Alaska
A Backcountry Adventure
JUNE 8–16, 2019
Featuring Climate Scientist, Dr. Chris Little *10
Dear Princetonian,

There are many ways to visit Alaska but we think the best way to experience our northernmost state’s splendor is to approach it quietly and thoughtfully on a small, group, land-based program. In the summers of 2014 and 2015, Princeton Journeys collaborated on Alaskan land programs with Alaska Wildland Adventures, the leader in lodge-based programs for the last four decades. Based on the popularity and success of these tours, we are pleased to offer a new departure for 2019.

On this exclusive program, you’ll feel the soft, bouncy tundra underfoot on naturalist-led hikes; you’ll smell blooming wildflowers and learn about fascinating flora; you’ll taste exquisite, Alaskan-inspired meals in quaint, family-style settings; you’ll smell the saltwater of the vast Pacific while traveling by boat to an exclusive land-based lodge; and you’ll see majestic mountains and iconic wildlife along the way. Our days are planned to accommodate a variety of activity levels, so choose to explore your surroundings the way you want—hiking, sea kayaking, canoeing, or just listening to the breeze while enjoying a good book. Space is limited to a small group of Princeton travelers to ensure an intimate, personalized experience in The Land of the Midnight Sun! Contact the Princeton Journeys team at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu to reserve your space today.

With kind regards,

Bridget St. Clair
Executive Manager

Meet Dr. Christopher Little

Dr. Christopher Little *10 is a climate scientist in the Oceanography Group at Atmospheric and Environmental Research, based in Lexington, MA. Prior to joining AER, he was an Associate Research Scholar at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School.

Dr. Little’s ongoing research projects focus on polar oceanography, ice sheet dynamics, and coastal sea level changes (past, present, and future). His work at the Woodrow Wilson School focused on developing transparent, updatable frameworks for projecting sea level change and applying them to local and global climate risk assessments. During this journey, Dr. Little will introduce the key processes underlying past and future sea level variability, including changes in the flow of ice sheets and Alaskan glaciers. He will highlight the ways in which climate interacts with the cryosphere and recent observations of rapid change in polar regions. He hopes that this background information will lead to lively discussions about climate and sea level projections, possible impacts on coastal regions, and societal responses to these risks.
Alaska: A Backcountry Adventure

Please join Princeton Journeys and explore amazing places in the Last Frontier.

Saturday, June 8
Arrivals to Fairbanks
Arrive independently into Alaska’s largest interior city, Fairbanks. Today, explore the Museum of the North, as well as the famed Alaska Pipeline. This evening after a full-trip orientation, enjoy dinner together as a group, and get an overview of the exciting activities and destinations that lie ahead. 
Pike’s Waterfront Lodge. (D)

Sunday, June 9
Alaska Railroad to Denali
Travel aboard the historic Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park and embark on a narrated Denali wildlife drive. After a stop for lunch, leave the crowds at the park entrance behind and travel deep into the park by a comfortable, private bus (five to six hour drive). Watch for caribou, moose, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, resident and migratory birds, and – if weather permits – gaze upon the splendor of Denali and the Alaska Range. Evening lectures on Alaskan natural and native history will be featured nightly.
Denali Backcountry Lodge. (B, L, D)

Monday, June 10
Denali
Enjoy a full day of exploration, including a guided morning hike and afternoon gold panning. Many guests find flakes of gold in Moose Creek! Optional add-on flightseeing tours will be offered during your stay at the lodge.
Denali Backcountry Lodge. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 11
Denali to Talkeetna
Following an early breakfast, embark on a scenic drive through Denali and watch for wildlife while heading for the entrance of the park. Once at the park entrance, continue the journey south to Talkeetna, for special evening programs. Experience the local flavor of a small mountain town.
Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 12
Talkeetna to Seward
Journey from interior Alaska to the stunning coastal port of Seward. Gain an up-close-and-personal vantage point of the massive Exit Glacier on a special hike.
Seward Windsong Lodge. (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 13
Kenai Fjords National Park
This morning, board a small private boat bound for Kenai Fjords National Park – home to an array of glaciers and marine wildlife including whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, puffins, and more! A scenic and spectacular half-day marine wildlife cruise will allow for an exploration of the rugged coastlines.

