

Alaska Cruise – Northern Passages & Glacier Bay



Trip Summary

Glacier Bay National Park and remote wilderness highlight this adventure. Spend your days hiking into wildlife-rich forests, standing atop a glacier, kayaking and riding a skiff in dramatic fjords, learning about the Tlingit culture, and whale watching. **This exciting adventure runs from Juneau to Sitka or in reverse from Sitka to Juneau depending on the week!** (*Please call your adventure travel consultant for more details*).

Itinerary

Day 1: Juneau - Embark

Welcome aboard! • There's nothing like a hearty greeting from your crew and some bon voyage bubbly • With all souls settled on board, you're underway • From the bow, Southeast Alaska welcomes you with grand views • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (D)*

Day 2: Captain's Choice

Lynn Canal or Chatham Strait, your captain makes the call • Either choice, go with the flow • The water is fine • The guides help you gear up, and lead your adventure along the rocky outcroppings • By kayak or paddle board, take in the size of this wilderness • Bald eagles dot the tree tops • Harbor seals bob up and under • Pods of orcas—the largest in the dolphin family—skim along the water's surface • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Glacier Bay National Park

What a privilege • At 3.3 million acres—this UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve is massive • At Bartlett Cove, a park ranger joins in on your day's exploration and shares the park's history • Orange-beaked puffins, guillemots, marbled murrelets are just a few possible sightings • Keep a tally—the list will grow • Arriving at South Marble Island, you can hear and smell 'em before you see 'em—it's a haulout for sea lions • Perched above around the bend, watch for mountain goats, and lower along shore, foraging bears • Up bay, glacial silt turns the water a milky white • Margerie and Grand Pacific Glaciers—one holding steady, the other retreating • Lounging harbor seals laze on bits of bergs • And if time allows, tuck up in Tidal Inlet • End this very full day with your feet up for the sail into Icy Strait • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Icy Strait

Nearly to the Pacific Ocean, Icy Strait is remote and wild • The plan? Whales and marine mammals • Spouts and fin slaps are certain giveaways • More rollicking sea lions and birds • But don't forget to look straight down • Porpoises and dolphins may hitch a ride on the bow wave • And don't worry about missing any wildlife; it's a favorite mission of the crew to point out any creatures they spot • Make a break for it and head for a quiet pocket along the rugged coastline • A different sort of wild than the open strait, muskeg leads to forest bushwhacks • Skiff the shore and down along kelp-threaded channels • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*



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Day 5: Chichagof Island / Peril Strait

Kick off the morn with on-deck yoga stretches (your guides love it when you join them) • Meander through glacier-carved fjords along the Chichagof coast • Then stop • It's a prime time to lower the kayaks and skiffs • Camera in hand, set off on land and sea explorations • Closer inspection by skiff, moss-dripping trees run right down to the water • Any bears in there? With one of the world's largest populations of bears, it's possible • Go searching for giant trees and tidal pools • Hiking in the Tongass, it won't take long to find them • Your eagle-eyed guides lead the pack—and pull up the rear • Later, wend along a twisting channel known for dramatic currents • Peril Strait runs 50 miles to Salisbury Sound • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Sergius Narrows / Neva Strait

There's an eerie, enigmatic feeling in these woods • Morning fog catches like cotton balls on trees • The aptly named narrows squeezes to only 300 feet wide in one spot and a shallow 24 feet deep • The shorelines are close and it's good territory for play • Skiff ashore and hike into the backcountry • Otters back float working to crack snacks resting on their bellies • Opening at Hoonah Sound, the squeeze is back on • Wind into Neva Strait • Watch the scenery change in the late fading light—from the hot tub of course • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Krestof & Nakwasina Sounds

There aren't many straight lines along Baranof Island • Its western side is spattered with remote, uninhabited islands • These features mean endless opportunities for adventure • Secluded coves • Tree-covered islets • Drop anchor, pick your modus operandi, and get going • Kayak, paddle board, or skiff—you're on the level with curious sea lions and possibly whales • Rocky intertidal zones make good beach combing • Turn a stone or two to see what's underneath • There are no groomed trails here—get out on a guided hike John Muir would approve of • Toast your voyage with a festive Farewell Dinner and a “photo journal” of your trip • A gift to you, from your expedition team • *Overnight Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Sitka – Disembark

Cruise into Sitka this morning over breakfast. Farewell new friends! Disembark and transfer to the airport or your UnCruise hotel stay or land tour • (B)

* *This trip is operated by UnCruise Adventures in partnership with Austin Adventures.*

** *Due to the nature of our explorations, itineraries are guidelines and will change in order to maximize wildlife and natural encounters. Variations in itinerary and the order of days may occur.*

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Our Partner – UnCruise Adventures

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with UnCruise Adventures. Headquartered at historic Fishermen’s Terminal in Seattle, Washington, UnCruise Adventures has been in the small ship adventure cruise business for over 20 years. The small size of UnCruise’s ships allows them to access remote areas bigger ships can’t get to providing guests with opportunities to experience off-the-map wilderness, up close, hands on, and with boots on the ground. Each day brings opportunity for adventure—kayaking, hiking, skiff explorations, snorkeling, paddle boarding. All activities are included and it’s always your choice—do as many or as few as you want. The expert, knowledgeable, and mostly-local crew enthusiastically lead the way. UnCruise Adventures keeps a constant eye on treading lightly; their small ships introduce adventurers to new and breathtaking destinations sure to leave a lasting impression.

