



# Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours

## South East Alaska Adventure Exploration

6 days from Juneau

### **Itinerary at a glance:**

Day 0: Arrival in Juneau

Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Trekking Adventure and Whale Watching

Day 2: Skagway - Dyea Flats Historic Bike Ride, Chilkoot Trail Hike, Taiya River Scenic Float, and Porcupine Hill Rock Climbing

Day 3: Haines - Full Day Sea Kayaking and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting

Day 4: Haines - Klukwan Native Village, Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve River Float, and Coastal Hike

Day 5: Gustavus - Glacier Scenic Flight to Gustavus and 1/2 Day Sea Kayaking

Day 6: Gustavus - Glacier Bay Day Boat Tour and Return Flight to Juneau

### **Day 0: Arrival Day**

Upon your arrival into Juneau, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Once you are settled, you will have free time to enjoy the state capital of Alaska. Your guide will let you know when to meet the next day to start your adventure through Alaska and the Yukon.

*Meals on your own*

### **Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Heli Trek Adventure and Whale Watching**

We will start our journey in the beautiful Mendenhall Glacier Valley! Our adventure begins as we step onto the helicopters waiting to whisk us away onto the glacier ice. We will gear up with our professional glacier guides for a trek across the ice. We will hear about glaciology, the natural history of the area, and glacier safety as we trek. We will have lunch on the glacier and enjoy the scenery. In the afternoon, we will board a catamaran ferry to sail to the gold rush boomtown of Skagway, and whale watch along the way! We will pass Eldred Rock Lighthouse, one of the most photographed entities in Alaska, as we keep eyes out for sea lions, seals, bald eagles, Dall porpoises, humpback whales, orcas, and more! Upon our arrival in Skagway, we will transfer you to your hotel. You will be at your leisure for the rest of the evening.

*Included: B-L*

### **Day 2: Skagway - Rock Climbing, Dyea Flats Historic Bike Ride, Chilkoot Trail Hike and Taiya River Scenic Float**

Today we will begin our adventures at Porcupine Hill (Jack London was inspired for many scenes in *The Call of the Wild* after reaching the summit!) where our rock-climbing adventure will be waiting for us. This adventure tour is perfect for those looking for their first climbing experience, or for experienced climbers looking for a challenge. No climbing is required. After climbing, we will enjoy a BBQ buffet with a rooftop patio allowing for 360° views of the Skagway River valley, Mt. Heart and Mt. Harding, the Harding Glacier, and the Tongass National Forest. From here, we will take a drive out to the trailhead of the Chilkoot, the beginning of many stamper's journey into the Klondike Gold fields. We will get set up with bikes and helmets from our professional biking guides and prepare for the easy-pedaling tour out to the ghost town remains of the boomtown, Dyea. We will pedal through thick spruce forest and out towards the flats, where the remains of a 3-mile-long dock still stand as the tide rolls out. Once we return to the Chilkoot



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trailhead, we will leave the bikes in favor of hiking boots. Follow the footsteps of the 1898 gold rush stampedeers as we will hike the first two scenic miles of the historic Chilkoot Trail. At the end of the hike, we will meet up with our rafts and experience Alaska's majesty with a gentle float down the Taiya River. When we return to town, the rest of the afternoon will be at your leisure.

*Included: B-L*

### **Day 3: Haines - Sea Kayaking and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting**

After a continental breakfast at the hotel, we will hop aboard a high-speed catamaran to ferry over to the neighboring fishing town of Haines. Once we settle into the hotel, we will drive the short distance to the Port of Chilkoot for the ocean kayak trip of a lifetime. Our professional kayak guides will equip you with spray skirts, paddles, life jackets, and ponchos (if needed). We will kayak for a few hours in tandem kayaks, stopping off at remote beaches to enjoy a waterside picnic-style lunch and stretch our legs. After our fun adventure, we will pay a visit to the Port Chilkoot Distillery, renowned for their nationally award-winning spirits and local ambiance. You will learn about the history of the distillery, visit the barrel room, take a private tour of their facility, and sit down for 3 different tastings of fine, crafted spirits paired with locally inspired tapas-style food.

