



**ADVENTURE TRAVEL**  
VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE



## Wild Alaska Day Hiking and Touring By Land, Sea, and Air

June 20 – July 1, 2020

AMC-AT Trip # 2024

Joan Chambers, Leader  
Cliff Chambers, Leader

On this spectacular journey, we will be hiking and sightseeing during the day, staying in comfortable lodging at night, and eating fresh seafood and local grub all through the long days of Alaska's ephemeral summer. We will spend 12 days and 11 nights exploring Anchorage and the Chugach mountain range, Denali National Park, and stay with the locals in the funky mountain town of Talkeetna. Plus explore Kenai Fjords National Park's marine life and glaciers on a cruise in the fishing port of Seward. All told, we will travel ~800 miles through pristine Alaska wilderness!

This trip is for those who want a variety of activities in Alaska. We will take moderate level hikes on days when weather permits. Expect to be flexible. You should be fit and experienced enough to hike multiple days for 4-8 hours, 5-10 miles and up to 3,200 feet elevation gains on typical Alaska trails: sometimes rocky and uneven, sometimes steep. We will spend one of our days on a beautiful cruise in the Kenai Fjords, teaming with marine life and glacial vistas.

We left enough time on our endless summer tour to explore the many optional activities in Alaska, whether that is a Denali National Park bus sightseeing tour or a flight sightseeing tour with glacier landing to walk on a glacier to see Mt. Denali up close, and so much more.

## TENTATIVE ITINERARY

(Subject to change)

Saturday, June 20 – Day 1  
Arrive/Stay in Anchorage

Sunday, June 21 – Day 2  
Anchorage and Flattop Mtn

Monday, June 22 – Day 3  
Denali National Park

Tuesday, June 23 – Day 4  
Denali National Park

Wednesday, June 24 – Day 5  
Denali National Park

Thursday, June 25 – Day 6  
Talkeetna

Friday, June 26 – Day 7  
Seward/Kenai National Park

Saturday: June 27 – Day 8  
Seward/Kenai Marine Cruise

Sunday, June 28 - Day 9  
Seward/Harding Icefield

Monday, June 29 – Day 10  
Crow Pass/Anchorage

Tuesday, June 30 – Day 11  
Anchorage

Wednesday, July 1 – Day 12  
Anchorage and Depart

## ANCHORAGE

(Days 1, 2, 10, 11, 12)

Among the northernmost cities on Earth, Anchorage is a place with big-city amenities: fine restaurants, museums, theaters and an

excellent music scene. Creating the backdrop are the salmon-rich waters of Cook Inlet and the 5,000- foot-plus peaks of Chugach State Park. Within a short drive from downtown are dozens of wilderness adventures and a short plane ride opens up the possibility of almost any type adventure. That’s one reason why Anchorage’s Lake Hood is the world’s busiest floatplane base. Anchorage’s 284,994 residents embrace both the urban amenities and the wilderness beyond it.



## DENALI NATIONAL PARK

(Days 3, 4, 5, 6)

A visit to the Last Frontier would not be complete without experiencing Denali National Park. Featuring North America's tallest mountain, Mount Denali, Denali National Park is one of the most-visited National Parks in the state. Surrounding Denali Park is the Alaska Range, which includes countless other spectacular mountains and many large glaciers. Denali's more than six million acres encompasses a complete sub-arctic eco-system, home to large mammals such as grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, caribou and moose. Located along Alaska Route 3, the George Parks Highway, the entrance to Denali National Park lies approximately 240 miles north of Anchorage and 125 miles south of Fairbanks.



