

Outdoor Adventures

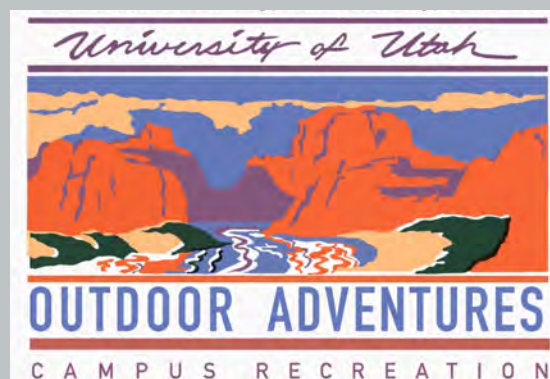
TRIP BROCHURE



Travel Dates:
July 6-19, 2026

Location:
Alaska

Anchorage, St. Elias National Park,
McCarthy, Root Glacier, Valdez,
Prince William Sound, Whittier,
Seward, Aialik Bay



Why Alaska?

Summer in Alaska is unlike anywhere else on Earth—a season of endless daylight, dramatic landscapes, and pure adventure. With 18+ hours of sunlight, the wilderness comes alive, revealing towering glaciers, rugged mountains, and pristine coastlines. Mild summer temperatures make it ideal for exploring, while wildlife is especially active, offering chances to see whales, bears, moose, and eagles in their natural habitats. Alaska in summer invites you to slow down, breathe deeply, and experience nature on a grand scale.

Designed with University of Utah students in mind, this two-week Alaska expedition is all about teamwork, adventure, and shared experiences. Paddle sea kayaks through calm fjords, hike and backpack through wilderness areas, raft glacier-fed rivers, and learn outdoor skills together in remote wilderness settings. Evenings are spent cooking meals as a group, relaxing under the midnight sun, and reflecting on the day's accomplishments. From challenging adventures to quiet moments in nature, Alaska in the summer creates the ideal backdrop for building friendships, confidence, and unforgettable memories outdoors.

Outdoor Adventures is beyond thrilled to be hosting this trip, and we hope you will join us for a truly unforgettable experience.



Trip Description

First Half

Our adventure begins deep in Wrangell–St. Elias National Park—a wild expanse of towering peaks, massive glaciers, and quiet so deep you’ll hear every step beneath your boots.

Over four days, we’ll backpack through one of the largest protected wilderness areas on Earth, fully immersed in true backcountry terrain. Expect big landscapes, remote travel, and plenty of opportunities to build alpine skills along the way.

One day will be dedicated to glacier exploration—roping up, learning ice-climbing fundamentals on ancient ice, and moving through terrain most people only ever glimpse from a bush plane window.



Second Half

The second half of the expedition brings a dramatic shift—from mountains to ocean, hiking boots to paddle blades, and glaciers to the sleek backs of humpback whales.

In Aialik Bay near Seward, we’ll sea kayak through a maze of fjords carved by ice and alive with wildlife—puffins overhead, seals in the water, and whales surfacing nearby. We’ll paddle beneath towering tidewater glaciers, camp on remote beaches, and take side hikes through mossy forests and up alpine ridges overlooking the Gulf of Alaska.

To wrap it all up, our final day delivers one last burst of adrenaline: a whitewater rafting trip through Alaska’s powerful rivers before we return to civilization with memories that won’t fade anytime soon.



Learning Philosophy & Expedition Outcomes

Program Goals

- Emphasize **experiential learning** through challenge and reflection.
- Instill a deep ethic of **environmental stewardship** and respect for wild places.
- Highlight the importance of **Indigenous land acknowledgment**, traditional knowledge, and responsible recreation practices.
- Develop **technical skills** within various outdoor sports.
- Foster transference of **expedition-based learning** to academic, professional, and personal contexts.
- Develop **community** through a strong culture of risk awareness, preparedness, and shared responsibility.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate proficiency in backcountry living skills, including campsite selection, Leave No Trace practices, food storage, and expedition cooking in remote environments.
- Apply fundamental ice climbing techniques, including movement, belaying, and equipment use, while adhering to safety protocols in cold environments.
- Demonstrate competent paddling and safety skills in both sea kayaking and whitewater rafting, including boat control, communication, and self/partner rescue techniques.
- Demonstrate increased resilience, adaptability, and self-awareness through sustained expedition living.
- Articulate how extended wilderness travel influences identity, values, and relationships with place.
- Practice good outdoor ethics, resilience, and communication at an individual level to become a valuable member of a team





Do I Need Previous Experience?

