

## ALASKA SALMON RUN, (ZSA)

**Anchorage to Anchorage 20 days, departing 06 Jun 2020**



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## TRIP OVERVIEW

### Trip Style:

**Route:** Anchorage to Anchorage

**Duration:** 20 days

**Transport:** Overland School Bus, Boats

 89%  11%

**Accom:** Hotels, Hostels, Campsites

### Physical Challenge:

EASY  HARD

Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities.

### Lifestyle Challenge:

EASY  HARD

You may be camping some of the time but the pace of the trip is fairly relaxed and the facilities and road conditions are generally of a high standard.

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## ROUTE MAP



## COUNTRIES VISITED

### USA



## THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SEE THE STATES THAN OVERLAND

Adventure travel in the USA is much, much more than the usual Grand Canyon, Rockies and Yellowstone tick-list. With Dragoman you'll get to see all these incredible places, but we also get off the beaten track, overnighting in an Alaskan

wilderness camp, exploring the absolutely stunning Glacier National Park and spending time with the Navajo people in [Monument Valley](#) Tribal Park.

Undoubtedly the most unique element of this trip is our means of travel - Dragoman uses a specially-converted traditional [American school bus](#) to travel through Central and North America.

### TREKKING, WILDLIFE & WILD LANDSCAPES

On our trips in the USA you can go trekking through the spectacular rock formations of Zion National Park, gamble and take in a show in [Las Vegas](#), search for wild bison on Antelope Island near Salt Lake City and wild grizzly bears near Stewart, and explore the rugged coastlines and glaciers of Alaska's Kenai Fjords National Park.

The USA is a wonderful place for the outdoor explorer to travel to, and is absolutely packed with surprises and highlights.

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## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Anchorage ( Sat 06 Jun )

Welcome to the largest city of Alaska, most often thought of as the state's capital. Start off your overland journey flying into stunning scenery overlooking the Chugach, Alaskan, Kenai, and Talkeetna mountain ranges. Although Mt. Denali is only visible 20% of the year, there's a chance you could even catch a glimpse. Anchorage is Alaska's most populated area yet it's shared with the likes of bears, moose, and wolves. After your flight into this urban wilderness, make your way to our accommodations for the 6 pm pre-departure meeting followed by a group meal. Take this evening to get to know your fellow travelers and guides.

In Anchorage we stay in a comfortable hostel in downtown.

Hotel for the night: Bent Prop Inn and Hostel of Alaska  
700 H Street  
Downtown  
Anchorage  
AK 99501

#### About Anchorage:

Anchorage is Alaska's largest city, set on the shores of the Cook Inlet at the base of the Chugach Mountains. Due to its location on the globe, the airport is a major transport hub and therefore the ideal point to begin or end your exploration of Alaska, and its wonderful glaciers and lakes.

Anchorage was founded in 1914 as a frontier railway town, and steadily grew through the 20th Century as a military and aviation hub and



benefitting from the discovery of oil in 1968. After undergoing a massive project to beautify the city in the 1980s, the city is very pleasant to explore and contains many fantastic parks. There are also several interesting museums to discover, reflecting the city's heritage.

## Day 2 to 4: Seward ( Sun 07 Jun to Tue 09 Jun )

Located on the east side of the Kenai Peninsula and Resurrection Bay, Seward is known as the "Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park." Seward is about half day drive from Anchorage. In the afternoon you will have some free time to explore the scenic waterfront of Seward.

The following morning we will experience the national park by boat, cruising among the glaciers and wildlife. After hopefully spotting as much wildlife as possible we will be seeing a calving glacier!

A visit to Seward would not be complete without hiking alongside the picturesque Exit Glacier with a probability seeing a few of the local black bear feeding on some berries. The 8.2-mile round trip up to the Harding Icefield is a spectacular yet strenuous day hike. Starting on the valley floor, the trail winds through cottonwood and alder forests, passes through heather filled meadows and ultimately climbs well above tree line to a breath-taking view of the Harding Icefield. The top of the trail is a window to past ice ages - a horizon of ice and snow that stretches as far as the eye can see! If you don't feel prepared to do the full 8.2-mile roundtrip, there are shorter options with equally breathtaking views available.

In Seward we will camp in a well established campground.

