section of the aircraft and there is no guarantee that spouses, family members, or friends will be seated together.

- We are aware that certain airlines are now offering pre-assigned seating for individuals for an additional fee. However, American Expeditions cannot address such requests. Even seat assignments paid for in advance are not guaranteed by the airline; aircraft and seat configuration may change, and airlines may reallocate seating at their discretion.
- To best accommodate your seating wishes, we suggest that you arrive at the airport early, check in at least three hours prior to your flight, and speak directly with the agent at the check-in counter. You may need to change seats once airborne with members of your group to sit next to your family members.

SPECIAL MEALS:

Travelers with dietary restrictions or food allergies should let their group leader know as soon as possible. Most airlines can provide suitable alternative meals if the request is made with sufficient lead time. If you are a vegetarian, please indicate whether you would like a Vegetarian Lacto-Ovo Meal (may include dairy products), or Vegetarian Vegan Meal (no dairy products.)

Health & Wellness Travel Tips

Our first priority is each traveler's health and safety while on tour. In order to support that goal, we encourage our travelers to be fully vaccinated prior to travel. It is not possible to socially distance during a group tour and masking on the motorcoach will not be enforced unless local rules necessitate it.

Here are some additional tips to keep you healthy and happy while on tour.

Getting around on foot



Exploring on foot is one of the best ways to discover a new place, to see sights and to get a feeling for the local atmosphere. Your tour is sure to include ample walking. Many cities restrict motor coaches from their city centers in order to preserve the atmosphere and to reduce wear and tear.

- Therefore, many interesting sites are only reachable on foot. Motor coaches are sometimes asked to park in designated areas, often a 10 20 minute walk from the site being visited. Therefore, walking becomes necessary to get to the heart of the city.
- If you aren't accustomed to being on your feet, we suggest that you prepare for your travels by increasing your level of activity during the months before departure. Even a few walks a week will help to make exploration on foot more enjoyable during your tour.
- Check online for inspiring websites or phone apps you can use to help you get excited to walk. Try wearing a pedometer and see if you can increase your number of steps each week; shoot for a goal such as 10,000 steps a day before you leave. No better excuse to get moving than a wonderful trip on the horizon!
- We also recommend that you pack comfortable walking shoes. Aching feet can be a painful distraction, so plan to wear shoes you can comfortably walk in for lengths at a time. If you buy new shoes for the trip it's a good idea to wear them before you travel so that they are comfortable while on tour.
- Travelers with limited mobility can ensure their comfort, as well. If you have mobility limitations, please let your director know in advance. Please complete our limited mobility form so we can anticipate your needs. If you will need a wheelchair, plan to bring one along for use during the tour. Make sure you have made arrangements with a fellow traveler who is willing and able to assist you with pushing your wheelchair and helping you board the motor coach.

Dietary restrictions



One of the most enjoyable ways to learn about a new culture is through experiencing the local cuisine. However, we understand that for travelers with dietary restrictions or food allergies, this element of travel can be a challenge. At American Expeditions, we will do everything we can to help make your dining experiences as stress-free as possible.

- Travelers with dietary restrictions or food allergies should let their group leader know as soon as possible so that the necessary information can be included on the group's rooming and flight lists.
- For meals arranged for the group, American Expeditions will advise restaurants of dietary restrictions of which we have been informed in advance of travel. In addition, we suggest that you inform your tour manager of your dietary restrictions upon arrival so they can be sure that you get the necessary modified meal each time.
- Travelers with food allergies are advised to be diligent about talking to the restaurant staff at each establishment where they eat, either on their own or at organized group meals. American Expeditions will of course inform the restaurants in advance, and your tour manager will be on-site to request any needed modifications, but the final responsibility is with the traveler to make sure they are only served food they can safely eat.
- All travelers should consider bringing along some snack foods that they can easily carry in their day packs. This will help to keep energy levels high and ensure that you will always have food on hand that you know you can safely consume.

Airplane yoga



Here are some great ways to keep your body loose during a long flight!

Neck Rolls: Relieve Upper Body Tension

 Keeping your spine straight and your shoulders rolled back, place your hands on your upper thighs and roll your head back as you inhale. As you exhale, slowly rotate your head forward. Repeat five times in one direction and five times in the other direction.

