

ALASKA

INVESTIGATING THE COPPER RIVER DELTA
with Texas Association of Biology Teachers
June 20-28, 2018



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Glaciers, mountains, and the Copper River Delta combine in Alaska to create the country's most picturesque and educationally rewarding classroom. Explore Cordova, home of the Eyak Indian Tribe and Prince William Sound, surrounded by Chugach National Forest, the second largest national forest in the United States. Engage in an immersive learning experience as you discover the natural wonders of "The Last Frontier" through activities including hiking on trails, observing bird colonies, and assisting biologists in collecting data for research.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Gain an up-close perspective on glaciology when crossing the Copper River Delta to Childs Glacier.
- Hike through three complete ecosystems at Heney Ridge Trail.
- Observe a nesting kittiwake colony.
- Survey Glaucous-winged Gull nests with a biologist.
- Learn about the world's largest population of sea otters at Orca Inlet.
- Embark on an ice trekking excursion at Sheridan Glacier.

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Biology

Natural History



Hands-on Research

Earth Science

Graduate credit available:
holbrooktravel.com/academic-credit, or a certificate for contact hours can be provided for continuing education credit by your district.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JUNE 20 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage travel by shuttle to the hotel. Meals are not included on your arrival day. *Overnight at Quality Inn or similar.*

JUNE 21 - CORDOVA

After an early breakfast take the shuttle to the airport for a flight to Cordova. Upon arrival meet your guide and transfer to the lodge, enjoying some initial sights along the way including swan nests on the delta and Cordova town center. After orientation and lunch, travel to the Power Creek drainage area for a walk on a trail above town for a panoramic view of the area. Explore the rich diversity of the flora and fauna of the area as well as view abundant wildlife. Possible themes for investigation here include geology of the area, plate tectonics, glaciology, marine biology, and avian biology. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 22 - CORDOVA

Hike through Heney Ridge Trail to explore the rainforest, walking through three complete ecosystems along the trail's seven-mile route. Additional guides will accompany the group to accommodate the different levels of hikers. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 23 - CORDOVA

After breakfast take a boat trip to Orca Inlet for the opportunity to observe the world's largest population of sea otters and their interactions within the pod. Your guide for the day has been involved in sea otter studies for over 15 years. Later stop at a remote beach and study the tidal pools with laminated ID charts, plastic aquariums, and dip nets in hand. Next head to Hinchinbrook Island for lunch at a remote beach. After lunch, visit a kittiwake colony to observe the nesting sea birds. Return to Cordova in the late afternoon, then visit the Eyak Museum and Cultural Center. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 24 - CORDOVA

After breakfast depart for a full day tour of the Copper River Delta. The highlight of the day is the massive Child's Glacier. Travel by bus to the 27-mile point of the Copper River Delta Highway and cross the river. Then take a van to the famous Million Dollar Bridge. This now-inaccessible bridge is a great backdrop to the Wrangell St. Elias Park and the Miles Glacier. Near the bridge visit the sonar station, manned by three researchers who spend their entire field season living completely cut off from the outside world. The researchers will explain and demonstrate the sonar and its use in fishery management. Afterward, head to the viewing area of the Childs Glacier. Have lunch by the glacier while listening to the deafening sounds of huge ice chunks crashing into the river less than a quarter of a mile away. Tonight enjoy a salmon barbeque for dinner. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com.

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JUNE 25 - CORDOVA

Take a 10-minute flight, traveling Alaskan-style, to explore Egg Island. This barrier island hosts a wide variety of bird species, including the largest population of Glaucous-winged Gulls found anywhere. During your exploration of the island you will participate in an ongoing study or gather data for a local biologist. Following the project and lunch is time for beachcombing. Return to the lodge in the early afternoon for kayaking, followed by a discussion of the life cycle of salmon. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 26 - CORDOVA

After breakfast your guide will talk about plate tectonics and the dramatic changes this area has undergone in recent decades. Look at specific unique geologic formations and rock samples, then participate in a discussion on global warming and head to the Sheridan Glacier for an ice trekking excursion. Assist the Prince William Sound Science Center by placing monitoring stations on the ice to help collect data on glacial melt rates and movement. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 27 - ANCHORAGE/FLIGHT HOME

Spend the morning at leisure before heading to the airport for your flight to Anchorage. Upon arrival you will be met by a driver who will take you to visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage. Afterward, return to Anchorage to explore the historical downtown, including the Museum of History and Art. You will have time for dinner on your own before transferring to the airport for your evening flight home. *(BL)*

JUNE 28

Arrive home.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,560 (10 participants)

Includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, transportation, internal flights, local guides, and carbon offset.

Does not include airfare to Anchorage, estimated at \$800 from Dallas/Fort Worth, gratuities for guide or driver, or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on on triple/quad with individual beds; for a single room throughout the trip add \$380 per person. With maximum of 16 participants the cost will be \$2,410. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form (see link below) are due ASAP to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until March 17, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.