



ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

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TRIP DETAILS

5 days ~ Alaska

*4 days moderate sea
kayaking, easy to
moderate day bikes*

*3 nights camping,
1 night inn*

2008 DATES

Jun 14–Jun 18

Jun 19–Jun 23

Jun 28–Jul 2

Jul 5–Jul 9

Jul 12–Jul 16

Jul 19–Jul 23

Jul 26–Jul 30

Aug 2–Aug 6

Aug 9–Aug 13

Aug 16–Aug 20

LAND COST

*\$2,115 per person + tax
(6-10 members)*

*\$2,315 per person + tax
(3-5 members)*

\$160 internal airfare



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GLACIER BAY ESCAPE

5-Day Sea Kayaking Exploration

TRIP LEVEL
MODERATE

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Enjoy leisurely sea kayaking and wilderness camping in Glacier Bay's West Arm, with its abundant wildlife and magnificent scenery*
- *Paddle around icebergs and hike to the face of awesome tidewater glaciers*
- *Scenic boat tour of the West Arm of Glacier Bay, with ample opportunities for wildlife viewing*
- *Wilderness camping in Glacier Bay National Park's West Arm*

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GLACIER BAY ESCAPE

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5-Day Sea Kayaking Exploration

Glacier Bay's fascinating geology, plentiful wildlife (including the endangered humpback whale), and breathtaking scenery of soaring mountains and gorgeous tidewater glaciers are the setting for an unforgettable wilderness experience—one of the best in Alaska!

On this trip you'll enjoy a relaxed exploration of Glacier Bay National Park's scenic West Arm, including the pristine wilderness of Johns Hopkins Inlet. You'll start with a charter boat trip across the lower bay, then after a drop-off on a remote glacial beach, spend the next few days kayaking and camping amidst awesome mountain scenery and stunning tidewater glaciers, and taking short hikes to observe some of the interesting geological and biological processes so evident in Glacier Bay.

You'll watch for wildlife on both land and sea, learn about the fascinating natural and cultural history of the bay, and see land recently unveiled by retreating ice thousands of years old. This is one of our most popular and active trips, where expectations are always exceeded.



ITINERARY

A number of different itineraries are possible, depending on weather, park service regulations, and group desires. We will try to adhere to the following schedule and choose the best route for exploring the waters of the park.

DAY 1 ~ Juneau – Gustavus

Travel to Juneau, Alaska, and meet the guides and the group at the Air Excursions ticket desk at 3:30 p.m. We'll board the plane for the flight to Gustavus, the gateway to Glacier Bay National Park, then transfer to a cozy B&B. After settling in, we'll gather for a trip orientation—a must-attend event! You will learn about bear-country camping techniques, and be issued rain gear and rubber boots. Dinner and lodging are included this evening.
D...Gustavus B&B (TBA)

DAY 2 ~ To Glacier Bay

After an early breakfast we will board a boat for a spectacular ride into the West Arm of Glacier Bay National Park. The scenery changes dramatically as we leave the lush forests of Bartlett Cove behind and enter a land still under the influence of the Little Ice Age.

We'll be dropped off in the remote upper West Arm, where we'll unload gear and have a kayak lesson. By afternoon, everyone will feel comfortable enough with sea kayaking to fully observe the splendid beauty of this area.
B,L,D...Camp

DAYS 3-4 ~ West Arm, Glacier Bay

We'll explore the pristine upper fjords of Glacier Bay by kayak and on foot. Keep your camera ready for dramatic scenery of awe-inspiring 9,000-foot mountain peaks and calving glaciers (you'll listen to them thunder, crackle, and pop as huge icebergs topple into the sea!), and wildlife that may include brown bears, mountain goats, humpback whales, orcas, sea otters, and a variety of sea birds. A flexible itinerary allows for fabulous hikes and serene paddles. You may explore Reid, Lamplugh, and Johns Hopkins Glaciers, each with its own stunning beauty and personality.

Depending on the group, we will either stay at one base camp all three nights or move camp just once to allow more time for kayaking and hiking. Explorations on foot give us an increased understanding of this unique ecosystem and provide us with stunning views.

Nights will be spent camping on the scenic wilderness shores. Our two-person kayaks are stable and easy to use. A foot-controlled rudder system allows the stern paddler to steer the boat in any direction. Each boat will carry personal gear, as well as a share of the group food and camp gear.

B,L,D each day...Camp

DAY 5 ~

After an early breakfast, we'll pack up camp, then paddle and prepare for our boat pick-up and a leisurely ride back to park headquarters at Gustavus. Put your feet up and watch the terrific scenery and wildlife as you relax and rest your tired muscles. Once back, we transfer you to the Gustavus airport and fly to Juneau. The flight from Gustavus to Juneau is about a half hour, and lands at Juneau's main airport where you can connect with your homeward-bound flight. Please schedule your homeward-bound flight from Juneau for after 6:30 p.m.

