

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE

TOUR DATES

June 24 - July 3, 2014

TOUR LEADERS

Kevin Loughlin

UPON ARRIVAL

The hotel shuttle and/or Kevin will meet you at the airport upon arrival in Petersburg, Alaska.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

Accommodations in Petersburg before and after cruise (one night each end). All meals on board the yacht. Bottled drinks, hot drinks, beer and wine with dinner while on the yacht.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

Flights, passport fees, airport taxes, luggage fees, trip insurance, gratuities, fishing licenses, meals in Petersburg, phone calls, laundry, or any items of a personal nature.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL NEEDS

Nearly everything on the yacht is included in the tour cost. However, there will be some things for which you will need CASH:

- 1) \$30-50 per person fishing licenses (purely optional as you may choose not to fish.
- 2) \$120 per person for gratuities (optional) on board the yacht for the crew.
- 3) Approx. \$300-500 for meals on shore, emergencies or souvenirs.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Wildside Office 888-875-9453
Wildside Mobile 610-564-0941



Icebergs flow from LeConte Bay after calving from the immense glacier. © Kevin Loughlin

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Our 84' yacht, the M/V Northern Song, offers accommodations for our 6 participants plus leader and crew. This small ship adventure will take us through areas where larger ships can't venture, to explore the often hidden Inside Passage!

Whales, bears and birds abound where mountains meet the sea! The Tongass National Forest, our nation's largest national forest and the most extensive remaining temperate rainforest in the Northern Hemisphere. Throughout our travels we'll find unique opportunities to view eagles, bears, whales, and the breathtaking vistas.

Each day will offer new adventures as we can kayak, hike, fish, or venture in our zodiacs to find wildlife and scenery to enjoy and photograph.

Our luxury yacht offers roomy common areas for workshops and sharing our images. Meals prepared by our chef are fresh, varied and delicious! With a maximum of only 6 participants on a private yacht, this trip offers the most intimate exploration available for this region!

FOCUS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife and landscape are our focus to enjoy and photograph in the beautiful grandeur of the Tongass Wilderness. We will take our time and thoroughly immerse ourselves into our surroundings. There will be hands-on and classroom photo learning opportunities.

WILDSIDE NATURE TOURS
WILDLIFE ADVENTURES WORLDWIDE

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE

TRIP LEADERS

KEVIN LOUGHLIN



Kevin Loughlin was raised to appreciate nature while exploring the woodlands of Pennsylvania as a child. At age six, during a family trip through the American West, Kevin became fascinated with photography as well seeing the new and different birds throughout North America. Instilled with a love for travel and seeking new, exciting destinations he felt a desire to share his experiences with others and in 1993 he created Wildside.

Kevin's photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as WildBird, Audubon and Philadelphia Magazines, as well as the National Geographic web site and many natural history books.

Kevin teaches beginning birding classes and nature photography classes through several adult education venues as well as through seminars and workshops for groups, organizations and schools. Kevin also founded the PA Young Birder's Club, sharing his love of nature while inspiring kids to get outside.

CAPTAIN DENNIS ROGERS

Dennis is a professional mariner with over thirty years of experience navigating the waters of Alaska as a commercial fisherman. He is a U.S. Coast Guard certified master of vessels to 100 tons and is trained and certified in first aid and CPR. Continued educational courses in marine safety, technical training, first aid, and even a certification as an emergency medical technician have added an even greater degree of expertise, and an extra margin of precaution. With enthusiastic affection for the Alaskan outdoors and a fascination with its diverse wilderness flora and fauna, Dennis continues his quest to experience more of the wonders of this area he calls home, Southeast Alaska!

OUR CREW

In addition to Captain Dennis we will also have a first mate to handle the skiff and assist with the kayaks and fishing and anything else we need.

Our chef will prepare incredible meals and snacks every day. He makes sure that hot coffee, tea and cocoa will always be available.

