

Alaska Iditarod Tours

Phone: 866-468-1820

Website: www.iditarodtours.com

Email: bookings@iditarodtours.com

Thirteen Day Race Start includes McGrath Checkpoint and Chena Hot Springs Tour

Dates: Feb. 26 – March 10, 2025

Cost: \$9950 pp double occupancy, single supplement \$1400

Wednesday Arrival – Downtown hotels do not have shuttle service; you will need to take a taxi or Uber from the airport to the Hilton on your own. When checking-in at the Hilton, your room reservations will be under your name.

Hilton Anchorage – 500 W. Third St. Anchorage AK 99502

Thursday - Group will meet at 10:00 am in the hotel lobby for introductions, itinerary review and Liability Waiver signatures before walking to the Anchorage Museum of History and Art with three floors of its art, history, and culture. Insight to Alaska's history and land ownership will be provided by your tour guide.

Our visit to the museum is followed by free time for lunch before meeting in the hotel lobby at 4:00 pm and a 10 minute walk the Dena'ina Convention Center for the Iditarod Meet and Greet, followed by the Musher Banquet at 6:00 pm. Admission tickets will be provided by AIT at the door. The banquet will be serving steak. If you require a vegetarian or gluten free serving, you must request it at the time of your booking. (Dinner)

Friday - Meet in the hotel lobby for an 8:30 am departure and a guided tour of the Anchorage area. This will be followed by a trip to the Alaska Mushing School where you will learn about dog mushing and take a 6-mile dog sled ride. This comfortable facility provides outer jackets, pants and boots if needed. (Lunch)

Saturday – The Iditarod Ceremonial Race Start kicks off at 10:00 am on 4th Ave. with teams leaving the start line every 2 minutes. Dog teams will arrive 2-3 hours before the start and stage along the side streets off 4th Ave. You are free to wander among them and watch the dog mushers prepare for the Ceremonial Race Start.

There will be a break before the running of the reindeer along 4th Ave. at 4:00 pm. Numerous teams and individuals participate in this fun event with the option to walk or run in it. Many participants choose to wear creative costumes. Clients wishing to participate in the Running of the Reindeer can register at this website:

<https://www.furrondy.net/events/running-of-the-reindeer/>.

Meet in the lobby at 5:15 pm to walk to the Glacier Brewhouse for the 5:30 pm dinner reservation. Your \$50 gift certificate/voucher includes food and tip. (Dinner)

Sunday - 10:00 am departure for the Iditarod Museum in Wasilla followed by the race start in Willow at 2:00 pm. En route back to Anchorage after the start we will stop for a group dinner in Wasilla. (Dinner)

Monday - Today we fly over the Iditarod Trail into the heart of the Alaska Range and Rainy Pass Lodge. This gives us an opportunity to view the teams from above and watch the mushers care for their teams at the checkpoint. Departure time to the air strip TBD. We return to Anchorage for the night before heading to McGrath on Tuesday. Departure time TBD. (Lunch)

Tuesday – After flying into the McGrath checkpoint, we will check into the hotel, have lunch, then explore the town and learn about the opulent history of this community. The Hotel McGrath is a brief walk from the checkpoint and beginning Tuesday evening you will be able to see almost all the mushers come through the checkpoint. McGrath is a very popular place for mushers to take their mandatory 24-hour layover and you will have ample opportunity to watch the mushers and vets care for the dogs. (Lunch, Dinner)

Wednesday - Today will be a busy day with all the teams passing through McGrath and most of them taking a rest break or their 24-hour layover here. It is a great opportunity for Iditarod fans to spend time at the checkpoint and experience first-hand how the mushers care for their dogs along the trail. Clients will also have opportunities to schedule optional activities such as dog mushing and snowmobiling. For those interested we will hike to explore Old Town McGrath, the site of the original community of McGrath. (Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Thursday - We leave McGrath for Fairbanks. After checking into our hotel and having dinner, we will visit Ice Art Park to view the World Ice Art Carving Championships. Teams of carvers from around the world compete against each other using one-ton blocks of clear ice to create these stunning works of art. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Friday – Today we head to Chena Hot Springs, 60 miles outside of Fairbanks. After checking into the lodge, we will become familiar with the area around the resort and enjoy the hot spring lake. At night, a snow coach will transport the group to a remote viewing hut to observe the aurora. Tickets provided by AIT. (Lunch, Dinner)

Saturday and Sunday – These are open days for all Clients to soak in the hot springs or explore the resort and the surrounding area by hiking, snowshoeing, x-country skiing or snowmobiling. All activities are to be booked through the Activities Desk including the free Geothermal Tour at 2 pm or 4 pm daily plus the ticketed Ice Museum tour. (Lunch, Dinner)

Monday - Midmorning departure from CHSR with clients arriving at Fairbanks airport around noon. Clients should **NOT** book flights with a departure before midafternoon. We bid everyone a fond farewell and hope you have had an enjoyable trip participating in Alaska's famous history!