

# Absolute Alaska's Winter Tour Packages

## Iditarod, Northern Lights Adventure Tour

This 12-day tour is the best that Alaska has to offer in the winter. Enjoy cold air immersed in a natural hot spring lake at Chena Hot Springs looking up at an amazing display of Aurora Borealis. Observe and participate in the start of the famous Iditarod Dog Sledding race - a race of an exceptional endurance and character; meet the dog mushers, dog teams, participate in the start of the race in Anchorage and see them in action from the air flying over the great mountains, tundra and, endless winter. Learn everything about the race in an amazing all-day excursion where you will have a chance at riding and driving the dog team. Enjoy breathtaking views of our tallest mountain McKinley from the air. Ski at the famous Alyeska Ski Resort. Visit the Fairbanks' Ice Art Championship and Museum of the North. Experience Alaska Railroad in the winter with beautiful scenery.

### Highlights Include:



**Aurora Borealis** - some people come to Alaska just to see the Northern Lights, if you are one of those people, you have a 100% chance at seeing one on this trip.

**Iditarod Sled Dog Race** - meet the dogs, mushers, have a chance at riding a dog team yourself. Participate in the ceremonial and actual start of this World famous race. You will also spend a day at the Iditarod Kennel Facility, where you will learn everything about this event.



**Anchorage Highlights and Alaska Native Heritage Center** - See the highlights of this metropolis in the middle of the wilderness, visit the Native Heritage Center to discover the rich culture of the local people.

**Talkeetna** - you will fall in love with this little town which offers many of the adventures. You will take a flight-seeing tour over the Mt. McKinley while chasing the dog mushing teams on their way to Nome.

**Mt. Mckinley** - flight-see the tallest Mountain in North America - "The Great One."



**Alyeska Ski Resort** - have a chance at skiing or snowboarding at this world class resort with amazing views of glaciers and bay. Dine on top of the world. For those not interested in skiing, can swim in the hotel or skate nearby.

**Fairbanks** - visit the North capital of Alaska, it has much to offer, but be sure to dress warm. Visit the best rated Museum of the North with its extraordinary natural history collection and Alaska's art. Enjoy the World Ice Art Championship sculptures.



**Chena Hot Springs** - relax in a mineral natural hot spring under a clear, starry sky with a clear of view of the Northern Lights away from city lights. The resort features new hotel and Ice sculptures. During the day you will have lots of activities to get out into the snow.

**Alaska Rail Road** - there is nothing like taking a train in Alaska in the winter! This ride will have some amazing scenery, so just sit back and enjoy.

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### Detailed Itinerary:



**Day 1. Arrival, greeting and relaxation after the flight.**

Arrive to Anchorage and meet your local guide at the airport to be taken to your comfortable hotel downtown Anchorage. Spend the night in Anchorage. D

**Day 2. Anchorage's most popular highlights, skiing at the Alyeska ski resort, and relaxation at one of the most luxurious resort and spa in Alaska.**

Board your coach and explore Anchorage with such highlights as Alaska Native Heritage Center where you will discover the rich native history and culture of Alaska, Lake Hood airport (the largest float plane airport in the world!), Alaska Wildberry Products (with a chocolate fountain), and downtown Anchorage. Then head out to the Alyeska Ski Resort located in a small community town Girdwood. There is fun and adventure for everyone here – skiing near sea level with extraordinary ocean views from the slopes and lifts or for those who don't ski: sliding at the tube park, swimming in the saltwater pool at the hotel, or skating on the outdoor rink at the base of the mountain. In the evening enjoy a relaxing dinner in the quiet atmosphere of this amazing resort. Overnight at Alyeska Resort. B,L,D



**Day 3. The Iditarod Dog Race starts today!**

The Great race of endurance and character starts today in downtown Anchorage. Get up early to experience the start of the great race in Anchorage. Meet the dogs, mushers, and participate in the "ceremonial" start of this race. After you will have time for local shopping, snow sculpture competition, and other activities of the "Fur Rondy" festival that ends today. Overnight in Anchorage. B,L,D

**Day 4. The Restart of the Iditarod in Willow.**

Board your motorcoach for the Iditarod Official Start in Willow. This is the real beginning of the race; the historic gold-rush trail becomes continuous for the dogs' 1,000-mile run to Nome. You can become a volunteer, which is a more involved way to participate than just watching. On the way visit the Iditarod Headquarters Museum and learn more about the race. Then proceed to the cute little town Talkeetna and spend the night there. B,L,D