## TALKEETNA

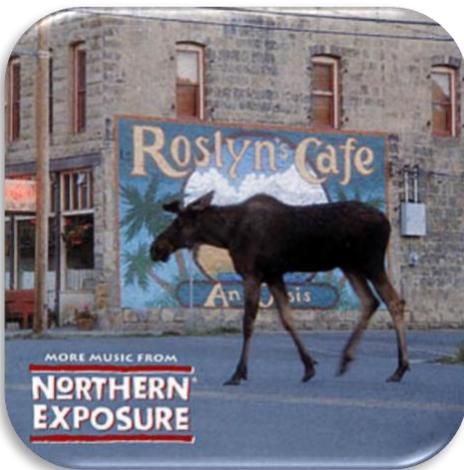
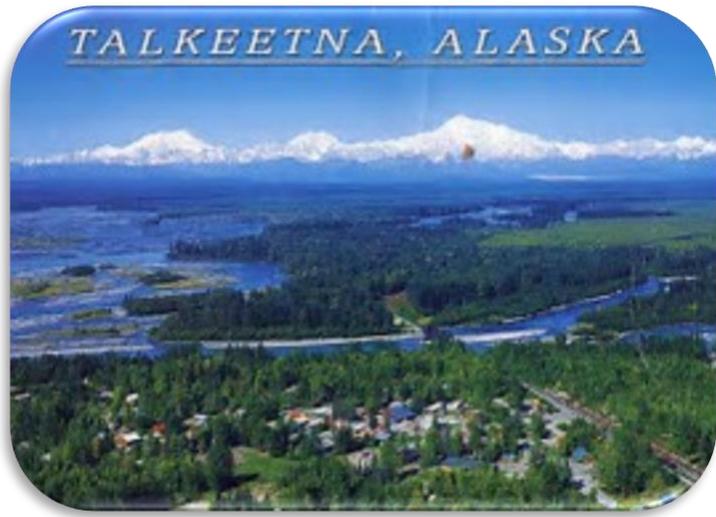
(Day 7)

The tiny, funky hamlet of Talkeetna is straight out of many visitors' mental picture of life in small-town Alaska. Located 115 miles north of Anchorage in the Mat-Su Valley, it's a not-to-be-missed stop in Southcentral Alaska.

Said to be the inspiration for the fictional community of Cicely in the popular TV show "Northern Exposure," it's no surprise

Talkeetna rings so true with visitors. Its artistic, outdoorsy and creative residents cling proudly to the character of their community and celebrate the influence of North America's tallest peak, in whose shadow the community rests – Denali. A turn-of-the-20th-century gold-mining center, Talkeetna has retained much of its early Alaska flavor. Log cabins, a roadhouse and clapboard storefronts line the dirt streets. Main Street, the only paved road in town, greets visitors with a hand-hewn sign reading "Welcome to Beautiful Downtown Talkeetna". Gold brought miners to the Susitna River in 1896, and by 1910, Talkeetna was a riverboat steamer station, supplying miners and trappers in the nearby mining

districts. The town's population peaked at more than 1,000 during World War I, declined after the Alaska Railroad was completed and has bounced back as the staging area for ascents of Denali, Mount Foraker, the Moose's Tooth and scores of other high peaks.



## SEWARD & KENAI NATIONAL PARK (Days 8, 9, 10)

The quaint seaside town of Seward, lying 130 miles south of Anchorage, is the gateway to the magnificent Kenai Fjords National Park. Within the crystal green waters of the Fjords is an abundant array of tidewater and piedmont glaciers. Marine wildlife includes otters, sea lions, harbor seals, humpback and orca whales, porpoises, puffins and kittiwakes. Kenai Fjords National Park is most easily accessed by tour boat from Seward or by driving out to Exit Glacier, just outside of

Seward. Wildlife and glacier exhibits are available at the Small Boat Harbor visitor center and the Alaska SeaLife Center. Scenic Seward, flanked by rugged mountains to one side and sparkling Resurrection Bay on the other, has a way of luring visitors. There is fantastic hiking nearby, a quaint downtown with good restaurants and shopping and the amazing Alaska Sea Life Center. On Day 8 we will enjoy an 8.5 hour Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise that includes breakfast and lunch. A formal Dinner will not be planned for this evening, but a light evening meal can be considered on your own.



## LODGING, MEALS & FLIGHTS

**Lodging:** Lodging in Alaska is expensive during the high season of their limited summer and limited accommodations. We will select a variety of lodging based on our budget which will include 2 beds/room double occupancy and ~3 star rates. You will be matched with a same gender roommate, unless otherwise noted by you. These accommodations may range from hotel chains, cozy cabins, historic inns or lodges. We will look for the best value, without sacrificing comfort or cleanliness. If you are expecting 5-star accommodations, this is not the trip for you.

