



WinWin Vacations
Your Travel Solution

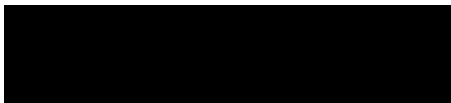
<http://www.winwinvacations.com>

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS
510 North 87th Street, Seattle WA 98103
Phone 206-297-7179
Fax 425-696-0247
Email: Kristina@winwinvacations.com

Thank you
for joining me and my family
in celebrating my father
Richard Svensson's 80th birthday
onboard the beautiful
Holland America Line
ms Amsterdam
from Seattle to Alaska
on July 5-12, 2003
cruising *Alaska's Inside Passage*
also known as "The Panhandle" or "Southeast"
spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife,
vivid native cultures, astounding history
and exceptional hospitality are hallmarks of this region.

Kristina Trowbridge, CTC, MCC, DS

My Specialty is Your Dream Vacation
Weddings and Honeymoon Specialist
Eco Adventures, Small Ships, Cruises & Safaris
Caribbean and Barbados, Fiji, Tahiti and the South Pacific
Africa, Alaska, Europe and Scandinavia
Expertise, Value, Smart, Elegant, Exotic & Safe



**Holland America has the best fleet of ships cruising Alaskan Waters... Period.
7 Days Alaskan Explorer Cruises on ms Amsterdam**



From Seattle July 05, return to Seattle July 12, 2003

Date	Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
July 5	0	Seattle, Washington		5:00 pm
July 6	1	Scenic cruising of Queen Charlotte Islands		
July 7	2	Juneau, Alaska	1:00 pm	8:00 pm
July 8	3	Scenic cruising Glacier Bay National Park		
July 9	4	Sitka, Alaska	7:00 am	6:00 pm
July 10	5	Ketchikan, Alaska	7:00 am	1:00 pm
July 11	6	Victoria, British Columbia	8:00 pm	midnight
July 12	7	Seattle, Washington	7:00 am	

Holland America is The Leader in Alaska



Alaska Cruising

In the 55 years we've been showing visitors around Alaska, we've come to appreciate the enormity of the land, and the many natural wonders it holds.

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We've slowed down the pace to create an Alaska journey that will put you in the right place at the right time.
You never know when a grizzly will amble into view,
Or a glacier will calve, Or the Northern Lights will sparkle

Holland America has the best fleet of ships cruising Alaskan Waters... Period.

- Alaska's highest-rated fleet
- On-board naturalist on every voyage
- Native Artist in Residence featured on each sailing
- If it's a one-week vacation you're seeking, a Holland America cruise is the perfect choice
- Incredible scenery, glaciers, whales, fishing, native culture, and of course, shopping!
- Join us for an Alaska Explorer Cruise, roundtrip from Seattle
- You'll sail with the finest premium fleet in Alaska
- With award-winning five-star service spacious staterooms, scrumptious dining and first-rate entertainment
- The interior of Alaska and the Yukon is a must-see destination, but if time limits your travels to a cruise-only vacation, a 5-star Holland America ship will be a major destination in itself.
- The pride of Holland America Line is in the high quality of their ships, which is the cornerstone of their success both in Alaska and around the globe.

The makings of a 5-star fleet

- **More crew members** per guest than any other cruise line in our class
- **Fewer passengers** carried means **more space per guest** than any other cruise line in our class
- **More spacious staterooms**, averaging 25% larger than those on ships of similar class
- **Unconditional service** ensured by our "**tipping not required**" policy while at sea
- A **multi-million dollar art collection** to add elegance and style
- Spa and salon pampering from **Steiner of London**
- **Fresh flowers** everywhere!
- **Complimentary ice-cream** bar for kids of all ages
- A **teak promenade deck** that completely encircles the ship
- The **most varied menus** at sea with over 500 tempting items
- **Complimentary hot and cold hors d'oeuvres** at cocktail hour
- A **white-gloved welcome** by our friendly Indonesian and Filipino staff upon embarkation
- **Complimentary lattes, cappuccinos and mochas** served all day long
- A **cyber café** for keeping in touch with friends and associates ashore
- **Royal Dutch High Tea** served daily in the Explorer's Lounge
- The sinfully-delicious **Chocolate Extravaganza** one special night of your voyage
- **Award-winning production shows** on every voyage
- **Complimentary room service 24 hours a day** featuring the delicious fare of our main dining room
- And of course, a **chocolate medallion** on your pillow every evening
- An **onboard naturalist** on every sailing to give interpretive talks and assist in pointing out wildlife from the railing
- A **native artist-in-residence** onboard every sailing to share stories and demonstrate traditional arts
- **Huna Totem interpreters** to share legends and lore while sailing in Glacier Bay National Park
- Complimentary Hot **Dutch Pea Soup** while glacier watching
- **Wooly blankets** for keeping warm while enjoying nature's amazing scenery
- **Kids-Only Shore Excursions** so parents can spend time away
- **Alaska-theme menus** showcasing the freshest of local seafood and game
- **Space:** with 57% fewer guests than other ships, there's always room at the railing for glacier pictures, whale watching and eagle counting.

ms Amsterdam

Noted ship architect Frans Dingemans, who is responsible for most of Holland America's fleet, once said that a line's flagship must be very special as befits her status as the standard-bearer. The Amsterdam, HAL's second flagship (along with her sister, the Rotterdam) is not only special, she is exquisite. The third ship bearing the name of the Dutch capital in the line's 127-year history, the Amsterdam's interiors are more luxurious, elegant and formal than those of HAL's V-class ships (Volendam and Zaandam). And, like the Rotterdam, she sports twin smokestacks and boasts an all-suite concierge deck with a lounge for the exclusive use of guests residing in two penthouses and 50 suites (14 more than the Rotterdam). The Amsterdam is the first HAL ship to have Azipod propulsion, allowing her to cruise at 22.5 knots. HAL's loyal following will love this ship as will anyone new to the line who appreciates a gracious and refined ambiance rich in comfort, class and culture.

Grand spaces signal grand adventures. Both are found on board the Amsterdam—the latest incarnation of Holland America Line's flagship vessel. Tended by charming officers and crew who cherish the great nautical tradition of the Dutch explorers, this majestic, luxury ship is worthy of its five stars.

- Maiden Voyage: 2000
- Country of Registry: Netherlands
- Length: 780 ft.
- Width: 105.8 ft.
- Gross Tonnage: 61,000
- Maximum Speed: 24.5 knots
- Crew Size: 658
- Total Passenger Capacity: 1380
- Passenger Decks: 10
- Total Cabins: 690
- 2 Penthouse Suite
- 50 Suites
- 120 Deluxe Suites (Mini-Suites)
- 385 Outside Staterooms:
- 133 Inside Staterooms:
- 21 Handicapped Accessible Cabins
- 18 Elevators

ACTIVITIES

- Bars (4)
- Casino
- Cinema/Theater
- / Disco/Dancing
- Formal Dinners
- Live Entertainment
- Programs for Children

CABIN AMENITIES

Whichever category stateroom you choose, it will provide all the comforts of home.

- A/C
- Hair Dryer
- Phone
- Safe
- TV to watch movies, shipboard activities, cruising previews and world news privacy
- A direct-dial phone.

The gracious, white-gloved steward who personally escorts you to your door is your first hint that this is a special stateroom. And indeed it is. The first thing you notice is how truly spacious it is--a full 25% larger than those on other ships of our class.

Full-length double closets and deep dresser drawers are generous enough to hold everything you brought--as well as any treasures you might purchase along the way. There's even a sturdy Holland America complimentary canvas tote bag to take shopping or to the beach.

At evening's end, you return to your stateroom to find that your steward has dimmed the lights, turned down your bed and placed a Sweet Dreams chocolate on your pillow.

FACILITIES

- Gym/Health Club & Massage
- Library & Meeting Rooms
- Medical Services
- Pools (4), Whirlpool/Jacuzzi & Sauna
- Restaurants (3)
- Shops/Boutiques

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Public Rooms	Capacity:
La Fontaine Dining Room	747
Odyssey Restaurant	88
Wajang Theater	217
Queen's Lounge	557
Crow's Nest Lounge	250
Explorer's Lounge	89
Lido Restaurant	386
Erasmus Library	23
Rembrandt Lounge	75
Ocean Bar	110
Java Bar	36
Internet Café	7
Meeting Rooms	72-115
Skyroom	18
Concierge Lounge	17
Casino:	Blackjack tables; slot machines; dice table; roulette table; stud poker
Spa Facilities:	Gymnasium fitness center; dual saunas; loofa scrub room; massage rooms; beauty salon/barber shop; tennis practice courts.

The monumental 29.5-foot Astrolabe clock tower dominates the three-level, oval-shaped, atrium at the heart of the vessel - it is a fanciful and poetic astronomical timepiece with one clock synchronized with the ship's clock, a world time clock and a carillon. Interiors - in rich colors with lots of warm paneling - are graced by a \$2 million art and antiques collection including the Four Seasons sculptures originally created for the Nieuw Amsterdam of 1938 that now are displayed near the Crow's Nest Lounge; Ming Dynasty guardian statues in the Art Gallery; and bronzes of bears by British sculptor Susanna Holt by the pool. Not to mention the grand vases of fresh flowers throughout the public rooms that typically adorn HAL ships. A popular hub for an after-dinner drink is the Ocean Bar with music from a duo, just steps from the show lounge; and the Explorer's Lounge, with a mural-size painting themed to 17th century Amsterdam. Other popular spots are the ocean view Erasmus library, the Puzzle Corner and the Java Café adjacent to the Internet C@fe with seven individual stations (basic charge is 75 cents a minute). There are four self-service laundrettes (a wash and dry cost \$2 including detergent) featuring ironing board/iron and folding table. Three staircases, like on the Rotterdam, save steps: guests are never farther than 130 feet from the stairs.

La Fontaine Main Dining Room

At every turn, you will encounter opportunities to sample and savor our delectable cuisine. Each tempting venue has its own flavor. Such as the beautiful formal dining room, lavished with rare art and radiating elegance. You are summoned to dine by the melodious call from the chime master as he walks the corridors. You and your friends are seated at a table clad in snowy linen, where silver and stemware sparkle; fresh flowers bloom and anticipation fill the air. Your waiter - ever attentive to your wishes - helps you choose from the menu's riches, all the way to the climax of the irresistible dessert.

Ice sculptures on rotating pedestals greet guests to the two-level La Fontaine Dining Room. This formal restaurant is highlighted by a laminated, colored glass ceiling (that looks like stained glass) in a floral motif, with flowers in soft tones of green, blue, orange and yellow. Art Deco lamps provide lighting throughout the room that is

decorated in shades of blue, green, yellow and orange, to complement the colors of the ceiling, and features a music alcove. The food is excellent - particularly the potato-crusting King salmon, prime rib of aged beef au jus and grilled veal chop with a green peppercorn sauce. Service is outstanding, particularly in The Pinnacle Grill at the Odyssey alternative restaurant, a beautiful, intimate setting for 88 diners, decorated in red, black, gold and cream with warm burl wood, and landscapes by fine artist Bas Sebus. The Odyssey serves fine Pacific Northwest cuisine - and there is a \$20.00 fee.

So extraordinarily memorable is the cuisine aboard Holland America ships that the entire fleet has been inducted into the prestigious *Confédération de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs*, a gourmet society founded in Paris and devoted to promoting the pleasures of the table. This prompted the society to create a special badge denoting the new *Professional de la Marine* category, of which Holland America was the very first recipient. What does it take to earn such an esteemed award? Cuisine lovingly prepared and exquisitely presented in a number of exciting dining venues. *Note: Smoking is not permitted at any time in dining areas. This includes the main dining room and Lido. The alternate restaurants have been non-smoking since their launches.*

Pinnacle Grill at the Odyssey

The Pinnacle Grill at the Odyssey Restaurant signifies a truly fine dining experience which will surely enliven your senses as no other restaurant afloat. Upon arrival, you will notice the unique and detailed table setting featuring an exclusive design by *Bvlgari*. A simple orchid placed in a bud vase centers the table

On *ms Rotterdam*, *ms Amsterdam* (opening April, 2003), *ms Prinsendam* (opening May, 2003), *ms Zuiderdam* and *ms Oosterdam's* (opening July, 2003) the Pinnacle Grill at the Odyssey Restaurant is where the authentic Pacific Northwest cuisine is prepared to perfection while surrounding you in the romantic intimacy of a 17th-century Italian villa.

Join me at the Pinnacle Grill at the Odyssey Restaurant for a romantic evening on July 7 celebrating my birthday, mine and Tom's anniversary, my dad's 80th birthday and the cuisine and fine wines of the Pacific Northwest.

The Pinnacle Grill Odyssey Restaurant offers a special dining venue with a contemporary design yet still classic in the service approach. An exclusive pattern of *Bvlgari* china is at each setting. Other china featuring the Pacific Rim has also been chosen from Rosenthal. Quality Riedel glassware as well as tasteful white *Frette* linen adorns the table. Carefully selected wines of the Northwest will be a key focus to accompany the exquisite menu.

You will be welcomed and guided to your table. A sampling hors d'oeuvre will be placed in front of each guest in an Asian porcelain spoon to reveal the beginning of this culinary experience. On the *ms Statendam* and *ms Ryndam*, you are surrounded by rich, warm fabrics of red and gold complemented by elegant wood accents representing the Northwest.

For starters you may want to try the Fragrant Chicken Thai Soup, made with coconut milk & lemon grass or Seared Duck Breast with pickled Walla Walla onions & blackberry relish, or Dungeness Crab Cakes with spiral shaved cucumbers & sweet chili sauce, or Gerard & Dominique's Smoked Pleasures of Black Cod, Salmon & Scallops in Wasabi cream, or the Ultimate Northwest Clam Chowder with Double smoked bacon & Tender red potatoes. Various salads are also offered.

For Entrees you have a difficult choice to make From the Grill: Filet Mignon, Porterhouse Steak, Halibut or King Salmon and from the Signature Dishes: Pan Seared Rosemary Chicken, Lamb Rack Chops, Seafood Cioppino, and Grande Wild Mushroom Ravioli. Several choices of side dishes are also offered.

For dessert pick a Not So Classic Baked Alaska, the Warm Grand Marnier Chocolate Volcano Cake, a Lemon Berry Angel Shortcake and / or an Assortment of cheeses. No need to choose, you may have one of each!

Lido Dining

This award-winning culinary staff provides extensive dining options, including "light & healthy" items, continental and ethnic cuisines, and vegetarian dishes. All are available in a range of dining venues from the formal, candlelit main dining room to the informal, sun-splashed Lido Restaurant; from the all-American hot dogs and hamburgers of the Terrace Grill to the ethnic treats of the pasta and taco bars.

In this era where ships are constantly adding a la carte charges beyond the norm, Holland America is refreshingly value-oriented: no-fee extras include lattes, espressos and cappuccino free in the Java Bar, dining room and room service as well as the fresh popcorn at the movie theater and free ice-cream sundaes anytime. Holland America was the first in the cruise industry to introduce a full Lido Restaurant on all ships for a relaxed dining pleasure. It's open for breakfast and lunch, and for casual dinner on selected nights. The Lido features both an indoor, air-conditioned restaurant and portable buffet bars outside on the deck, offering some healthy choices among its make-it-yourself deli sandwiches, pasta dishes, Italian salads and entrees, or Mexican foods including tacos,

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nachos and fajitas. Oriental stir fries featuring Chinese and Thai cuisine are also offered, as well as hamburgers, sandwiches and gourmet sausages.

Room service is available 24 hours a day with adequate menu and outstanding service.



