

# ADVANTAGE

Live Unconventionally

EMBRAER QUARTERLY  
VOL 16 ➤ 2022

## **Journey East**

Take to the wild on a game drive in the enchanting state of Rajasthan

## **Make It Yours**

Redefine private flying with the all-new Embraer configurator

## **Evolving Design**

Bill Bensley on sustainable hotel design and debuting as an artist

# NORTHERN ESCAPE

An off-grid trip to Alaska’s most secluded luxury lodges comes with larger-than-life scenery, epic adventures and gourmet meals to remember

America’s biggest state is a land of untamed wilderness, colossal mountain ranges and rugged coastlines. “Summer is a great time to visit,” said Jimmy Carroll, Co-founder of Pelorus, an experiential travel company that specializes in bespoke adventures and yacht expeditions in extraordinary destinations. “Extended daylight means you have more time to pack in all the adventures you could want, from hiking and biking to fishing, kayaking and glacier trekking.”

Wildlife encounters are a trademark of travel to the region. Vast tracts of unspoiled forest, sparkling waterways and big skies are home to an abundance of bears, moose, bald eagles, humpback whales, orcas, and sea lions, to name just a few. “Alaska is so immense it constantly feels like you’re discovering something for the first time,” Carroll added.

Adventure purists who prefer a touch of luxury in their lodgings will not be at a loss. Alaska boasts a slate of exclusive accommodations flanking the state’s most impressive national parks.

## TUTKA BAY LODGE

Start your trip at sea level by chartering a seaplane in Anchorage, Alaska’s largest city, and flying directly to Tutka Bay Lodge’s private dock. The six-room resort (open May through September) sits on a scenic cove in the Kenai Peninsula overlooking a glacial fjord and is surrounded by a 25-acre spruce forest edging Kachemak Bay State Park. Owned and operated by Cordon Bleu-trained Kirsten Dixon (a James Beard Award winner) and her daughter, Chef Mandy Dixon, the property attracts epicures with a sense of adventure. Guests can embark on foraging and fishing expeditions to gather provisions from land and sea, which are cooked over a live fire under the chefs’



WORDS Nora Walsh. IMAGE © Within The Wild

Situated on a lovely lake, Winterlake Lodge is the summertime home to nesting loons, Trumpeter swans and views of neighboring mountains



Left: Offering the first Via Ferrata course in Alaska, Tordrillo Mountain Lodge takes guests by helicopter to scale the course's 900 vertical feet of climbing

Below (top): Located on Judd Lake, Tordrillo Mountain Lodge offers unmatched accommodations, setting the bar for luxury in the Alaskan wilderness

Below (bottom): The six-bedroom main lodge at Tordrillo Mountain Lodge offers three stories of posh amenities and rustic Alaskan architecture

watchful eyes. Menus featuring local and sustainably sourced ingredients are updated daily with dishes like king crab beignets and salmon curry. Those hoping to expand their culinary repertoire can take one-hour cooking classes hosted by the chefs. Beyond the kitchen, the 36-acre property and surrounds are a haven for bear viewing, birding, dockside fishing, canoeing, whale watching, and, as of recently, backcountry heli-biking. To rest weary legs, guests can visit the lodge's sauna and outdoor hot tub or book complimentary massages and yoga classes. Its sister resort, Winterlake Lodge, is a great add-on for backcountry hiking in the Alaska Range, kayaking and river rafting.

TORDRILLO MOUNTAIN LODGE

This is exactly the type of adventure outpost you'd expect from an Olympic ski racer and a heli-ski pioneer. A 40-minute helicopter flight from Anchorage, the lakeside lodge is a veritable alpine playground with an endless roster of pursuits from foil boarding and kayaking to wakesurfing and canoeing. "The lodge has all the gear for guests to use, along with some of the best guides in the industry," noted Carroll.

Helicopters take thrill-seekers to lofty summits in the Tordrillo range to hike, bike, raft, climb, and ski. In June and July, when the sun shines for 22 hours a day, guests can pair a day of skiing corn snow (named for the large crystal "kernels" that form as a result of melt-freeze cycles) with high-altitude fishing for king salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char, and grayling.



Tordrillo Mountain Lodge recently launched Alaska's first Via Ferrata rock climbing course that lies 4,000 vertical feet above sea level overlooking panoramic views of the Triumvirate Glacier to Tordrillo's sawtooth peaks. Guests can also strap on crampons to hike giant glaciers. For a unique bird's-eye-view of wildlife, Carroll suggests boarding the lodge's high-wing Otter for a sky-trekking safari. Back at the lodge, post-adventure feasts spotlight Alaskan seafood, regional game and in-season vegetables from the garden paired with a 500-bottle wine list.

SHELDON CHALET

On a nunatak (granite outcrop) just 10 miles from the 20,000-foot peak of Denali, the highest mountain in North America, sits a five-room luxury retreat inspired by Alaskan bush pilot Don Sheldon. Built by Sheldon's children as an ode to their father's intrepid life and passion, the remote hexangular chalet is accessed by a 45-minute helicopter flight from Talkeetna. Guests touch down in the Don Sheldon Amphitheater, a snowy bowl encircled for 35 miles by the magnificent Ruth Glacier in the Denali National Park and Preserve. "Family owned and managed, we know our travelers are in the best hands as they dine on the finest food in Alaska, watch shooting stars and have all types of icy adventures in one of the most far-flung corners of the world," said Carroll. Some of those include guided ski-touring, glacier trekking, igloo-building, sledding, and exploring ice caverns. From September to April, the aurora borealis puts on a transcendent show of billowing green light shifting in the night sky. Guests warm up after polar excursions in a cedar sauna whose window frames the same majestic mountain view as the floor-to-ceiling windows wrapping the chalet. Michelin-worthy meals from the live-in chef (think halibut, king crab and braised bison) allow guests to savor local flavors without ever losing sight of the sublime pageantry that makes Alaska such an epic destination. ◀



Above: Experience the best Alaska can offer with Pelorus, an experiential travel company that specializes in bespoke adventures and yacht expeditions

Left: From September to April, the vivid and awe-inspiring blue, green and purple colors of the aurora borealis are visible from Sheldon Chalet

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**EMBRAER TIP**  
Fly non-stop from Teterboro to Anchorage in exceptional comfort thanks to active turbulence reduction and best-in-class cabin altitude onboard the Praetor 600.

IMAGES (left page) Courtesy of Tordrillo Mountain Lodge / © Brandon Cole, (right page from top) Courtesy of Pelorus, © Chris Burkard for Sheldon Chalet