RECOMMENDED READING AND FIELD GUIDES

- *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America*; Kenn Kaufman
- *Kaufman Field Guide to Mammals of North America*; Kenn Kaufman
- *Alaska's Birds - A Guide to Selected Species*, Robert H. Armstrong
- *The Nature of Alaska: An Introduction to Familiar Plants, Animals & Outstanding Natural Attractions*, James Kavanagh
- *Way of the Grizzly: The Bears of Alaska's McNeil River*, Tom Walker
- *Roadside Geology of Alaska*, Cathy Connor and Daniel O'Haire
- *Travels in Alaska*, John Muir

FLIGHT OPTIONS

Alaska Air is the only airline that flies into Petersburg (airport code PSG), however, they do partner with American Airlines and Horizon Air. Here are TWO recommended flight options from Seattle:

ARRIVAL DAY

Alaska Air flight #65

Depart SEA @ 6:55 AM

Arrive PSG @ 10:47 AM

- with 2 stops, no change of planes

ARRIVAL DAY

Alaska Air flight #75 & 64

Depart SEA @ 11:20 AM

Arrive PSG @ 2:46 PM

- change planes in Juneau

DEPARTURE DAY

Depart at anytime that works best for your schedule, however, you will most likely require an overnight in Seattle on your return if flying to east coast.

