

2006 RV Trip - Alaska

Day 1 (July 15) – Home to Anchorage to Homestead RV Park (42 miles; 1 hours)

Pickup RV

Food shop at Fred Meyer's in Anchorage

Drive north to Denali National Park via Route 1 and the George Parks Highway

Stay at Homestead RV Park in Palmer

Great view of the Matanuska Valley

Run on trails through campground and down into the Valley

Day 2 (July 16) – Drive to Denali National Park (230 miles, 5.5 hours)

Drive the George Parks Highway to Denali National Park

At Mile 57.5 stop at Miller's Place for the best soft ice cream in Alaska

Good views of Denali (weather permitting) at Miles 78, 107.6, 135.2, 162.4

Stop at Denali Visitor Center to pick up Tek Passes and Camping Permit

Drive to Teklanika, stopping for pictures along the way

Stay at Teklanika River Campground

Day 3 (July 17) – Stay at Denali National Park (0 Miles, 0 hours)

7:15 shuttle to Wonder Lake

11 hour out and back shuttle ride – numerous stops and photo opportunities

Great wildlife viewing – grizzlies, caribou, wolves, moose, etc.

Stay at Teklanika River Campground

Day 4 (July 18) – Drive south to Portage Glacier (321 Miles, 7 hours)

Before leaving Denali, stop to see Sled Dog Demonstration

Drive back towards Anchorage via the George Parks Highway

Stop in Anchorage and food shop at Fred Meyer's

After Anchorage, drive south via Seward Highway

Stop at various scenic viewpoints along the Turnagain Arm – very scenic

Beluga Point at Mile 110.4 has commanding views of Turnagain Arm

At Mile 78.9, take the Porter Glacier Road

Stay at the National Forest Service Williwaw Campground near Portage Glacier

Day 5 (July 19) – Portage Glacier (Total 0 miles, 0 hour)

Hike the Nature Trail from Williwaw Campground to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

Tour the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

Watch the award-winning film "Voices from the Ice"

Hike the Byron Glacier Trail to the snowfield of Byron Glacier – play in the snow

Meet Kalchbrenners at campground

Stat at Williwaw Campground again

Day 6 (July 20) – Ninilchik and Homer (182 miles, 4 hours)

Continue south on Seward Highway until junction with Sterling Highway at Mile 37.7

Take the Sterling Highway west towards Homer

Stop in the historic village of Ninilchik on Cook Inlet

Walk the old village

Visit the old Russian Orthodox Church upon the hill overlooking the village

Continue the drive to Homer

Mile 170 – Scenic overlook of Kachemak Bay
Stay at Homer Spit Campground at end of spit
Fish from beach at end of Spit

Day 7 (July 21) – Homer (0 miles, 0 hours)

Switch campsite to one along the beach
Drive the scenic 20-mile East End Road from Homer and out along Kachemak Bay
Eat lunch at the Fritz Creek General Store
Fish for salmon at the famous Homer Fishing Hole
Go for run along the Homer Spit bike path
Stay at Homer Spit Campground again

Day 8 (July 22) – Homer (0 miles, 0 hours)

Take a ½ day Halibut charter
Fish again for salmon at the Homer Fishing Hole
Take photographs of the bald eagles that frequent the beach
Explore the shops and galleries along the Spit
Have a beer at the Salty Dawg Saloon
Stay at Homer Spit Campground again

Day 9 (July 23) – Homer to Seward (176 miles, 3.5 hours)

Drive the 176 miles to Seward along the Sterling and then the Seward Highway
Stop in Soldotna and food shop at Fred Meyer's
Drive the muddy 3-mile dirt road out to Miller's Landing Campground on Lowell Point,
3 miles south of town
Hang out in the lodge and listen to the evening musical entertainment – Ken Waldman,
Alaska's Fiddling Poet
Celebrate Tommy's 15th Birthday
Stay at Miller's Landing Campground

Day 10 (July 24) –Seward (10 miles, .5 hours)

Drive the horrible muddy dirt road into Seward
Tour the Alaskan Sea Life Center
Walk around historic Seward
Have dinner at Ray's Waterfront Restaurant
Shop along 4th Avenue
Drive back along the horrible road
Hang out in cozy lodge again playing cards
Stay again at Miller's Landing Campground

Day 11 (July 25) –Seward (0 miles, 0 hours)

All-day hike along beach to Tonsina Beach, Caines Head State Park
Hang out in cozy lodge again playing cards
Stay again at Miller's Landing Campground

Day 12 (July 26) – Seward to Russian River (56 miles, 1.25 hours)

Stop at Exit Glacier – part of Kenai Fjords National Park
Hike the Lower Loop Trail to the foot of the glacier
Play in the ice cold water of the outwash plain

Continue driving to Russian River Campground
Stop at tackle shop to determine strategy and buy supplies
Hike the Lower Russian Lakes Trail to the Russian River Falls
Stay at the Russian River Campground

Day 13 (July 27) – Russian River (0 miles, 0 hours)

Hike the Fisherman’s Path to the River
Hike along the river to the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers
Fish for trout and salmon
Photograph the grizzly bears that hang out down by the river

Day 14 (July 28) – Russian River to Hope (53 miles; 1.75 hours)

Drive the 53 miles from Russian River to Hope
Walk around the historic village
Shop at Sourdough Drus Gold & Gifts
Fish for pink salmon in the Resurrection Creek
Stay at Porcupine Campground - on a mountainside overlooking Turnagain Arm

Day 15 (July 29) – Hope to Anchorage - 84 miles, 2.25 hours

Drive to Anchorage and return RV
Fly home

Total Trip Mileage: 1154 miles
Average Miles per Day: 77 miles per day