

SEA KAYAK THE ALASKAN PANHANDLE



From / to Whitehorse

Whales, Stellar Sea Lions, seals and a multitude of other sea and bird life follow us along this spectacular coastline. From Hoonah, Alaska we paddle our expedition kayaks to Point Adolphus, Alaska which has the largest congregation of Humpback Whales in the Alaskan Panhandle. Full breaches and waving flukes of these intelligent giants are a daily occurrence. A most memorable journey to the sea! Previous experience is not a prerequisite, although physical fitness and comfort on the water are important.

The following is a tentative itinerary and has been designed with much thought to capitalize on the most scenic and exciting parts of the Strait. Your guides will adjust the schedule to make the best use of ocean and weather conditions. We will make sure that you have free time for your own leisure!

Itinerary

Day 1

This is the arrival day and is the first day listed for your trip. Although it is not a paddling day, we list it as Day 1 to be consistent with our other scheduled trips. The scheduled flights arrive in Whitehorse throughout the day. Be sure you arrive by 6 p.m. Please make your way to your hotel and plan to rendezvous with your guides at the Yukon Inn at 8 p.m. for an orientation meeting.

There will be a chance for last-minute questions concerning clothing, gear, packing and other details. Whitehorse is a great place to spend a few extra days. We will send you a visitor's booklet. The historic sites are interesting and different tour guides offer local day hikes, gold panning float trips through Miles Canyon and 4x4 outings in the region.

Day 2

We will meet at the lobby of the Yukon Inn at 8 a.m. (after breakfast - not covered by us). Once the van is loaded we will leisurely make our way to Skagway and then on to Hoonah by Cessna aircraft. In Skagway we will have time to look around this historic town and purchase Alaskan Fishing Licenses for those intending to fish. At the Hoonah Marina, we will have a picnic lunch and review the equipment and kayaks.

When the kayaks are loaded we will spend time with an introduction to basic paddling and rescue skills before heading off on our tour. Our destination for that day is across Port Frederick to a small cove on Hoonah Island, a few miles west along this spectacular coastline.

Day 3

This day leaves us with time to explore the immense shoreline. Our short paddle, depending on weather and seas, takes us to the coastline around Flynn Cove and Eagle Point. Here we may begin to encounter seals, Stellar Sea Lions, Oyster Catchers and Marbled Murrelets.

Day 4

From this point we embark on to Pinta Cove, a short distance from Point Adolphus. Here the wildlife show truly begins. Humpbacks travel back and forth through the straight, diving, spouting, rolling and breaching. We will be close enough for the next three days to voyage off the shore to visit with these creatures of wonder. We will have many opportunities to stop, relax and photograph these giants in their own environment.

Days 5 and 6

A short paddle around Point Adolphus itself brings us to a beautiful cobble beach that will be our home for two nights. From our camp, we look directly across the Strait to the entrance to Glacier Bay. If the weather cooperates, we will see Mt. Fairweather (15, 300') towering about the Fairweather Range. We will spend our time traveling the shoreline constantly turning our heads to locate the sound of whales. If we are lucky, we may see a pod of humpbacks traveling together and sounding off to one another. Orca's and harbour porpoises frequent this stretch of water as well. Stellar Sea Lions might play behind our touring kayaks, and seals could be seen popping their heads up amongst the kelp forests. Don't forget to watch the land as well! The islands in the Strait are home to deer, grizzly, and bald eagles to name but a few. Anglers can be well rewarded with salmon as well!

Days 7 and 8

We will then head back south along the coastline making our way toward Hoonah, always watchful for the next whale and sea lion. Camp will be on one of the islands within reach of Hoonah.

Day 9

Back in Hoonah we will make final arrangements for our departure. Around mid day we will catch our flight to Skagway and enjoy a final "bird's eye view" of the Inside Passage. In Skagway our van will be waiting for us. The two hour drive through the dramatic White Pass will bring us back to Whitehorse around 6:00 PM. Our plans are to meet for dinner later on in the evening at one of the local restaurants (not included). A great way to share a few laughs and fond memories before you head back home!

Day 10

After good-byes and a last look around Whitehorse, we will head for home with a cargo of fond and spectacular memories.

Participant Prerequisite

Our double and single kayaks accommodate beginners and experts alike

Expeditions Include:

- guides
- boats
- local air charter & ground transportation as described in the itinerary
- high quality: tents, paddles, life-jackets, waterproof pack
- all meals while on the river

Expeditions Do Not Include:

- transportation to meeting point
- personal clothing
- sleeping bag and pad
- guides gratuities
- hotel accommodation
- meals when off of the river

