

## Perfect Day in the Park Peak Season (6/1-9/1)

Enjoy all the free activities the park has to offer. Below is a suggested itinerary for a guest wanting to spend time in the park without purchasing a narrated tour or shuttle headed into the park.



**8:00-9:00 am -Arrive at Visitor Center -Sign up for Ranger Led Nature Walk** (departs daily at 9:30 am, all hikes first come first served, there is ample parking and a place to check your bags while you explore)

Chat with the rangers and check out exhibits in the Visitor Center

Watch the park film-Heartbeats of Denali (20 minutes long – shown every hour and half hour).

**9:30 – 11:30 am Ranger led Nature Walk** on one of the trails that originates from the Visitor Center (ranger's choice). Walk is easy pace but trails range from easy to moderate. Trail routes vary depending on season and conditions. Bring a small day pack, rain gear, layers and a camera. Make sure to wear good quality shoes- trails can be muddy. Enjoy this opportunity to get out on the trails with the guidance of a ranger. They are happy to answer questions and will discuss local flora and fauna as you hike.

**11:30 to 1 pm -Continue to explore the Visitors Center**

Travelling with children? Become a Junior Ranger! (no age limit-grown-up kids welcome too!)

Enjoy lunch (don't forget Creekside makes hearty lunches to-go! Order at front desk evening before- or stop by one of the restaurants in the Canyon. Denali Doghouse is our favorite for fast casual.)

**1:30 -2:00 pm -Head to Murie Science Center for Family Science Program**

Families are invited to join a science educator for an exploration of park science topics

Activities are designed for ages 5-15. However, ALL park visitors wanted to learn are welcome.

**OR**

**1:20 – 3 pm -Pick up courtesy shuttle at Visitor Center to Sled Dog Demonstration which starts at 2pm.**

Demonstration is 30 minutes long, focused on what it is like to raise dogs in Denali National Park and ends with a demonstration of the dogs pulling a sled

**NOTE:** There is NO parking at the Sled Dog Demonstration, if you choose not to take the shuttle the walk is 1.5 miles each way.



McKinley Creekside Cabins & Café

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**3:15 – 4:15 pm -Head to McKinley Chalet to catch a Ranger Talk at 3:30 pm in the lobby**

Talks are offered at 3:30 pm Tuesday-Saturday (Mondays at 10am)

Topics vary from the very specific (e.g., bears or other wildlife) to the general (e.g., sustainable living), but all connect to the greater themes found in the story of Denali National Park and Preserve.

**OR**

**3:20 – 5 pm-Pick up courtesy shuttle at Visitor Center to Sled Dog Demonstration which starts at 4pm.**

Demonstration is 30 minutes long, focused on what it is like to raise dogs in Denali National Park and ends with a demonstration of the dogs pulling a sled

**NOTE:** There is NO parking at the Sled Dog Demonstration, if you choose not to take the shuttle the walk is 1.5 miles each way

**5:00 – 7:15 pm –Return to Creekside Café for Dinner.**

**7:30—8:30 pm** Enjoy an evening hike on one of our trails or a beverage around the campfire discussing the days adventures!

**OR**

**Enjoy Dinner in the Canyon:**

- ⇒ *Moose-Aka's* is one of our favorite restaurants – delicious and authentic Eastern European food! Check with the front desk for other recommendations ranging from casual to fine dining. Reservations Required!
- ⇒ *The Denali Doghouse*-Another favorite locally owned hotdog and hamburger shop.

**7:30 -8:30 pm -Head to Riley Creek (.02 miles in to park road) or Savage River (15 miles) Campgrounds to enjoy a ranger led evening program.**

Come to learn about anything from glaciers to grizzlies. Ranger led evening programs are open to anyone at either the Riley Creek or Savage River campgrounds. Weekly topics are listed on campground bulletin boards. There is plenty of parking available at either campground or you can take the courtesy shuttles that depart from the Visitor Center.



Two other excellent free activities available during peak season (Both these activities are free but require purchase of shuttle ticket to get to destinations):

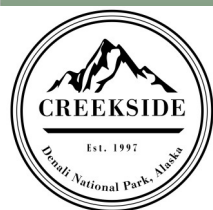
**Eielson Nature Walks (June 1st-September 1st) -12 pm Daily**

- ◆ Must arrive at Eielson (Mile 66) by 11:30 am to sign up |
- ◆ Ranger Led Guided Hike departing from the Eielson Visitor Center
- ◆ Hikes are at an easy pace – trails are easy to moderate. Ask the ranger for details about the days hike.
- ◆ Bring a small day pack with rain gear, layers and a camera. Make sure to wear good quality shoes- trails can be muddy.
- ◆ Enjoy this opportunity to get out on the trails with the guidance of a ranger. They are happy to answer questions and will discuss local flora and fauna as you hike.



**Discovery Hike (June 1st-September 1st) -Departs daily at 8:00 am**

- ◆ All day hike- 12 hour max (finish between 4-6pm but some hikers may not return until as late as 8pm)
- ◆ Space is limited so you MUST sign up the evening before – can only register in person and can only be registered 48 hours in advance.
- ◆ Details of the upcoming hike (duration, difficulty, distance, etc.) will be posted at the Denali Visitor Center. A ranger will discuss expectations of the hike so you can be prepared when you sign up.
- ◆ These ranger-led hikes travel everywhere- so expect uneven terrain, small stream crossings, close encounters with dense vegetation and unpredictable weather.
- ◆ This is an incredible opportunity to experience the wide expanse of the Denali Backcountry with the safety of a guide.



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