



## WIINTER ACTIVITIES

### Northern Lights viewing at the Lodge

The Aurora can be seen from many viewpoints at the lodge, with panoramic views, north and south from the dining area, deck and the belvedere. The lodge is located “off grid” which means minimal artificial light interferes with viewing the aurora.

Northern Lights viewing begins in early fall in the Alaska Range. If the main focus of guests is Northern Lights viewing, then a visit to the lodge during high forecast times is recommended. There are many links and apps available that describe these forecasts. **Example:** <https://www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast>

Depending on the package chosen by guests a presentation on the science of the aurora and the secrets of effectively photographing it are presented. A professional photographer is onsite the entire stay at the lodge for some packages. We include outings with the photographer, depending on availability. Computer-assisted star-gazing and constellation viewing will be available to guests on clear nights when the aurora is not active.

### Evening Northern Lights Adventures include:

#### Chasing the Lights:

It is all about the lights! We have secret spots where we transport guests to if the lights are not showing at the lodge proper and we go looking for them, hence the expression, “Chasing the Lights.” Several vantage points north and south of the lodge make for remarkable viewing of the lights. When we “Chase the Lights” we are great at finding places where the lights commonly dance which provide several different back drops for photography! Sometimes we light a small fire for warmth and photography affects! Even if the Lights do not make an appearance, guests will get gorgeous views of the Eastern Alaska Range and the valley of the Delta River. These vantage point provides a perfect northern light viewing area with the backdrop of the mountains and northern sky.



Prices vary depending on the number of nights and people.

## The Black Rapids Lake:

It is all about the ice! Evening visits to the Black Rapids Lake hold surprises with tiki torches and an open fire to roast marshmallows. Kick sledding, skiing and snowshoeing are optional as is ice skating which is available for the more experienced skaters. If the Northern Lights are out, the guests will view them from the serene setting of a frozen arctic lake.

## Visit to Remote Alaskan Cabin:

Just 13 miles south of the lodge is a remote cabin, with another view of the northern lights, in the Rainbow Ridge area. The warmth of this cabin combined with the outdoor fire, and small hot tub makes this outing a special way to see the northern lights from a different direction. Hot drinks are provided along with tales of the wilds of Alaska. Warm blankets are provided with cozy viewing chairs.

## Dog Mushing under the Northern Lights:

Guests are given the option to experience what the trip out of Fairbanks was truly like for the residents of Interior Alaska. This experience can be in lieu of other evening activity that the other guests are participating in. Guests will visit a dog kennel at night, taking a ride in a dog sled under the northern lights dancing above. It's as close as we could come to giving our guests a taste of what it was like, one hundred years ago, to slowly approach the mountain pass named for a beautiful woman, Isabel. But it will only be a taste; the Valdez trail, long grown over, is the only Roadhouse stop still standing sits just below the Lodge. An outdoor fire, sipping hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows coincides with this amazing evening.



*\*There are also evening activities under the Northern Lights which can be adapted*

*\*More complete package information about our glaciers, creeks, basins and trails is available*



## Snowmobiling



**Day Tours:** Guests are driven to meet Zoya & John at their kennels near Delta Junction, AK, 23 miles north of the lodge and are provided a ½ day-hour snowmobile tours based out of their kennels/homestead. Their kennel and homestead is fascinating and operates as a competitive racing kennel, dedicated to the training and rehabilitation of unwanted sled dogs. This 2-3 hour tour takes you through the wild woods of their homestead, often seeing moose, caribou and ventures along the Alaska Pipeline. Lunch is provided.

**The Denali Highway Tour:** Guests are picked up by our guides and driven to Denali Highway area, 30 miles south of the lodge. This 5-hour tour takes you into the wilds of the Alaska Range, surrounded by glorious mountain peaks and immense wide-open spaces. This half-day tour includes lunch. This winter wonderland is like no other. Extra warm gear is provided for this tour.

**Routes:** The trails behind the homestead have twists and turns, some bumpy areas and long runs of quiet space. Two people can sit on the snowmobile and driving can be shared. We often drive near the Alaska pipeline, and tour the mountainous area along Donnelly Dome. The views are breathtaking along with an abundance of wildlife sightings. It is a comfortable, wild ride like no other. Warm gear is provided as needed.

**Length:** Snowmobile rides can cover over 25 miles behind the twisting through the backcountry of the Deltas. 2-3 hours or as requested. Denali Highway rides are approximately 5 hours including travel to the areas.

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate. Conditions may vary from no snow to deep powdery snow requiring significant physical exertion. Extreme cold, wind, and/or heavy snowfall can challenge any trek.