Bring the kids and make it a family cruise. Thanks to Club HAL, a special program that offers oceans of fun for guests 5 through 17, the entire family can have the vacation of their dreams. You snorkeling in crystal blue waters, the kids building sand castles on the beach. Or vice versa. Young sailors have a playroom, The Skyroom, and a video game arcade. Club HAL is the line's program of supervised activities for guests 5 through 17. Activities include storytelling, crafts and candy bar bingo for the younger children; putt-putt golf, pool parties and video games for pre-teens; and movies, pizza and disco parties for teens. A children's menu includes burgers, hotdogs, and chicken dippers. Babysitting is available while the ship is at sea. Fee is \$8 an hour for the first child, \$5 for each subsequent child in the same family. Make arrangements through the Front Office 24 hours in advance.

Fun for kids, tweens and teens

Club HAL activities are captivating enough to engage youngsters ages 5 to 8, cool enough to attract tweens and teens. It all begins with a special Welcome Aboard meeting the first night of the cruise with our full-time youth coordinator and continues throughout the cruise with a dedicated daily youth program filled with fun: storytelling, crafts and candy bar bingo for the little kids; miniature golf, pool parties and video games for tweens and teens. And the fun lasts well into the night with movies, pizza and disco parties, so you can enjoy your evening knowing the kids are having a good time properly supervised.

Food to please the most finicky eaters

Call it what you will--finicky, particular, hard-to-please--the kids will tell you it's simply a matter of taste. Which is why we've designed a menu that includes their favorites: hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, fish n' chips, chicken dippers and more. Bolstered by the fresh salt air, your kids just may surprise you with their new appetites for life.

Las Vegas and Broadway Style Shows

Nighttime! That's show-time. The time when your Holland America ship really shines, dazzling you with great, big beautiful shows. Real Las Vegas- and Broadway-style productions in the dazzling two-tiered show lounge feature professional dancers decked out in gorgeous costumes.

Perhaps you'll begin with complimentary espresso and hand-dipped chocolates in the Explorer's Lounge. Or adjourn to the Lido for cognac and hand-rolled cigars under the stars. There's a recently released film to watch in the 217-seat Wajang Theater, a blackjack dealer to beat in the casino, dream dancing in romantic lounges. The 557-seat Queen's Lounge, elegantly decorated in purple and red with blue accents, is the main show venue for Broadway-style revues and variety. It has a revolving stage with hydraulic lifts, a confetti cannon effect system and a moving light system. Colossal figures of women hold glass bowls (that serve as lamps) above their heads and fiber optic lights twinkle in the ceiling. Seating is in the form of banquettes and chairs and sightlines are excellent.

The production team behind the shows has more Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and Oscar awards and nominations than that of any other cruise line. You'll see a brand new extravaganza virtually every evening. The bill may include an unbelievably talented illusionist, a vocalist, or comedian. New galaxies of stars perform every night. Nights on board glitter with choices. Evening entertainment is quite varied, ranging from pianists playing Broadway show tunes to instrumental ensembles in the ships bars, such as the Crow's Nest, Rembrandt Lounge, Ocean Bar and Explorer's Lounge. The Casino features tables for blackjack, poker, roulette and dice plus 107 slots.

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On your way, you make an amazing discovery: The Late Night Snack, tonight's being a sinfully delicious spread where everything--tortes, cakes, soufflés--is made of chocolate. A tough act to beat.

Crew Show: Our talented Indonesian or Filipino crewmembers will entertain you with songs and dances from their native lands.

Fabulous '50s and '60s Party: Turn back the clock; turn up the oldies and bebop 'til you drop as the DJ spins the hits of the '50s and '60s.

There are 2 formal nights on a 7 day cruise when the dress code calls for business suits or tuxedos for men (about half will don tuxes) and gowns or cocktail dresses for women. Two nights are informal, when a sports jacket is the rule for men, but ties are not required. 3 evenings are designated "casually elegant" or informal when comfortable clothing is enough, but HAL requests no jeans, T-shirts or shorts in the dining room.

Cabins

Eighty-one percent of the staterooms offer ocean views; 25 percent have private verandas. Amenities are similar to those in fine land-based resorts: herbal soaps, shampoo and lotion, hair dryer, chocolates on the pillows. There are 17 cabin categories of accommodations, with suites and mini-suites with verandas (categories PS, S, A and B) being a wonderful splurge - imagine sitting in your own private terrace to enjoy the eight-hour daylight transit of the Panama Canal!

The 2 Penthouse suites (Category PS) measure 1,126 sq. ft. They feature a bedroom with a king-size bed and a master bathroom, which has an oversized whirlpool tub. The suite comes complete with a dressing room, living room, dining room, pantry, and a large private verandah. There is also a guest toilet, refrigerator and a mini-bar. Deluxe Verandah Suites or Mini suites (Category S) measure an expansive 563 sq. ft. They feature a King-size bed, whirlpool bath, and a private verandah. It comes with service to match: hors d'oeuvres, dry cleaning and more. You also get special embarkation and disembarkation privileges and a private concierge lounge called the Neptune Lounge on Navigation Deck.

Plus, nowhere is the suite life sweeter than on HAL with such complimentary services and amenities as bathrobes, personalized stationery, tea and hors d'oeuvres served in the suite, cocktail party with the captain, Indonesian Rijsttafel luncheon hosted by the captain, corsage and boutonniere the first formal night, and special disembarkation privileges.

Verandah Suites (Category A & B) are 284 sq. ft. and feature whirlpool bath and shower, two beds convertible to king-size, large sitting area, dressing room, sofa bed, VCR, mini-bar, refrigerator, floor-to-ceiling windows and verandah.

A Large Outside Double Staterooms (Category C-H) is a good middle-of-the-road stateroom choice: 197 sq. ft. with sitting area and a convertible queen size bed into 2 singles. They have a pleasant peach/rust/beige/blue color scheme, lots of closet/drawer space and bath with tub. Some with obstructed views depending on location and category. Staterooms on Lower Promenade Deck open to the promenade, where your views may be of the walkers during the day and they of you at night, unless you close the curtains or turn the light off!

Standard Inside Double Staterooms (Categories I-N) measure a roomy 182 sq. ft. Each stateroom has 2 lower beds convertible to one queen bed. Private bathrooms have showers, but no tub. A minimum category with maximum comforts

Fitness & Recreation

The Ocean Spa incorporates treatment rooms for massage, sauna and steam, beauty salon and juice bar. Its ocean-view gym offers 11 Cybex treadmills, six Cybex bikes (2 recumbent), a dozen Cybex weight-training machines, two Concept II rowers, three Cybex stair climbers and free weights. There is an outdoor pool and a magrodome-covered pool with two Jacuzzis, bar and terrace grill. A jogging track on Sports Deck (10 times around equal one mile) is complemented by a wrap-around promenade for strollers (3.5 times around is one mile). Other opportunities for recreation include paddle tennis courts, volleyball, shuffleboard and ping-pong.

There are two formal nights on a 7-day sailing when the dress code calls for business suits or tuxedos for men (about half don tuxes) and cocktail dresses or gowns for women. Two nights are informal, when jackets are required for men and ties are optional. Three evenings are designated "casually elegant" when comfortable clothes are the rule, but HAL requests no jeans, T-shirts or shorts in the dining room.

Holland America has a **"tipping not required"** policy and offers no guidelines; tipping, however, is generally expected.

What is an Astrolabe?

The astrolabe is a very ancient astronomical computer for solving problems relating to time and the position of the Sun and stars in the sky. Several types of astrolabes have been made. By far the most popular type is the *planispheric astrolabe*, on which the celestial sphere is projected onto the plane of the equator. A typical old astrolabe was made of brass and was about 6 inches (15 cm) in diameter, although much larger and smaller ones were made.

Astrolabes are used to show how the sky looks at a specific place at a given time. This is done by drawing the sky on the face of the astrolabe and marking it so positions in the sky are easy to find. To use an astrolabe, you adjust the moveable components to a specific date and time. Once set, the entire sky, both visible and invisible, is represented on the face of the instrument. This allows a great many astronomical problems to be solved in a very visual way.

Typical uses of the astrolabe include finding the time during the day or night, finding the time of a celestial event such as sunrise or sunset and as a handy reference of celestial positions. Astrolabes were also one of the basic astronomy education tools in the late Middle Ages. Old instruments were also used for astrological purposes.

The typical astrolabe was not a navigational instrument although an instrument called the *mariner's astrolabe* was widely used. The mariner's astrolabe is simply a ring marked in degrees for measuring celestial altitudes.

The history of the astrolabe begins more than two thousand years ago. The principles of the astrolabe projection were known before 150 B.C., and true astrolabes were made before A.D. 400. The astrolabe was highly developed in the Islamic world by 800 and was introduced to Europe from Islamic Spain (Andalusia) in the early 12th century. It was the most popular astronomical instrument until about 1650, when more specialized and accurate instruments replaced it. Astrolabes are still appreciated for their unique capabilities and their value for astronomy education.

In the 10th century, Abd al-Rahmân b. Umar al-Sufi (d. A.H. 376/A.D. 986-7) wrote a detailed treatise on the astrolabe consisting of 386 chapters in which he described 1000 uses for the astrolabe. al-Sufi perhaps overstated the flexibility of the astrolabe, but astrolabes can be used to solve many astronomical problems that would otherwise require rather sophisticated mathematics. All of the everyday uses of the astrolabe are not known, but they were certainly used to tell time during the day or night, to find the time of sunrise and sunset and, thus, the length of the day, to locate celestial objects in the sky, as a handy reference of celestial positions and, as astrology was a deeply embedded element of the cultures that used astrolabes, to determine aspects of horoscopes. Islamic prayer times are astronomically determined, and the astrolabe could be used to determine the required times.

Modern astrolabes, such as the **Personal Astrolabe**, can be used to solve astronomy problems involving sidereal time and can be used with modern civil time. Following are two examples of astrolabe uses:

Astrolabes can be used to solve problems for the moon and planets such as rising and setting times, meridian passage and finding sky positions in conjunction with an almanac. The moon or planet's declination and right ascension are found in the almanac and a mark is made at its location and the problem is solved using the normal procedures.

The **Personal Astrolabe** is in regular use by hikers to find the amount of daylight remaining, sailors to find navigational stars, architects to determine shadow positions and astronomers to plan observations. It is also in use at several innovative colleges and universities as an aid in teaching basic positional astronomy.

For more information check out <http://www.astrolabes.org/astrolab.htm>



Day 0: Sail from Seattle

The Emerald City of the Pacific Northwest. In Seattle, stroll the bustling waterfront, visit the Space Needle, and sample a local microbrew, a glass of Washington wine and world-famous coffee. Relax and enjoy the luxury of shipboard living as the ms Amsterdam sails from Seattle this evening.

Day 1: Scenic Cruising

At sea all day cruising the scenic Queen Charlotte Islands



Art of the Queen Charlotte Islands by Gordon Miller

The Queen Charlotte Islands is an archipelago of more than 150 islands. It has gained a reputation for outstanding natural beauty and a remarkable First Nations culture.

The wildlife viewing in the Queen Charlotte Islands is varied and interesting. Visitors can watch various birds or catch site of migrating whales or seals and sea lions. There are freshwater streams in abundance as well as the ocean itself, to lure adventurous fishers to this unique spot. Hiking, biking and walking on the beaches or numerous trails provides enjoyment as well as relaxation for the outdoor enthusiasts.

This area can provide something of interest to everyone: history, archeology, fishing, boating, hiking, biking and more. The four main towns and numerous communities on the island all have something unique to offer. The island pace is slow and relaxing so you can explore and enjoy at your leisure.

For over fifteen thousands years the Queen Charlotte Islands have been the home of indigenous people named the Haida. Their spirituality, art, culture and legends have transformed everyone who visits this unique paradise at the edge of the world. The supernatural nature of its mystical wilderness is pervasive throughout the islands. It is a place to become immersed in a pristine natural beauty, a unique style of art and a way of life, which continues to enthrall the world.

All aspects of Haida art is highly spiritual. The gods have bestowed social identity, according to their legends upon them and their art embodies these standards. Art pervades all dimensions of their reality. Magnificent decorations adorn their canoes and totem poles as well as all other trappings of their cosmology. For instance, there are copper shields, ivory pendants, argillite carvings, baskets, capes, button blankets, gold jewelry, silver bracelets, food containers, storage chests, chief's seats and specially designed house fronts.

Their art style, which represents a variety of supernatural happenings, has been a subject of admiration by all other world cultures for thousands of years. It is the representation of souls undergoing transformations and awaiting rebirth into a world linked to the land and sea. The depth of its artistic creativity is unsurpassed.

The whole area of the Queen Charlotte Islands is teeming with myriad different forms of life, which provide the subject matter for their masterpieces.

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Day 2: Juneau Ketchikan

In Alaska's capital, taste salmon baked over an alder-wood fire, pan for gold, flight-see the Juneau Ice Field, and walk right up to the Mendenhall Glacier. One of America's most picturesque state capitals, Juneau offers a host of things to do. Good shopping and art galleries are a block from the dock. Fly into the mountains in a floatplane or land on a glacier in a helicopter. Catch a whale-watching cruise or go on a rigorous hike. Or join the relaxing tour to the city's museum.

Rugged shorelines and thick forests met prospectors arriving in Southeast Alaska just 100 years ago. The landscape is much the same today as it was a century ago: tumbling waterfalls cascade across nearly vertical faces of imposing mountains. The state capital in Juneau lies nestled between the steep, forested flanks of Mount Juneau and Mount Roberts.

Although the Gastineau Channel was a favorite fishing ground for local Tlingit Indians, the town was founded on gold nuggets. In 1880, Sitka mining engineer George Pilz offered a reward to any local chief who could lead him to gold-bearing ore. Chief Kowee arrived with such ore and vagabond prospectors were sent to investigate. The first time the prospectors arrived they found little that interested them in Gold Creek. However, at Chief Kowee's insistence, Pilz sent the two men, Joe Juneau and Richard Harris, back to the Gastineau Channel. This time they hacked their way through the thick rainforest to Snow Slide Gulch, the head of Gold Creek, and found, from the words of Richard Harris, 'little lumps as large as peas and beans.' On October 18, 1880, the two men staked out a 160-acre town site. It seemed that almost overnight a mining camp appeared. It was not only the state's first major gold strike, but within a year the camp became a small town. The first to be founded after Alaska's purchase from Russians.

Initially the town was called Harrisburg (after Richard Harris) and then Rockwell. Finally in 1881 the miners met to officially rename the town Juneau (after Joe Juneau). A post office was established and the name has stuck ever since. In 1906, after the decline whaling and fur trade, the Capitol of Alaska - Sitka became less important and the Capitol was moved to Juneau.

If mining artifacts hold your interest, then a visit to our Juneau-Douglas City Museum will be on your list. This museum has local artwork, a large custom relief map of the area and audio-visual presentations. But the best exhibits are interpretive displays covering the gold mining history of Juneau and Douglas. Monday through Friday 10am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm. Admission is \$2 (2002 rates).

While visiting around the city center, the Alaska State Museum may be on your list of place to visit. Their displays of Alaska's past and artifacts included from all four indigenous groups: Athabaskan, Aleut, Inuit, and Northwest coast people. Displays also include gold strikes in the state, artifacts relating to Russian period and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Monday through Sunday 8:30am to 5:30pm. Admission is \$5 (2002 rates).

The Russian Orthodox Church is located on 5th Street and probably the most photographed structure in Juneau. The octagon-shaped building was built in 1894, making it the oldest church in the Southeast and has exhibits of Russian icons, original vestments and religious relics.

The City and Borough of Juneau is over 3,100 square miles! Making Juneau the second largest city in the nation (Sitka is the largest).

Mendenhall Glacier is located in Mendenhall Valley about 14 miles from city center; tour buses drop you off at the base of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Mendenhall Glacier flows 12 miles from its source, the Juneau Icefield, and has a 1.5-mile face. On a sunny day it's beautiful, with blue skies and snow-capped mountains in the background. On a cloudy and drizzle afternoon it can be even more impressive, as the ice turns shades of deep blue. The US Forest Service maintains Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Admission is \$3.00. Remember Southeast Alaska is a rainforest. With high annual rainfall and mild temperatures. Southeast Alaska's rainforests are broken up by majestic mountain ranges, glaciers and fjords. Juneau annual rainfall is over 9 feet per year! We suggest dressing in layer, such as an onion, to be able to enjoy all temperatures (45°F to 75°F).