Spine Flex: Release Blockages in Spinal Column

• Slide to the edge of your seat and align your feet with your hips. Place your hands on your thighs and, while you inhale, roll your shoulders back, arch your chest up and out and lift your chin. On your exhale, roll your spine forward and look down. Follow this flow for 10-20 breaths.

Leg & Hip Stretch: Flex and Relieve Knee Pressure

• With your legs together, press your left foot firmly into the floor, bend your right knee and bring your right thigh into your chest. While maintaining a straight back, tilt your knee to the outside slightly, place your left palm onto the sole of your foot & lightly press down on the right knee with your right hand for 5-10 seconds. Repeat 10-20 times on each leg.

There are many more beneficial poses like these to try out, but hopefully, you and your group find these to be a nice, mindful way to prepare yourself for your upcoming adventures!

Staying comfortable during your flight



With some basic preparation, your in-flight experience can be a wonderful opportunity to unwind both before and after your tour. We recommend taking the following easy steps:

Board your flight dressed in light layers

Stow a small carry-on bag under your seat to ensure easy access to your essentials while in the air

Pack the following items to use on board:

- an empty, reusable water bottle fill it up once you've cleared airport security and stay hydrated throughout the flight
- healthy, light snacks
- a lightweight scarf or shawl use it as a blanket or extra layer
- a travel pillow
- socks
- tissues
- chewing gum help ease the changing pressure by chewing as you adjust altitudes
- hand lotion
- a toothbrush and toothpaste freshen up mid-flight or before you land
- books and magazines
- podcasts or a movie download these ahead of time
- headphones (noise-cancelling, if you have them)
- chargers and a backup battery land at your destination with fully charged devices

Avoiding jetlag



Here are some simple measures you can take to avoid exhaustion before your trip!

Adjust Your Schedule Prior to your Trip

- If traveling west, go to bed and wake up later than usual before your trip
- If traveling east, go to bed and wake up earlier than usual before your trip

Light Exposure

- If traveling west, avoid early morning light and seek out late afternoon light
- If traveling east, seek morning light and avoid late afternoon light

Rest & Good Health

- Eat a light, healthy meal before your flight
- Maintain hydration

Sleep Tight!

• Upon arrival, get a good night's rest; you will thank yourself throughout the rest of your tour!



Useful Resources

Insurance

Individual Travel Insurance

To help protect your investment of travel and yourself while you are away, consider purchasing travel protection from Travel Insured International. These protection plans include pre-departure benefits such as Trip Cancellation and post-departure benefits such as Accident & Sickness Medical, Baggage, and Personal Effects/Baggage Delay, Emergency Medical Evacuation, Missed Connection, Trip Delay and Trip Interruption. Purchase travel protection within the time specific periods detailed in the plan to be eligible for all plan features, such as Cancel For Any Reason* and the Pre-Existing Conditions Waiver. In addition, plans include 24/7 Emergency Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International.

*Not available to residents of New York State.

In order to buy travel insurance online through American Expeditions and Travel Insured, enter the Travel Insured website via the link here.

- 1. When you have reviewed your options by reading the plan's details and getting a quote, click on the "Purchase this plan" button below the plan you would like to purchase.
- 2. A new window will open where you can enter your trip details and then click the "Update" button to see your price quote.
- 3. Under trip details, do not select a tour operator.
- 4. Enter payment details and leave the AGENT CODE/INITIALS field blank.
- 5. Click "Purchase" and your policy will arrive by mail.

Travel Insured states: "Pre-existing Medical – you are eligible for Pre-existing Medical Conditions coverage if you purchase the policy within 21 days after your initial trip deposit, are medically able to travel at the time of purchase and insure the full non-refundable cost of your trip." You must be medically able to travel when you pay your premium. "Initial Trip Payment" means the date the first deposit is made to your travel agent toward the cost of your trip. So it is beneficial for you to purchase your insurance as soon as you register for your trip.

