



## SOUTHEAST ALASKA

### Sample Itinerary

Vessel: S/V Island Roamer

Start: Prince Rupert, BC

Finish: Petersburg, AK

11 Days

**Note:** *This is intended as a Sample Itinerary. Please do not book flights based on information listed in this document as changes are possible. You will be provided with an Arrivals and Departures Itinerary once all details have been confirmed.*

Join Bluewater Adventures and experience Southeast Alaska as few can ever do! Watch humpback whales in Frederick Sound, see black bears and brown bears fishing for salmon, float among icebergs as a glacier tumbles into the sea, and see proud Native American totem poles.

Alaska is a vast, beautiful, and truly wild place. Alaska has the highest coastal mountain range in the world. Over one-half of the world's glaciers cover these mountains and Alaska is one of only three places in the world where tidewater glaciers exist. Most of the glaciers we will see stem from the massive Stikine Ice Field, sitting high in the Coast Mountains, east of Petersburg and Wrangell.

Sail Southeast Alaska (the "Panhandle") and enjoy its abundant wildlife. Alaska is one of the few refuges left in North America for the brown (grizzly) bear. On Admiralty Island, it is calculated there is one brown bear for every square mile – almost as many bears as there are eagles. Humpback whales migrate north to feed on the herring and tiny krill that blossom with the right conditions. Every summer, several hundred whales gather to feed in these rich northern waters. We expect to see a variety of exuberant behaviors and may catch the fascinating sight of humpback whales "bubble net feeding".

## 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.*

### Arrival into Prince Rupert, BC

Arrive in Prince Rupert the day prior to your trip start. This ensures we depart on time as there can be unforeseen weather delays when travelling in coastal regions. Prince Rupert's historic Cow Bay shopping district offers shops, galleries, restaurants, and cafes that are worth checking out.

### Day 1: Trip Start

Meet at the top of the dock at Cow Bay Marina late morning. A Bluewater Adventures crew member will meet you and escort you to the vessel. After meeting the crew, cabin assignments, and a safety orientation, we will depart Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Chatham Sound and its myriad of islands. The entrance to Portland Canal marks the border between Alaska and British Columbia. 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. During our shore or small boat excursions, our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, animals, birds, and marine life. Interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip. There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea-kayaks.

## BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – SOUTHEAST ALASKA

### Days 2 – 10

Cruising up Revillagigedo Channel, we will stop briefly at Ketchikan to clear US Customs. 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 along the old boardwalk "streets" and the ambitious may proceed further to the Totem Heritage Center to see original totem poles collected from now uninhabited Tlingit and Haida Villages.

We continue north among the narrow passages of Etolin and Wrangell Islands to Anan Bay. Anan Creek has the largest run of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, and this accumulation of food attracts bears, eagles and seals. The US Forest Service bear viewing observatory is famous and we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to watch black and brown (grizzly) bears fishing for salmon in the rushing river – a classic Alaska experience! Access to this area is strictly limited in order to protect the wildlife and local habitat.

We will disembark for a day tour on a jetboat, escorted by a local guide up to the Le Conte Glacier – the southernmost tidewater glacier in Alaska. In the last 15 years, it has receded by over a mile and a half with enormous slabs of ice "calving" into the ocean. It is located beside the Stikine River estuary – an important stop for millions of migratory birds.

Frederick Sound, Chatham Strait, and Stephens Passage are the core feeding area for humpback whales in Southeast Alaska. Journeying through this area, we keep an eye out for large spouts and hope to witness spectacular behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, spy-hopping, and possibly bubble-net feeding. We will take the time to observe these amazing, 15-metre-long creatures whenever the opportunity arises. We just hope to have our cameras pointing in the right direction when one of these giant cetaceans breaches out of the water!

We will also keep an eye out for wary sea otters. In the 1700s, they were hunted for their luxurious pelts with the arrival of explorers to the North Pacific. Over 150 years of hunting nearly wiped them out completely until the signing of an international treaty to protect northern fur seals and sea otters in 1911. The 1960's saw efforts to rebuild the population by reintroducing otters from the Aleutians and a count that took place in 2012 estimated 27,500 animals.

Admiralty Island National Monument has the highest concentration of brown bears and eagles in North America and has some beautiful evening anchorages – keep an eye out for brown bears on the shoreline! We are excited to include a visit to Pack Creek, an amazing bear watching opportunity located in a tidewater estuary up Seymour Canal. Pack Creek has been a protected area for bears for the last 40 years, and we are lucky to be amongst the 24 people a day allowed to visit.

*Please note: Only a limited number of visitors are permitted to visit these bear viewing areas, daily, due to National Park restrictions. Access is dependent on our success in obtaining these permits for our guests.*

### Day 11: Trip Finish

We arrive into Petersburg, Alaska late morning to complete our voyage. Petersburg, known as "little Norway", is a delightful town to explore. After clearing customs, passengers catch the **late afternoon** flight to Seattle to continue their journey home.



### BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

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