

Explore Alaska! Wildflowers • Wildlife • Spectacular Landscapes

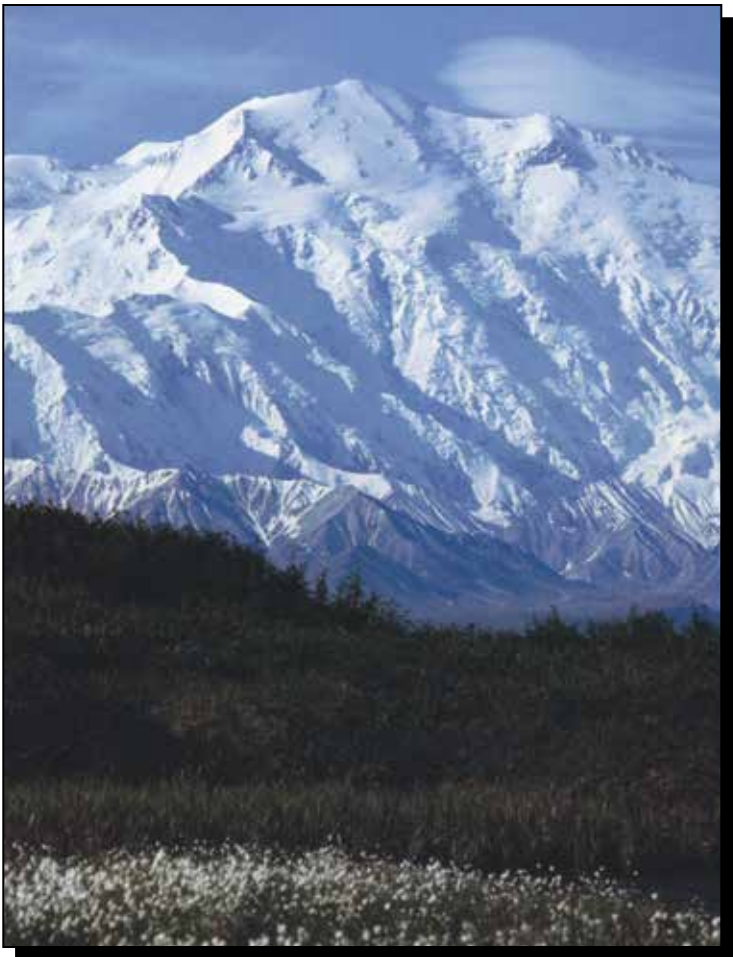


- PACIFIC -
HORTICULTURE P.O. Box 5995
- SOCIETY - Berkeley, CA 94705



FIRST CLASS

*Discover Alaska!
July 10 - 20, 2019*



ALASKA

Expedition

July 10 - 20, 2019

Wildflowers, Wildlife
& Spectacular Landscapes

For Friends and Members
of
Pacific Horticulture Society
with Betchart Expeditions Inc



Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us to explore the wonderful wildflowers, wildlife and spectacular landscapes of Alaska in 2019!

Alaska possesses a profusion of native plants from streamside to mountainside. There are more than 1,500 plant species in the 49th state, from sea level to just below the snow line. Summer is the bountiful time for flowering plants, their pollinators, and large mammals who feed on the nutritious flowers or bulbs.

On this expedition, we will traverse Alaska from Anchorage to Seward, traveling along the scenic Cook Inlet and spectacular Chugach Mountains, and then up the Denali Highway to Denali National Park.

We will hike on Hatcher Pass, and see stately forests, botanic gardens, scenic streamside walks teeming with flowers, and dwarf tundra plants on the mountain tops. We'll explore Denali National Park, the finest park and wildlife preserve in Alaska, and then visit Fairbanks in the interior of Alaska.