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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Excursions in Juneau

Whale Watching Tour

Approximately 3 1/2 hours, US: \$110.25

Your personalized whale-watching excursion begins in beautiful Auke Bay, original winter home of local Tlingit Indians (15 minutes north of Juneau). Auke Bay positions us within 30 minutes of some of the best feeding grounds for the endangered Humpback Whales in our area. We have occasionally seen whales and Orca from the dock. The "AWESOME ORCA" operates 3 trips daily, and is U S Coast Guard certified for 32 passengers. We limit our trips to 23* seats per trip, for a fun, personalized and quality tour with lots of room for people who want to get away from the crowds. This is an exclusive, VIP tour, which is very popular and fills quickly. Many naturalists on the cruise ships recommend us as the "must do wildlife tour in Juneau" and often accompany us. As many as 6,000 visitors arrive daily on the cruise ships, only 60 of these will have the opportunity to accompany Capt. Larry on board the purple jet boat "AWESOME ORCA".

Our Auke Bay departure point allows us to cruise along the shorelines of Admiralty Island, known as the "home of the bears". It boasts the largest concentration of Alaskan Brown Bears and nesting Bald Eagles in the world. While cruising around islands in Stephens Passage we encounter and photograph the endangered Humpback Whales and Stellar Sea Lions, along with Harbor Seals, Dalls Porpoise, regular sightings of Orcas (Killer Whales), an occasional Otter, and a variety of sea and shore birds.

Our location on the "Inside Passage" of Southeast Alaska offers well-protected and usually quite calm waters. Marine mammals, the majestic Chilkat Mountains and several glaciers provide our guests the photo opportunities of a lifetime.

Our personalized tour-style and high speed boat allows us to stop, observe and photograph marine mammals in their natural environment, while safely and comfortably enjoying the rugged Alaskan scenery.

Awesome Orca is certified for 32 passengers. We restrict seating to 23 passengers per trip to maximize your comfort and photo opportunities. We operate three tours daily, approximately 2 1/2 hours on the water, total duration 3 1/2 hours. Custom tours are available year round.

WHALE SIGHTINGS GUARANTEED

Experience and enjoy whale watching with Juneau Alaska's most experienced whale watch Captain. Capt. Larry started watching whales in 1987. He has been working with several whale research groups, including National Marine Fisheries, studying and documenting Humpback Whale identification, Orca identification and whale behaviors since 1994. He is known as "The whale man of Juneau Alaska" and is regularly accompanied by several of the professional naturalists on the cruise ships for photos, research and fun. His knowledge, experience and expertise will guide you to the best whale activities of the day.

The Captain



Captain Larry Dupler is US Coast Guard licensed and is an internationally renowned whale watch captain with over 35 years experience on the water. During this time he has served as captain and engineer on commercial and charter fishing boats, commercial diving boats, and tug boats along with his own pleasure boats. He is educated in wildlife management and marine biology and has been recognized for his work in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Captain Larry's love and admiration for whales originated in Washington's Puget Sound while observing Orcas as a child. It developed into an obsession while observing these awesome animals during boat trips around Southeast Alaska. For many years he has been dedicated to operating whale watching and wildlife tour boats in Southeast Alaska. He is considered the most experienced and professional whale watching captains in Southeast Alaska. Captain Larry has been vice president of Marine Education and Research of Southeast Alaska (MERSEA), a non-profit whale support group based in Juneau, since its inception in 1996. He works with the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, the Alaska Whale Foundation and other research organizations to identify the whales that visit the Juneau area.

Carol Pitts is the proud owner of Orca Enterprises. She has a degree in business, a Master's degree in administration, an extensive background in budget and finance, customer relations, and tourism, and is the cornerstone of Orca Enterprises. "I Love it here in Juneau, this is home." Carol says, "After many years of civilian service with the Federal government in Colorado and Alaska, they wanted to transfer me out of Juneau, so I stole Capt. Larry from another company, built a boat, and started growing the most recommended whale watching tour in Southeast Alaska." Carol is the Juneau wish coordinator for the "Make A Wish Foundation", and

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has received numerous awards from various agencies for her efforts and accomplishments including "Woman of the Year 2000" for personal and business accomplishments and "International Woman of the Year 2001" for national and international research support. She is a founder of Marine Education and Research of South East Alaska (MERSEA), President of Alaska Women in Travel and a member of the International Federation of Women in Travel. Carol is an invitational motivational speaker on a variety of subjects, and enthusiastically supports and encourages women in small business. Carol believes that every person, who spends time with us on board the "Awesome Orca" is very special and "we are proud to show them some of our Alaska."



Our fully customized, one of a kind, mammal-safe jet boat, the "AWESOME ORCA", was designed and built specifically for whale watching tours and the comfort of our guests. It is 42 feet long and 12 feet wide, and is one of the fastest excursion vessels in Southeast Alaska. It features a fully enclosed, heated cabin with fantastic viewing from every seat. It is handicap accessible with a restroom and full galley. The rear open deck and upper level observation areas are perfect if you prefer to be outside. The "AWESOME ORCA's" design offers an opportunity for our guests to be up close and personal with the whales and wildlife we encounter.

For your Safety

The "AWESOME ORCA" is a US documented vessel and undergoes annual US Coast Guard safety and operational inspections. It is operated by a USCG licensed captain, and has a professionally trained tour guide/naturalist on board for all tours. All of our crew members are professionally trained and enrolled in a random drug test program and comply with our zero tolerance program. The "AWESOME ORCA" features state of the art electronics and communication equipment, and meets USCG 100% life saving equipment requirements (flotation vests and rafts).

Four Glacier & Dog Sled Adventure by Helicopter

Approximately 3 hours (30 minutes flight-seeing; 1 hour at dog sled camp) US: \$419

Take home memories of your Alaskan dream. Enjoy a combination of Alaska's most highly desired activities -- helicopter flight-seeing, a glacier landing, and a dog sled ride! You'll begin by soaring over towering mountaintops, untouched wilderness, picturesque alpine meadows and crystal lakes. Fly over the massive Juneau Icefield and see up close the advancing Taku Glacier, cascading Hole-in-the-Wall Glacier, mysterious, floating Dead Branch Glacier, and land on the Norris Glacier, home of the exclusive dog-mushing camp.

Your guide greets you as you step out onto the snow-capped glacier. You're sure to be captivated by the scenery high above as you hear stories about the famous 1,000-mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome -- the Iditarod. The highlight of your tour is a visit to the dog sled camp, as your guide takes you on a dog sled ride on the snow-covered glacier. Continue on your flight-seeing trip as you soar over the glacial landscape. Watch for bears, mountain goats and moose below.

Please note: Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. This tour is subject to a weight surcharge. Guests weighing 250 lbs or more will be charged an additional 50% of the published tour price. Participants are recommended to bring sunglasses and dress warmly. Children must be 12 years or older and accompanied by a parent/guardian in order to participate. The operating dates of this tour are dependent upon weather conditions, but are usually from late May to early September. Very Limited Capacity

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Four Glacier Adventure by Helicopter at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 2 hours (40 minutes. in helicopter; 20 minutes. on glacier): US: \$249

This unique flight-seeing tour takes you to see four of Alaska's most spectacular glaciers. The extended flight time on this tour allows you to see more of the massive Juneau Icefield and its rapidly changing glaciers. You'll remain with the same pilot/guide throughout the entire adventure! You will be overwhelmed by the majesty of the Juneau Icefield as your expert pilot flies over the ice spires and pinnacles of the "cascading" Hole-in-the-Wall Glacier, the "advancing" Taku Glacier, the "retreating" Norris Glacier and a one-of-a-kind "floating" glacier.

New picturesque areas emerge each day on this active glacial icefield, and your pilot/guide will choose one of these areas and land on a remote glacier. Step out and explore the ancient landscape with your pilot as your guide. Peer down into a crevasse and watch for a glacial stream that emerges and then disappears beneath the icy surface. And, as you fly over the lush rain forest surrounding Juneau on your return trip, watch for bears, mountain goats and moose.

Please note: *Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports. Guests weighing 250 lbs. or more will be charged an additional 50% of the published tour price. Tour is wheelchair accessible. Please inform Shore Excursion Office on board for special arrangements. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Glacier Outback Adventure at Juneau, Alaska

(40 minutes. in helicopter; 1 hour exploring glacier with naturalist guide) US: \$344

This "soft adventure" tour combines the signature Four Glacier Flight-seeing Tour with an extended glacier landing with a professional guide. Lift off from the heliport in Juneau for an awe-inspiring flight over the massive Juneau Icefield. After gently touching down on a glacier, you'll be greeted by a professional guide. Immediately, you will be enamored by the pristine beauty of lush rain forests and mountain peaks that surround you as you stand on the glacier. Your professional guide will teach you the basics of glacier travel, glaciology, and what it takes to climb some of the tallest mountain peaks in the world, such as the majestic Mt McKinley located in Denali National Park. Highlight your visit by taking a short, guided glacier walk in a safe environment wearing crampons. After your short walk, you'll have a chance to take plenty of pictures to share with your family and friends back home.

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. Guests weighing 250 lbs or more will be charged an additional 50% of the published tour price. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Glacier-View Sea Kayaking at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 3 1/2 hours, US: \$89

Transfer by bus to North Douglas Island for scenic views of the Mendenhall Glacier and Auke Bay. Upon arrival, you'll be outfitted in life jackets and rain gear before beginning your adventure. Your experienced guide will teach you about paddling techniques, and then you'll board two-person kayaks with a new friend or your traveling companion for an excursion that will leave you wanting more. The stable yet nimble kayaks will allow you to silently approach any wildlife in the area and give you a sense of how the famed Aleut Indians traveled the coastal waterways of Alaska in search of pelts for the Russian fur-trading companies. You will be led in groups of five to six kayaks to places such as the Mendenhall Wetlands, where you may have the opportunity to view the Mendenhall Glacier from an ocean explorer's point of view. Your guide will explain the significance of places such as Smugglers Cove and the history of the surrounding area, and help identify local flora and fauna. Paddle for 1 1/2 - 2 hours, then enjoy a beverage and snack before transferring back to town.

Please note: *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. This tour will operate in all weather conditions and warm clothing is recommended. Rain gear and life jackets are provided. Children must be 6 years or older and weigh at least 40 pounds in order to participate. Limited Capacity*

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Guide's Choice Adventure Hike at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 4 1/2 hours (Hike is approximately 3 - 6 miles), US\$ 79.00

Put on your hiking boots, fill your lungs with fresh air, and experience a day of world-class hiking. Discover footpaths winding through glacial valleys and lushly forested mountains. Cascading waterfalls and serene alpine meadows are just a few of the treasured places reached only on foot. Your experienced guide will provide knowledge of the region's natural and cultural history, as well as sharing his or her favorite local stories. Whether you are interested in violets or eagles, glaciers or rain forests, this hike will offer you panoramic views, great exercise and lasting memories of Alaska.

Please note: *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Hikers are required to provide their own sturdy footgear. Expect an elevation gain of 600 to 1,200 feet, covering between three and six miles. Dress warmly, and bring your camera. This tour operates in all weather conditions. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Helicopter Flight-seeing & Extended Glacier Trek Adventure at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 6 1/2 hours (30 minutes. in helicopter; 4 hours on glacier), US\$499.00

This tour is similar to the Helicopter Flight-seeing & Glacier Trek--the newest way to explore the scenic wonders of the Juneau Icefield's glaciers. This Extended Glacier Trek Adventure offers more of an Alaska glacier adventure that will challenge and inspire you, as you spend four hours hiking and climbing the glacier with a professional mountaineering guide. You will be completely outfitted, then by helicopter you will fly to and land on a glacier. Photo opportunities abound as you are introduced to and practice basic climbing and roping techniques enabling you to safely climb and descend ice walls in the most remote and pristine areas of the glacier. No experience is required, but you must bring your spirit of adventure!

Please note: *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Guests must be in good physical condition and able to walk 3-4 miles over varied terrain, although 3-4 miles may not be covered in this tour. This tour is subject to a weight surcharge. Guests weighing 250 lbs. or more will be charged an additional surcharge for the flight portion of the tour. Persons under 16 years old are not permitted on this tour. The tour requires a minimum number of participants in order to operate. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Helicopter Flight-seeing & Glacier Trek at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 4 1/4 hours (30 minutes. in helicopter; 2 hours on glacier), UD\$359.00

Helicopter Glacier Trekking is the newest and most exciting way to explore the scenic wonders of the Juneau Icefield's glaciers. This adventure includes learning a new skill while hiking into some of the most fascinating areas of these glaciers. No experience is necessary. You will be outfitted with top-quality mountaineering gear for your adventure. Outerwear (jackets, shell pants and gloves), hard-shell mountaineering boots, harness, ice axe and crampons will prepare you to safely and comfortably hike into areas of the glaciers not normally accessible. Take off from the heliport in a modern turbine helicopter, soaring over the glaciers of the 1,500-square-mile Juneau Icefield. The scenic terrain of mountain peaks and glacier features icefalls and crevasses is revealed through the extraordinary visibility of the helicopter. The helicopter touches down and your glacier experience begins. Spend two hours on the ice with a professional glacier guide teaching you basic mountaineering skills and the proper use of your equipment. Your guide will lead you on a hike that is both adventurous and easy. Discover remarkable glacier features as you experience the magic of this landscape.

Please note: *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Guests must be in good physical condition and able to walk two miles over varied terrain, although two miles may not be covered in this tour. Guests weighing 250 lbs. or more will be charged an additional surcharge for the flight portion of the tour. Children must be 12 years or older, participating with an accompanying parent/guardian. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

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Juneau Fly-Out Fly Fishing Adventure at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 6 1/2 hours (4 hours fishing), US\$369.00

Combine the challenge of fly-fishing with a breathtaking floatplane flight to the heart of the Tongass National Forest. You will fly with an experienced pilot to a remote wilderness stream or tidal estuary. Upon landing, your guide will provide instruction on casting and fishing techniques geared for all skill levels.

Depending on the time of year and conditions, you will pursue wild salmon, Dolly Varden char, cutthroat or steelhead. A maximum client to guide ratio of 5:1 is maintained, ensuring personal attention for all participants. Use of top-quality fishing equipment, flies and waders, as well as an Alaskan streamside snack are included. As an added bonus, this tour provides excellent opportunities to view wildlife and the natural beauty of Alaska's Inside Passage. An unforgettable wilderness fly-fishing adventure!

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. As a conservation measure, fishing is conducted on a catch-and-release basis only. Alaska State law requires a valid one-day fishing license that may be purchased for \$10 from your guide. A minimum of three guests is required to operate this tour. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Mendenhall Glacier Float Trip at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 3 1/2 hours (4 1/4 hours in May and late September), US\$109.00

This is an exciting, yet gentle, introduction to white water rafting, fun for beginning and experienced rafters of all ages. The adventure begins with a scenic tour to Mendenhall Lake, where you'll have an excellent view of the glacier -- one-and-a-half miles wide and 150 feet high at the face. Near the shoreline, suit up with raingear, life jackets and rubber boots. Each raft carries eight to twelve people and is rowed by an experienced guide. Paddle rafts are available for the more adventuresome. Floating past the Mendenhall Glacier on its iceberg-studded lake, you will be treated to spectacular views of hanging glaciers, towering peaks and glacial topography. As you float down the river, you will encounter stretches of moderate rapids to add excitement to the trip. An entertaining guide will explain the natural phenomena at work in this scenic valley. You will enjoy an Alaskan-style snack featuring salmon spread, reindeer sausage, cheese, crackers and apple cider. Where the river meets the tidewater, you will turn in your rafting gear and return to town by motor coach. Suitable for all ages and no prior experience necessary -- just good health and an adventurous spirit!