**Day 5. Flight-see over the Mt. Mckinley and view the race from the air.**

Today take a flight-seeing tour over the Mt. Mckinley, you will also have a chance to see the mushers and dogs from air, we will stop at a checkpoint where you will see the teams up close again. Return back to your hotel in Talkeetna. Overnight in Talkeetna. B,L,D

**Day 6. All day Dog Sledding learning and practice adventure.**

Today you will spend all day learning about the dog mushing art at Iditarod learning facility. Spend the first two hours indoor enjoying an award winning Iditarod Presentation and Mushing 101 course. Educational and Fun! Lunch served upstairs in our cozy recreation room. Afternoons are for mushing! Great Trails, Great Dogs, and Great Sleds! (winter gear provided). After the tour return back to your hotel. Overnight in Talkeetna. B,L,D

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### Detailed Itinerary continued:



#### **Day 7. Travel further North to Fairbanks, visit Museum of the North and the World Ice Art Championship.**

Board your motorcoach and continue on North to Fairbanks, a second largest city in Alaska. Visit the University of Alaska Museum of the North, which features Alaska's art, and an extraordinary natural history collection, see the state's largest public display of gold, the new addition to the museum offers a combination of grand shapes of moving icebergs, presentations of the Aurora, Alaska Native games and dance, and much more. Then visit the World Ice Art Championship where carvers from all over the world sculpt immense chunks of clear ice. Some ice sculptures stand as tall as a two-story building. After this have dinner and see some highlights of Fairbanks before retiring to your hotel. Overnight in Fairbanks. B,L,D

#### **Day 8. Fairbanks – Chena Hot Springs Resort**

Today travel to Alaska's only public Hot Spring Resort. There is an outdoor swimming pond of hot mineral water, without chlorine or treatment, and a couple of smaller indoor pools and hot tubs with treated water. There is modern hotel where you can relax and unwind after swimming. At night, the views of Aurora Borealis are exceptional away from city lights, enjoy them immersed in the hot pool outside (don't forget to bring your bathing suite on this tour). Overnight at Chena Hot Springs. B,L,D



#### **Day 9. Chena Hot Springs Resort activities.**

Today spend the day relaxing in the pool, skiing, snow-machining, dog-sledding or other activities as you prefer. There is an aurora-viewing station on a hilltop, where you will surely see the display of this natural wonder. Overnight at Chena Hot Springs. B,L,D

#### **Day 10. Chena Hot Springs.**

Spend another day at the resort enjoying the Northern Lights and improving your health in the mineral pool, or fly home from Fairbanks airport. Overnight Chena Hot Springs. B,L,D



#### **Day 11. Fairbanks – Anchorage Railroad trip.**

Take Alaska Railroad from Fairbanks to Anchorage and enjoy the unforgettable scenery. Overnight in Anchorage. B,L,D

#### **Day 12. Your Iditarod, winter adventure ends today.**

Get a transfer from hotel to airport for flights home. B

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### Prices and Dates

Tour price	Tour departure dates	Departure city	Tour Level	Tour options
\$5,096	March 5 - March 16*	Anchorage	Easy Some walking required	12-day escorted tour

\*Guaranteed departure dates

**Price is per person based on double occupancy.**

**Single supplement is \$990.**

**Discounts are available for groups 8 or more. Triple, Quad occupancy and Child discounts available.**

**The tour price package includes:** all hotel fees; meals as specified; arrival and departure transfers; fully-guided sightseeing as noted in the itinerary (including park and entrance fees); bottled water supplied during sightseeing; services of an Absolute Alaska Tour Director; handling of two pieces of baggage per person; hotel taxes; gratuities throughout, except to your Tour Director, and driver.

**The tour price package does NOT include:** Travel insurance; airfares; excess baggage charges; gratuities to the Absolute Alaska Tour Director, driver or staff (our employees work for your tips); meals other than specified in the itinerary; alcoholic beverages; sightseeing and drives not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability).

**Visit our website [www.absolutealaskatours.com](http://www.absolutealaskatours.com) for more details or call us directly.**

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