### About Seward:

Seward is a small fishing town on Alaska's Resurrection Bay, and our base from which to visit Kenai Fjords National Park. The quaint town was named after William Seward, the US Secretary of State under Andrew Johnson who was instrumental in arranging the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. Seward is the start of the historic Iditarod Trail, a 1,600km route pioneered in the early 20th Century to transport people and goods between the port and the interior of Alaska.

## Day 5: Homer ( Wed 10 Jun )

Located on the western side of the Kenai Peninsula and Kachemak Bay, Homer is the launching point for our two-night Adventure Camp. But, don't overlook this artist inspired town with its many galleries along the spit. You will have some time to explore the picturesque town and its fishermen culture. For example, the Salty Dawg Saloon's lighthouse is a great place to sit belly-up to the bar along with posting your dollar bill on the ceiling or wall so that your friend, who will be by later, will have a drink on you.

On the way to Homer there will be enough time for some scenic photo stops and short walks. Depending on the time of the year we might stop to watch the Salmon Running up Russian River or visit one of the Russian orthodox churches overlooking the volcanoes on the other side of the bay.



**Included Activities:** Exploring the picturesque town of Homer and its fishermen culture

**Optional Activities:** "Halibut Fishing Capital of the World", Bear Viewing Katmai or Lake Clark\*\*Following morning\*\*

In Homer we will camp in an established campground.

## Day 6 to 7: Kasitna Bay Adventure Camp ( Thu 11 Jun to Fri 12 Jun )

Take a boat ride from Homer to Kasitsna Bay, landing on this lovely and relatively untouched beach of the peninsula. Camping is done in canvas tents with beds and all the amenities you'll need. There is a beautiful main house where meals, comfortable chairs, coffee and tea are always on tap. From there venture out and comb the beaches for eagles and other aquatic wildlife or walk to find some hidden coves and viewpoints. The next day you'll have a half day of sea kayaking around Kasitsna Bay, frequently visited by sea otters and harbor seals and watched overhead by bald eagles.

One of the evenings the owner Tony will be serving their famous salmon dinner for us!

**Included Activities:** Water Taxi from and to Homer (1/2 Hour ride), 2-night stay at the Adventure Camp, canvas tents with beds, luxurious main house, half-day sea kayaking

## Day 8: Hope ( Sat 13 Jun )

In the morning we will take the water taxi back to Homer to make our way along the coastline to Hope. Hope is a quaint little town overlooking Cook Inlet/Turnagain Arm and is just a short drive from Anchorage. In the summer during weekends there might be some life concerts going on in the local fishermen bar. (Bushcamp)

**Included Activity:** Open Air Museum, Outdoor Music

**Optional Activity:** Gold Panning, Salmon Fishing (when salmon running)

## Day 9: Anchorage ( Sun 14 Jun )

Today it's only a short drive around the Turnagain Arm back to Anchorage. Potentially you can see Beluga Whales or Dall Sheep. We will stop at Potter Marsh to spot some of the migratory birds and wildlife that call it home. The afternoon you will have time to explore Anchorage downtown. Anchorage is a lively city that houses almost 50% of the state's 730,000 people. (Commonly it is mistaken for the capital of Alaska, but that would be Juneau.) Throughout the summer there are multiple festivals, local markets and plenty of nightly live music. Keep in mind that this city is situated right in the heart of the wilderness, where over 1,000 moose, 250 black bears, and 100 grizzly bears also call it home.

**Included Activities:** Potter Marsh



In Anchorage we will stay in a hostel in the downtown area.

**Optional Activity:** Anchorage Museum, Heritage Center, Bike Coastal Trail

## Day 10 to 12: Denali National Park ( Mon 15 Jun to Wed 17 Jun )

In the morning we head off to the amazing Denali National Park. Whether it's flora or fauna you came to see, this is the place to fulfill your hopes of seeing large and small wild animals living as they have for ages. We set up our campsite and the following two days you will have the opportunity to take a bus ride through the national park along its only road and hopefully spot bears, moose, caribou, or wolves. For those of you who are looking for a heart pounding and more strenuous adventure, you'll have the opportunity for trailblazing throughout the park's 6 million acres. No trip would be complete without adding the optional activity of flying over Denali National Park and around Mt. Denali (20,320 ft/6194 m.) In the evenings we will sit around the campfire, listening to the sounds of the night and share our adventures of the day.