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. This tour will operate in all weather conditions. Warm clothing and an extra pair of socks are recommended. All participants must weigh at least 40 pounds in order to fit into the life jackets required for participation. Operated under Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Native Canoe Paddle to Mendenhall Glacier at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 3 1/2 hours, US\$129.00

Paddle to the face of the dramatic Mendenhall Glacier in a 12-person traditional Native-style canoe. Navigate the shimmering waters of Mendenhall Lake while your guide shares traditional legends of the Juneau area. Imagine a time when the region's first people, the Tlingit, traversed the waters of Southeast Alaska in hand carved canoes. The journey across the iceberg-studded lake will transport you to a world of stunning beauty and ancient traditions. Land on the shore near Nugget Falls for a snack, then paddle back across the lake. Experience an exhilarating outdoor adventure. This is a participatory trip where all guests must be able to paddle.

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. Dress warmly and bring extra socks. Children must weigh at least 50 pounds to participate in this tour and must be accompanied by an adult. Waterproof rain gear is provided if needed. Extremely Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Taku Wilderness Lodge & Glacier Flight Adventure at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 3 1/4 hours (approximately 50 minutes total flight-time), US\$242.00

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Fly in a nostalgic floatplane over five breathtaking glaciers to an authentic wilderness lodge for a king salmon feast. You'll see why the Taku Glacier Lodge is frequently named the best tour in Alaska! A true Alaskan experience, your adventure begins the moment you "take off" from the Juneau waterfront near your ship's berth. Each guest enjoys a window seat to get an unrestricted view of five magnificent glaciers of the Juneau Icefield, as well as deep blue crevasses, snow-capped mountains, cascading waterfalls and lush forests. The Taku River will be your "runway" as you come in for a landing at the Historic Taku Lodge built in 1923. The lodge is located across the river from the picturesque Hole-In-The-Wall Glacier.

Shortly after your arrival, the aroma of the alder-grilled salmon tells you the feast is about to begin. As the fire crackles, you'll savor the Lodge-cooked feast of baked beans, coleslaw, pioneer fruit compote, fresh herb biscuits and sourdough bread to complement the grilled-to-perfection Alaska salmon. Hot Russian tea, coffee, beer, wine or iced tea and lemonade chilled with actual glacier ice and special-recipe ginger cookies complete the meal. While enjoying your meal, your host will entertain you with stories of the early day characters like Mary Joyce and her famous dog sled trip. The lodge's unique interior is decorated with old dog sleds, hunting and trapping gear, furs and skins. Often the aroma of salmon attracts a local black bear in search of a tasty morsel. Bear often visit the barbecue pit area in search of leftovers! Before your flight back to Juneau, stroll the trails of an old growth forest or relax with a beverage and soak in the serenity of a place scarcely touched by time.

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. All participants enjoy a window seat. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

The "Pilot's Choice" Helicopter Adventure at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 2 1/2 hours (50 minutes. in helicopter; 2 x 15-min. landings), US\$299.00

Soaring high above the lush rain forest, incredibly deep valleys and awe-inspiring peaks, you'll marvel at vistas seen by few! Your pilot will give you an eagle's-eye view of high alpine lakes, "icefalls" hanging from sheer cliffs, and some of the most remote peaks and glaciers in the Juneau Icefield -- places like Wonderland, Glacier King, the Mendenhall Towers, and Devil's Paw.

This itinerary is flexible; your pilot is free to create the best possible flight-seeing based on the weather and glacier conditions. For an up-close opportunity to appreciate this ancient landscape, your pilot will land in two different locations, where you will continue the tour on foot! During these two landings, you will learn about the geological and environmental processes at work creating moraines, crevasses, seracs, and the glaciers themselves. The Pilot's Choice tour is a journey of discovery -- a once-in-a-lifetime experience sure to provide enduring memories of Southeast Alaska's beautiful wilderness.

Please note: *Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports. Participants must be able to get in and out of the helicopter with limited assistance. Guests weighing 250 lbs. or more will be charged an additional 50% of the published tour price. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Wilderness Nature Walk at Juneau, Alaska

Approximately 3 hours (Walk is 1.5 miles; 2 hours walking), US\$ 69.00

"All nature will fare, if we but let it speak," said Henry David Thoreau. Join a naturalist on one of the top-rated and easiest hiking adventures into wild Alaska. The 1 1/2 miles rain forest trail meanders through towering stands of spruce and hemlock trees, and leads to pristine and protected beaches. The deep forest and quiet bays are home to a variety of wildlife. Eagles soar gracefully from their nests and sea life abounds along the shoreline. Tide pools accent the majestic views of distant peaks surrounding Glacier Bay. Explore the meaning of wilderness as you pass through the serene rain forest. Learn more about its traditional uses and its relationship to the people of this coastal region. With a curious mind and passionate soul, immerse yourself in a walk of discovery through this fascinating part of Southeast Alaska.

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. This walk requires that you be in good physical condition and able to walk easily over uneven terrain. Total walking distance is approximately 1 1/2 miles. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. This tour operates in all weather conditions. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

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Day 3: Scenic Cruising of Glacier Bay National Park

No one shows you Glacier Bay like Holland America, with more visits than any other cruise line. Witness a world still emerging from the Little Ice Age--16 tidewater glaciers in action. The park itself includes some 12 tidewater glaciers that calve into the bay. The show can be spectacular. As water undermines the front of the glaciers, great blocks of ice up to 200 feet high break loose and crash into the water. The Little Ice age reached its maximum extent here about 1750, when general melting began. Today's advance or retreat of a glacier reflects many factors: snowfall rate, topography, and climate trends. Glacial retreat continues today on the bay's east and southwest sides, but on its west side several glaciers are advancing. Breathtaking!

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Between 58 and 60 degrees north latitude, is the Glacier Bay region, the margin of North America is thrown into a broad arc of rugged mountain ranges that intermingles with the Pacific is a maze of ice-scoured fjords, valleys, beaches, straits and islands, the whole comprising an amphibious landscape where no point of land or sea is more than 30 miles from a shore.

Enter Glacier Bay and you cruise along shorelines completely covered by ice just 200 years ago. Explorer Captain George Vancouver found Icy Strait choked with ice in 1794, and Glacier Bay was a barely indented glacier. That glacier was more than 4,000 feet thick, up to 20 miles or more wide, and extended more than 100 miles to the St. Elias Mountain Range. By 1879 naturalist John Muir found that the glacier had retreated 48 miles. By 1916 the Grand Pacific Glacier headed Tarr Inlet 65 miles from Glacier Bay's mouth. Such rapid retreat is known nowhere else. Scientists have documented it, hoping to learn how glacial activity relates to climate change.

Worldwide, the glacial facts are staggering. Glaciers and polar ice store more water than lakes and rivers, groundwater, and the atmosphere combined. Ten percent of our world is under ice today, equaling the percent being farmed. If the world's ice caps thawed completely, sea level would rise enough to inundate half of the world's cities. The Greenland and Antarctic ice caps are 2 miles thick. Alaska is four percent ice.

Glaciers form because snowfall in the high mountains exceeds snowmelt. The snowflakes first change to granular snow -- round ice grains -- but the accumulating weight soon presses it into solid ice. Eventually, gravity sets the ice mass flowing down-slope at up to 7 feet per day. The park includes some 12 tidewater glaciers that calve into the bay. The show can be spectacular. As water undermines some ice fronts great blocks of ice up to 200 feet high break loose and crash into the water. Johns Hopkins Glacier calves such volumes of ice that it is seldom possible to approach its ice cliffs closer than about 2 miles. The glaciers seen here today are remnants of a general ice advance -- the Little Ice Age -- that began about 4,000 years ago. This ice advance in no way approached the extent of continental glaciation during Pleistocene time. The Little Ice age reached its maximum extent here about 1750, when general melting began. Today's advance or retreat of a glacier snout reflects many factors: snowfall rate, topography, and climate trends. Glacial retreat continues today on the bay's east and southwest sides, but on its west side several glaciers are advancing.

The snowcapped Fairweather Range supplies ice to all glaciers on the peninsula separating Glacier Bay from the Gulf of Alaska. Mount Fairweather, the range's highest peak, stands at 15,320 feet. Near Johns Hopkins Inlet, several peaks rise from sea level to 6,520 feet within just 4 miles of shore. The great glaciers of the past carved these fjords, or drowned valleys, out of the mountains like great troughs. Landslides help widen the troughs as the glaciers remove the bedrock support on upper slopes.

Huge icebergs may last a week or more, and they provide perches for bald eagles, cormorants, and gulls. Close by, kayakers have heard the stress and strain of melting: water drips, air bubbles pop, and cracks develop. Colors betray a berg's nature or origin. White bergs hold many trapped air bubbles.

Blue bergs are dense. **Greenish-blackish bergs** may have calved off glacier bottoms. **Dark-striped brown bergs** carry morainal rubble from the joining of tributary glaciers or other sources. How high a berg floats depends upon its size, the ice's density, and the water's density. Bergs may be weighed down, submerged even, by rock and rubble. A modest-looking berg may suddenly loom enormous -- and endanger small craft -- when it rolls over. Keep in mind that what you see is "just the tip of the iceberg."

It is an austere place of big tides, strong currents, fall gales and frequent earthquakes, a landscape of great peaks against profound depths, of somber blues, greens and grays only occasionally relieved by the pastels of a grassy

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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meadow or sunset sky. Though perhaps one quarter of the region remains under ice today, glaciers were much more extensive just two centuries ago, and during the last Great Ice Age coalesced into an all-pervasive plateau having the aspect of modern-day Greenland.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve provides an outstanding natural environment. Within the park's environs are found five major land ecosystems: wet tundra (muskeg), coastal western hemlock/Sitka spruce forest, alpine tundra, glaciers and icefields and early post-glacial meadows and thickets.

Three major marine ecosystems have been identified in and around the park and preserve: continental shelf, wave-beaten coasts and fjord estuaries.

The plants and animals of Glacier Bay are mainly those of the temperate North Pacific coast between northern California and south central Alaska rather than the biota of interior Alaska. Glacial movements past and present complicate the distribution of species. As glaciers retreat, a new barren land emerges. Highly adaptable plant forms begin to colonize this sterile environment. Seeds and spores are transported by birds and carried by wind to the exposed land surfaces. Lichens, algae and mosses produce a fertile blanket on which succeeding plants can grow. Horsetail, fireweed, dryas and willow shrubs are the early pioneers. Alder, an important nitrogen fixing plant, followed by cottonwood, is usually the first tree to develop. These set the stage for the later and climactic plant species to play their role in the plant succession drama.

Spruce, hemlock, blueberry, devil's club and skunk cabbage develop rapidly in a mature forest ecosystem. The final act is found in the climax muskeg-bog, yellow cedar and sphagnum community. In time, the cycle resumes as plant material decomposes, forming a rich and fertile base. There are approximately 420 species of plants found in the park.

Wildlife

While birds and marine life are mobile enough to re-colonize quickly, mammals have a more difficult problem. Some mammal species have not reached Glacier Bay since the last major ice age drew to a close. If ice covered nearly all of the lowland areas between the Seward Peninsula, Alaska and Puget Sound, Washington, within the last 12,000 years, then it is understandable why the distribution of animals is not yet complete. However, this has not prevented most species from colonizing Glacier Bay. In recent times, the coyote, moose and wolf have found suitable habitat in the park. The mountain goat and brown bear, both highly mobile creatures, have roamed the region for thousands of years. As a result, these species have had less difficulty finding habitat. Many smaller mammals such as the vole, wolverine, marmot and porcupine are found in the park as well.

Marine mammals include the humpback whale, killer whale, harbor porpoise, harbor seal, Steller sea lion, and sea otter. There are currently about 40 different species of mammals in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

An endangered species is any plant or animal in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is one that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 has as its goal to restore all federally listed endangered and threatened species to the point where they are again viable, self-sustaining members of their ecological communities.

Those species, which are endangered or threatened in Glacier Bay, include the humpback whale (endangered), the Steller sea lion (threatened), the American peregrine falcon (endangered), and the spectacled eider (threatened). Some wildlife, such as the marbled murrelet, endangered outside of Alaska, and the bald eagle, threatened outside of Alaska, are found in strong numbers in Glacier Bay National Park. The Park Service is dedicated to protecting and restoring habitat for all wildlife including restoring species to healthy populations.

The distribution of non-marine animals is more complex than that of plants. Not being rooted in place, animals can roam through various plant communities. Birds and many flying insects are especially mobile, and so are able to overcome most physical barriers. But they are particular about habitat choice, and most are associated with a certain group of plant communities. Animals of this type tend to be more widely distributed, but are found in specific habitats.

The opposite tends to be true for mammals. The largest species often use a variety of habitats from the beach to the alpine. Yet because many mammals lack a dispersal phase in their life history comparable to the mobile seeds or spores of plants or the winged migrations of birds, their large-scale distribution is relatively incomplete. For instance, of the approximately 48 mammal species living in the interior of British Columbia with ranges bordering on our region, only about 29 have made it across the mountain passes and become established at Haines. Only about 11 of these have made it past the water barriers to Chichagof Island. This excludes the marten, red squirrel, mountain goat, and feral dog, which were introduced by people. The relatively few land-based

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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animals able to colonize the extremities of our region have often attained large numbers. Among these are bears, deer, mink and otter.

Mammal Checklist

Why here and not there? As the ice has retreated, opening Glacier Bay over the last two centuries, the barren landscape has been colonized by plants. Plant communities evolve from pioneer stages to more complex young forests within 200 years. They are expected to continue to develop toward the old growth forests and muskegs of the outer coast of the Park where ice has been absent 12,000 years. As vegetation develops, so does animal habitat. Mammals move in from populated areas nearby as access routes become available.

The patchwork of evolving ecosystems in Glacier Bay and on the outer coast, on surfaces of differing age, elevation and exposure, produces an uneven, dynamic distribution of land mammals. Further, a wide variety of marine habitats exist within the Park. In combination, these factors contribute to the exciting diversity of mammals within Glacier Bay.

