

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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EXPLORING ALASKA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

Unique, immersive style of travel Exploring Southeast Alaska on our expeditions is an unrivalled experience, and your guarantee of an in-depth encounter with all its wonders. Every day is active and engaging You'll have the opportunity to hike over spongy earth on trails used by bears for centuries or along boardwalks built over bogs and winding through forests. You'll take expedition landing craft past floating icebergs for closer looks at glaciers, and each day you'll have the option to walk or kayak, and to join a different naturalist as you choose: there are no assigned groups. Encounter iconic and abundant wildlife Brown bears. Humpback whales. Orcas. Steller sea lions. Bald eagles. Sure-footed mountain goats on steep cliffs. The wildlife of Alaska is legendary—see it in abundance. Travel in excellent company Explore under the sure guidance of an expedition leader, five veteran naturalists, including a National Geographic certified photo instructor and an undersea specialist, plus a wellness specialist—the largest and most knowledgeable expedition team in Alaska. Their knowledge and passion for Alaska is the key to your once-in-a-lifetime experience.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Juneau, Alaska/Embark Ship

Our Forest Service Special Use Permit for Tongass National Forest enables you to hike and kayak in wild and remote areas of Southeast Alaska. Fly from Seattle to Juneau. Explore the newly constructed Alaska State Museum, with its sprawling collection of natural history and cultural artifacts, and explore downtown Juneau. Settle into your cabin before dinner. Later, explore the port of Juneau on your own.

DAY 2: Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness

Voyage into Tracy or Endicott Arm, both spectacular glacially carved fjords. We'll also pass the Sawyer Glacier, which has

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been described as bluer than any blue on earth, or the towering Dawes Glacier. If conditions permit, we'll use our expedition landing craft to provide unparalleled up close views of the glacier. Keep an eye out for harbor seals, porpoises and arctic terns.

DAY 3: Petersburg

Search for humpback whales as we head towards the small, true Alaskan town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island. Explore a unique Southeast Alaskan ecosystem, the "muskeg," with stunted trees and carnivorous plants. There is an opportunity for optional flightseeing or bike riding. Enjoy a Dungeness crab feast this evening.

DAY 4: Frederick Sound and Chatham Strait

These waters are prime areas for both killer whales and humpback whales. It's not uncommon to observe their fascinating behavior -- breaching, tail-slapping and variations on feeding -- as we fill the deck and listen to the play-by-play from our expert naturalists. We'll explore spectacular bays and inlets, following bear trails and salmon streams. Once ashore, we'll have the opportunity to walk along a quiet forest trail. The still waters are excellent for kayaking, offering another option for up close exploration.

DAY 5: Icy Strait and the Inian Islands

Cruise among the Inian Islands, where an abundance of Steller sea lions reside. Hike nearby islands, kayak, and search for whales in the rich waters of Icy Strait. Conditions permitting, we'll lower the ship's hydrophone to listen in on the whales' communication.

DAY 6: Glacier Bay National Park

We spend the entire day amidst the coves, fjords, tidewater glaciers and majestic mountains of Glacier Bay National Park. You'll see glaciers that end abruptly at the water's edge and observe them "calving" -- tons of ice crashing into the sea -- accompanied by an exhilaratingly thunderous sound. Mountain goats scaling the peaks as well as harbor seals, Steller sea lions and puffins are some of the creatures we may observe. A visit to Tidal Inlet may bring the sight of brown bears lumbering up the hillside. A native Tlingit interpreter joins us onboard to share the legend of the area.

DAY 7: Southeast Alaska's Islands, Bays and Fjords

Today, nature is our guide as we set forth with the flexibility to take advantage of wildlife and weather conditions. We may stop at an isolated beach to take a closer look at tide pools, beachcomb, and hike stunning forest trails. Keep an eye out for old bear tracks worn into the soil as you move from forest to meadow. Sightings of bald eagles are very common. If conditions permit, we'll do some kayaking, always watching for marine and terrestrial life.

DAY 8: Sitka/Disembark Ship

After breakfast we disembark in Sitka, southeastern Alaska's only oceanfront town. Sitka has a strong Russian heritage, which is readily apparent as you visit the onion-domed St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church. At the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, we have close views of species normally seen at a distance in the wild -- bald eagles, hawks, falcons and owls.

Please Note:

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.

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YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

YOUR SHIP: National Geographic Quest

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

National Geographic Quest is a state-of-the-art, purpose-built expedition vessel made for exploring coastal waters, shallow coves, and fast-moving channels where wildlife congregate while sailing with the luxury of supreme comfort. Spacious cabins, open decks for wildlife viewing, and specialty tools for exploration make it the ideal platform for sailing in the remote areas of Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Costa Rica, Panama, and Belize. Designed with decades of expedition experience in the region, _National Geographic Quest_ more than comfortably accommodates 100 guests in 50 cabins. Her twin expedition craft landing platform allow us to rapidly get on and off the ship to take advantage of wildlife sightings and to ensure we maximize our time off the ship exploring. Created with a shallow draft, _Quest_ draws only nine feet of water allowing her to sail into places where much larger ships cannot go.



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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Category 1. From



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