For any questions/comments regarding Travel Insured International please contact the insurance company directly:

1-800-243-3174

Travel Insured International

855 Winding Brook Dr

Glastonbury, CT 06033-6503

customercare@travelinsured.com

Payments

Login to your group's web payment site here.

Books, Movies & More

Checkout the Pinterest board for your destination <u>here</u>.

Custom Flight Request

Once confirmed, your group's current flight details will be listed in your itinerary above.

Custom flights are defined here as any flight arrangements differing from the group (this includes one-way travel, upgrades, different dates, or different cities). If you plan to book flights yourself, or if you plan to book flights yourself using miles, please do so independently.

How to Request A Custom Flight

To request a custom flight through our partner, AFC Travel:

- 1. Purchase the land-only package through the web payment site if you plan to book a custom flight. You will pay for your flight arrangements directly.
- 2. Please email shayna@afctravel.com with the following information:
 - **AFC Trip ID:** 959-856
 - **Group name:** list group name
 - Your request: desired dates, departing and arriving cities, etc.
 - All requests must be submitted by **February 17, 2025.**
- 3. A member of the flight team will contact you to review available flight options.
- 4. If you choose to confirm your custom flight with AFC Travel:
 - You will book and pay for the flight directly through AFC Travel.
 - AFC Travel will process your credit card payment for your airline ticket. Payment terms may differ from your payment terms with American Expeditions. Any payments made directly to AFC Travel will not appear on your MCI online account.
- 5. If you need to change your tour package to land only, please notify American Expeditions <u>here</u> that you will not be participating in the group flights and the changes will be made in the web payment site.

Custom Flight Availability & Terms

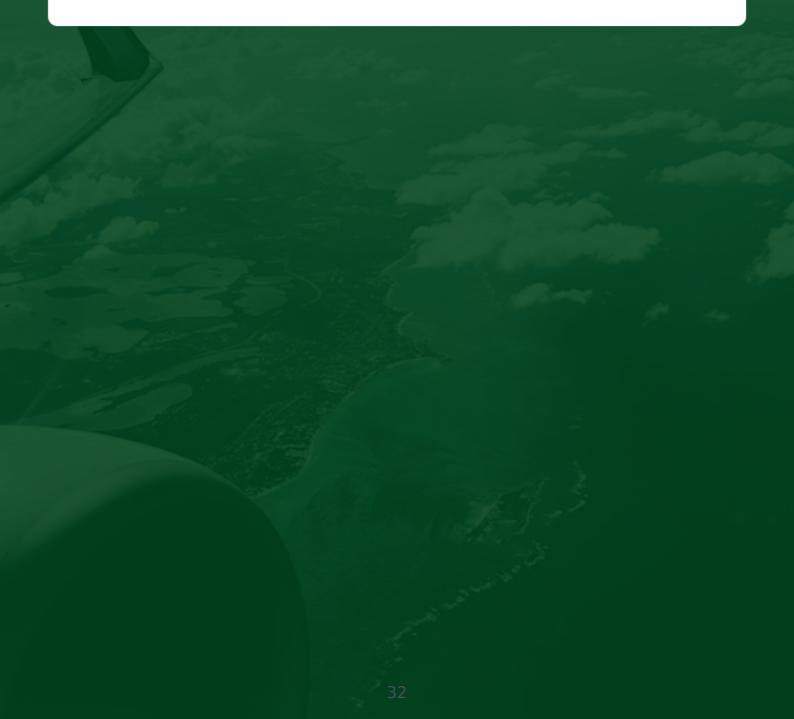
- Limited availability:
 - A minimum number of travelers is required for the group flight contract. Therefore, custom requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to submit your request ASAP and no later than the deadline listed. Any custom flight requests made after the deadline may be subject to an additional service fee.