Shrew Family - *Soricidae*

1. Masked Shrew - *Sorex cinereus*
2. Wandering Shrew - *Sorex vagrans*
3. Northern Water Shrew - *Sorex palustris*

Plain Nose Bat Family - *Vespertilionidae*

1. Little Brown - *Myotis Myotis lucifugus*

Bear Family - *Ursidae*

2. Brown/Grizzly - *Ursus arctos*
3. Black Bear - *Ursus americanus*

Weasel Family - *Mustelidae*

1. Marten - *Martes americana*
2. Short Tailed Weasel - *Mustela erminea*
3. Least Weasel - *Mustela rixosa*
4. Mink - *Mustela vison*
5. River Otter - *Lutra canadensis*
6. Sea Otter - *Enhydra Lutris*
7. Wolverine - *Gulo luscus*

Dog Family - *Canidae*

1. Coyote - *Canis latrans*
2. Wolf - *Canis lupus*
3. Red Fox - *Vulpes vulpes*

Cat Family - *Felidae*

1. Lynx - *Lynx canadensis*

Sea Lion Family - *Otariidae*

2. Steller Sea Lion - *Eumetopias jubata*
3. Northern Fur Seal - *Callorhinus ursinus*

True Seal Family - *Phocidae*

1. Harbor Seal - *Phoca vitulina*

Squirrel Family - *Sciuridae*

2. Hoary Marmot - *Marmota caligata*
3. Red squirrel - *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
4. Northern Flying Squirrel - *Glaucomys sabrinus*

Mouse Family - *Cricetidae*

1. Deer Mouse - *Peromyscus maniculatus*
2. Northern Redback Vole - *Clethrionomys rutilus*
3. Tundra Vole - *Microtus oeconomus*
4. Longrail Vole - *Microtus longicaudus*

Porcupine Family - *Erethizontidae*

1. Porcupine - *Erethizon dorsatum*
2. Beaver Family - *Castoridae*
3. Beaver - *Castor canadensis*

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Rabbit Family - *Lagomorpha*

1. Snowshoe Hare - *Lepus americanus*

Deer Family - *Cervidae*

2. Sitka Blacktail Deer - *Odocoileus hemionus*
3. Moose - *Alces alces*

Goat Family - *Bovidae*

1. Mountain Goat - *Oreamnos americanus*

Dolphin Family - *Delphinidae*

2. Orca (Killer Whale) - *Orcinus orca*
3. Harbor Porpoise - *Phocoena phocoena*
4. Dall Porpoise - *Phocoenoides dalli*

Gray Whale Family - *Eschrichtiidae*

1. Gray Whale - *Eschrichtius robustus*

Finback Whale Family - *Balaenopteridae*

2. Finback Whale - *Balaenoptera physalus*
3. Minke Whale - *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
4. Humpback Whale - *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Other possible additions:

1. Silver Haired Bat - *Lasionycteris noctivagans*
2. Northern Jumping Mouse *Zapus* sp.
3. Northern Elephant Seal - *Mirounga angustirostris*
4. Blue Whale - *Balaenoptera musculus*
5. Sei Whale - *Balaenoptera borealis*
6. Right Wahle - *Eubalaena glacialis*
7. Sperm Whale - *Physeter catadon*
8. Giant Bottlenose Whale - *Berardius bairdi*
9. Bering Sea Beaked Whale - *Mesoplodon strjnegeri*
10. Pilot Whale - *Globiciphala scammoni*

Only two fishes with no connection to salt water--round whitefish near Haines and northern pike near Yakutat--have made it to the fringes of this region. The bulk of freshwater fishes are salmon and char, which spend parts of their life cycles in salt water, and so can get past the mountains and marine channels that limit the distribution of strictly freshwater animals. Most of the region's streams, even most of those directly under glacial influence, contain spawning and rearing salmon. Some, such as the Situk and Alsek Rivers, are of world-class importance. It is a fact that more salmon transit through the region's marine waters than spawn in the region's streams.

The sea

A fortunate combination of characteristics makes seas of the Glacier Bay region immensely productive. The waters are warmed and enriched by waters from the adjacent Pacific Ocean, then further fertilized by nutrient runoff from the land. Complicated shoreline and bottom topography combine with exceptionally high tidal energies to produce strong currents that stir nutrients to the surface. Two other factors are necessary to translate nutrients into productivity--enough light for plant plankton to photosynthesize rapidly, and enough water column stability to allow these tiny organisms to stay in the zone of light near the surface. All these factors come together in spring and early summer.

Then, for a few weeks, the concentrations of plant plankton reach astronomical proportions. Many animal plankton (e.g., krill, copepods) and bottom-dwelling invertebrates (e.g., starfish, sea urchins, worms, and clams) time their reproduction to coincide with this brief time of plenty. Vast shoals of small fishes such as herring, capelin and sand lance in turn feed upon this animal plankton. Salmon, sea lions, porpoises, cormorants, and murrelets forage on the fishes, while humpback whales come from Hawaii and Baja California to harvest small fish and the plankton by the ton.

Humpback Whales

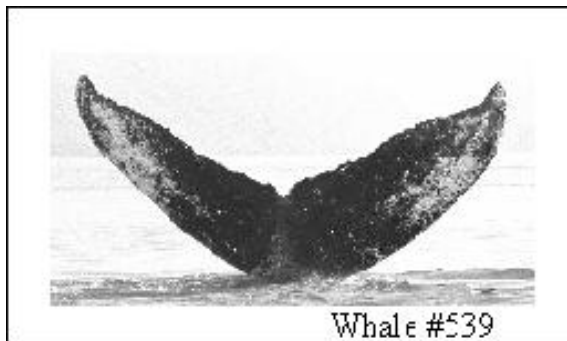
The humpback whale is a migratory baleen whale that occurs in all ocean basins of the world. Commercial whalers killed more than 28,000 North Pacific humpbacks in the twentieth century, reducing their population to

approximately 1,000 animals by the mid-1960's. By the end of the 1965 hunting season, when the International Whaling Commission instituted a moratorium on commercial hunting of humpbacks, their worldwide population had dwindled from more than 125,000 before exploitation to an estimated 10,000. The humpback whale was classified as an endangered species in 1973 when the U. S. Endangered Species Act was implemented. At present, there is no precise estimate of the worldwide humpback whale population.

Humpback whale sightings were first reported in Glacier Bay in 1899; by the 1930s they were commonly seen in the Bay. Whale numbers typically rise in mid-June, peak in July and August, are somewhat lower in April, May and September and are lowest from October through March. The NPS has monitored humpback whale population characteristics from June 1 to August 31 each year since 1985 to document the number of individuals identified, residence times, spatial and temporal distribution, calf production, feeding behavior and human/whale interactions including strandings, entanglements in fishing gear and behavioral disturbance. The whale-monitoring program also generates whale distribution data used to determine where and when "whale waters" vessel operating restrictions are needed during the summer visitor season. The whale monitoring program covers Glacier Bay and most of Icy Strait, but park waters west of Dundas Bay are not monitored.

Biologists' overall concern is that disturbed whales use energy in reacting to ships, are diverted from previous activity (in Glacier Bay, mainly feeding) and may temporarily move away from preferred habitat or prey patches. It is not known whether whales that tolerate chronic noise exposure undergo stress or are otherwise deleteriously affected. As noted in the NMFS 1993 Biological Opinion, the long term effects of chronic disturbance on the whales' survival and reproduction may never be known. To protect endangered humpback whales from chronic disturbance in Glacier Bay, vessel management regulations are designed to allow NPS the flexibility to incorporate the latest knowledge about underwater noise, whale distribution and behavior into its management actions.

Photo Identification



Each whale's flukes have a distinct, stable black and white pigment pattern that allows researchers to distinguish individuals. In recent years, approximately 20 to 25 whales have been present in Glacier Bay during the peak of the season, and 0 to 10 whales between October and April. Researchers photographically identified 96 individual humpback whales, including 9 calves, in Glacier Bay and Icy Strait during the summer of 1998. This is the highest number of whales documented since the monitoring program began in 1985. Twenty-five whales (10 in Glacier Bay and 15 in Icy Strait) were sighted on just one day. Research has shown that whales move between Glacier Bay / Icy Strait and other areas in Southeast Alaska, suggesting that the number of whales in all of these areas is interdependent. Mature female humpback whales typically reproduce at 2-year intervals, although there is considerable variability in calving intervals.

Whale Waters Locations	Dates
Lower Bay Between an imaginary line from Pt. Gustavus to Pt. Carolus, and another imaginary line from the northern tip of Strawberry to Lars Island, including Bartlett Cove and the Beardslee Entrance.	May 15 - August 31

Whidbey Passage East Arm Entrance Russell Island Passage	June 1 - August 31
The superintendent may designate additional temporary whale waters. Contact the park for updated information.	May - September

Seaweed and salt marsh vegetation also begins to grow in early spring. They support an abundance of grazers, from deer and geese (at low tide) to snails (at high). When this vegetation decomposes, it produces detritus for bottom-dwellers like worms and sand fleas.

Summer in the upper waters is a brief but exuberant season. Hordes of migrants arrive to join the winter holdouts in harvesting the bounty. Most marine birds and mammals raise their young and then put on fat while the good times last. Fishes exhibit a variety of reproductive strategies. Herring and cod release eggs that hatch into larvae that fend for themselves in the rich plankton soup. Skates produce large yolk-rich eggs produced from stored energy from the previous season. Lingcod males utilize stored energy reserves to defend their brood of eggs from predation.

As the snows and gales of winter come, and the sun moves ever lower in the sky, much of the marine world goes "on hold". Many species leave for the south or the warmer temperatures of the open sea. Most of the rest curtail their activity. Salmon eggs rest in creek gravels. Herring and rockfish school in a rocky deep to await the coming of spring when the drama will be replayed.

But the marine ecosystem does not grind to a halt over winter. A portion of the living matter from upper waters makes its way to the bottom in the form of detritus, where it is eaten by filter feeders such as barnacles, anemones and clams. What these filter feeders miss is incorporated into bottom sediments to be eaten through the year by tiny crustaceans and worms. These small living things in turn feed flounders, crabs, cod and diving birds such as scoters. Seals, sea otters and flounders provide the next link in this food chain, which fluctuates much less through the seasons than that of the open waters, and thus becomes disproportionately important during winter.

Marine productivity comes ashore in numerous ways. Salmon carry it to the far corners of the region when they spawn. The young of some species remain in ponds and streams, where they are important food for mergansers and kingfishers. Eagles, otters and mink hunt at sea and carry their catch to land.

Most important, shores provide hundreds of miles of interface between land and sea. They provide thoroughfares and den sites; carcasses wash up on them; and they grow lush inter-tidal communities that are dry land when the tide is out. A large array of predators and scavengers from bears to shrews and ravens patrol the beaches, eating flotsam and some of the inter-tidal invertebrates. Herbivores like deer, moose, mountain goat, porcupine and voles graze on plants of the upper inter-tidal zone or eat kelp for salt.

Day 4: Sitka

Originally an ancient Tlingit settlement, Sitka became the capitol of Russian Alaska and the site where the American flag was raised when Alaska was purchased. Russians settled Sitka, dubbing it New Archangel. However, it was almost always known as "Sitka," deriving from the Tlingit word describing the wooded islands that dot the seaside city's harbor.

Step back to the days of Russian Alaska as you watch lively performances of the New Archangel Dancers and view holy paintings of the Czarists' days at St. Michael's Cathedral. See the woodcarvers at Sheldon Jackson College as they maintain their native heritage. Visit Volta, the bald eagle at the Alaska Raptor Rehabilitation Center, or hop in a kayak or small cruiser to see the marine wildlife.

Island city dates to Alaska's earliest days

This town of 8,800 people is the only one in the Panhandle islands that faces the Pacific Ocean head-on. Sitka sits on the western side of wild Baranof Island, guarded only by a 3,200-foot sleeping volcano named Mount Edgecumbe. Whales live year-round near Sitka and bald eagles fly overhead.

Straley, a private detective who lives in Sitka, writes poetically about the town's personalities and its weather, both of which are often gray and wet but in the end longingly beautiful. As in 1992's "The Woman Who Married a Bear," he weaves the region's rich history into the text, and there's a lot to be used.

Louis L'Amour wrote "Sitka," a fictional account of the deal in which Russia sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million in 1867. James Michener based himself at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka while researching his much longer novel, "Alaska."

History of Sitka

Tlingit Indians first settled the area. The Russians, under the banner of the Russian-American Co., arrived in 1799 to collect sea otter pelts. The Tlingits rebelled in 1802, driving the Russians away. Three years later, Alexander Baranof returned with the battleship Neva, launching a bombardment that the Tlingits withstood for a week before retreating into the forest.

The Russians set up the Russian-America Co. headquarters in a fort called New Archangel, which is now known as Sitka (a contraction of the Tlingits' name for the area, Shee Atika). At one time Sitka was the European culture center of the Pacific, where American, British and Spanish ships came to trade with the Russians for pelts.

"The Paris of the Pacific" was Alaska's capital until 1900, and now claims to be the "biggest city in America." Its 4,710-square-mile boundary includes all of Baranof Island. Mt. Edgecumbe, a snowcapped volcano resembling Mt. Fuji, dominates beautiful Sitka Sound - originally called the "bay of terrors." But the sea otter pelt trade died out, and the Russians decided to sell and get out. William Seward, the U.S. secretary of state, helped manage the deal, which was made official at a Sitka flag ceremony in October 1867.

Sitka remained the capital of Alaska Territory until 1906, when the seat of government was moved to Juneau. Sheldon Jackson, a Presbyterian minister, started a school. Fish canning and gold mining contributed to the city's early growth. But the big boom came with World War II, when the Navy built an air base on Japonski Island, where 30,000 personnel were stationed.

After the war, the Bureau of Indian Affairs turned some of the buildings into Mt. Edgecumbe High School, a boarding school for Alaska Natives. The Coast Guard now maintains the air station.

Historic buildings

Sitka's past is remembered at the Sitka National Historical Park, St. Michael's Cathedral, the Russian Cemetery, the Tlingit Native Village, Totem Square and the Russian Orthodox Church on Castle Hill, as well as the Isabel Miller and Sheldon Jackson museums.

As Americans arrived, the religious scene changed from Russian to Western European. Saint Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 611 Lincoln St., was consecrated at "The Cathedral of Alaska" in 1900. The church is on the National Historic Register. 907-747-3977.

The Sitka Lutheran Church, 224 Lincoln St., was, in 1840, the first Protestant church on the Pacific coast. There are tours. 907-747-3338.

Another building of note -- Sitka has several -- is the Pioneers Home at Katlian Avenue and Lincoln Street, facing the water. According to Alison K. Hoagland's "Buildings of Alaska," Construction began on the main three-story

"Sitka," wrote mystery author John Straley, "is an island town where people feel crowded by the land and spread out on the sea."



A view of Sitka, looking south. Japonski Island is on the right.

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

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building began in 1934, no doubt a great relief to the old men who had been housed under the state-supported program in abandoned military buildings. Women's quarters were added in 1956.

In front of the building is the statue "The Prospector," sculpted by Alonzo Victor Lewis in 1949.

The Tlingits' past is remembered daily during the summer by the Naa Kahidi Dancers in the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi community house on Katlian Street. The performances are described as combining elements of drama, history, culture and song. The longhouse-style building has a large screen carved with raven and eagle images. The charge to watch the dancing and storytelling is \$6 per person; for tickets call Tribal Tours, 907-747-7290, or buy them at the door.

The Russian heritage is portrayed by the New Archangel Dancers, who interpret folk dances from Russia, Ukraine, George and Belarus. The shows coincide with the arrival of cruise ships. For a schedule, call 907-747-5516.

Sitka is home to nineteen attractions listed on the National Register of Historic Places, seven of which are National Historic Landmarks.

ANB HALL

The Alaska Native Brotherhood building is a registered National Historic Landmark built in 1914. Located on Katlian Street in the heart of the traditional Tlingit village, it serves as an Alaska Native community center.

PRINCESS MAKSOUTOFF'S GRAVE

Located behind the Pioneer's Home in the Lutheran cemetery, Princess Maksoutoff was the wife of Alaska's last Russian governor, Dimitrii Maksoutoff.

RUSSIAN BLOCK HOUSE

Replica of the block house that separated Russian and Tlingit sections of Sitka after the Tlingits moved back into the area 20 years following the 1804 battle. Located behind the Pioneer's Home on Katlian Street.

TOTEM SQUARE

Contains a Russian cannon and three anchors recovered from the Sitka vicinity, probably lost by early British or American explorers. The totem pole displays the double-headed eagle of Sitka's Russian heritage.

SITKA PIONEERS HOME

Built in 1934 on the old Russian Parade Ground, this is a state home for elderly Alaskans. Handicrafts made by the residents are sold in the gift shop located on the first floor. The pioneers welcome visitors. The 13-1/2 foot bronze statue standing in front of the Pioneers Home was made by Alonzo Victor Lewis and was dedicated on Alaska Day 1949. The model was a real pioneer--William "Skagway Bill" Fonda.

CASTLE HILL

(Baranof Castle Site) An Early stronghold of the Kiksadi clan. Later a succession of Russian buildings were erected on this site. The last one, known as "Baranof's Castle", was erected in 1837. On October 18, 1867, it was the site of the transfer of Alaska to the United States. Today it is managed by Alaska State Parks.

SAINT MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL

Important collection of Russian Orthodox art & church treasures. Built in 1844-48, it was totally destroyed by fire in January 1966. Many of the icons and religious objects were salvaged and are in the rebuilt structure. Summer hours, open 9am-4pm on large cruiseship days, or check posted hours on door, Sundays-by appt.only. Winter hours: Call to check hours, (907) 747-8120. A \$2.00 donation is requested.

