



STORY IDEAS

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Alaska Tourism Industry Continues To Grow

The visitor industry continues to grow and so does Alaska Heritage Tours products and offerings. In May, Kenai Fjords Tours added a new environmentally sound 82.5-foot catamaran. The following month, Seward Windsong Lodge opened 36 spacious new guestrooms, bringing the total to 144 guestrooms and suites. New activities, such as geocaching (modern-day treasure hunting) at Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge, give guests fresh options for exploring the area.

Alaska's Secluded Wilderness Is Closer Than You Think!

Alaska is the perfect remote getaway - away from telephones, Internet, electricity. The Alaska wilderness is 15 minutes from downtown Anchorage, a mere 10 minutes from the seaside port of Seward, 5 minutes from historic Talkeetna and just 12 nautical miles to Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge on Fox Island. Fox Island is a beautiful wilderness setting - a stopover with meal for Kenai Fjords Tours passengers or an overnight experience for guests looking to kayak, skip rocks, or hike amidst towering spruce and soaring eagles.

Youngsters Explore Alaska's Marine Eco-Systems

The Marine Science Explorer Program gives students an opportunity for hands-on exploration beyond Alaska's water surfaces. Students are introduced to sampling techniques and lab activities to investigate seawater and plankton. They observe marine mammals and sea birds in their natural habitat and explore their adaptations. The 5-hour field trip is divided between cruising and immersing in four different learning stations: seawater analysis, plankton analysis, seabird and marine mammal adaptations, and fjord ecosystems. The goal is to encourage students to progress from lookers to observers and from information recipients to active investigators as they become more aware of the importance of protecting delicate ecosystems.

Weddings Extraordinaire!

Anyone can get married in a church - Alaska offers unique wedding venues. What could be more spectacular than saying "I do" with majestic Mount McKinley towering in the background? How about exchanging rings in front of an ancient glacier that decides to calve or before whales breaching? Southcentral Alaska is filled with dramatic wedding venues. Alaska Heritage Tours can create an experience that combines luxury and stunning views for a lifetime of memories, such as a wedding on a remote island with the reception aboard a glacier cruise.

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A Whale of a Good Time

Each spring more than 20,000 gray whales migrate more than 5,000 miles from Baja, Mexico, to Alaska's Bering Sea. Kenai Fjords Tours offers daily cruises to view and photograph these magnificent animals, along with other marine wildlife.

Talkeetna Treasure Hunt

Geocaching is the high tech way to hunt for treasure and a great family or team building activity or means of exploring Alaska's landscape. Using a hand-held GPS (global positioning system) unit, guests follow given coordinates to find "caches" - small containers with paper and a small treasure. Once found, "geocachers" sign the log, take a treasure and leave a treasure, and replace the cache in its original location for the next hunter. No GPS? No problem, rent a unit from the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge front desk for a nominal fee.

Alaska Heritages Sees a Growth in International Clientele

More and more visitors from around the globe are coming to southcentral Alaska. The numbers of visitors from Japan, Korea, and China on group tours, independent travelers from Germany and the United Kingdom staying an average of two weeks and vacationers from Australia exploring up to six weeks are on the increase.

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