

Squiver



DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM ULTIMATE BEARS, ALASKA 2013

This amazing trip will bring you extremely close to wild grizzlies, as we photograph them in their natural surroundings, with a rugged backdrop of mountains and glaciers, wild rivers and creeks. We will be staying in a very comfortable lodge, located in Lake Clark National Park, in the middle of over four million acres of wilderness. On a clear day you can see Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Iliamna and Mt. Augustine, all active volcanoes, along with the majestic mountain range and Cook Inlet.

Besides viewing the coastal brown bears, you may also have the opportunity to photograph bald eagles, occasionally moose, wolves and harbor seals. And you can go fishing at the nearby creek, clam digging, coastal hiking or canoeing on the lake. We will take you to a photographer's paradise!



Suggested day of arrival in Alaska: on (or before) 17 August 2013

As Alaska is quite far away for most people, the week of bear viewing can be combined with other locations in Alaska. In order to go to Lake Clark, you can choose to fly from Anchorage or Soldotna.

We can help with booking the chartered flight, which at the same time allows us to coordinate things for the whole group.

As we expect that most of you will start the tour in Anchorage, we advise everyone to be in Anchorage on 1 September, so we can all fly together to the lodge on 2 September in the morning.

Day 1: 18 Augusts 2013

Everyone will be picked up at their hotel and taken to the airfield. We have a chartered bush plane that will take us to our lodge in Lake Clark National Park. The flight is a scenic flight in itself, flying over snow-covered mountains and volcanoes, and across the Cook Inlet.

We will be met at the beach "landing strip" by a professional and friendly crew and taken to the lodge with all terrain vehicles. We stay at a cozy 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 meals each day and make your stay an exciting adventure.

After you have checked into your room, you will get an extensive briefing and have your first encounter with the grizzlies that same day, when we set out in the afternoon. An exciting moment for everyone!



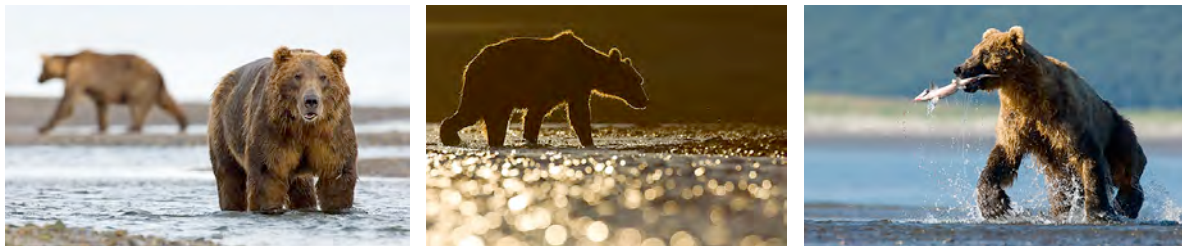
Day 2 to 7: 19 August 2013 – 24 August 2013

We will have 6 full days of bear photography. Your days at the lodge will be spent taking rides on ATV-drawn carts, with a highly skilled guide. There are usually many bears in the area, and bears can often be seen from the lodge. So we don't have to travel far!

You will have outstanding photographic opportunities to view the earth's largest carnivore, roaming the wildest and most untouched habitat remaining in the world. The bears have become used to people being in the area, so they totally ignore us while we observe and photograph them. We will photograph them running after salmon, fighting over territory, feeding in the meadows, digging for clams, stealing each others catch, or as they doze, catching their breath before the action starts all over again.

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!

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: 25 August 2013

After breakfast we will have to say our goodbyes to the bears. Our chartered airplane will take us back to Anchorage (or Soldotna) after breakfast.

It is always sad to leave, but you will arrive home with loads of wonderful images of bears! This is the end of a truly amazing Alaskan adventure.

Participation fee, flights, luggage allowance, accommodation & gratuities

The participation fee for this trip is €4250 per person, based on sharing. The group consists of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 participants. The group is lead by Marsel van Oosten and Daniëlla Sibbing.

We can arrange the return flight to the lodge per air charter for you from either Anchorage or Soldotna. The return flight from Anchorage costs 680 USD* per person and will take us 1 hour and 15 minutes (130 miles). The return flight from Soldotna is 315 USD* per person, as it is a shorter flight of just 30 minutes. Please let us know if you prefer to fly from & to Anchorage or Soldotna.

* prices based on rates of 2012, as rates for 2013 are not yet known

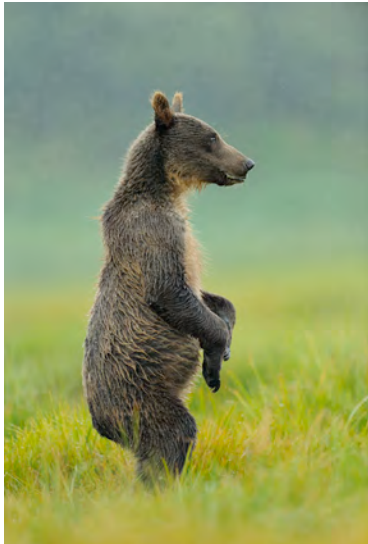
Luggage allowance is 70 lbs per person (31 kg). This includes *all your luggage* (regular luggage and hand luggage combined). If you carry more than 70 lbs, you will be charged \$0.50 per pound of overweight luggage by the air charter company. If possible, please bring your luggage in soft-bags, not hard case (or large) suitcases, as they are very difficult to position in the small airplanes.

If you choose to fly home on 25 August 2013, please book a connecting flight *after 4 pm*, just to be sure that in case of bad weather or delays, you do not miss your (international) flight.

The lodge is small in size and we will be the only ones staying there. This means that we can make our own schedule. A small lodge however also means that most of our guests will be sharing a room.

There are 5 warmly decorated rooms in the lodge itself. All rooms vary in size; some have king beds, others twins. Each guest bedroom is comfortable and includes private bathrooms, although not always en-suite. Apart from the rooms in the lodge, there are 2 simple rooms in a cabin close to the lodge, sharing a bathroom. Depending on the amount of couples, non-couples wanting to share a room, and singles on this trip, we will assign the rooms to our best judgment. The structure of the group will determine the amount of single rooms available, with a supplement of 750 EURO. If you prefer to have a single room, please indicate this on your booking form. If possible, we will arrange one for you. If you would like to share a room but we cannot find a roommate for you, we will have to charge you the single supplement. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis.

As is often done in restaurants in the United States, the lodge is charging us a fixed gratuity rate for group bookings. The going rate per person is 20 USD a day for the guide, 10 USD a day for the chef and 10 USD for the housekeeper.



Please let us know if you have any questions after reading this day-to-day schedule.