SITKA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The site of the first Lutheran Church on the West coast of North America, which contains original artifacts (1844 Kessler organ, chandelier, pulpit & communion rail) from the original 1843 Finnish Lutheran Church. Located on Lincoln Street in the heart of downtown Sitka. Mid-May to mid Sept., Mon.-Sat., trained volunteers offer FREE tours and literature.

ISABEL MILLER MUSEUM

All elements of Sitka's history converge in one place: The Isabel Miller Museum. Packed with displays, photographs and artifacts from Sitka's Tlingit, Russian and American history, the museum is a worthwhile first stop. It provides a perspective for almost everything else the traveler will see during his/her stay. A gift shop, which supports the museum, includes many exclusives made only for the museum. Open 8:00am - 5:00pm daily (winter hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm Tuesday - Saturday). (907) 747-6455.

HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

Built in 1967, during Alaska's Centennial celebration, the building is still one of the finest in the state. It houses visitor information, the Sitka Historical Society, a local history collection, an auditorium for public use, and a wildlife display. A large hand carved Tlingit canoe made from one log is displayed under a sheltered area near the building. (907) 747-3225.

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RUSSIAN BISHOP'S HOUSE

The oldest intact Russian building in Sitka was built in 1842, by the Russian American Company as a residence for the Bishop of the Orthodox Church. Bishop Innocent (Ivan Veniaminov) was its first resident. The National Park Service manages the building and grounds. It has been restored to the 1850's historic period when it functioned as a school, Bishop's residence, and a chapel. Registered as a National Historic Landmark. Open 9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 2:00 - 5:00 pm daily during the summer months. Winter hours vary and reservations are needed. Admission is \$3.00 (907) 747-6281

ST. PETER'S BY THE SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Since Sitka was the capital of Alaska in 1895, it was chosen as the "See City" by Bishop Rowe. In 1899 the first service was held in St. Peter's. In 1901, St. Peter's was chartered as Alaska's Pro Cathedral. Located directly behind the church is the Bishop's residence referred to as the "See House" built in 1905, by Bishop Rowe. The church continues to be used by many as a place of quiet and prayer, and a place of meeting for community organizations. According to legend, Joseph of Arimathea's staff took root & blossomed. In April of 1999, St. Peter's by the Sea received the 3rd planting from this HolyThorn of Glastonbury.

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

Home to one of the oldest native culture collections in Alaska, collected by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, General Agent of Education, between 1880 and 1900. The present building, the first concrete building in Alaska, was erected in 1895. Located just a short walk along Lincoln Street, midway from downtown and Sitka National Historical Park. Gift shop is on location. Open 9:00am - 5:00pm daily In summer of 2001, Native artists demonstration daily. (winter hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm Tuesday - Saturday). Admission is \$4.00. (907) 747-8981.

SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The 107 acre park preserves and interprets the site of a Tlingit Indian Fort and the battle fought between the Russians and the Tlingits in 1804. A fine collection of Haida & Tlingit totem poles were moved there from the Louisiana Exposition in St. Louis in 1904, and in April 1996, a totem carved by a local carver was raised. The museum contains an exhibit of Tlingit and Russian artifacts. There is an active Tlingit arts program where the public can watch and talk to Native Indian carvers. Building admittance fee: May to Sept. \$3/person, family pass \$15, Gold Age, Golden Access, Golden Eagle & National Park passes honored. 12 and under free. A free, self-guided oceanside trail leads past several totems to the site of the Tlingit fort. Open 8:00am - 5:00pm daily (winter hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday). (907) 747-6281.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

The Cultural Center provides a place for local Sitka Tlingits to teach themselves about their own culture, while also helping the Sitka National Historical Park visitors understand the Native people whose history is part of the Park story. Summer demonstrations offer a unique chance to view and ask questions about each artists' craft. Located in Sitka National Historical Park's main building. (building admittance: May to Sept. \$3/person, family pass \$15, Gold Age, Golden Access, Golden Eagle & National Park passes honored. 12 and under free. (907) 747-8061

ALASKA RAPTOR CENTER

A pioneering wildlife project, the Raptor Center has for years proven that dedicated volunteer effort and innovative veterinary medicine can make a life-or-death difference on Alaska's raptors (birds of prey). The Center's goal is to release into the wild all rehabilitated birds, however, a few never recover flight and remain housed at the Center's outdoor display. Visitors are welcome at the Raptor Center's expanded facility. May 1-Sept. 30: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday. Please call to check for weekend hours. Winters Hours: please call to check available hours. \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. Call (907) 747-8662 For information, please email:

programs.alaskaraptor@alaska.com

WHALE PARK

Dedicated in July 1995, Whale Park provides an opportunity to view wildlife (from the boardwalk), including humpback whales in the fall and spring, . The park is located about 6 miles south of downtown and has a small sheltered picnic area and viewing scopes.



Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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JAPONSKI ISLAND

WW II headquarters for military forces who served in Sitka. During WW II, Japonski Island was connected by a man-made causeway in the 1940's to the surrounding chain of islands, which served as a location for bunkers and gunning sites. Though the bunkers and sites are not well preserved, they are accessible by boat. The island was connected to Sitka by the O'Connell Bridge in 1972. Presently, it is the site of a USCG Air Station and Boat Station, University of Alaska Southeast, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Center, and the Rocky Guitierrez Airport.

NEW ARCHANGEL DANCERS

Authentic Russian and Ukranian dances performed by local women in authentic costumes. They perform when cruise ships are in town (approx. May to September). Please check the dance board schedule (which is updated daily) at Harrigan Centennial Hall, downtown, for details, or call (907) 747-5516. Tickets are sold only half hour in advance of each performance at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

SHEET'KA KWAAN NAA KAHADI TRIBAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

Constructed on a site that once housed the Indian Government School, the Community House offers Native dance performances in full regalia, story telling, cultural events, and a gift shop with authentic Native artwork. Located on Katlian St., next to the Pioneers Home.

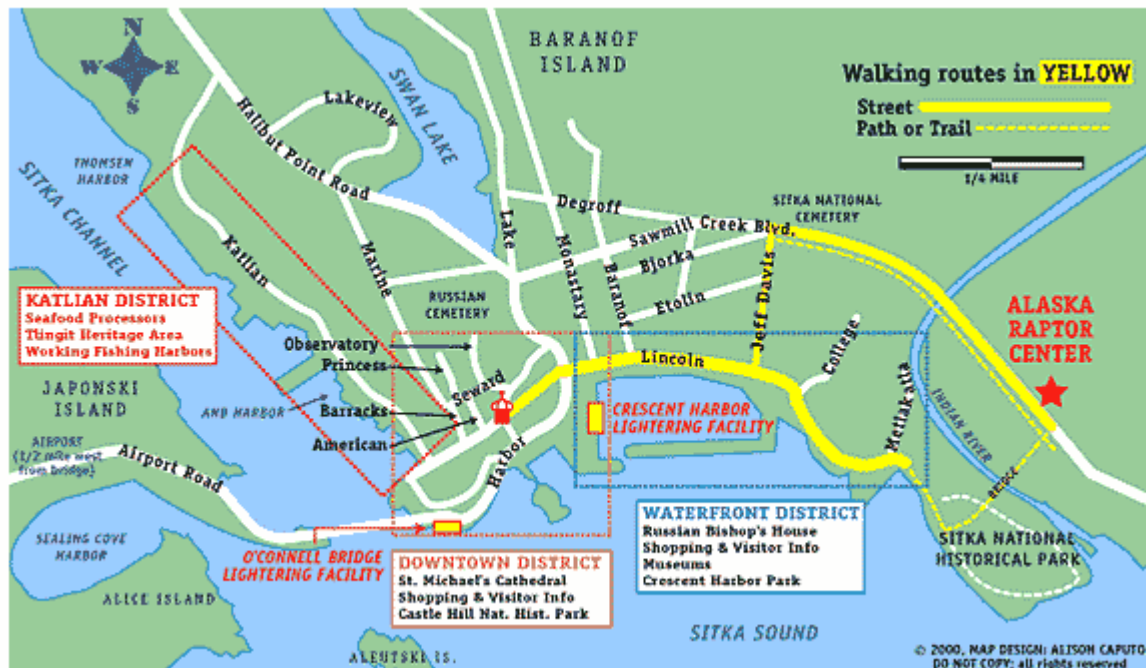
SHEET'KA KWAAN NAA KAHADI NATIVE DANCERS

They perform in connection with Sitka Tribal Tours at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Nakahidi Community House. Contact the Sitka Tribe of Alaska for full details at (907) 747-7290.

Excursions in Sitka

Historic Sitka & Nature Walk at Sitka, Alaska

Approximately 2 1/2 hours, US\$49.00



Become immersed in the fascinating history and natural beauty of Sitka on this exploration by foot, in the company of a knowledgeable Sitka guide. You will receive a snack of juice and a snack bar to enjoy during your 2 1/2-mile walk.

You begin walking around the base of Castle Hill, where Alaska was purchased from Russia. Continuing through the historic district, you pass through Totem Square and the grounds of the pioneer home. See the Prospector Statue and Russian Blockhouse centered in the old Russian Cemetery where gravesites of early Russian missionaries and royalty can be found.

Pass St Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral and the Russian Bishop's House en route to Sheldon Jackson College (home to James Michener during the writing of his book, *Alaska*.) Ahead lies the Sitka National

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Historical Park where flat walking trails, lined with authentic totems guide you through the lush Tongass National Forest.

Crossing the bridge at Indian River, you will hear interesting facts about the rain forest ecosystem as well as identify the local plant and animal life. Spawning salmon are seen here, usually late in the summer. Ascending the trail to the Raptor Center, you encounter the swamp-like muskeg that is home to most of Alaska's bird, plant and wild berry life. Explore and photograph the Raptor Center's open bird habitat and clinic area with great views of bald eagles, owls, hawks and other birds of prey are found throughout the grounds. Staff wildlife interpreters from the Center are stationed in strategic areas to answer questions and explain the Raptor Center's mission.

Those wishing to continue to explore Sitka will be dropped in the center of the historic downtown area at the Cathedral, about two blocks from the dock.

Please note: *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. Although this tour does not include a stop at St Michael's, you will have the opportunity either before or after the tour to visit the church. This tour covers walking over uneven ground, trails and stairways. Sturdy, comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes are recommended, as well as layered clothing for changing weather. The order of the stops may vary. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Sitka National Historical Park

Site honors battles between Tlingits, Russians

Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska's oldest federally designated park, was established as a public park in 1890. It became a national monument in 1910, commemorating the Battle of Sitka fought between the Tlingits and the Russians.

All that remains of the battle is the site of the fort, Redoubt Archangel Michael. The surroundings are largely unchanged. Tlingits lived alone on the island until the Russians arrived in 1799 and established a fort north of what is now Sitka. The Tlingits attacked the fur-trading outpost in 1802, killing nearly all of the Russians and their Aleut slaves. Two years later, Alexander Baranof, the manager of the Russian-American Co., attacked with the cannons aboard the Neva, and after a six-day battle the Tlingits slipped away.

The Russians renamed the settlement New Archangel. The Russian Orthodox Church replaced Tlingit housing with its own on Castle Hill in present-day Sitka.

By the middle of the 19th century, over-hunting made the sea otter harvest less profitable and reduced the Russians' interest in Alaska. The Russians' eventual decision to sell far-off Alaska may have been influenced by uprisings at home; the start of a war to conquer central Asia; and by the United States' Monroe Doctrine, stated in 1823, which warned European powers not to interfere further in the Americas. Also, the United States was going through an expansionist era.

In March 1867, the Russians sold the Alaska territory to the United States for \$7.2 million. A transfer ceremony took place in Sitka on Oct. 18. Northwest Coast totem poles and the rain forest are combined on the two miles of coastal trails within the park,

which is southeast of downtown Sitka. John Brady, a district governor of Alaska, brought a collection of totem poles to Sitka in 1905; they had been rounded up originally and displayed in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1903. These histories carved in cedar were rounded up from villages throughout southeastern Alaska. None of the originals came from Sitka, although they're in the local Tlingit tradition. Many poles are copies of deteriorating originals now in storage.

The visitor center contains ethnographic exhibits and houses the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, where visitors can watch Native artists at work.



Sitka National Historical Park features the Chief Sonaheit totem pole and home posts.

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The Russian Bishop's House is one of four surviving examples of Russian colonial architecture in North America. This original 1843 log structure conveys the Russian legacy through exhibits, refurbished living quarters and the Chapel of the Annunciation.

Also at the park, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center was established in 1969 to impart the cultural values of Southeast Alaska Native Culture to students and visitors. The center achieves this goal by providing a place for local Sitka Tlingits to teach themselves about their own culture, while also helping park visitors understand the Native people, whose history is part of the Park story. Although it is housed in the visitor center, the cultural center is an independent, non-profit Native organization.

Be sure to come to the Alaska Raptor Center!

We're open for tours May through September and our operating hours are Sunday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$12.00

You'll see our 23 Raptors-in-Residence, including bald and golden eagles, hawks, falcons and owls, and learn about their habitats and how they came to be permanent residents at the Center. Raptors are "birds of prey" - meat-eating birds that hunt for their food. The two main groups of raptors are Diurnal raptors and Nocturnal raptors. Diurnal raptors hunt during the day and include eagles, hawks, falcons and kites. Nocturnal raptors hunt at night, and include most owls. There are three main characteristics all raptors share. They are

1. sharp eyesight
2. strong feet with sharp talons
3. a hooked, sharp beak.

There are 320 species of diurnal raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, harriers and osprey) worldwide. There are 71 species of eagles and 200 species of owls worldwide. In the United States, there are 34 diurnal raptor species and 19 species of owls. There are two species - bald and golden eagles - found in the United States, including Alaska. Occasionally, Steller's sea eagles have been sighted in Alaska, but they usually are out of their range, as they are not indigenous to the state.

The Alaska Raptor Center was established in 1980 in the backyard of two concerned Sitkans, starting with one injured bald eagle. The effort grew, and volunteers treated eagles at their homes until 1983, when they moved to a small shed on the campus of Sheldon Jackson College. In 1991 the Center moved to its present location on 17 acres bordered by the Indian River. The Center does not receive any federal, state or local tax money. Funding is provided through visitor programs, donations, memberships, gift shop and catalog sales, grants and private contributions. Approximately 5,000 members worldwide help the Center accomplish its mission of rehabilitation,



education and research.

Volta, our "ambassador" bald eagle, and his handlers recently visited Seattle, Washington area schools to help teach schoolchildren about the wild birds of Alaska, the work we do at the Alaska Raptor Center and the importance of environmental conservation. More than 600 students, from preschool ages through tenth grade, at five different schools visited with Volta, who proved - once again - to be a wonderful and effective teacher.

The Alaska Raptor Center is located on 17 acres in Sitka, Alaska. Situated on the outside of Alaska's Inside Passage, Sitka is a seaside town rich with history and beauty. Outdoor adventures abound, from mountain hiking to deep-sea fishing to wildlife watching. Bald eagles, bears and whales are indigenous to the area, as are deer, otters, puffins and seals.

Like most Southeast Alaska communities, Sitka is accessible only by air and by sea. Downtown is centrally located, and the Alaska Raptor Center - along with most points of interest - is within walking distance of downtown. Many residents travel by foot or bicycle as well as by car.

Sitka Bike & Hike Tour at Sitka, Alaska

Approximately 3 hours, US\$69.00

Take a guided tour of a magnificent section of Sitka that is rarely seen by visitors. The tour focuses on local history, flora and fauna. Photograph opportunities abound as the route meanders along a bike path between the Pacific Ocean and captivating mountains. Participants will be treated to an excellent view of an estuary in Starrigavin Meadow with a crystal-clear salmon-bearing stream running through it.

