



Northern Passages and Glacier Bay

8 days/7 nights –Juneau to Sitka or Reverse

Day 1

Embark, Juneau

Upon boarding, the Captain and crew of the Wilderness Explorer welcome you aboard with smiles and champagne. Within minutes you'll cruise the scenic channels of the Inside Passage. Relax with hors d'oeuvres and your favorite cocktail while getting to know your new ship mates.

Day 2-4

Glacier Bay National Park

Early morning, you'll enter Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Here you'll pick up the National Park ranger who will be with you to explore coves and corners of the bay that most visitors miss. One of America's crown jewel national parks will be yours to explore and marvel at for the next three days. The park itself is 3.2 million acres (a little larger than the state of Connecticut), so there is plenty to see. You'll cruise close by South Marble Island and linger to find the many species of birds that call this area home. Keep your eyes on the water and the island for brightly-colored puffins.

Tidewater glaciers such as Margerie Glacier sweep like rivers of ice down massive mountain valleys, terminating before you in the waters of Glacier Bay. Enjoy two consecutive evenings in virtual isolation inside Glacier Bay at anchor in a hidden cove as larger vessels have exited the bay. Conditions permitting, you'll also have a rare opportunity to hike or kayak or tour via shore boat.

What will you find in this World Heritage Site? Here in the bay there are sea lions, mountain goats, bears, moose, eagles and spectacular scenic backdrops. After searching for more wildlife along the shores, stop at the Park Service's Headquarters at Bartlett Cove just inside the park boundaries for a hike through the rainforest or possibly a native cultural presentation.

Day 5

Icy Strait Whale Watching

Set your course for arguably the richest whale waters in Southeast Alaska. Join the Captain on the bridge or the Expedition Leaders/Naturalists out on deck in search of marine mammals, primarily in the Icy Strait/Pt. Adolphus area. Ride the skiffs for a closer inspection of the remote coastline with eyes set on the shoreline for possible bear sightings.

Day 6

Chichagof Island – the “Waterfall Coast”

Today you’ll meander along the “waterfall coast” of Chichagof Island. With no binding agenda, you’ll marvel at the grand scenery of Alaska as our crew expertly guides you through those “not in the guide book” areas. This evening might conclude at anchor in a remote shelter, possibly Red Bluff Bay, providing another grand opportunity to lower the kayaks and skiffs, keeping your eyes open for sea otters and bears nearby. Enjoy another delectable dinner onboard and relax in the hot tub before calling it a day.

Day 7

Peril Strait

Peril Strait runs a total of 50 miles from Chatham Strait to Salisbury Sound. This haven for small ships is scenically highlighted by a very narrow connecting passageway called Sergius Narrows and an opening at Hoonah Sound as it reaches north and then west toward Sitka. You’ll have the bulk of the day to explore the shoreline for bear and the waters for otters, whales and more. This wildlife-rich waterway separating Chichagof and Baranof islands is a great place to watch for eagles perched on trees along the shore. The passage narrows to only 300 feet in one spot (24 feet deep.) After an adventurous, but “non-perilous” day, you’ll toast your voyage with a festive Farewell Dinner. Before turning in, your Expedition Leaders will share a “photo journal” of your trip together.

Day 8

Disembark Sitka

Gather for breakfast this morning as you cruise the final leg of your journey to Russian-influenced Sitka, Alaska for disembarkation. A transfer will be provided to your hotel or to the Sitka airport for your flight home.

Enjoy your Cruise!

Special Note: Due to the nature of our Alaska explorations, itineraries are guidelines and will change in order to maximize wildlife and exhilarating natural encounters. In Southeast Alaska, magical encounters await cove after cove and passage to passage. Since our cruises specialize in viewing wildlife, every effort is made to plan itineraries where wildlife is commonly sighted. However, the animals you see live wild and free, and you cannot predict where or when they will be seen. In an attempt to locate wildlife, or in the interest of traveler comfort or safety, we may be required to make reasonable changes in itineraries. The weather, tides, permits, and equipment availability, as well as the discretion of the Captain and Expedition Leaders will determine our final activities.