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**Alaska**  
***Arctic in Spring***  
June 13-16, 2021



*Arctic Circle ©Hugh Rose*

## **TRIP OVERVIEW**

Explore Alaska's vast arctic and the storied Brooks Range, under the Midnight Sun. Experience the true wilderness, wildlife and scenery of the Arctic while making a journey north from Fairbanks across the mighty Yukon River and Arctic Circle on the legendary "Haul Road" to Wiseman, an early 1900's gold mining community, where you will spend two nights in the Brooks Range. Venture northward from Wiseman to the treeline and over the continental divide on the highest mountain pass in Alaska (Atigun Pass). If time and interest permit, venture further north onto the "North Slope", the treeless rolling arctic plains situated between the Brooks Range and Arctic Ocean. The Haul Road parallels the "Trans-Alaska Pipeline" that snakes 811 miles across Alaska from Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean to Port Valdez on Prince William Sound. The diversity and numbers of migratory birds on the Coastal Plain, can be amazing this time of year, while the year-round resident mammals such as grizzly bear,

caribou, muskoxen, gray wolf, fox moose and black bear are on the hunt for food after the hungry months of winter. You will enjoy a comfortable log cabin bed and breakfast owned and operated by the pioneer Hicker family. While traveling the Dalton Highway, you will gain insight into the hard driving life of Haul Road truckers when you stop for dinner at the Coldfoot Truckstop. On the final morning of the trip enjoy a scenic flight from Coldfoot direct to Chena Hotsprings. This roughly one hour flight replaces what would be a 7-hour return drive to Fairbanks. Take home countless memories and photographs under the expert guidance of Alaska resident and naturalist, Bill Mohrwinkel.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cross the Arctic Circle and Mighty Yukon River
- Search for Alaska's iconic wildlife, including moose, grizzly and black bear, caribou, muskoxen, gray wolf, wolverine, lynx and red fox.
- Witness some of the diverse congregation of migratory birds that stage on the Coastal Plain during mid-June
- Witness the explosion of life on the Arctic tundra including spectacular displays of wildflowers.
- Spend two nights north of the Arctic Circle in cozy and comfortable log cabin B&B.
- Explore the legendary wilderness of the Brooks Range, while staying in a comfortable log cabin, not camping!
- Drive the famous Dalton Highway, the northern terminus of the Pan-American Highway that stretches from the southern tip of South America to the Arctic Ocean
- Enjoy a scenic flight from Coldfoot direct to Chena Hotsprings Resort and the beginning of the retreat.

**LEADERS:** Bill Mohrwinkel.

**DAYS:** 3, including estimated travel time.

**GROUP SIZE:** Minimum of 4/Maximum 8. We can accommodate more with advance notice

**COST:** \$2,850 per person, double occupancy (two people per room). If you want a **guaranteed** single room throughout the tour a "single supplement" of \$400 is added, making the total \$3250 per person. If you are a single traveler and don't mind sharing a room, we will pair you with another traveler and the cost remains \$2850 per person. If you agree to take a roommate and we cannot find you one we do not charge the single supplement, thus the cost is \$2850 per person. This trip can be combined with the 3-day Prince William Sound Cruise beginning on June 9 in Anchorage.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Travel in our private, custom-designed 12-seater Mercedes Sprinter and fly by charter aircraft from Coldfoot to Chena Hotsprings (flight included in cost of trip).

**CONDITIONS:** This tour is for people who want to experience the Arctic not just through a van window!

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jun 13	Arrive in Fairbanks before 5 pm, transfer to hotel and meet for welcome dinner.	Rivers Edge Cottages, Fairbanks	D
Jun 14	After breakfast depart on all-day drive (270 miles) north on the "Haul Road" Many stops for wildlife and scenery. Picnic lunch while in route.	Arctic Getaway Cabins and Breakfast, Wiseman (Brooks Range), Alaska	B, L, D
Jun 15	After breakfast drive north to the treeline and cross the continental divide to see and experience the landscape of the "North Slope"	Arctic Getaway Cabins and Breakfast, Wiseman (Brooks Range), Alaska	B, L, D
Jun 16	After breakfast, drive 15 miles to Coldfoot to board aircraft for the approximately 1-hour flight to Chena Hotsprings Resort, location of your conference		B