Part of the tour will consist of a hike to Mosquito Cove on a 1 1/2-mile loop trail that gains 200 feet of elevation, through the beautiful Tongass National Forest, the world's largest temperate rain forest. Guides are local residents who are enthusiastic naturalists familiar with both history and current events in Sitka. Riders can anticipate a gently rolling, five-mile ride, and a 1 1/2-mile walk on a maintained trail. A snack will be provided. All riders will be required to wear a helmet. This tour is geared for those who want to get outside and get some exercise. You'll go rain or shine! Be sure to bring an extra roll of film.

***Please note:** Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Children must be a minimum of ten years old and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to participate in this tour.*

Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Sitka Wilderness Sea Kayaking Adventure at Sitka, Alaska

Approximately 3 hours, US\$ 99.00

Meet your representative on the dock in Sitka and prepare for your adventure by suiting up in rain gear and life jackets. Transfer to a floating kayak base camp by motorized inflatable. The journey on these fully licensed vessels allows for excellent views of Sitka and the surrounding mountains.

Upon arrival at the base camp, you'll be instructed in the use of safe, oceangoing, two-person kayaks. These stable, yet maneuverable, boats let you enjoy the beauty of the protected bays and inlets near Sitka from a serene, natural perspective. An experienced guide, well versed in paddling techniques and the marine environment of the area, will lead small groups of kayaks. Be on the lookout for colorful inter-tidal invertebrates, an eagle swooping from the treetops, or the grandeur of the lush rain forest. You may even see brown bear, harbor seal, or Sitka black-tailed deer.

Paddle for a fun hour and a half before returning to base for a hot beverage, snack and transfer back to town.

***Please note:** Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. This tour will operate in all weather conditions and warm clothing is recommended. Rain jackets and life jackets are provided. Children must weigh at least 40 pounds in order to fit into the life jackets. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

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Day 5: Ketchikan

In late summer, Ketchikan Creek is home to an unimaginable number of returning salmon. Floatplanes can take you into the inaccessible glacial lakes of Misty Fjords National Monument. Shopping is an easy stroll from the dock Or immerse yourself in Tlingit Indian culture as you view the world's largest collection of totem poles as the legends of the totems are told at Totem Bight State Park. Or kayak around the colorful waterfront.

Ketchikan is the first stop for most cruise ships headed north along Alaska's famed Inside Passage or the last Alaskan port for ships bound south, and thus is known as "The Gateway to Alaska." Ketchikan has the world's largest collection of totem poles and has been named in the 'Top 100 Small Arts Communities' in the United States. Their International Airport is located on Gravina Island, which requires a five-minute ferry ride to town. Ketchikan has been known as the 'Salmon Capital of the World' and offers superb sport fishing! The community of Metlakatla, located on Annette Island near Ketchikan and is the only Indian reservation in the state of Alaska. Legend has it the word Ketchikan originated from the Tlingit word "Kitexan," which means, "Where the eagles' wings are". Tourists all agree that Ketchikan is undoubtedly home to some of the most beautiful native culture in the world.

Ketchikan, now the fourth largest in Alaska, is perched on the shores of Ketchikan Creek and the Tongass Narrows where you will find excellent fishing, museums like Tongass Historical Museum and Dolly's House, parks and cultural centers like Saxman, Totem Bight and the Totem Heritage Center. This town is deeply rooted in native culture and boasts the largest totem collection in the world, dance and craft demonstrations and artifact exhibits.

The first Alaskan Port of Call for many cruise ships headed north along the Inside Passage or the last Alaskan port visited by south bound cruise ships, Ketchikan has the atmosphere of an old Frontier town, boasting 47 establishments serving alcohol. You'll find excellent fishing, museums such as the Tongass Historical Museum or Dolly's House in the Creek Street "red light district". There are parks and cultural centers like Saxman or Totem Heritage Center. Ketchikan is deeply rooted in native culture and boasts the largest totem collection in the world, Indian dance and craft demonstrations and artifact exhibits.

Truly nestled in a beautiful setting, Ketchikan offers a mild climate and is rich with history. Ketchikan boasts rainforests, fjords, glaciers and numerous waterfalls. Temperatures are never very cold or very hot: in January, the average temperature is 35°F and in July it is 58°F. One thing you will definitely want to bring along on your trip to Ketchikan is your umbrella. Annual rainfall measures about 13+ feet! Look for the Rain Gauge at the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau along the waterfront.

Ketchikan is best known for its Alaskan Indian culture and great salmon fishing. Ketchikan is known as the 'Salmon Capital of the World' and is Alaska's Sport Fishing Capital. Ketchikan is a hub of visitor activity along Alaska's fabled Inside Passage: from here you can access the wonders of Prince of Wales, third largest island under the U.S. flag, the majestic Misty Fjords National Monument, or fascinating remote communities with some of the state's most magnificent scenery. Start your visit to Ketchikan with a tour of town and the Saxman Village by bus, motorcoach, trolley, or double-decker bus! More adventure is possible with a guided kayak trip along the waterfront or ride aboard a powerboat or catamaran. Visitors agree Ketchikan is undoubtedly one of the most interesting communities in Southeast Alaska.

- Ketchikan has the world's largest collection of totem poles.
- Ketchikan has been named "One of the Top 100 Small Arts Communities" in the United States.
- The community of Metlakatla, located on Annette Island near Ketchikan, is the only Indian reservation in the state of Alaska.
- Ketchikan International Airport is located on Gravina Island, which requires a five-minute ferry ride to town.
- Ketchikan is known as the "Salmon Capital of the World".

A fascinating array of unique shops and galleries are located within an easy walk through town and along Historic Creek Street, a wooden boardwalk that winds along the shores of Ketchikan Creek.

Time to stroll and shop on your own.

[Excursions in Ketchikan](#)

Backcountry Jeep & Canoe Safari at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 4 hours, US\$129.00

Fill your senses with adventure and excitement as you take control of a 4-wheel-drive Jeep Wrangler and wind your way through the rugged back roads of Revillagigedo Island. Then grab a paddle and join your companions in a 20-passenger Indian-style canoe to navigate your way across a mountain lake, where a hearty snack and brief nature hike await.

For the Jeep portion of the tour, you'll be paired with traveling companions in groups of four, and begin the adventure into the mountainous roads of the Tongass National Forest. The route takes you through the rain forest, and up mountain roads to view magnificent scenery. By means of interactive radio, your group leader and guide will provide you with interesting and informative commentary along the way. You'll be fascinated by the area's natural history as you drive abandoned logging roads through new growth forests. Learn about the timber industry's reforestation methods while you stop for some fantastic views and photo opportunities. En route, there will be an opportunity to change drivers.

The Jeep tour concludes with your arrival at Lake Harriet Hunt. Here, you'll experience a unique ecosystem from the vantage point of a large, easy-to-paddle, guided canoe. On the other side of the lake, your expert safari guide will lead a brief nature hike through the lush old-growth rain forest. The remote camp is your base for an Alaskan snack. Enjoy a short narrated transfer back to safari base camp and your ship. Bring your camera and driver's license. **Please note:** *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines.*

Tour will operate in all weather conditions. Quality rain gear will be provided. Please dress comfortably in warm clothing. Drivers must be at least 25 years old, are required to show a current driver's license, and must sign a liability/insurance waiver. Children must weigh at least 40 lbs. in order to fit into required life jackets while canoeing. This tour operates under a Special Use Permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service.

Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

George Inlet Mountain Bike Adventure at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 3 hours, US\$ 98.00

Enjoy a beautiful mountain bike tour along the Inside Passage. Your friendly guide will point out eagles, explain the local geography and history, and take you on a tour of a working fish hatchery. The dirt road south of Ketchikan is gentle and rolling with little traffic. The road borders the ocean with awe-inspiring views of the open sea, islands and inlets. There will be time to take pictures, view waterfalls and to learn about the natural and cultural history of the area. After the stop at the waterfall, there will be an optional ride for another mile to view George Inlet.

Bring your sense of adventure, as well as curiosity and a camera. This is a great opportunity for the family to exercise in a safe and friendly environment. The tour provides a mountain bike with adjustable seat and handlebars, rain wear, gloves, helmet, safety gear, transportation to and from the site, and excellent guides.

Please note: *Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Children must be a minimum of eight years old in order to participate in this tour. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

George Inlet Wilderness Crab Fishing at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 4 hours, US\$ 149.00

Welcome to a truly memorable experience in the Alaskan wilderness. You'll see wildlife and wilderness, catch Dungeness crabs and tiger shrimp, and savor a crab dinner with white wine and blueberry cobbler!

Begin with a 30-minute transfer to the George Inlet Lodge -- an old cannery house, built out over the fjord on stilts. The 17-mile route passes active canneries, a Coast Guard station, totem poles, an old sawmill and beautiful waterfalls. Once you arrive at the lodge, you will climb into a large inflatable skiff for transport to the crab fishing grounds. Before you leave, a shrimp pot will be pulled from the water just out from the lodge and you'll see the tiger shrimp up close before they are released.

The skiff takes you down the Inside Passage for seven miles. You'll pass the George Inlet Cannery and learn about fish traps and the fish pirates that robbed the cannery. Along the coast is an old gold mine that is a short seam

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mine and produced very little gold. Then, it's on to the Mahoney Glacial Cirque with its snow-capped mountains and 2000-foot waterfalls! Wildlife spotting may include bears, eagles, salmon, orca whales, sea lions and seals. From here, you cross the fjord to Coon Cove in the Tongass Rain Forest -- home to all types of wildlife. Dungeness crabs love the cove's freshwater stream and shallow grass flats. They scour the grass and the fresh water introduces new food regularly. Five guests will help with the pulling of five pots. Each pot generally will have five to twenty crabs in it as it is pulled on deck. The crabs are poured on to a table and sorted for a gender and legal size. While none of the crabs will be kept, each guest will have the opportunity to see them up close and learn about their anatomy and life cycle. Once all the pots are reset, it is off to George Inlet Lodge for a Dungeness crab dinner. The return trip takes about fifteen minutes and once at the lodge you will be greeted with a cup of hot cider or cool spring water.

Be seated at linen-draped tables for a meal of crab, slaw, corn or potatoes and blueberry cobbler. Wine, beer or sodas will be served, and during dinner, you will be treated to a film of the Alaskan king crab fishery in the Bering Sea. Upon conclusion of the film there will be a short discussion about the Lodge and then an open questions and answer period about the day's activities. Each guest will be given a Dungeness Crab Fisherman Certificate and transported back to the ship with memories to last a lifetime. **Please Note:** *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. Dress in layered clothing. Foul weather gear is provided if necessary. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended*

Guided Alaskan Fishing & Wilderness Dining at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 6 hours, US\$ 269.00

This comprehensive, exclusive wilderness adventure is a great way to experience the Alaskan way of life-- catching your own meal and savoring the fresh results.

Once you are outfitted from head to toe, board an open skiff and slow down to the local pace as you head out to a remote fishing ground. Enjoy views of rugged unspoiled coastline and intimate encounters with whales, seal rookeries or bald eagles en route.

Whether a beginner or an ardent fisherman, you'll experience the joy of saltwater bottom fishing as you catch your meal of halibut, lingcod, snapper, or rockfish. After fishing, you'll rendezvous at a wilderness beach where your guide will clean the fish and demonstrate techniques for preparing different species for grilling.

As your meal is prepared, you're free to explore the shoreline and tidal zone, take a short hike in the virgin rain forest or relax around a roaring campfire. Your guide will serve you an al fresco feast straight from the fire, featuring your catch in a roasted garlic and herb sauce along with delectable side dishes.

Sip a steaming mug of coffee and indulge in a wonderful dessert around the campfire, while taking part in a lively discussion about the region's history of fishing and logging, European exploration and local Native culture.

As your all-day excursion draws to a close, you'll know you've experienced a rare treat--a glimpse of a way of life so unique it's the stuff of legend and dreams. **Please Note:** *Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout.*

The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. Participants must be physically active, as this tour requires negotiating uneven terrain and the skiff is open to the elements. Alaska State fishing regulations require a valid one-day fishing license, which can be purchased for \$10.00 cash from the tour operator. Extremely Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Ketchikan Sport fishing Adventure at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 5 1/2 hours (4 hours on the boat), US\$ 184.00

Come fish from Knudson Cove Marina located right on some of the best fishing grounds in Southeast Alaska. A 25- to 30-minute narrated coach ride along the Tongass Narrows provides a glimpse into the history and lifestyle of Ketchikan's interesting sites and takes you to the scenic harbor where you will meet your captain, board his modern fishing boat, and head to the nearby salmon fishing grounds. Eagles, whales, seals, sea lions or other wildlife may be on the agenda as well!

With only 4 - 6 guests per boat and an experienced captain aboard a Coast Guard certified vessel, you are off for a fine adventure. You will have a light snack but we recommend you eat a meal before you leave your ship. Rain gear will be provided, but not footwear. Wear deck or rubber-soled shoes and appropriate outdoor clothing.

If you wish, your catch can be processed and shipped to your home for an additional charge. You will need your credit card for that service.

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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Please Note: Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports. Alaska state fishing regulations require a valid one-day fishing license, which can be purchased for \$10.00 from your boat captain. During the King salmon season, a \$10.00 King salmon stamp is also required in order to catch and keep a King Salmon. You will need cash for the license and stamp. Parties of five or six must be arranged no later than the day before arrival in port. Please inform the Shore Excursion Office on board for these arrangements. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Mountain Point Snorkeling Adventure at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 3 hours, US\$ 89.00

Immerse yourself in Southeast Alaska's breathtaking underwater world as you snorkel the calm and clear waters of Mountain Point. You'll be toasty warm in a state-of-the-art, 1/4"-wetsuit complete with hood, boots and gloves, as you hover among Alaska's diverse and colorful marine life. Local water temperatures exceed those of the Northern California coast.

After a short van ride from your ship, you will be outfitted with all the necessary equipment and, following a brief orientation, the group will enter the water from a protected beach. Observe and handle a variety of multicolored starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and the giant sunflower star during your one-hour guided marine life tour. Discover the myriad of fish that inhabit these waters while snorkeling over the kelp forest. Back at the beach, enjoy a hot beverage before returning to your ship. **Please Note:** Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Participants must weigh between 115 and 250 pounds to ensure proper wetsuit fit. Don't forget to bring a towel and swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt to wear under the wetsuit. Participation requires completion of a waiver release form administered by the tour operator, as past or present medical conditions may restrict participation in this program. A minimum number of participants is required in order for this tour to operate. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Orca Beach Rain Forest Nature Trail at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 4 hours (1 hour walking), US\$ 89.00

Join an experienced Alaskan trail guide for a hike through natural, unspoiled beauty in the coastal forest. This trail takes you through a beautiful old-growth forest by way of a secluded beach. Your group will be led along a hand-built boardwalk trail while the guide interprets the flora and fauna of this remote island setting. Hear about the culturally modified cedar trees from which local natives stripped the bark for use in traditional crafts. After hiking this gently sloped historic trail, enjoy a light snack and take some time to explore the natural beauty around you. A motorized inflatable provides the short exciting cruise along the coast to this remote beach. Knudson Cove is the drop-off and pick-up point for transportation from your dock. Bring your camera and binoculars!

Please Note: Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. The trail is about one mile and involves walking on stepped boardwalk, up to an elevation of 300 feet. Children must weigh 40 lbs. or more in order to fit the life jackets required. Operates under Special Use Permit by the U.S. Forest Service. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Rain Forest Canoe Adventure at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 3 1/2 hours, US\$ 89.00

This adventure begins with a scenic motor coach tour to a secluded mountain lake, where you will board Native-style, 37-foot, 20-passenger canoes which are fast, stable and easy to maneuver. Paddle under the direction of an experienced guide, scan the shoreline for wildlife and learn the unique natural and Native history of the Ketchikan area. The lake, part of a lush rain forest, is ideal for canoeing and is located in the Tongass National Forest, one of the largest national forests in the United States.

