



ALASKA DISCOVERY
A Mountain Travel Sobek
Company

P.O. Box 35003
Juneau, Alaska 99803

T: 1 800 586 1911
F: 1 800 956 7488
info@alaskadiscovery.com
www.alaskadiscovery.com



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BEARS OF THE KATMAI COAST

TRIP DETAILS

7 days ~ Alaska

*Day hikes to view bears,
½ day easy sea kayaking
(optional)*

*3 nights hotels, 3 nights
expedition cruise ship*

2009 GROUP TRIPS

*Jul 25–Jul 31
Aug 14–Aug 20*

2009 LAND COST

*\$5,995 per person + tax
(8 members)*

*\$6,195 per person + tax
(6-7 members)*

\$350 internal airfare

Bear Viewing & Cruising Along the Remote Coast of Katmai National Park & Preserve

TRIP LEVEL
MODERATE

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Enjoy some of the best close-up (and safe) bear viewing in Alaska in Katmai National Park and Preserve*
- *Travel by float plane and expedition cruise ship—no camping!*
- *Kayak the shores of Kodiak Island, with its high diversity of wildlife, including shorebirds, harbor seals, and whales*



BEARS OF THE KATMAI COAST

Bear Viewing & Cruising Along the Remote Katmai Coast

Experience some of the best brown bear viewing in the world on a small expedition cruise ship along the spectacular and remote coast of Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve. Though perhaps best known as the location of the "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," a result of the fiery explosion of Katmai Volcano in 1912, this is also one of the best (and safest) brown bear viewing areas in all of Alaska. Plentiful food sources that attract the bears make them more tolerant of one another (and us!). In this remote wilderness, it's possible to see up to 30 bears in just a few hours—almost like viewing lions on the Serengeti plains!

This is a part of Alaska most people never see, and our adventure here is an experience of true wilderness, but with all the comforts of home. By day you'll venture ashore along isolated beaches and into rugged inland meadow valleys in search of brown bears and other wildlife. Nights find you relaxing in the comfort of either the *M/V Kittiwake* or the *Alaskan Leader*. You'll find either ship is an ideal home base for exploring the rugged Katmai coast. Before the cruise, you'll spend a day kayaking the coast of Kodiak Island with a chance to spot harbor seals, sea otters, and shore birds.



ITINERARY

☞ This trip begins with a rendezvous in Kodiak, Alaska, on Day 1. You may arrive at any time this afternoon or evening. Alaska Airlines offers direct flights to Kodiak, with routing usually through Anchorage.

DAY 1 ~ Kodiak

Arrive in Kodiak, Alaska. Upon arrival, transfer on your own to the Best Western Kodiak Inn. They have a complimentary airport shuttle, and you can call from the courtesy phone in baggage claim. You will meet the group tomorrow morning over breakfast at 9:00 a.m. (your guide will leave a note for you at the front desk with additional information). The rest of the day is free to explore Kodiak. Dinner is on your own.

Best Western Kodiak Inn

DAY 2 ~ Sea Kayaking Kodiak Island

This morning you will meet your guide and the rest of your group for a mandatory pre-trip meeting over a delicious breakfast at the hotel. After the meeting, we'll head out to explore one of Kodiak's most unique locations—Anton Larsen Bay. With a short drive through a mountain pass from the city of Kodiak to the kayak launch, the bay offers pristine wilderness, distinctive geology, and sheltered waters. There are frequent sightings of Arctic Terns and Parakeet Auklets (through mid-July), in addition to Kodiak's more abundant sea birds such as the glaucous-winged gull, red-necked phalarope, and, of course, the bald eagle. There is also a chance we may spot fin whales from a distance, and regular sightings of harbor seals & sea otters round out the possibilities for this trip. (*Note*—the kayaking is optional and if you don't wish to participate, you can spend time in Kodiak to explore the shops, galleries, and museums.) In the evening we return to Kodiak for dinner at a local restaurant.

B,L,D...Best Western Kodiak Inn

DAY 3 ~ Float Plane to the Katmai Coast – Begin Bear Cruise

We're up early for a 1-hour float plane trip over the coastal wilderness of Katmai National Park. Along the way we'll have scenic views of recently erupted volcanoes, huge glaciers, and possibly pods of whales swimming below us. Once at the coast, we'll meet up with our ship (either the *M/V Kittiwake* or the *Alaskan Leader*), waiting for us in a protected bay. Typically the pilot will bring the float plane right up to the ship, so you can come aboard by walking up the floats; at times we will bring a skiff out to meet the float plane, and transfer to the ship on the skiff.

After stowing your gear and taking some time to explore our new floating home, we'll have a safety meeting and a group orientation. Next, we'll enjoy a quick bite to eat, maybe some Alaskan salmon, fresh vegetables, and some fresh-baked pies. When everyone is ready, we'll hit the beach for our first trip ashore and our first look at the Katmai brown bear.

B,L,D...Aboard the M/V Kittiwake or the Alaskan Leader

DAYS 4-5 ~ Bear Tour of Katmai Coast

The next two days are spent cruising the coast. Each morning on the ship the aroma of fresh-baked muffins and whole grain breads from the galley will be a hint of the delicious breakfast our cook is preparing. Take your mug of fresh-brewed coffee on deck as you look out to sea for a pod of humpbacks or orcas, and then enjoy a hearty breakfast sitting around the galley table as the captain fills you in on the day ahead. An easy hike to a puffin rookery or a pristine glacier-fed waterfall could be on tap. Harbor seals, sea lions, and otters could also steal our attention for a while, but we never forget that we are in bear country.

