

Alaska

LUXURY WHALE & BEAR CRUISE

Why join this Voyage?

- Luxury Alaskan cruise by small ship accessing some of the state's most pristine scenery, including Glacier Bay National Park, in one of the best places in the world for humpback whales and bear sightings
- Optional daily soft adventure activities on foot, by zodiac or kayak led by highly knowledgeable and enthusiast guides exploring the wildlife-rich waters and dense rainforest of south-eastern Alaska
- Choice of four comfortable, very well-appointed small luxury yachts of varying size (12 - 86 passengers) in a range of cabin categories. Impeccable staff, excellent food and a very personalised experience



Trip Summary

Travelling comfortably aboard a small luxury boat with the benefit of a flexible daily itinerary, this 8-day Juneau-to-Juneau Alaska cruise offers a wonderful introduction to Alaska's rich wildlife and vast untamed wilderness. This Alaskan voyage includes the rare opportunity of an extended 2 day stay inside Glacier Bay National Park, combined with leisurely days exploring the quieter Alaskan backwaters inaccessible to larger ships, anchoring in secluded coves at night. Humpback whales congregate in Alaska's waters in significant numbers in the summer to feed, while brown and black bears, sea otters, seals and bald eagles are also often observed. Experience ice calving off the front of shimmering glaciers, gape at Humpbacks bubble-net feeding, kayak around icebergs and hike through the dense Pacific rainforest. Family-friendly departures available.

Itinerary



Day 1 London/ Seattle

Depart London on the British Airways flight direct to Seattle, arriving mid-afternoon. Overnight in Seattle.

Day 2 Seattle/ Embarkation in Juneau

Depart Seattle on the Alaska Airlines flight up to Juneau, the administrative capital of Alaska. After meeting fellow guests and Expedition Leader, embark your boat in late afternoon. Overnight anchorage at Funter Bay.



Day 3 Icy Strait & Elfin Cove

Crossing Icy Strait, search for the tell-tale blow of the humpback whale on the way to tiny Elfin Cove, a remote fishing village tucked into Chichagof Island. Afternoon landing to stretch legs and meet the people who choose to live in this wilderness of forests and islands. This evening anchor in a remote bay and lower zodiacs to explore, keeping our eyes open for sea otters and bears.



Days 4 & 5 Glacier Bay National Park

Over the two days in the park we'll travel nearly 60 miles cruising up-bay to mighty Grand Pacific and Margerie Glaciers, which frequently calve huge icebergs.

If conditions permit, we'll lower the zodiacs and weave among the icebergs. We'll enjoy evenings at anchor in hidden coves, and mornings paddling our kayaks in the quiet of this majestic wilderness. Here in the bay there are sea otters, sea lions, mountain goats, bears, eagles all amidst spectacular scenery.



Day 6 Frederick Sound & Sea lions

Today we'll cruise around Admiralty Island to the prime humpback-viewing waters in Frederick Sound. We'll take time for zodiac trips and sea kayaking in Saginaw Bay, and cruise up-close to a sea lion colony at the Brothers Islands.

Day 7 Admiralty Island - Bears

We'll drop the kayaks and launch the skiff for up-close exploration of this island-speckled bay. Never logged, the thick evergreen forest crowds right down to the gravel beaches. Here is an outstanding opportunity to spot the huge brown - or grizzly - for which Admiralty Island is famous.



At low tide they're right down on the beaches, seeking a shellfish supper. Once again under way, we'll watch for humpback whales before anchoring at Wood Spit for more exploration.

Day 8 Ford's Terror & Endicott Arm

Cliff-walled fjords sliced into the mountainous mainland are on show today as we approach an area widely acclaimed as the most beautiful in all of Alaska. Snow gleams on mountaintops high overhead, as bears amble on the shoreline and mountain goats cling to impossibly precarious perches.



Seemingly every few hundred yards another sparkling waterfall tumbles down the cliffs. Enjoy a zodiac ride amongst icebergs at Ford's Terror, with kayaking available for those who wish. We'll anchor overnight at Taku Harbor to enjoy the Captain's Farewell Dinner in a lovely setting



Day 9 Disembark/ Juneau/ Seattle

Arrive back into Juneau. Disembarkation directly after breakfast followed by group transfer to the airport for your flight back to Seattle to connect to the overnight flight back to the UK.

Day 10 London

Arrive back into the UK

The Boats



Safari Endeavour (capacity 86 passengers)

The largest vessel in the fleet with the widest selection of cabin types, the *Safari Endeavour* is exquisitely appointed with new design features such as an intimate Wine Bar and spa area including two hot tubs, sauna, fitness equipment, yoga classes, and complimentary massage.



Safari Explorer (capacity 40 passengers)

Totally re-built and refurbished for the 2008 season, the *Safari Explorer* can accommodate up to 40 guests in a choice of 5 very comfortably appointed cabin types, including two spacious top deck suites. Small enough to access the quietest backwaters but with ample space for a spacious dining/ sitting room, separate library, spa, sauna and large open air hot tub, she's ideal for these waters.



