



## **Denali Field Camp Retreats**

Denali National Park and Preserve  
Summer 2020

### **Retreat Description**

Located 29 miles inside Denali National Park, our themed retreats offer comfortable camping in wall tents, exclusive experiences with resident experts, and time to unwind with a relaxing stroll along the Teklanika River bar.

### **Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness**

Retreats are active learning experiences and take place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be moderately strenuous over uneven forest and river bar terrain covering distances of up to 3 miles round trip with as much as 500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet forest conditions and small stream crossings with water levels that are above hiking boots.

**Participants must be in good physical condition.** If you are uncertain about your physical condition meeting retreat expectations, please contact us for more information.

### **Times and Location**

Participants meet at the long term/RV parking lot near the Denali Visitor Center (Mile 1 of the Park Road) at 7:00 pm on the first day. The retreat ends at 1:00 pm on the last day at the Teklanika Field Camp. Participants will be asked to depart the Teklanika area by 5pm.

### **Field Camp**

This retreat is based out of the Murie Science and Learning Center Field Camp, located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic tent cabins, outdoor picnic tables, a shared outdoor kitchen space, a shared yurt space, shared outhouses, and a small shared storage space. Each tent cabin has two sets of bunk beds with foam mattresses. The outdoor kitchen has a small propane stove and no refrigeration. **There is no electricity, plumbing, or any heated area, i.e., no hot water and no showers.** There is no cellular phone service in the Teklanika area.

### **Food**

Participants should bring food for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, and snacks. We recommend bringing easy to prepare foods that require little or no cooking. Participants will also need to bring their own dishware, cooking ware, and eating utensils.

### **Safety, Risk and COVID-19 – We All Play A Role**

We all play a role in safety and risk management. Please review our risk management page at <https://www.akgeo.org/risk-management/>.

### **Questions?**

Please read the following pages for more information. If you have other questions, please contact the Murie Science and Learning Center by email at [courses@alaskageographic.org](mailto:courses@alaskageographic.org)



# Alaska Geographic

## *Required Paperwork, Arrival and Logistics*

### **Essential Tasks to Do Before You Arrive**

1. **Please review the packing list** below for the items to bring to make your stay at the Field Camp as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. The road pass is for one-time entry so you will not be allowed to exit the park and return to Teklanika if you forget to pack or bring essential items.
2. **Please review our COVID-19 Mitigation Plan** specific to these Retreats, [this PDF can be found on our Risk Management webpage here](#). We will rely on everyone's cooperation to have the safest experience possible.
3. **Required Paperwork:** Once registered in a retreat, you'll receive an email with hyperlinks to the following online documents we need from you:
  - Alaska Geographic Participant Agreement (required from each participant)
  - Health and Emergency Contact form (required from each participant)
  - A vehicle information form for the NPS Road Permit. Please note that RVs or vehicles over 22 feet in length are not permitted at the field camp.

Failure to complete these online forms may prohibit your attendance.

### **Arrival**

At 7:00 p.m., the Alaska Geographic guide will greet you at the long term/RV parking lot near the Denali Visitor Center (Mile 1 of the Park Road). Please have dinner before meeting with your guide to drive to Teklanika. The group will travel in a caravan to the Teklanika area.

### **Directions, Parking Area and Meeting Location**

The entrance to Denali National Park is located at Mile 237 of the George Parks Highway. Follow the Park Road for approximately 1 mile to a roundabout. Take the second turn off the roundabout toward the "Visitor Center Campus". You will see a sign for parking that points RVs to the left and automobiles to the right. **Turn left toward the RV lot.** Parking is available around the perimeter of this lot. Look for our guide near a white Sprinter Van. See the map on the next page for the location of the parking lot circled in red.

### **Insurance and Liability**

Participants should have their own health and accident insurance. Also please consider travel insurance in case you have to cancel your trip due to illness or injury.