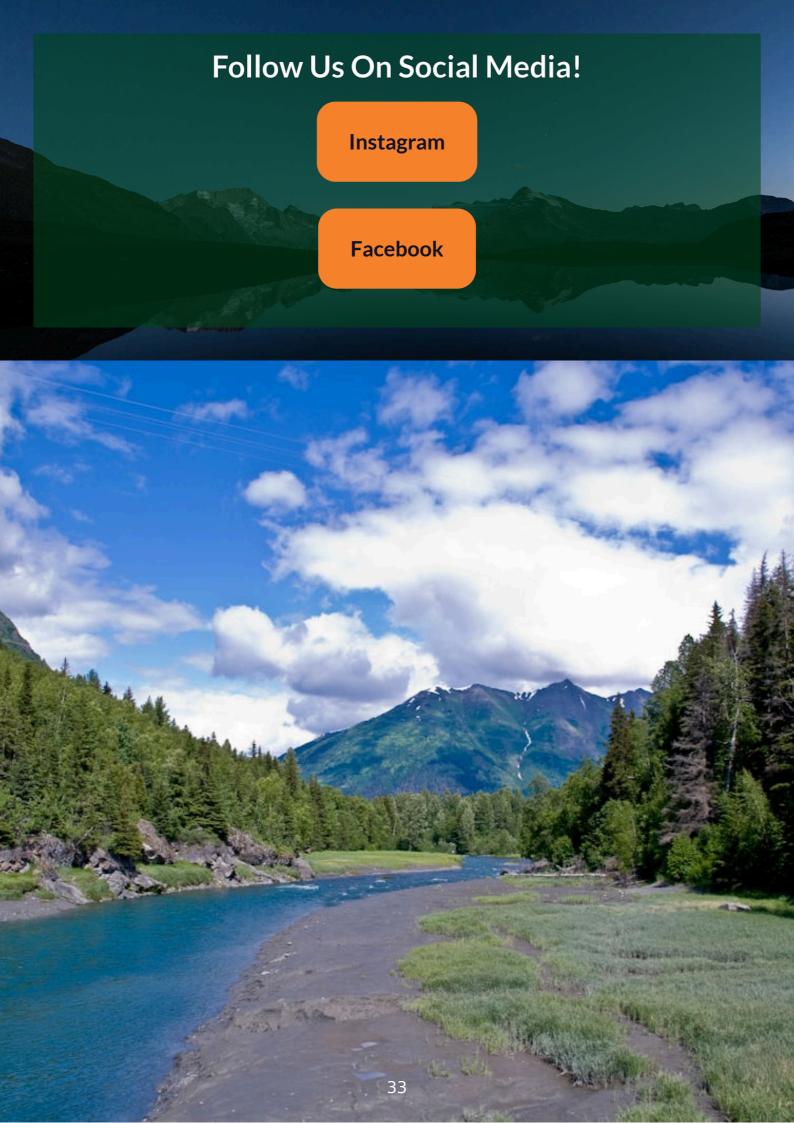
• Flight changes:

o If, after tickets are issued, the group changes airlines, routing, or timing, those with custom flights may be affected. Additional costs resulting from the group's flight change are the responsibility of the individual. Examples of added costs for passengers who are on individual tickets when a group changes plans could be ticket exchange and fare difference fees, transportation costs to reach the new arrival or departure airport, or hotel room costs if group flights are delayed or cancelled.

• Airport transfers:

Your group will have a tour manager and motor coach meeting your flight on arrival and taking you to the airport for departure. The bus will not alter its times for custom flights, so please plan accordingly. If your flights do not align with the group's bus transfer times, it will be your responsibility to pay for and arrange your airport transfers. No refunds will be provided if a group transfer is not used.





Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to your Traveler's Resource Site! Here at American Expeditions, we are committed to bringing you the travel experience of a lifetime! As you get excited and begin making plans for your upcoming trip, here are some helpful resources and information to guide you.

In this section you will find answers to frequently asked questions on the following topics:

- · General (Includes questions about the itinerary, dietary restrictions, mobility restrictions, and package prices)
- Hotels and Rooming Arrangements
- Flights
- Using the Web Payment System
- Special Payment Arrangements
- Travel Insurance
- Cancellations/Terms & Conditions
- The Help Desk

General

I have some questions about my tour. How do I find answers?

• You have come to the right place! We know that the tour planning process can be overwhelming at times, so we are happy to offer a variety of helpful resources to best answer your questions!

I have questions about using the Web Payment System:

• If you are having difficulties navigating or using our Web Payment Site, or have a question about a payment, please send your inquiry to our Help Desk using this link: https://musiccontact.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new. Our Help Desk team is happy to assist and troubleshoot as needed. Someone from our team will be sure to reply to you within two business days.