**Included Activities:** Two-Day National Park Entrance and Shuttle Bus services, Hiking in Denali National Park (short, long, off the beaten track, that's on you to decide!)

**Optional Activities:** Flights over Mt. Denali

In Denali NP we will camp in an established campground.

### About Denali National Park:

Denali National Park is dominated by the colossal mountain of Denali (also known as Mt. McKinley), which at 6,190m altitude is North America's highest peak - it is also the world's most topographically prominent mountain (i.e. it has the largest height difference between the surrounding base and the summit), and is the 3rd most isolated peak after Everest and Aconcagua. One of mountaineering's biggest challenges, climbing to the summit will be beyond our trip's ambitions, however we will get to spend lots of time exploring the incredibly scenic National Park that surrounds the mountain!

The National Park is teeming with wildlife such as moose, caribou, brown and black bears, and over 150 species of birds that flock here during the summer months. There is a beautiful mix of tundra and deciduous taiga forest to explore, with a particular highlight being the area of the Toklat River. The park also offers some incredible activities, from white water rafting to quad biking to scenic flights around the mountain!

## Day 13 to 14: Maclaren River Lodge ( Thu 18 Jun to Fri 19 Jun )

From Denali, we drive the lightly traveled Denali Highway. First opened in 1957, this dirt road was the first to access Denali National Park (then known as Mt. McKinley National Park.) Located in the Maclaren river valley, you traverse through high alpine country on the state's second highest highway pass. Here lies the Maclaren River Lodge run by Alan



and Susie, who are fantastic hosts that will take us on a jet boat ride up to "The Remote Glacier Camp." Now we're out in the wilderness on our own, no mobile phone reception and no roads. Here we'll stay overnight exploring and camping out in the wilderness. The next day we'll take a canoe trip back down the river for our next night at this beautifully situated lodge. (one night bush camp/one night lodge)

**Included Activities:** Boat Ride up to Glacier Camp, guided overnight stay at Glacier Camp, canvas tents with cots, canoe trip on Maclaren River

**Optional Activity:** Hiking

## **Day 15 to 17: Wrangell-St Elias National Park ( Sat 20 Jun to Mon 22 Jun )**

Here we'll visit the largest National Park in the United States and camp at the "End-of-the-Road" campground. Literally at the end of the McCarthy Road, these 60 miles of gravel road were built along the old Copper River and Northwestern railways. Most remnants left of this once thriving area were a part of the copper mines, but most people forget this was where the last great gold rush happened in Alaska. There are many optional activities like hiking, ice climbing, glacier walks, guided mill tours, rafting, and scenic flights around 16,000-foot peaks, 25-mile long glaciers and massive icefalls. So, days 16 and 17 are left for you to decide what to do: Take the optional historical tour, hike on your own in the beautiful surroundings or try some crazy outdoor stuff like ice climbing, guided glacier hikes, or whitewater rafting. (bush camp)

**Included Activity:** Hiking, Scenic Drive

**Optional Activities:** Ice Climbing (full day), Root Glacier Hike, Kennecott History Tour, Rafting, Flightseeing

### **About Wrangell-St Elias National Park:**

The incredible Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the largest national park in the United States, some six times the size of Yellowstone. It encompasses both the Wrangell and St. Elias mountain ranges, and contains 9 of the 16 highest peaks in the United States, including Mt. Blackburn and Mt. St. Elias (which at 5,487m is the second-highest peak in both the USA and Canada).

The area contains some of the most impressive mountain and glacier scenery in Alaska - the high ground is covered with snow throughout the year round, resulting in extensive icefields and glaciers. Numerous sheep and mountain goats patrol the craggy peaks, whilst the park is also home to caribou, moose and brown and black bears.

The park is naturally the base for some excellent outdoor exploration and activities, including trekking through the hills and mountains, ice-climbing on the mighty Root Glacier, and kayaking up to some breathtaking views of the Stairway Icefall. Within the park you can also explore the historic old mining towns of Kennicott and McCarthy, which retain many of their old buildings and all of their old pioneering atmosphere.

