

Viking Travel, Inc.
101 N. Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833-0787

www.AlaskaFerry.com
Phone: 800.327.2571
907.772.3818



Alaska Ferry Vacations

13 Day Bears, Whales and Glaciers

Reference : 5777

Travel Arrangements: US\$4,550.00 per person and is based on Double Occupancy
Single, Triple and Quad occupancy rate available upon request

2022 Departures: Weekly Tuesdays from July 12 to August 23, 2022. Rates subject to availability on the Alaska Ferry

Day 1:

Accommodation for 1 night in Bellingham

Check in: 03:00 pm

Check out: Day 2

This down-to-earth all-suite hotel features relaxed studios including free WiFi and flat-screen TVs, as well as living areas with pull-out sofas and desks. All rooms offer minifridges, microwaves and coffeemakers. A hot breakfast buffet, parking and an airport and Alaska Marine Highway shuttle are complimentary. There's a casual restaurant/bar, a BBQ area and a convenience store. Other amenities include an indoor pool, a hot tub and an exercise room.

Day 2:

Ferry from Bellingham to Wrangell with Alaska Marine Highway

Ferry Departure Time: 06:00 pm

Ferry Arrival Time: 02:30 pm Day 4

Accommodation in a Two Berth Outside Stateroom

Day 4:

Wrangell



Wrangell, Alaska, is on an island nestled at the mouth of the mighty Stikine River. The small town offers visitors a friendly taste of an authentic island community in the midst of a unique and pristine wilderness in Alaska. Wrangell is known as the "Gateway to the Stikine River", where friendly people look you in the eye and are happy to help.

Walk amongst petroglyphs and imagine the people who carved them thousands of years ago. Visit Chief Shakes Island and Tribal House, Kik-setti Totem Park and Wrangell Museum for a glimpse into Tlingit Natives way of life. Take in a round of golf at Muskeg Meadows Golf Course. Hike up to Rainbow Falls or stop and pick the abundant wild blueberries, huckleberries and salmonberries.

The most popular day trip from Wrangell is to Anan Wildlife Observatory. Located 30 miles southeast of Wrangell on the mainland, Anan Creek is the site of one of the largest pink salmon runs in the Inside Passage. From the viewing platforms at the observatory, you can watch eagles, harbor seals, black bears and a few brown bears chowing down on the spawning salmon.

Accommodation for 1 night in Wrangell

Check in: 04:00 pm

Check out: Day 5

Bed and Breakfast on the Beach overlooking Zimovia Straits, rooms with private bath and continental breakfast

Day 5:

Anan Bear and Wildlife Observatory Day Tour w/ Banana Pt. Drop-Off

Duration: 6 Hours

Anan is only accessible by boat, so your tour continues with a comfortable Jet Boat ride to the shore near Anan Creek. After a 1/2 mile hike on a boardwalk, you will arrive at spacious observation decks overlooking two cascading waterfalls.

Each summer thousands of spawning salmon attract Brown Bears, Black Bears, Bald Eagles, and seals that feed in the lagoon. The Anan Observatory is located 35 miles southeast of Wrangell on the mainland's Cleveland Peninsula.

5.5 Hour, professionally guided tour includes: local & native history. You'll want to pack a lunch and eat on the boat, both before and after the Anan walk. No food is allowed on the observation platform.

Sign up with the Ranger upon arrival for some time in the photo blind at creek level.



Transfers from One Way Transfer from Banana Point to Petersburg

Duration: 45 Minutes

Shuttle Transfer from Banana Point to your Petersburg accommodations

Accommodation for 2 nights in Petersburg

Check out: Monday, Day 7

Your hotel is located right downtown on Main Street in Petersburg. Complimentary transportation is included, both from the ferry terminal and airport as needed. It has 35 rooms in four stories with a coffee shop next to the comfortable lobby. A light continental breakfast is served for your enjoyment.

Petersburg



This community of roughly 3,000 is centered around its busy and scenic waterfront, which is lined with wharfs, working boats and weathered boathouses, while tidy homes and businesses – many decorated with distinctive flowery Norwegian rosemaling – line the quiet streets. The best examples of rosemaling are seen along Sing Lee Alley, the center of old Petersburg. Most of the street is built on pilings over Hammer Slough and dominated by the Sons of Norway Hall, a large white building that was built in 1912 on pilings. Hammer Slough itself is a delight to photographers providing colorful images of Petersburg's waterfront.

Boasting the largest home-based halibut fleet in Alaska, Petersburg's fishing fleet catches enough fish to support four canneries and two cold-storage plants. The canneries sit above the water on pilings, overlooking boat harbors bulging with vessels, barges, ferries and seaplanes. The harbor is busy but not deep so Petersburg cannot host large cruise ships. The majority of visitors arrive by the Alaska Marine Highway ferries, a number of small cruise ships and daily jet service.