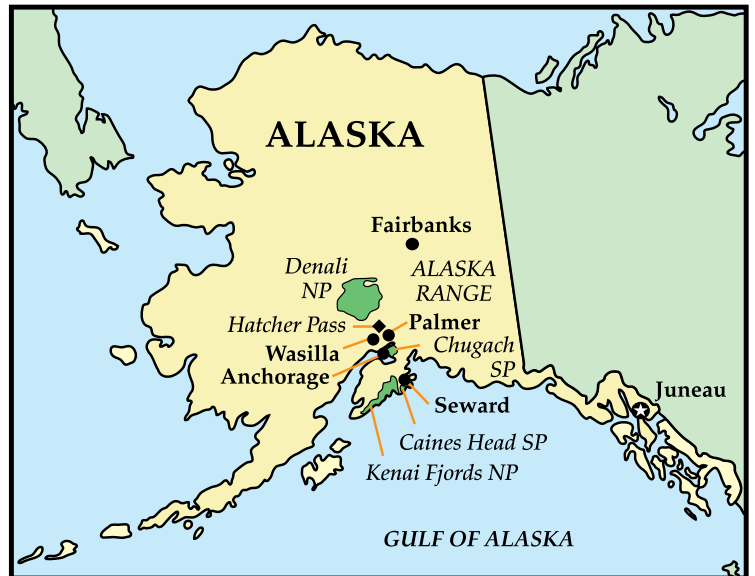
Leading this expedition will be David Wimpfheimer, an excellent naturalist and leader of many Betchart Alaska Expeditions, and John Burns, a botanist with years of Alaska expertise. Joining them will be local experts.

We hope you will join our exploration of this vast and beautiful land!

Sincerely Yours,

Linda McKendry

Linda McKendry,
Pacific Horticulture Tours



Day 1 – San Francisco to Anchorage, Alaska

Fly from San Francisco to Seattle and Anchorage, situated on the Cook Inlet, between the majestic Alaska and Chugach Ranges. Welcome dinner and trip orientation. *Historic Anchorage Hotel (2 nights)*. (D)

Day 2 – Alaska Botanic Garden & Glen Alps Trail

Our introduction to the Alaska natural world will begin at the Alaska Botanic Garden in Anchorage. We'll explore the Garden with a local botanist and discover a mix of native Alaskan and ornamental plants, including Western hemlock and Sitka spruce. After a picnic lunch, we will take a hike on the Glen Alps Trail in the Chugach Mountains for an introduction to the native forests of coastal Alaska. The trail offers wonderful views of distant mountains, the Cook Inlet, and the Alaska Range. (B,L)

Day 3 – Potter's Marsh, Seward & the Kenai Peninsula

We will depart this morning for Potters Marsh where there is a wonderful marshland, nestled between the sea and the Alaska Railroad. Here, we will walk the boardwalk to discover birds that nest in Alaska. We may also see migrating salmon making their way inland to breed. We will continue along the Chugach Range to Seward. In the afternoon, we will walk to Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. The glacier is receding, exposing new habitat for colonizing plants. Look for the dominant Sitka spruce and Mountain hemlock. *Breeze Inn, Seward (2 nights)*. (B)



Day 4 – Caines Head & Resurrection Bay

Today we will explore the Caines Head area overlooking Resurrection Bay. The trail follows the coastline for most of the way, but turns inland at the river crossing. Here you may discover the Sitka spruce forest along the wet coastal strand. This area is one of the wettest in the state and has provided the timber industry with much of its lumber. The picturesque trail will offer many wildflower species along with bald eagles, and beautiful ocean vistas. Picnic in the field. (B,L)

Day 5 – Seward to Eagle River & Wasilla

This morning, we will drive north from Seward and will stop at Portage Glacier. This glacier is one of the most popular and the visitor center is one of the finest in Alaska. Continue to Eagle River where we will join a local naturalist for a walk in the park. We will explore slowly to best see the Jacob's ladder, monkshood, larkspur, forget-me-nots, violets, gentians, and many other wildflowers in the spruce/hemlock forest, including White spruce in this inland location. We'll continue north along the Denali Highway to visit the Iditarod Museum and Trail Headquarters. The museum often has puppies that may be future members of a dog team. *Lake Lucille Inn (2 nights)* with breathtaking views in all directions. (B,L)

Day 6 – Hatcher Pass and Alpine Wildflowers

Today we will drive north of Palmer to Hatcher Pass at 3,885 feet and experience the world of ice, snow, and alpine

plants, all above tree line. These hearty plants will surprise you with their success in a land of little soil, short growing season, and extremes in temperatures. The area offers an easy hike and a few more challenging ones. We will start with the easy one and enjoy the plants along the way. Later visit Gold Cord Lake to discover the plants found in marshes and boggy areas. (B,L)