## Ski or Snowshoe



The Lodge at Black Rapids has ski and snowshoe trails directly behind the lodge that guests may access without having to drive anywhere. We also offer guided excursions to other areas of the Alaska Range within 30 miles of the lodge. Several nearby mountain creeks offer magnificent afternoon skis or snowshoes to glaciers, ice caves, frozen waterfalls and incredible canyons. Guides demonstrate techniques for staying warm and negotiating snowy, icy, & uneven terrain. Weather permitting; guests will have spectacular views of the Alaska Range and Delta River valley.

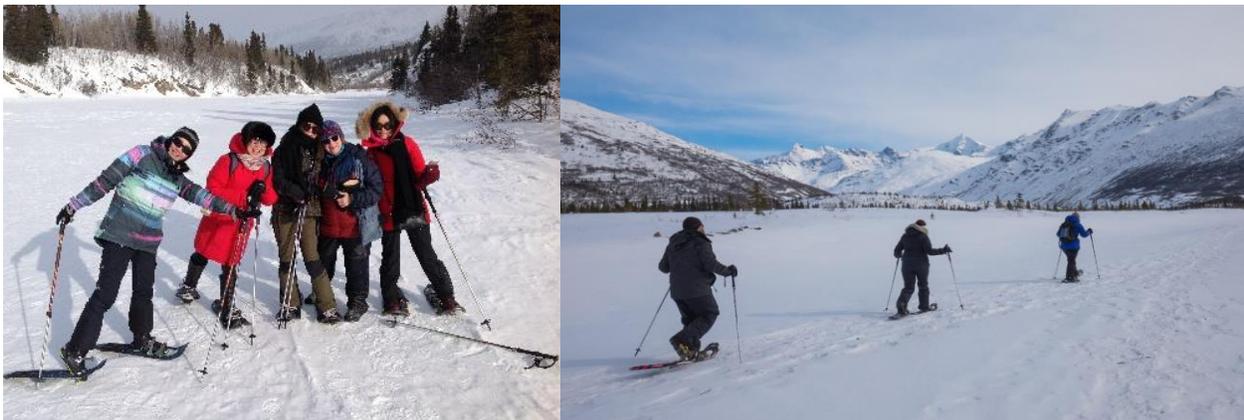
We tailor all activities to our guests' fitness levels and personal desires. First time cross country skiers and snowshoers are encouraged! We provide individual instruction and personalized service to ensure comfort and warmth.

**Routes:** We may use the trails directly behind the lodge or explore valleys north or south of the lodge depending on weather, snow conditions, how much time our guests have to tour the area, guest fitness levels & experience, and any other relevant factors.

**Length.** Varies based on route. A common 1.5 mile (4 km) route behind the lodge takes about 1-2 hours, up to Wedding Knoll, along the blue trail (Intermediate) to Gunnysack Canyon and finishing on the green trail (beginner). Trips up the valleys and creek beds within 30 miles of the lodge (beginner to intermediate) generally last 2-3 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate. Conditions may vary from no snow to deep powdery snow requiring significant physical exertion even with snowshoes. Extreme cold, wind, and/or heavy snowfall can make treks more challenging.

**Costs:** Guided service includes equipment and lunch.



## Ice Cave Adventures



**Route:** The tour starts about 10 miles south of the Lodge. Depending on snow conditions we will walk or snowshoe about a mile along the creek to Miller Glacier where the cave entrance is located. You will use ice cleats to explore inside the cave, which extends for several hundred feet into total darkness. Snowshoes, ice cleats, headlamps provided; skis work best for guests who bring their own.

**Length:** 2.5 miles round-trip (4 km), 2-4 hours

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate. Conditions may vary from no snow to deep powdery snow requiring significant physical exertion even with snowshoes. Extreme cold, wind, and/or heavy snowfall can make the trek more challenging. Snow machine rides to the cave are available for guests who can't or prefer not to snowshoe.



## Flightseeing Winter & Summer, The Alaska Range

Flightseeing is available during the winter, spring and summer seasons with an educational emphasis. Adventures depend on weather conditions and the order of activities may vary according to these conditions. We choose the clearest and calmest days to be reserved for extensive flightseeing and a glacier landing. Both have similar routes with the exception of a summer 1-day excursion available.



