

E: info@classicescapes.com
W: www.classicescapes.com
Nature & Cultural Journeys
for the Discerning Traveler

# YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN

# THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS TEXAS A&M

## TO EXPERIENCE

# THE IDITAROD IN ALASKA

# THE GREATEST ENDURANCE RACE

MARCH 2 To 7, 2016





# YOUR ITINERARY



Day 1 ~ Wednesday ~ March 2
Anchorage

"In wildness is the preservation of the world."
- Henry David Thoreau

Your adventure begins as you land in Anchorage, Alaska. Upon arrival you will be met by your Classic Escapes representative and transferred to your hotel. The balance of your evening is at leisure to settle into the 'Land of the Midnight Sun!' Your home for the next four nights is the Hotel Captain Cook, centrally located near sights, museums and shopping in Downtown Anchorage. Well-appointed rooms offer gorgeous views, satellite television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel offers a variety of dining choices from top flight dining at the Crow's Nest perched atop Tower 3, to several more casual cafes and bistros. Guests have use of the Athletic Club facilities which includes fitness room, classes, swimming pool and Jacuzzi. This evening enjoy your welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at the HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK *or similar*. (D)

### Day 2 ~ Thursday ~ March 3 Anchorage

This morning you will visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. The largest museum in Alaska, the Anchorage Museum is a community-based institution with a wide-ranging collection related to the history and cultures of Alaska as well as a fine collection of art and exhibitions featuring contemporary Alaskan artists. One of the museum's most popular exhibits is the Alaska Gallery, a 15,000 square-foot gallery devoted to the story of Alaska. It displays more than 1,000 objects and is one of the state's most significant repositories of Alaskan history and ethnology. Full-scale and miniature dioramas, as well as interpretive exhibits, provide an interactive Alaskan narrative. Your afternoon is at leisure to continue your exploration of this lovely city.



In the evening the group will attend the annual Musher's Banquet at the newly-built Dena'ina Center. Enjoy dinner as you get up close and personal to the scene, talk to the Iditarod mushers, take pictures and collect autographs. Watch as mushers draw their starting numbers from a boot. The order in which the mushers pick their numbers is determined by the order in which they signed up for the race. The annual banquet draws a crowd of nearly 2,000 spectators and promises to be an exciting event.

Overnight at the HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK. (B,D)



# Day 3 ~Friday~March 4

#### ANCHORAGE

Enjoy a free day to explore Anchorage on your own or join in one of the exciting optional excursions available.

#### Optional Full Day Adventure to Dog Sledding Country - based on a minimum of 6 travelers

Learn the musher's tricks of the sledding trade from an experienced musher then meet the young pups that may one day pull a sled in the grueling Iditarod and watch them demonstrate their sled pulling skills in training demonstrations. *Price*: \$320 per person. Depart at approximately 8:00 AM and return at approximately 3:00 PM. Lunch is included. (Rate subject to change.)

#### <u>Optional Taste of Winter - Alaska's Great Outdoors</u> <u>based on a minimum of 6 travelers</u>

Take a 40-minute dog sled ride and participate in an all ability level snowshoe trek through wooded trails in the morning and afterward get rewarded for you efforts with campfire prepared s'mores.

Price: \$259 per person. Depart at 9:30 AM with return at 12:30 PM or depart 11:00 AM and return at 2:00 PM. (Rate subject to change.)

# Optional Turnagain Arm Winter Adventure- based on a minimum of 6 travelers

Hop on your private vehicle for a trip down an All-American road, the Seward Highway. Travel between

coastal mountains and Turnagain Arm to experience one of Alaska's most scenic drives. Upon arrival in Girdwood you will ride the Alyeska Resort Aerial Tramway to the top of Mt. Alyeska, affording beautiful views. Afterwards, you will have free time to explore this beautiful ski resort. Next, continue to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center where you will have the opportunity to photographs animals in their natural, "wild" behavior. Coyotes peer out from behind the brush while a Bald Eagle swoops in on the salmon remains left by a grizzly bear. Wood Bison plod through 65 acres of tidal flat terrain as part of the program that will one day restore the species to the Alaskan wilderness. *Price:* \$209 per person. (Rate subject to change.) Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight at HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK. (B,L on optional Dogsledding Adventure)



# Day 4 ~ Saturday ~ March 5 Iditarod – Ceremonial Start!

Today is the *ceremonial* start of the Iditarod in Anchorage, just blocks from your hotel. Get an early jump on the day and witness the excitement as the mushers unload their teams in the staging area and prepare to run the race of a lifetime. Join with the crowds along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and cheer on the mushers and their teams as they surge down the snow covered lane. Enjoy the balance of your day at leisure. Many activities will be taking place downtown including the world famous Running of the Reindeer!