Nope! No prior technical experience is required—but that doesn't mean this trip is easy. You'll be camping outdoors for extended periods, often in less-than-ideal conditions. Alaska is wild, wet, and yes... the bugs are legendary.

This expedition is meant to be challenging—and that's exactly what makes it so rewarding. If you're excited by adventure, personal growth, and the full range of emotions that come with an expedition-style trip, this experience is for you.

Because the trip includes multi-day backpacking with heavier packs, glacier travel, and sea kayaking, participants should be able to:

- Lift and carry up to 40 pounds
- Hike 2.5 miles in under one hour (without a pack)
- Swim confidently without the use of a personal flotation device

Come ready to work hard, get a little uncomfortable, and experience Alaska in a way few ever do.



Trip Itinerary

July 6th

Anchorage Arrival & Expedition Launch

Touch down in Anchorage and meet the crew who will share the next two weeks of wilderness with you. We'll settle into a cozy Airbnb for trip orientation, gear checks, and final prep. By evening, the group begins bonding over maps, stories, and the electric hum of anticipation. All flights must arrive by 6 p.m. because the expedition begins tonight.

July 7th

Into the Wrangells

We hit the road early, heading deep into the vast frontier of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, where mountains rise like ramparts and glaciers spill into wide valleys. After a long and scenic drive, we reach the tiny outpost of McCarthy, the gateway to the true Alaskan backcountry. Tonight, we sleep under Alaska's endless summer light for our first night in the wild.



July 8th



July 9th



Backpacking Across the Root Glacier

Our mountain journey begins with the shimmering, deeply crevassed Root Glacier stretched before us. We'll learn glacier travel skills, strap on crampons, and cross its ancient, blue-veined surface as a team. On the far side, surrounded by towering peaks and sweeping valleys, we establish camp. Over the next day, we have the option to continue deeper into the backcountry or take a day hike to explore hidden ridgelines and quiet glacial valleys, a real wilderness few ever get to visit.





July 10th

A Day on Blue Ice

Today, we return to the glacier but this time vertically. With ropes, tools, and guidance from trained staff, you'll learn the art of ice climbing on the sculpted walls of living ice. It's a day of challenge and exhilaration as you ascend crystalline faces formed over centuries.



July 11th

From Mountains to Sea

We pack out of the backcountry and return to our vehicles, transitioning from alpine terrain to coastal landscapes. The road carries us to Valdez, flanked by waterfalls, glaciers, and towering mountains. We'll explore town, resupply, and prepare for tomorrow's ferry crossing into Prince William Sound.





July 12th

Ferry Across Prince William Sound

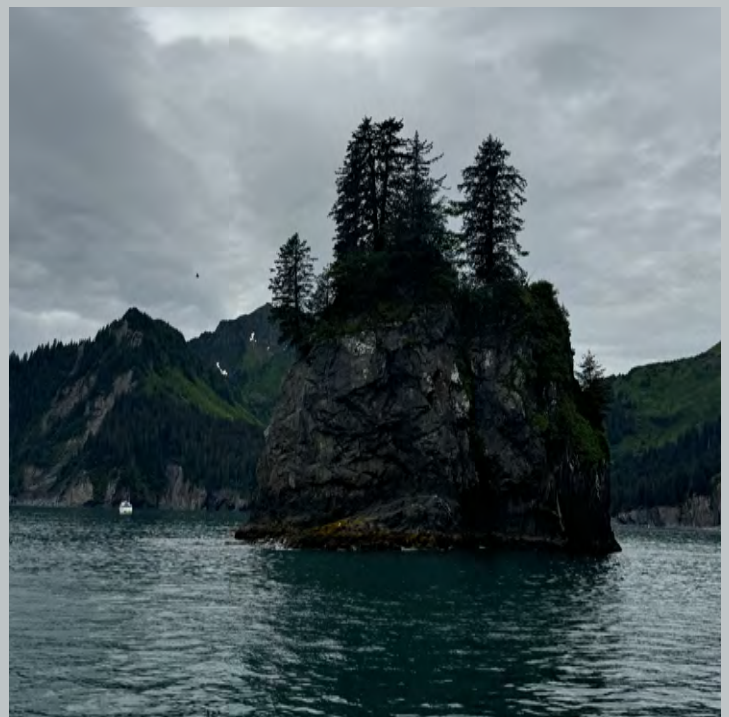
Today we board the ferry and take a full day gliding through fjords, watching for sea lions, porpoises, and maybe even orcas. The Sound's granite walls and drifting icebergs remind us how the sea shapes this land. Upon reaching Whittier, we continue to Seward to make camp...and savor our first showers of the trip



