



Please see the **NOTICES ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.

Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to potential COVID-19 regulations.



Alaska: Juneau Wilderness & Glacier Adventure™

Explore remote Southeastern Alaska while supporting public land rebuilding efforts in the largest national forest system and learning about Native Alaskan cultures.

OVERVIEW

Journey to one of the only two state capitals that are inaccessible by road — Juneau — where you'll learn about environmental stewardship, public lands and the Native populations that have called Southeast Alaska home for more than 10,000 years. Juneau is situated within Tongass National Forest, the largest in the U.S. forest system, which means that your home away from home and playground will be a temperate rainforest, the perfect backdrop against which to learn about public land management and trail infrastructure and rebuilding. Juneau is also known for its endless outdoor adventure activities, so be ready to hike, kayak, go boating and explore glaciers, rivers and forests.

14-DAY PROGRAM

June 18 – July 1, 2023

Tuition: \$6,499
Service Hours: 30
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 25
Age Range: 14-18
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Airport: JNU

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Work and play in the Tongass National Forest, the largest in the U.S. (by more than 11 million acres)
- ★ Hike to Mendenhall glacier and explore the wildlife-rich waters around Juneau's ports
- ★ Volunteer on trail building initiatives with a local organization
- ★ Learn about Southeast Alaska's Native populations and their cultures
- ★ Paddle in a sea kayak, pan for gold and check out a botanical garden in the middle of the rainforest

***No passport required for U.S. citizens.**

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Juneau only has 42 miles of road; however, it has 250 miles of hiking and biking trails. With that ratio, it only makes sense that we support a local organization dedicated to the building and maintenance of Juneau's trail system. You'll get your hands dirty (literally) as an environmental steward while supporting trail building and improvement efforts, which could include gravel-laying, trail construction or fencing and signage refurbishment. As you support these efforts, you'll also be learning about to whom this land belongs and how public lands are managed in Southeast Alaska. Additionally, you may support another organization whose mission is to sustain salmon resources in Alaska, a critical resource for the economy and culture of the state.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule and order of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO ALASKA!

Touch down in Juneau, the capital of Alaska. GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to our Home Base. Tonight we'll settle in, bond as a group and prepare ourselves for a whirlwind of activities and adventure over the next two weeks.

DAY 2: ORIENTATION + MENDENHALL GLACIER HIKE

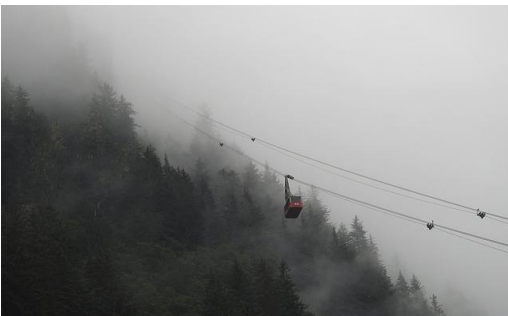
We'll kick off our program with an orientation that covers program guidelines and expectations, as well as what to expect from your Juneau adventure. What are we going to see, learn and experience? We'll also explore our new home for the next two weeks and hike around the gorgeous lake close to homebase.



After orientation, we'll take a quick drive to Mendenhall Glacier, where we'll have a chance to take in views of a thirteen-mile-long river of ice. We'll stop in the Visitors Center to catch a quick 15-minute film about how glaciers interact with the Tongass National Forest, and how climate change has affected the area. We'll also go on one of two hikes — a fairly easy trail to Nugget Falls or a more difficult trail on the east side of the glacier. Either way, you'll catch spectacular views while stretching your legs and getting some exercise.

DAY 3: AERIAL TRAM RIDE & HIKE + DOWNTOWN JUNEAU

Today, we're going to head to downtown Juneau to check out the city center of Alaska's capital city. (Hint: it's very small and quaint!) We'll start off with a stroll through downtown to see some of the popular shops and restaurants in the area. Take notes of what shops look interesting to you, as we may have a chance to do some shopping later in the afternoon! You may also be able to see cruise ships docking in the harbor, as Juneau is a popular cruise ship destination.



We'll walk to the Mt. Roberts Tramway, then take a tram up 1,800 feet to Mt. Roberts, taking in breathtaking scenery from above and traveling from sea



level to rainforest to mountain peak on the way up. At the top of Mt. Roberts, we can hike to some stunning lookout points over the channel and take in Juneau from above. We'll also visit the Chilkat Theater and watch an award-winning film on Tlingit history and culture, getting an introduction to the indigenous ways of life that have thrived for over ten thousand years in Southeast Alaska.

This evening, we'll have a discussion on what you learned about an enduring Native Alaskan tribe and culture today.

DAY 4: HISTORICAL & CULTURAL WORKSHOP DAY



Today, we're going to take some time to dive even deeper into the state's history and learn about the unique culture of Alaska's Indigenous Natives, particularly those found in Southeast Alaska. We'll learn a bit more about the history and background of these people, as well as take part in workshops centered on traditional skills or hobbies. We'll work with an expert on a traditional skill such as woodcarving and try our hand at making something of our own. We may also have a chance to learn about some Alaskan Native games and see how they're played -- and maybe even have a chance to try them ourselves!

Tonight, we'll dive deeper into the things we're learning about the history and culture of this place and the people who have called it home for thousands of years.

DAYS 5-6: SERVICE WORK & WILD ALASKAN ADVENTURE



Now that we've already learned a good bit about Juneau, it's time to get to work! Juneau only has 42 miles of road; however, it has 250 miles of hiking and biking trails. With that ratio, it only makes sense that we support a local organization dedicated to the building and maintenance of Juneau's trail system. You'll get your hands dirty (literally) as an environmental steward while supporting trail building and improvement efforts, which could include gravel-laying, trail construction or fencing and signage refurbishment. As you support these efforts, you'll also be learning about to whom this land belongs and how public lands are managed in Southeast Alaska.

