



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Brown Bear and Sockeye Salmon

Alaska Brown Bears and Salmon Photography Workshop

5 Nights/6 Days

Hearing 'Alaska' conjures up images of bears, mountains, wilderness...that is exactly why Natural Selections is going back! Alaska provides a stunning setting for our Bears and Salmon photography tour. Embrace this cold adventure and join us to swim with spawning salmon, safely photograph fishing Brown Bears, and watch fishing Bald Eagles.

Salmon runs are one of nature's great spectacles and these workshops are timed to be able to witness the spawning migrations of both Pink and Sockeye Salmon. We will have the opportunity to snorkel with both species and photograph them during their runs. Where there are salmon...there are bears! When not underwater, we will have the chance to photograph some of the largest Brown Bears on earth as they gorge themselves on nutritious, fatty salmon. Our time will be spent on Kodiak Island, photographing wildlife throughout. While the bears and salmon are the stars of the show, countless species of birds and mammals can be spotted along the way. Join us in the great white north for the Alaskan adventure of a lifetime!

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive Kodiak (ADQ), orientation, evening bear and salmon photography.

Days 2, 3, 4, 5: Kodiak Island bear photography and salmon underwater.

Day 6: Morning bear/wildlife photography, trip ends, departure from Kodiak.

5 Night/6 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive Kodiak Island, a quick 45-minute flight from Anchorage:

Please plan to arrive in Kodiak by 4:00 PM today.

After everyone has arrived and settled in, we will meet in the Best Western conference room for introductions and an orientation to the workshop. This will be followed by a presentation covering brown bear behavior, field safety, and responsible wildlife photography practices, helping everyone prepare for our time in the field.

We will then have an early dinner at the hotel restaurant before heading out for our first wildlife excursion. Our first outing will take us approximately 2–3 hours south of Kodiak City, where we will begin searching for brown bears and other wildlife. This first evening will be focused on getting into the field, learning the landscape, and taking advantage of our first photographic opportunities.

There will be no underwater photography on day 1



Sockeye Salmon

Days 2, 3, 4, 5 - Kodiak Island:

The exact itinerary for each full day will be determined during the workshop, based on weather, road conditions, recent wildlife activity, salmon movements, and the best photographic opportunities available at the time.

Kodiak's road system provides access to an incredible variety of coastal, forest, mountain, and river environments. Depending on conditions, we may encounter and photograph a wide range of species, including:

- Kodiak brown bears
- Bald eagles
- Red fox
- Short-tailed weasel
- Snowshoe hare
- Sitka blacktail deer
- Mountain goats
- Steller sea lions
- Belted kingfishers
- Horned puffins
- Tufted puffins

Kodiak is also home to all five species of Pacific salmon, with

pink and chum salmon being the most commonly encountered during this time of year. These salmon runs provide exceptional opportunities for both traditional wildlife photography and underwater photography.

A Typical, Ideal Day:

While every day will be adapted to conditions, an ideal day may look something like this:

Early Morning — Brown Bears

We will head into the field early, taking advantage of the cooler morning hours and periods of increased bear activity. This is often an excellent time for intimate behavioral images, environmental portraits, and interactions between bears and their surroundings.

Late Morning & Afternoon — Underwater Salmon Photography

As the day progresses, we will transition toward photographing salmon underwater. This portion of

the workshop will provide opportunities to work on specialized techniques for photographing salmon in their natural environment, while also allowing us to explore the surrounding landscape and wildlife.

Evening – Back to the Bears

After dinner, we'll shift back into "bear mode" and head out again. Evening hours can offer some of the best opportunities for observing and photographing brown bears as they become increasingly active, while the lower-angle light can provide beautiful conditions for photography. Throughout the four full days, we will remain flexible and willing to adjust our plans whenever wildlife activity or weather presents a better opportunity elsewhere.

Day 6, Kodiak Brown Bears, depart Kodiak:

Today we'll get out early for sunrise at 6:30 AM for our final morning of Bear photography. After returning to town, we will gather for a final group lunch and conclude the workshop.

The recommended flight to Anchorage is the afternoon departure. Exact flight schedules are subject to change, so please plan your travel accordingly.



Brown Bears

The Experience:

This workshop is designed to be more than a fixed itinerary. Kodiak's wildlife is unpredictable, and some of the best photographic opportunities come from being willing to adapt. Our goal throughout the week will be to maximize time in the field and put ourselves in the best

possible position for exceptional wildlife photography. We will continually monitor conditions and recent wildlife activity and adjust our plans accordingly.

With brown bears, salmon, coastal wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and the possibility of a wide variety of additional species, Kodiak offers an extraordinary setting for an immersive wildlife photography experience.

Included for the duration of this itinerary:

Six days of workshop instruction and guiding, two large SUV rental vehicles plus fuel/gas, meals throughout the workshop, permits and required access fees, brown bear and wildlife photography instruction, underwater salmon photography instruction.

Not Included:

Flights to and from Kodiak, personal photography equipment and gear, personal travel expenses outside of the items specifically listed as included, alcoholic beverages, "market-price food"

which in Alaska means king crab/spotted prawn/king salmon, and similar seafood.

Travel insurance:

Travel Insurance is recommended for this and all travel. Please see you. For details, please see <https://www.naturalselectionstours.com/travel-insurance/> for details.



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