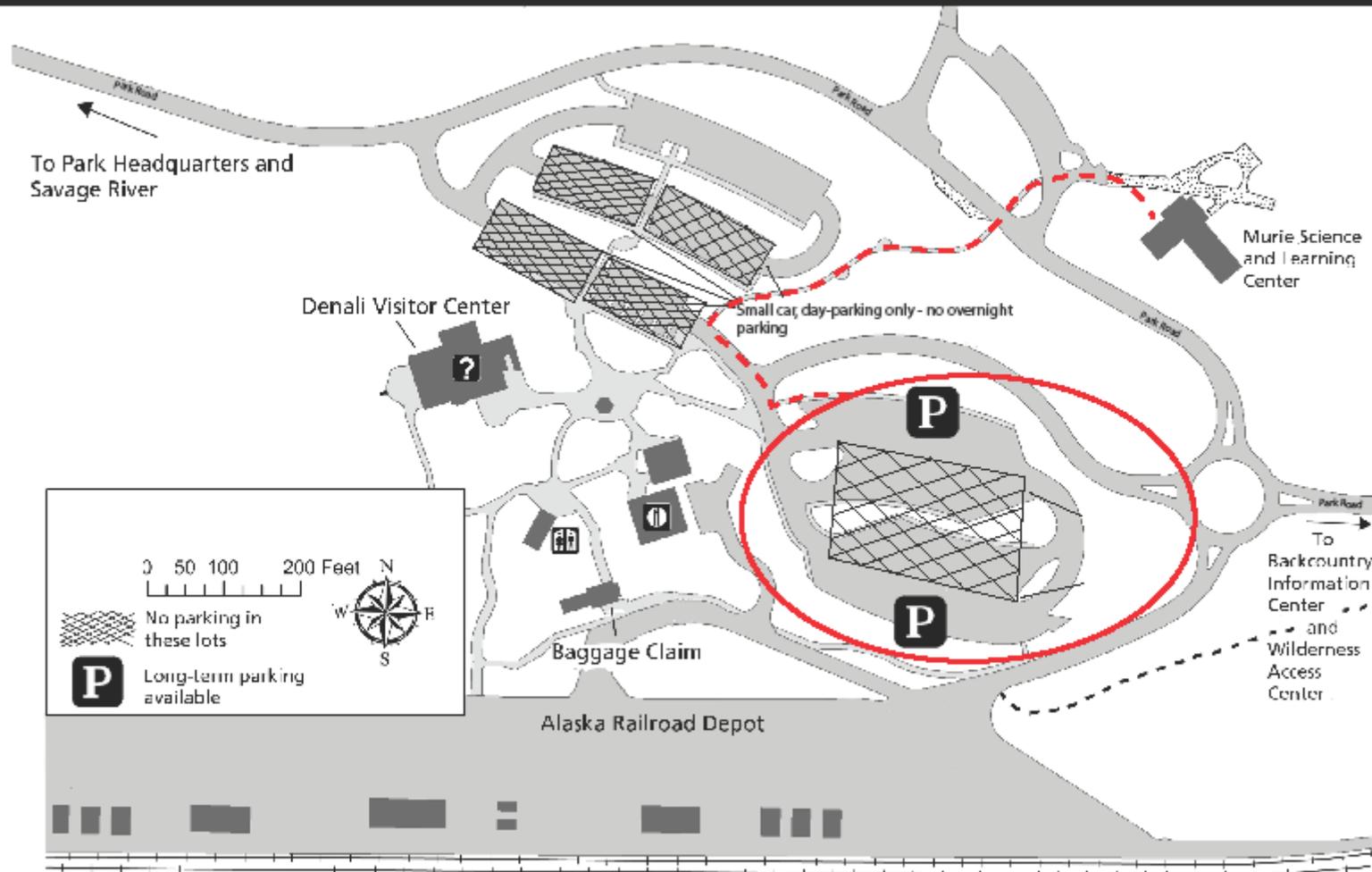
### **Important Contact Information**

For general course information, please email us at: [courses@alaskageographic.org](mailto:courses@alaskageographic.org). There is no phone communication at the field camp. If a family member has an **urgent emergency need to contact you**, they should call the **National Park Service Regional Communication Center (907-683-2276)** and relay that you are with an Alaska Geographic group at the Teklanika field camp.