**Meals:** We will try to eat most meals together. We are budgeting \$50 per day for meals. If you should wish to spend more than the budgeted amount, you will be asked to pay the difference with cash to each night's dinner bill paid by the group. Breakfast will be on your own prior to meeting. Lunches will likely be on the road or trails. Food is expensive in Alaska as it is shipped in and costs are much higher than normally expected.



You may wish to budget additional spending money for food. Along the way, to save money, we will plan stops at the Anchorage Walmart or other markets, so each person can shop for the desired provisions for lunches. Our hotels in Anchorage and Seward include continental breakfasts.

**Flights:** Alaska is a far away land, approximately 4000 miles from the East Coast and a ~10 hour plane ride, equivalent to traveling to Russia. It is a full day travel time you will need to account for. There is a 4-hour time difference in our favor arriving. Your journey should start and end at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC).

### **Landing Anchorage (ANC):**

You may check in our hotel in Anchorage after 3 pm local time on Saturday, June 20, 2020. Once you have arrived and retrieved your luggage, you can call the hotel front desk (24/7) to arrange a free mini-van shuttle to pick you up.

### **Departing Anchorage (ANC):**

You can depart at any time on Wednesday, July 1, 2019 or after farewell dinner the night before.



## TRIP PRICE - \$3750

The approximate price for the trip, \$3750, is based on research at the time the trip was submitted to the AT Committee (January 2019). Some of the leaders' expenses for the trip and administrative costs to support the trip are included in the trip costs to be shared by the participants. This is a non-profit excursion conducted by the leaders on a volunteer basis. Any unforeseen increases in costs will be shared by all participants. Any funds remaining after all expenses are paid will be divided among the participants in accordance with AMC Adventure Travel policy and oversight. For non-AMC members there is an additional \$50 guest fee. You may prefer to join the AMC. Membership is \$50 for an individual, \$75 for a family, and \$25 for juniors (under 30) and seniors (over 69). You can join on line at the AMC home page at <http://www.outdoors.org/>

### Included in trip price:

- 12 nights lodging double occupancy/2 beds/room
- 10 breakfasts and 10 dinners (budgeted at \$50 per day per person)
- Ground transportation in the form of rental vehicles; the hotel in Anchorage also provides a free, local shuttle to/from the Airport
- Park entrance fees
- 8 hours RT Denali NP Transit Shuttle to Eielson Visitor Center (mile 66). These buses stop for wildlife viewing, restroom stops and beautiful scenery, just like tour buses.
- 8 hours Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise
- 2 bear sprays for the group
- AMC Adventure Travel fees
- AMC emergency medical and evacuation insurance
- 2 certified and experienced AMC-Adventure Travel Leaders, CPR and Wilderness First Aid certified

### Not included in trip price:

- Airfare (\$~600-\$900 from the East Coast)
- Alcohol/snacks or other foods not noted in this prospectus
- Optional excursions and museums in Anchorage, Denali NP, Talkeetna, and Seward.
- Souvenirs and personal items
- Tips (housekeeping, tours, food other than included dinners)
- Personal bear spray (~\$50) (optional)
- Travel insurance (recommended)

While participant airfare is not included in the trip price, leaders may assist participants in making suitable reservations. At a minimum, participants will be told when and where they must join the group for the official start of the trip's planned activities. Once your air tickets are purchased they are your responsibility – do not make any non-refundable travel plans until told to do so by the leaders.



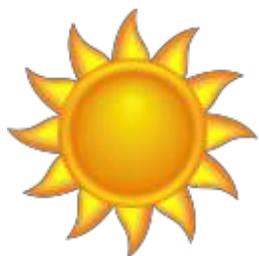
Please be aware that, in accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing the leaders' costs. Beyond this, the leaders are not allowed to realize any profit from this excursion. The trip price also includes an AMC overhead fee to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions. The trip fee includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If these possibilities concern you, individual travel insurance is recommended. More information about included emergency medical and evacuation insurance, as well as about optional and recommended travel insurance, will be provided to participants in their formal acceptance letters, which will be sent out when the trip has the required number of accepted applicants.