Overnight at HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK. (B)



# Day 5 ~ Sunday ~ March 6 Iditarod – Official Restart/Willow/Palmer

This morning you will travel north to visit the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Headquarters in Wasilla. Then go to the *official* restart of the race in Willow where you will experience the thrill of the race proper as the racers begin their long trek to Nome. After seeing this exciting event, drive into the wilderness along the Knik River to your home for this evening, near the Knik Glacier. The Knik River Lodge is surrounded by a spectacular wilderness setting and affords a unique experience. The lodge offers comfortable cabins with private bathrooms and meals are served in the inviting lodge yurt. Overnight at KNIK RIVER LODGE or similar. (B, Boxed L)

# Day 6 ~ Monday ~ March 7 Palmer/Anchorage/En Route

Drive back to Anchorage today with sightseeing en route. Transfer to the airport in time for your flight home. You've just experienced the majesty of our American frontier – something that will stay with you for the rest of your life! (B, Meals Aloft)







# OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION TO RAINY PASS CHECKPOINT

## Day $6 \sim MONDAY \sim MARCH 7$

#### PALMER/ANCHORAGE

Drive back to Anchorage today with sightseeing en route. Bid farewell to your fellow tour members who are returning to Chicago as they transfer to the airport this evening. You will enjoy the balance of your day at leisure in Anchorage. Overnight at HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK. (B)

#### Day 7 ~ Tuesday ~ March 8

#### RAINY PASS CHECKPOINT/ANCHORAGE/EN ROUTE

Transfer to the airport this morning for your one hour charter flight north to Rainy Pass. You will spend approximately four hours here and experience the arrivals and departures of mushers at this checkpoint. You will also enjoy lunch at Rainy Pass Lodge. Return via charter flight in the late afternoon back to Anchorage Airport where you connect with your flight home. You've just experienced the majesty of our American frontier – something that will stay with you for the rest of your life! (L)





#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Superior accommodations at hotels and lodges as indicated in the itinerary (or similar).
- Meals as specified in the itinerary. (No meals included on additional nights.)
- Musher's Banquet.
- Admission to the Anchorage Museum.
- Visit the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Headquarters.
- Visit the Iditarod Museum in Wasilla.
- All transportation by private coach.
- All admissions and entry fees.
- Gratuities for baggage handling, hotel tips and taxes.
- Complimentary passport wallet and baggage tags.

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston to Alaska including airline taxes (quoted separately; subject to change).
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals other than specified and all beverages.
- Gratuities to drivers, guides and other conveyance attendants.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Cost for anything not specifically included in the listing above.
- Personal and baggage insurance.

Please Note That The Itinerary Sequence Is Correct At The Time Of Writing,
But Is Subject To Change.

# **CLASSIC ESCAPES CONSERVATION FUND**

In keeping with its mission to provide exciting, educational, and fun-filled experiences that nurture and directly support the diverse wildlife and cultures we visit around the world, Classic Escapes has established the Classic Escapes Conservation Fund to ensure that a percentage of all profits go to support conservation and wildlife researchers performing their critical work in the field. By traveling with Classic Escapes, you are supporting travel as a tool for building the mutual respect, awareness and understanding that are vital to preserving this planet for future generations.





# YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

**INCLUDING:** IDITAROD START AND RE-START, ANCHORAGE, GIRDWOOD, MT. ALYESKA, WASILLA, WILLOW AND PALMER.

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:** ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS TEXAS A&M

**ESCORTED BY:** A HOST FROM TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**DATES:** MARCH 2-7, 2016

COST: PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	MAIN PROGRAM BASED ON 15 TRAVELERS	RAINY PASS EXTENSION BASED ON 2 TRAVELERS
LAND PACKAGE	\$2,550 PER PERSON	\$1,590 PER PERSON, INCLUDES EXTRA NIGHT IN ANCHORAGE, TRANSFERS & FLIGHT
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT*	\$895 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL	\$200 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL

**DEPARTURE CITY:** HOUSTON, OTHER CITIES UPON REQUEST





# **CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:**

#### REGISTRATION

**HOW TO BOOK:** Fill out the reservation form below and send it to Texas A & M Traveling Aggies- 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

#### **PAYMENTS**

**DEPOSIT:** A deposit of \$500 per person for the main trip and \$250 for either extension must be submitted at the time of booking. Deposits may be paid by check or charged to American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Final payment is due 95 days before departure – you will receive a final invoice. Final payment is payable by check or money order ONLY.

**RATES:** Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Cost of passport and visa fees, and service charges for obtaining visa fees; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; laundry and other items of a personal nature; optional travel insurance policy; cost for anything not specifically included in listing above.