## LEADER

### Bill Mohrwinkel



Living and guiding in Alaska for 25 years, Bill has vast knowledge to share. He was part owner of an Arctic tour business for 10 years and has guided sea kayaking trips in Prince William Sound, polar and brown bear trips, and birding trips. His love of the polar regions has led Bill to also guide in Antarctica and South Georgia Island. Though he is not a photographer, he has extensive experience guiding photo trips and works hard to help clients accomplish their goals for the tour. His true passion is natural history and sharing that passion with participants, and he loves to have fun!

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Jun 13 ~ *Arrive in Fairbanks, Alaska*

Plan to arrive in Fairbanks no later than 5pm on June 13 to meet for a welcome dinner and orientation at a local restaurant. Due to its gold mining history and notorious hospitality,



Fairbanks is known as the "Golden Heart City of Alaska". A rich human and natural history of the region is on display at multiple locations in Fairbanks, including: The University of Alaska Museum of the North, Morris Thompson Cultural Visitor Center, World renowned Fountainhead Antique car museum and Creamers Field Migratory bird refuge. Other attractions such as the "Riverboat Discovery" and World Ice Art Museum all make Fairbanks a great place to spend a few days before your trip begins. At 6pm, your guide Bill will meet you in the lobby of Rivers Edge Resort and transport you to a local favorite restaurant for a welcome dinner and orientation for the next few days travel to the arctic.



### **Jun 14 ~ Drive the Dalton Highway North across the Arctic Circle to Wiseman**

After a full breakfast at Rivers Edge Resort, you will depart on the all-day drive north up the Dalton Highway (Haul Road), to your destination for the night, Wiseman, Alaska. The days' drive will be punctuated by many stops for photography, wildlife viewing, absorbing the scenery, stretching your legs and using the strategically placed rest stops. The highway first traverses the rolling and scenic hills of the White Mountains, passing through the "White Mountain National Recreation Area. The White Mountains abruptly end in a long descent to the mighty Yukon River one of the largest river drainages in North America. The highway crosses the massive Yukon on a nearly one-mile long bridge, which is the only span across the Yukon in Alaska. North of the Yukon River the highway ascends back into mountainous terrain to cross the Rey and Caribou Mountain Ranges, passing by the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and scenic locations such as "Finger Mountain" and Kanuti Flats. Sixty miles north of the Yukon River you cross the "Arctic Circle" (Lat. 66' 33" North), which is the line of latitude where the sun does not set on the longest day of the year and does not rise on the shortest day of the year. Your crossing of the "Circle" will be celebrated accordingly! Sixty miles north of the Circle lies Coldfoot the only truck stop on the 500 miles of highway between Fairbanks and Prudhoe Bay! Fifteen miles north of Coldfoot you will find the historic gold-mining community of Wiseman, where your lodge for the next two nights is located. After settling into your log cabin accommodations and enjoying a beer or glass of wine, you will drive 15 miles back south to have dinner in the Coldfoot diner. Experience arctic hospitality and the unexpectedly good food in Coldfoot, the only diner and service station on the entire 500 miles of road between Fairbanks and the Prudhoe Bay oilfields. At this time of year, the sun does not set in the arctic (sorry no chance to see aurora borealis), but you may go look for wildlife after dinner, as evening hours are some of the best for seeing top predators such as wolves and grizzly bears. At the end of a long day return to the Arctic Getaway for some well-deserved rest and a midnight beer to finish off the days' adventure.



