

# CRUISE ALASKA

Glacier Bay, Fjords & Canadian Inside Passage

**24 May 2023**



SMALL SHIP CRUISING ABOARD  
SEABOURN ODYSSEY

**17 Day Fully Hosted Small Group Tour**



## CRUISE ALASKA 24 May 2023 – 9 June 2023

### WED 24 Vancouver, Canada

ⓓ

This evening we join our direct flight from New Zealand to Vancouver. On arrival, we will be transferred to our hotel for a 2-night stay. The remainder of the day is free to rest up and relax after the flight before we meet up for dinner this evening.

### THU 25 Vancouver, Canada

ⓑ ⓓ

A gentle start to the day with breakfast in our hotel while we try to act mature and control our (childlike) excitement in preparation for what is going to be a big tick off the bucket list.

Today we spend the full day together exploring Vancouver and its surrounds.

Dinner together tonight.



### FRI 26 Your Alaska journey begins

ⓑ ⓓ

This morning is free to explore this waterfront city at your leisure.

Early this afternoon we transfer from our hotel to board our luxury cruise ship, Seabourn Odyssey. With only 229 suites will see us relaxing on our 14-night Alaska cruise with our ship departing late afternoon at 5.00pm.

We transit the Seymour Narrows.

The Seymour Narrows is a 3-mile/5 km stretch of the Discovery Channel north of Vancouver Island, British Columbia that is notorious for the strength of the tidal currents flowing through it. The average width of the narrows is just 750 metres. During extreme tides, the current through the narrows is subject to severe Venturi effect, resulting in an increased velocity that can reach 15 knots.

For much of its modern history, there was an additional hazard in the narrows called Ripple Rock, a shallow obstruction that claimed no fewer than 119 ships and 114 lives. In 1958, after months of tunnelling and preparation, Ripple Rock was blown up in the largest commercial, non-nuclear explosion ever recorded in North America. Still in navigation of Seymour Narrows is dependant on tidal and other conditions and requires skill and technical accomplishment.

Dinner is served onboard tonight with fellow guests.

### SAT 27 Cruising Queen Charlotte Sound

ⓑ ⓓ

A chance to acquaint yourself with our ship today as we spend the day cruising the Queen Charlotte Sound. The Queen Charlotte Sound lies between the Queen Charlotte Strait, which winds between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland in the south, and Hecate Strait, which is northward, adjacent to the Haida Gwaii Islands off the Pacific coast of British Columbia.

It is a broad reach in the long shipping route called the Inside Passage threading the myriad islands stretching from Washington's Puget Sound to Alaska.

## Trip Highlights

- CITY OF VANCOUVER & SURROUNDING AREAS
- CRUISING QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND
- KETCHIKAN
- INSIDE PASSAGE
- SITKA
- GLACIER BAY CRUISING
- INIAN ISLANDS & ICY STRAIT POINT
- HAINES
- JUNEAU
- WRANGELL
- CRUISING THE BEHM CANAL
- PRINCE RUPERT
- PRINCESS ROYAL CHANNEL
- ALERT BAY

## Cruise Alaska

**Alaska's rugged charm will quickly win you over.**

For 17 magical days, of which 14 are on board the premier Seabourn Odyssey we sail through Alaska's legendary Inside Passage, surrounded by some of the most dramatic wildlife rich scenery on earth: a perfect combination of natural and cultural history.

We travel through awe-inspiring ice-capped waters to see rustic Sitka, Wrangell and Ketchikan, the old growth forests and glaciers of the Misty Fjords, Glacier Bay cruising, plus hidden gems such as the Inian Islands.

You will experience the vibrant native cultures, rustic frontier towns and abundant wildlife in an atmosphere of intimate, six-star ultra-luxury.

Our ship this tour is the sleek and elegantly charming Seabourn Odyssey. Each day onboard offers delicious dining options, world-class entertainment, and enriching activities.

A perfect way to explore Alaska.

### SUN 28 Ketchikan, Alaska

(B)(D)

Welcome to Ketchikan Alaska, nestled on the bluffs of the southwestern coast of Revillagigedo Island this is a picturesque coastal town with a colorful frontier history, standing at the southern entrance to Alaska's famed Inside Passage.

It began as a salmon cannery in 1885, built by company employee Mike Martin at the mouth of Ketchikan Creek. Once dubbed the 'Canned Salmon Capital of the World,' today government, commercial fishing, and tourism are its main industries.

The renowned Creek Street, perched on stilts along the mouth of the creek, would bring lasting infamy to the area for the red-light district that burgeoned there during the Gold Rush.

The town's site first served as a camp for Tlingit people, and for thousands of years this has been their home. Their rich culture is being preserved to this day. A visit to Ketchikan is not complete without visiting one or all of Native American sites such as Totem Bight State Park, Potlatch Park, Saxman Native Village and the Totem Heritage Center.