# Long-Term Parking

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska



Please note, overnight camping is prohibited in the long-term parking areas. You may only camp overnight in an established campground, or in the backcountry with a valid backcountry permit. Visit the Wilderness Access Center and Backcountry Information Center for camping information.



### **Overview of the Teklanika Area Conditions**

Your safety and comfort are important to us. The entire retreat takes place outdoors and activities will continue rain or shine. We will be hiking off trail on uneven terrain and will likely encounter wet conditions. Temperatures can be below 32 degrees F or as high as 80+ degrees F. Snow is possible at any time. Be prepared with adequate warm clothing, a hooded rain jacket, and rain pants. Dressing in layers is recommended. Mosquitoes and other biting insects can be numerous anytime during the summer.

### **Clothing**

#### **Clothing for Cold Weather:**

- 3 pairs warm socks (wool or synthetic)
- 2 warm long-sleeve shirts (synthetic)
- 1 pair of long underwear (synthetic) and/or fleece pants
- 1-2 sweaters or jackets (wool or fleece)
- Warm winter-style hat (wool or fleece)
- Long pants (quick drying synthetic)
- 2 pairs Warm gloves (wool or fleece)
- 1 Winter Coat or Parka that is windproof. Hand and foot warmers can be useful.

#### **Clothing for the Heat & Sun:**

- T-shirt or short-sleeve shirt
- Baseball cap or sun hat
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Optional - light-weight pants

#### **Clothing for Precipitation, Wind & Insects:**

- Hooded Rain jacket
- Rain pants
- Head net
- Insect repellent
- Optional – anti-itch ointment

#### **Footwear:**

- Waterproof hiking boots
- Optional – Light-weight shoes (for around camp), Knee high rubber boots (like XtraTuffs or similar)

**Packing your clothing and gear in a large backpack will be easiest for transport to the field camp.** At the field camp, we leave all food and scented items such as toiletries and bug spray in a bear-proof shed or your vehicle and *do not allow them in the tent cabins*. Please pack these items separately from your clothing and other gear.

## **Camping and Personal Gear**

- Sheet or other covering for the foam mattress
- Warm Sleeping Bag
- Pillow and pillow covering
- 3 Facemasks per person (one for each day)
- 1 bottle of personal hand sanitizer per person
- Day pack with rain cover
- 1-2 Personal water bottles (1 liter size)
- Personal hygiene items & prescription medications packed in a small bag
- Small lightweight Flashlight/Headlamp and extra batteries
- Optional – camp chair, tarp or bug screen to set up over personal picnic table, camera, binoculars, notebook, waterproof writing implement, thermos, hiking poles, gaiters, bandana, field guides.

## **Food and Cooking Supplies**

### **Food**

Because we have a shared kitchen space that will need to be cleaned between users and limited space to store food, we recommend planning for simple meals bringing food that requires little time for preparation. A few ideas are instant oatmeal, muffins or bagels and cream cheese for breakfast; snack like items or tortilla wraps for lunch; backpacking meals, ramen/instant noodles, pasta with prepared sauce, or other one-pot options for dinner. Boiling water will be available during breakfast and dinner times. There will be limited storage space for small coolers in the shared food storage building. You may also store food and other scented items in your vehicle.

Please bring food for:

- 2 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 1 dinner
- Snacks
- Beverages (coffee, tea, sugar, honey)

### **Cooking and Eating Gear**

Alaska Geographic will provide a 3-burner propane stove, picnic tables with plastic covers, a water spigot, handwashing/dish soap, tubs for dish washing, and cleaning and sanitizing supplies. Consider bringing a bug tent or tarp to cover your dedicated picnic table for added protection from mosquitoes and/or rain.

Please bring the following supplies depending on your food plan:

- Cooking pot and/or fry pan
- Cooking utensils if needed (spatula, stirring/serving spoon, pot scraper)
- Plates, bowls, cups, and eating utensils
- Optional – bring your stove and fuel for faster cooking of meals