*Mt Sukupak© Hugh*

### **Jun 15 ~ *Cross the Continental Divide and experience the "North Slope."***

After breakfast at Arctic Getaway, set out with a picnic lunch for an all-day adventure driving north. As you drive north and deeper into the Brooks Range look for wildlife and soak in the rugged wilderness beauty of one of the most remote major mountain chains in the United States. As the Haul Road climbs towards the continental divide the trees get smaller the mountains get larger and eventually you will encounter the northernmost trees on the highway at Chandalar Shelf. As the gravel highway ascends the "Shelf" trees give way to tundra shrubs and snow will still cover the surrounding mountain peaks. From the "Shelf", the highway climbs 1500 more feet to "Atigun Pass", the highest road accessible point in Alaska, at roughly 5000 feet. Dall sheep (the bighorn white mountain sheep of Alaska) are often seen near the road and grizzly bears can be seen ranging these mountainsides eating fresh green spring shoots and digging for arctic ground squirrels. At this time of year (Arctic Spring) the tundra is coming alive in a burst of color with wildflowers carpeting the slopes. Migratory birds are returning in huge numbers and for anyone interested in birds, Bill is a keen birder capable of finding species that are found nowhere else in road accessible North America! As you drive northward from the high peaks of the Brooks Range the landscape transitions from jagged rocky peaks to rolling plains much like eastern Montana. In this wide-open habitat you may encounter the prehistoric muskox or perhaps a herd of caribou grazing across the rolling tundra plains. Time and interest will dictate how far north you choose to go this day, but the farther north you go the flatter the land becomes, dotted with ponds and lakes and filled with the abundant waterfowl that nest here in the arctic summer. Eventually you will turn south and head back over the divide to Coldfoot for dinner and Wiseman for the night. The time you spend in the arctic will be totally up to you and Bill, but since dinner tonight will be at the Coldfoot diner again, and it is open 24 hours/day, you can't be late for dinner! Don't worry though, the van will be well stocked with snacks and extra food so you will not go hungry, even if dinner does end up being late!

### **Jun 16 ~ *Fly from Coldfoot to Chena Hotsprings Resort***

Rather than repeat the drive that you did going north to Wiseman from Fairbanks, we have arranged a charter flight to take you direct from Coldfoot to Chena Hotsprings Resort, your home for the retreat. After breakfast at Arctic Getaway, Bill will transport you to the Coldfoot airport 15 miles south, where you will meet your charter aircraft for the roughly one-hour flight to Chena Hotsprings. Upon arrival at Chena, you will be taken to your rooms and can enjoy lunch in the Chena dining room. The rest of the day is on your own to relax and enjoy Chena Hotsprings Resort.



**COSTS (all costs are in US Dollars)**

**Cost**

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$2,850
Single Supplement (guaranteed single room)	\$400

Costs are per person, double occupancy and we strive to include everything so there are no hidden expenses

We reserve the right to charge for cost increases that occur between when we set tour prices and the date of travel, for example, changes due to the cost of lodging and transportation. If you are a single traveler and you are willing to have a roommate, we will find a roommate for you, and if we cannot, we will not charge you a single supplement fee. Single rooms are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed throughout the tour.

**Payment Schedule**

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Second	March 1, 2021	\$1,500
Final	May 1, 2021	Remaining Balance

Payments will be due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space. For reservations made after a due date, all past payments will be due with registration. By sending your initial deposit, you agree to accept our payment schedule and cancellation policy as a contract. If payments are still outstanding two weeks after the due date, your space may be forfeited.

### **Cancellations**

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$500 per person, which can be applied toward another tour if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

### **Included**

- All activities, leaders, transport, park entry and user fees, landing fees and permits unless described as optional.
- Accommodations for the nights of June 13 through June 15.
- Beer and wine in Wiseman for the nights of June 14 and 15
- Meals from dinner on June 13 through breakfast on June 16
- Charter flight from Coldfoot to Chena Hot springs resort
- Gratuities to lodge and hotel staff throughout the trip.
- Trip Materials - information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

### **Not included**

- Airfare from your home to Alaska, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Alcoholic beverages except beer and wine in Wiseman
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation/Release Form.
- Wi-Fi services in Wiseman. Satellite Wi-Fi is available for limited times during the day, but it is slow and text only for a \$12/day fee.

