



ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

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WRANGELL-ST.ELIAS GLACIER EXPEDITION

Sea Kayaking & Hiking in Icy Bay

TRIP DETAILS

8 days ~ Alaska

*6 days easy to moderate
sea kayaking and hiking*

*6 nights camping
1 night hotel*

2009 DATES

Jul 12-Jul 19

Aug 2-Aug 9

2009 LAND COST

*\$2,195 per person + tax
(6-10 members)*

*\$2,395 per person + tax
(4-5 members)*

\$900 internal airfare

\$120 single supplement

TRIP LEVEL

MODERATE

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Kayak and hike in Icy Bay, in the environs of the St. Elias Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world*
- *Spectacular flight over the huge Malaspina Glacier under the shadow of the massive St. Elias Range*
- *Dramatic scenery of fjords, glaciers, and soaring peaks in one of Alaska's premier wilderness areas*

Revised October 12, 2008



WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS GLACIER EXPEDITION

Sea Kayaking & Hiking in Icy Bay

The stunning St. Elias Mountains, highest coastal range in the world, dominate the coastline of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park—the largest national park in the United States—and form the backdrop for our most remote sea kayaking and hiking expedition. Spectacular Mount St. Elias has a sea level to summit rise of 18,008 feet in less than 10 miles, making it the highest vertical rise in the world (Everest, by comparison, has a base to summit rise of only 12,000 feet).

From the rustic village of Yakutat, bush planes treat you to an aerial view of the enormity of the Malaspina Glacier, a mass of slowly moving ice larger than the state of Rhode Island, on the way to the pristine shores of Icy Bay, an area of startling superlatives. The fjords of the bay were created just in the last century during a rapid retreat of the glaciers that now lie at the head of the fjords. The moving glaciers left vast ridges, open meadows, and wide beach flats in its stead. Bears, mountain goats, moose, wolves, and seals live in the area, along with unique birds including Aleutian terns, jaegers, and swans.



On long kayak paddles through fjords of floating ice and enjoyable hikes to great vistas, you'll feast your eyes on inspiring scenes in one of Alaska's most spectacular settings and premier wilderness areas. The nature of Icy Bay offers both easy and challenging hikes and paddling to accommodate a range of activity. Bring along an adventurous spirit and an explorer's curiosity.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ Yakutat

Travel to Yakutat, Alaska. Transfer to Glacier Bear Lodge, located about three miles from the airport. The lodge van should pick you up at the airport when you arrive. If you don't see them (or Alaska Discovery guides), call them at 907-784-3202. We'll gather at 6:00 p.m. for a trip briefing. This is a must-attend event! You will meet your guides and other guests, have an orientation to the trip area, learn about bear-country camping techniques, and be issued rain gear and rubber boots. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Glacier Bear Lodge

DAY 2 ~ Icy Bay

After breakfast together, we will transfer to the airport for one of the most spectacular flights in Alaska! We'll fly across Yakutat Bay, right over the Malaspina Glacier and under the shadow of the massive St. Elias Range, and finally arrive on the pristine shores of Icy Bay. The remainder of the day will be spent assembling our folding kayaks, reviewing safety and paddle techniques, taking a 2-3 hour paddle (with a break) and setting up camp.

B,L,D...Camp

DAYS 3-7 ~ Kayak, Hike, and Camp in Remote Icy Bay

We'll spend the next few days exploring Icy Bay in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, often referred to as the "mountain kingdom of North America." Nature and our own desires dictate the itinerary. Most days you'll be kayaking, moving from one extraordinary camp to another and drifting among the icebergs watching birds, seals, porpoises, and the unending jaw-dropping scenery. You'll stay at some camps for two nights to allow for all-day hikes into the hills and valleys above the fjords, where you may spot bears, mountain goats, moose, wolves, and coyotes. All hiking will be done with light day packs, thus allowing us the freedom to cover as much ground as we want during the long daylight hours.

Our two-person Klepper folding kayaks are stable and easy to paddle. A foot-controlled rudder system allows the stern paddler to steer the boat in any direction, and each twosome will soon feel like old hands at this skill. Each boat will carry personal gear, as well as a share of the group food and camping gear. Camps will be established in meadows or beach flats, with superb views of the waters and surrounding glaciers and mountains (18,008-foot Mt. St. Elias!).

Although this is not a lengthy expedition, the nature of the trip requires the use of some dried foods, and we think you will be very pleased with the quality, quantity, and variety of foods prepared throughout the trip.