Accompanied by an experienced naturalist guide, we'll take our skiff into isolated bays along the Katmai coast, where we'll put ashore to hike and view magnificent brown bears. Perhaps we'll head inland to a sedge meadow,

climbing to the top of a grassy knoll where we can spot the bears grazing in the near distance. Mid-summer we'll find them congregating at the salmon-rich streams and rivers of the Alaska Range or perhaps at a nearby pristine waterfall. It's not uncommon to see up to a few dozen bears at a time, and because there are ample food sources, the bears are tolerant of one another (and us!) and grow accustomed to seeing humans watching them. Be prepared, too, for glimpses of eagles, red fox, and a myriad of other birds and wildlife. At the end of our long ("long" being an understatement—this is the land of the midnight sun after all!), exhilarating day of bear viewing, bird watching, fishing, and sightseeing, it's back to our floating lodge for a nice hot shower and a gourmet meal. Fresh produce is flown in every week, and tasty Alaskan seafood is a highlight of our dinners. The rest of the evening gives us time to relax and enjoy discussing the events of the day while the ship takes us to our next day's destination.

B,L,D each day... Aboard the M/V Kitiwake or the Alaskan Leader

DAY 6 ~ Bear Viewing and Fly Back to Kodiak

After a morning of bear viewing, we'll fly back to Kodiak by float plane in the mid-afternoon. Farewell dinner at the our hotel.

B,L,D...Best Western Kodiak Inn

DAY 7 ~ Depart

Transfer on your own to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flight.

B...

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 Alaska, including *Denali National Park*, *Whales of Point Adolphus*, 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. For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/cdl.

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)



Whales of Point Adolphus. 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. For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/wpa.
3-days. June-September. Land cost from \$995 + 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. For details, call us or visit www.mtsobek.com/mts/ges.
5-days. June-September. Land cost from \$2,395 + \$160 internal airfare + per night tax (per person, double occupancy)

2009 LAND COST

\$5,995 per person + tax (8 members)

\$6,195 per person + tax (6-7 members)

\$350 per person charter flights

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

Single Supplement—requested single supplements are not available for this trip due to accommodation restrictions while aboard the ship. If you're traveling alone, we'll try our best to find you a roommate. If that's not possible, we will charge you a "forced" single supplement of \$400.

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 hotels and ship cabins
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ roundtrip floatplane flight from Kodiak to Katmai Coast and return
- ◆ sightseeing and activities as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ ground/water transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

Airfare to Homer and return; meals not noted in itinerary; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Mountain Travel Sobek, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides, and ship crew; airport transfers; 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, either by phone or the Internet. In addition, many travelers elect to use their "frequent flyer" miles when traveling with us. **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

Explore in comfort aboard the *M/V Kittiwake* or the *Alaskan Leader*

We offer you passage aboard two small ships, both which are great platforms for plying the coast of Alaska. The experience of life aboard ship is great: both are stable, roomy, warm, and cozy, and we are in protected waters so it is extremely rare that you will experience any discomfort as we cruise the coastline. There are places to congregate and places to be alone. Camaraderie develops as we share experiences and knowledge, and the well-experienced crew will provide you and your family with a high quality and safe wildlife viewing experience.

M/V Kittiwake: Originally designed as an Alaskan fishing vessel, the *M/V Kittiwake* is 100 feet long and is considered a very seaworthy design. The living quarters on the boat are roomy by small boat cruising standards, with large, comfortable bunks, and clean, bright, well maintained galley and eating areas. There are two bathrooms, and a shower with plenty of hot water. And, a reverse-osmosis water maker provides excellent quality drinking water. The wheelhouse is equipped with all the modern electronic navigation aids and radio equipment. Two radars, two depth sounders, two satellite phones, two VHF radios, two GPS's, computerized charts, and an autopilot assure safe navigation and communications. We have two skiffs for transportation to and from the shore and handheld VHF radios for communication, both of which carry emergency gear and safety equipment. The *M/V Kittiwake* is Coast Guard approved for commercial use and carries all required safety equipment including three life rings, a 15-man life raft, a rapidfix GPS interfaced EBIRB, ample fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and flares. A small library, computer, VCR, cassette, and CD player are also on board.

Alaskan Leader: The 110-foot *Alaskan Leader* is a comfortable ship, and can accommodate up to 12 guests. The main cabin lounge area provides a comfortable gathering area with wrap around leather sofas, large picture windows, and a 74" HD TV with onboard satellite TV and the ability to replay your day's videos or photos for all to enjoy. We will have private staterooms with queen and king-sized beds for couples, as well as rooms with comfortable twin size mattresses. The onboard satellite system allows for email and phone communication in remote areas of the Alaskan wilderness.

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 and have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. You should be in good physical condition and enjoy hiking. This trip will be at a relaxing pace, but you will be outdoors in possibly very wet conditions and hiking in rugged terrain for 6-8 hours per day. Hikes are relatively short (2-3 miles) and there is plenty opportunity to rest while watching/photographing the bears. The sea kayaking day is easy to moderate (6-8 miles) and no experience is necessary.

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 30 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 hold the only permit to guide overnight sea kayaking expeditions in Glacier Bay National Park, and are one of the few companies with permits in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Gates of the Arctic 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 (see above). 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.

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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