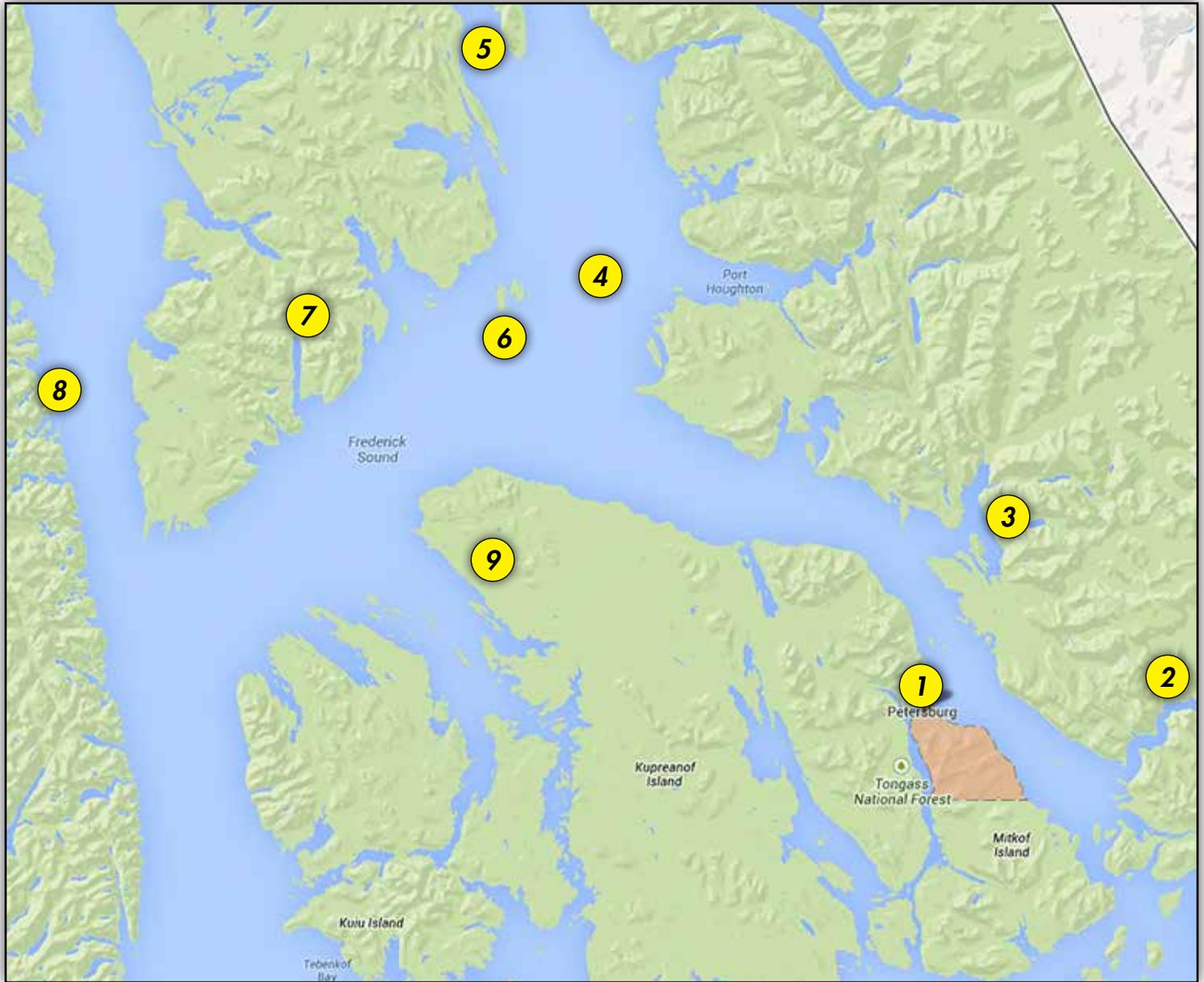
LUGGAGE

Be sure to check with your chosen airlines to determine luggage limitations! Alaska air may require large carry-ons to be checked when boarding flight due to limited overhead storage.

UPON ARRIVAL

The hotel shuttle and/or Kevin will meet you at the airport upon arrival in Petersburg, Alaska.

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE



POSSIBLE LOCATIONS WE WILL VISIT

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 PETERSBURG | 5 SEYMOUR CANAL | 9 VILLAGE OF KAKE |
| 2 LE CONTE GLACIER | 6 THE BROTHERS ISLANDS | <i>Although we would love to be able to visit all these locations, our time is limited. We will choose each day's activities and destinations according to weather and wildlife!</i> |
| 3 THOMAS BAY | 7 ELIZA HARBOR | |
| 4 FIVE FINGERS LIGHTHOUSE | 8 WARM SPRINGS BAY | |

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE



Humpback whales will be regular sightings during our trip. © Kevin Loughlin

ABOUT OUR YACHT - THE M/V NORTHERN SONG

Operated by Capt. Dennis Rogers, a USCG licensed master, the Northern Song is an 84 ft. motor yacht designed for the Alaskan waters. It has a 24 ft. beam with stabilizing fins plus fore and after thrusters for fast maneuverability.

AVAILABLE ON BOARD:

- Electricity is available via two 110 volt generators with standard outlets available throughout the yacht.
- Fresh drinking water is stored on board and pumped through the sinks for drinking, while desalinators are used for the shower and toilet water.
- Four guest cabins, with private bathrooms and showers.
- A huge dining area and sitting room, the salon, offers incredible comfort and convenience. A large screen TV will be used for presentations.
- Two motor boats are available for use at any time. They can be lowered into the water via a deck crane at a moment's notice to explore the shoreline or visit with the whales.
- Four tandem sea kayaks are available for use at any time for exploring or sea mammal viewing.

NOTE: A safe distance must be kept from all sea mammals for their protection and safety, as well as ours. These rules are posted in the main bridge of the yacht.

ALASKA FACTS

Referred to as "Seward's Folly" after the deal was made, our 49th state was purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000 or 2¢ per acre! Alaska's name is based on the Eskimo word "Alakshak" meaning great lands. Alaska achieved statehood on January 3, 1959.

Size: 656,425 square miles

Population: 627,000

Capital City: Juneau

Side note: Juneau is the only US capital city accessible only by plane or boat.

Largest City: Anchorage

State Sport: Dog mushing

State Bird: Willow Ptarmigan

State Flower: Forget Me Not

State Tree: Sitka Spruce

State Gemstone: Jade

State Mineral: Gold

State Insect: Four Spot Skimmer

(A dragonfly, NOT a mosquito as many believe. Dragonflies eat mosquitoes... no wonder it earned the privilege!)

PETERSBURG

Petersburg is located on the northwest end of Mitkof Island, where the Wrangell Narrows meet Frederick Sound. It lies midway between Juneau and Ketchikan, about 120 miles from either community. It lies at approximately 56.8125° North Latitude and -132.95556° West Longitude. Petersburg's climate is characterized by mild winters, cool summers and year-round rainfall. Average summer temperatures range from 40 to 56; winters average from 27 to 43. Annual precipitation averages 106.3 inches, including 97 inches of snow. A true fishing town that includes one of the last remaining salmon canneries in North America, Petersburg has less than 80 hotel rooms for visiting tourists!