Together, these locations comprise the world's largest collection of standing Native American totem poles.

Arrive 7.00am Depart 3.00pm

Aboard we transit through the Snow Pass and Decision Passage

In the passage between Sumner Strait and Clarence Strait in Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago, midway between Price of Wales Island on the west and Zarembo Island on the east, is a small cluster of islands with a picturesque passageway between them called Snow Pass. It makes a scenic up-close route for your Seabourn ship during the transit.



### MON 29 Sitka, Alaska

(B)(L)(D)

A stroll through the streets and National Historic Park of Sitka is a glimpse into its unique and colorful past. A blend of Tlingit and Russian cultures defines this first capital of Alaska. Although fish canning and gold mining were the initial catalysts for growth in Sitka, the construction of an air base during World War II truly paved the way for Sitka to come into its own.

One of Sitka's most intriguing structures is the Cathedral of Saint Michael, built in 1848 to honor a Russian Orthodox bishop. Sitka's history begins thousands of years ago with the Tlingit people and their use of the land for sustenance and spirituality. Old Sitka, located just north of the present-day settlement, was founded by Russian American Company trader Alexander Baranov in 1799.

Originally named Novo-Arkhangelsk (New Archangel) under Russian rule, its name was changed to Sitka ("Shee Atika") after Alaska was purchased by the United States in 1867. Sitka is a Tlingit word meaning 'by the sea.'

Arrive 8.00am, Depart 5.00pm.



### TUE 30 Glacier Bay Cruising

(B)(L)(D)

Designated as an International World Heritage Site in 1992, Glacier Bay is also a National Monument, a National Park and a designated Biosphere Reserve. Over millennia, Glacier Bay has experienced many major advances of its glaciers. When first surveyed in 1794 by a team under the command of British captain George Vancouver on *HMS Discovery*, its vast glaciers extended well beyond present-day margins of the bay.

Temperate, coniferous rainforest dominates its southern shores. Black and brown bears, wolves, moose, eagles, and ravens all go about their daily routines, while harbor seals and whales frolic within the bay waters.

Glacier Bay has two major arms, East and West, and over fifty named glaciers, some of which push forward at three to six feet per day. Combined with Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Canada's Kluane National Park and Alesk-Tatshenshini Park, Glacier Bay encompasses the largest protected wilderness area on earth. This is a truly a place of awe-inspiring beauty and an icon of wild Alaska.

Arrive 7:00am, Depart 6:00pm

### WED 31 Inian Islands & Icy Strait Point, Alaska

(B)(L)(D)

As the gatekeepers to the northern entrance of the fabled Inside Passage, the remote Inian Islands stand between Cross Sound and Icy Strait, exposed to the high energy seas of the Pacific Ocean. Tidal currents surging through the narrow channels separating the islands can be severe. Nicknames like 'The Laundry Chute' justify their notorious reputations. Arrive 4.30am, Depart 10.30am.

Icy Strait Point is a unique community on Chichagof Island near the entry to Glacier Bay National Park. It was created and is owned by a corporation of over 1300 Native Americans of various local Tlingit tribes, for the purpose of offering visitors an enjoyable, educational experience of Alaska's native cultures, as well as the human and natural history of the region. Arrive 2.00pm, Depart 9.00pm

### THU 1 Haines

(B)(L)(D)

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Arrive 8.00am, Depart 5.00pm

### FRI 2 Juneau, Alaska

(B)(L)(D)

Juneau, Alaska's capital, is accessible only by air and sea, due to the rugged mountain terrain that surrounds the city. It has been a world-class travel destination since the early 1900's.

The city has plenty to offer the outdoor adventurer. You may choose to explore on foot along the Perseverance Trail or around Mendenhall Glacier, or board one of the many local whale-watching boats or view the mountains and extensive glaciers of the Juneau Icefield from a helicopter.

Although founded by Alaskan pioneers, this area was in use for thousands of years by the Tlingit people and was originally settled by the Auke tribe, taking advantage of the abundant food and natural resources provided by the land and sea.

Their descendants continue to gather clams, gumboot chitons, grass, and sea urchins to this day. Originally named Harrisburg in 1880, after the gold prospector Richard Harris, the name was later changed to honor his partner, Joe Juneau.

Arrive 7.00am, Depart 9.00pm.



### SAT 3 Tracey Arm or Endicott Arm (B)(L)(D)

A short distance south from Alaska's capital of Juneau, where Holkham Bay cuts into the coastline under a dramatic backdrop of high snow-capped peaks and the verdant Tongass National Forest, lies the entrance to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness.