B,L,D each day...Camp

DAY 8 ~ Return to Yakutat and Depart

We disassemble the kayaks and board bush planes for an awesomely scenic return flight to Yakutat, arriving in time for the scheduled Alaskan Airlines service to Juneau (we have tailored this trip around this flight, and Juneau is your gateway city to other destinations). Most guests choose to return to Juneau this night and often get together for a no-host dinner at a local restaurant. We recommend you stay in Juneau this evening as some flights homeward necessitate a forced overnight in Seattle before connecting with onward-bound flights. We'll provide you with a list of hotels in the pre-departure information booklet.

Please note—There is only one Yakutat/Juneau Alaska Airlines flight a day, and **you must arrange for this flight on your own as it is not provided by Alaska Discovery**. Alaska Discovery will meet you at the airport in Juneau and take you to your preferred lodging. If you are planning to fly to Anchorage, you will need to stay overnight in

Yakutat and catch a flight to Anchorage the next morning. (There is a morning flight to Anchorage, but we cannot guarantee that we will be back in time for you to catch it.)

B...

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE!

If you like to explore on your own, plan to arrive a day or two early or extend your trip after the tour. We also offer other short trips to Southeast Alaska, including *Bears of Pack Creek*, *Whales of Point Adolphus*, as well as 4- to 8-day extensions to Camp Denali in Denali National Park (see below). Please call us for the details!

Denali National Park

Make the most of your visit to the Land of the Midnight Sun! For an incredible wildlife experience, consider a stay at Camp Denali, a beautiful natural haven deep in the heart of Denali National Park. Daily activities include hiking the backcountry with expert naturalist-guides, canoeing, mountain biking, fishing, and flight seeing. Each day you can choose which suits you best! Rustic but beautifully-appointed guest cabins have superlative mountain views of Denali, and are a short walk to the historic hand-hewn lodge and informal dining room where sumptuous meals are served. Evening programs presented by staff naturalists and visiting specialists are designed to further acquaint you with the Far North. Call us for details! *3- to 7-night stays. June-September*

Land Cost: \$1,425-\$3,325; \$1,069-\$2,494 (children 11 and younger) + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

2009 LAND COST

\$2,195 per person + tax (6-10 members)

\$2,395 per person + tax (4-5 members)

\$900 internal airfare

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

Single Supplement—\$120. 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.

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 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 in Yakutat on Day 1 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)
- ◆ charter flights (see separate cost above)
- ◆ activities as noted in the itinerary

- ◆ kayaking gear
- ◆ permit fees
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to and from Yakutat, Alaska; meals not noted in itinerary; daypack for yourself to carry daily items; sleeping bag and pad (available for rent from Alaska Discovery for \$40); 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.

How We're Giving Back

Dollar-a-Day: An easy way to contribute to conservation efforts in Alaska is to participate in Alaska Discovery's “Dollar-a-Day” program. Most of our guests donate two dollars for each day of our trips in the Alaskan wilderness. In turn, we distribute these funds among Alaskan organizations that work for conservation of the areas of Alaska in which we operate. If you choose to make an optional contribution, your donation will be included in your invoice and distributed amongst the following organizations:

- ◆ The Alaska Conservation Foundation (www.akcf.org)
- ◆ Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (www.awrta.org)
- ◆ Discovery Southeast (www.discoverysoutheast.org)
- ◆ Friends of Admiralty Island (www.friendsofadmirty.org)
- ◆ Friends of Glacier Bay (www.fogb.org)
- ◆ Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (www.seacc.org)
- ◆ Alaska Wilderness League (www.alaskawild.org)
- ◆ Audubon Alaska (www.audubonalaska.org)

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 is a vigorous trip into remote wilderness. No prior paddling experience is *required* (although we do *recommend* prior experience), but you may need to paddle against strong currents and/or wind at times. Depending on ice conditions, you will paddle a total of 35-55 miles during the trip, covering 5-15 miles in a day. This trip is participatory in nature and you must be prepared to help carry personal and group gear as well as your kayak (about 80-90 pounds among two to four people) up and down the beach. The terrain is uneven and may be slippery. You will also set up your own tent (after a demonstration by the guide), and everyone is welcome to assist with other tasks of wilderness camping.

There can be as much hiking as kayaking on this trip, depending on the ice pack. To fully enjoy the hiking aspect of this trip, we recommend you do some preliminary hikes in preparation. To avoid blisters, be sure to hike in the boots you plan to bring with you well in advance of the trip. The hiking can be strenuous as there are few trails and the terrain can be uneven and steep.

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! Though daytime temperatures usually stay above 50 degrees and may get into the 70s, storms off the Gulf of Alaska can hit us with strong winds and driving rain. But on nice days there isn't a more spectacular setting in all of Alaska! Physical conditioning before your trip will increase your enjoyment. 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.

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 over 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 Limitations of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this information on the Mountain Travel Sobek 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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