## Day 18 to 19: Valdez ( Tue 23 Jun to Wed 24 Jun )

Valdez is the terminus of the 800-mile trans-Alaskan pipeline that begins at Prudhoe Bay. Valdez is an important gateway to the interior of Alaska. Valdez was brought to the forefront of national media March 1989. The Exxon Valdez ran aground causing an 11-million gallon oil spill. For many years, flora and fauna were devastated by this environmental catastrophe. Thankfully, order has been mostly restored and the Chugach Mountains set a gorgeous backdrop to this quaint little town. The next day is focused on optional activities. Highly recommended is the Columbia Glacier Sea Kayaking or the Lulu Belle Wildlife Cruise for their beautiful scenery, mammoth icebergs and possibility of spotting all kinds of wildlife.

One of the days we will venture out and see if we can find some bears, eagles or sea lions feeding on salmon. Valdez is well known for bears to come to the local salmon fish hatchery and the surrounding creeks.

**Included Activities:** Solomon Gulch Fish Hatchery Scenic Drive

**Optional Activities:** Glacier/Iceberg Sea Kayaking, Glacier Wildlife Cruises, Bike Rental, Fishing (depending on season)

## Day 20: Anchorage ( Thu 25 Jun )

Unfortunately this is the final day of our adventure. We cross the Thompson Pass with stunning glacial valley views and the Worthington Glacier. Our lunch stop will be at Matanuska Glacier before returning to Anchorage in the late afternoon. (approx. 3 pm)

Please note that no accommodation is included tonight.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

Our Alaskan Overland Adventures are owned and operated by our trusted local partners (and former Dragoman Leaders) Natalie and David in their custom built school bus Atka! We share a common ethos and passion for overland adventures, here's a little more about what to expect from your trip!

### OUR VEHICLE

Many tour companies in North America load people up in passenger vans. Not us. Our overland vehicle is a spacious, converted school bus named Atka that can accommodate up to 16 travelers. She's equipped with:

- A viewing platform for taking 360-degree pictures and video
- Comfy, individual seats with headrests and seatbelts
- Large tables for playing cards or writing in your journal
- A high-quality stereo sound system for your favorite songs
- Huge, untinted windows for the best wildlife views
- Individual overhead lockers

### ABOUT US

Natalie and David, the owners of Infinite Adventures met in Zimbabwe driving overland tours for Dragoman.

Natalie: "Driving for Dragoman has for sure changed my life completely in so many ways. Not only was



this an epic adventure but also I met my husband. We both share the passion for travel and adventure so much that we decided to start our own small company – offering overland adventures in Alaska. Traveling to see the "real" world is what drives and excites me. I love seeing beautiful landscapes and enjoying campfires as much as meeting people from other cultures. The last years have been an epic journey traveling thousands of kilometers and giving me experiences with friends from all over the world.”

Dave: “I love what I do and the focus of Infinite Adventures is to highlight the amazing beauty and adventures available in the wilds of Alaska, especially finding bears, moose and lynx!

### **Do I need to bring any gear?**

Yes, you need to bring a sleeping pad (insulated) and a sleeping bag (3-season). You can rent gear depending on availability. Please ask for pricing.

### **What clothes do I bring?**

The best way to dress in Alaska is in layers. It can be pretty warm but also pretty chilly – temperature fluctuates a lot even during one day. Please bring hiking boots (at least sturdy shoes), preferably water proof and rain gear.

### **Personal Spending**

Based on the range that previous travelers have spent on trips with us, we recommend you allow between a minimum of US\$10 and a maximum of US\$25 per day. This will cover individual expenses such as drinks, meals whilst out and also when staying in hotels, souvenirs, tips. At the same time have in mind that we don't know your personal preferences (yet;): If you are an excessive souvenir shopper or desperate for coffee and snacks every single time we stop you might reconsider the extra amount of money needed. We also are giving an overview in the itinerary what optional activities will cost. These prices are estimated and can change!

### **Meals and group participation**

On an overland journey you are more than just a passenger, you're part of the crew, pitching in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. We operate a rota system, dividing the group into smaller units, so that these duties are shared equally amongst the group. These jobs will include things like collecting water and firewood, loading the back locker, etc. While camping on overland journeys, all meals cooked on campsites will be included and this means that you will be working as a group to prepare meals and cook for your group. If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and also remind us at your welcome meeting. A typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, cereal and sometimes something hot such as eggs or pancakes as well as tea and coffee. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, sometimes with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto, pasta dish and there is always the chance to try some local food.

