



# Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours

## South East Alaska Scenic Exploration

6 days from Juneau

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

Day 0: Arrival in Juneau

Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Visit, Salmon Hatchery, and Whale Watching

Day 2: Skagway - White Pass Railroad Excursion and Taiya River Scenic Float

Day 3: Haines - Kroschel Wildlife Center Visit, Klukwan Visit, and Float Down the Chilkat River

Day 4: Haines - Canoeing on Chilkoot Lake, Raptor Center Tour, and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting

Day 5: Gustavus - Scenic Flight over Glacier Bay National Park to Gustavus

Day 6: Gustavus - Glacier Bay National Park Day Boat 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 at what time to meet the next day to start your adventure through Alaska and the Yukon.

*Meals on your own.*

### **Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Visit, Salmon Hatchery, and Whale Watching**

We will start the day with a narrated tour of downtown Juneau and the city's highlights. Then we are off to the Mendenhall Valley, where you will have time to explore the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and stroll through the Tongass National Forest. Upon our return, you have the option to join a tour of the salmon hatchery, or you can enjoy your free time exploring downtown. In the afternoon, we will board a catamaran to the coastal goldrush boomtown of Skagway, and whale watch during lunch! 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 - White Pass Rail Ride and Taiya River Scenic Float**

After breakfast, we will embark on a train ride aboard the historic White Pass Yukon Route Railway narrow-gauge train. We will board vintage passenger coaches to retrace the original route to the White Pass Summit along a 40-mile round trip. The panorama of the mountains is breathtaking with glaciers, gorges, waterfalls, tunnels, trestles, and historic sites – including sights only visible from the railroad tracks! In the afternoon, meet your experienced raft guide for a Scenic Float down the Taiya River. We will enjoy a beautiful 10-mile drive along the rugged coast of the fjord to the Dyea Valley, a Gold Rush ghost town, and the starting point of the historic Chilkoot Trail. Bring your cameras for views of glaciers, snow-capped peaks, rugged forest, and wildlife! After the tour, we will return to your hotel, and the rest of the day is at your leisure to explore town.

*Included: B-L.*



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### **Day 3: Haines - Kroschel Wildlife Center Visit, Klukwan Visit, and Float Down the Chilkat River**

Today we will board a catamaran and enjoy breathtaking views of the upper Lynn Canal on our way to the beautiful fishing town of Haines. Once we dock in the Haines Small Boat Harbor, we will start our adventure-packed day with a narrated tour of historic Fort Seward. Continuing to the Kroschel Wildlife Center, we will experience a hands-on visit and face-to-face encounters with rescued Alaskan wildlife. Afterwards, we will drive south to the native village of Klukwan, the mother village of the Tlingit nation. We will have opportunities to experience the fascinating cultural history of the Tlingit people firsthand, including a native cultural performance. With a beautiful back drop of towering peaks and glacially fed waters, we will enjoy a riverside picnic lunch before our afternoon float adventure. We will float down a calm section of river aboard 18' inflatable rafts — the best way to observe eagles drawn to feed on the plentiful salmon! Your guide will enthrall you with natural history and river-specific facts. We will raft through the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, home to the largest gathering of bald eagles in the world, so make sure your camera is handy! After your float, we will head back to downtown Haines, where you will enjoy free time for the rest of the day.

*Included: B-L.*

### **Day 4: Haines - Canoe in Chilkoot Lake, Raptor Center Visit, and Port Chilkoot Distillery Tasting**

Our day will start with a drive to the breathtaking Lutak Inlet and the Chilkoot River Valley. The Chilkoot River corridor offers incredible wildlife viewing: brown bears, eagles, mountain goats, and spawning salmon are all common sights. Once at the lake, we will board our outboard canoes and explore the serenity of Chilkoot Lake. We will discover the inlets, coves, salmon spawning streams, and numerous waterfalls that spill from the mountains into this pristine lake. After our canoe adventure, we will return to the town of Haines and enjoy a picnic-style lunch at a private oceanside beach. After lunch, we will visit the American Bald Eagle Foundation's Raptor Center, an interpretive wildlife education center, where we will watch a training session with the beautiful bird that is the symbol of America, and learn about other native wildlife. Before the day ends, we will pay a visit to the Port Chilkoot Distillery! Renowned for their nationally award-winning spirits and local ambiance, the distillery is a favorite spot for locals and visitors alike. We will sample their fine spirits and munch on gourmet local fare. After this, we will return to the hotel, where you will be at your leisure for the remainder of the day.

*Included: B-L.*

### **Day 5: Gustavus - Chilkat State Park, Scenic Flight over Glacier Bay, Glacier Bay National Park Visitor Center and Bartlett Cove Walk**

Today, we start our day with a gorgeous drive to Chilkat State Park, just outside of Haines. Here, we will stop for photos of the prominent Rainbow Glacier and keep an eye out for the moose who frequent this area. We continue our glacial adventures with 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 visit the Glacier Bay National Park Visitor Center, where we will learn about the park, the flora and fauna, and the people that have been inhabiting this area since the dawn of time. Several exhibits explore the park's natural and cultural history. There are several activities to participate in, such as park ranger-led films, a



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1-mile walk to Bartlett Cove, and a Healing Totem Talk in the evening in conjunction with the program at Xunaa Shuká Hít (Huna Tribal House). Glacier Bay National Park is the ancestral homeland of the Huna Tlingit clans who sustained themselves for centuries on the abundant resources of the land and sea.

*Included: B-L.*

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

Today, we will have an early start as we board the Glacier Bay day tour 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 be onboard providing commentary. We will sail very close to a small 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 by. 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 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.