



**CAMP DENALI &
NORTH FACE LODGE**

Post Office Box 67
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Travel Writers,

Thank you for your interest in Camp Denali and North Face Lodge.

Camp Denali and North Face Lodge are two wilderness lodges located in the center of Denali National Park. We have been family owned and operated for over sixty years. Unparalleled views of Mt. McKinley, exquisite food, a welcoming atmosphere, and guided hikes and outings led by our knowledgeable naturalist guides make staying with us a unique and memorable experience.

To further acquaint yourself with our facilities and programs, we have provided a basic overview and story suggestions in the following pages. In addition, we urge you to peruse our website, www.campdenali.com.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Katherine Schake
Program Coordinator
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*Working media inquiries only, please.

*Our Mission: Providing active learning experiences and fostering
stewardship of the natural world through a tradition of
excellence, community, and place.*

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AN UNPARALLELED SETTING

Camp Denali and North Face Lodge are the only accommodations in Denali National Park within view of Mount McKinley. The lodges are located a mile apart in the remote heart of Denali National Park. Ninety miles of mountainous gravel road separate them from the commercially developed park entrance. The lodges are small; each accommodates just 35 - 40 guests.

Beginning on Mondays or Fridays, we offer reservations for three, four, or seven nights to maximize opportunities for mountain views, wildlife sightings, and a variety of weather conditions. Our doors are open early June through early September. Space fills up quickly. Over 2000 people pass through our lodges each summer.

Camp Denali and North Face Lodge are not for everyone. Neither features luxurious accommodations, TVs, a bar, or even unlimited electricity. Instead, creative handwork, attention to detail, and careful stewardship of the land create a simple elegance that does not detract from the wildlands you come to explore. Long-standing family ownership is committed to preserving and refining these fundamental elements. The experience of staying at Camp Denali or North Face Lodge is a unique blend of camaraderie among fellow adventurers and staff in a wilderness setting without parallel.

CAMP DENALI

Camp Denali's extraordinary location has inspired people from around the world since 1952. No fewer than 11 major mountains of the Alaska Range command the view from its hillside setting.

- 18 guest cabins are situated to take advantage of the impressive vista; each has a view of Mt. McKinley.
- Cabins are up to a seven minute walk uphill to the historic hand-hewn lodge, dining room, and modern shower facility.
- Cabins are simple but comfortably appointed with a wood stove for heat, propane lights, an outside with cold running water, a gas hot plate for heating water, hand-crafted quilts on each bed, and Alaskan artwork.



- A short path from each cabin leads to a hand-built and uncompromisingly sanitary outhouse.



You don't have to be capable of scaling Mount McKinley to stay at Camp Denali. The only prerequisites are an ability to negotiate the uneven ground of our well-maintained cabin trails, an enthusiasm for walking (rain or shine), and a spirit of adventure.

NORTH FACE LODGE

Situated on a tundra meadow in the Moose Creek Valley, North Face Lodge boasts fine views of the crest of Mount McKinley and eight other major peaks of the Alaska Range.

- 15 small, well-appointed guest rooms, each with private bath, connect to a covered walkway that leads to the lodge's common areas. Most rooms have two twin beds, and a few have one queen bed that we reserve in the order they are requested.



- The dining room and comfortably furnished living room with native stone fireplace are situated to offer views of Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range through the generously sized windows.

- On warm, sunny afternoons, a spacious patio invites relaxation in view of Denali's summit.



"We have stayed in accommodations all over North America and Europe, ranging from tents and hostels to luxury, and this is, without a doubt, the most wonderful place we have ever stayed." -The Grants

ACTIVITIES

From the initial drive into the park to the guided outings and evening programs, our goal is to share the park with our guests – its landscape and scenery, history, wildlife, wildflowers, and birdlife. Our guides are highly trained naturalists and experienced backcountry travelers. Our designation as the park’s historic operator means we hold the exclusive rights to commercial guided hiking. Each morning, we offer a complement of guided outings requiring different levels of physical activity.



- **Hike** in Denali’s trail-less terrain. Summit a ridgeline for its commanding view and high alpine wildflowers, or meander in a lush valley looking for ground-nesting birds and meadow flowers.
- Independently explore Denali by **bicycling** the park road, **canoeing** across Wonder Lake, or **fishing** in Moose Creek. We have equipment to borrow (ie walking sticks, daypacks, and raingear).
- The Kantishna air strip is just a few miles down the road and we can assist in arranging **flightseeing tours** around Mt. McKinley with Kantishna Air Taxi.
- The libraries and living rooms at both lodges are available for **reading and relaxation** beside the fire, or bring one’s curiosity to Camp Denali’s resource center to explore natural history exhibits.
- **Evening programs**, given by our naturalists, are offered after dinner. Throughout the summer, invited guest specialists are scheduled to share their expertise as part of our Special Emphasis Series.

DINING

Begin the day with a hot, plated breakfast served with homemade scones or pastries from our in-house bakery. Build and pack a sandwich with our fresh, home-roasted fixings from the lunch line for a picnic on the tundra. Return to the dining room after a day of hiking for a three-course dinner of exquisite cuisine.

