Hello from Denali!

We are pleased that you have included Camp Denali in your Alaska itinerary. Our 60 years of family ownership have been dedicated to natural history education, hospitality, and fine craftsmanship.

The experience of staying at Camp Denali is a unique blend of camaraderie among fellow adventurers and active learning in a setting without parallel. Our lodge has a simple elegance that does not detract from the wilderness you come to explore.

We say that Camp Denali is not for everyone, yet you do not have to be capable of scaling Denali to enjoy your stay. The only prerequisites are an interest in exploring, an enthusiasm for walking (rain or shine) and a spirit of adventure!

Please take some time to review the following information to further acquaint yourself with our lodge and programs.

Regards,

Simon & Jenna Hamm
Owners
ARRIVAL

There are several transportation options for arriving to Denali National Park from Anchorage or Fairbanks; the most commonly used options are listed below. Meet us at the Denali train depot parking area by **12:30 pm on your arrival day** (Monday or Friday). The map below indicates where to meet our custom blue & white buses, as well as nearby park facilities. We will depart at approximately 1:15 pm for the drive through the Park to Camp Denali. **We do not provide lunch on your arrival day. There will be a picnic dinner midafternoon.**

TRAIN FROM ANCHORAGE
- **Train Arrival:** 3:40 pm the day prior; overnight at park entrance
- **Meet our buses:** 12:30 pm the following day

TRAIN FROM FAIRBANKS
- **Train Arrival:** 12:10 pm
- **Meet our buses:** Upon arrival

MOTORCOACH FROM ANCHORAGE
- **Motorcoach Arrival:** 12:30 pm
- **Meet our buses:** Upon arrival

CAR
- From Fairbanks 3 hours
- From Anchorage 5 1/2 hours

Meet our buses at 12:15 pm. Extra time is needed to drop off your luggage and park your vehicle. Our drivers will direct you to free, long-term parking.

DEPARTURE DAY

On your departure day (Monday or Friday), we depart the lodge at 6:45 am following a full breakfast to **arrive back at the train depot by 11:45 am**. This allows for same-day bus or train connections to both Fairbanks and Anchorage.

PARKSIDE GUEST HOUSE ([www.parksideanchorage.com](http://www.parksideanchorage.com))

Looking for accommodations in Anchorage? Consider our B&B and receive a 10% discount for also staying with us in Denali.
WHERE YOU ARE GOING

Camp Denali’s guest cabins are situated along a ridgeline, each with commanding views of Denali and surrounding peaks. Our cabins are simple but well-appointed, with a wood stove for heat, propane lights, a gas hot plate for heating water, hand-crafted quilts and Alaskan artwork. Outside your cabin there is a water spigot with cold running water. A short path leads to a private, meticulously-maintained outhouse. Cabins are a two- to seven-minute walk uphill to the dining room, a modern shower facility, and our historic log lodge on Nugget Pond with an inviting wood stove, cozy seating, library, and unparalleled views.

Your stay at Camp Denali will begin with the 90-mile journey into the heart of Denali National Park. Your driver will be one of our knowledgeable naturalist guides, who will discuss the geology, ecology, and history of the park as you travel through it. Stops will be made along the way for spectacular vistas and wildlife observation.

There will be a gourmet picnic dinner midafternoon. We will arrive at the lodge around 8pm. Your hosts will welcome you with refreshments and a brief orientation before you settle in for the evening.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES
Guided group outings with our naturalists are available each day. Three options of hikes (strenuous, moderate, or foray) are offered to suit the interests and abilities of everyone.

Canoes, bicycles, and fishing gear are available for independent outings. These activities can be planned each morning with your hosts. There are trail and topographic maps as a resource if striking out on your own. An Alaska fishing license is required for the creek adjacent to our lodge.

If quiet relaxation is your day’s ambition, you might enjoy our library of literature related to Denali and the Far North. For keen learners, there is our resource center that features natural history exhibits, plant, animal and insect collections, and a microscope.

DINING
We plate and serve breakfast at 7:30 am and dinner at 6:30 pm in family-style seating. One entrée is featured at each meal. Lunch is a create-it-yourself sandwich and snack buffet just after breakfast. When notified in advance, we can accommodate gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian, and vegan diets, as well as most food allergies.

ALCOHOL
We do not serve alcohol or soft drinks. You are welcome to plan ahead and bring your own. Wine glasses, bottle openers, and refrigeration are provided.

ELECTRICITY USE
We generate our own electricity at Camp Denali. Appliances with heating elements, such as curling irons and hair dryers, will overload our electrical capacity. Please do not use them.