From Holkam Bay, the waterway is bisected into Tracy Arm to the north and Endicott Arm to the south. Each arm terminates at a stunning blue river of ice: North and South Sawyer glaciers in Tracy Arm and Dawes glacier in Endicott Arm. It is hard to imagine that thousands of years ago these now-distant glaciers joined in Holkham Bay, more than thirty miles from their present locations. Extremely active, the glaciers calve frequently, filling their fjords with icebergs, some three stories in height.

Brown and black bears, wolves, deer, mountain goats, seals and many seabirds frequent this vast wilderness region. Designated as a wilderness area in 1980, Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness covers an area of 653,179 acres (264,000 hectares) -- and one fifth of its area is covered by ice.

### Cruising Stephens Passage

One of the straightest stretches of the Inside Passage is the Stephens Passage just south of Juneau, a 105-mile channel between 5,000-foot peaks that cuts through the Alexander Archipelago between Admiralty Island on the west and the mainland and Douglas Island on the east. It is a good place to be on deck, because Admiralty boasts more bears than people, and the spruce and hemlock forests come right down to the water. The Passage is generally considered some of the best whale-watching water in Alaska, and also holds plentiful populations of huge Steller sea lions, as well as flocks of gulls and guillemots that clatter aloft as the ship passes. The passage was named by George Vancouver in 1794 after being charted by Joseph Whidbey.

### SUN 4 Decision Passage, Wrangell, Stikine Strait (B)(L)(D)

#### Transit Decision Passage

Decision Passage is the western end of the Sumner Strait, which runs through the Alexander Archipelago into the Pacific Ocean in Southeastern Alaska, bounded on the north by Kuiu Island and Cape Decision, the location of a 1932 lighthouse. This is the route your ship takes when coming from or going to the colorful historic community of Sitka on the west coast of Baranof Island, which was originally the Russian fortress town of New Archangel.

One of the thousands of islands of the Alexander Archipelago, Wrangell Island sits at the heart of the Tongass National Rain Forest and receives approximately 203 cm of rain per year. The city of Wrangell, a true Alaskan frontier town, sits at the northern end of the island, a short distance from the mouth of the mighty Stikine River. The history of Wrangell is deeply rooted in the Tlingit people, the fur trade and the gold rush. The Stikine River trade route brought the Tlingit people here thousands of years ago, evidenced by some forty petroglyphs at Petroglyph Beach State Historic Site and Totem Park.

Arrive 8.00am, Depart 6.00pm.

Stikine Strait is a picturesque channel in the Alexander Archipelago of Alaska between Zarembo Island and Woronkofski and Etolin Islands near the mouth of the Stikine River south of Wrangell. It first appears on an 1848 Russian chart as Stakhin Strait and has been spelled variously on many charts since that time.



### **MON 5** Cruising Behm Canal and Misty Fjords (B)(L)(D)

The 108-mile Behm Canal runs from the Clarence Strait through the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska, and into the channel separating Revillagigedo Island from the mainland. It forms part Inside Passage on the route between Ketchikan and the Misty Fjords National Monument. The canal was named by George Vancouver during his surveying expedition in 1793, in honor of Magnus von Behm, who had been governor of Kamchatka in the Russian Far East when Vancouver called at Petropavlovsk with Captain Cook's expedition following the Cook's murder in Hawaii.

Scottish-American naturalist John Muir compared the 2,294,343-acre (930,000 hectare) Misty Fjords National Monument to his favourite place in America, Yosemite National Park. Often shrouded in mist, Misty Fjords is a true wilderness.

It's vertical granite cliffs, which reach 3,000' (900 m) above sea level, descend another 1,000' (300 m) below the water's surface. Carved by glaciers and covered in a green carpet of mosses and lichens, Misty Fjords receives more than 150" (381 cm) of rain per year. Western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and western red cedar dominate the prolific vegetation along its shore. Mountain goats, brown and black bears, coastal wolves, sea lions, bald eagles, ravens, Dall's porpoises, orca, and humpback whales can be spotted along its shorelines and throughout its waters.

Long before the arrival of John Muir, the Tlingit people lived and moved throughout this region, surviving on what the land provided. Evidence of their historic and ongoing presence is recorded in the many pictographs found along the shores of Misty Fjords.

Arrive 8.00am, Depart 6.00pm.

### **TUE 6** Prince Rupert, British Columbia (B)(L)(D)

Prince Rupert, set amongst the coastal mountains, is the jumping-off point for travelers joining the coastal ferries to Haida Gwaii, Vancouver or north to Alaska. Highlights include the quaint Cow Bay with its shops and restaurants, the Museum of Northern British Columbia, the totem carving house or the stunning sunken gardens.