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** The quoted rate is valid for the first two single rooms booked and on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than two single rooms are needed, an additional supplement will apply. Single accommodations are not guaranteed, but will be provided at additional cost if available (see reservation form for cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

**GRATUITIES AND TAXES:** Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, and entrance fees to all points of interest as outlined in the itinerary are included. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are included in air costs. Tips to drivers and naturalist are NOT included.

#### **CANCELLATIONS, DEVIATIONS & CHANGES**

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance can provide financial reimbursement should the unexpected occur.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, \$250 handling fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposit given to overseas suppliers.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, deposit is forfeited.
- 74-60 days prior to departure, less 75% of tour cost.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% penalty, unless any refund is recoverable from overseas suppliers.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines.

CHANGE FEES: Once you reserve your tour, changes are possible subject to availability of air or land space at the time of request. Should there be any change fees imposed by airlines or ground operators, or additional costs incurred due to availability of any space, this cost will be invoiced to you.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: We would be happy to make additional travel plans for you, including specially arranged pre- or post-tour extensions different than those that may be offered in conjunction with this tour. A service charge of \$150 per person (over and above the cost of the services required) will be assessed.



#### **DOCUMENTS**

**PASSPORT & VISAS:** The onus is upon the guest to ensure that passports and visas are valid for the countries visited and for the applicable time period, as outlined by the U.S. Department of State (travel.state.gov) or by the passport holder's country. Classic Escapes, their staff and their agents cannot be held liable for any visas, etc. not held by the guests, nor for the cost of obtaining visas.

**PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION:** Upon receipt of your registration and deposit, we will send a pre-departure packet to you. This packet contains all the information you need to prepare for your tour, including the complete itinerary, packing checklist, required documents, etc.

**FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final documents and tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, provided all monies have been paid in full.

#### TRIP DETAILS

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** You will marvel at the wonderful accommodations provided throughout your tour. All rooms have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning and/or fans. All rates are based on double occupancy. Most rooms are twin-bedded, but king-size beds are occasionally available and should be requested in advance. Accommodations listed in this itinerary are correct at time of writing, but on rare occasions may be substituted for a different property of comparable quality.

**MEALS:** All meals as specified in the itinerary. Please notify us if you have special dietary needs or requests, and we will do our best to accommodate.

**INOCULATIONS:** When it comes to vaccination and disease prevention, we suggest that travelers first review information provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<a href="www.cdc.gov/travel">www.cdc.gov/travel</a>) and then review those details with their personal physicians.

WATER: It is always advisable to drink bottled and/or filtered water when traveling overseas. Safe drinking water will be provided to travelers free of charge in the vehicles and during meals.

**BAGGAGE:** On average, international flights from the USA allow two pieces of checked luggage, each not exceeding 50 pounds; however we always recommend that you check your airline's policy just before departure, as luggage limitations are always subject to change. Despite this weight allowance, we always suggest guests travel light. Also soft-sided duffel bags are ideal for this tour, as they stow best in vehicles and airplanes with limited space.

#### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

RESPONSIBITTIES: Neither Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the aforegoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the aforegoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund. The person making any booking will, by the making of such booking, warrant that he or she has authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the other person included in such a booking and in the event of the failure of any or all of the other persons so included to make payment, the person making the booking shall by his/her signature thereof assume personal liability for the total price of all bookings made by him/her.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or film taken on the tour by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

**CHANGES TO SCHEDULES:** Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules it should be borne in mind that the Company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and hotels as dictated by changing conditions.

**REFUNDS:** While the Company uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there shall be no claim of any nature whatsoever against the Company for a refund either in the whole or part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found. If the guest is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary, then there are no refunds due.



**AIRLINE CLAUSE:** The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

**DELAYS:** We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule. If one of our guides is unable to take a trip due to illness, etc. we reserve the right to substitute with another guide. This agreement is made subject to and shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the country in which the trip takes place. Classic Escapes act merely as an agent for the operating companies. To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

**CONSENT:** The payment of the deposit OR any other partial payment for a reservation on a trip constitutes consent by all guests covered by that payment to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in this brochure whether the guest has signed the booking form or not. The terms, under which you agree to take this trip, cannot be changed or amended except in writing signed by an authorized director of the Company.

**INSURANCE:** It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the program, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, any of the above mentioned eventualities. Guests will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services they may require, and may find themselves in a position unable to access such services should they not be carrying the relevant insurance cover. Information will be sent to you from the Association of Former Students Texas A&M Travel office upon receipt of reservation form.



# HELP US GO GREEN

sembori more etaphics of www.psdgraphics.com

Dear Traveler,

In an effort to help protect our planet, Classic Escapes has begun the transition of becoming paperless. We need your help getting there!

#### Did you know?

Recycling one ton of paper saves 20 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, 60 pounds of air pollutants, and saves enough energy to power the average home for six months...