## DEPOSIT & CANCELLATION

**Deposit:** A registration deposit of \$1500 is due with your application. The second payment of \$1200 is due two weeks after formal acceptance on the trip. The balance of \$1050 will be due by February 1, 2020. Your application does not automatically result in acceptance on the trip. One of the leaders will speak with you by phone to make sure there is a mutual fit between this trip and you. Do not make any non-refundable travel arrangements until you have been officially accepted, and the trip is deemed a “go.”

Deposit checks from wait-listed applicants will not be cashed until we offer them a spot on the trip AND they accept. For payment details please see the “What’s Next” section at the end of this prospectus.

**Cancellation:** Our cancellation policy is based on the precept that your cancellation shall not raise the cost to any other participants or leaders. Therefore, if you cancel, we will refund any money you have paid, less any expenses already incurred, or future expenses that will be incurred, that have been the result of your registration and that cannot be avoided. Refunded money will also be less a \$100 cancellation fee. However, if you cancel and the trip still realizes full participation, then any and all fees you have paid will be refunded to you, in full, minus the cancellation fee. If you cancel after the airline tickets have been purchased, you still own the ticket and will be subject to their cancellation policy.



**Weather:** You'll find Alaska's summer temperatures surprisingly pleasant. Summer daytime temperatures range from 55° - 70° F, but you'll feel warmer due to long hours of direct sunlight. Nighttime lows are refreshingly cool, dipping into the 40's - 50's. However, temperatures vary wildly depending on which region of Alaska you plan to visit. A couple of our hikes venture up to the front of beautiful glaciers or ice field so wind chill temperatures can be in the 20's. Be prepared with everything from shorts to down jackets plus rain jacket, and dress in layers. A light down jacket is recommended for our hikes and for the marine cruise in case of sudden cooling. Also know that the weather gets rainier as summer progresses so bring your rain jackets and rain pants as it can suddenly storm. The sun sets around midnight and rises around 4:30 a.m. allowing about 19 hours of sunlight to adventure in.

## Trip Difficulty

This trip is rated [#4 \(Moderate\)](#). We will hike from 3 to 8 hours per day with one 11-hour bus tour day and one 8.5-hour cruise day instead of hiking. We will hike at a moderate pace, which will permit time for photos and rest breaks. Every evening the leaders will describe the walk/hike for the following day so participants can plan accordingly. All hikes will be determined once we arrive and speak to the rangers regarding the snow situation and wildlife encounters. We have many good hikes we are considering, and the following hikes are included in the current itinerary, which is subject to change.

Date	Hike	Miles	Elev. Gain	Moving Time
Sun, 21-Jun	Flat Top Mountain	3.5	1400'	3.2 hrs
Mon, 22-Jun	Mt Healy Overlook	5.0	1746'	2.7 hrs
Tue, 23-Jun	Eielson Alpine Trail	2.0	1000'	1.5 hrs
Wed, 24-Jun	Triple Lakes Trail	9.5	1000'	6.0 hrs
Thu, 25-Jun	Byers Lake and Cascade Trail	8.0	2100'	6.0 hrs
Sun, 28-Jun	Exit Glacier/Harding Ice Field	9.5	3200'	5.5 hrs
Mon, 29-Jun	Crow Pass to Raven Glacier	7.3	2033'	4.5 hrs

While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, or recommendations of governmental agencies). The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip.

**Chugach State Park:** Chugach State Park is located in Southcentral Alaska mostly within the Municipality of Anchorage. The park contains approximately 495,000 acres of land and is one of the four largest state parks in the United States. Southcentral Alaska is an area of diverse landforms and rugged topography, bounded on the north and west by the Alaska Range, and on the east by the Chugach and Wrangell Mountains and Prince William Sound. The region contains extensive ocean shoreline, abundant lakes, massive glaciers and ice fields.



The park's westernmost boundary lies in the western foothills of the Chugach Mountain Range and is a mere seven miles to the east of downtown Anchorage.

**The Kenai Peninsula:** comprises some 9,000 square miles jutting off of southern Alaska. It's defined by its glaciers, snow-capped Kenai Mountains and wild coastline. Its towns include Homer, a major fishing destination, and Seward, gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park and its vast Harding Icefield. Waterfowl congregate at the massive Copper River Delta conservation area, also the habitat for Pacific salmon. A park pass or entrance fee is not needed in this park.