### **Electrical equipment**

Our overland vehicle will be equipped with a 12 volt socket so to charge your iPod, MP3 player, camera, laptop and mobile phone. Please be aware that only a limited number of equipment can be charged at a time and you cannot operate high voltage gear like hair dryers. Batteries may also be recharged from hotel room wall sockets and the majority of the campsites we stay at have electrical outlets so please bring along your normal charging adapters as well. You will need to ensure that you have the correct country adaptor for your specific charger.

### **Activities Before or After the Trip**

If you would like to have any information on activities available around Anchorage feel free to contact us. There are tours departing from the Hostel and you can explore downtown and the surroundings by foot or rental bikes. There is several cafes and restaurants next to the hostel serving breakfast and snacks. For dinner we recommend to head downtown. If you like to cook your own food, there is a kitchen available at the hostel. There are a few small supermarkets downtown.

### **WiFi and Cell Phone Reception**

Alaska is called “The Last Frontier” for a reason! There will be times and days where there might be no cell phone reception or internet. Some of the campsites and lodges we stay do offer wifi, but some of them run on satellite connection, which is not as reliable and fast as broadband. However we will make you aware of internet cafes and any wifi possibilities that will occur during our trip.

## **Laundry**

Some campsites we stay at provide washing machines and dryers for a small charge. The following campsites are a good place to do laundry: Denali, Valdez, Seward, and Homer and of course the hostel in Anchorage.

## **Emergency Phone Number**

+1 877 763 4958

If you need to get in contact with Infinite Adventures this is your contact number. Please do not call if you forgot to pack your favorite socks. This is for emergencies (flight delays, etc) only.

## **Campsites**

Most of the campsites we stay are established campgrounds with flush toilets and hot showers. However we try to get out into the wilderness and this means some of our campsites are bush camps with an outhouse only and no showers. But don't worry, you will be rewarded with spectacular views on glaciers and mountains and the next campsite we go to the shower will feel even better;) If you are in doubt, please contact us: we also do carry water with us, so that you can have a basic wash, if you'd like to.

## **Joining Hostel**

Bent Prop Inn and Hostel of Alaska - Downtown

700 H Street

Anchorage AK 99501

We will be meeting at **6 pm at the hostel of the day your tour starts**. You will find a welcome note at the reception that day to provide you with any further information. Please bring your passport and insurance details (if not send beforehand) with you. We can't wait to meet you!

## **Pre / Post Trip Accommodation**

If you need any help with pre or post trip accommodation let us know! We are happy to make reservations for you at the Bent Prop Inn Downtown. To see what kind of rooms are available please contact us.

## **Getting There**

Most likely you will arrive at Anchorage Airport. This is a fairly small airport and hopefully the immigration process won't take you too long. However, especially when you are sitting in the back of the plane, be prepared to stand in line. Don't worry, you are almost there! After leaving the immigration and customs (should you arrive with a national flight you will be coming downstairs, but ending up at the same place) just opposite you will find taxis outside the door. Taxis should cost around 25\$ to get you downtown to the Alaska Backpackers Inn. There is also a bus heading into town usually operating every hour. The bus stop downtown is only 2 blocks away from the joining hostel.

Arriving at the Hostel there is a reservation under your name (and/or Infinite Adventures). If you should be arriving before 4 pm your room might not be ready, but you can leave your luggage at the reception and explore Anchorage downtown.

## **Insurance**

You need health insurance in order to join our trips. Please provide those details along with Next of Kin details either beforehand or latest at the first day of the trip

## **Minimum Booking / Terms&Conditions**

We require a minimum of 4 to run trips. We inform agencies once trips are guaranteed to run. Our terms and conditions can be found [here](#). You can find our cancellation policy on page 1 of the Terms&Conditions.