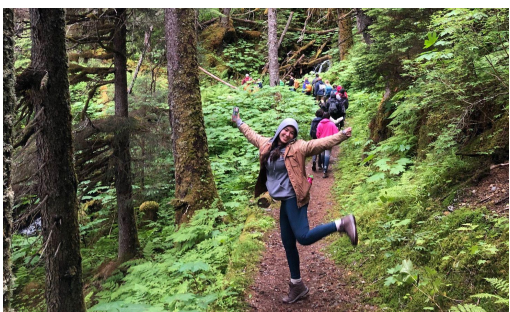


We'll also take a break from service work both days and take in the breathtaking beauty of Alaska's wilderness. We'll take a hike in the wilderness to see this land by foot (likely on a trail that has been maintained by our service partner!) and keep our eyes peeled for local wildlife, as we may cross paths with moose or bears. We may also try to see the land from a different viewpoint — from the water on a kayak or canoe.

DAY 7: TRACY ARM FJORD ADVENTURE DAY



After two days of intensive service work, we're going to have a full day of adventure: we'll head to Juneau's port to embark on a full-day fjord and glacier explorer cruise. We'll explore the stunning Tracy Arm Wilderness Area, getting up close to glaciers, icebergs, waterfalls and lots of wildlife — this is an Alaskan adventurer's dream! You'll settle in for the ride of a lifetime with binoculars on hand so you can see wildlife up-close; you'll also have a picnic-style lunch on board, along with snacks, tea and hot cocoa, so you can stay satiated as you approach glaciers, dramatic cliffs and 1,000-foot waterfalls.



DAYS 8-10: OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS IN JUNEAU

Now that you've spent a week in Juneau, we think it's time for a little deeper dive into the adventure activities in the capital! A half-day sea kayaking excursion on Auke Bay is a must-do activity in Juneau; during this coastal kayaking adventure, we'll check out uninhabited islands in the bay, with opportunities for wildlife viewing while taking in the ocean and mountain views. Locally, the Auke Bay boat harbor is a hot spot for observing the majestic bald eagles of Juneau.

We'll also visit a gold mine to what was once the largest gold producing mill in the world! Students will be able to explore a former gold mine, learn about the history of gold mining in Juneau and pan for gold themselves. Donning hard hats, the tour takes students along a boardwalk and into a 360 foot-long tunnel where an experienced miner will demonstrate hard rock mining techniques. After the mine, students will learn why this mill was unique compared to others in the area and then finally finish with the day with a gold panning experience of their own (Yep! You can keep what you find!)

We're also planning a full-day (or at least longer than half-day!) hiking excursion on a beautiful trail, either in Bridget Point State Park for a longer, but easier, hike or a shorter, more difficult, hike around Mendenhall Glacier. (Students can decide what they prefer!) And finally, we'll go on a rainforest & botanical garden adventure. Students will visit a vibrant Alaskan botanical garden nestled in the Southeast Alaskan temperate rainforest habitat. Students will explore beautifully manicured gardens and into the old growth rainforest on Thunder Mountain — panoramic views offer one of the best views found in the Capital City and bald eagles frequent the property grounds. There's even a video stream of an active bald eagle's nest offered inside the visitor center. We'll learn about the preservation of the American bald eagle—our national bird—and how protected land can perpetuate the species and critical habitats of native wildlife.

DAYS 11-12: SERVICE WORK

After our exploration all around town, we'll return to our service work in Juneau. We'll reconvene with our service partner to continue to contribute to trail rebuilding and maintenance efforts that are needed at the time of our visit. We'll definitely work hard and put in great physical effort to support our local partner organization and to help provide accessible and safe trails for residents and visitors to Juneau.

In the afternoons and evenings, we'll dive deeper into the themes we've been learning about and also forge our own leadership paths and understanding.

DAY 13: FINAL ADVENTURE + FAREWELL

What should we do on our final full day in Juneau? We're thinking...another outdoor adventure with some historical learning tied in! We'll head above Juneau's downtown to an incredible hiking trail that was previously used as a rail line to one of Juneau's gold mines. Weather permitting, you should see old mine shafts and stunning views of Gold Creek along the way.

After our hike, we'll take another stop downtown to grab a snack and then wrap up our learning with a visit to a heritage center that focuses on telling the history and stories of Southeast Alaska's Native people throughout artwork exhibits.



Tonight, we'll have a special farewell dinner and take some time to reflect on our full experience and show our appreciation for one another. Take this time to reminisce on this place you've called home for the past two weeks and on this group who may, by now, feel more like a family.

DAY 14: GOOD-BYE, ALASKA!

It's time to say goodbye and head back to the continental U.S. After breakfast, we'll depart for the Juneau airport together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.

TRAVELING TO ALASKA

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base is a dormitory in a chapel on a university campus. Students will be in gender-segregated dorms, with lots of shared recreational spaces and a stunning campus to explore that will be in their backyard. Students will share a room with other students and bathrooms will be shared, as well.

FOOD | Students will have standard American fare, with a focus on popular Alaskan dishes that are sustainably sourced. Popular meal components include salmon, halibut, crab and berries. (And in Juneau, you will have to try fish and chips!)

CLIMATE | Summers in Juneau are mild, with an average high temperature around 63°F (17.2°C) and a low of 51°F (10.5°C). Bring plenty of layers for different activities; additionally, Juneau is known for its rain, so be sure to be prepared with a waterproof rain jacket!

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

USA TODAY™

NBC NEWS

The Boston Globe

seventeen

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2023, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate potential COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

Our Expectations

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

We're Here to Help

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.