

UCLA Alumni

UCLA Alumni Association
James West Alumni Center
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397



Join us! ... See the Greatest
Light Show on Earth!

ALASKA Aurora Borealis!

March 11-17, 2010

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Alaska Aurora Borealis

Come see the Greatest Light Show on Earth!

March 11-17, 2010

UCLA Alumni

Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

This March, travel to Alaska to experience the famed Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, the greatest light show on Earth!

Begin the adventure in **Anchorage**, situated at the head of the Cook Strait and at the foot of the Chugach Mountains, whose spectacular peaks define the coast of Alaska. Drive to **Seward**, near Kenai Fjords National Park, and visit the Alaska Sea Life Center to see sea otters, seabirds, and a profusion of Alaska's marine life. Also see grizzlies and bald eagles.

The following day travel on the classic train journey from Anchorage to **Fairbanks**, passing one of North America's most majestic mountains, the **20,320-foot Mt. McKinley**.

In Fairbanks, enjoy the annual winter **World of Ice Art Festival** and learn about the Aurora Borealis at a scientific institute. The Fairbanks region is just south of the Aurora Oval, making it a great vantage point to observe this magnificent phenomenon.

Visit the **Geophysical Institute** at the University of Alaska, which was established to study the Aurora and its effects. These studies have continued from the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58 to the present time, and have added greatly to understanding the unique interactions between the sun and earth in the polar regions.

Stay at the comfortable **Sophie Station Hotel** in Fairbanks while enjoying excursions to the **Geophysical Institute, Mt. Aurora, Creamer's Field** and many other activities reserved for our group. A highlight is the chance to photograph the Aurora from the new Aurora-viewing facility at **Alpencrest Observatory**.

The afternoons are yours to discover other delights of this snowy wonderland. Visit a kennel of sled dogs and learn about the art of mushing. The local **Curling Club** will demonstrate this popular winter sport. Also visit the **Poker Flat Research Range** which launches rockets to study the Aurora Borealis.



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www.skyscapes.com

Based on the pre-trip interest we expect this trip to sell out. Please make your reservations today!

Sincerely,

Christel Paillet
Director, Alumni Travel

Telephone: 310-206-0613
Toll Free: 800-UCLAAlumni (825-2586)
Fax: 310-209-4271
Email: AlumniTravel@UCLAAlumni.net
Web: www.UCLAAlumni.net/Travel

Costs & Conditions

(CONTINUED)

If you have any questions, please consult your physician before you register. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery who would like to explore the day and night winter wonderland of our 49th state with an excellent leader.

Expedition Fee Includes:

Land transport by coach, train, or vans; six nights accommodations in first-class hotels, twin share with bath; six breakfasts, one lunch, and three dinners; group transfers; group entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include:

Airfare to Anchorage with return from Fairbanks; four lunches, three dinners; independent airport transfers; optional activities; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, soda, snacks, or personal insurance.

Airfares & Airline Ticketing:

Please book your flights to arrive in Anchorage by 4:00 pm on March 11 and to depart Fairbanks after 11:00 am on March 17.

Reservations, Deposits and

Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form to:

UCLA Alumni Association
Attn: Alumni Travel
James West Alumni Center
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397

The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$200 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of \$200 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. All cancellations must be sent in writing to the UCLA Alumni Travel office.



Questions?

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Toll Free 800-825-2586

Fax 310-209-4271

AlumniTravel@UCLAAlumni.net

www.UCLAAlumni.net/Travel

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and the UCLA Alumni Association act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercise every care possible. We can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Photographs courtesy