Activities

Hiking: Difficulty varies depending on group, no experience necessary.

Kayaking: Protected coves and inlets, no experience necessary.

Skiffing: Inflatable skiff explorations with guides and crew, no experience necessary.

Paddle boarding: Stand up paddling, no experience necessary.

Wildlife Viewing: No experience necessary but come prepared to look and listen.

** Note: Daily itinerary is kept purposefully flexible to maximize wildlife sightings and natural encounters.*

Discovery: Alaska is a land of diversity, known for its rich history, geographic wonders, incredible wildlife and challenges and opportunities of today (and that they say is just the “Tip of the Iceberg”). Did you know that there are no roads that lead into Glacier Bay National Park and it is most easily reached through air travel or boat? Were you aware that just 200 years ago in Bartlett Cove, stood the snout of a 100-mile long glacier? Can you imagine the sound that a tidewater glacier makes as it “calves”? If you’re lucky, you will see humpback whales in the waters around Point Adolphus; these giant marine mammals come to Alaska’s island shores from Hawaii every year to feed in the rich waters. Learn the stories behind the name of ‘Peril Strait’. Meander around the coast of Chichagof Island, an island with the highest population of bears per square mile of any place on Earth! When you catch a glimpse of a sea otter, notice its rolling behavior, done to clean food scraps off of its shiny fur coat. Learn for yourself the differences between a Black and a Grizzly Bear. This is just the beginning – discover for yourself this place they call the Land of the Midnight Sun.

Austin Adventures and UnCruise Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance or activity that’s right for you.



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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 7: *Wilderness Explorer or Wilderness Discoverer*

The small ships of UnCruise Adventures are expedition-ready and capable of nimble exploration through nature's most dramatic hideaways. The shallow draft and hull design allow easy access to places bigger ships can't reach. Explore Southeast Alaska's wildlife-rich shores and glacially-fed inlets that serve as ideal "launching pads" for an exciting array of daily adventure excursions. The interior spaces of the 74-guest *Wilderness Explorer*, and 76-guest *Wilderness Discoverer* offer contemporary colors that complement the wilderness outside. The public and private spaces are loaded with amenities. All cabins onboard are equipped with private baths and showers as well as a view window.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals aboard the ship: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). All non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages are included. Super premium wines and spirits and all related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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Arrival and Departures

This trip runs from either Sitka to Juneau or Juneau to Sitka depending on the week so please plan accordingly. We suggest that you book your flight into Sitka or Juneau at least one day prior to your trip departure. You may arrive on day of departure as long as you arrive into the airport **no later than 2:30 pm**. If you are arriving on the day of embarkation, your airport transfer is included to the hospitality area of either the Centennial Hall Convention Center in Juneau or the Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka (dependent upon your embarkation city). You will have time to explore either city and meet back no later than 4:30 pm to meet your Expedition leader, followed by a 4:45 pm transfer to the boat for your embarkation. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the airport or the Centennial Hall Convention Center in Juneau or the Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka (dependent upon disembarkation city). Please schedule departing flights for **after 11:30 am**.

Trip Price

From \$3,795

Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

2020 Dates

Departs weekly, call for availability

Host City

Begin: Juneau, Alaska – Airport code: JNU

End: Sitka, Alaska – Airport code: SIT

*** This trip also runs from Sitka to Juneau depending on the week*

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

Fun in the land of the midnight sun,
accessible only by air and boat!



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540

Phone: 406.655.4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional.

We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures).

Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- All meals aboard ship: Breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Double occupancy cabins with private baths.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- All “from-the-boat” adventure activities and equipment.
- Wellness amenities: Hot tub, fitness equipment and yoga mats.
- Spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages.
- Round-trip transfers and baggage handling between airport/vessel on embark/disembark day.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Entry fees to national parks / preserves.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to UnCruise Adventures expedition guides and crew.
- Port taxes and fees (\$375 per person).
- Airport transfer if not arriving/departing on Day 1 / Day 8.
- Super premium wines and spirits.
- Snorkel gear / wetsuits.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures aboard UnCruise are suitable for children eight years old and up (five years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 46-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 31-45 days before trip departure – 75% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.