Please indicate in the chart below whether or not you prefer to receive paperless correspondence from us – all you need to do is put a check under the "green" symbol for yes or a check under the "NO" for no.

Simply fax to 718-204-4726 or email your responses to reservations@classicescapes.com!

You Will Receive The Following Items For Your Program:	NO
Welcome Letter	
Preliminary Materials - prelude packet and invoice	
Reminder Invoice with balance due	7
Paid-in-Full Invoice	7
Final Documents – species list, journal and final booklet	

Your Name:		
Email Address:		

Trip Tour Code: 16NAL0302/TEXASA&M

Together we can make the world a better place!

Thank you for your support,



RESER	EVATION FORM:	ASSOCIATION OF FORMER S	TUDENTS TEXAS A&M ~	IDITAROD, ALASKA	16NAL0302/TexasA&M
		(\$500 per person, plus is \$2,550 per person, double occupa		old place(s) on	the Adventure to Alaska
Final pay	ment due date is: <b>Nove</b>	mber 28, 2015			
		LASSIC ESCAPES and mail it to: $T$ isterCard $\Box$ Visa $\Box$ American		s- 505 George Bush Drive,	College Station, Texas 77840
(Credit 0	Card Authorization for	m needs to be completed and retur	ned to Classic Escapes via m	nail or fax to 718-204-4726	)
Deposits	can be made by credit c	ard; however, all final payments are	required to be made by chec	ek or money order only.	
1) NAMI	E (As appears on ID card)	: 🗆 Mr. 🗆 Mrs. 🗆 Ms		Date of I	Birth (M/D/Y)/_/
2) NAMI	E (As appears on ID card)	: □ Mr. □ Mrs. □ Ms		Date of I	Birth (M/D/Y)/_/
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STREET	ADDRESS:				
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PHONES	6: HOME: ( )	OFFICE:	( )	MOBILE: (	)
E-MAIL	ADDRESS: I certify that I have not myself or the other me	recently been treated for, nor am I	aware of any physical or other		
	-	re sharing a room and, where possib	le, would like a room with:	□ ONE □ TWO Beds (M	ake one selection only)
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	I desire single accomm  ☐ \$895 for the main to	nodations, if available, and will pay rip \$200 for the F	the single supplement addition	onal cost of:	
	I/We wish to particip □ \$200 per person	ate in the optional charter flight to	Rainy Pass Checkpoint at a	dditional per person costs	s of:
	☐ Full-day Dogsleddi☐ Taste of Winter at t☐ Turnagain Arm Wi	ate in the following optional excuring Adventure at the cost of \$350 p he cost of \$275 per person nter Adventure at the cost of \$200 ns require a minimum number of six p	er person per person	rates are subject to change.	
WE STRO	ONGLY RECOMMEND	s in effect as of March 20, 2015, and are THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSU ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED	JRANCE. RESERVATIONS A	RE ACCEPTED SUBJECT	
SIGNAT	∐RF·		Γ	)ATF:	
31314111					
SIGNAT	URE:		Γ	OATE:	
			A & M Traveling Aggies 5 George Bush Drive,		
			ege Station, Texas 77840		

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)

### TEXAS A&M IDITAROD, ALASKA – MARCH 2, 2016

58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377 T: (718) 280-5000; (800) 627-1244

T: (718) 280-5000; (800) 627-1244 F: (718) 204-4726 E:info@classicescapes.com

#### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Please Note: If you wish to charge your deposit to Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, this authorization form MUST be completed and returned to us along with your reservation form before we can process your application.

I authorize (Classic Escapes Inc.) to charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMEX listed below:

Name appearing on credit card		
Card number	Expiration date	
Card Verification Number*	Card Type	
Billing address of credit card		
Amount of transaction		
Services rendered/Items purchased		
Phone number		
Signature	Date	

#### \*How To Locate Your Card Verification Number:

(**Visa, MasterCard, Discover:** Locate the credit card number on the back of the card above the signature box. Enter the 3 digit number which follows the credit card number. **American Express:** Enter the 4 digit number found directly above and to the right of the credit card number.)

I understand that all rates quoted on this tour I'm making a payment on are based on tariffs in effect as of March 20, 2015 and are subject to change. Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing up to 95 days prior to departure, less \$250 per person handling fee. Thereafter, per person refund is made less any cancellation charges levied, based on the following schedule:

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, \$250 handling fee.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, deposit is forfeited.
- 74-60 days prior to departure, 50% of tour cost.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure, no refund due.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines.

PLEASE NOTE: At times, our bank requires photocopy of credit card (both sides) and driver's license or document showing signature of cardholder, in order to process the charge.

While it is not required at this time that you include these materials with your deposit, if our bank requests it, we will contact you for these copies.