July 13th

Rest & Coastal Exploration

A full rest day in the lively coastal town of Seward. Lounge at camp, wander the harbor, sip coffee at local cafés, or take on a classic Alaskan challenge with a day hike up to the Harding Icefield, one of the largest ice sheets in North America. Your body resets while your spirit recharges for the sea leg of the expedition.



July 14th

Launch into Aialik Bay

We meet our sea-kayaking outfitter, dial in our gear, and review paddling systems. Then a small ferry shuttles us down Resurrection Bay toward its sister, wild Aialik Bay, where we're dropped at a remote shoreline, our first coastal backcountry camp. We review paddling procedures and finalize our float plan before slipping into expedition mode once again.



July 15th

July 16th

Wild Days on the Water

Two full days immersed in Alaska's marine wilderness. Depending on tides and weather, we may paddle up to tidewater glaciers, glide through coves filled with puffins, drift quietly past rafts of sea otters, or watch humpbacks surface in the deep-blue expanse. Every campsite is a wild beach, every paddle stroke brings new wildlife and new perspective.





July 17th

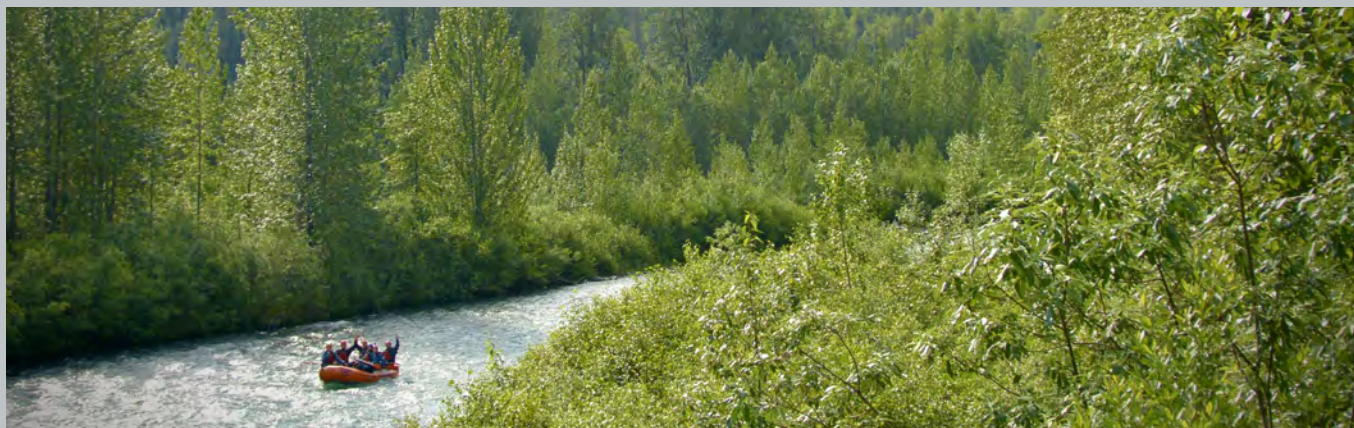
Farewell to the Fjords

Our final day on the water gives us a last chance to listen to glaciers calving and waves echoing in narrow bays. By afternoon, we catch our shuttle back to Seward, de-issue our gear, and return to camp, grateful for our second shower and a flushing toilet.

July 18th

Whitewater Finale in Hope

We depart Seward and drive north along the rugged coastline to Hope, where glacier-fed Six-Mile Creek waits to deliver one final burst of adrenaline. This world-class whitewater run is the perfect crescendo to two weeks of mountain, ice, and ocean exploration. Tonight, we celebrate together including a final debrief and a well-earned dinner out. If we're lucky, we may get to hear the echoes of a special Hope music show or enjoy an 11pm sunset on the mud flats of the Turnagain Arm for our final night of the trip.