I have questions about my itinerary, travel preparation, or my destination(s):

• The best (and most up-to-date) resource for tour-specific details is your customized Traveler's Resource Site! Hotel names, flight details, and performance opportunities will be posted here as soon as they are confirmed. For your convenience this site also has many wonderful travel tips; from packing tips to budgeting, your Traveler's Resource Site is your guide to help you prepare!

I have other questions:

• If you have any questions not answered on the Traveler's Resource Site, please share them with your group leader. If your group leader doesn't know the answer, he/she will convey all questions to us and then, in turn, communicate our answers back to the whole group. Following this process allows everyone in the group to benefit from the same information at the same time since often other travelers have similar questions!

I have a dietary restriction. How do I communicate this to AE?

- Our team will be happy to notify restaurants of any allergies or dietary restrictions. It is important that we are aware of
 these issues well in advance. Please make sure to clearly communicate dietary restrictions to your group leader, who will
 pass these notes along to us. The more specific you can be, the better able our team will be to make reasonable
 accommodations!
- · Even after these measures, you are still your own best advocate. It is always a good idea to check in with your server at

mealtimes, and inform them of any dietary restrictions.

• Note: If your group is using our Web Payment System, you will have an opportunity to indicate any special dietary needs on your personal profile.

I have limited walking mobility. Is there a lot of walking on tour?

• Most tours do involve at least some walking. In fact, sometimes, especially for international travel, getting around by foot is the best and only way to experience a city's landmarks! It is also important to note that sometimes the terrain can be uneven (cobblestone streets for example). We want you to get the most out of your travel, so if you have any doubts about your ability to walk while on tour, we recommend that you speak to your group leader. You may wish to request a wheelchair by obtaining a Limited Mobility Form from your group leader.

I need a wheelchair. How do I request this?

• In order to best understand and accommodate any physical limitations, we ask that you complete our Limited Mobility Form. You can request this form from your group leader.

Will my package price ever change?

• To keep costs low and make your tour as affordable as possible, package prices are based on a minimum number of travelers. If your group numbers change significantly, this does mean your package price could change as a result. Note: you will always be notified of any pricing changes.

Hotels and Rooming Arrangements

What are the names of the hotels where we will be staying on tour?

• Our coordination team is working tirelessly to confirm wonderful hotels that fit into your group's needs and budget! As soon as hotels are confirmed, their name(s), and website links will be posted on your Traveler's Resource Site itinerary. For your convenience, their details will also be listed in your tour handbook.

What are the rooming configuration options?

- Great question! For most international tours, we offer rooms in double occupancy, with one large or two single beds in each room. When you provide your roommate request to your group leader, you will also indicate if you prefer one or two beds in your double room. For those interested in upgrading to a single occupancy room, a limited quantity may be available upon request.
- For most domestic tours, we offer rooms in double/triple/quad occupancy, with one (king or queen) or two (queen or double) beds in each room. Again, a limited quantity of single occupancy rooms may be available upon request for a supplemental cost. Please speak with your group leader if you have any questions about single room availability.

How will rooming requests be submitted?

• For your convenience, your group leader will collect any rooming requests and submit a master rooming list to AE. We will follow these instructions and make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your check-in process goes as smoothly as possible!

Has my roommate told you we're rooming together?

• If you're not sure whether your roommate request has already been submitted, please reach out to your group leader. Your group leader will keep a master rooming list and can make sure that your request is passed along to AE!

Flights

How does a group flight reservation work differently than an individual one?

• As you can probably imagine, the process for securing large blocks of airline tickets for groups is a bit different and can be slightly more complicated than booking individual tickets. For this reason, here is some helpful information about how group airline contracts differ from what you may be used to:

FLEXIBILITY:

- When booking an individual ticket, full payment and the traveler's name, gender, and birth date are required in order to confirm and hold a flight itinerary and fare. Fortunately, when securing a group contract, we are able to hold a flight itinerary at a fixed fare without providing full payment or traveler names and details upfront. Up to 11 months prior to your travel dates, we can hold group seats (ten or more) on a flight itinerary by simply submitting a per-person deposit. Contract terms vary by airline, but in most cases, we can adjust the total number of seats at a later date, and we can supply traveler names and details at an even later date.
- Ultimately, a group contract allows you to secure a desired flight itinerary and fare while giving your group the flexibility to determine your exact group size and composition later on.

