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### **Alaska Backpacking – Wrangell Plateau Basecamp mini-Backpacking Trip**

If you're hoping to combine backpacking with a basecamp, and include epic views of the stunning and rugged Wrangell Mountains, then look no further than the 3-day Wrangell Plateau Basecamp mini-Backpack Trip! Perched atop a high plateau above the Long Glacier, Wrangell Plateau touts impressive views up towards the broad summit of Mt. Wrangell, dramatic views towards the glacier below, and pleasant tundra hiking.



On the scenic bush plane flight into Wrangell Plateau (and also while hiking around), this area of the park is known for its prismatic array of colors: the white of the ice, the green of the tundra, the blue of the sky (on a clear day), and the reds, yellows, blacks and browns of the local geology. You'll truly feel on top of the world as you hike across the rolling tundra and take in the rugged Alaska scenery. A day hike to explore Cheshnina Falls is the perfect way to appreciate the forces carving this rugged landscape, and we can assure you delicious home-cooked meals to refuel at the end of the day. For the seasoned hiker or someone new to the sport, Wrangell Plateau is sure to be a highlight of your Alaska vacation.

#### **Trip Highlights:**

- Spectacular bush plane flights over soaring mountains, lush valleys, and flowing glaciers.
- Expansive views of the colorful and rugged Wrangell Mountains.
- Tundra hiking – moderate terrain that provides pleasant off-trail hiking.
- Experienced and enthusiastic guides!

## Wrangell Plateau Basecamp mini-Backpacking Trip – Detailed Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary for this trip. Due to individual abilities and goals, as well as the demanding environment of Alaska, all of our trips are customized as they unfold. The guide will constantly make decisions based on weather, logistics and group dynamics to maximize each day's experience. There can be quite a bit of variation, but we always strive to make every trip your best ever.



**DAY 1** - Your Alaska basecamp mini-backpacking adventure begins in the rustic bush town of McCarthy, at the old Motherlode Powerhouse (our St. Elias Alpine Guides home base). Here, you'll meet up with your guide, pack some delicious snacks, and go through the gear checklist to make sure you've brought everything you need for your trip. Next, you'll head up to the McCarthy airstrip and jump into a tiny bush plane for the beautiful flight to Wrangell Plateau. Be sure to have your camera ready to capture the rugged mountain scenery!

With a little bump, your pilot will expertly land the tiny plane on the backcountry airstrip. After unloading your equipment, you and your guide will step back and watch as the plane lifts off into the air. As the buzz of the motor fades, take a minute to appreciate the remoteness of the Wrangell Mountains. Loading up your packs, you'll take off across the rolling tundra of the plateau, exploring the alpine lakes (maybe even taking a swim), and setting up camp in a protected location with views up toward Mt. Wrangell.



**DAY 2:** Waking to incredible views and a delicious hot breakfast cooked by your guide, you develop your plan for the day. Leaving camp set-up as it is, you can get an earlier start (no need to pack everything up), and can enjoy hiking with lighter packs as you explore the plateau today. You may choose to hike over to the lip of Cheshnina Falls, reveling in the thunderous roar of the water flowing from the Cheshnina Glacier as it rolls off the shoulders of Mt.

Wrangell. You may decide to follow the river as it flows down the plateau. Wherever you hike, you're sure to be amazed by the vastness of the landscape. After a full day of hiking, you'll return to camp, enjoy a delicious hot dinner, and share tales of the day's adventures.

**DAY 3:** The morning of the third day breaks clear and cool, and you're excited for a full day of hiking before a beautiful bush plane flight home. A great option for your final day is to descend down to the Long Glacier (with day packs only!), and spend the afternoon exploring the glacier's edge before the climbing back up to the plateau.



With tired legs, you relax alongside the airstrip, taking in the views while listening for the telltale buzz of a bush plane. The adventure isn't over yet, as a flight through the mountains is always the best way to cap off a backcountry trip. Enjoying the rugged views, you eventually touch down in McCarthy, fantasizing about a hot shower and a hot meal, excited to share the tales of your adventures with your fellow travelers. What a trip!

### What's Included?

- Guiding and instruction from skilled professionals. Our personable guides have



extensive experience and local knowledge, as well as medical and rescue training.

- Bush plane flights to and from the backcountry.
- Delicious breakfasts, lunches, and dinners while in the backcountry, including hot and delicious meals morning and evening, and plenty of trail snacks and lunch food for mid-day nourishment.
- Group equipment: stoves, pots, tents, fuel, etc.
- Technical gear: crampons, ice axes (if needed for route)

**What you're responsible for:**

- Personal gear – check the gear list for this trip for a complete description.
- Transportation to and from McCarthy (see below).
- Lodging for the nights before and after your trip (see below).
- Food while not in the backcountry.
- Guide gratuity – Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

If you would like us to arrange your transportation to McCarthy/Kennecott and/or lodging while in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, we offer this as a free service to our multi-day clients. Please email or give us a call to discuss the details.