

DENVER TO DENALI

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A Wildlife Photography Adventure

Denver to Denali

- August/Sept 2012
 - ▣ 60 days on the road and ferry by RV
 - ▣ 9 ferry ports on the Alaskan Marine Highway
 - ▣ 6 National Parks visited
 - ▣ 8700 miles traveled
 - ▣ Focused on wildlife photography and landscape
 - ▣ 14,000 images and 100 video clips
- June/July 2013
 - ▣ 43 days on the road by RV on the AICan Highway
 - ▣ 10 days in the inner Denali
 - ▣ 10,000 images
 - ▣ Focused on wildlife and their newborns



My Mobile Tripod



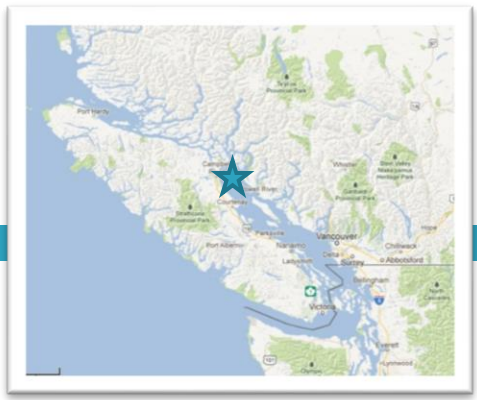
Agenda

- ❑ Killer Whales and their Cousins, Vancouver Island, BC
- ❑ Kops in Ketchikan, AK
- ❑ Black and Brown Bears Don't Mix, Anan Creek, Wrangell, AK
- ❑ Juneau and Haines Alaska
- ❑ Dall in Denali
- ❑ The Inner Denali
- ❑ Chicken on the Road, AK
- ❑ Great Gray and Barking Buck in Yellowstone, WY
- ❑ Bears at Brooks, Katmai, AK
- ❑ Wildlife and Their Newborn

The Route – August/Sept 2012



Killer Whales and Their Cousins



- ❑ Johnstone Strait, Campbell River,
 - ❑ Vancouver Island, BC, CN
- ❑ Orcas aka Killer Whales are not whales, but dolphins. Apex predator that feed on dolphins – their cousins.
- ❑ Not a killer of people, except in movies and urban legend
- ❑ Traveled in zodiacs



Twin Fin



One Orca or Two?



Orca Torpedo



Tall Tail

- Lobtailing
- Tail Slap



Driving With Dolphins

- Surrounded by hundreds of dolphins



Driving with Dolphins Video

<http://youtu.be/Ae5qkQrTv0E>



Dolphin Dinner



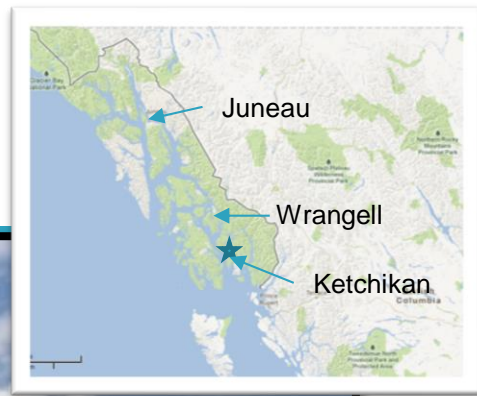
Dolphin Panic Flight Video

<http://youtu.be/9Rs4g2lwn5M>



- 
- No dolphins were injured or consumed in the making of this video

Arriving in Ketchikan, “First City”



Two Totem Parks

Saxman Totem Park



Totem Bight State Park



Finding a nice, quiet campsite...

Maybe NOT so quiet...

What's that rustling in the bushes?



Early Morning Surprise!

5:45 am Wake-Up !

