



Alaska Trip Proposal for Aspen Country Day School Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive via ferry from Juneau. If group wanted to camp, we could set up camp in town, at the port Chilkoot campground. Showers are available, and campground is within walking distance of everything in town. In the evening, group would get together and discuss plan for upcoming days. Dinner is provided in the campground.

Day 2: Meet at 8:00 in the morning. We would dive right into gear sorting. Make sure that group has everything they need for first wilderness segment – Mountaineering on Flower Mountain

After packing up the rigs, we'll pack a lunch for the road, and stop in at the bald eagle foundation. The American Bald Eagle Foundation provides students with insight into the natural history of Southeast Alaska. It includes an aviary, and a ½ hour talk by a professional naturalist.

On our way out of town, we'll stop by the fish wheels, talk about salmon and bald eagles, and the history of the Chilkat valley. The valley, also known as the Valley of the Eagles, has unique cultural and ecological characteristics. We will arrange for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to speak with the students about salmon, their habitat and role in the ecosystem of Southeast Alaska. We'll continue to Porcupine, an abandoned mining town during the time of the Klondike Gold Rush, and talk about the historical significance. Here we will change vehicles to 4x4 vehicles for the drive up to flower mountain. Upon arriving at the end of the road, we'll make camp, and if time permits go over some basic mountaineering techniques.(B, L, and D)

Day 3: Flower mountain is a unique location that gives us access to glaciated peaks, and beautiful alpine meadows in a wilderness setting. We'll explore the alpine tundra, give a glaciology lesson, cover basic mountaineering skills for safe travel on the snow, and attempt a moderate peak ascent. (B, L, and D)

Day 4: We'll have more time for exploring the mountains in the morning, and depart back for Haines in the afternoon. In the afternoon, we'll visit Alaska Indian Arts, world renowned for native Tlingit totem carvings, and learn about some of the local native art that the Chilkat valley is famous for.

We will camp back at the port Chilkoot campground in Haines. (B, L, and D)

Day 5: Town day:

Sheldon Museum – after breakfast we'll visit the Sheldon Museum in Haines. Students will learn the history and culture that make Haines what it is today.



We'll take a short hike midday out to Battery Point for a picnic lunch. This is an ideal opportunity for students to learn about the flora of Southeast Alaska. Students will walk amongst the northern reaches of the largest temperate rainforest in the world, explore the variety of beach grasses and flowers, and learn about isostatic rebound.

After the hike, students will attend a talk given by the Takshanuk Watershed Council. The mission of the Takshanuk Watershed Council is to provide stewardship of the Chilkat, Chilkoot and Ferebee River systems nearby

Haines, Alaska. Through restoration, education, research and community involvement the organization strives to benefit the natural ecology, economy and quality of life valued by all residents. The talk will give students perspective on some of the conservation issues present in the local community.

In the evening, we'll visit Chilkoot State Park and try and see some brown bears fishing in the salmon rich waters of the Chilkoot River. The bears generally feed in the evening, and the likelihood of seeing bears in early August is high. Students will learn about bears in their natural environment and how to practice bear safety in the backcountry.

Day 6: sea kayaking - in the morning we'll do another gear check, make sure everyone has what they need for sea kayaking. Students will learn basic sea kayaking skills prior to hitting the water. We'll embark from Letnikof cove and paddle south to Moose meadows and make camp.



This area provides the ideal classroom for learning about the maritime environment of southeast Alaska.

Whales, Sea lions, eagles, and moose are frequently sighted in this area.

Day 7: Sea kayaking - if weather allows, we'll paddle south to seduction point, a good spot to see humpback whales. Students will also practice Leave No Trace ethics and minimum impact camping.

Day 8: Sea kayaking/Davidson - we'll break down camp and make our way back to Chilkat state park. From here, we'll swap out kayak gear, for a bit of ice climbing gear, and travel over to Glacier Point by motor boat.

Day 9: Davidson – From the beach, we'll hike for 2 miles up to the base of the glacier, and establish a camp alongside the glacier. The hike up to the face of the glacier provides students with a unique perspective on isostatic rebound and glacial retreat. The bare rocks provide insight into the geologic history of Southeast Alaska. In the afternoon, students will have the opportunity to safely climb up onto the thousand year old ice.

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Day 10: Davidson - after morning on the ice and some vertical ice climbing, we'll break down camp, hike back to the beach, and return to Haines.





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Day 11: Blanchard - early morning start, drive up to the Blanchard for a day of white water rafting. Exciting class III and IV rapids. Everyone is outfitted with wetsuits, helmets, life jackets, and its super fun! We'll return to Haines in the evening. We will be driving into Canada, so everyone will need to have identification in order to cross the border. The drive into the interior crosses numerous ecological zones and is an educational experience in its own right.

Day 12: Depart by ferry for Juneau. (Breakfast provided)

Included: group camping equipment, professional guides and instructors, all ground transportation, all group climbing and kayaking gear, camping/lodging in Haines, food in Haines

Not Included: Personal clothing and equipment, travel to Haines, sales tax

