

Prof. Richard D. Little invites you to join our 2016

"Fantastic Landscapes" Tour to ALASKA

July 27 - Aug. 9, 2016. Cost (estimate) \$4200 pp/do includes 3 nights at North Face Lodge, 90 mi. IN Denali National Park! Air fare not included.



Moose family, Denali.



Your tour leaders at Portage Lake & Glacier.



It's an easy and amazing walk on the Matanuska Glacier.

It's our 32nd year of Fantastic Landscapes Tours. Don't spend days on a boat or train in Alaska!
Explore with us! We know the best places!

**** THIS TOUR INCLUDES A very special treat: 3 nights at the unique North Face Lodge, 90 miles IN Denali National Park, surrounded by wildlife, tundra wilderness and views of Mt. McKinley.**

ABOUT THE TOUR Are you ready to see the world's highest mountain (from base to top) and explore what has been called America's "Serengeti" -- the great expansive tundra environment with bears, caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, eagles and moose while staying in a remote (but full service) wilderness lodge? Are you excited about seeing glaciers calving icebergs into the sea or creating moraines as they slowly move down U-shaped valleys? Have you ever wished you knew more about the fascinating stories that rocks and landscapes have to tell? Well, this is the trip for you!

Our small group will see and experience the wonders of the Earth as we explore the incredible Alaska landscape. This is indeed the best place in the world to see well as active glaciers and rivers scraping and shaping their

McKinley view near North Face Lodge

valleys. In the course of our two-week excursion, we'll see the best cross section of what makes Alaska famous.

Alaska is huge, but *this tour minimizes travel time and maximizes "being there,"* so you can get out and see this magnificent land. Because we use rental mini-vans (with 2-way radios) you have *flexibility of travel* that is not found with most other tours. You can, as much as possible, do what you want to do. You'll get the "story behind the scenery" with your tour leader, geologist Richard Little, plus meet and enjoy people who have similar interests in the natural world. Optional excursions include rafting or fishing for salmon in meltwater streams, boat trips to iceberg-calving glaciers, small plane flight-seeing, plus the best nature walks and hikes in tundra, taiga, glacier, shoreline, and maritime rainforest environments. You can view, explore, shop, hike and/or fish in the wilderness, and, after a "hard" day of vacationing, feast on Alaska salmon, halibut, crab..... In short, we have a lot of fun in a landscape of exceptional beauty, as we learn about diverse ecosystems and geologic processes that shape "Mother Earth".



air view, Kenai Fjords Nat. Park, near Seward

The Itinerary.....Day 1. Arrival in Anchorage. **2 & 3.** Anchorage: A fascinating city with time for explorations, plus a look at coastal fjords, mountains and glaciers including famed Portage Glacier with its world-class Visitors Center. We will travel along the spectacular glacier-eroded coast of Turnagain Arm and take some easy, short hikes along the shore of the moraine-dammed Portage Lake with a scenic cruise across the lake to the calving front of Portage Glacier. Then enjoy an easy walk up the adjacent valley, along a gushing meltwater stream, to Byron Glacier, with its many scenic landforms of ice and rock. **4, 5, 6.** Super Scenic Seward & the Kenai Peninsula. Take a day-cruise into steep-sided, glacier carved fjords to see glaciers calve & multitudes of wildlife in **Kenai Fjords National Park**. See salmon spawning. Explore the town, the new museum, and safe, beautiful, well-maintained trails in the surrounding coast and mountains. We will walk around the terminus of one the most scenic blue-ice glaciers and perhaps take a scenic flight over the Harding Ice Cap. **7, 8.** Palmer and the Matanuska Glacier area. Here is one of the most incredible glacial experiences in the world. This great valley glacier lies exposed and easily accessible! Lots of amazing glacial landforms and