COMMUNICATION
There is neither cell coverage nor guest internet access. A courtesy telephone is available for outgoing calls. For emergencies, our office is available for incoming calls: (907) 683-2290.

PAYMENTS & CANCELLATIONS
Credit cards are not accepted. Reservation payments or retail purchases at the lodge can be made by cash or check. An optional gratuity may be left at the end of your stay. Please be sure to review our cancellation policy. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance to protect against any unforeseen circumstances that could affect your travel plans.
WHAT TO PACK

ESSENTIAL GEAR

• Hiking Boots: Over-the-ankle and in good condition. Tennis shoes are NOT recommended. Hiking boots are recommended on every outing for your comfort and safety.
• Rain gear: waterproof jacket and pants
• Hat and gloves: wool or fleece
• Warm layers: wool sweater, fleece vest, or jacket
• Shirts: short and long-sleeved
• Pants: lightweight, quick-drying & breathable
• Long underwear: wool or synthetic top & bottom
• Binoculars
• Day pack

OPTIONAL GEAR

• Extra camera battery
• Casual clothes and shoes for around the lodge
• Hiking gaiters
• Pack cover

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

• Hats
• Gloves
• Socks
• Clothing
• Insect repellent
• Books and field guides
• Postcards
• Quality binoculars

AVAILABLE TO BORROW

• Day packs
• Water bottles
• Head nets for insect protection
• Trekking poles
• Gaiters
• Fishing gear
• LL Bean boots: (good for wet conditions; not for steep or rocky terrain)
• Mountain bikes/helmets
• Canoes/paddles/PFDs
• Bear spray

There is no luggage weight restriction at Camp Denali. If you are taking a charter flight while in Alaska, be sure to know those limits.

SUGGESTED READING

www.alaskageographic.com is a good resource for books, maps, and DVDs.

Kantishna: The Pioneer Story Behind Mount McKinley National Park by Tom Walker (2005)
Rhythm of the Wild by Kim Heacox (2015)
Coming Into the Country by John McPhee (1976)
REMOTE TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

TRAVEL INSURANCE
We strongly recommend you purchase travel insurance, which can cover family, medical, and environmental emergencies. Access to our remote location can be impacted by wildfires, floods, landslides, and snowfall. These circumstances are impossible to predict and can impact any Alaska itinerary. Canceled reservations due to forces beyond our control are subject to our stated cancellation policy. Any costs associated with delays or unforeseen circumstances are the responsibility of our guests.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
Our lodge is remote. What does that mean? Trips to a hospital for a medical emergency can take over eight hours. Unpredictable weather in Denali means that chartered air travel is not a guaranteed option. The trip back to Denali National Park’s entrance takes about five hours by road; from there, Fairbanks is 120 highway miles north. If you have medical concerns, please talk to your doctor before finalizing your travel plans.

THE PARK ROAD
The Denali Park Road winds 92 miles into the heart of Denali National Park; Camp Denali is located at Mile 89. The Park Road has experienced significant mud slides and road closures in recent summers due to extreme weather events. A rapidly warming climate is exacerbating these road hazards through thawing permafrost and increasing rainfall. For current information go to: https://www.nps.gov/articles/aps-18-1-6.htm
DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY ONE
Your stay begins in the afternoon with the 90-mile journey into the heart of Denali National Park. Your driver will be one of our knowledgeable naturalist guides, who interprets the geology, ecology, and history of the park as you travel through it. We will stop for many spectacular vistas and to observe wildlife. We will have a gourmet picnic dinner midafternoon and will arrive at the lodges around 8 pm.

DAY TWO
Start the day at 7:30 am with a delicious homemade breakfast. After breakfast you have the option of joining one of our guided group hikes. Choose from three different levels of hikes to spend the rest of the day exploring the Park with one of our guides. Savor your sack lunch during your day’s adventure. An exquisite dinner is served at 6:30 pm in our dining room, complete with views of Denali and opportunity to reminisce about the day’s highlights. The evening concludes with a presentation by one of our naturalists or a guest speaker on a topic of Alaska’s natural or cultural history.

DAY THREE (3 night stays)
DAY THREE/FOUR (4 night stays)
After breakfast, join a naturalist hike to explore a new area of the park. You may also choose from one of our independent activities: ride a bicycle along the Park Road, paddle a canoe on Wonder Lake, or strike off on local trails.

For guests staying seven nights, there will be just one guided option available on the Monday or Friday midway through your stay; the remaining full days will have our standard offerings.

DEPARTURE DAY
After a full breakfast, depart at 6:45 am from Camp Denali and for the drive back along the Park Road. Our goal is to arrive back at the rail depot by 11:45 am in time for any guests transferring to the Denali Star train to Anchorage.