Bear loose in the area

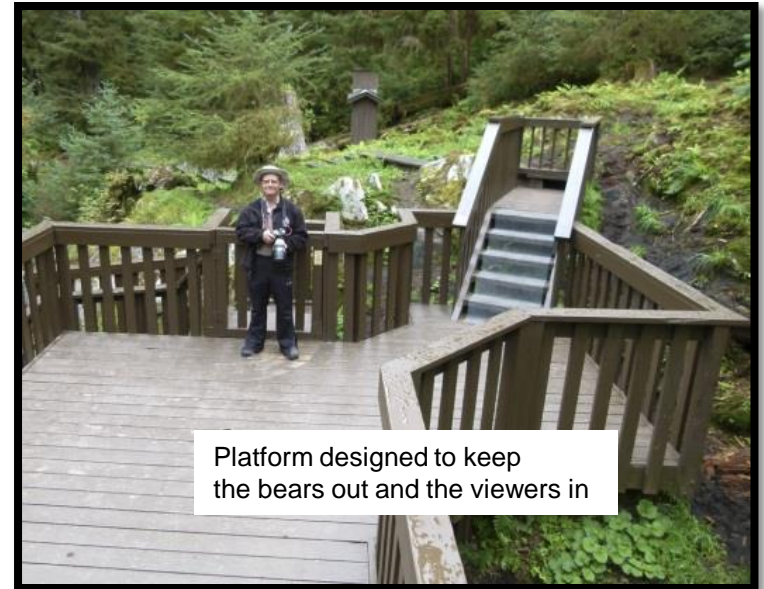
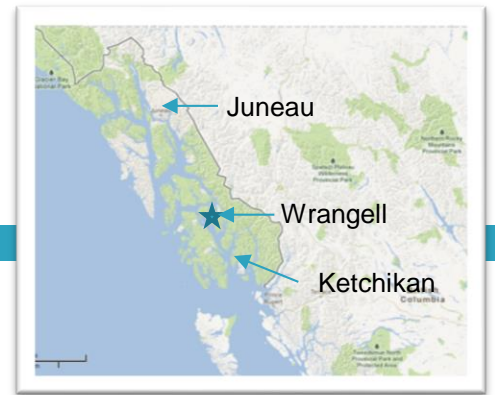
Are these yours?

Solving the mystery



Anan Creek, Wrangell, AK

- ❑ Black and Brown Bears don't mix
 - ❑ Except at Anan Creek
- ❑ Hired a guide, 1 hour trip by jet boat from Wrangell
 - ❑ 30 minute hike on trail to the platform overlooking Anan Creek
 - ❑ Encounters on trail have been known to happen, guide carries a rifle.
- ❑ Photographed for a full day at the platform
 - ❑ Photography blind on the creek below the overlook platform
- ❑ Weather always a factor, especially in Alaska
 - ❑ Rainy, wet and cold



Platform designed to keep the bears out and the viewers in

Brown Bears v. Black Bears

❑ Black Bears

- ❑ 150-400 pounds, smaller than grizzlies
- ❑ Variety of colors: brown, cinnamon, pale yellow (spirit bear), black
- ❑ Climbs trees
- ❑ Will not kill you with one swipe of its paw, usually

❑ Brown Bears also know as Grizzlies

- ❑ 220 to 1500 pounds
- ❑ Responsible for more human fatalities
- ❑ Hump behind head – sagittal crest
- ❑ Brown bear on the coast, Grizzly bear inland
- ❑ Salmon v. berries



Brown Bear Family

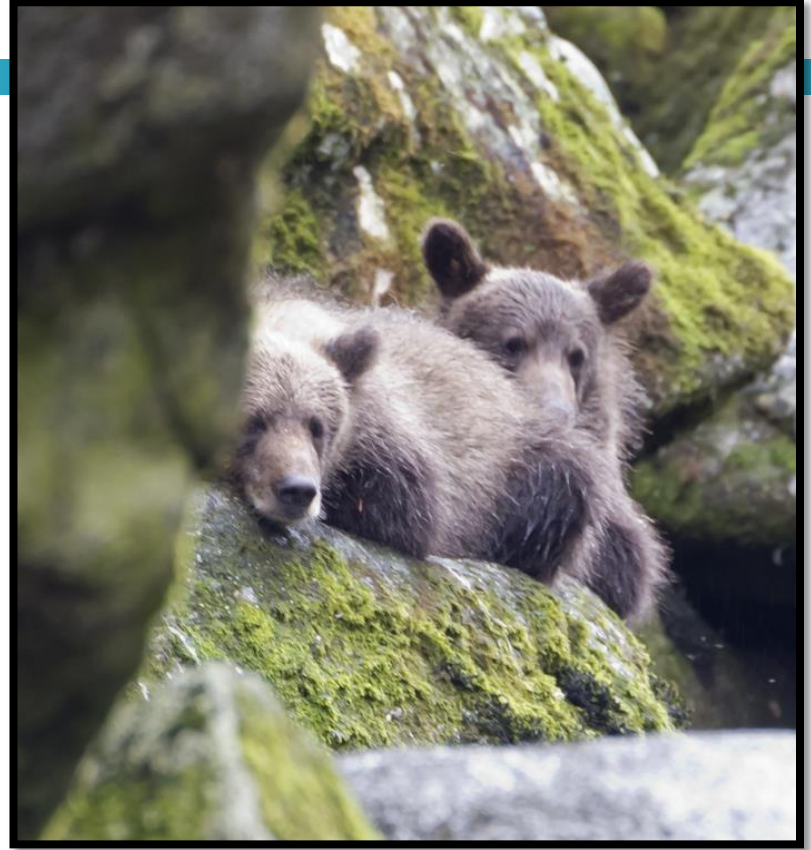
Where is cub #3?



