

VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Alaska Adventure & Haida Gwaii
Voyage Code	ALK006S
Dates	30 May–11 June 2022
Duration	13 days / 12 nights
Start	Sitka, USA
Finish	Vancouver, Canada
Ship	<i>Sylvia Earle</i>
Optional Activities	Kayaking, Stand-up Paddleboarding, Snorkelling, Scuba Diving
Forms Due	28 February, 2022

VOYAGE SUMMARY

Encounter iconic Alaskan wildlife around Chicagof Island. Sail along Tracy Arm towards the twin Sawyer Glaciers, keeping your eyes peeled for whales, harbour seals, and bears. Visit the Metlakatla Indian Community on Annette Island, and with special permission, we visit Haida Gwaii, where Haida locals welcome you to their community and share stories about their history and culture. Near Bella Coola, Nuxalk guides will lead you on an exclusive Zodiac excursion in search of grizzly bears.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Sitka
Day 2	Embark in Sitka
Day 3	Elfin Cove, Icy Strait, Inian Islands
Day 4	Juneau, Mendenhall Glacier
Day 5	Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness Area
Day 6	Misty Fjords National Monument
Day 7	Metlakatla, Prince Rupert
Days 8-10	Haida Gwaii
Day 11	Dean River, Kimsquit
Day 12	Cruise British Columbia's Inside Passage
Day 13	Vancouver

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided by local Nuxalk guides, explore the estuaries and tide flats along the Dean River Channel, where grizzly bears are known to gather in their greatest numbers
- Spend three days in Haida Gwaii, where Haida residents share stories about their history and culture, and look for wildlife on Zodiac cruises or while hiking through lush temperate forest
- Explore the islands around Icy Strait for superb wildlife-viewing opportunities by Zodiac-cruising, kayaking or shoreline exploration while keeping watch for iconic wildlife such as orca, brown bears, Steller sea lions and countless birds
- Experience Tongass National Forest, the largest forest in the U.S covering most of southeast Alaska and encompassing famous wilderness areas such as Misty Fjords National Monument and Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness

EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Transfer from airport to hotel on day 1
- One night's hotel accommodation on day 1, breakfast included
- Sightseeing tour and transfer the vessel on day 2
- Group transfer from ship to airport on day 13
- On-board accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- All shore excursions
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consult)
- 3-in-1 waterproof polar expedition jacket
- Complimentary use of muck boots during the voyage
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, unless specified
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Sitka

Arrive in Sitka and transfer to your hotel. Upon check-in, reception staff will provide you with Aurora Expeditions cabin tags. Please fill out the luggage tags clearly, showing your name and cabin number to allow us to deliver your luggage to your cabin. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing this evening.

Accommodation: Westmark Hotel

Day 2 Sitka

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Sitka before transferring to the pier to embark the *Sylvia Earle*. After boarding, there's time to settle into your cabin before learning important safety briefings. This evening, meet your expedition team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 Elfin Cove, Icy Strait, Inian Islands

The islands along Icy Strait, such as Inian Island, Point Adolphus, Elfin Cove and George Island, offer some of the best Zodiac-cruising and kayaking experiences. Your expedition leader will draw on their experience to decide the best places to encounter iconic Alaskan wildlife, especially whales, Steller sea lions, sea otters, harbour seals, bald eagles and brown bears.

Day 4 Juneau, Mendenhall Glacier

Nestled at the base of towering mountains overlooking the Gastineau Channel, Juneau's rich culture, and history is reflected throughout the town and its beautiful attractions. In Alaska's scenic capital, we visit nearby Mendenhall Glacier, one of Alaska's most famous glaciers. The glacier is 2.4 km / 1.5 miles wide and is fed by the Juneau Icefield, and ranks as the largest, most rugged glacier that is accessible by road in Alaska. Hike the trails near the glacier to enjoy panoramic views. Back in town, enjoy free time to explore and learn about Juneau's local history and art with a visit to the newly-built Alaska State Museum.

Day 5 Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness

We explore Tracy Arm, featuring spectacular glaciers and wildlife-viewing opportunities. Flanked by colossal granite cliffs with snow-capped mountains in the distance, Zodiac-cruise or kayak among icebergs of tidewater glaciers in search of wildlife. At the end of the waterway are the main attractions: the twin Sawyer Glaciers, which calve regularly to create the icebergs floating in the fjord.