Safari Quest (capacity 22 passengers)

Intimate and elegant, the 120-foot *Safari Quest* is a size smaller than the *Safari Explorer*, with a capacity for up to just 22 guests, but is just as comfortable and well-appointed. Originally built in 1992, she's undergone extensive re-modelling and updating, most recently in 2006/07. Her sleek lines certainly set her apart, and guests will enjoy the spacious salon and topside observation deck.



Safari Spirit (capacity 12 passengers)

Intimate and elegant, the 105-foot *Safari Spirit* offers a very personalised and exclusive Alaskan adventure for those travellers who like to avoid the crowds. Capable of accommodating a maximum of just 12 passengers, travelling on board the *Spirit* is very intimate and special, and naturally lends itself particularly well to private charters for extended families or groups of friends.

Dates for Summer 2012

Safari Endeavour

Low Season
10th - 17th June
26th Aug - 2nd September

High Season
17th - 24th June
24th June - 1st July
1st - 8th July
8th - 15th July
15th - 22nd July
22nd - 29th July
29th July - 5th August
5th - 12th August
12th - 19th August
19th - 26th August

Safari Explorer

Mid Season
1st - 8th June
31st Aug - 7th September

High Season
8th - 15th June
15th - 22nd June
22nd - 29th June
20th - 27th July
10th - 17th August

Safari Quest

Low season
18th - 25th May
25th May - 1st June
2nd - 9th September

Mid Season
1st - 8th June
24th August - 1st September
2nd - 9th September

High Season
8th - 15th June
15th - 22nd June
22nd - 29th June #
29th June - 6th July
6th - 13th July
13th - 20th July
20th - 27th July #
10th - 17th August
17th - 24th August

Safari Spirit

Low Season
18th - 25th May
25th May - 1st June

Mid Season
1st - 8th June

High Season
8th - 15th June
22nd - 29th June
29th June - 6th July
6th July - 13th July
13th - 20th July
20th - 27th July
3rd - 10th August
10th - 17th August
17th - 24th August

= Dedicated Family departures with child friendly programmes and no lower age limit

Guide Prices for 2012

Boat	Safari Endeavour		Safari Quest			Safari Explorer		Safari Spirit		
Cabin /Season (quoted per person)	Low	High	Low	Mid	High	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High
Master/ Mariner	£3,200	£3,550	£3,680	£4,075	£4,535	£4,200	£4,665	N/a	N/a	N/a
Commander	£3,385	£3,750	£4,335	£4,684	£5,390	£4,535	£4,995	£4,665	£5,196	£5,785
Captain	£3,615	£4,015	£4,600	£5,195	£5,720	£4,795	£5,325	£4,930	£5,585	£6,175
Admiral	£4,075	£4,535	N/a	N/a	N/a	£5,390	£5,985	£5,585	£6,245	£6,965
Commodore	£5,685	£6,315	N/a	N/a	N/a	£6,375	£7,165	N/a	N/a	N/a
Single	£4,075	£4,535	£4,205	£4,670	£5,195	£4,795	£5,325	N/a	N/a	N/a

Includes

- Transfers in Juneau
- 7 night/ 8 day voyage on full board basis
- All drinks included on board
- Port taxes
- Guided excursions & complimentary use of kayaks, paddle boards and all weather gear

Excludes

- International & internal flights
- Hotel accommodation in Seattle
- Travel insurance and inoculations
- Visas where applicable
- Gratuities to the crew
- Any items of a personal nature

Please note that these from prices are a **guide only** and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Flight Information

We can offer a fully inclusive package from the UK to include return flight to Juneau with one night pre voyage accommodation in Seattle from approx. £1,400 per person depending on choice of airline and accommodation. The advantage of booking the whole trip through Steppes Travel is you will then benefit from full ATOL cover.

British Airways offer the only direct flights from London Heathrow to Seattle (flying time approx. 9 hours 35 mins, 7/8 hour time difference). Alaskan Airlines operate daily flights between Seattle & Juneau (approx. 2.5 hours).

Visa Information

Visa Waiver Program: You will need to apply online in advance for authorisation to travel to the US through the Visa Waiver Program at a cost of approx £14 per person.

Want to discuss this trip?

Please call **Sue or Alex** on 01285 880981 for more details or to check boat availability



Having spent the best part of 5 years on my “gap year” working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe, with a life-long passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently travelling to Wrangel & Herald Islands, where I was lucky enough to encounter 105 bears. I have also voyaged to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Canadian Arctic and Baja California on expedition vessels, along with paddling down the Yukon. I hope to go whale and bear watching in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director of Steppes Travel



Fostered by a childhood in the West Indies, the travel bug bit Alex early. Propelled by his enthusiasm for diverse cultures and hot food, he's travelled to over 50 countries across 7 continents, including both poles. Some of his most memorable recent experiences include dog sledding in The Arctic, kayaking in Alaska, snorkelling with whale sharks off Mexico and piranha fishing in The Amazon.

Alex is General Manager of Steppes Voyages