**Cancellations & Refunds:**

The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of $100 is withheld from any unused meals, accommodations, or other expeditions/activities. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered; it will cover pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 21 days of the date on your reservation form and confirmed letter and full trip payments.

**Expedition Fee:**

Invites you to join us as we explore the great beauty of Alaska in winter, including the greatest light show on Earth! – the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Visit Resurrection Bay for the winter wildlife and great scenery. Travel on the classic train journey from Talkeetna to Fairbanks, passing North America’s tallest mountain, Mt. McKinley, en route. See ice sculptures in Fairbanks, and learn about the Aurora Borealis at a scientific institute. Also visit the Museum of the North and share our research facility. Evenings view the Aurora at Mt. Aurora and Creamer’s Field.

The Aurora is normally seen on 80% of the clear nights in March and an active Aurora on 4 out of 10 nights in March. There may be some nights when no Aurora is seen, or there could be bad weather (see above), but be prepared for this possibility. Two trips in 15 years have seen no Aurora. Typically, it will be from 15° to 35°F during the days; with temperatures dropping to 10° to –30°F at night. If you have any questions, please consult your physician before you register. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

**Expedition Fee Includes:**

- Transport by coach, train, or van, six-night accommodations in first-class hotels, twin share with bath; six breakfasts, and three dinners; leadership, administration.
- All meals except one dinner in Anchorage; five lunches, three dinners; independent airport transfers; group entrance fees; leadership, administration.
- Lodging, most meals, guides, transportation, equipment, permits, seminars, and all activities. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)
- The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be available after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of $100 is withheld from any unused meals, accommodations, or other expeditions/activities. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered; it will cover pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 21 days of the date on your reservation form and confirmed letter and full trip payments.

**Questions? Please call April Milne Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

**Phone:** (408) 252-1444

**Fax:** (408) 252-1444

**Email:** april@betchartexpeditions.com

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and arrangements. We assume no responsibility for injury, damage, delay, loss, or error, however caused, of any airplane, ship, or other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. The naturalist will not assume responsibility for matters beyond his control. We are acting only as agents for the transportation and hotel companies. We are not responsible for variations or deviations arising from acts of God, war, civil commotion, strikes, or similar occurrences. We cannot be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss or expense caused by any event beyond our control, including acts of God and weather. We recommend that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, flight accident, baggage loss, medical, and personal liability as well as medical evacuation. Check with your insurance agent. Insurance can be arranged through Betchart Expeditions. All such insurance is subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the particular policy. Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the transportation and hotel companies. We are not responsible for variations or deviations arising from acts of God, war, civil commotion, strikes, or similar occurrences. We cannot be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss or expense caused by any event beyond our control, including acts of God and weather. We recommend that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, flight accident, baggage loss, medical, and personal liability as well as medical evacuation. Check with your insurance agent. Insurance can be arranged through Betchart Expeditions. All such insurance is subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the particular policy. Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the transportation and hotel companies. We are not responsible for variations or deviations arising from acts of God, war, civil commotion, strikes, or similar occurrences. We cannot be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss or expense caused by any event beyond our control, including acts of God and weather. We recommend that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, flight accident, baggage loss, medical, and personal liability as well as medical evacuation. Check with your insurance agent. Insurance can be arranged through Betchart Expeditions. All such insurance is subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the particular policy. Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the transportation and hotel companies. We are not responsible for variations or deviations arising from acts of God, war, civil commotion, strikes, or similar occurrences. We cannot be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss or expense caused by any event beyond our control, including acts of God and weather. We recommend that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, flight accident, baggage loss, medical, and personal liability as well as medical evacuation. Check with your insurance agent. Insurance can be arranged through Betchart Expeditions. All such insurance is subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the particular policy. Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the transportation and hotel companies. We are not responsible for variations or deviations arising from acts of God, war, civil commotion, strikes, or similar occurrences. We cannot be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss or expense caused by any event beyond our control, including acts of God and weather. We recommend that you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, flight accident, baggage loss, medical, and personal liability as well as medical evacuation. Check with your insurance agent. Insurance can be arranged through Betchart Expeditions. All such insurance is subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the particular policy.
Day 1 Home to Anchorage
Expedition members fly from their nearest gateway city to Anchorage, Alaska. Transfer on your own to our Hotel (2 nights). Afternoon at leisure, or visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for a fascinating introduction to the people and wildlife of Alaska. Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. (B)