LeConte Glacier lies 25 miles east of Petersburg. Day cruises to view the glacier and flightseeing excursions over the glacier are popular. More adventurous travelers can join guided kayak trips to view the glacier and the seals that often gather on its icebergs. Closer to Petersburg, there are more opportunities to kayak, hike and rent public-use cabins.

One of the most popular activities in Petersburg is whale watching. From mid-May to mid-September humpback whales migrate through and feed in Frederick Sound, northwest of town. The peak feeding period is July and August when you also might spot Steller sea lions, orcas and seals.

Day 6:

Whalewatching

Duration: 8 Hours

The Inside waters of Southeast Alaska are well protected from the weather and are incredibly rich with marine life. Frederick Sound is the summer home to a large humpback whale population, where they can be found feeding and playing from May through September. You may also experience killer whales, Dall's porpoise, Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, and bald eagles while on your tour. Snacks and beverages are included. Eight hour tour with a beachstop to explore the area.

Your guide will pick you up at your accommodations 15 minutes prior to your scheduled departure.



Day 7:

Flight from Petersburg to Juneau

Duration: 45 minutes

Flight from Juneau to Gustavus

Duration: 30 Minutes

A short scenic plane flight to Gustavus, the Gateway to Glacier Bay National Park. Each passenger is allowed 50 lbs maximum luggage, Excess baggage may be allowed, carry-on baggage is stowed by crew before boarding. Flight will likely not be a Seaplane.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Gustavus

Check in: 5:30 pm

Check out: Day 9

Here you'll enjoy cozy hotel room accommodations among the Sitka Spruce trees and relax in the warmth of the lobby's massive stone fireplace. Relax in front of the fireplace in the view lounge area or visit the National Park Services excellent interpretive displays upstairs on the mezzanine.

Gustavus and Glacier Bay



Located just a few miles from park headquarters, the town of Gustavus is the jumping-off point for adventures in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and a charming little village of artists, fantastic gardens, wild strawberries, stunning views and even a small golf course.

With its spectacular glaciers and abundance of marine wildlife, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve has become the crown jewel in the itinerary of many cruise-ship and independent travelers. The bay features seven tidewater glaciers that spill out of the mountains and deposit icebergs of all shapes, sizes and shades of blue into the ocean. Of the park's more than 300,000 annual visitors, over 90 percent visit on a cruise ship and never set foot on shore, but the independent travelers who come get the bonus of visiting nearby Gustavus as well.

Bartlett Cove is the park headquarters and the only maintained hiking trails in the park. At Bartlett Cove, paddlers rent kayaks, visitors board tour boats for a 40-mile day cruise to see the glaciers up the bay and park rangers lead guided hikes and give naturalist programs. At the foot of the main dock is the National Park Service Visitor Information Station, where you can obtain backcountry permits, seek out information or purchase a variety of books or topographic maps that cover the park.

Gustavus is nine miles by road from Bartlett Cove. Independent travelers can take a short flight from Juneau via jet or air taxi, or hop on an Alaska Marine Highway ferry from Juneau. Like many places known for natural beauty, Gustavus boasts several acclaimed sculptors, painters, potters, jewelers and woodcarvers. You can see their work at local galleries, studios and shops in town. Beachcombing, hiking on the Nagoonberry Loop trail, biking through town or playing a round at the Mount Fairweather Golf Course are popular ways to spend the day.

Day 8:

Glacier Bay Day Tour

Duration: 7 Hours

Spend the day on the waters of Glacier Bay and see magnificent tidewater glaciers, ancient snow-capped mountains, whales, stellar sea lions, rare birds such as puffins, coastal bears, seals, eagles, and so much more aboard the comfortable and high-speed catamaran.



Day 9:

Flight from Gustavus to Juneau

Duration: 30 Minutes

Short scenic plane flight to the Capital City, Juneau. Each passenger is allowed 50 lbs maximum luggage, Excess baggage may be allowed, carry-on baggage is stowed by crew before boarding. Flight will likely not be a Seaplane.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Juneau

Check in: 04:00 pm

Check out: Day 11

This B&B features 14 deluxe suites in a unique Victorian-style Farmhouse. Come and spend a blissful night in a plush feather bed and indulge in the wonderful homespun comforts all while being nestled in a quiet rural setting in the Mendenhall Valley.

A complimentary full breakfast is provided each morning of your stay. Complimentary transfers to/from the airport or ferry terminal are available.

Day 10:

Glacier View Sea Kayaking

Glide silently through the water, get an up-close look at wildlife, and enjoy ever-changing views of the Mendenhall Glacier. Just off the shore of North Douglas Island, this sea kayaking location provides the perfect vantage point to take in the grandeur of the Juneau Ice Field. Climb in double kayaks and learn paddling techniques from your experienced guide before pushing off and enjoying an interpretive narrative as you paddle through the Mendenhall Wetlands.