of Dennis Mammana

CST# 2036304-40

Itinerary

Day 1 Home to Anchorage

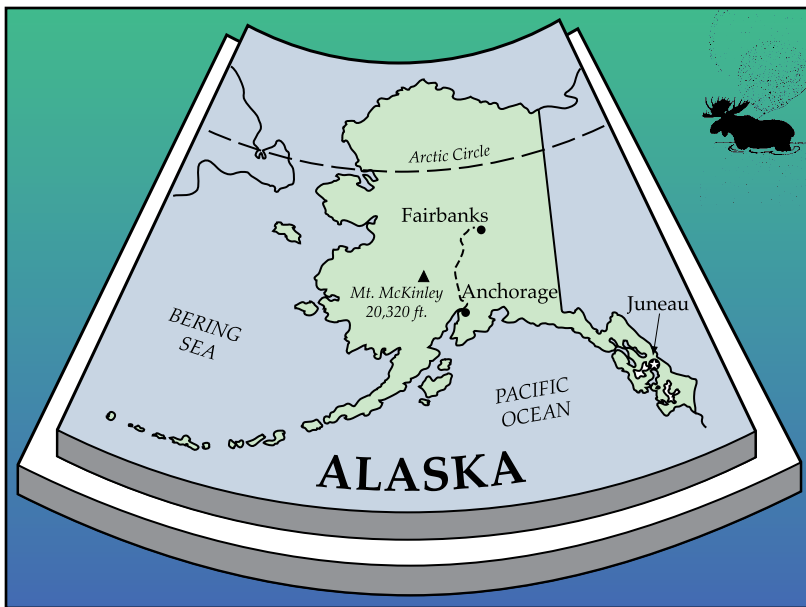
Expedition members fly from their nearest gateway city to Anchorage, Alaska. Transfer on your own to our Anchorage hotel (2 nights). Afternoon at leisure, or visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for a fascinating introduction to the people and wildlife of Alaska. Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. (D)

Day 2 Seward & Resurrection Bay

Today we travel south through the Chugach National Forest to the fishing village of Seward adjacent to Kenai Fjords National Park. Seward is named for U.S. Secretary of State, William Seward, who convinced Congress to buy Alaska from Russia in 1867 for less than 2 cents per acre. Here, we explore the excellent Alaska Sea Life Center. We see much of the marine life of the North Pacific, seabirds developing their breeding plumage, sea otters, and more! Afternoon return to Anchorage via the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. (B,L)

Day 3 Anchorage to Fairbanks by Train

After breakfast board the famous Alaska Railroad for a scenic journey from Anchorage, along the Cook Inlet and inland to Fairbanks, situated in the interior of this vast state. The rail trip takes about twelve hours, with stops along the way to allow locals to get to and from their homes when snow blocks many of the smaller roads. In winter, the views of Mt. McKinley, at 20,320 feet, can be outstanding with clear skies. The train has a dining car for meals. Arrive in Fairbanks and transfer to *Sophie Station Hotel* (4 nights). (B)



Day 4 Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska

This morning enjoy an introduction to the Aurora Borealis at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The Institute has a long history of Aurora research that continues today. Learn about the different types of Auroras, the colors, movements, and current research. Sound at different wavelengths is also emitted by Auroras, but whether a human can hear the sounds has long been debated.

Also visit the University of Alaska Museum of the North today. Here, see examples of the many peoples who inhabit interior Alaska and displays of both migratory and non-migratory wildlife. Also visit the Large Animal Research Station to learn about their research and see the musk ox and caribou at the facility.

Following dinner on your own, we drive to the wildlife refuge, Creamer's Field, to be joined by local star gazers to view the night sky, and the Aurora Borealis. (B)

Day 5 Poker Flat & Mt. Aurora

This morning have a late breakfast and then enjoy a late morning lecture. After lunch visit the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the 800-mile-long pipe that carries crude oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez for shipment by enormous oil tankers to the "lower 48." Continue northeast of Fairbanks through rounded, snow-covered schist hills which were a focus of gold mining at the turn of the century.

Then visit the Poker Flat Research Range. Poker Flat is the world's only university-owned and operated rocket range. The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research. The facility houses a geophysical observatory, telemetry receiving stations, and rocket assembly. We continue to Mt. Aurora for a lodge dinner and evening Aurora viewing. Late return to *Sophie Station*. (B,D)

Day 6 Sled Dogs, Ice Festival, and Aurora Borealis

After a late breakfast, continue our lecture program. After lunch visit a kennel of dogs and learn about the art of raising sled dogs and driving dogsleds through the Alaskan wilderness. Then learn about the sport of curling at the Fairbanks Curling Club. Later in the day, visit the Fairbanks famed World of Ice Art Festival. Here, tantalizing images of moose, swans, and other fanciful works of imagination have been carved from massive blocks of ice and illuminated by colored lights to enhance the effects of size and realism. Farewell dinner.