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE

SUNRISE / SUNSET

The days in June are long in Alaska!

Sunrise: 4:00am Sunset: 9:48pm

ABOUT OUR ITINERARY & SCHEDULE

There are many wonderful places to visit within the Frederick Sound region. We will let the weather and wildlife guide our choices as we explore quiet coves and secluded beaches.

As the days are long, we may not see every sunrise and sunset, but we will rather pick and choose wisely when and where to be during the 'golden' hours.

WHERE TO EAT IN PETERSBURG

As mentioned, Petersburg is a fishing town, not a tourist town! The two biggest restaurants in or near town have closed leaving smaller venues from which to choose. This is why we do not include meals while in Petersburg! Here are some options:

COASTAL COLD STORAGE (in town)

They offer breakfast and lunch take-out, with just a few seats in their tiny shop.

TINA'S KITCHEN (next to Scandia House)

From her trailer, Tina sells delicious American/Korean take-out. She has a small heated hi-top tent with tables to sit.

PAPA BEAR'S PIZZA (in town)

Okay pizza take-out if you're in the mood.

JOAN MEI (1/2 mi. out of town)

Fair Chinese food... considering where we are. Relaxing walk to and from.

EL RINCON (in town)

Good Mexican food in a smoky bar with a bad reputation. Early meals are best!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN PETERSBURG

Arrival in Petersburg and transfer to the Scandia House or Tides Inn. Most participants will be arriving on the late afternoon flight. In the evening we will enjoy a short orientation to the Inside Passage.

DAY 2 - PETERSBURG / BOARD THE NORTHERN SONG

In the morning we will explore Petersburg on foot. Walking along the docks and then out along the shoreline we will see many birds and meet some of the local people. The fishing season will be in full swing so there will be a lot of activity! We will grab a take-out lunch and eat at the picnic tables by the dock if weather permits.

Early afternoon we will board our yacht—the M/V Northern Song. After a brief boat & safety orientation, the mooring lines will be cast off to cruise out Wrangell Narrows into Frederick Sound! After motoring north to Thomas Bay we will anchor in either Scenery Cove or Cascade Creek and weather permitting go for a hike after dinner.

DAY 3 - FREDERICK SOUND EXPLORATION

The following days' adventures are dependent upon weather and wildlife. Since we are not committed to a strict schedule, we can take advantage of new discoveries that we make along the way—stopping to enjoy birds or whales or a magnificent Alaskan sunset—whatever opportunities may be presented to us.

Adjustments will be made for tides and weather conditions. It will be up to the participants—through the guidance of the leaders—to decide the preferences and priorities for each of the next five days. However, each day will include one or more of the activities listed on the "Activities and Locations" page, in no particular order, in any one of the magnificent locations, also listed on that page.

DAYS 4 - 8 FREDERICK SOUND EXPLORATION

See list of possible activities and locations—next pages.

DAY 9 - RETURN TO PETERSBURG

After a morning of exploring we will head back to Petersburg, arriving mid- to late-afternoon. We will return to our hotel to relax and prepare for our return home. Dinner on your own with take out and possibly meet at the local bar to eat together.

DAY 10 - FLIGHTS HOME

Return flights home throughout the day.

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE



The swim deck allows water-level photos © Kevin Loughlin

SOME LOCATIONS WE MAY VISIT DURING OUR TRIP

There is never enough time to “do it all,” however, these are the main highlights we will try to fit into our amazing journey!

LE CONTE GLACIER (WHERE LISA AND KEVIN GOT MARRIED!)

This most active of Alaska’s tidewater glaciers is almost continually calving and is one of the fastest retreating glaciers in the world. Watch in awe as first a few bits of ice break up and fall like snow; then huge chunks, some as large as a house, sheer off with a thunderous roar. What makes Le Conte glacier so unusual is that the ice thickness averages 500-700 feet below the surface of the bay, allowing submarine calving called “shooters” which rise rapidly to the surface. The bay is also home to thousands of harbor seals, which rest on the floes.

