

Alaska

ALASKA WHALE & BEAR CRUISE

Why join this Voyage?

- Fabulous 8 day luxury voyage accessing some of Alaska's most impressive wildlife and scenery in one of the best places in the world for humpback whales and bear sightings (both grizzly and black bear)
- Choice of three comfortable, very well-appointed small expeditionary boats of varying size (12 - 40 passengers) in a range of cabin types. Impeccable staff, excellent food and a very personalised experience
- Optional daily soft adventure activities on foot, by zodiac or kayak led by highly knowledgeable and enthusiast guides exploring the wildlife-rich waters and dense rainforest of south-eastern Alaska



Trip Summary

Travelling aboard a small luxury boat with the benefit of a flexible daily itinerary, this 8-day Juneau-to-Juneau roundtrip offers a true introduction to Alaska's rich wildlife and vast untamed wilderness, while travelling very comfortably. This voyage boasts the rare opportunity of an extended 2 day stay inside Glacier Bay National Park, combined with leisurely days exploring the quieter backwaters inaccessible to larger ships, anchoring in secluded coves at night. Humpback whales congregate here in considerable numbers in the summer months to feed, while brown and black bears, sea otters and bald eagles are also often observed. Experience ice calving off the front of shimmering glaciers, gape at Humpbacks bubble-net feeding, kayak around icebergs and hike through the dense Pacific rainforest. Family-friendly departures available.

Itinerary



Day 1 London/ Seattle

Depart London on the British Airways flight direct to Seattle, arriving mid-afternoon. Overnight in Seattle.



Day 2 Seattle/ Embarkation in Juneau

Depart Seattle on the Alaska Airlines flight up to Juneau, the administrative capital of Alaska. After meeting fellow guests and Expedition Leader, embark your boat in late afternoon. Overnight anchorage at Funter Bay.

Day 3 Icy Strait & Elfin Cove

Crossing Icy Strait, search for the tell-tale blow of the humpback whale on the way to tiny Elfin Cove, a remote fishing village tucked into Chichagof Island. Afternoon landing to stretch legs and meet the people who choose to live in this wilderness of forests and islands. This evening anchor in a remote bay and lower zodiacs to explore, keeping our eyes open for sea otters and bears.



Days 4 & 5 Glacier Bay National Park

Over the two day in the park we'll travel nearly 60 miles cruising up-bay to mighty Grand Pacific and Margerie Glaciers, which frequently calve huge icebergs into the bay. If conditions permit, we'll lower the zodiacs and weave among the icebergs. We'll enjoy evenings at anchor in hidden coves, and mornings paddling our kayaks in the quiet of this majestic wilderness. Here in the bay there are sea otters, sea lions, mountain goats, bears, eagles all amidst spectacular scenery.



Day 6 Frederick Sound & Sea Lions

Today we'll cruise around Admiralty Island to the prime humpback-viewing waters in Frederick Sound. We'll take time for zodiac trips and sea kayaking in Saginaw Bay, and cruise up-close to a sea lion colony at the Brothers Islands.



Day 7 Admiralty Island - Bears

We'll drop the kayaks and launch the skiff for up-close exploration of this island-speckled bay. Never logged, the thick evergreen forest crowds right down to the gravel beaches. Here is an outstanding opportunity to spot the huge brown - or grizzly - for which Admiralty Island is famous. At low tide they're right down on the beaches, seeking a shellfish supper. Once again under way, we'll watch for humpback whales before anchoring at Wood Spit for more exploration.



Day 8 Ford's Terror & Endicott Arm

Cliff-walled fjords sliced into the mountainous mainland are on show today as we approach an area widely acclaimed as the most beautiful in all of Alaska. Snow gleams on mountaintops high overhead, as bears amble on the shoreline and mountain goats cling to impossibly precarious perches. Seemingly every few hundred yards another sparkling waterfall tumbles down the cliffs. Enjoy a zodiac ride amongst icebergs at Ford's Terror, with kayaking available for those who wish. We'll anchor overnight at Taku Harbor to enjoy the Captain's Farewell Dinner in a lovely setting



Day 9 Disembark/ Juneau/ Seattle

Arrive back into Juneau. Disembarkation directly after breakfast followed by group transfer to the airport for your flight back to Seattle. Overnight in Seattle.

Day 10 Seattle/ London

Depart Seattle on the British Airways flight back to London, flying overnight.