We value nutritious, well-prepared food obtained from responsible sources. Each night we serve a main entrée of meat or fish that is obtained from responsibly farmed or wild-caught sources in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. A vegetarian entrée is also an option at each evening meal. Whenever possible and in-season, the vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs we use are either grown onsite in our greenhouse, or purchased from organic farmers in communities north of Denali National Park.



TRANSPORTATION

Private vehicles are restricted from driving on the only road accessing Denali National Park. We provide round trip transportation between the Denali National Park train depot and our lodges, located near the end of the 95-mile Denali Park road. Guests will need to make independent arrangements for arrival to the park entrance by rail, motor coach, or car.

OUR HISTORY

Originally homesteaded in 1951 by Celia Hunter, Ginny Wood, and Morton “Woody” Wood, Camp Denali’s simple, rustic lodge and early cabins were built with locally harvested spruce logs. Propelled by a dream to create a haven where park visitors could come and “savor the vigor and freshness of this young country and absorb its spacious tranquility,” the founders ran Camp Denali for 25 years, forging livelihoods out of ingenuity, hospitality, and love of the land.



In fall of 1975, Ginny and Celia sold Camp Denali to Wally and Jerryne Cole. The Coles, with their two kids, Land and Jenna, operated Camp Denali from 1976-2008. In 1986, North Face Lodge, a lodge that was built in 1973 on the homestead of park superintendent Grant Pearson, came up for sale and was purchased by the Coles.

Wally and Jerryne formally turned over their business in 2009 to their daughter Jenna and son-in-law Simon Hamm. Simon and Jenna, with their five year-old daughter, Danika, and their two year-old son, Silas, are honored to be the third generation of privileged inhabitants and careful stewards of this special corner of Denali’s wilderness.

STORY SUGGESTIONS

1. Gourmet Cuisine from Sustainable Sources

New as of 2012: Camp Denali & North Face Lodge are partners in the Alaska Grown program, purchasing and promoting the use of Alaska Grown specialty crops. By mid July each summer most of the vegetables served at our lodges are purchased directly from Alaskan farmers near Fairbanks, or grown onsite in our greenhouse. Every night of the summer we serve a main entrée of meat or fish obtained from responsibly farmed or wild-caught sources in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Between produce, meats, seafood, and hand-picked blueberries, we are truly eating as local and sustainably as possible for a wilderness lodge. Visit Rosie Creek Farm to trace the carrots and bok choy from Interior Alaskan soil to your dinner plate in the heart of Denali's wilderness.

2. 100th Anniversary!

Come celebrate with us! Summer 2013 will be the 100th anniversary of the first successful climb of Mt. McKinley, the tallest peak in North America. To celebrate, we will be hosting Brian and Diane Okonek for one week in July, as part of our Special Emphasis Series. In 1983 the Okoneks founded their own mountaineering guiding business, Alaska-Denali Guiding. They have organized seventy-five expeditions up Denali, taught mountaineering and led wilderness backpacking trips throughout Alaska.

In addition, the Denali 2013 Centennial Climb, made up of descendants of the pioneer climbers, will be setting off on June 7th to retrace the route their relatives took 100 years ago. The National Park Service is also featuring a series of exhibits and guest speakers on mountaineering throughout the summer: <http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/superintendentswelcome.htm>.

3. Behind the Scenes at Camp Denali & North Face Lodge

Being off the grid in the middle of Denali National Park while ensuring comfort for our guests is quite an undertaking. Come learn the inner workings of a wilderness lodge. Living lightly on the land with a focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling is a way of life for us. Our efforts can be traced to the founders of Camp Denali, but with technological advancements our commitment to sustainability has instigated a variety of new projects. From using falling water and sunlight to make energy, to making compost from our food waste, we aim to minimize our impact on the land beneath our feet and the earth as a whole.

4. The Life of a Seasonal Employee

Our staff at Camp Denali and North Face Lodge work approximately 4 months out of the year, and then... Staff may chase the summer months from the northern to southern hemisphere, finding seasonal work in New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and even Antarctica. Whether its teaching English in the mountains of Nepal, developing water treatment systems in South Sudan, or racing rickshaws across Borneo, the life of a seasonal employee is never dull. We invite you to visit with our staff, find out what drew them to the seasonal lifestyle and why so many of our staff return to Camp Denali & North Face Lodge for many consecutive summers.

5. A Vacation Unplugged

Camp Denali and North Face Lodge are some of the few vacation destinations where one can still escape from the cyber world. Without internet access or cell phone service, our guests have little to distract them from the natural beauty of Denali. Able to focus on the landscape that surrounds them, questions arise: "What is a river rock doing atop this alpine ridge?" "How does that pika survive the winter?" By donning their hiking boots and honing their observation skills, our guests relish the freedom from smart phones as they discover the beauty of the tundra and ponder what it means to connect to the land.