



Bluewater Adventures

Southeast Alaska Sample Itinerary

Voyages aboard "Island Odyssey"

Join us aboard the sailing vessel, "Island Odyssey" as we explore the natural history and Native American heritage of Southeast Alaska. Our highlights will be days watching humpback whales, bears feeding on salmon in a rushing river, fascinating native totem poles, and a journey up a spectacular mountain fjord to find icebergs and a majestic glacier at the end. Most of our voyage will be in the Tongass National Forest - the largest National Forest in North America. We will go ashore daily to find beautiful forest walks, tumbling waterfalls, and hike up to alpine meadows and bogs. With the onboard naturalist, we will explore for shoreline intertidal creatures and keep a daily record of the various species of birds, plants, and marine mammals we observe. The daily itinerary is intentionally flexible to meet group interests, weather patterns, and of course, to take full advantage of wildlife sightings.

Itinerary Information

These voyages in Southeast Alaska sail one-way between Prince Rupert, BC and Petersburg, AK. Trips alternate directions - northwards first, followed next by a southwards trip.

The itinerary that follows describes a northward trip starting in Prince Rupert, BC. A southwards trip, starting in Petersburg would visit the same highlights in approximately the reverse order.

Sample Itinerary

On all our voyages we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group. This sample itinerary describes a typical 11-day trip, however, activities may occur in a different order or be substituted by suitable alternatives. Wildlife are wild life and do not necessarily conform to our schedules.

Day 1 - Upon arrival participants are assigned cabins, and receive an introduction and safety orientation. Departing Prince Rupert we see the old native settlement of Metlakatla. The entrance to Portland Canal marks the border between Alaska and British Columbia... Canada and the United States. Sailing past Misty Fjords National Monument, we enjoy the beautiful scenery of snow-capped mountains rising majestically out of the ocean. Each night we will anchor in a new scenic bay.

Day 2 - Cruising up Revillagigedo Channel, past the historic Native American settlement of Saxman, our first major stop will be at Ketchikan. In the late 1800's the lucrative cannery industry earned Ketchikan the title of "Salmon Capital of the World". We will have time to walk the old boardwalk "streets" and the ambitious may proceed further to the Totem Heritage Center, to see original totem poles collected from uninhabited Tlingit and Haida villages.

On Prince of Wales Island is the small, seldom visited Haida village of New Kasaan. We will walk a lovely forest trail to view original and recarved totem poles from Old Kasaan. Chief Sonihat's big house from the last century is a highlight with its carved interior poles - an excellent example of Haida art and architecture.

Day 3 - Among the narrow passages east of Etolin Island and Wrangell Island is Anan Bay. Anan Creek has the largest run of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, and this accumulation of food attracts bears, eagles and seals. This is one of the famous sites in Alaska where the US Forest Service has built a wildlife and bear observatory. The opportunity to watch black and brown bears, fishing for salmon in a rushing river is a classic Alaska moment - and certainly a trip highlight. We are extremely lucky to be able to visit. Access is limited to protect the wildlife and local habitat.

Day 4 - The LeConte glacier is the southern most tidewater glacier in North America. In the last 15 years it has receded over a mile and half, with enormous chunks of ice falling off into the ocean. The inlet is filled with icebergs, many with seals perched on top. We will disembark "Island Odyssey" with a local guide and his aluminum boat to enter the ice and get a close look at the icebergs and glacier. The glacier is located near the Stikine River estuary - an important migration stop for millions of birds.

Days 5-8 - Frederick Sound is the core feeding area for humpback whales in Southeast Alaska. We will see large numbers of humpback whales on a daily basis. The trip is scheduled to spend 4 days in Frederick Sound to explore, observe humpback whales... and to try to catch that perfect photograph. Local researchers track the movements of the whales, and study the fascinating feeding techniques. We never know when to expect spectacular whale encounters and behavior. Admiralty Island National Monument has the highest concentration of brown bears and eagles in North America. It offers some beautiful evening anchorages and we often see brown bears along the shore.

Day 9 - On the last morning we sail into Petersburg, Alaska to complete our voyage. Petersburg, known as "little Norway" is a delightful town to explore.

If you have time in Prince Rupert you can visit the Museum of Northern British Columbia on First Avenue a few blocks from the downtown airport terminal. The museum also organizes a tour to see native petroglyphs, a half hour boat trip away. The North Pacific Cannery - 20 minutes out of town - has interesting displays on historic salmon fishing and canning operations.