



ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

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WHALES OF POINT ADOLPHUS

3-Day Sea Kayaking & Whale Watching Adventure

TRIP DETAILS

3 days ~ Alaska

*Easy to moderate sea
kayaking, beach walks,
and short hikes (no
previous kayaking
experience required)*

2 nights camping

2009 DATES

Jul 2–Jul 4

Jul 9–Jul 11

Jul 16–Jul 18

Jul 23–Jul 25

Jul 30–Aug 1

Aug 6–Aug 8

Aug 13–Aug 15

2009 LAND COST

*\$995 per person + tax
(3-10 members)*

TRIP LEVEL

EASY TO MODERATE

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Paddle the shores of Point Adolphus, with its incredible opportunities for up-close marine mammal viewing (we're one of the few companies offering kayaking with the whales)*
- *Enjoy scenic roundtrip boat charters to and from Point Adolphus (with more chances to spot orcas and humpback whales!)*
- *Bird watching includes bald eagles, loons, and marbled murrelets*
- *Hikes to lush rainforests and tide pools containing abundant sea life*

Revised December 15, 2008



WHALES OF POINT ADOLPHUS

3-Day Sea Kayaking & Whale Watching Adventure

Join us for this easy but exciting kayaking and camping adventure at Point Adolphus, where underwater land formations and strong tidal currents create Alaska's most active whale feeding area. You'll start with a scenic cruise aboard a charter boat from Gustavus to our deluxe camp at Point Adolphus, then, after a thorough kayak lesson, test your paddling skills in the calm waters.

Days are spent kayaking and watching for orcas, sea lions, eagles, sea birds, and humpback whales (we're one of the few companies to offer the opportunity to see whales up close from a kayak!), hiking the beaches, or exploring the old-growth rainforest of Chichagof Island. And if you like to fish, bring your fishing pole, buy a license, and see if you can catch a trout or salmon (if they are running) for dinner!

At night, enjoy scrumptious dinners, then fall asleep under the canopy of the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, while listening to the blows of whales frolicking just offshore. A charter boat returns you to Gustavus.



ITINERARY

☞ **Rendezvous**—You should arrive in Gustavus, Alaska, prior to Day 1 of the trip. Gustavus is accessible by air taxi and Alaska Airlines (travel information will be included in your trip packet). We recommend you stay at the Annie Mae Lodge (907-697-2346; www.anniemae.com). We will arrange transportation for you on Day 1 to the Alaska Discovery warehouse for a pre-trip meeting where you will get outfitted for the trip.

Note—We will try to adhere to the following schedule. The exact itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and tides.

DAY 1 ~ To Point Adolphus

Meet your guides and other guests at the Alaska Discovery warehouse (see above). You'll then have an orientation to the trip area, learn about bear-country camping techniques, and be issued rain gear, rubber boots, and water proof bags for you to pack your personal items (extra luggage may be stored in Gustavus). If you have any packing questions, your guides will be happy to assist you.

After the meeting, we drive to the Gustavus dock and board our charter boat for the scenic cruise across Icy Strait to Point Adolphus on the north shore of Chichagof Island in the Tongass National Forest. This is an excellent time to begin looking for humpback whales. After off-loading our gear onto shore we'll enjoy lunch, then set up camp for the next two evenings. We'll camp both nights near Point Adolphus, sometimes within earshot of whales breathing offshore. You'll set up your own tent (after a demonstration from the guide), and the guides will prepare all meals, but everyone is welcome to share in the tasks of wilderness living. After an introductory paddling orientation, we'll go for an afternoon paddle. 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, and each twosome will soon feel like old hands at this skill. Each kayak will carry personal gear.

L,D...Camp

DAY 2 ~

Kayaking the productive waters along Chichagof is one of the best ways to see and experience Alaska's Inside Passage. We paddle along the scenic shores, watching for wildlife and exploring the area, including beachcombing along the shore or hiking in the island's rich forests. The area is noted for its humpback whales, sea lions, sea otters, and seals, and we may also see bald eagles, loons, marbled murrelets, and other birds that are rare in many parts of the world. We'll travel four to five miles a day in the kayaks. The pace will be leisurely, but there may be more challenging times when we will battle winds or ocean currents.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 3 ~

After a hearty breakfast, we pack up camp and have the opportunity for a last paddle. After lunch, we meet the charter boat for a final cruise across Icy Strait, arriving back in Gustavus by the mid-afternoon. Once back, we can drop you off at your lodging (cost on your own), or at the Gustavus airport. We time our arrival in plenty of time for you to catch the late afternoon/evening Alaska Airlines flight departing daily from Gustavus to Juneau, or you may use a local air taxi to fly to Juneau or elsewhere in Southeast Alaska. 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.

B,L...

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE!

Make the most of your visit to the Land of the Midnight Sun! 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 *Denali National Park*, *Whales of Point Adolphus*, *Bears of Pack Creek*, and *Glacier Bay Escape*.

Denali National Park. For an incredible wildlife experience, consider a stay at Camp Denali, a beautiful natural haven deep in the heart of Denali National Park. For over 50 years Camp Denali has inspired people from around the world. Not less than eight major peaks of the Alaska Range command the view from its unique hillside location and Mount McKinley is mirrored in the still waters of its natural centerpiece, Nugget Pond. 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)



Bears of Pack Creek. Where else can you take a scenic floatplane trip, kayak into a rainforest wilderness, and see Alaskan brown bears? Join us for one of the world's best bear viewing experiences on Admiralty Island, a lush rainforest wilderness with the largest density of brown bears in the world. In fact, the native Tlingit People call the island Kootznoowoo, the "Fortress of the Bears." From Juneau, a scenic floatplane flight brings you to a secluded beach and our comfortable base camp. From here you'll kayak the shores of Admiralty Island National Monument, looking for brown bears, eagles, and marine wildlife. You'll also paddle to the world-famous Stan Price/Pack Creek Brown Bear Sanctuary to spend a full day observing bears up-close, with a chance to see family groups with playful cubs grazing the meadows or fishing the stream. We're the only company to offer overnight trips to the Pack Creek area!

3-days. June-September. Land cost from \$995 + \$300 internal airfare + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

Glacier Bay Escape. Glacier Bay's fascinating geology, plentiful wildlife (including the 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.

5-days. June-September. Land cost from \$2,395 + \$160 internal airfare + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

2009 LAND COST

\$995 per person + tax (3-10 members)

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

What's Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, guides, group gear and equipment (2-person tents, rain gear, rubber boots, and water proof bags)
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ kayaking gear
- ◆ permit fees
- ◆ boat transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to and from Gustavus, Alaska; accommodations in Gustavus; 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 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 trip operates at a relaxing pace, with paddling of 4-5 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. 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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