Cub #3 is Catching a Salmon



Fishing for Salmon is Hard Work



Love
Eating
a Fish



Lock Step on a Log



Carefree Climbing Cubs



Dunking For Salmon Video <http://youtu.be/ad2Wg8sPSPs>



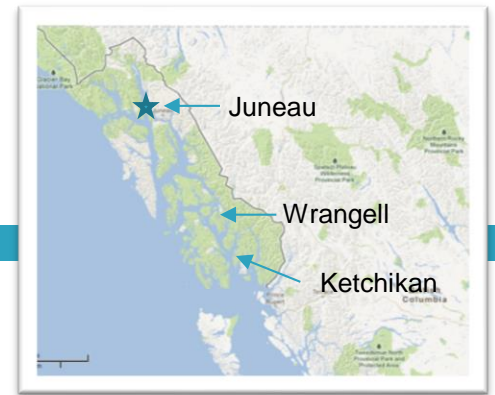
Outhouse Break



Relieved



Juneau, Whales and Sea Lions



Juneau

- ❑ Capital of Alaska, population about 30,000
- ❑ Sea-locked; no roads in or out
- ❑ Near the mouth of the spectacular Mendenhall Glacier
 - .5 mi wide and 12 miles long
- ❑ Rainfall 58 inches/year, not the worst in US, but
 - People travel to Seattle to get away from the rain.
- ❑ Favorite tourist questions in Juneau
 - Does it rain all the time in Juneau? Answer?
 - Do they take America money in Juneau? Answer?
 - What is the altitude of Juneau? Answer?



Mendenhall Glacier

Juneau from Tramway

- Beautiful, Picturesque city



Humpback Whales



Best Shots - and

- ❑ Mendenhall Glacier
- ❑ Juneau Harbor
- ❑ Humpback
- ❑ Sea Lion



And Vacation Spot for – Do You Recognize This Man?

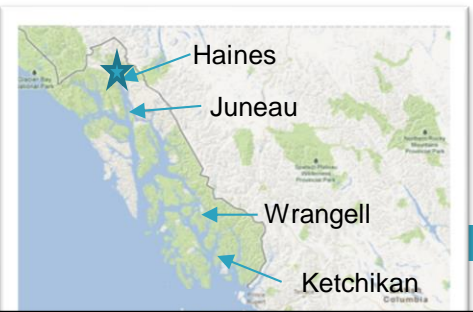


Rick Steves



- Tour guide author, operator and video producer
- PBS travel series
- First day in Alaska (he lives in Seattle)
- And We Were Giving Him Advice!

Haines, AK



- Rated #1 by Bird Watching Magazine for viewing eagles in the USA.
- September thru December 3,500 eagles arrive for the salmon feast on the Chilkat river



Fish Finesse

- But not just eagles, also...



