

# ALASKA BY DESIGN

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## Talkeetna Denali Alaska Rail Explorer | Cruise Connector

2026

Alaska Rail Vacation

4 Days / 3 Nights Anchorage to Whittier or Seward  
Not Yet on sale

### INTRODUCTION

The Talkeetna Denali Alaska Rail Tour is a perfect 4-day itinerary for before or after a cruise. The adventure begins in Anchorage where you'll take Alaska Railroad for the scenic journey to Denali National Park, then take your choice of tours at Denali and end at either the Whittier or Seward cruise terminal. This itinerary is one of our best sellers for a pre or post Alaska cruise tour.

#### Itinerary at a Glance

<b>DAY 1</b>	Anchorage to Talkeetna   Alaska Railroad
<b>DAY 2</b>	Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance   Alaska Railroad
<b>DAY 3</b>	Denali   Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion   Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour   Coach Tour Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing   Small Aircraft Option 4. Upgrade Option : Denali Glacier Landing   Helicopter
<b>DAY 4</b>	Denali to Whittier or Seward Cruise Terminal   Coach

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Call 1 855 465 1001 Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm PST Saturday: 8am - 4:30pm PST Sunday: 11am - 5pm PST

Email [sales@alaskabydesign.com](mailto:sales@alaskabydesign.com) Web [www.alaskabydesign.com](http://www.alaskabydesign.com)  
Suite 1200, 675 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1N2, Canada



## MAP



## DETAILED ITINERARY

*The below itinerary reflects our recommendations for this specific trip. This itinerary is also available in the reverse direction.*

### Day 1 Anchorage to Talkeetna | Alaska Railroad

Depart early on the Denali Star Train by Goldstar Railcar to Talkeetna, best known as base camp for climbers attempting Mount Denali and for the stunning views of this famous mountain. This afternoon is at leisure to take a stroll down the main street for river views, local brews and great eats. (Breakfast is included onboard the train today)

#### Talkeetna | Optional Excursions

While your trip includes a variety of carefully selected excursions, you might want to explore additional options to really make the most of your free time. Consider the following list of optional excursions that are available for purchase to further enhance your stay.

##### Option 1. Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour

Embark on a narrated river cruise into Alaska's wilderness, with views of Denali. Travel 20 miles as a naturalist share's insights on local history, wildlife, and Denali. Explore a Dena'ina Indian encampment and a historic trapper's cabin, learn about trapping, and discover edible plants used by Native communities.

##### Option 2. Denali Flightseeing Experience | Small Aircraft

This flightseeing tour brings you within 6 miles of Denali's north (19,470 ft.) and south (20,320 ft.) summits. Explore rugged peaks, glacier-filled valleys, and Denali's south and east faces. View the dramatic rise from 2,000 ft. to over 20,320 ft., the Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge, and stunning blue meltwater pools.

##### Option 3. Denali Flightseeing with Glacier Landing | Small Aircraft

Fly within 6 miles of Denali's north summit (19,470 ft) and south summit (20,320 ft), showcasing a landscape of rugged peaks, snow-capped mountains, and glacier-filled valleys. Explore the south and east faces of Denali, witnessing its dramatic rise from 2,000 ft to over 20,320 ft. Highlights include the flowing Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater, Great Gorge with mile-high granite walls, and striking blue meltwater pools.

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**Day 2 Talkeetna to Denali National Park Entrance | Alaska Railroad**

This morning take the Denali Star, Alaska Railroad's flagship train, in the Goldstar Railcar to Denali National Park. The afternoon is open for optional activities such as whitewater rafting down the Nenana River, helicopter flightseeing over the Park, landing on a glacier or hiking. (Lunch is included onboard the train today)

**Day 3 Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions***Option 1. Denali Highway Jeep Excursion | Self-Drive Guided 4x4 Excursion*

Ranked #2 in Drives of a Lifetime by National Geographic Traveler magazine, experience the natural wonders of Alaska's Denali Highway — this time by Jeep! This 4-hour guided excursion travels along a 135 mi (217 km) gravel road & takes you off the beaten path in a 4 x 4 to enjoy scenic views of Denali, the Alaska Range, glaciers and wildlife.

*Option 2. Tundra Wilderness Tour | Coach Tour*

This half day tour offers incredible scenery, a narrated history of the park road and opportunities to view the park's wildlife inhabitants. Picturesque highlights include the craggy cliffside of Cathedral Mountain, wildlife rich Sable Pass and braided wash of the East Fork River in Denali National Park.

*Option 3. Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing | Small Aircraft*

Get a closer look at Alaska's majestic Denali from the comfortable window seat of a small aircraft. Slip on your provided headset to hear commentary from your guide as you fly over the snow-covered peaks, jagged ridgelines, and glacier carved valleys of Denali National Park, and get within half a mile of the mountain peak.

*Option 4. Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing | Helicopter*

Be immersed in the vastness of the Denali National Preserve. On your way to the massive Yanert Glacier, your pilot will serve as your guide through this unique glacially carved environment. Soar over the rolling tundra, keeping an eye out for local residents – caribou, moose, bear, and Dall sheep. Snow capped peaks and glaciers abound on this journey before you set down on a river of ice.

**Day 4 Denali to Whittier or Seward Cruise Terminal | Coach**

Early this morning depart Denali aboard a comfortable motorcoach. The driver will provide narration as you travel on the nationally recognized Parks Highway through Alaska's spectacular scenery and small historic towns. You will have a layover of approximately 90 minutes in Anchorage so that you can purchase lunch. Continue on to Seward or Whittier along scenic Cook Inlet and Turnagain Arm. Few roads in the United States can offer the diversity of scenic landscapes and unique natural features all concentrated in one area. You will arrive in Whittier at 4:45pm or at the cruise dock in Seward at 5:45pm where your incredible Alaska land adventure comes to an end.

**INCLUDED****Package Includes:**

- Accommodation including taxes for 3 nights
- Alaska Railroad – Anchorage to Talkeetna Goldstar Service  
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Talkeetna Hotel Transfer

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- Alaska Railroad – Talkeetna to Denali Goldstar Service  
(Dome car seating, private outdoor viewing deck & Meals included onboard train)
- Denali | Freedom of Choice - Choose 1 of 4 Excursions
- Denali Highway Jeep Excursion
- Tundra Wilderness Tour
- Upgrade Option: Denali Summit Flightseeing by Plane
- Upgrade Option: Denali Glacier Landing by Helicopter
- Denali to Seward | Whittier coach transfer with driver commentary
- Meals as per Itinerary

#### **Hotel & Rail Information | Moderate Grade**

- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Main Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Denali Cabins | Standard Cabins

#### **Hotel & Rail Information | Superior Grade**

- Talkeetna - Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge | Mountainside Lodge Room
- Denali Park Entrance - Grande Denali Lodge | Standard Room

**Alaska Railroad | Goldstar** All our itineraries except the Glacier Discovery Train includes Gold Star Dome Service. These railcars feature large, curved glass windows that run the full length of the car, allowing excellent 360 degree viewing plus a private outdoor viewing deck. The service is inclusive of all meals that are served in the lower-level dining room.

#### **Not Included:**

- Gratuities
- Activities other than specified
- Portage fees
- Talkeetna | Optional Excursions
- Wilderness Excursion Jetboat Tour
- Denali Flightseeing Experience
- Denali Flightseeing Experience with Glacier Landing

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