THE BROTHERS ISLAND

There is a Steller sea lion haul-out here which typically has hundreds of animals. It is a great photographic opportunity! Here we will also do some hiking in the beautiful temperate rainforest, with no bears, making it a safe location to wander with a camera.

ADMIRALTY ISLAND / ELIZA HARBOR

This beautiful remote bay on Admiralty Island is a National Monument and home to the highest concentration of brown bears in the world—averaging one bear per square mile. It is possible to photograph bears feeding on salmon in streams.

CAPE FANSHAW / FIVE FINGERS LIGHTHOUSE

This location offers some of the best opportunities for salmon or halibut fishing (in season) as well as whale watching!

NEVER REFUSE A HELPING HAND

We have an extremely important rule during our tours:

NEVER REFUSE A HELPING HAND!

There is never an excuse to turn down a hand that has been extended to you! To that same end, never be ashamed to extend a helping hand to others!

When our boat crew helps with the zodiac boarding and disembarkation, always grab their wrist, this is call the “sailor’s grab” and is the best way to assure our safety.

SHORE LANDINGS

These landings require exiting the zodiac into shin-deep water. Rubber boots are certainly required as the waters are cold!

ZODIAC EXCURSIONS

The zodiac is a small motorboat, our landing craft to explore the inlets and shoreline.

KAYAK EXCURSIONS

We have kayaks on board and when opportunity arises, we will paddle quiet coves and inlets for more wildlife viewing.

BIRDING AND WILDLIFE VIEWING

Amazing wildlife is why we are here, but we should never approach any wild animal. Binoculars are helpful for viewing detail. While on shore, we must remain alert for bears, wolves and other predators which are great to photograph... from a safe distance!

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE

TRAILS AND HIKING

Most trails in the Tongass Wilderness are poorly groomed and will be muddy and slippery. We highly recommend using a walking stick with a metal tip, as well as wearing good quality rubber boots.



XTRATUF 15" Pro Boots are the Alaska fisherman standard. Our boat has a few pairs available to borrow, but not all sizes on board, so a good fit is not guaranteed.

Having your own pair is best, and may be purchased in Petersburg or on-line for about the same price.

Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops and others will have equal or better quality boots as well.

SHOES ON BOARD

Inside the yacht we typically use slippers or stocking feet. **NO OUTSIDE SHOES CAN BE WORN INSIDE.** Keep soft-soled shoes handy for quick trip out onto the deck for wildlife encounters. Crocs work well for this as do most sneakers or walking shoes. Remember that it may be raining, so waterproof shoes are nice to have, but not a necessity... socks will dry quickly in the engine room!



Bald Eagles are abundant in the Inside Passage © Kevin Loughlin

CASCADE CREEK

Spectacular Cascade Creek tumbles down from the mountains until it roars into the bay. The only "improved trail" in the Tongass follows the creek up the mountainside to a small lake. We will enjoy this wonderful hike through the spruce forest and misty spray of the creek.

BARANOF ISLAND / WARM SPRINGS

A beautifully rugged island, it is the location of Warm Springs Bay, natural hot spring pools and incredible scenery!

VILLAGE OF KAKE

The native village of Kake, on Kupreanof Island, offers a salmon stream that can attract black bears when the salmon are running. This may happen anytime from late June through late July.

ELIZA HARBOR

Certainly one of the most beautiful harbors in the region (though it does have a lot of competition), this harbor is also a great spot for brown bears and loons.

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE



Black Bears may be found on some islands. © Kevin Loughlin

ACTIVITIES WE WILL ENJOY

PHOTOGRAPHY

This goes without saying: "Never be without a camera!" However, throughout your trip Kevin will offer hints and tips to make your photos the best possible.

WHALE WATCHING

This area has a significant population of whales numbering in the hundreds. Our group will decide how much of each day is devoted to whale observation, which is some of the best found anywhere. We may even witness the rare, cooperative bubble-net feeding behavior of the humpbacks, which is exclusive to the whales of this area. Orcas and dolphins are also common in these waters.

