A Grizzly by the Road, a Glacier Landing by Plane — A 4-Day Denali & the Alaska Range Road Trip

A 240-mile self-drive up the George Parks Highway from Anchorage, with a ski-plane glacier landing above North America's tallest peak, a jetboat run up the Susitna River, and grizzlies grazing beside the Denali park road — real lodges, real flightseeing operators, and 2026 prices.

DURATION

4 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

June to August

Peak summer brings the Parks Highway's full 65 mph limit, every shuttle bus running the complete 92-mile park road, and up to 19 hours of daylight; snow can still close high sections of the park road into early June and again after mid-September.

FROM

$1,050 USD / person

Hotel Check-In — Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

From $260–320 USD / night, for 2 people (peak summer)

A timber-framed lodge on a bluff above the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers, with a Great Room wall of windows framing the Alaska Range and a deck that's one of the area's best sunset spots when the mountain is out.

Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge · www.talkeetnalodge.com

Dinner — Mountain High Pizza Pie

~1 hr · ~$15–20 USD / person

A log-cabin pizzeria on Talkeetna's one-block Main Street, serving thick sourdough-crust pies and Alaskan beer to a mixed crowd of climbers, rafting guides, and bush pilots waiting out the weather.

Mountain High Pizza Pie · www.talkeetnachamber.org/directory/mountain-high-pizza-pie/

Day 2 Glacier Landing Over Denali & a Jetboat Up the Susitna

A full day based out of Talkeetna's tiny airstrip and riverfront, combining a ski-plane landing on a glacier high on Denali's shoulder with a jetboat run up two converging rivers toward Devil's Canyon.

K2 Aviation — Denali Glacier Landing Flightseeing

~2 hrs, incl. glacier landing · ~$425–460 USD / person

A ski-equipped single-engine plane climbs out of Talkeetna's airstrip past Ruth Gorge and the Great Gorge before setting down on a landing strip of its own carving into a glacier roughly a mile above sea level, with Denali's south face filling the windshield for the whole route.

K2 Aviation · www.flyk2.com

Mahay's Jetboat Adventures — Devil's Canyon Run

~4 hrs, guided · ~$150–170 USD / person

A flat-bottomed jetboat departs from the Talkeetna riverfront and runs up the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers toward Devil's Canyon, with a stop at a working trapper's cabin and a good chance of spotting moose or bald eagles along the braided channels.

Mahay's Jetboat Adventures · www.mahaysriverquest.com

Talkeetna Historic District Walk

~1 hr, self-guided · free

A National Register historic district packed into three short blocks of early-1900s log buildings and railroad-era storefronts, anchored by the Talkeetna Roadhouse — the kind of walkable downtown that doubles as the town's entire commercial district.

Dinner — Twister Creek Restaurant (Denali Brewing Co.)

~1.5 hrs · ~$25–35 USD / person

The taproom restaurant for Denali Brewing Company, pouring the Yardwork session ale and Twister Creek IPA alongside burgers and halibut plates on a covered deck a short walk from the river.

Twister Creek Restaurant