Stealthily approach wildlife—bald eagles, herons, shorebirds and waterfowl can be seen. Keep an eye out for porpoises and even humpback whales that occasionally surface for air. Includes an Alaskan-style snack.



Day 11:

Flight from Juneau to Sitka

Duration: 40 Minutes

Sitka



Sitka is the only Inside Passage community that fronts the Pacific Ocean, hugging Baranof Island's west shore in the shadow of the impressive Mount Edgecumbe, a dormant volcano with a graceful cone reminiscent of Japan's Mount Fuji.

Located on Sitka Sound and surrounded by a myriad of small, forested islands, the city of 8,615 residents is marked by the picturesque remnants of its Russian heritage, including the onion-shaped domes and gold colored crosses of the beloved Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Although first inhabited by Native Tlingit Indians, Sitka is recognized as the heart of the Russian influence in Alaska. The Russians arrived by 1741 and in 1804 attacked a Tlingit fort. The region's most famous battle eventually led to the creation of Sitka National Historical Park. Originally established as New Archangel, Sitka became the capital of Russian American in 1808. When Russia sold Alaska to the United States on October 18, 1867, the transfer ceremony took place on Sitka's Castle Hill.

For the nature lover, Sitka is home to a number of attractions that will amaze and educate visitors. These wildlife-oriented destinations include the Alaska Raptor Center and Fortress of the Bear. The Alaska Raptor Center rehabilitates injured birds and releases them back into the wild. The few who don't regain flight remain housed at the center and visible to guests. Fortress of the Bear features a three-quarter-acre habitat for orphaned brown bear cubs complete with covered viewing areas.

Accommodation for 2 nights in Sitka

Check in: 02:00 pm

Check out: Day 13

This hotel is conveniently located in downtown Sitka, Alaska on Sitka Harbor, less than two miles from the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport. Your hotel offers guests well-appointed accommodations and local cuisine at the Dock Shack, the restaurant and lounge, which provides patrons spectacular views of the local fishing fleet and Mt. Edgecumbe. Complimentary transfers are provided to and from the airport.

Sitka Whale Watching & Marine Tour

Departure time: 09:00 am

Discover Southeast Alaska's majestic landscape and wilderness by cruising Alaska style. Spend your time in Sitka embarking upon a personalized and exciting 2.5 hour wildlife boat tour in which you will get to be up close to the magical creatures that are guaranteed to leave you in awe. Experience the smell of whale breath aboard your boat trip. Gaze at the famed puffins and laugh with the curious sea otters as you cruise by.



Day 13:

Flight from Sitka to Seattle

Duration: 2 Hours

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS ALASKA TOURS

A **"plan-to-go" deposit** may be required after initial consultation. Usually we spend up to an hour planning alternatives for you for free. Then we request a small fee (and apply it to the cost of your tour) to cover the time our Alaska Tour Planning Specialists spend further customizing your tour to your timeframe and budget. This fee usually is \$50 per adult.

Reservations are recommended as early as possible to confirm specific departures. A deposit of \$500 per person or 30% of the total tour, whichever is greater is required at time of booking. Full payment is required 45 days prior to departure. Components are presented as a package tour and the individual prices will not be broken out due to contractual arrangements with our vendors. Although we offer reservation services for all airlines, generally airline tickets are non-refundable at the time of booking. Additional payments can be accepted anytime.

Our Peace of Mind Guarantee insures that our guests confirming their trip at least 60 days prior to travel will have 15 days from day of deposit to modify or postpone your trip to the following season. Additional costs may apply due to availability.

Cancellations and refunds: A 10% administrative fee of the package total will apply for cancellations made up until 45 days prior to your first day of travel. Between 45 to 21 days prior your first day of travel a 50% fee will apply. Within 21 days of travel, your package is non-refundable. Any changes to your itinerary may have additional fees. There could be situations beyond the control of Viking Travel, where your reservations are non-refundable. Groups, cruises, escorted tours, and wilderness lodges have additional restrictions. We recommend travel insurance to cover these perils.

Late reservations: Reservations booked within 30 days of departure are on a request basis and are subject to availability. Late reservations are subject to a \$25 Express Handling fee.

Due to weather cancellation or change of some of tour components may be necessary and are subject to our cancellation policies.

Insurance: Trip Cancellation, Baggage, Personal Accident, Injury and Liability Insurance is highly recommended at time of booking. There are no exceptions to our cancellation or change policies for any reason, including natural disasters, weather and family or medical emergencies. Ask your reservations agent about the policies available from Viking Travel, Inc. or consult your insurance agent.

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