WWF TRAVEL EXPERT SERIES:

Alaska Bear Camp

August 4-9, 2028

DAY 1: AUGUST 4, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA / PRIVATE FLIGHT TO HOMER

Meet at Anchorage International Airport at 2 pm to check in for our 3 pm private group flight to Homer, where our Alaska Bear Camp adventure begins. (Please note that you will need to arrive into Anchorage no later than 1 pm to make this group flight connection.) Homer, a scenic fishing town on Kachemak Bay, is located near the bottom of the Kenai Peninsula. Known as “the end of the road,” Homer is the most southerly point on Alaska’s contiguous highway system. Surrounded by 280 acres of protected state land, this critical wildlife habitat sustains more than 100 bird species and a large local moose population. Homer’s key geographic feature is the Homer Spit, a 4.5-mile-long gravel bar that extends into the bay. Visitors to the town harbor on the spit frequently see fishing boats unloading their catch—Homer is heralded as the Halibut Capital of the World. This evening, gather with our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and orientation to the incredible bear adventures that lie ahead.

Overnight Land’s End Resort–Homer

DAY 2: AUGUST 5, KACHEMAK BAY PRIVATE CRUISE / PRIVATE FLIGHT TO NAT HAB'S ALASKA BEAR CAMP—BEAR VIEWING

Head out on a private boat cruise this morning into the rich waters and magnificent scenery of Kachemak Bay. Transformed daily by some of the largest tidal fluctuations in the world, the bay is home to coveted sport fish and other plentiful marine life, with sea otters and seals being common sightings. A highlight is Gull Island, a rookery of 10,000 nesting seabirds, where we have a chance to view puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, murres and more.

After lunch, it's time to board our private chartered bush plane across Cook Inlet to Nat Hab’s Alaska Bear Camp. Weather in this region is often unpredictable, so we are prepared to work with our pilot to determine the best window of opportunity and adapt our timing as needed. Once we’re in the air, if the skies are clear, the view is staggering as we pass snow-clad volcanoes and jagged glaciers winding down from icefields. Our destination, where the Aleutian and Alaska ranges meet, is Lake Clark National Park, some of the world's most critical brown bear habitat. Look for bears along the shoreline as we come in for a landing, taxiing down the beach. Bear Camp is located on a historic homestead, a rare private inholding of coastal land surrounded by the roadless wilderness of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. These 4 million protected acres are the ancestral homelands of the Dena'ina people, preserving an intact ecosystem at the headwaters of the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world. Accessible only by plane or boat, Bear Camp is ours alone for an unparalleled immersion in pristine brown bear habitat.

Once we reach Bear Camp, gather for an orientation and safety talk with coaching on bear etiquette before heading out with our naturalist Expedition Leaders to meet the bears. Here at Bear Camp, we have some of the best, most consistent brown bear viewing anywhere in Alaska, due to the season-long availability of food. In the spring, sedge grass awaits the bears as they emerge from their dens, protein-rich food that supports rapid growth. Bears also dig clams from the beach as they await their late summer feast: by late July or early August, the region's salmon runs help provide the fat that enables the bears to survive a long winter. All season long, nature serves a steady bounty to these omnivores. And since the bears are sated by this abundance, they see us humans merely as part of the scenery, allowing us to move safely in their midst on guided outings, at times observing them from just a few yards away. Two viewing platforms, one

elevated for a territorial view, enable us to see bears nearby and at a distance. And we often watch them on the tide flats directly in front of camp, which is surrounded by electrified wires, ensuring our safety on site. After an exhilarating day, settle into your cabin before gathering in the timber-framed dining room for dinner—you'll be impressed by the outstanding meals our resident chef is able to prepare in such a remote location. Fresh local fare is on the menu, including Alaskan salmon and other offerings from the region's seasonal abundance.

Overnight Nat Hab's Bear Camp–Lake Clark National Park

DAYS 3 & 4: AUGUST 6 & 7, BROWN BEAR VIEWING IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK

Prior to this rare opportunity, most of us will have seen bears only in zoos or nature documentaries. Yet there's nothing that comes close to this immersive experience, being among them in their wild home. Against a backdrop of sheer-sided peaks rising above the green valley floor, the bears are sometimes near enough that we can hear them chewing their food and communicating with one another in woofs, purrs and growls. Alaska's mighty brown bears—the coastal version of the interior grizzly bear (which is the same species, Ursus arctos)—are the largest land predators in North America. Adult males can weigh up to 1,500 pounds!

While bear activity will vary according to the season, weather conditions, and timing of the salmon runs, and we can never predict exactly what bear behavior we will witness, there's always something riveting going on. Earlier in the season, we might see mating activity. Later on, we could catch a sighting of mothers with playful cubs. Once the salmon start running by mid- to late summer, we may see bears fishing in streams. And while bears are usually plentiful right in the vicinity of camp, we also go into adjacent Lake Clark National Park for added variety. At every turn, we explore the area in the careful company of our Expedition Leaders, seasoned bear naturalists who offer thorough coaching in respectful "bear etiquette" to ensure your safety. Our low-impact presence ensures that we never disturb the bears, and they in turn grant us comfortable access to watch them go about their daily routines.

Overnights Nat Hab's Bear Camp–Lake Clark National Park

DAY 5: AUGUST 8, BEAR VIEWING / PRIVATE FLIGHT TO HOMER

Enjoy one last morning to marvel at the bears in Lake Clark National Park, admiring their majesty and whimsy alike. Few travelers ever have such an encounter with solitude and wilderness on the scale that surrounds us here. The size of the landscape, the raw beauty, the profound silence—these things alone would make for a life-transforming experience. But the chance to watch Alaskan brown bears, these incomparable icons of the wild, on their turf, their terms...it's a wonder to have bears welcome us into their world. And one thing is certain: no one leaves here unmoved by the bears' plight, intensely aware of the threats from mining, climate change and other potential impacts to the health of this vital ecosystem on which the bears rely. We depart as ambassadors for the bears, our time among them leaving an indelible mark on us, inspiring us to do all we can to protect them.

If the weather cooperates, we plan to depart Bear Camp for Homer after lunch. Boarding our bush plane, we taxi down the beach, looking for a last glimpse of bears on the tide flats as we go. Back in Homer,

transfer to our hotel at the very end of the Homer Spit, edging the beach with broad views of Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountains beyond. There may be time to wander around the spit, lined with shops and galleries featuring Alaskan art and handicrafts. Later this evening, celebrate our adventures at a farewell dinner.

Overnight Land's End Resort–Homer

DAY 6: AUGUST 9, HOMER / DEPART

Our Alaska Bear Camp adventure comes to a close today as we transfer to the airport for homeward flights.

Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional, life-enhancing adventure. In order to achieve that goal, our Expedition Leaders are empowered to make reasonable changes to itineraries while a trip is underway. These decisions might be made to more closely follow the movements of wildlife, to accommodate extreme weather, to take advantage of unexpected opportunities, or generally to improve overall guest experience. For this reason, the above itinerary should be considered a general outline of your trip, but it is subject to change. After all, the very definition of adventure is "an exciting or remarkable undertaking involving the unknown."