



South East Alaska Wildlife Quest

6 days from Juneau

Itinerary at a glance:

Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Viewing, Salmon Hatchery, and Whale Watching

Day 2: Haines - Klukwan Native Village and Chilkat River Float

Day 3: Haines - Canoe on Chilkoot Lake, Coastal Hiking and Wildlife spotting

Day 4: Haines – Full Day of Wildlife Viewing

Day 5: Haines & Gustavus – Raptor Center, Glacier Bay Sightseeing, and Sea Kayaking in Gustavus

Day 6: Gustavus – Glacier Bay National Park Day Boat Tour and Flight to Juneau

Day 0: Arrival Day

Upon your arrival into Juneau, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Once you are settled, you will have free time to enjoy the state capital of Alaska. Your guide will let you know at what time to meet the next day to start your adventure through Alaska and the Yukon.

Meals on your own

Day 1: Juneau - Mendenhall Glacier Viewing, Salmon Hatchery, and Whale Watching

We will start the day with a narrated tour of downtown Juneau and the city's highlights. Then we are off to the Mendenhall Valley, where we will have time to see the visitor's center, hike through the Tongass National Forest, and view the famed Mendenhall Glacier. Hike to Nugget Falls, down to the lakeside beach, or check out the displays on glaciology. Upon our return, you have the option to join a tour of the salmon hatchery, or you can enjoy your free time exploring downtown. In the afternoon, we will board a catamaran to the coastal fishing town of Haines, and whale watch along the journey! We will pass Eldred Rock Lighthouse, one of the most photographed entities in Alaska, as we keep eyes out for sea lions, seals, bald eagles, Dall porpoises, humpback whales, orcas, and more! Upon our arrival in Haines, we will transfer you to your hotel. You will be at your leisure for the rest of the evening.

Included: B-L

Day 2: Haines - Klukwan Native Village and Chilkat River Float

Today we will experience the native culture of the Tlingit people on this unique visit to Klukwan, the mother village of the Tlingit Nation, located 22 mile north of Haines. For hundreds of years the Chilkat Tlingit have lived off the bounty of this special place and their close connection to the land will be further revealed throughout our visit. Their Heritage Center provides access to art treasures that have previously not been available to the public. The Whale House collection, uniquely displayed in its place of origin, allows entrance to the Chilkat's distinctive ethnic landscape. Before departing Klukwan, we will enjoy a picnic lunch while overlooking the glacially fed waters of the Chilkat River. There will also be time to visit the gift shop, where local native arts and crafts can be purchased. Leaving Klukwan we will float through the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. We will enjoy a scenic float trip (no whitewater) through the Chilkat Valley with great photo opportunities for Eagles and other wildlife amidst the grandeur of glaciated snow-capped peaks. We will spend 2 ½ to 3 hours on the water before returning to Haines. After your float, we will head back to downtown Haines, where you will enjoy free



time for the rest of the day. Check out the beaches, hike in Chilkat State Park, wander the local museums, or check out the local brewery, cafes, and restaurants.

Included: B-L.

Day 3: Haines - Canoe on Chilkoot Lake, Coastal Hiking and Wildlife spotting

Our day will start with a drive to the Lutak Inlet and the Chilkoot River Valley. The Chilkoot River corridor offers incredible wildlife viewing: brown bears, eagles, mountain goats, and spawning salmon are all common sights. Once at the lake, we will board our outboard canoes and explore the serenity of Chilkoot Lake. We will discover the inlets, coves, salmon spawning streams, and numerous waterfalls that spill from the mountains into this pristine lake. After our canoe adventure, we will return to the town of Haines and enjoy a picnic-style lunch at a private oceanside beach. Once we're back in town, join a spectacular hiking adventure that immerses you in the incredible beauty of Southeast Alaska, where you will be surrounded with amazing mountain and ocean views. From the trailhead, spend the next 2 ½ to 3 hours hiking, surrounded by views of towering, snow-capped mountains and Lynn Canal. We will share with you our knowledge of the area's flora and fauna, and the amazing glacial history of Alaska. You may see eagles, waterfowl, whales, seals, bears, and moose. Each group is outfitted with binoculars to maximize your opportunities to see up-close the wildlife and the spectacular mountain and river scenery. Afterwards, we will head to Chilkat State Park, which offers incredible views of the Chilkat Inlet, Rainbow and Davidson glaciers. The information center also has spotting scopes so you can spot the inlet wildlife, such as seals, porpoises, and whales. You will be able to spy on bears and mountain goats on the other side of the inlet. The evening will be at your leisure.

Included: B-L.

