



2026 ALASKA Bear Cubs & Puffins



Lake Clark National Park
July 6-12, 2026



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Once you learn to photograph a puffin in flight, you can shoot just about anything. They're the litmus test for taking your images to the next level.

~Sandy Coffman, Austin, TX

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THE TRIP AT A GLANCE

- 6 days and 6 nights, with 5 days in the heart of bear country to maximize viewing opportunities.
- Comfortable accommodations with modern amenities and gourmet meals.
- Small group size: 6 tour participants
- 1-hour+, round-trip flightseeing tour to and from Lake Clark and Anchorage.
- Daily photography instruction by Alaska Magazine's executive editor and award-winning photographer for the title.
- 4xs per day bear-viewing excursions along the coast and rivers.
- 1x boat trip out to puffin island to photograph horned and tufted puffins, kittiwakes, sea otters, and bald eagles.
- Fully guided for safe, up-close viewing and photography of bears.
- Focus will be on bear cubs.



Up-Close, Safe Viewing

July is when spring cubs are most likely to appear as mom's come out to go clamming. It offers a great opportunity to view cubs playing and nursing. Coastal brown bears dominate the landscape here, which is lush with purple lupine and other wildflowers. Plus, hundreds of puffins fly around puffin island! Bears in this area have grown up here without being hunted or associating humans with food. We are a part of their world, which allows us intimate access to view them without disturbing their natural habitat.

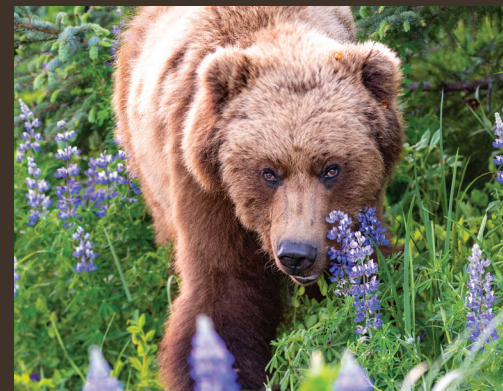
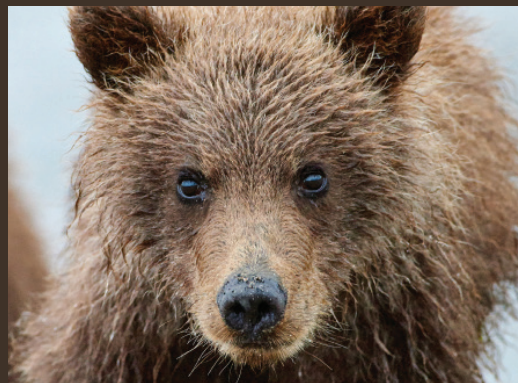
Around Silver Salmon Creek, we travel on ATVs, setting up wherever the action is. Depending on bear activity, light, and tides, we position photographers for the perfect shot, whether that be a close-up, landscape, silhouette, sunrise, or an action shot. We follow best bear-viewing practices to ensure the safety of both bears and humans. There's absolutely no other experience like this on earth. We are one of the few touring companies who will guarantee you'll see bears.



Bear Shots We'll Try to Get in the Field



Fishing action, sunrise
silhouettes, cub sparring,
portrait, landscape,
sedge-grass feeding,
reflections, nursing
cubs, clamming, fight-
ing, and sleeping



Beyond Bears...



Aerial photography, auroras, sunrise beach shots, bald eagles, puffins, and possibly wolves, and moose. Tired of wildlife? Catch a silver salmon on a fly rod!





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The fresh sashimi salmon dish they made from the fish we caught just moments earlier was the most amazing thing I've ever eaten.
~Michael Potapov, Lexington, KY

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Where We Stay, Eat, Dream, and Play

Guests share a lodge with porches and modern amenities including full bathrooms (some shared), electricity, heat, and even wi-fi. Bears frequently visit the lodge.

All guiding, activities, gear, photo instruction, and meals are included. Beyond bear viewing, guests may fly-fish, hike, sea kayak, canoe, go berry picking, and clam.

The coastal boat tour to view puffins is taken in a charter boat with a heated cabin and plenty of outdoor deck space for photography. The tour includes views of a historic cannery and a landing on Puffin Island.

Exceptional, savory meals are served in the main lodge and can accommodate dietary restrictions and allergies.

Daily photography instruction and image sharing will take place in the media room on property. One-on-one Lightroom tutorials are offered throughout the tour as requested.

Whether you are into photography or have just come for the wildlife viewing, you won't leave disappointed.



Some Other Details

DATES

July 6-12, 2026

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TRANSPORTATION

Please arrive 7/6 in Anchorage. We will meet for a group dinner at the Lakefront Millenium at 6pm to kick off the tour. Please note: Airfare to and from your departure city and Anchorage, as well as trip insurance, are not included in the trip fee. There is a free airport shuttle to the Lakefront.

Our plane charters from Anchorage to Lake Clark leave in the morning on 7/7. We return before noon on 7/11 and will catch a shuttle back to the Millenium, where guests may depart to the airport or stay in Alaska to continue their adventures or catch a flight on 7/12. If you are catching a flight home on 7/11, it should depart no earlier than 2pm.

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions:

All meals and beverages (including alcohol) starting with dinner at the Millenium on 7/6 and ending with dinner in Anchorage on 7/11.

Chartered flights to and from Lake Hood, Airport in Anchorage and Lake Clark.

Guiding, some gear (waders, hip waders, rubber boots), photography instruction, accomodations, boat trip to Puffin Island.

National park fees, lodging (7/6-7/12), and taxes.

Exclusions:

Airfare and transportation from your home city to and from Anchorage. Fishing licenses. Baggage charges. Guide and lodge staff gratuities. Recommended gear: A suggested packing list will be provided upon trip registration. Examples include: rain jacket, camera equipment, daypack, light gloves, hat. Maximum luggage weight is 50 lbs.

TRIP INSURANCE

Trip insurance is highly recommended in case of illness, weather delays, or unforeseen cancelations.

TOTAL COST

\$9,500 per person, double-occupancy

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS

A \$4,000 non-refundable deposit holds your spot. The remaining balance will be due on or before January, 1 2026. See full Terms and Conditions upon registration.

ABOUT US

See web site for FAQ and more about our company. We are a woman-owned tour company whose mission is to give wild-life-lovers an immersive, unforgettable, bucket-list experience.



To Book This Trip or Get Additional Information: Go to www.wilddepartures.com, email: info@wilddepartures.com, or call 720-635-1380.