

# ALASKA DISCOVERY

A Mountain Travel Sobek Company



*Celebrating  
35 Years*

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## TRIP DETAILS

*8 days ~ Alaska*

*Moderate glacier trekking,  
whitewater rafting  
(Class III rapids), mountain  
biking, and sea kayaking*

*4 nights camping,  
3 nights inns*

## 2007 DATES

*Jun 7–Jun 14*

*Jun 28–Jul 5*

*Jul 11–Jul 18*

*Aug 8–Aug 15*

## LAND COST

*\$2790 per person + tax  
(6-10 members)*

*\$3090 per person + tax  
(3-5 members)*

*\$200 charter flight*

# ALASKA GOLD

**Southeast Alaska Multisport Adventure!**

TRIP LEVEL  
MODERATE

## HIGHLIGHTS

- *Whale watching and sea kayaking at Point Adolphus, the most active feeding grounds for humpback whales*
- *Learn to walk on a glacier!*
- *Whitewater rafting on the headwaters of the Tatshenshini River*
- *Cycle along the Chilkat River, which flows into the Lynn Canal, the deepest fjord in North America*

Revised June 18, 2007



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# ALASKA GOLD

## *Southeast Alaska Multisport Adventure!*

This is a multi-activity adventure beyond compare, and surely worthy of the designation Alaska “Gold!” Gateway to twenty-four million acres of protected wilderness, Haines, Alaska (rated by *National Geographic Adventure* in 2004 as one of 10 “great adventure towns”), is the perfect departure city for this trip designed especially for people who want to “do it all.” Raft the Class III whitewater of the upper Tatshenshini River as it winds through the Yukon wilderness; cycle the coastline of Chilkat State Park, with majestic glaciers and 7,000-foot peaks as your backdrop; trek and camp on the Davidson Glacier, geared up with crampons, ice axe, and helmet; paddle a kayak in the nutrient-rich waters of Icy Strait, where humpback whales abound. Unique transportation between activities includes charter boat, bush plane, and even a traditional-style Tlingit war canoe! A touch of wilderness camping mixed with a few nights in cozy inns make this trip an excellent choice for the active traveler looking for excitement and challenge—with a decidedly soft edge.



## ITINERARY

### **DAY 1 ~ Travel to Haines, Alaska**

Travel to Haines, Alaska, 40 minutes north of Juneau by air taxi. (There is also almost daily fast ferry service from Juneau to Haines, about a 2½-hour trip.) Transfer to the designated group hotel (TBA). Most of the air taxis offer complementary transfers from the Haines Airport. Please call ahead to verify.

You will need to arrive in Haines no later than 5:00 p.m. in order to attend the mandatory **pre-trip meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. at** the hotel. You will meet your Alaska Discovery guide and your fellow travelers, then adjourn for a delicious Alaskan dinner following the pre-trip meeting. The next morning we pick everyone up early, so you will want to get plenty of rest tonight.

*D...Haines hotel TBA*

### **DAY 2 ~ Rafting the Blanchard**

After an early breakfast, we hop into vans and head over the Chilkat Pass into the Yukon’s Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness Park. Whitewater rafting is our agenda on the Blanchard section of the upper Tatshenshini River. The breathtaking scenery of this pristine wilderness area is enhanced by the exhilarating Class III whitewater rapids. After an exciting and awe-inspiring day, we drive back to Haines and enjoy a quiet evening at our accommodations.  
*B,L,D...Haines hotel TBA*

Note—Because we are making a border crossing into Canada, you will need a passport as proof of nationality. Please check visa requirements for entering Canada if you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen (US citizens will need a passport as of December 31, 2006). If you are traveling with children and both parents are not present, Canadian

customs requires a notarized letter from the child's absent parent(s) saying that they are aware of their child's whereabouts. A photocopy of the absent parent's ID(s) and phone number are needed. Minimum age for child participation on this trip is 12.

### **DAY 3 ~ Cycling in Haines – Davidson Glacier**

We trade paddles for bike helmets and head out of Haines toward Chilkat State Park. Our guides will lead us on a moderately challenging 10-mile ride along magnificent coastline. We cycle past the remains of historical Letnikof Cove Cannery, a reminder of Haines' beginnings as a deep-sea port, as we feast our eyes on the stunning 7,000-foot Cathedral Peaks and sparkling Rainbow and Davidson glaciers in the distance. A picnic lunch will be served on the beach.