BEAR WATCHING

Bears outnumber people in this area 2:1! Known for the huge brown bears (a.k.a. grizzlies), black bears are also common. We may have opportunities to observe both species feeding in the rivers or along the shoreline.

BIRDING

Along with the common Bald Eagles, many species breed on the northern tundras, then begin their southward migration in July. We should have the opportunity to see some of these species as they begin their journey.

LENS RENTAL DISCOUNTS

Our photo opportunities will run from panoramic landscapes, to breaching whales, to eagles in flight to bears far away. With this in mind you may consider renting a lens or two you have been wanting to try!

Wildside trip participants receive a 10% discount from LensRentals.com by using the code "WILDSIDE10" in the special instructions box at checkout.

Contact Kevin before renting to be sure it will be a good choice for the trip.

KEEPING CAMERAS DRY

This is a temperate rainforest, so expect rain, even though June is drier than most months. There are less expensive rain covers available from Op-Tech, or high quality covers by Lens-Coat.

For Kayaking, bring a waterproof dry-bag to keep gear safe while paddling, bring the camera out only when needed.

TRIPOD

Be sure to bring a tripod, as even on the yacht it will help to get better images of wildlife and scenery.

Another good tool is a 'Skimmer'... a plastic disk to which you can mount a ball head. The Skimmer allows you to use your camera at ground level, yet easily slide it into different positions.

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE

FISHING

Fishing licenses are available on board the yacht for about \$50-\$75 per person. These licenses will be good for salmon, halibut and other fish as well as for shrimping and crabbing. We may only fish a couple times, as the group prefers, but it may be well worth it! If you want to 'help' with the shrimp traps and crab traps, a license is required.

Fish can be kept frozen on board the yacht, then packaged at Coastal Cold Storage upon return, then shipped or packaged as luggage to then enjoy when you get home (at additional cost).

PHOTOGRAPHY

From morning to night, our main objective is to get some great images of wildlife and scenery. Although we will have some wonderful distraction... like eating, fishing and maybe even sleep, we want to be sure photo opportunities abound.

Kevin and Captain Dennis will strategize each evening and each morning and even throughout the day as weather and wildlife pose challenges and opportunity.

There is so much to see and do each day, we will never be bored... the difficulty is making choices!



Five Fingers Lighthouse is a great location for Humpback Whales. © Kevin Loughlin

PLANTS AND MAMMALS

The Tongass rain forest is rich in plant life which we will explore and ID. At all times we will keep a watchful eye for deer, otters, seals and sea lions.

HIKING AND BEACHCOMBING

We will often explore on foot to get the full experience of the forest and coastal zones.

KAYAKING

Kayaks are available anytime to paddle with the whales or to explore rivers and shorelines. For those not comfortable with kayaking, we have two Boston Whaler motor boats at the ready to explore, photograph, fish, whale watch, etc.

SWIMMING

Swimming? Yes, in the hot springs on Baranof Island! Well, more like sitting in the hot springs' natural pools. This is a fun stop if we make it that far... if the wildlife is very active, we won't!

FISHING

Each day we can help the crew lay out traps for crab and prawns. Our catch will be enjoyed at mealtime! Fishing for halibut and salmon are also options (licenses available on the boat for an additional fee).

FLIGHTSEEING (ADDITIONAL CHARGES APPLY)

See Alaska from the air in a float plane! Approximate cost is \$200 per person and can be scheduled at any time.

ALASKA INSIDE PASSAGE PHOTO ADVENTURE



The Stellar's Sea Lion haul out along Brothers Islands is very picturesque.
© Kevin Loughlin

THE INSIDE PASSAGE AND TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

The panhandle of Alaska stretches from the southern tip of Prince of Wales Island 500 miles north to the far edge of the Malaspina Glacier west of Yakutat Bay. The protected waterway that winds through the thousands of islands along the coast of the panhandle is known as the Inside Passage. The 17-million acre Tongass National Forest covers more than 80 percent of this expanse.

This waterway flows past tight-knit communities, islands with grizzly bears, and rivers holding precious salmon roe in gravel. A turn to the west shows thousands of islands protecting the mainland from the full fury of the storms moving in from the Gulf of Alaska.