SEATING ASSIGNMENTS:

• With a group flight contract, seating assignments are entirely at the discretion of the airline. We wish that we could help, but the airlines do not allow for specific seat requests ahead of time. Our best recommendation is for you to speak directly to an airline representative at the airport when you check-in for your flight.

USE OF AIRLINE MILES:

Can I use airline miles toward my flight?

• One of the other quirks of group airline contracts is that airline miles can't be used towards the booking. If you would like to use airline miles toward your flight, you will need to self-book your flights. We recommend first speaking to your group leader to confirm your intent before making any reservations. Upon confirmation, our team can switch you to a land package, which does not include the group airfare.

If we use miles to book our own flights, can we still sit with the group on the flight?

• If you book your own flight reservations, there is no guarantee that you will be able to sit with the rest of the group. We recommend that you contact the airline directly for seating arrangement requests.

CUSTOM FLIGHT REQUESTS:

• We know that one size does not always fit all, so if you wish to deviate from the group flight in any way (this includes one-way travel, upgrades, different dates, or different destinations), you will need to complete a Custom Flight Request. This can be found in the "Flights" tab of your Traveler's Resource Site, or by reaching out to your group leader. Watch this short video to learn more about submitting a Custom Flight Request:

Can I fly on a different date or to/from a different city than my group and still book my flights through AE?

• Our flight team is happy to assist you in looking into any alternate plans! To begin this process, please obtain and submit a Custom Flight Request (this can be found on the Flights tab on this site). Once you submit the form, our flight department will provide you with a custom flight option, and you can choose how to proceed. Please note, due to group contract terms, Custom Flight Requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

How can we extend our trip?

• To look into extending your trip, please complete and submit a Custom Flight Request. Once you submit the form. our flight department will provide you with your custom flight option, and you can choose how to proceed. Please note that, due to group contract terms, Custom Flight Requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Can I fly on my own for one part of the flight itinerary, and be on the group flight for the other part?

• Our wonderful flight team is happy to help you explore this option once you have completed the Custom Flight Request. Once submitted, our flight department will provide you with a custom flight option, and you can choose how to proceed. Please note, due to group contract terms, Custom Flight Requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Can I upgrade my seat to first-class or business class on the group flight contract?

Seat upgrades, even if you aren't changing your flight itinerary, can also certainly be explored via the Custom Flight
Request process! Once you access the form, please use the "Notes" section of the "Request Details" to specify your
request. Once you submit the form, our flight department will be happy to provide you with upgrade price quotes, and you
can choose whether you'd like to proceed with the upgrade.

Can you give me a quick quote of the general cost for a flight upgrade?

Because airfare prices (including tax and fuel) fluctuate regularly, it's not possible to offer standard pricing for a flight
upgrade. However, our flight team is happy to provide you with a quote when you submit a Custom Flight Request! Once
received, you can choose how to proceed.

Can I add my frequent flier number to my group reservation?

• Due to the unique nature of group airline reservations, we are unable to add frequent flier numbers. If you would like to try to add your frequent flier number to your group reservation, we recommend you speak to an airline representative at the airport.

Can I add my Known Traveler Number or CBP PASSID to my group reservation?

• Due to the unique nature of group airline reservations, we are unable to add Known Traveler Numbers or CBP PASSIDs. If you would like to try to add your number to your group reservation, we recommend you log in to the airline's website once your group leader has issued you your record locator.

I want to select my seats. How do I do that?

• For group flight contracts, seating assignments are entirely at the discretion of the airline and we cannot take specific seat requests. Our best recommendation is for you to speak directly to an airline representative at the airport when you check-in for your flight.

When will I receive my airline record locator and e-ticket number?