After our ride, we return to our hotel for a quick shower. Then, grab your bags and we're off to the mountains! We travel by ferry and traditional-style Tlingit war canoe to the foot of the Davidson Glacier. We have dinner in camp and settle into tents for our first evening at the glacier.

*B,L,D...Camp*

### **DAY 4 ~ Hiking on the Davidson Glacier**

Any day that begins with strapping on crampons has to be full of adventure. Today, we head up to the ice! Our professional mountain guides gear us up and give us an introduction to glacial trekking and ice climbing. Then we set out onto the Davidson Glacier to test our newly acquired skills. We spend a spectacular day gaining altitude and are rewarded with jaw-dropping views (this is a favorite activity of many of our past guests!). We return to camp in the evening for a delicious meal.

*B,L,D...Camp*

### **DAY 5 ~ Hiking on the Davidson Glacier – flightseeing over Glacier Bay National Park**

Today we journey from the mountains to the ocean. After breakfast, we head back onto the ice for another morning to practice our newly acquired skills. After lunch, we will take a water taxi back to Haines, then board small bush planes and take a short flight over the peaks we just climbed and a breathtaking flightseeing excursion over spectacular Glacier Bay National Park. The end of our flight brings us to the quiet village of Gustavus, where we spend the evening at a cozy B&B.

*B,L,D...Gustavus B&B TBA*

### **DAY 6 ~ Kayaking at Point Adolphus**

After a hearty breakfast, our own charter boat will carry us across Icy Strait to our campsite at Point Adolphus, the richest and most productive feeding grounds for humpback whales. Our guides give us a kayak lesson and then we hit the water. Traveling in two-person sea kayaks allows us to glide silently through pristine waters, observing the abundant marine life. Humpback whales, sea otters, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, porpoise, orcas, bald eagles, and dozens of marine bird species frequent this area. After a magical day, we enjoy one of the finest meals this side of the Fairweather Range, then retire in our tents and fall asleep to the sound of whales feeding.

*B,L,D...Camp*

### **DAY 7 ~ Point Adolphus**

Don't be surprised if you wake to the splashing and blowing of humpbacks. They often treat us to a breakfast show along the shoreline of our camp. We'll spend the day kayaking among whales, sea lions, seals, bald eagles, sea birds, and other marine life, and exploring the verdant old growth forest.

*B,L,D...Camp*

### **DAY 8 ~ Point Adolphus**

After breakfast, we go for one last paddle. Shortly after lunch, we'll meet our boat for our trip back to Gustavus, watching for whales along the way. Upon arriving at the dock, we will pick up any luggage we left, and drive to the airport for a mid-afternoon 40-minute flight back to Juneau. We are happy to drop you at your lodging if you are spending the night. If you plan on departing from Juneau on this day, please book your departure for after 6:00 p.m. *B,L...*

### **Family Departures Available**

Want to travel with your kids? Minimum age is 12. Call us for the details.

## **LAND COST**

\$2790 per person + tax (6-10 members)

\$3090 per person + tax (3-5 members)

\$200 charter flight (Davidson Glacier–Gustavus)

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

Single Supplement—\$350. 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 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 Haines and Gustavus
- ◆ all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, guides, group gear, and equipment (2-person tents, sleeping bags and pads)
- ◆ charter flight (see separate cost above)
- ◆ sightseeing and activities as noted in the itinerary, including necessary gear and equipment
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ permits
- ◆ ground transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

### **What's Not**

Airfare to Haines, Alaska, and return from Gustavus; 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; hotel transfer to Haines the day before the trip begins; 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. Good flexibility, balance, and physical strength are important as we will be doing a variety of activities.

There are portions of the trip where there are no facilities of any kind available. An adventurous spirit, a positive attitude, and a willingness to deal with possible wet, cold and windy conditions are a must! At Point Adolphus, you will set up your own tent (after a demonstration by the guide), and you are always 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.

## 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](http://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 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](http://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 also find all this information on the Mountain Travel Sobek website at [www.mtsobek.com/faq](http://www.mtsobek.com/faq).

### **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](http://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](http://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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