Day 2 Seward & Resurrection Bay
Today we will travel south through the Chugach National Forest to the fishing village of Seward adjacent to Kenai Fjords National Park. Seward is named for U.S. Secretary of State, William Seward, who convinced Congress to buy Alaska from Russia in 1867 for less than 2 cents per acre. Here, we will explore the excellent Alaska Sea Life Center. We will see much of the marine life of the North Pacific including seabirds, sea lions, bald eagles, and more! Afternoon return to Anchorage via the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. (B)

Day 3 Talkeetna to Fairbanks by Train
Depart for Talkeetna, a true Alaskan village. Talkeetna inspired the town depicted in the TV series ‘Northern Exposure’ and is said to be the setting of many of the best Alaskan stories as quirky. We will explore Talkeetna, visit shops, and visit the Talkeetna Museum. Then we will board the famous Alaska Railroad for a scenic journey from Talkeetna to Fairbanks, situated in the interior of this vast state. The rail trip will take about nine hours, giving you plenty of time to explore the excellent Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. (B)

Day 4 Geophysical Institute & Ice Festival
This morning we will enjoy an introduction to the Aurora Borealis at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Institute has a long history of Aurora research that continues today. We will learn about the different types of auroras, the colors, movements, and current research. Sound at different wavelengths is also emitted by auroras, but whether a human can hear the sounds has long been debated. Later in the day, we will visit the famed Fairbanks World of Ice Art Festival. Here, tantalizing images of moose, swans, and other fanciful works of imagination have been carved from massive blocks of ice and illuminated by colored lights to enhance the effects of size and reality.

Following dinner on your own, we will drive to the wildlife refuge, Creamer’s Field, to be joined by local star gazers to view the night sky, and the Aurora Borealis. (B)

Day 5 Poker Flat & Mt. Aurora
This morning we will have a late breakfast and then enjoy a late morning lecture. After lunch we will visit the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the 800-mile-long pipe that carries crude oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. We will see oil tankers at the ‘lower 48’ after passing through the Yukon and Alaskan interior. The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research. The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research. The range fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research.

We then visit the Poker Flat Research Range. Poker Flat is a vast, snow-covered schist hills which were a focus of gold mining at the turn of the century. Millions of ounces of gold were taken from this region over a period of 60 years. We will then visit the Poker Flat Research Range. Poker Flat is the world’s only university-owned and operated rocket range. The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to study the Aurora Borealis and do other atmospheric research. The facility houses a geophysical observatory, telemetry receiving stations, and rocket assembly. We continue to Mt. Aurora for a lodge dinner and evening Aurora viewing. Late return to our Hotel. (B,D)

Day 6 Sled Dogs & Aurora Borealis
After a late breakfast, we will continue our lecture program. After lunch we will visit a kennel of dogs and learn about the art of raising sled dogs and driving dogpens through the Alaskan wilderness. We will also visit the University of Alaska Museum of the North today. Here, we will see examples of the many peoples who inhabit interior Alaska and displays of both migratory and non-migratory wildlife. We will also visit the Large Animal Research Station to learn about their research and see the musk ox and caribou at the facility.