## Video on [Wildlife Safety](#). Required Viewing!

Denali National Park: Established in 1917 with the mission of conserving wildlife, Denali National Park encompasses 6 million acres of Alaska's wilderness, and is often seen as the crown jewel of the National Park System. Flaunting complete unaltered ecosystems, countless rivers, glaciers and expanses of tundra, and the tallest peak in North America, Denali is not to be missed. From Denali's famed wolves to the abundant caribou and moose populations, the Park holds within its boundaries one of the most incredibly diverse, stable, and most studied wildlife populations in Alaska.

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## ACTIVITIES SAMPLER

There is so much to do in Alaska. Here is a sampling of things we will have opportunities to do and have made time for you to explore on your own as options.

Anchorage: <http://www.alaska.org/destination/anchorage/attractions>

Denali NP: <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>

Talkeetna: <http://www.alaska.org/destination/talkeetna/attractions>

Seward/Kenai: <http://www.alaska.org/destination/seward/attractions>

## LOGISTICS & CONSIDERATIONS

**Group Size:** We have budgeted this trip for 12 people plus 2 AMC-AT leaders. A waiting list will be established if more than 12 qualified people apply for the excursion.

**Expectations/Experience Level for Participants:** In order to participate in this excursion, you must consider and agree to the following:

**Risks:** Traveling in Alaska has risks you should be aware of including and not limited to: Wildlife encounters, earthquakes, tsunamis, varied and challenging weather, crossing rivers and



streams, wildfires, backcountry topography, avalanche, hypothermia, etc. If you have fears of wildlife or heights or vast wilderness, this may not be the trip for you. We will provide bear spray training and expect that you view the videos the park service provides on wildlife encounters. We will carry (2) bear sprays for the group.

**Safety:** As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with volunteer leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. Participants should be aware that there is risk associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips and camps, and transportation in vehicles, on foot, by boat, or on a bike. When you apply for acceptance onto a trip, please carefully read and sign the *Adventure Travel Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement* and call if you have any questions.

**Type and Pace of the trip:** The trip is an Alaska sampler and we will be constantly on the move either driving, hiking, or touring. The 8 hours round trip Denali NP Eielson bus tour (included), 2 hours Mt. Denali Flight-Seeing and Glacier Landing (optional), and 8.5 hours Kenai Fjord Wildlife Glacier Express Cruise (included) will be a lot of fun. The hikes, when weather permits, such as Mt Healy Overlook Trail and Eielson Alpine Hike in Denali NP, Byers Lake and Cascade Trail in Denali State Park, and Crow Pass to the Raven Glacier front in Chugach NF & NP will be a little on the rushed side because we have time-constraints to drive to our next destinations.

**Ability:** You must be able to hike an average of 5-8 miles per day at a moderate pace easily, with moderate elevation gains (up to 2500 feet), while carrying a daypack with equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. You should be in physical condition appropriate to the described activities at the time we depart. This trip is not for people who have not hiked mountains for several years. We will discuss any concerns about your abilities over the phone when you apply. Please do not take offense to our questions and be accurate with your abilities for the safety of all. We would expect participants to be flexible, patient, and to hike with the group at all times at the pace of the slowest hiker.

**Group Dynamics:** First, you must enjoy being part of a group. You must work towards the group having a good time and remaining safe, be prepared to help your fellow hikers and spend time with other participants on the trip and be inclusive and flexible. You will be expected to participate in most of our group activities. In doing so, you will enjoy the trip to the maximum. We will be more than just a group, we will be a team!

It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or of the individual. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant's being unable to perform one or more activities. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.



**Group Safety:** Group safety will be our number one priority. You must agree to abide by the leaders' decisions. We will never feed or approach any wildlife for any reason. We will follow the Parks' recommendations with regards to wildlife. We will hike together in a group at all times. No participant should be hiking alone at anytime, anywhere. We are not responsible for your safety: you are.