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## **SIGN UP**

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation/Release Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Hugh Rose Photography and Tours

Email: [hughrose64@gmail.com](mailto:hughrose64@gmail.com)

Website: [www.hughrosephotography.com](http://www.hughrosephotography.com)

Phone: (907) 388-2554 or (907) 479-8984

## OTHER DETAILS

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### **Climate**

This trip visits the arctic coastal plain and Brooks Range during springtime in arctic Alaska. This means the weather can vary greatly from sunny and hot to winter-like conditions. Expect a wide range of temperatures, weather, and wind conditions, with daytime temperatures ranging from 40–70°F (up to the 80's°F in the south) with nights possibly in the 40's in Wiseman. Both rain and snow are possible as are warm, sunny days.

### **Fitness Level**

We make frequent stops for wildlife viewing and photography, however participants should be comfortable sitting for several hours at a time due to the distances we cover. We also strive to get you out of the van and into the environment to experience it firsthand, so plan on many short walks on all driving days.

### **Transportation**

Travel in our private, custom-designed 12-seater Mercedes Sprinter, specifically adapted for photography, including windows that open on both sides. With only eight participants throughout the journey, you'll have room to spread out!

Charter flight from Coldfoot to Fairbanks in a twin-engine Navajo or equivalent aircraft

### **Accommodations**

Arctic Getaway Cabin and Breakfast in Wiseman is owned and operated by the Hicker family, long time friends who have built the most comfortable accommodations north of the arctic circle in the Brooks Range. Berni Hicker has handcrafted all of the log cabins from local spruce logs and fitted each cabin with modern amenities such as running water and electricity delivered through batteries by solar and wind power with generator backup. There are three multi-bedroom cabins (Koyukuk, Aurora and Wolverine), that share two bathrooms. The Koyukuk cabin contains two bedrooms (upstairs) with queen beds, a sitting area (with bed), dining area, kitchen and bathroom. The Aurora cabin also has two bedrooms upstairs with a kitchen, dining and sitting area (also with extra bed) and bathroom. The Wolverine cabin is a single room (with two beds), kitchen and sitting area, connected to the Aurora cabin through the bathroom with a separate entry into the bathroom. Rivers Edge cottages in Fairbanks, are roomy individual cottages located on the banks of the Chena River approximately 5 minutes from the Fairbanks airport. Each cottage has two queen beds and a large full bathroom.

### **Wi-Fi and Cellular Connectivity**

While in Fairbanks you will have excellent LTE cellular connectivity and Wi-Fi is available at Rivers Edge Resort. There is no cellular connectivity while driving from Fairbanks to Wiseman. While in Wiseman, if Verizon is your service provider there is LTE cellular internet service and Arctic Getaway has limited HughesNet satellite Wi-Fi available in the morning and evening for \$12/day. This satellite service is slow and for text only.

## Flights

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Fairbanks, Alaska (FAI) by June 13 at 5pm (latest). At the end of your trip, you will be flown to Chena Hotsprings Resort on June 16, (included in trip price) and your Retreat will begin on the morning of June 17 with a scheduled activity.

## Conditions

- **Maximum time in nature:** We try to spend as much time in nature as possible, sometimes resulting in long days but giving you a more in-depth experience.
- **Itinerary route:** The itinerary route, stops, and plans are subject to change by unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, such as weather or road conditions.
- **Additional forms:** For some of our tours, you may be asked to fill out additional forms (e.g., medical questionnaire).
- **Medical conditions and travel risks:** Travel to remote places is exciting, but it is important to understand and accept the risks, both medical and logistical. Minor medical problems can usually be treated (Bill Mohrwinkel is a certified Wilderness First Responder (WFR)), but because we are often far from medical facilities, there can be no expectation for immediate medical treatment or evacuation, even in cases of trauma. Anyone with health problems needing close medical supervision should not consider going on this tour. Bring enough medication for the duration of the trip for any chronic medical needs since pharmacies are usually not available. When you send your deposit and signed Reservation/Release Form, you certify to us that you do not knowingly have any physical or other conditions that would create a risk for yourself or for other trip participants.

## Conservation

Hugh Rose Photography is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We also urge you to join a conservation organization to help protect Alaskan wildlife, such as Defenders of Wildlife, the Wilderness Society, Alaska Wilderness League or the Audubon Society.

