



Sample Itinerary

The following itinerary is typical, but your particular cruise may be different. The vessel routes change due to the vagaries of weather or the spontaneous interests of guests. **Fly fishers should**

note that this is not a dedicated fly-fishing trip – unlike programs at Orvis-endorsed fishing lodges elsewhere.

Guests may anticipate several fishing opportunities during the course of a cruise, but there will be some days when other activities such as whale-watching or glacier viewing take center stage. Vessels carry limited fly fishing gear, so serious anglers should bring their own.

SATURDAY – Arrive Sitka

Sitka is a remote fishing community located southwest of Juneau on Baranof Island, easily reached by scheduled commercial jet service. Arrive on one of several flights per day and check into the Sitka Westmark Hotel. Enjoy exploring the quaint town, and at dinnertime try a local seafood delicacy in the hotel dining room. Your hotel is included in your charter.



SUNDAY – Board ship, cruise to Sukoi Inlet



Sleep in, enjoy a late checkout, have lunch and meet the crew in the hotel lobby to be transported to the dock for a safety orientation and departure. The ship heads to the first night's anchorage in scenic

Sukoi Inlet on Kruzof Island. Bald eagles and Steller sea lions are a common sight when leaving Sitka Harbor. After a short cruise and an exquisite first-night's dinner on board, you visit with old and new friends in the ship's comfortable salon or stroll the deck soaking in the beauty and serenity of Southeast Alaska. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to take a few minutes this evening to buy a fishing license from your Captain.

MONDAY – Salisbury Sound & Sergius Narrows

Not far from the night's anchorage is a popular saltwater sportfishing area, Salisbury Sound, where an all-morning salmon trolling trip aboard one of the ship's sturdy skiffs may be of interest to the angling enthusiast. All fish caught can be taken home at the end of a cruise. Crew will custom-process your catch, vacuum pack and freeze it on board, and advise you on the best methods for shipment. Alternatively, the ship's Chef is happy to prepare your catch for dinner and share recipes. If



fishing doesn't interest you, join in a skiff tour along the rocky shoreline to spot sea otters. You'll be accompanied by an on-board Naturalist who can share insights into the natural history of this region. We are in the heart of a coastal

Alaskan wilderness so we'll keep a lookout for brown bears, often seen grazing on lush beach grasses in early summer...easy to spot from a skiff. By lunchtime, we return to the ship, haul anchor and head through the swirly waters of Sergius Narrows into placid Hoonah Sound. We cruise until dinnertime, when we find ourselves anchored in Saook Bay, another scenic Southeast Alaska harbor. After dinner, your crew can launch kayaks so you may paddle quietly around the anchorage savoring the wonder of your first full day in the wilds of Alaska.



TUESDAY – Paradise Flats & Kelp Bay

The stream at the head of Saook Bay flows through a broad grassy beach estuary called, appropriately, Paradise Flats. This place is heaven for fly fishers. We spend the morning here casting for Dolly Varden char and Cutthroat trout (or, later in the season, pink salmon). We then haul anchor after lunch and head along the coast of Baranof Island into the broad waters of Chatham Strait. During this afternoon's cruise we sometimes spot Humpback whales, Dalls porpoises, Stellar sea lions and maybe, if we're lucky, Orcas (killer whales.) Our shipboard



Naturalist is happy to give a presentation while under way on the marine mammals we typically encounter on a cruise. Sometimes, if whales are scarce, we'll stop and jig for halibut off Morris Reef – 40 pounders are 'keepers' and great eating, but 150 pounders are 'breeders' which we like to release unharmed if possible. While some guests go fishing, others may want to take a quick hike up to Lake Eva to visit a grove of Sitka Spruce trees that are among the tallest and largest-girthed in the Tongass National Forest. There are choices of activities every day, and the ship's ratio of crew to guests allows small groups to head off in different directions according to interest, with knowledgeable guides leading each group.



WEDNESDAY – Red Bluff & Pybus Bays – Admiralty Island



Early risers can go kayaking before breakfast, keeping an eye open for harbor seals and dapper harlequin ducks. Both these species are common and have little fear of kayakers on the water. Photographers, in particular,

love these early morning outings. Afterward, the ship gets under way to cruise along the "waterfall coast" of Baranof Island - one of the most scenic coastal wilderness areas in Southeast Alaska. Glaciers form in high snowfields on the island, and in summer their melting waters gather to flow in noisy cascades, tumbling off cliffs and creating a spectacle of lofty cataracts everywhere one looks. When we get to Red Bluff Bay, we'll divide the ship's company into several groups to go ashore. Some may choose to fly fish in the

river at the head of the bay. But the highlight of this place is the short, steep hike up onto the brick red bluffs which give this place its name. Here, wildflowers are dense in summer and natural rock gardens are resplendent with splashy displays of blue and yellow violets, columbine and fragrant meadow orchids. After our hike, we return to the ship again and haul anchor, bound for Pybus Bay on Admiralty Island where we'll spend the night. The local native Tlingit people call the island Kootznoowoo, which means "fortress of the bears."



THURSDAY – Admiralty & Brothers Islands

Today is our final opportunity for hiking and fishing, and we've saved some of the best of both for last. We pack lunches and head out in the skiffs right after breakfast for a full day of adventuring. Brothers Islands, off Pybus Bay, are notable for their unique mossy terrain. A gentle walk ashore on one of these small islands is like entering a rainforest fairyland. Great numbers of Steller sea lions will sometimes haul out on the islands' rocky headlands, and if we're careful we can approach these noisy "rookeries" to within about a hundred yards by skiff without disturbing the animals. Halibut fishing in Pybus Bay is often productive, as is fly-fishing or spin casting for Pink



salmon or Dolly Varden char in Donkey Creek at the head of the bay. Bald eagles perch solemnly in the tree tops waiting for an opportunity to snatch an unwary fish from the water. Bears are common here, and your guides on shore will carry a tackle box under one arm and a shotgun, just in case, under the other.



FRIDAY – Glacier Day

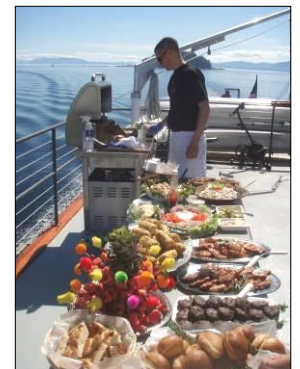


We are bound today for either Tracy Arm or Endicott Arm, two spectacular fiords carved deep into the Coast Range by rivers of ice. Both these inlets feature tidewater glaciers, so navigation can be made challenging at times by the presence of floating bergs. If the entrance to one fiord is blocked, we will enter the other. Our objective is to cruise to the head of a fiord and approach to

within about a mile of the face of a glacier where we may watch great chunks of ice, some the size of our ship, crash into the ocean in a frenzy of foam and spray. Harbor seals find abundant food in the nutrient-rich waters of these inlets and, for a period of time in summer, we can observe female seals hauling-out onto ice bergs in order to give birth to their young. Late in the day we leave the fiords behind and anchor in Taku Harbor, not far from Juneau, where guests enjoy a particularly sumptuous cruise wrap-up dinner, followed by an "underground tour" of the ship's engine room and a celebratory "roast & toast" with crew.

SATURDAY – Juneau, disembark ship

We arise early and take breakfast under way, with ancient and untouched spruce and hemlock forests marching past the ship's portholes as we make our way back to civilization. By 9:00 AM we are tied to the dock in downtown Juneau where guests disembark. Transport is provided to the hotel or to the airport in time for a flight home.



For Juneau to Sitka, simply reverse the itinerary.