B,L...

LAND COST

\$2,115 per person + tax (6-10 members)

\$2,315 per person + tax (3-5 members)

\$160 internal airfare

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Single Supplement—\$125. If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee. If you're traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we'll try our best to find you a roommate. If that's not possible, we will only charge you half of the single supplement.

Tier Pricing

Adventure travel works best with a small group of people. In order to operate these small groups, our trips are priced according to the number of full-price passengers on the trip. (Alaska Discovery staff, trip doctors, and other discounted travelers are excluded from the count for this purpose.) We initially invoice you at the highest tier level

John Muir came to Glacier Bay in 1879 and was so stunned by its epic beauty that immediately upon his return he began to secure wilderness protection for this spectacular region he called "unspeakably pure and sublime." Come join us as we retrace the famous naturalist's route, and observe how the dynamic world of the bay changes continuously as receding glaciers reveal new landscapes.

price (the smallest group size we can operate). If the price drops due to an increase in group size, you will be refunded the difference.

What's Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations and all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, guides, group gear and equipment (2-person tents)
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ internal airfare (Juneau/Gustavus/Juneau)—see separate cost above
- ◆ sightseeing and activities as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ kayaking gear
- ◆ permit fees
- ◆ boat transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to and from Juneau, Alaska; meals not noted in itinerary; daypack for yourself to carry daily items; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Alaska Discovery, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Air Travel

Airfare to and from Alaska is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly. Please refer to the link or document called “Planning Your Trip to Alaska,” included in your Trip Packet. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Expert Leadership

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you'd never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way. Leader assignments will be confirmed in the Final Bulletin sent to you three weeks prior to departure.

Activity Level

Alaska Discovery trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active. This trip operates at a relaxing pace, with paddling of 4-8 miles per day. No prior paddling experience is required, but you may need to paddle against strong currents and/or wind at times. In the field, there are no facilities of any kind (no permanent lodging, bathrooms, showers, phone booths!). Good physical condition, an adventurous spirit, a positive attitude and a willingness to deal with possible wet, cold, and windy conditions are a must! You will set up your own tent (after a demonstration by the guide) and everyone is welcome to assist with other tasks of wilderness camping.

Physical conditioning before your trip will increase your enjoyment. You must be prepared to help carry personal and group gear as well as your kayak (about 65-80 pounds among four people) up and down the beach. The terrain is uneven and may be slippery. Be sure to hike in the boots you plan to bring with you well in advance of the trip (so you won't get blisters). If you don't normally follow a fitness or exercise regime, we recommend beginning one now! Incorporate any activities that build up arm strength and flexibility. In paddling, it is more important to be able to maintain a steady pace than it is to have a powerful stroke.

Minimum age for participation is 12.

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Signing up is easy!

Just call us at 1-800-586-1911 and reserve your spot! You can also reserve a trip online at our website (www.alaskadiscovery.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Then Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, and other details.

Why Alaska Discovery is Your First Choice for Adventure

We are Alaska's oldest wilderness guiding company! Alaska Discovery has pioneered trips in Alaska by kayak, raft, and canoe for more than 35 years. We led the first tours to sea kayak Glacier Bay, Icy Bay, Russell Fjord, Tracy Arm, Endicott Arm, and to reopen the cross-Admiralty canoe route. Our permits in Alaska's finest wilderness areas give you greater access than any other company. We are one of the few companies with permits in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Glacier Bay National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias/Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site, and the Tongass National Forest. We are also a founding member of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and contribute to numerous Alaskan conservation organizations through our "Dollar-a-Day" program. Among our many awards, we have received the prestigious Outstanding Long-Term Program Award of the Alaska Land Manager's Forum for excellence in dedication and commitment to ethically and socially aware use of the land.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-800-586-1911 if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.alaskadiscovery.com.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change. Please read the Limitation of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this information on our website at www.mtsobek.com/faq and the form itself at www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf.

Terms & Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions including the Limitation of Liability Clause. The full Terms and Conditions can be found at www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability or call 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) for a copy. These are partial conditions. Your participation is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the four-page Participant Information Form (www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf). Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the Terms and Conditions, to any literature concerning this trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in San Francisco, California, according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive California law (but not procedural law) without regard to the California Arbitration Act.

Note on Services

At Alaska Discovery, we have assembled an outstanding team of guides by taking the greatest care in both recruiting and retaining the fine guides we have. Along with our high standards of qualifications and experience, we conduct our own training. Each spring we hold refresher courses in rescue, gun handling, trip area knowledge, communication, teamwork, and special lectures on the unique natural and social history of Alaska. We also sponsor Wilderness First Responder classes regularly for our guides.

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