Home for the next two nights is the award-winning Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. This exclusive property is surrounded by a 1700-acre wildlife sanctuary, and you will enjoy special access as this is the only lodge located inside the 700,000 acre Kenai Fjords National Park! This afternoon, take a group canoe trip to acclimate yourself to the property. Enjoy dinner and evening presentations on coastal Alaskan issues, such as global climate change.
Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)

Friday, June 14
Kenai Fjords National Park
Explore the wild delights of Kenai Fjords National Park for a full day. Amazing kayaking, canoeing, and nature walks fill the day—with options to satisfy all, from the rank beginner to the outdoors expert. Free time late this afternoon will allow you to enjoy the private deck views from your cabin before dinner together in the lodge.
Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. (B, L, D)

Saturday, June 15
Kenai Fjords National Park to Anchorage
This morning allows another opportunity to kayak, canoe, or beach comb for a half day before the return wildlife cruise to Seward. Board the historic Alaska Railroad for a scenic backcountry rail tour, and enjoy a festive farewell dinner on the train. Arrive Anchorage in the evening.
The Lakefront Anchorage. (B, L, D)

Sunday, June 16
Departures
This morning, visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center, featuring amazing exhibits and local artisans, followed by airport shuttles for your flights home. (B)

Included meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner
Alaska: A Backcountry Adventure

What to Expect

Travelers on this journey should be in average physical shape and comfortable walking at least one mile on uneven terrain (unpaved nature paths), at a casual pace, with ample stops for water breaks.

A typical day will include up to four or five hours of outdoor activity. Evenings will feature free time to relax in private guest cabins or enjoy educational lectures and presentations on various topics such as Alaskan natural and cultural history. Activities on this trip are led by expert naturalist guides who hold safety certifications and Wilderness First Aid Responder licenses. When in “bear country,” guides will provide thorough safety briefings for all travelers.

Please be prepared for any type of weather. Often, temperatures are between the 40s and 60s in the summer, but it could be warmer or cooler. Typically the weather during the summer months is surprisingly mild. It rains in every month of the summer. For this week-long program, guests should plan for at least one day of rain.

Tour Details

Tour Cost – $6395 per adult/$5495 per youth (7-18) based on double occupancy. $7395 for single occupancy. $250 per person can be deducted for triple and quad occupancy (generally in two double beds), if available.

Includes – All accommodations, meals as indicated, including wine/beer at welcome and farewell dinners; non-alcoholic drinks including potable or bottled water; all transportation as noted; all transfers and luggage handling within the program; hotel/airport transfers (provided by the hotels in Fairbanks and Anchorage at beginning and end of program); park user fees; gear and equipment for outdoor activities; all guided activities; services of a professional Trip Leader; evening discussions and lectures.

Not Included – Airfare, beer, wine, liquor, local taxes (approximately $100 per person), optional flightseeing tour, additional accommodations or activities outside of program description, trip cancellation insurance.

Insurance – As a service to its travelers, the Office of Alumni Affairs of Princeton University automatically provides all Princeton Journeys participants with basic medical, accident, and evacuation coverage under a group travel insurance policy. It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Air Arrangements – Travelers are responsible for arranging their airfare to and from Alaska. For assistance in arranging flights, feel free to contact your travel agent or Alaska Travel Source at 907-562-2213 or info@alaskatravelsource.com. Alaska Travel Source is a recommended travel agency of our tour operator, Alaska Wildland Adventures (AWA).

Arrival: Travelers should schedule inbound flights to the Fairbanks International Airport to arrive before 2:30 pm on June 8, 2019. Departure: Travelers should schedule return flights home departing the Anchorage International Airport on June 16, 2019, after noon time.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Written cancellations must be received in writing by the Princeton Journeys office in order to be valid. Non-appearance for the program will result in no refund. Advance purchase of trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Cancellation penalties will be levied as follows:

More than 90 days prior to departure .................................. $600 per person
89 to 45 days prior to departure ........................... 50% of per person trip cost
Within 45 days prior to departure ........................... 100% of per person trip cost

University Disclaimer

Princeton University, through its Office of Alumni Affairs and Princeton Journeys, is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends. The Office of Alumni Affairs strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family.

Please note that the University does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.
Reservation Form  Alaska: A Backcountry Adventure

To reserve a space on this tour, please send your registration form and deposit check for $1000 per person, payable to Alaska Wildland Adventures, to Princeton Journeys, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, New Jersey 08542-0291. You may register by phone by calling Princeton Journeys at (609) 258-8686. Final Payment is due by 90 days prior to departure, payable by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

Please reserve ........ place(s) on Alaska: A Backcountry Adventure, June 8 - 16, 2019

Name(s) ......................................................................................................................................................... Princeton Affiliation ................................................

Name(s) ......................................................................................................................................................... Princeton Affiliation ...............................................

Address .......................................................................................................................................................... Email ....................................................................

City ................................................................................................................................................................ State ....................................................... Zip ..........................................................

Telephone (evening) ....................................................................................................................... (day) .......................................................................................................................................

Enclosed is a deposit of US$ ........................................................ ($1000 per person; check payable to Alaska Wildland Adventures)

Or, charge my deposit on  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Discover  Credit card number ..........................................................

Expiration Date 3-Digit Verification No. ......................

Name on card ...................................................................................................... Signature of cardholder ..........................................................................................

A Participant Agreement Form (which includes a Release of Liability, Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks) will be forwarded to each applicant upon receipt of deposit (or upon request) and will need to be signed by each participant prior to departure.

I/We have read and agree to the University Disclaimer for this tour (included in this brochure).

Signature(s) .......................................................................................................................................................... Date .............................................................