Day 4: Haines – Kroschel Wildlife Center Visit, Alpine Tundra Walk and Evening Wildlife Viewing

We will start our adventure-packed day with a narrated tour of historic Fort Seward. Continuing onto the Kroschel Wildlife Center, we will experience a hands-on visit and face-to-face encounters with rescued wildlife indigenous to Alaska and the Yukon. From this wildlife refuge, we will head up to the alpine tundra of British Columbia and explore the wildlife world above tree line. Towering peaks loom above in all directions. There are fantastic views of glaciers, cascading waterfalls, and wide expanses of alpine tundra. During the peak of the summer, there are a multitude of wildflowers. Golden eagles, ptarmigan, snowshoe hares, grizzly bears, and other wildlife frequent the area. Your guide will choose from a variety of trails and routes to best fit guest abilities. We will hike in the alpine tundra above Haines Pass; the exact route will depend on weather conditions and group ability, but wherever we go, we will enjoy gorgeous views and wandering trails. After our hike, we will head back down the highway for lunch at the 33 Mile Roadhouse. Arriving back into town, we will journey through the amazing Chilkoot Valley. On our journey to the Chilkoot River corridor, we take in coastal views along the longest fjord in North America, we may spot seals, sea lions, porpoise and whales feeding in these rich waters. The Chilkoot River is home to some of the best bear viewing in Alaska! The river's huge salmon runs bring good numbers of bears every year. Situated among rugged glaciated peaks, it is home to numerous brown bears, mountain goats, salmon, river otters, and innumerable bald eagles. This area is a birdwatcher's paradise with abundant local and migratory birds. Powerful spotting scopes or binoculars will often allow close-range views of mountain goats grazing in high alpine meadows and nesting eagles on this tour. After capturing images and experiencing the incredible natural beauty and



wildlife of the Chilkoot River corridor, we'll enjoy a seaside picnic of sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies. Following lunch, we will head to the mouth of the Chilkat River, home to the largest concentration of bald eagles in the world. Our final stop of the tour is habitat to all five species of wild Pacific salmon, drawing all of Alaska's predators to its shores. The four ice-capped mountain ranges that surround the Chilkat River provide unparalleled photography opportunities.

Included: B-L.

Day 5: Haines & Gustavus – Raptor Center, Glacier Bay Sightseeing, and Sea Kayaking in Gustavus

After breakfast, we will visit the American Bald Eagle Foundation's Raptor Center, an interpretive wildlife education center. We will watch a training session with the beautiful bird that is the symbol of America and learn about other native wildlife. After our raptor center tour, we will have the once-in-a-lifetime experience of flying over Glacier Bay National Park on our way to Gustavus. Glacier Bay is one of the most popular destinations for those visiting Alaska; however, most people see it from the bow of a ship. This sightseeing flight offers you the possibility to look down into crevasses hundreds (or thousands) of feet deep! Witness the rivers of ice flowing for miles down from the top of some of North America's tallest mountains. Once in Gustavus, we will hop on our kayaks and cross the Icy Passage. During this excursion to Pleasure Island, keep an eye for sea otters, porpoises, sea lions, minke whales, orcas, seals and bald eagles. We will paddle along the coast to explore the multitude of intertidal creatures before returning to Gustavus for dinner and leisure time.

Included: B-L.

Day 6: Gustavus – Glacier Bay National Park Day Boat Tour and Flight to Juneau

Today, we will have an early start as we board the Glacier Bay day boat and sail 130 miles through the illustrious and jaw-dropping Glacier Bay. This 7-hour tour will take you on a journey through land- and seascapes rich with wildlife, sailing through a waterway that was under a river of ice only 250 years ago. A National Park Ranger will provide informational commentary throughout the tour. We will sail very close to an isolated island to observe seabirds and marine mammals. Tufted and Horned Puffins and the Common Murre nest here, alongside Pelagic Cormorants and Black-legged Kittiwakes. The area is also the best place to see Steller Sea Lions, as their feeding grounds are close! We will enjoy lunch amidst the icebergs from the tidewater glaciers ahead. After lunch, you will be able to get closer to the river of ice hundreds of feet thick and nearly a mile wide. This will be our chance to see and hear the ice calving into the water – something you will remember for years to come! Upon arrival back to Gustavus, we will board a plane to return to the Juneau airport, where you will be able to connect with a flight home or return to your hotel.

Included: B-L

Note: While not included in the cost, our guides can facilitate group dinners at our favorite spots in town.

Weather delays and associated considerations Alaska Yukon Discovery Tours may change the scheduled itinerary due to weather, conditions, or operational conflicts. If, for any reason, one of the schedule itinerary elements is unable to operate as planned, we will implement alternate tour programming which may involve alternate locations and/or different activities.