• Approximately one month prior to your departure date, your group will be ticketed and your group leader will share all pertinent flight information (such as your airline record locator and e-ticket number). For your convenience, we will also send printed flight itineraries and information to your group leader to distribute prior to your travel dates.

Why do you collect passport/ID copies? What if I don't have a current passport/ID?

- As a courtesy to our travelers, AE collects passport/ID copies prior to flight ticketing to confirm each traveler's name and so that AE can assist in the case of lost passports.
- It is the traveler's responsibility to enter their name in the Web Payment Site exactly as it appears on their passport/ID. Any name correction fee from the airline is the traveler's responsibility.
- For anyone currently in the process of renewing their passport/ID, we ask that you take extra care that the personal information you entered on the Web Payment Site is exactly how it will be printed on your documents. Please verify with your group leader that they have your accurate information on their flight list, and pass along copies of your updated documents when you receive them.

Using the Web Payment System

Learn how to access and create your payment site account by watching this short <u>video</u>. Click <u>here</u> for part 2 of the payment site tutorial, see how to navigate your payment account, including how to edit your account and make payments. I'm a non-traveling parent, but my child is traveling, and I want to oversee his/her account. What do I do?

• No problem! When you create your child's payment account, make sure to use your own email address and password, but your child's first and last name. This way, the account will appear in the traveler's name, but you will have complete access to it, and you will receive any email notifications associated with it. Another option, if you do register your name as a participant, is to select "Not Traveling" in the "Select Packages & Options" step. Then, add your child as an additional participant, and select their applicable travel package.

I'm traveling with friends and family. Should we register separately, or together?

- Registering multiple participants in the same account is useful when one traveler (the primary contact) is paying for
 multiple travelers. In this case, the primary contact can log in and make payments for the combined costs of their party
 members in one account.
- If you wish your friends or family to pay individually, they should create their own account. Forward them the link to the Traveler's Resource Site and they can register themselves. If you have any payment site questions or need to make changes to your account, our Help Desk is happy to assist!

I need to make a change to my account. How do I do this?

We understand that life happens and that sometimes changes and adjustments to your account are needed! Simply follow the instructions below to make or request changes:

I entered my name or personal information incorrectly and want to change it. How do I do this?

- Great question! As you may already know, it is very important that you enter your name and personal details on the Web Payment Site exactly as they appear on your passport or ID.
- If you need to make a change to your first or last name, you'll notice that these fields are locked. However, our Help Desk team is happy to make any necessary edits for you. Simply submit your request and someone will assist you within two business days!
- If you need to add or change any other details (like passport number, middle name, or even contact information), you can update these fields yourself at your convenience! Just follow these steps:
- 1. Log into your account.

- 2. Under "Participants", click the "View/Edit" button to the right of your name.
- 3. From there, you may update your personal information.
- 4. Make sure to click the "Save" button on the bottom of the page if you make any changes.

I want to change my package selection from the land & air package to the land package or vice versa. How can I do this?

• To make a change to your package selection, simply submit a request through our Help Desk. A member of our Help Desk team is happy to assist and reply to your request within two business days.

I need to change the number of travelers in my account. How do I do this?

- No problem! If you made a duplicate entry for a traveler, our <u>Help Desk</u> team can assist you in removing the duplicate traveler from your payment account. You won't be able to remove the traveler yourself, but if you submit a request through the Help Desk, our team will be happy to assist you.
- If the traveler you are seeking to remove from your account is a cancellation from the tour please see the Cancellation/Terms & Conditions FAQs further down the page.

How do I sign up for an optional excursion?

• Signing up for an optional excursion is easy and can be completed by logging into your payment account! Once you have logged in, simply locate the "Packages & Options" section of the page, and select the "Add/Change Packages and Options" button. Select the option that you'd like to add to your account and remember to click the "Save" button. Please note: you will also be asked to process a payment for the full price of the option.

I'm not sure if I will participate in group flights or book flights myself. Which package should I select?

• Our recommendation, to make sure that we hold enough seats for all travelers, is to select a "land and air package" if you think that you might need to book flights through AE. If you change your mind, we can always change you to a "land package" later. In this case, any funds you previously paid will be applied to your new land package balance, as long as you are within the stated deadlines for your group.

