

Spring Inside Passage
Juneau-Glacier Bay
4/30-5/9 2024 Itinerary
4/26-5/5 2025 Itinerary

On this adventure you will explore the glacially scoured fjords of Southeast Alaska and Glacier Bay spanning the Glaciers and the lands between them. We will travel through newly revealed landscapes to ancient landscapes formed 20,000 years ago, post glaciation, offering you an amazing visual of this rapidly changing geological landscape and corresponding plant and animal succession. As soon as we leave Juneau, we enter Tongass National Forest, the largest forest in the US and home to a multitude of plants, trees, mammals, birds, and marine mammals who flourish in this ancient moss laden landscape. We then cruise into Glacier Bay National Park which just 250 years ago was ice filled. Here you will see breathtaking landscapes, geological formations, and thriving flora and fauna.

Day 1: Docked near downtown Juneau at Berth 4. Boarding at 9:00 AM. Once on board we will have an orientation and safety meeting so we can get underway for our first kayaking adventure. Our course will head us south down Gastineau Channel and out into Stephens Passage on our way to an anchorage at Harbor Island under Sumdum Glacier. After lunch we will have a kayaking orientation and then launch our kayaks for an introductory paddle and exploration of this Glacial Fjord. LD

Day 2: We will be Underway in the very early morning into Endicott Arm. Breakfast will be on the move and soon after you will be on the bow as the Sea Wolf navigates through icebergs as we wind our way into the fjord. It is twenty-seven miles up the Arm to the face of Dawes Glacier where we will pause to observe the monumental calving of the glacier. Seals and their pups abound in these waters. We will then make our way to Ford's Terror, an incredibly beautiful area where we will either kayak or skiff to a hike depending on tide and current conditions. Our anchorage will be at Wood Spit. BLD

Day 3: We now head back to Stephens Passage and into Frederick Sound. We'll continue down the coast of Admiralty Island, keeping a constant lookout for whales along the route to the Brothers Islands. This group of islands is one of the prime summer feeding grounds for the migratory Humpback and where whales bubble net feeding is frequently observed. We will anchor up where the sounds of whale blows, the bellowing of Stellar Sea Lions hauled out close by, and the chortling of the eagles will be a feast for the senses as we dine on lunch. After lunch we'll kayak around the islands. This may be our evening anchorage. BLD

Day 4: Breakfast underway as we cruise toward Admiralty Island, home of the largest concentration of Brown Bears in SE Alaska. We will be on the lookout for Humpback whales, Orca, Sea lions and migrating birds during this morning long cruise. Once we are anchored up near point Adolphus, we will spend the afternoon exploring the bays and estuaries by kayak and foot looking for bears and migrating birds. BLD

Day 5:

We will cruise up bay to Geike Inlet for our first paddle. Along the way we will have a kayaking introduction and lunch. After lunch, we are paddling. Geike is a beautiful fjord that may offer a glimpse of black bears, wolverines, mountain goats and a large variety of seabirds and ducks. Once back aboard we will cruise to our evening anchorage a few hours up the bay-a cruise filled with incredible vistas, wildlife on the beaches and possibly acrobatic whales in the waters. Along the way we will learn about the natural history of Glacier Bay, some of the research projects that the park is conducting and of course about the plentiful sea and wildlife. Dinner aboard the Sea Wolf and this is our evening anchorage watching the sunset over Glacier

Bay. L D

Day 6: Breakfast underway as we head up to Reid Inlet. Once there we are off for a hike to Reid Glacier for an up-close view of this glacially carved landscape. An easy hike up the mountain, down the beach and fording a few glacial streams will bring us to the face of Reid Glacier. Here we will learn about glaciers, geology, plant and animal succession and explore among the grounded icebergs. We hunt for ice worms and for those so inclined we scoop up glacial silt for wonderful glacial facials. On the intertidal walk back, we look under rocks to discover what the bears feast on during low tide, brown bears, wolverine, small mammals and harbor seals and other creatures all live in this area. Lunch underway as we head to Tarr Inlet where we will have an epic glacier paddle. Once we are back on board, we will cruise through Russell Cut looking for wildlife on our way to our evening anchorage. BLD

Day 7: After an 8 AM breakfast it is off to Gloomy Knob looking for Mountain Goats and other wildlife. If conditions permit, we will have a morning botany hike up Gloomy Knob for incredible views of the bay. Then off to an afternoon paddle at one of our anchorages that bring us close to the East Arm entrance. BLD

Day 8: Breakfast at 8:00 am as the engines are started and we will make our way up Muir Inlet, the East Arm of Glacier Bay. Our activities here depend on wilderness water opening/closing dates. We will go on an amazing hike by McBride Glacier with a paddle either up to Riggs Glacier or from Muir Glacier to Riggs. The shorelines have a great variety of shore birds, vista's and the possibilities of seeing bears, wolves or moose. Then once back to the boat we are off to our evening anchorage and dinner.

Day 9: Breakfast at 8 am. Sometimes we have a morning paddle at N. Sandy if the tides are right and if not, we head down bay to another pristine paddle area. N. Sandy Cove is a very rich ecosystem that supports black bears, moose coyotes, and a plentiful marine environment. We kayak around the shores scanning for Black Bears and Moose then paddle over to Puffin Island for a truly wondrous look at a low tide vertical intertidal zone. This zone is home to hundreds of sponges, periwinkles, whelks, sea stars, sea cucumbers and urchins to just name a few species who literally hang here awaiting the return of the high tide? Back on board the Sea Wolf we will head to S. Marble Island to view a large Stellar Sea Lion Haul Out and a seabird-nesting rookery from the Sea Wolf. Then we cruise onward to Fingers Bay. BLD

Day 10: Breakfast underway and whale watching on our way back to Bartlett Cove. Lunch and then we will have a transportation to Alaska Seaplanes for your flight to Juneau- reservations will need to be made by individual travelers.

Our itineraries are subject to weather, wildlife, whales, and whim! We promise you an adventure of a lifetime.