## **Accommodation during 9 day/ 12 day / 20 day Tours in Alaska**

Day 1: Hostel Anchorage

Day 2-4: Established Campground Seward

Day 5: Established Campground Homer

Day 6-7: Luxury Camp in Canvas Tents with beds Katchemak Bay

Day 8: Bush Camp Hope (toilets, but no showers)

Day 9/Day1: none for 9 day trip / Hostel Anchorage for 12 day and 20 day trip

Day 10-12/2-4: Established Campground Denali

Day 13/5: Bush Camp Maclaren (toilet but no shower)

Day14/6: Simple rooms/tents according to availability (showers and toilets)

Day 15-17/7-9: Bush Camp Wrangell St Elias (toilet but no shower)

Day 18-19/10-11: Established Campground in Valdez

Day 20/12: none, return to Anchorage

The routes, activities and places visited described in these trip notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only.

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, and information about kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

We update these notes regularly, so please ensure you have an up-to-date version of these trip notes.

We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed. It sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards.

## **PHYSICAL PREPARATION**

### **PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR NORTH AMERICA**

North America is a diverse continent, from the cold wilderness of Alaska to the baking deserts of California. You should therefore be prepared for the full gambit of climates. There will be time for hiking and other activities such as horse riding, and you will need to be reasonably fit.

Overland travel can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions can be challenging to some. You will need to be fit enough to help every day with the camp chores (cooking, washing up, general camp set up) as well as putting up and taking down your own tent. There are some long driving days and some early morning starts.

The step up into the overland vehicle, while not overly high can become tiring and you need to judge yourself to be physically fit enough to haul yourself up and down the step at least 8-10 times a day. The North America trip is primarily camping based so you need to be prepared to go for a number of days without the luxury of a real bed.

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

## VISA INFORMATION

### USA

Citizens of Canada **will not** need a visa to visit the USA as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most EU countries are part of the USA's Visa Waiver Scheme – this means that you **will not** need a visa to visit the USA as a tourist for up to 90 days, but you **will** need an ESTA Electronic Authorisation if arriving to the USA by air or cruise ship. This must be arranged **online** and **in advance** – please go to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>, apply and pay the appropriate fee for your nationality. Please note this also applies to the same nationalities that are simply transiting through an airport within the USA, as well as those visiting as a tourist. You **will not** need the ESTA if you are entering by land from Canada or Mexico.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, the most appropriate visa will be the B-1/B-2 visa for temporary visitors, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

Please note that if you have travelled to Iran, Sudan, Iraq or Syria since March 2011, or hold dual-nationality with one of these countries, then you will not be eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa. There are some exceptions to this, please see the following link for more details - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/01/251577.htm>.

### FLYING TO CENTRAL OR SOUTH AMERICA VIA THE USA OR CANADA

If your flight to Central or South America goes via the USA, then you **must** obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) before travel (except for citizens of Canada, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most EU countries are part of the USA's Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an ESTA.

An ESTA must be obtained **online** and **in advance** via the following link and paying the appropriate fee - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> - please note that you will be denied boarding your flight if you do not have this arranged.

If you are not eligible for an ESTA, then you will have to obtain a B-1/B-2 visa for temporary visitors, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via the USA.

Please note that if you have travelled to Iran, Sudan, Iraq or Syria since March 2011, or hold dual-nationality with one of these countries, then you will not be eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa. There are some exceptions to this, please see the following link for more details - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/01/251577.htm>.

Similarly, if your flight to Central or South America goes via Canada, then you must obtain a Canadian Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) before travel (except for citizens of the USA, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, most EU countries, South Korea and Japan are part of Canada's Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an eTA.

An eTA must be arranged **online** and **in advance** – please go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/>, apply

and pay the appropriate fee.

If you are not eligible for an eTA, then you will have to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via Canada. Please note that several Eastern European nationalities will need a visa.

## PERSONAL SPENDING

### NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA CURRENCIES AND CASH

It is not really worth trying to buy local currencies before you travel. Do also bear in mind that many countries have strict regulations about the amount of their own local currency you are allowed to import - if you are found with amounts in excess of the allowed amounts, it may well be confiscated!

For obvious security reasons we hesitate to recommend you bring lots of cash with you, a sensible mix of cash and cheques and ATM cards is best. However, most of our past passengers have said they wished they had been told to bring more cash. Apart from the convenience of being able to change money in many more places, you will sometimes get a much better exchange rate for cash. ATMs are everywhere through North and Central America so it is very easy to withdraw cash as you go, and throughout this region the US Dollar is king.

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Please ensure you have an up to date version of these Trip Notes

These trip notes were printed on 11/11/2019