Tonight we will watch and photograph the Aurora from an elevated platform of the University of Alaska. Next morning we will choose to photograph the star trails. These dark nights might be a time to experience some of the beautiful beverages that keep away the cold. (B,D)

Day 7 Fairbanks to Home
After breakfast, transfer to the Fairbanks Airport. Connect with a flight to Anchorage and fly to the ‘lower 48’ states. (B)

Day 8 Return Home
Departure to Anchorage and fly home. (B)

LEADERSHIP

Leading the expedition will be Bob Nansen, popular leader of many Alaska Aurora Borealis trips, learned the art of raising sled dogs and driving dogpens through the Alaskan wilderness. Bob Nansen, popular leader of many Alaska Aurora Borealis trips, organized an expedition to Iceland (2015), Indonesia (2016), and the Grand Tetons (2017), plus many other Annular and Total Eclipse trips.

Bob is a naturalist with a strong interest in wildlife and astronomy, and will delight in sharing the wonders of the night sky with you in Alaska.

Bob was recently in charge of the Planetary Society Sun Valley Expedition and Grand Tetons Eclipse trips, where he lead a team of astronomers to photograph the star trails. These dark nights might be a time to experience some of the beautiful beverages that keep away the cold. (B,D)

Day 4 Geophysical Institute & Ice Festival
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Following dinner on your own, we will drive to the wildlife refuge, Creamer’s Field, to be joined by local star gazers to view the night sky, and the Aurora Borealis. (B)

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After breakfast, transfer to the Fairbanks Airport. Connect with a flight to Anchorage and fly to the ‘lower 48’ states. (B)

Day 8 Return Home
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Day 1 Home to Anchorage
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Day 3 Talkeetna to Fairbanks by Train
Depart for Talkeetna, a true Alaskan village. Talkeetna inspired the town depicted in the TV series “Northern Exposure” and is splashy as quirky. We will explore Talkeetna, visit shops, and the Talkeetna Museum. Then we will board the famous Alaska Railroad for a scenic journey from Talkeetna to Fairbanks, situated in the interior of this vast state. The rail trip will take about nine hours, with stops along the way to allow locals to get to and from their homes when snow blocks many of the smaller roads.

In winter, the views of Mt. McKinley, at 20,320 feet, can be outstanding with clear skies. The train has a dining car for meals.

The range has been in operation since 1968 and fires rockets to the top of Bald Mountain and Rendezvous Peak. Many Planetary Society travelers saw the eclipse from the Research Station to learn about their research and see the northern lights and aurora borealis at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Institute has a long history of aurora research that continues today. We will explore the auroras, the colors, movements, and current research. Sound at different wavelengths is also emitted by auroras, but whether a human can hear the sounds has long been debated.

Later in the day, we will visit the famed Fairbanks World of Ice Art Festival. Here, tantalizing images of moose, swans, and other Wasilla works of imagination have been carved from massive blocks of ice and illuminated by colored lights to enhance the size and realism of the scenes.

Following dinner on your own, we will drive to the wildlife refuge, Creamer’s Field, to be joined by local star gazers to view the night sky, and the Aurora Borealis. (B)

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Day 5 Poker Flat & Mt. Aurora
This morning we will have a late breakfast and then enjoy a late morning lecture. After lunch we will visit the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the 800-mile-long pipe that carries crude oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. We will also visit the biggest of the enormous oil tankers to the “lower 48”. We will continue northeast of Fairbanks through rounded, snow-covered till hills which were a focus of gold mining at the turn of the century. Millions of ounces of gold were taken from this region over a period of 60 years.

We then visit the Poker Flat Research Range. Poker Flat is an Aurora-viewing facility outside of Fairbanks. Some may choose to photograph the star trails. These dark nights might be a time to experience some of the hearty beverages that keep away the cold. (B, D)

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Day 7 Fairbanks to Home
After breakfast, transfer to the Fairbanks Airport. Connect with a flight to Anchorage and fly to the “lower 48” states. (B)

Day 8 Home to Gateway
Afternoon leisure or visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for a fascinating introduction to the people and wildlife of Alaska. Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. (B)

Day 9 Home
Afternoon at leisure, or visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for a fascinating introduction to the people and wildlife of Alaska. Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. (B)

LEADERSHIP
Leading the expedition will be Bob Nosse, popular leader of many Alaska Aurora Borealis trips for The Planetary Society since 2002, as well as Total Solar Eclipse trips to Iceland (2015), Indonesia (2016), and the Grand Tetons (2017), plus many other Annular and Total Eclipse trips.