Though it is the world's largest temperate rain forest, almost half of the Tongass is covered by ice, water, wetlands and rock. There are 11,000 miles of shoreline where regal mountains rise from the tidewater to overlook a mostly undeveloped and isolated landscape. Water defines practically everything. At higher, frigid elevations, dramatic "rivers of ice" creep along at one to two inches per day. Like tributaries of a river, glaciers flow together, but the ice paths do not mix; each icy stream retains its own pathway, leaving a striped pattern of rock as it grinds down a valley.

Even the face of the sea changes as it surges through narrow channels and up glacier-carved fiords. Tides in Southeast Alaska, while not as severe as some of the tides further north, have a variation of as much as 25 feet in a 12-hour period.

Tidal highs and lows alternate every 6.5 hours.

On the forest floor, tangles of tree roots grow over rocks and fallen logs forming dark, moist caves. Ferns, dwarf dogwood and false lily of the valley thrive, while marsh marigold and skunk cabbage grow in wetlands. In the canopy, western hemlocks push their floppy tops up through the mist while Sitka spruce brave the icy salt-laden winds along the water's edge. Sub alpine fir, red cedar, yellow cedar and hardwoods like alder, find their own spot in THE FOREST.

Unlike most places in the lower 48 states, wind, not fire, disturbs the forest, sometime downing acres of trees at a time. In areas protected from the wind, usually on the north side of ridges, trees may live to more than 500 years old. Ninety percent of these old growth forests remain as they were 100 years ago.

The Tlingit, who inhabited this rich forest for thousands of years before the northern Europeans, had no word for "starvation." This is a testimony to the remarkable richness of the area and its amazing abundance of fish and wildlife that supported the Native peoples. Much of this abundance continues today.

The largest known concentration of bald eagles gather each fall and winter along the Chilkat River near Haines where thousands of these majestic feast on late runs of salmon. In spring, a eulachon run lures hundreds of eagles to the Stikine River Delta near Wrangell. Also, thousands of shorebirds stop on this delta to rest from their long trek north to their summer grounds.

The sea joins the land in supporting mammals. Sea otters swim primarily on the outer coast, but are making their way to more protected waters. Whales, porpoises and seals already make use of these interior waters.

On land, a species of animal may be highly concentrated on one island, then totally absent from the mainland, or another island nearby. Sitka black-tailed deer and bears forage along the shoreline; mountain goats climb along steep, rocky crags above the timberline. The forest is home to numerous other animals such as moose, wolves, beaver, fox and porcupine. Biologists estimate that 1,700 coastal grizzly (brown) bears, the highest density in North America, roam Admiralty Island.

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WEATHER AND CLOTHING

Southeast Alaska is a land of rain forests, salmon streams and glaciers, all made possible by the wealth of precipitation driven in from the Gulf of Alaska. The Inside Passage has the highest annual precipitation averages in the state as well as the highest average temperatures. Jackets and rain gear are almost always appropriate. Rubber boots are worn so frequently that they are known as "Alaska tennis shoes" and "Sitka slippers." These boots, 14"-16" in height are recommended for our group, and although the boat has some in varying sizes for our use, not all sizes are available. They may be purchased in town upon arrival if desired, or brought with you from home.

Average temperatures in Petersburg for June range from a low of 45°F to a high of 65°F. Average precipitation for the month of June is about 3 inches. The rain usually comes in short spurts during the day, rarely at night. Pack appropriately to dress in layers to peel off as the day gets warmer. Although the actual time between sunrise/sunset is nearly 18 hours, expect about 20 hours of visible daylight in June!

FOOD, WATER AND OTHER BEVERAGES ON THE YACHT

Gourmet meals will be prepared for us each day and will often include the day's catch! Pure drinking water is provided at all times. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and beer will be available at all times, and wine with dinner while on the boat.

Most lunch and dinner entrees include seafood, some of which we will catch ourselves. Please remind us of any allergies or diet needs!