Day 6 Misty Fjords, Metlakatla

In Misty Fjords National Monument, affectionately called 'The Yosemite of the North, sail along fjords flanked by towering granite cliffs where bald eagles soar, brown bears and black bears prowl the shoreline fishing for salmon', and abundant marine mammals frolic and patrol the waters. Visit Walker Cove or Rudyerd Bay, soaking in the familiar scenery that Alaska is famous for, and perhaps Zodiac to shore for a hike or a paddle in the bay.

Day 7 Metlakatla, Prince Rupert Island

On Annette Island, experience the extraordinary history, art, and cultural traditions of the Tsimshian tribe of Metlakatla Indian Community, the only Indian Reserve in Alaska.

Shore Excursions (choose one of the following)

Yellow Hill Hike (3.5 hours)

Enjoy a 5-mi / 8-km hike to Yellow Hill, a challenging walk with rewarding panoramic views of Metlakatla and Annette Bay. Walking mostly on timber board walk, stairs, and moderately steep terrain, the hike is suitable for individuals without mobility issues.

Visit the community Long House to learn about the building's history and traditions, and where you will enjoy a dance performance from a local Tsimshian dance group followed by a Q & A with the dancers. Afterwards, visit the Artist Village next door to see handicrafts made by local artists, and which are available for purchase.

Walking Town Tour & Totem Pole Journey (3.5 hours)

The Totem Exploration Journey is a path guides you to the Totems & points of interest of Metlakatla. On a guided walk, you get a close-up view of the fascinating, handcrafted cedar carvings scattered throughout Metlakatla. During the excursion, you'll discover the 14 totem poles standing in Metlakatla, all carved by local artists, you'll visit several historical and cultural points of interest, including the William Duncan Memorial Church, the Metlakatla Indian Community Longhouse, and the Artist Village. Visit the community Long House to learn about the building's history and traditions, and where you will enjoy a dance performance from a local Tsimshian dance group followed by a Q & A with the dancers. Afterwards, visit the Artist Village next door to see handicrafts made by local artists, and which are available for purchase.

Skater's Lake Trail Walk & Totem Journey (3.5 hours)

On this scenic timber boardwalk, you'll experience the lush scenery at Skater's Lake. Afterwards, visit the community Long House to learn about the building's history and traditions, and where you will enjoy a dance performance from a local Tsimshian dance group followed by a Q&A with the dancers. Afterwards, visit the Artist Village next door to see handicrafts made by local artists, and which are available for purchase.

Later, at Prince Rupert Island, we clear U.S customs for entry into Canada.

Days 8–10 Haida Gwaii

Sii.ngaay 'laa! Greetings and welcome! Over three days, your time in Haida Gwaii will be tailor-made by Haida locals who know the area like no-one else can. Mixing culture and history through storytelling, your local Haida guides will share their unique experiences with you on village walks, nature hikes, dance performance and wildlife-viewing excursions. At Naikoon Provincial Park, explore North Beach and hike Tow Hill. We visit the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Lnagaay, an award-winning Inuit cultural centre that celebrates the living culture of the Haida people with exhibits on history, wildlife and culture. Protected by Parks Canada and the Haida people who draw cultural inspiration from their ancestors, we plan to offer an optional excursion to Gwaii Haanas Natural Park Reserve, where cedar and Sitka spruce forests tower above the Haida people's ancient carved poles and fallen longhouses. Here, bald eagles soar overhead, bears scavenge salmon on wild beaches and the ocean teems with whales, porpoises and sea lions.

As an expeditioner, your sense of adventure is your most prized possession. Be prepared to explore forests and cruise the coast searching for whales, bears, and sea lions. Visit traditional long-house villages and learn of the Haida's struggle for independence.

Day 11 **Dean River Channel, Kimsquit**

We explore the estuaries and tide flats along the Dean River Channel, where some of the highest numbers of grizzly bears are known to gather. In a wilderness area rarely visited by cruise ships, we enjoy a grizzly bear-viewing excursion led by Nuxalk guides. Exclusive to Aurora Expeditions, this is a bear-viewing experience not to be missed!

Day 12 **Inside Passage**

Sail British Columbia's Inside Passage, navigating through straits and channels that are home to vast pods of orca. Enjoy splendid scenery featuring cascading waterfalls, snow-capped mountains, temperate forests, and abundant marine life.

Day 13 **Vancouver**

Disembark in Vancouver and transfer to the airport to continue your journey.

Note: The itinerary outlined is intended to be used as a guide. Although we plan to visit as many of the places mentioned in the itinerary as possible, tides, timing, local regulations and weather conditions may determine where we land and the precise order in which we operate the itinerary.