Day 7 – Talkeetna to Denali

This morning, we will depart for the charming town of Talkeetna that was the inspiration for the town in TV's "Northern Exposure." Take a walk around this historic town, visit the museum, and sample some of the lunch items for which the town is famous. We'll then drive along the Susitna River to Denali National Park. The Denali road is open for 12 miles and we will botanize along it in the late afternoon. *Denali Grizzly Bear Lodge (2 nights)*. Dinner at the famous Denali Salmon Bake. (B,D)

Day 8 – Denali National Park

Today we will explore Denali, the best national park for the large mammals of Alaska. We will board the park bus and head into the park. From the bus we will look for wildflowers, Dall's sheep, moose, and bears, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. If we are fortunate, the 20,310 foot summit of Denali (Mt. McKinley) will be cloud free. If it is not, we will enjoy the wildlife and hope the mountain shows itself later in the day. See and learn about tundra and taiga ecology and enjoy the wealth of flora from lichens, mosses, and wildflowers to the abundance of berry bushes.



Join your leaders for walks of different lengths that give wonderful opportunities for botanizing, wildlife observation, or photography, surrounded by the magnificence of Denali National Park. Look for lupines, oxytrope, fireweed, winter-green, shooting stars, bog rosemary, Lapland rhododendron, louseworts, and cotton grass. A delightful day in one of the finest national parks in America! (B,L,D)

Day 9 – Denali to Historic Fairbanks

This morning, we will drive north to Fairbanks. An historic trading center along the Chena River. Gold was discovered a few miles away and the boom began. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the oldest in the state. At the Museum of the North, we will see the most comprehensive collection of native artifacts and artwork in Alaska. Later today, we will explore Creamer’s Field Wildlife Refuge for wildlife and flowers adjacent to *Wedgewood Manor (2 nights)*. (B,D)

Day 10 – Fairbanks Botanic Garden & Museum of the North

This morning, we will visit the University’s Georgeson Botanic Garden. The garden is home to native and ornamental plants. Have a special walk with a local botanist to see species unique to Alaska. We will then visit the Large Animal Research Station to see musk ox and caribou and learn about research on these animals of the far north. Afternoon for personal interests. Farewell dinner at the Fairbanks Salmon Bake and Theatre. (B,D)

Day 11 – Fairbanks to home

Transfer to the airport for flights home.

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$4,995 per person (plus air fare of \$1,095 from San Francisco to Anchorage with return from Fairbanks).

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for the traveler who would enjoy exploring spectacular Alaskan national parks and scenic areas, plus cities, historic, and cultural areas, led by excellent field naturalists. Travel in 15-passenger vans or coach. There will be daily outings on foot of 1/2 to 2 miles on trails or across tundra at a leisurely pace suitable for wildflower and wildlife discovery. Typically, along the coast it will be cool with mist or rain likely (50’s), and in the 80’s inland. This expedition is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group, and who have a keen interest in learning about the natural heritage of Alaska. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations in comfortable hotels or lodges twin share with bath; meals as indicated; entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; baggage handling; some meals; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, beverages at meals; laundry, phone calls, snacks, tips to leaders, or other personal items.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Please book flights to arrive in Anchorage by 4 pm on July 10th and to depart any time on July 20th. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Single Accommodations: Singles are available for \$1,095. If you do not have a roommate or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

Reservations, Deposits, Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form. All reservations will be acknowledged in the order received until the maximum enrollment of 24 has been reached. The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place is resold; then only the \$100 handling fee applies. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. Trip cancellation insurance will be available.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and Pacific Horticulture Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

QUESTIONS?

Call Terri Stevens at Betchart Expeditions Inc.
(800) 252-4910 or email: Betchartterri@gmail.com

RESERVATIONS

#1544

YES! I/We want to join the Pacific Horticulture Society Alaska Expedition, July 10-20, 2019. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____
_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

Membership in International Dendrology Society: _____ Yes _____ No

Accommodations Preference:

_____ Twin _____ Single _____ Twin Share: _____ with a friend or
_____ Nonsmoker _____ Smoker _____ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please Mail To: PacHort Alaska 2019
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
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Cupertino, California 95014-5435**