July 19th

Homeward Through the Mountains

We savor our last camp breakfast, then follow the Seward Highway back toward Anchorage, mountains rising on one side and Turnagain Arm on the other. Flights must depart after 2 p.m. to give us a smooth journey back. We say our goodbyes to each other—and to the unforgettable wilderness that carried us from glacier peaks to ocean fjords.



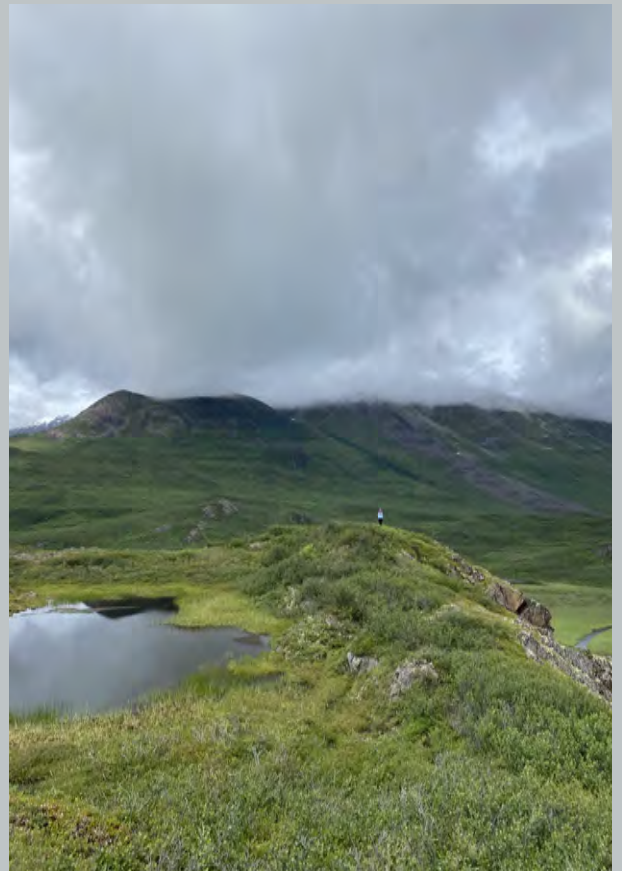
FAQs

What is included in this program?

- All lodging during in-state portion of the program.
- All cooked group meals during the scheduled in-state portion of the program. This excludes TWO dinners out at restaurants that will need to be covered by the participants.
- All adventure-based activities, including the use of technical gear needed for activities.
- Group camping equipment including tents and kitchen gear. We will be sharing tents on this trip. A detailed packing list will be shared closer to the first pre-trip meeting for the trip.
- All scheduled educational, adventure, and cultural activities.
- All In-state transportation including rental vehicles and ferry tickets.

What am I responsible for?

- Flights to and from Anchorage, Alaska. The trip officially begins at 6pm on July 6th and ends at 12pm on July 19th. Flights must be booked to align with these times.
- Personal sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and backpack. This gear can be rented from Outdoor Adventures at an additional cost if able to be picked up in person beforehand.
- All personal clothing including rain gear. A detailed packing list will be shared closer to the first pre-trip meeting for the trip.
- Extra personal snacks and meals including TWO dinners out.



What activities are included in this program?

- Camping
- Backpacking
- Ice Climbing
- Glacier travel
- Sea-kayaking
- Hiking
- Whitewater rafting



How do I apply?

- Interested individuals must apply for this program through the GlobalU portal found [here](#). Applicants will be reviewed and notified of their acceptance no later than Monday, March 23rd.
- Please be aware that even though we use the GlobalU portal, there is no academic course credit currently offered for this program. Total cost of the trip is subject to change as reservations and bookings are finalized. Any adjusted costs will be reflected in the final trip deposit.
- Once applicants are selected, they will be sent an acceptance letter with a link to pay for the program. Selected individuals will have 48 hours to accept their offer and pay their first deposit for the trip (\$1,500) to secure their spot. The second deposit will be due May 1st (\$1,000) and the third deposit will be due June 1st (\$1,000). Once deposits are paid, they cannot be refunded. The total running cost of the trip is \$3,500.