But this is not simply a flightseeing expedition. Flights set the stage for the educational experience of the day—a look at the short history of Alaska mountaineering. Guests are treated to footage of the 1941 first ascent of Mt. Hayes, and local legend Hank Dube, who led climbs up the North Ridge of Mt. Hayes in training the Black Rapids Mountain Warfare Training Center in the 1960s. Other guides frequent the lodge throughout the trip and spin the tales of their climbs. Few people are lucky or adventurous enough to really experience it. The casual visitor to Alaska (and most of its residents as well) see the Alaska Range from the road: a daunting distant rampart of snow and ice, or its foothills. Hidden behind the foreground in the depths of the range is a land of almost unimaginable scale and shocking geological violence. The upthrust of her peaks rivals the Himalayas, and in fact the vertical gain from the base to the summit of 13,800' Mt. Hayes, the queen of the Eastern Alaska Range, is equivalent to that from the Base Camp to the summit of Mt. Everest. Not only is Mt. Hayes dramatic, it is also considered one of the one hundred most beautiful mountains in the world. Nearby, Mt. Deborah boasts the tallest vertical face in all of North America.

Each couple will land on a high glacier near the divide between the famous Galloping Glacier of Black Rapids and the equally massive Susitna Glacier. \*All trips are weather permitting.

**Winter:** Though March and April are typically two of our clearest months and temperatures are mild (by Alaskan standards) and each day is seven minutes longer than the one before, our deep winter adventures call the hardest of travelers, and we embrace them as strongly as the pioneers of the early gold rush days. The clearest and calmest day during our guests stay is reserved for extensive flightseeing and a glacier landing.

**Summer: Black Rapids Glacier 1-day excursion:** We fly your party up and onto the huge glacial highway that virtually connects Black Rapids with Denali Park, spending the morning amidst ice, snow and silence, surrounded by the towering flanks of Mt. Shand. From there we go down the McLaren Glacier and land at an old mining claim. After lunch we wander the slopes and take in the expansive views before returning along the southern slopes of the Alaska Range for dinner at the lodge. Tours include the Black Rapids Glacier, Mt. Hayes, the Trident Glacier returning home going north along the Delta River, with multiple sightings of wild bison and other wildlife.

**Where we Go:** Tours include the Black Rapids Glacier, Mt. Hayes, the Trident Glacier returning home going north along the Delta River, with multiple sightings of wild bison and other wildlife. Other routes may be used depending on Weather. Flights south for the famous Copper River Red fishing take quests through the corridor of the Rainbow Ridge mountains and the valleys of the Delta river.

**Wildlife Viewing:** There are often multiple sightings of wild bison, moose, caribou, sheep and bear while sightseeing this wild land. Pilots will often spot wildlife and fly as close as possible.



**The Black Rapids Glacier:** The tour begins just across the river from the lodge, heading west through the valley where lies the famous “Black Rapids Glacier”. This glacier was once four stories high and less than ½ mile from the lodge, hugging the Delta River. In 1936 it threatened to overtake the Black Rapids Roadhouse, advancing 225 feet a day! The story was worldwide news and reporters came to witness the event, should it engulf the Black Rapids Roadhouse. Unexpectedly, the glacier began retreating and is now barely seen by the human eye up the valley where it resides. Rolling mounds of glacial silt are left as residue from its famous advance. The glacier continues through the valley just around the bend and is one of the most studied glaciers in Alaska.



**Mt. Hayes:** Fly into the base camp of the northern approach to the elegant 13,800 ft. Mt. Hayes. Retrace the steps of Bradford Washburn, his wife Barbara as they sought the first route up the long and winding northwest ridge in 1941. (Mt. Hayes wouldn't be climbed again for another 43 years in '84!) The faint trails guide the approach to the soaring 7,000 vertical foot eastern face reserved for wolf and sheep.



**The Trident Glacier:** The Trident Glacier is a glacier within Alaska and is nearby to Mount Moffit and Mount Shand.

**Summer Flightseeing/Fishing Tours:** Guests combine a fishing and flightseeing adventure through the Rainbow mountains on to fish for the famous Copper River Red Salmon! They're met at the airport and driven to the river, to raft and fish on the Copper River. These sights are one of a kind experiences almost like touching the face of heaven. We then fly back to the lodge 2 hours north with a personal tour of Isabell Pass, Gulkana Glacier, and the Rainbow Ridge area.



\*we also do fly in fishing trips to the Goosepasture River.

Add On's

## Chef on the Trail:

Guests are escorted by a local chef, and dog mush to a campsite where their home for the evening awaits, an authentic Alaskan Arctic Oven. Guests spend the night in this cozy haven, and are delighted with fine foods cooked on an open fire by , with the northern lights dancing above. Add on as special package to daily rate.



## Overnight in Remote Alaskan Cabin:

After dinner, guests are guided via snowshoe up to an artisan-built European-style cabin along a frozen creek, 7 miles south of the lodge. Guests will be greeted with a warm fire and the cabin will be stocked with firewood. In the cabin guests will find a bottle of wine and chocolates for the evening, and an Alaskan sourdough breakfast and the finest of Alaskan coffee for the morning. Add on as special package to daily rate.