I submitted a check directly to my group leader. When will this check be applied to my online account?

• Checks submitted directly to your group leader will be applied to your final balance. However, the time required for funds to be applied to your online account may vary, depending on when the check(s) make their way to our office. As soon as we receive the funds, our team will begin this process, and will notify your group leader when completed!

How will my fundraising get applied to my account?

• Your group leader will send AE a group fundraising check and a list detailing the amount each traveler will receive. Once received, we will use this list to apply amounts to your final balance. Please note that processing time varies.

I'm not receiving payment reminders. How can I troubleshoot this?

• If you aren't receiving automated payment reminders, our first recommendation is to save noreply@americanexpeditions.net a trusted email contact. Certain email providers may block these reminders or send them to a Spam folder. If you continue to experience issues, please contact our Help Desk team!

I accidentally paid the wrong amount. Please help!

• No need to worry! We can void your payment or issue you a refund. Please contact our Help Desk and inform us of the mistaken transaction; we'll work to fix this in a timely manner and notify you as soon as it is reversed.

Special Payment Arrangements

I can't use a computer, and I'd like to pay by check or over the phone. What do I do?

If you are unable to use a computer, we are happy to make alternate accommodations for you. Please use one of the two methods to submit your payments:

- 1. Call us at 1-800-624-0166 and a member of our staff can process your debit or credit card payment over the phone.
- 2. Submit a check payment* to the following address:

American Expeditions

119 S. Winooski Ave.

Burlington, VT 05401

*On each check, make sure to clearly note the traveler name and ensemble name so our team can determine where to apply the funds.

I am receiving financial assistance from a friend, family member, organization, etc. What do I do?

If you are receiving financial assistance:

- 1. Your donor can call us at 1-800-624-0166, and a member of our staff is happy to process a debit or credit card payment over the phone.
- 2. Your donor can submit a check payment to:

American Expeditions

118 S. Winooski Ave.

Burlington, VT 05401

*On each check, make sure the donor clearly notes your name and the ensemble name so our team can determine where to apply the funds.

Travel Insurance FAQs

Is insurance included? If not, how do I add insurance to my trip?

• In most cases, unless you have specific information from your group leader that says otherwise, travel insurance is not included in your package price. If you are interested in purchasing travel insurance, you can visit the "Insurance" tab from the top menu of this website. This page has some helpful information about purchasing insurance for your trip. Please take note that some coverage options are only available for the first few weeks from your first deposit.

Cancellation/Terms & Conditions FAQs

I need to cancel my trip! What do I do?

- We're sorry to see you go, but we understand that sometimes this happens. Please make sure to notify both your group leader and AE of your cancellation with a written, dated, and signed notification.
- If you'd like to review your tour's terms and conditions, please visit your Web Payment Site. Select the "Terms and Conditions" hyperlink at the bottom of every Web Payment Site page. You will also have a chance to review the terms and conditions before submitting each payment.

Can I get a refund of my payments?

- Since each cancellation circumstance is unique, the best way to determine whether any of the funds you've paid are refundable is to review your group's terms and conditions. For your convenience, these terms are fully available online, and you have a chance to review and accept them each time you submit payment.
- If you'd like to review your tour's terms and conditions, please visit your Web Payment Site. Select the "Terms and Conditions" hyperlink at the bottom of every Web Payment Site page.
- Please note that by accepting the American Expeditions Payment Terms & Conditions, you acknowledge that you have signed up for a group tour based on a number of people traveling together. Therefore, your tour price is dependent on a minimum number of people traveling. If the group drops below the minimum number defined, the tour price will go up. Also, if an individual cancellation from the tour brings the group below the designated minimum number, that individual will incur additional cancellation fees.

Unless otherwise notated in your group's terms and conditions, our standard cancellation policies apply as follows:

Cancellations made:

more than 180 days before departure: a \$100 cancellation fee will apply.

between 180 and 150 days before departure: a \$100 cancellation fee plus 10% of the total tour cost are none refundable.

fewer than 150 days before departure: all payments are nonrefundable.

Help Desk

When will my Help Desk ticket be answered?

For your convenience, all Help Desk tickets will be answered within two business days.