Day 11

Arrive back into the UK

The Boats



Safari Explorer (capacity 40 passengers)

Totally re-built and refurbished for the 2008 season, the *Safari Explorer* can accommodate up to 40 guests in a choice of 5 very comfortably appointed cabin types, including two top deck suites. Small enough to access the quietest backwaters but with ample space for a spacious dining/ sitting room, separate library, spa, sauna and large open air hot tub, she's ideal for these waters.



Safari Quest (capacity 22 passengers)

Intimate and elegant, the 120-foot *Safari Quest* is a size smaller than the *Safari Explorer*, with a capacity for up to 22 guests, but just as comfortable and well-appointed. Originally built in 1992 she's undergone extensive re-modelling and updating, most recently in 2006/07. Her sleek lines certainly set her apart, and guests will enjoy the spacious salon and topside observation deck.



Safari Spirit (capacity 12 passengers)

Intimate and elegant, the 105-foot *Safari Spirit* offers a very personalised and exclusive Alaskan adventure for those travellers who like to avoid the crowds. Capable of accommodating a maximum of just 12 passengers, travelling on board the *Spirit* is very intimate and special, and naturally lends itself particularly well to extended families or groups of friends.

Expedition Dates for Summer 2011

Safari Explorer

Low Season
13th - 20th May

Mid Season
20th - 27th May
3rd - 10th June
2nd - 9th September

High Season
10th - 17th June
17th - 24th June
24th June - 1st July
15th - 22nd July*
5th - 12th August
12th - 19th August

Safari Quest

Mid Season
20th - 27th May
27th May - 3rd June
3rd - 10th June
26th August - 2nd September
2nd - 9th September

High Season
10th - 17th June
17th - 24th June
24th June - 1st July#
1st - 8th July
15th - 22nd July
22nd - 29th July
29th July - 5th August
5th - 12th August
12th - 19th August
19th - 26th August

Safari Spirit

Low Season
13th - 20th May

Mid Season
20th - 27th May
27th May - 3rd June
26th August - 2nd September

High Season
10th - 17th June
17th - 24th June
24th June - 1st July
1st - 8th July
15th - 22nd July
29th July - 5th August
19th - 26th August

*Limited cabin availability

= Dedicated Family departures with child friendly programmes with no lower age limit

Guide Prices for 2011

Boat	Safari Explorer			Safari Quest		Safari Spirit		
Cabin Type (quoted per person)	Low	Mid	High	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High
Master	£4,940	£5,895	£6,430	£5,350	£6,290	N/a	N/a	N/a
Commander	£5,215	£6,240	£6,770	£6,035	£7,180	£5,760	£6,375	£7,590
Captain	£5,420	£6,515	£7,110	£6,310	£7,520	£6,035	£6,650	£7,995
Admiral	£5,895	£7,130	£7,795	N/a	N/a	£6,580	£7,330	£8,820
Commodore	£6,720	£8,150	£9,025	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Single	£5,420	£6,515	£7,110	£5,895	£6,975	N/a	N/a	N/a

Includes

- International flights London/ Seattle
- 2 nights accommodation in central Seattle
- Internal flights Seattle - Juneau return
- Transfers in Juneau
- 7 night/ 8 day voyage on full board basis
- All drinks included on board
- All guided excursions & complimentary use of kayaks

Excludes

- Airport-hotel transfers in Seattle
- Any additional accommodation, services or excursions not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance, vaccinations and visas, if applicable
- Gratuities for the crew
- Any items of a personal nature

Notes

Please note that these from prices are a **guide only** and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Flight Information

British Airways offer the only direct flights from London Heathrow to Seattle (flying time approx. 9 hours 35 mins, 7/8 hour time difference). We can certainly book the International flights for you if you would like, or you can make your own arrangements.

Alaskan Airlines operate regular daily flights between Seattle & Juneau (approx. 2.5 hours).

Visa Information

Visa Waiver Program: Please note that under recently introduced legislation you will need to apply for advance authorisation to travel to the US through the Visa Waiver Program. This is relatively straightforward and can be completed online, however from 14th September 2010 a £14 per person levy is being charged.

Want to discuss this trip?



Please call Alex Mudd on 01285 880981 for more details or to check boat availability

Fostered by a childhood in the West Indies, the travel bug bit Alex early. Propelled by his enthusiasm for diverse cultures and hot food, he's travelled to over 50 countries across 7 continents, including both poles. Some of his most memorable recent experiences include dog sledding in The Arctic, kayaking in Alaska, snorkelling with whale sharks off Mexico and piranha fishing in The Amazon.

Alex is General Manager of Steppes Voyages