

# Squiver

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## DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM ALASKA 2011

This amazing trip will bring you extremely close to wild grizzlies, as we photograph them in their natural surroundings. We will be staying in the only private establishment anywhere in the remote coastal part of Katmai National Park's two million acre wilderness, set amidst a rugged backdrop of mountains and glaciers, at the well-protected Kukak Bay.



### Suggested day of arrival: 30 August 2011 @ Kodiak Island

We advise everyone to fly in a day before the actual start of the tour in order to avoid tight schedules because of flight delays or weather conditions. We've had problems in 2010 with fog and cancelled flights and were happy everyone took the extra day! There are two commercial airlines that service Anchorage/Kodiak:

- Alaska Airlines (1-800-252-7522, [www.alaskaair.com](http://www.alaskaair.com))
- ERA (1-800-866-8394, [www.flyera.com](http://www.flyera.com))

We recommend staying at the Kodiak Inn (a Best Western hotel) in Kodiak. It is a nice hotel located downtown, at walking distance to all museums, boat harbor, restaurants and shops. Please let us know if we should make any arrangements for you. The hotel also has a courtesy van for airport pick-up.

### Day 1: 31 August 2011

We start our tour with a flight in a floatplane, flying from Kodiak to Katmai. The floatplane is scheduled to leave at 12:30 p.m. and this flight will take about an hour. Because of weather conditions and sudden changes, tides etc. you should keep in mind that the time of departure could be changed without much prior notice. That is why we suggest flying in the day before, just to make sure you are on the floatplane if we need to leave earlier!

A professional and friendly crew will welcome us in Katmai. Our lodge is a cozy, modern log cabin lodge, designed specifically for providing small groups with an exclusive, yet intimate Alaskan experience. The lodge's experienced staff will serve you a variety of delicious cuisine each day and make your stay an exciting adventure. Each guest bedroom is comfortable and includes private bathrooms.

You will get an extensive briefing and have your first encounter with the grizzlies of Katmai National Park that same day, when we set out in the afternoon. An exciting moment for everyone!

## Day 2 to 7: 1 September 2011 – 6 September 2011

We will have 6 full days of bear photography. Your days at the lodge will be spent taking boat excursions to visit various parts of this dramatic coastline. On a daily basis we depart the lodge with special landing craft boats. We'll access different beachfronts and join the bears on land. You will have outstanding opportunities to view the earth's largest carnivore roaming the wildest and most untouched habitat remaining in the world.

One very important aspect to consider is the Alaskan weather. It can be very unpredictable and the conditions may vary on a daily basis from sunshine to extremely hard rain, wind and fog. We will always do our utmost to make the best use of the conditions at hand, but please be aware that we all need to be flexible about the program and that we can't control the weather - unfortunately... Other than that: we will have a great time with the wild bears of Alaska!

Bears can be seen in the lush green sedge meadows and/or roaming the vast tidal flats digging enthusiastically for clams. A tremendous number of salmon spawn in the streams and rivers of Kukak Bay and the local bears can't wait to get a hold of them!

We will photograph them running after salmon, fighting over territory, bears stealing each others catch or as they doze, catching their breath before the action starts all over again.

We have two boats at our disposal, taking 6 people per boat. This allows us to move freely around the bears so we can all have a high quality experience in the field, without people blocking your way or being in view of your camera. One group will be hosted by Marsel, the other by Daniëlla. The hosts will change groups each time we set out to photograph bears.

And when we are back at the lodge, we make our daily selections of images, which can be shared during image reviews. Marsel will lead these image reviews and he will analyze the images in front of the group, which is not only a lot of fun, but also highly educational for everyone. Marsel will be shooting alongside you when we set out to photograph bears and he is available to you for any questions you have at any given moment, both in the field and at the lodge.



## Day 8: 7 September 2011

After breakfast we will have to say our goodbyes to the bears, as we set out for a last photo shoot. A floatplane will fly us back to Kodiak around 1.30 pm, arriving at Kodiak at 2.30 pm.

Any delays caused by extreme weather conditions can however mean you might miss your connecting flight in Anchorage. We've had that happen to our participants in 2010, when fog prevented them to fly out that afternoon from Kodiak to Anchorage. That is why we advise to have 1 ticket, that includes your international flight AND the flight to/from Kodiak in order to avoid extra costs, should you miss your international connection due to delays.

Should you choose to fly out from Kodiak on 7 September, please book a flight after 4 pm, flying back home via Anchorage with loads of wonderful images of bears! This is the end of a truly amazing Alaskan adventure.