Tonight watch and photograph the Aurora from the new Aurora-viewing facility, Alpencrest Observatory, outside of Fairbanks. Some may choose to photograph the star trails and these dark nights might be a time to experience some of the hearty beverages that keep away the cold. (B,D)

Day 7 Fairbanks to Home

After breakfast, transfer to the Fairbanks Airport. Connect with a flight to Anchorage and fly to the "lower 48" states. (B)



Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$2,795 per person twin share for 7 days (plus approximately \$695 + tax air fare from Los Angeles to Anchorage, Alaska, with return from Fairbanks).

Singles: We encourage singles to register on a "twin share" basis. Should you desire single accommodations, the single supplement is \$525. If you do not have a roommate and we cannot assign one, you must pay the single supplement.

What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy seeing the great beauty of Alaska in winter, including "the greatest light show on earth"—the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Visit Resurrection Bay for the winter wildlife and great scenery. Travel on the classic train journey from Anchorage to Fairbanks, passing North America's greatest mountain, 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley en route. See ice sculptures in Fairbanks, and learn about the Aurora Borealis at a scientific institute. Also visit the Alaska Museum and musk ox research facility. Evenings we will view the Aurora at Mt. Aurora, Creamer's Field, and Alpencrest Observatory. Typically, it will be from 15° to 35°F during the days; with temperatures dropping to 10° to -10°F at night.

OVER

Overview of the Aurora Borealis

The colorful Aurora Borealis is produced by a combination of solar winds and excited gases surrounding the Earth's magnetic field. The Earth has polarity with magnetic field lines radiating outward and connecting back on themselves. As the solar wind blows against and across the field lines it produces electricity, like a generator. The electricity, mostly electrons, flows most easily along the magnetic field lines. As the electrons collide with upper atmospheric atoms and molecules, they become "excited", and emit light that is a characteristic of each atom or molecule, thus producing the light we see as the Aurora. The Aurora colors can range from white to green to yellow, and red, with many shades in between.

The solar wind is the energy behind the Aurora. When the solar winds increase during a solar sun cycle or with an intense explosion, a solar flare, or increased amounts of energy, collides with the earth's magnetic field. During the increased interaction the Auroras are more intensely colored and can fill the night sky with color from horizon to horizon.

In 1963, scientists discovered that Auroras form a band encircling each polar region, the Aurora Oval. The oval band width varies between 200 and 800 miles in a single day and can move hundreds of miles in latitude. The Aurora Oval is fixed in relation to the Sun as the Earth rotates under the oval each day, making it a very dynamic phenomenon. Many Aurora Oval photos have been taken from space which have allowed scientists to better measure the daily movements of the Aurora.

Reservations

#1123

Yes! I/We want to join the **UCLA Alumni Alaska Aurora Borealis Expedition, March 11-17, 2010.** Please reserve _____ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: home (____) _____ cell (____) _____

E-mail _____

Accommodations Preference:

Twin Single Twin Share with a friend *or* assign a roommate

Nonsmoker Smoker

I accept the conditions as stated in this brochure and submit my reservation(s) as indicated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Mail To: UCLA Alumni Association
Attn: Alumni Travel
James West Alumni Center
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397

UCLA Alumni Travel is a benefit of membership in the UCLA Alumni Association. We require all alumni and friends to join the Alumni Association to use our services. You may invite one companion to travel with you as a guest on your membership.

Yes, I am a member of the Alumni Association

No, I am not a member. Please send me an application to join

Expedition Leader

Leading the expedition will be **Bob Nansen**. Bob is an excellent naturalist and expedition leader for Betchart Expeditions Inc., from Alaska to Hawaii, and Tahiti to Antarctica. He has had a long and successful career as a field biologist and as Field Operations Coordinator for Betchart Expeditions Inc. and developed the popular Alaska Aurora Borealis trip.

Bob graduated from San Jose State University in biology and then headed to the Galapagos Islands where he helped set up the first trails in Galapagos National Park and worked as a naturalist guide. He has a special interest in astronomy and the Aurora Borealis, and looks forward to sharing the delights of Alaska and its spectacular wintertime skies.