It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. AMC Trip Leaders in their sole judgment, have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it is of the group or of the individual. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

**Driving:** We will be asking participants to volunteer in the driving. We will need at least 3 additional volunteer drivers, and several backup drivers. Please inform the leaders if you would be willing to do this. A background check will be required in advance. Transportation in Alaska is very expensive. We will rent 3 large SUV's to allow better seating and views. To help with passenger comfort we ask that each person limit their luggage to one soft-sided carry-on bag plus day pack. We will have a couple days where we will be in the vehicles for approximately 5 hours broken up with rest stops and views. We will stop as needed for comfort.

**National Park Rules:** We will obey the rules and regulations of the National Parks that we will be hiking in.

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreational, and educational principles and mission of the Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with [Leave No Trace](#) environmental and conservation principles, and respectful of local customs. Local regulations must be followed.

### Leader, Joan Chambers



**Joan** leads four season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. She received the Winter Leader of 2009 award from

the Committee and was profiled in the July-August 2011 issue of AMC Outdoors magazine as one of the AMC volunteer leaders making a difference. This will be her fourth time leading the Wild Alaska hiking trip in addition to trips to many national parks in the US, and abroad in the Alps in France, Switzerland and Italy, Patagonia in Argentina and Chile, Machu Picchu in Peru, and many Great Walks in New Zealand and Australia for AMC Adventure Travel. She is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR Certified.

### Leader, Cliff Chambers



**Cliff** leads three season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Cliff has co-led several hiking/trekking-oriented

Adventure Travel trips to such destinations as the Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park, New Zealand, and Patagonia and has traveled to Norway, Poland, and Tasmania in Australia. Cliff has led similar Alaska trips with Joan in 2018 and 2019. He and Joan are looking forward to sharing the incredible scenery with like-minded fellow hikers. Cliff has Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification.



## WHAT'S NEXT

After reading this prospectus carefully if you are still interested to apply for this trip, please fill out this Online Registration Form (<https://goo.gl/forms/9j1vFsixcuipremz1>) and submit it online.

Please send this Reference link, <https://goo.gl/forms/4KsnffaDXXeAWAPT2>, to three references who can vouch for your hiking activity, abilities, and experience with group travel. If you are an active outdoors person with limited hiking references, please feel free to contact Cliff Chambers at (617) 680-3735 to discuss trip details.

In addition to completing the Online Registration Form, please also download, print, fill out, sign and date the following documents from the links below. We will need both the online copy of your application as well as a hard copy with your official signature. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. AMC AT Trip #2024 Application Form:  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MJW5os79SfUYvhestR6nYmAJnmhNofMY>
2. AMC AT Assumption of Risk Participant Release Form:  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=12I7z2qJfTZUZZgJuTQpUeU\\_F-3k15Wk](https://drive.google.com/open?id=12I7z2qJfTZUZZgJuTQpUeU_F-3k15Wk)
3. AMC AT Medical Form:  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tHJqv3RAkVJxvniJv\\_no8YcaiadJiJzR](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tHJqv3RAkVJxvniJv_no8YcaiadJiJzR)
4. AMC AT Supplemental Medical Form (Optional):  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=177I1uOmd1G29fBaXIASid6o\\_SUzb2\\_hP](https://drive.google.com/open?id=177I1uOmd1G29fBaXIASid6o_SUzb2_hP)

Mail the above four (4) ink-signed forms along with a **deposit check for \$1,500** payable to the ***Appalachian Mountain Club*** and mail to: **Joan Chambers, PO Box 2532, Woburn, MA 01888**

Your check will not be deposited unless we offer you a place. If you are accepted from a waiting list, we will not deposit your check unless you confirm that you are still interested.

We expect this trip to fill quickly so the sooner you can get everything in the better and the sooner we can start the screening process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact L. Joan Chambers, [wu.chambers@gmail.com](mailto:wu.chambers@gmail.com) and L. Cliff Chambers, [wu.chambers@gmail.com](mailto:wu.chambers@gmail.com), 617-680-3735.

Please remember that all AMC Adventure Travel events are led by volunteers. As such, they may be unable to respond to your inquiry immediately. However, they are very dedicated and will contact you as soon as possible.

Please read and understand the cancellation policy in the trip prospectus before sending any money.