DRINKING WATER

Drinking water will be available at all times. While on board the yacht, water bottles may be refilled from the large pitcher in the dining area. The water from the faucets on the yacht is pure and delicious.

MONEY AND SHOPPING

Petersburg, though a fishing town, does have a few shops for souvenirs as well as outdoor clothing if needed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We recommend that you have your tetanus up-to-date. Insect repellent is recommended for those who are bothered by mosquitoes. Although DEET is not healthy, it does work. Be careful when and how it is applied as it will damage cameras and optics. Stand well away from other participants when spraying and never spray while on the boat!

Many of the trails are rough and slippery and we want to make sure everyone is safe. If the bays turn rough (very rare), seasickness may be of concern. Our boat has stabilizers which work wonderfully, however it may be a good idea to have some form of motion-sickness medication (consult your doctor) just in case.

Following these few simple instructions, being aware of your surroundings at all times and paying attention to verbal instructions offered in the field will help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip!

IMMUNIZATIONS

No immunizations are required for Alaska, however, we recommend that you have your tetanus up-to-date.

MOTION-SICKNESS (RARELY EXPERIENCE HERE)

If Frederick Sound turns rough (very rare), seasickness may be of concern. Be sure to have some form of motion-sickness medication (consult your doctor). The motion-sickness wristbands have been very successful for many people. They can be found at most pharmacies. Motion-sickness "patches" are probably the best option for most, but are available by prescription only. If pills, such as Dramamine are preferred, be sure to purchase the less-drowsy variety.

For more information contact the Center for Disease Control Traveler's Hotline at 1-877-394-8747 or online at <<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>>.

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ALASKA CLOTHING CHECKLIST

GENERAL

- Cap or hat for sun
- Long sleeved shirts
- Long pants - nylon recommended for quick dry
- Rain/wind jacket - 'breathable' recommended
- Rain/wind pants - 'breathable' recommended
- Undergarments - quick-dry/non-cotton are best
- Thermal underwear - quick-dry/non-cotton are best
- Fleece Jacket
- Knit hat
- Gloves
- Warm socks
- Rubber Boots (14"-16")
- Soft-soled shoes for on boat (sneakers, etc.) Warning... may get wet! Waterproof walking shoes work well, too.
- Slippers for inside yacht (no outside shoes inside!)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Binoculars
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Personal hygiene items
- Any current medical prescriptions
- Water bottle
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- Notebook and pens/pencils
- Bird and other specialty guides (See reading list)
- Daypack for hikes
- Walking stick
- Zip-lock bags to waterproof small items
- Travel alarm
- First aid kit (personal size)

LAUNDRY

There are no laundry services on board the yacht. However, if clothing gets wet we hang them in the engine room to dry quickly.

PHOTO EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

GENERAL

- DSLRs are recommended (bring 2 bodies if possible)
- Batteries (at least two per camera)
- Battery Charger
- Memory Cards (Lots of memory!)
- Backpack-style camera bag
- Sturdy tripod
- Rain cover for camera

LENSES

Everyone has their own preferences for the lenses they like. In general for Alaska you will want something similar to (but not necessarily exactly) like the following:

- Ultra-wide Angle (10-20 DX or 14-24 FX format)
- Mid-range (18-85 DX or 24-105 FX format)
- Tele-zoom around 100-400 for DX or FX
- Long Telephoto (Optional... 500+)

NOTE: You may wish to rent expensive equipment from LensRentals.com, with a 10% discount for Wildside participants. Call or email for special code and instructions.

OTHER ACCESSORIES

- Polarizing Filters
- Graduated Neutral Density Filters
- Flash

LAPTOP OR DOWNLOAD DEVICE

- Laptop computers are highly recommended, especially if you would like help with workflow and image editing. Digital download devices offer a compact, lightweight alternative. However, you will need to wait until you are home to begin editing your thousands of images!
- Adobe Lightroom is highly recommended and we will have time for learning sessions.

PHOTOGRAPHY

This goes without saying: "Never be without a camera!" However, throughout your trip, Kevin will offer hints and tips for getting better images, plus, during down-time we will have a few classroom lessons. Before your trip, do not hesitate to ask questions about equipment or technique!