A stop ashore for a native-style snack that includes smoked fish, clam chowder, sourdough rolls with wild berry jams and beverages. A knowledgeable guide will lead a short nature walk highlighting the flora and fauna of the rain forest, including such features as carnivorous plants. Canoe back to the motor coach, which returns to your ship. This adventure is a rare opportunity to comfortably explore Southeast Alaska in the manner of its original

Kristina Trowbridge CTC, MCC, DS

WinWin Vacations, 510 No 87th St, Seattle WA 98103

Phone 206-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; email Kristina@winwinvacations.com

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explorers and their early culture. **Please Note:** Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. This tour will operate in all weather conditions and warm clothing is recommended. Ponchos and life jackets are provided. Children must weigh at least 40 pounds in order to fit the life jackets required for participation. Limited Capacity

Tatoosh Islands Sea Kayaking at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 4 hours (1 1/2 hours paddling), US\$ 134.00

Your adventure starts with a van ride to a marina, and from there you will gear up for a quick and exhilarating motorized inflatable boat ride to the Tatoosh Islands. Upon arrival, your friendly guides will present an informative kayak class and safety talk before launching from the beach in your double sea kayak.

With a 1:7 guide-to-client ratio, you will quickly gain confidence in your sea kayak. Paddling in and around this serene and unique island environment, you will learn about the natural history of this area of the Tongass National Forest. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, seals, sea lions and other marine life native to the Tatoosh Islands.

Please Note: Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. Limited Capacity/Highly Recommended

Whiskey Cove Kayaking at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 2 1/2 hours, US\$ 69.00

Join an experienced Alaskan kayak guide for a two-hour adventure on Ketchikan's unique waterfront. Start at Spruce Mill Dock with quality kayak gear including stable two-person kayaks, the best in the industry. Your guide will instruct you in basic kayaking and paddling techniques. Once comfortable, you'll paddle along Ketchikan's colorful waterfront.

You will explore the shoreline along Pennock Island (weather permitting) where the few inhabitants include hardy residents who must boat to work every day and majestic nesting bald eagles. Your guide will tell you the lore of Whiskey Cove, a secret hiding place for rumrunners during prohibition.

You will view the fishing and pleasure boat fleet of this waterfront community from a unique perspective. During high tides, you may paddle up Creek Street, the fabled historic red light district, and see Madam Dolly's house, which had a trap door leading to the water in case of police raids. This stream is thick with salmon during spawning season. **Please Note:** Very active involving constantly exerting effort. The tour may require continuous physical movement including walking long distances or climbing steep inclines. This tour will operate in all weather conditions and warm clothing is recommended. Ponchos and life jackets are provided. Limited Capacity

Wilderness Guided Fly Fishing at Ketchikan, Alaska

Approximately 4 1/2 hours Tour operates July through September only, US\$ 229.00

Escape to the great Alaskan outdoors for your choice of outstanding fly-fishing or spin casting! Beginners and experts alike will be amazed at the exceptional fishing found at our remote, privately owned river valley.

Once you have been fully outfitted, your guide will take you to one of his favorite fishing spots. Depending on the season, you can fish for cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, or pink and Coho salmon. Your registered guide will tailor his assistance to meet your needs, whether you are an experienced fisherman or a first-timer.

It is common to sight black bears, bald eagles, ducks, geese, and river otters on the river. You will never forget your time in this isolated, beautiful Alaskan Wilderness.

Please Note: Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases. As a conservation measure, fishing is conducted on a catch-and-release basis only. Alaska State law requires a valid one-day fishing license, which may be purchased for \$10 from your guide. Children must be 14 years or older accompanied by a parent/guardian in order to participate. Limited Capacity

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Day 6: Scenic Cruising on the way to Victoria BC

Today we cruise the scenic Strait of Juan De Fuca. We'll also have a short evening call in Victoria with bit of merry olde England. Stroll through the charming downtown of this very British city, with it's double-decker buses, turreted castles, fine British woolens, tea and china. Or, just outside the city, visit the lush flora and fauna of Butchart Gardens.

Excursions in Victoria BC, Canada

Butchart Gardens & Short City Drive at Victoria, British Columbia

Approximately 3 1/2 hours, US\$ 49.00

Begin your tour with a relaxing drive along Victoria's waterfront to Beacon Hill Park en route to downtown. You will pass the very best historic and scenic sights Victoria has to offer, including the Empress Hotel, the Legislative Buildings, Chinatown, Antique Row and much more.

Then, venture along the Saanich Peninsula to beautiful Butchart Gardens. This plant-lover's paradise covers 50 acres. You will have approximately 1 1/2 hours to stroll independently through the gardens, along winding paths, around lily-covered ponds and past cascading fountains. Wander through the Sunken Garden, the Japanese and Italian Gardens, the English Rose Garden and past Ross Fountain, all linked by spacious lawns and streams.

Please Note: *Guests on the ms Amsterdam will enjoy Butchart Gardens as an evening tour, and will return directly to the ship upon conclusion. Fairly active requiring intermittent effort throughout. The tour may involve recurring physical movement including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and climbing staircases.*

Dominion Observatory & Star Gazing at Victoria, British Columbia

Approximately 3 1/4 hours, US\$ 29.00

By motorcoach you will travel through downtown Victoria and out into the countryside to Little Saanich Mountain. Atop one of the most scenic vistas in Victoria sits the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. Completed in 1918, this historic facility boasts what was once the world's largest telescope. Visit the new Science Center and Planetarium or operate the 45-ton Plaskett Telescope that was the first to accurately map the Milky Way galaxy. The rich history of the facility and the breathtaking scenery are not to be missed. You will return to your ship through downtown Victoria, as illumination transforms the sights once darkness has fallen.

Please Note: *Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports.*

Victoria Ale and Trail Pub Tour at Victoria, British Columbia

Approximately 3 1/4 hours, US\$ 39.00

Victoria is perhaps best known for its flowers and gardens, but it has a secret treasure that few visitors get time to really enjoy—its pubs! Victoria has a selection of pubs and microbreweries that are located all over downtown. Some are in traditional English style; others that are truly Canadian with atmosphere that cannot be found anywhere else. This tour leaves the pier with an itinerary of three separate pubs—select samples at each location are included in the tour cost.

Enjoy some of the finest brews found in Canada as you tour with new friends and old! Complimentary light appetizers will be provided at two of the stops, and other food and beverage items may be purchased separately.

Please Note: *Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports.*

Victoria by Horse-Drawn Trolley at Victoria, British Columbia

Approximately 1 1/2 hours, US\$ 39.00

Experience Victoria at a pace of yesteryear. A horse-drawn trolley awaits, with thick blankets to keep you warm in the breeze. Two magnificent draught horses dressed in fine harness draw the covered trolleys. Your guided tour heads out from the pier along the Victoria waterfront and then travel through the historic James Bay residential

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neighborhood. You will be touring through the Inner Harbour area where you will see the majestic Empress Hotel covered in ivy. Government Street awaits with the shops and sights of what many say is a little bit of Olde England.

Enter Chinatown through the "Gates of Harmonious Interest" and wind your way back along the harbor with stunning views of the Parliament Buildings. Guests will be permitted to disembark downtown or may continue on back to the ship.

Please Note: *Very light activity including short distances to walk over relatively even surfaces with few stairs to climb. Some of these tours may be accessible to wheelchairs. Passengers in wheelchairs must be able to walk a few steps to negotiate their way on and off transportation, as wheelchair lifts are not readily available in most ports.*

Day 7: Arrive back to Seattle

All rates are quoted in U.S. funds. In an effort to provide a shore excursion program of the highest quality, prices are subject to change without notice and descriptions may vary from the actual tour provided. Not all excursions listed for a port are available for every cruise.

The Top 20 Reasons Why We Choose Holland America Line For Our Alaska Vacation!

20. Choices, Choices, Choices — 31 Different cruisetours from 9 to 18 days in length and 6 unique cruise itineraries including departures from the convenient port of Seattle. Plus, using Holland America Tours, you can customize your Alaska vacation in more ways than you ever thought possible.

19. 5 Star Ships Perfect for Alaska — featuring wrap-around teak promenade decks with traditional wooden deck chairs with (with wool blankets!), a covered pool deck, lots of windows for better views of Alaska's natural wonders, larger cabins and fewer guests onboard than most other cruise ships.

18. Largest and Best Staff in the Great Land — throughout Alaska and the Yukon, Holland America has over 2,500 professional hosts dedicated to making your vacation special.

17. Award Winning McKinley Explorer Glass-Domed Railcars — classic 1950's era Pullman cars which have been fully restored creating an onboard ambiance reminiscent of the classic era of rail travel offering a solid, smooth ride. Guests enjoy dining service in a private dining room set with china and fine linens. Beginning in 2003, watch for brand new railcars that will introduce a new standard in Alaska tours by rail (select dates, itineraries).

16. Glacier Bay National Park – Our five-star ships visit magnificent Glacier Bay National Park more often than any other cruise company. While you are there, enjoy commentaries from a National Park Ranger and a Huna Totem Native speaker adding to the experience.

15. Alaskan Experts Onboard! -- Including Naturalists who point out the wildlife and natural wonders and Native Artists in Residence who demonstrate traditional Alaskan art forms and talk about their culture

14. More Time in Denali — We spend more time in Denali National Park than any other cruisetour company. Most Holland America cruisetours include the COMPLETE six-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour for 71% more wildlife and better opportunities to view Mt. McKinley. Many of our cruisetours are "Double Denali" offering a second full day at the park.

13. Bring the Family! – Alaska is truly the perfect family vacation destination with something for everyone. Our Club HAL program for children and teens ages 5-17 is offered on each ship and sailing date. We even offer unique "Just for Kids" shore excursions.

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12. *Extensive Shore Excursions* — Our award-winning, comprehensive shore excursion program offers the full range of experiences for persons of all levels of activity. Flightseeing, river rafting, hiking, motorcoach sightseeing, salmon bakes, and that’s just the beginning.

11. *A Cruise Down the River of Gold* – the mighty Yukon River. Watch for rare peregrine falcon or moose wading in the shallows while sailing aboard the Yukon Queen II, the only sightseeing boat to cruise on this historic river.

10. *Strike it Rich in Gold at Gold Dredge #8* — another Holland America exclusive; visit an authentic gold camp in Fairbanks offering a tour of a former working gold dredge that sifted the river bed up until 1959 and enjoy an opportunity to gold pan yourself to find your treasure.

9. *Get Up Close and Personal with Portage Glacier* – aboard the mv Ptarmigan, Holland America’s exclusive dayboat which takes you right to the face of this magnificent Glacier.

8. *Our Own Westmark Hotels* — each of our full service hotels and inns throughout Alaska reflect the personality of the communities they call home. The same Holland America reputation for quality, comfort, and customer service continues on land.

7. *Alaska’s National Parks* — Alaska is exotic, yet close to home. And, our cruisetours visit some of the nation’s most unique national parks including Denali, Glacier Bay, Kenai, Katmai, and Misty Fjords.

6. *New! Kluane National Park* – A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kluane is so wild and remote few even know its name. Yet, five of the seven highest mountain peaks in North America can be found here. We’ve partnered with Parks Canada to bring you guided explorations to help you appreciate the enormity of this land and the diversity of the wildlife.

5. *Convenient pre or post Cruise/Cruisetour Options* – visiting Denali National Park, the Pacific Northwest, Kenai Fjords, Alyeska 5 Star Resort, the Arctic Circle, and much more.

4. *We help you take your time, to see it all!* — after all, Alaska and the Yukon is a big place. Many of our cruisetours offer “Extra Days” at the important stops such as Denali, Whitehorse, Dawson, Fairbanks, and Talkeetna allowing you two full days to see as much as possible.

3. *Award-winning Service of the Holland America Officers, Staff, and Crew* —ensured by our “Tipping Not Required” policy.

2. *The Wisdom of Experience* — No one knows Alaska better, provides more variety, or offers more exclusive, enchanting ways to unlock its charms. Yet, even with 55 years of experience in Alaska and 129 years of cruising, we continue to blaze new trails each and every year.

1. *WE ARE THE BEST VALUE IN CRUISING!* -- Holland America has been rated the “Best Cruise Value” nine years in a row by *World Ocean and Cruise Liner Society*— an elite group of experienced cruise travelers.

Join us next summer for a cruise to Scandinavia and the Baltics

More information coming soon.

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Guests with Disabilities:

**Holland America is the best cruise line to handle handicapped people; they are geared for it.
They got the top award from SATH.**

Holland America does not discriminate against persons on the basis of disability. We seek, to the extent feasible, to accommodate guests with disabilities. Holland America offers a limited number of staterooms designed to be wheelchair and scooter accessible.

Certain ship transfer operations (i.e., during tendering and at the gangways) may not be fully accessible to wheelchairs or scooters. When a ship is unable to dock, guests are taken ashore on smaller boats called tenders. Some guests with limited mobility may find it difficult to embark or disembark the ship at certain times while at dock or while tendering due to steep gangways and steps, particularly during low or high tide.

For persons not capable of walking on their own, the use of a wheelchair will be the primary mobility assistance aid for getting on and off the ship. In some situations, mobility assistance will involve carrying guests. Situations may occur in which mobility-impaired guests may not be able to go ashore at the time they desire or are unable to go ashore at all in certain ports. For the safety of all concerned, the Captain shall make the final determination regarding the carrying of mobility-impaired guests and their mobility assistance device (wheelchair, scooter, walker, etc.), taking into account all appropriate matters including, but not limited to, weather conditions, ship's location, weight of the guest, etc. The Captain will try to reasonably accommodate guest needs.

Guests must also be aware that certain third party transfer and shore excursion facilities may not be fully accessible to guests with disabilities. Although we endeavor to make sure other companies providing transfers and shore excursions comply with legal requirements, we cannot guarantee all of these companies are able to provide facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities. For detailed, up-to-date information on accessibility issues involving shore excursions, we strongly recommend visiting the Shore Excursion Office on board.

In limited situations (either on board or ashore), where an individual with a disability would be unable to satisfy certain specified safety and other criteria, even when provided with appropriate auxiliary aids and services, we may find it necessary to ask the individual to make alternative travel arrangements. Guests who are unable to care for their basic needs (e.g. dressing, eating and attending safety drills) **MUST** have a capable traveling companion. It is essential that we be notified of any special medical, physical or other requirements you may have as soon as possible.

Wheelchairs: Due to a limited number of wheelchairs on board, guests who require the use of a wheelchair should plan to bring their own rather than relying on the availability of Holland America's equipment.

Wheelchairs and scooters must be stored inside the cabin. Holland America's wheelchairs are for on-board use only and are not allowed off the ship.

Complimentary Wheelchair Requests: Holland America has a limited supply of wheelchairs onboard each of our ships. In order to accommodate our guests, we reserve the wheelchairs for embarkation and disembarkation assistance in the pier facility only, emergency situations and time-to-time usage only. We are unable to confirm the exclusivity of a wheelchair to a specific individual for the entire duration of a cruise. Additionally, wheelchairs from the ship are not allowed to be taken off the ship for shore excursions or land tours.

For those guests participating in a cruisetour, it is important to know that complimentary wheelchairs will not be available on land. Our service offices in Alaska do not have access to wheelchairs for guests except in the case of an emergency. Wheelchair assistance that is requested for airports must be done directly through the airline.

Holland America does not arrange for wheelchair assistance at airports.

If a guest requires regular use of a wheelchair, Holland America respectfully asks they you bring your own wheelchair or rent one to bring along with them. Two companies that frequently provide wheelchair services for Holland America's guests are:

CareVacations-STARS

Phone: 877-478-7827

Fax: 780-986-8332

E-mail: stars@carevacations.com

Scoot Around

Phone: 888-441-7575

Web site: www.scootaround.com

Please feel free to contact our Access and Compliance department at 1-800-426-0327 ext. 4514.

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