*Included: B-L*

### **Day 4: Haines - Klukwan Native Village Visit, Float down the Chilkat River, and Coastal Hiking**

Today we will experience the native culture of the Tlingit people on this unique visit to Klukwan, the mother village of the Tlingit Nation, located 22 miles north of Haines. For hundreds of years the Chilkat Tlingits have lived off the bounty of this special place and their close connection to the land will be further revealed throughout our visit. Their Heritage Center provides access to art treasures that have previously not been available to the public. The Whale House collection, uniquely displayed in its place of origin, allows entrance to the Chilkats' distinctive ethnic landscape. Before departing Klukwan, we will enjoy a picnic lunch while overlooking the glacially fed waters of the Chilkat River. There will also be time to visit the gift shop, where local native arts and crafts can be purchased. Leaving Klukwan, we will float down the Tsirku River and through the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. We will enjoy a scenic float trip (no whitewater) through the Chilkat Valley with great photo opportunities for eagles and other wildlife amidst the grandeur of glaciated snow-capped peaks. We will spend 2 ½ to 3 hours on the water before returning to Haines. Once back in town, join a spectacular hiking adventure that immerses you in the incredible beauty of Southeast Alaska, where you will be surrounded with amazing mountain and ocean views. From the trailhead, spend the next 2 ½ to 3 hours hiking, surrounded by views of towering, snow-capped mountains and Lynn Canal. We will share with you our knowledge of the area's flora and fauna, and the amazing glacial history of Alaska. You may see eagles, waterfowl, whales, seals, bears and moose. Each group is outfitted with binoculars to maximize your opportunities to see up-close the wildlife and the spectacular mountain and river scenery.

*Included: B-L*

### **Day 5: Gustavus - Scenic Flight over Gustavus and Sea Kayaking to Pleasant Island**

Our day will start with a drive south of Haines Peninsula to Chilkat State Park. Along the way, we will drive past the beautiful Letnikof Cove. Chilkat State Park it is one of the best areas to look for moose, and the



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view of the Rainbow Glacier — a hanging glacier with a huge waterfall gushing from the ice — is world-class. We will stretch our legs strolling on the beach before returning to Haines to visit Fort Seward, a National Historic Landmark. After lunch we will have the once-in-a-lifetime experience of flying over Glacier Bay National Park on our way to Gustavus. Glacier Bay is one of the most popular destinations for those visiting Alaska; however, most people see it from the bow of a ship. This sightseeing flight offers you the possibility to look down into crevasses hundreds (or thousands) of feet deep! Witness the rivers of ice flowing for miles down from the top of some of North America's tallest mountains. Once in Gustavus, we will hop on our kayaks and cross the Icy Passage. During this excursion to Pleasure Island, keep an eye for sea otters, porpoises, sea lions, minke whales, orcas, seals and bald eagles. We will paddle along the coast to explore the multitude of intertidal creatures before returning to Gustavus for dinner and leisure time.

*Included: B-L*

### **Day 6: Gustavus - Glacier Bay National Park Day Boat Tour and Flight to Juneau**

Today, we will have an early start as we board the Glacier Bay day boat and sail 130 miles through the illustrious Glacier Bay. This 7-hour tour will take you on a journey through a land- and seascape rich with wildlife, sailing through a waterway that was under a river of ice only 250 years ago. A National Park Ranger will provide informational commentary throughout the tour. We will sail very close to an isolated island to observe seabirds and marine mammals. Tufted and Horned Puffins and the Common Murre nest here, alongside Pelagic Cormorants and Black-legged Kittiwakes. The area is also the best place to see Steller Sea Lions, as their feeding grounds are close! We will enjoy lunch amidst the icebergs from the tidewater glaciers ahead. After lunch, you will be able to get closer to the river of ice hundreds of feet thick and nearly a mile wide. This will be our chance to see and hear the ice calving into the water - something you will remember for years to come! Upon arrival back to Gustavus, we will board a plane to return to the Juneau airport, where you will be able to connect with a flight home or return to your hotel.

*Included: B-L*

**Note:** While not included in the cost, our guides can facilitate group dinners at our favorite spots in town.

**Weather delays and associated considerations:** Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours may change the scheduled itinerary due to weather, conditions, or operational conflicts. If, for any reason, one of the schedule itinerary elements is unable to operate as planned, we will implement alternate tour programming which may involve alternate locations and/or different activities.