Prince Rupert certainly has abundant wildlife. Whether you join a local boat for whale-watching, hike along the Butze Rapids or take a scenic flight, you are sure to be pleased. The region is home to the highest concentration of grizzly bears in North America. The Khutzemateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary, established in 1994, was the first area in Canada to be protected specifically for grizzlies and their habitat.

Founded in 1910, the town was named for Prince Rupert, who was a governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670. Prince Rupert is the northern terminus of the Canadian National Railway and an important port for goods moving towards Alaska.

Arrive 8:00am, Depart 11:00pm





### WED 7 Scenic Cruising Greville Channel, Whale Channel & Princess Royal Channel (B)(L)(D)

Grenville Channel is a long, well-protected channel along the northern British Columbia coast between the large Pitt Island and the mainland. It is an important shipping lane, and you are likely to see ships of many different types and sizes as you pass through. The shores are mountainous on both sides, with two notable peaks about halfway through, Mt. Batchellor on the east side and Mt. Saunders on Pitt Island to the west. There are a number of Indian Reserves and Marine Parks in the mountains and narrow waterways off the channel.

The Princess Royal Channel separates the largest island along British Columbia's coast from the mainland. It is located roughly halfway between Bella Bella in the south and Prince Rupert in the north, in one of the province's most remote areas. Princess Royal Island was named in 1788 by Captain Charles Duncan, in honor of his ship, the Princess Royal. The island is uninhabited, although there are two small villages in the channel, the First Nations community of Klemtu on Swindle Island and Hartley Bay on the mainland. Wildlife, by contrast, is plentiful, including Kermode, black and grizzly bears, deer, wolves and foxes. Golden and bald eagles nest in the region, as well as the endangered marbled murrelet. In the waters, there are abundant salmon, elephant seals, whales, orcas and dolphins.

Arrive 8.00am, Depart 6.00pm.



### THU 8 Alert Bay, British Columbia (B)(L)(D)

Located on the now-dormant Alert Bay volcanic belt, Cormorant Island is host to Vancouver Island's oldest northern community, the small town of Alert Bay. It is located in the traditional territory of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation and today is a blend of both aboriginal and pioneer culture.

A walk along the shores of this tiny 0.69-square mile (1.8 sq. km) island will amaze you with its history, spectacular views, and abundant wildlife. Remnants of its former fish-salting plant from the 1800's remain along the harbour. The U'mista Cultural Centre is Canada's longest running First Nations Museum and home to the famed Potlach Collection. This collection of ceremonial regalia was confiscated for preservation by Canadian authorities in 1922, and finally returned to the community during the 1980's. Seabirds, humpback, orca, and gray whales, sea lions and white-sided dolphins are all present in the surrounding waters. Alert Bay was named in 1860 for the Royal Navy ship *HMS Alert* which conducted survey operations in and around the region.

Arrive 6:00am, Depart 4:00pm

Scenic cruise through the Johnston Strait and transit back through the Seymour Narrows on our journey back to Vancouver.

Johnstone Strait is a well-protected shipping route passing 68 miles/110 km along the northeast shore of Vancouver Island between the island and the mainland of British Columbia. The strait is between 1 ½ miles and 3 miles wide and leads from the broad Georgia Strait through a narrow channel called Discovery Passage. The strait was named by Vancouver in 1792 for James Johnstone, the master of one of his tenders during the survey expedition that revealed Vancouver Island to be an island. There are no cities or towns on the strait. The Johnstone Strait is the summer range of a large pod of seasonally resident orcas which are frequently seen in the area.

### FRI 9 Disembark Vancouver - Home (B)

Who can believe it, today we sadly come to the end of our bucket list tour. What memories, what quality, what an itinerary, fun and friends, what an experience! Enough memories to talk about for the next two years. We have hotel rooms reserved until our flight home this evening.

# Alaska Cruise

## 17 Day Tour Includes

**YOURTours home pick up (T&C's apply)**

**Fully hosted from NZ with a YOURTours Host**

**All flights, including domestic flights in NZ and arrival and departure transfers (T&C's apply)**

**14-day cruise aboard Seaborn Odyssey with onboard expert insight and knowledge**

**All gratuities to ship staff**

**Complimentary beverages throughout your voyage.**

**Multiple open-seating dining venues for breakfast, lunch, and dinner onboard**

**Spacious all-suite, all ocean-front accommodations**



**Tour pricing from NZD \$18,995** per person/twin share  
Based on an Oceanview Twin Suite Category A (limited availability)

Category	Suite	Twin Share	Single
A	Oceanview Suite	\$18,995 pp	\$26,995 pp
A1	Oceanview Suite	\$19,500 pp	\$27,995 pp
V1	Veranda Suite	\$19,995 pp	\$28,995 pp
V2	Veranda Suite	\$20,995 pp	\$29,995 pp

**You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.**

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.



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