



A deceptive name – Despite being commonly known as “killer whales”, taxonomists classify the orca as part of the dolphin species. Orcas have been known to prey on some whale species, which inspired whalers to give them the title “killer of whales”. This morphed into “killer whales” over time, causing these striking black and white marine predators to be ironically mistaken for their own prey.



An unexpected home – Dry land is the typical home for mammals with legs, so the sea otter’s habitat surprises many. With webbed feet, waterproof fur and excellent eyesight, they are well adapted to live exclusively in water, and are most often seen floating on their backs on the sea surface. Sea otters eat, sleep and even give birth in the water, and they have to keep their fur meticulously clean so it can stay water-resistant.



Seasonal fashionistas – The Arctic fox is often pictured with its distinctive coat of long, white fur, which serves as a convincing camouflage in a winter scene. However, with less frequent snow in the warmer months, white fur would make them dangerously obvious to their predators, so every spring these foxes undergo a fascinating transformation. They shed their winter coat in favour of a shorter coat of brown or grey fur to match the rocks and plants of the summer tundra.

Amazing wildlife in an awe-inspiring setting

With towering mountain ranges, deep fjords and vast forests, Alaska has a diverse landscape that caters to an impressive variety of creatures.

Living waters
The cold waters of Alaska are home to seven whale species, along with the largest dolphin species, the orca. Keep an eye on the sea to catch sight of one of these aquatic giants surfacing. Closer to the coast, look out for sea otters floating in the shallows of Alaska’s fjords. Join the locals down at the river to watch the salmon run; many look forward to this

annual event, including bears and bald eagles looking for a free meal.

Bustling land
Alaska is home to more than 70% of North America’s brown bears. Even more common is the black bear, which, despite its name, is not always black. Three species of deer roam the forests of Alaska, feeding on the vegetation found within. Look closely

to see bald eagles nesting in the trees and hummingbirds hovering around the flowers. In the tundra, try to see past the camouflage of the spritely Arctic fox.

MAIN IMAGE © JASITON ROY/PANORAMA/GETTY IMAGES; FROM TOP: © HURTGUTTEN - HURTGUTTEN