Grizzly Bears



Salmon Run



Sushi Diving

Rule for Grizzlies

Always keep at least
one tourist between
you and the bear

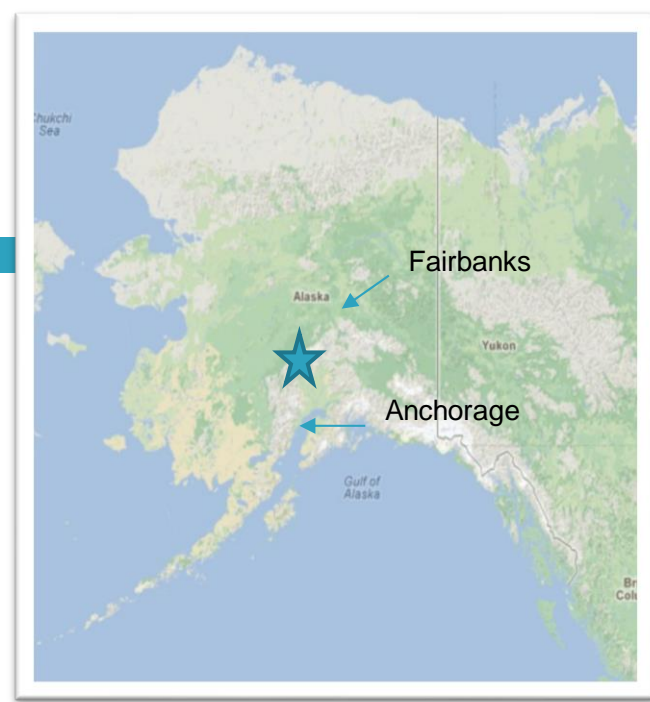


On To Denali National Park



Dall in Denali

- Dall Sheep cousin to Colorado state animal:
 - ▣ the bighorn sheep
- Inhabit the northwest regions of North America.
 - ▣ In Denali, they are found on the high ridges.
- All white coat, adaptation to blend into high alpine and subarctic environment.



Savage River Valley, Denali

- ❑ Overcast, mist, rain, cold
- ❑ But beautiful colors



A Long Hike to Find Sheep

- Are we there yet?



Where Are Those Sheep?



Found Them – Five Sheep and



Six Photographers



Best Shots



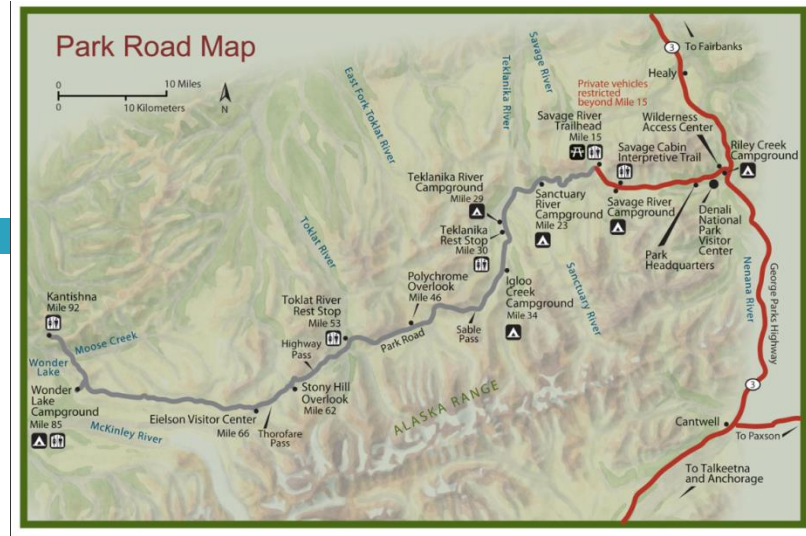
Best Shots

- Full Curl
- 7-8 years old
- Ram



The Inner Denali

- That part of the Denali park road west of Savage River Gate (mile 15, mile 0 is the entrance)
- Special Pro Photo pass to drive private vehicle into the inner Denali
 - ▣ 6 days in Sept 2012
 - ▣ 12 days in June 2013.
 - ▣ Public must ride by bus.
- Unpaved, dirt road to Kantishna (mile 92, end of the line)



Tundra Colors



- Bearberry and Blueberry turn red orange in the fall

Denali Colors



Denali Storm Lifting



Road to Kantishna and Wonder Lake



Road over Polychrome Pass

Under the Rainbow to



Denali – The Great One

Official Name is
Mt. McKinley

Alpenglow
Sunrise
Reflection

Sept 2012

Just Us!



Denali During Summer Solstice - Sunset



June, 2013

Sunset - 12:21 am



Between Sunset and Sunrise

Dark?

Blue Hour – 3 hours
long

Spectral light

Reflection Pond at
Wonder Lake



Sunrise



Sunrise – 3:46 am

Just 3 hours later

Mile 75 on Denali
Park Road



Denali Floating

Sunset

Stoney Dome



Continue to Part 2

- How We Find Wildlife