processes! Lodging at the historic Colony Inn. **9.** Depart for **Denali National Park**. Short walks & scenic stops along the way, including a picnic site with views of Mt McKinley and a visit with an Iditarod race veteran (from Massachusetts) and dog team. Overnight at the park entrance. **10, 11, 12** Into Denali: 1pm departure for our spectacular, 90-mile, 6 hr trip along the National Park road to the unique North Face Lodge. Expect lots of wildlife and spectacular landscapes in the “shadow” of Mt. McKinley. A variety of hiking destinations from easy to challenging will be available. The most amazing big mountains and tiny tundra plants will surround us. Sublime! [See the *North Face Lodge section (below)*] **13.** Early morning departure along the Park road, then on to the scenic village of Talkeetna. Taking a scenic flight to Mt. McKinley plus salmon fishing are options. **14.** Last activities & return to Anchorage. <<<<<<< **NORTH FACE LODGE** Located 90 miles within Denali National Park in the shadow of Mt. McKinley, the lodge is a unique wilderness retreat for those seeking an in depth experience in the sub-arctic. While other park visitors need to take the 6 hour National Park “wildlife” bus tours along the park road (3 hours in and 3 hours return -- no private vehicles allowed), we have a much more leisurely 6 hour bus trip bus trip (one-way) much deeper into the Park, to our lodge, with a gourmet picnic along the way. Our driver/naturalists are experts at finding wildlife and interpreting nature’s stories. North Face Lodge provides accommodations in well appointed rooms with private bath. Delicious meals and fresh baked goods are featured in the dining room. Designed with the atmosphere of a comfortable north country guest house, the lodge features a spacious living room with stone fireplace, dining room, large patio and covered porch... all with incredible views of Mt. McKinley. The Lodge provides daily guided nature walks and hikes with a staff of knowledgeable naturalists, searching for wolves, moose and caribou as well as nesting birds and wildflowers. Nightly programs focus on some aspect of Denali’s natural and cultural history. **In addition to guided activities, mountain bikes, canoes and fishing equipment are also available.** North Face Lodge may not be for everyone. But if you desire an experience away from the tempo of modern living and enjoy the camaraderie of kindred souls, you will not be disappointed. <><> If you go to Alaska **without us**, stay at North Face Lodge. Phone (907) 683-2290 or online at www.campdenali.com. (**NOTE -- Our group has reservations.**) <><><><> **OTHER QUESTIONS ----- Who goes on these “Fantastic Landscapes” Tours?** Everybody...teachers, families with older kids, to eighty-somethings. **How strenuous is the “hiking”?** If you like “nature walks” you’ll love our outings. Some people plan more strenuous activities than others, and our daily activities are geared to *meet everyone’s goals, as much as possible*. **Where do we stay?** We book high quality lodgings in scenic, convenient settings. **Who does the driving?** We use rental vans and full-size cars with volunteer drivers. We buy the maximum extra liability insurance and we have 2-way radios for communication. **I don’t know any geology! Should I go on this tour?** Yes! Come and learn how to read the “record in the rocks the history in a grain of sand” and appreciate fantastic landscapes! **Where do we eat?** Except for North Face Lodge (where excellent, gourmet food is included), you are on your own for eating. For many lunches we will picnic in beautiful settings. **Why THIS is the BEST 2-WEEK ALASKA TOUR --** 1. **Travel with a geologist** to unlock the secrets of the rocks and landscapes. Your tour leader has decades of experience with geology and education. 2. **Don’t take the bus, train, or boat!** ...especially in Alaska. You must get out into the environment to really appreciate the land and wildlife. With our tour, you will have flexibility to stop for that great view, smell the flowers, follow the moose... 3. Go with our small group and have a helpful group of friends to share with. 4. The cost is “LOW” for what you get! We pass the group savings on to you! Check out other tours, and see how much you’ll save (and they don’t have reservations at North Face Lodge). 5. Can’t remember what happened on day 3? You will get a DVD, edited, with music and narration. Your tour leader, Richard Little, is prof. emeritus of geology at Greenfield Community College, author of 2 books and 2 videos on Connecticut Valley geology, and has been leading “Fantastic Landscapes” tours since 1981. Suzanne Little, our plant expert, has degrees in social work and biology. Want to see participants’ comments or talk with one? Give me a call or email. <><>

JOIN US -- Reserve your space asap since this very popular tour has limited openings.

+ Send \$500 per person deposit (check to “Earth View LLC”) to hold your space, fully refundable until October 31st. \$1500 payments are due Jan. 15th & May 1st, balance due June 1st .

Cancellation fees: Please note that our Alaska trip involves charges at the unique North Face and other lodgings that are non-refundable unless that reserved space is resold. Our cancellation fees reflect this. You might consider buying travel insurance. The Fees (refunded if your space is resold): After October 31st: \$150; after January 31st \$400; after March 20th: \$2000. No refunds after July 1st.

Any questions? Please give me a call or email.

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