Bob is a naturalist with a strong interest in wildlife and astronomy, and will delight in sharing the wonders of the night sky with you in Alaska. Bob was recently in charge of the Planetary Society’s ‘Alaska Aurora Borealis’ program.

BAJA CALIFORNIA!
Great Whales Adventure!
January 27 – February 3, 2018
including the Lunar Eclipse January 31

Join us for a remarkable adventure to explore the desert wilderness and marine wonderland of Baja California on board National Geographic Sea Bird at the time of the Lunar Eclipse, January 31, 2018. See the extraordinary California gray whales in Magdalena Bay, and rich marine waters of the Sea of Cortez! Explore the night skies and learn about the lunar eclipse with astronomer Dr. Tyler Nordgren!

Planetary Society and Betchart Expeditions Inc.
Reservations
1-505-366-6118
Mail to: Alaska Aurora Borealis Expeditions
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5335

Aurora Borealis Itinerary

**Yes! I want to join the Alaska Aurora Borealis Expedition, March 15-21, 2018. Please reserve _____ spaces on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for $____ for each person, payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s): ________________________________ Age ___ Sex ___
Address: _______________________________________________________
City ___________________ State _____ Zip __________
Phone: Home (_______) _____________________________________
City __________________________________ State _____ Zip _________
Work (_______) _____________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________
Citizenship: ___ USA ___ Canada ___ Other:
Member: ___ Planetary Society ___ AVAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS
Accommodations Preference: Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share ___ with a friend or
___ Non-smoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate
Signature: ____________________ Date: _____________
Signature: ____________________ Date: _____________

** Signature: ____________________ Date: _____________

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5335
Cancellations & Refunds:
The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $99 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of $99 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered, it will cover pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 21 days of the date of your initial deposit. For insurance, please consult your physician before you register. This expedition will be a tremendous help to understanding the unique interactions between the Sun and Earth in the polar region.

FOR RESERVATIONS
Please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit check for $500 per person to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone (800) 252-4910 (USA) or (408) 252-4910 (International)
Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: April@betchartexpeditions.com

Final payment is due December 21, 2017

Look on the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society are not responsible for any acts or omissions of any government, airline, hotel, leader, excursion, tour company or any other concerned party or agent, or any causes or consequences of any loss or damage, direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential nor shall we be responsible for any acts or omissions of any passenger, group, agent, or anyone not employed by Betchart Expeditions Inc. or The Planetary Society. Airfares are not included in the expedition cost. Betchart Expeditions Inc. is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal possessions. Insurance will not cover loss of personal belongings or equipment. We encourage all passengers to take out trip cancellation insurance. Trip cancellation insurance is an additional cost that can be purchased directly through the insurance provider. If you decide to take a trip that is not covered by insurance, you do so at your own risk. You sign an agreement that you are fully aware of the above terms and conditions before registering for this trip. We reserve the right to change, increase or decrease prices, the itinerary, itineraries and schedules, trip arrangements at any time for any reason. There will be no refunds for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of $99 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered, it will cover pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 21 days of the date of your initial deposit. It is your responsibility to see your physician before you register. This expedition will be a tremendous help to understanding the unique interactions between the Sun and Earth in the polar region.

Dear Friends:
We invite you to join us as we explore the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the auroras. The aurora expeditions for Planetary Society members emphasizes the auroras. This year, travel with The Planetary Society as we explore: Alaska Auroras. Come see the Greatest Light Show on Earth!

March 15-21, 2018

This year, travel with The Planetary Society as we explore: Alaska Auroras. Come see the Greatest Light Show on Earth!