



Seven Days in the Alaskan Wilderness

Complete Itinerary & Activity Plan

DISCLAIMER:

The following is a sample itinerary and will change. Our expert guides know daily where to find bears, which changes depending on the day. Also, with the weather, there may be a day or so in which we can't make it out. If that is the case, we will have lots of time for one-on-ones and photography around the lodge. With the flexibility of having our own planes, each day is its own adventure.

DAY ONE:

The following arriving at the Iliamna Airport, you will be greeted and transported to the lodge. After introductions, the crew will help get everyone's gear into their cabins.

Once you've had a chance to settle into your cabin, we'll all meet in the main lodge, where beverages and hor d'oeuvres will be waiting for us. The "great room," with its amazing panoramic views of Lake Iliamna and Roadhouse Mountain, will be our natural gathering place. You can relax, socialize, play a game of pool, or just sit back and soak in the view.

Once we've all gathered and had a chance to meet, we'll enjoy a helpful orientation to the property and the area, as well as an overview of the week ahead. We'll then enjoy a delicious meal together, and both instructors will share more about their work and what they will be teaching over the course of the workshop.



DAY TWO:

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, we will board one of the lodge's aircrafts, and our bear adventure begins! One of the main things that sets this workshop apart from most is that we will have access to a fleet of five aircraft throughout our stay. In addition, the seaplanes are capable of landing on rivers and lakes and the bush planes can land on beaches, gravel bars and ridge tops. These planes will be paired with their 12 boats, all set aside for our use.

Our goal for this day will be to capture images of coastal brown bears fishing in Katmai National Park. We will land in Katmai on a small alpine lake in one of the lodge's float planes. After landing, our guide will lead us on a short 15-minute walk, where we will find the confluence of two creeks. There we will spend the day photographing and filming bears on the creeks as they chase fish in the shallow water. Our guide has led bear-viewing trips there since 1978 and knows the area intimately. He will help to ensure that we get the best images and bear-viewing experience possible. Afterwards, we will return to the plane and begin our short flight back to the lodge.

After a delicious dinner, we will review some of the images we all captured, with the opportunity for additional image critiques and photography technique walkthroughs. Lastly, we will step through our plan for the following day.

DAY THREE:

Once we've enjoyed our full breakfast, we will fly to Brooks Falls to capture iconic images of fish jumping up the falls - often to be greeted by the jaws of countless hungry bears! Afterwards, we will land at a secluded stream to observe a bear family who is accustomed to our guides. We will be able to get quite close to capture some incredible photographs.



On our flight back to the lodge, we will fly over the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, past mount Katmai, over the giant caldera of Crater Lake, and then past Novarupta with its many steaming volcanic vents and its 30,000-year-old glaciers. We'll arrive at the lodge with appetizers already waiting, followed by another incredible dinner, image sharing and critiques as preferred.

DAY FOUR:

On this day, we will leave the lodge in the late morning, after a hearty breakfast, and arrive on the Katmai coast. We'll land on the beach in a wheeled plane equipped with tundra tires, just in time for low tide. Our mission for the day will be to photograph bears digging for clams on the coast and eating sedge grasses. It is also common to see a wolf on or near this secluded beach. There will be more walking on this day because the bears may be spread out anywhere along the tidal flats, or they may be napping in the tall grasses. After a delicious dinner, we will review some of the images we all captured, with the opportunity for additional image critiques and photography technique walkthroughs. Lastly, we will step through our plan for the following day.

DAY FIVE:

Today, some of our workshop participants will choose to fly to Twin Lakes to view and photograph the Dick Proenneke log cabin. (One Man's Wilderness). We'll shoot photos while flying over the turquoise water of Lake Clark, the Dall sheep in the higher tundra, caribou, and the extraordinary glaciers of Lake Clark National Park. The plane will touch down on Upper Twin Lake, a mere 100 yards from the historic homestead site built by Dick Proenneke. The history is well documented and preserved by the Park Service. The others off to photograph more bears via float plane.



DAY SIX:

We will spend this day traveling by our float plane to the incredibly clear waters of the Copper River. We will take rafts and float down the river, stopping to view and photograph bears at some of their favorite fishing spots. We can film and photograph striking pods of Red Salmon in the crystal water, see bears alongside and in the river, photograph a variety of birds, and perhaps catch a trophy rainbow trout, too.

After a long day on the river, we will fly back to the lodge to decompress and discuss some favorite photography techniques we've practiced over the course of the week. Together, we'll share one more amazing dinner, as well as a collection of our favorite images shot during the workshop so far.

DAY SEVEN:

After we wave our goodbyes to our newly found 600-pound furry friends we will finish up our packing, and travel as a group back to Iliamna Airport for the evening flight back to Anchorage!

(Again, please note: This is a sample itinerary and will change.)