



Bears of Denali



Dates

August 3 - 5, 2026



Difficulty

Level 3



Elevation Gain

Up to 1000 feet



Hiking Distance

Up to 3 miles per day

Course Description

As the days grow shorter, grizzly bears begin preparing for their long winter's sleep. Join Denali National Park wildlife biologist Pat Owen and hear tales from her 30 years of studying bears in the park. We will spend our time investigating grizzly bear habitat while learning about this animal's behavior, life history, and their role in the Denali ecosystem. We'll also discuss ongoing grizzly bear research, and how to stay safe in bear country.

Difficulty Level 3

You must be physically prepared to hike off-trail up to 3 miles each day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 1000 feet in undulating terrain. Expect uneven footing, wet boggy tundra, dense undergrowth, and minor stream crossings. Good coordination is recommended.

Times and Location

Participants meet at the Murie Science and Learning Center, located at mile 1 of the Denali Park Road. Check-in starts at 6:00pm on Monday. The course begins at 6:30pm and will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Wednesday.

Lodging and Meals

This course is based out of the Murie Science and Learning Center Field Camp, located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

Professional Development Credit

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$79 fee. You must register for the credit directly with UAA. Please see our website for registration directions.

Questions? Email courses@akgeo.org or call 907-771-8485