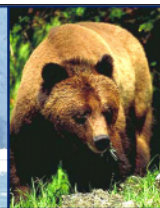


Alaska Sea Adventures

Yacht Charters & Cruises



Alaska Sea Adventures Spring Newsletter 2006

Information to help you make the most of your Alaska adventure - Share with your friends!

May 2006

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Getting to Petersburg, Alaska

One of the first questions our new travelers ask soon after making their reservation: "How do we get to Petersburg"?

Your adventure begins long before stepping aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*! Assuming all flight connections go well getting to Seattle, you'll board either Alaska Airlines flight #65 around 7:45 AM for the Ketchikan, Wrangell then Petersburg flight which arrives in Petersburg just after 11 o'clock that morning; or catch a later Alaska Airlines non stop flight to Juneau, then board flight #64 for the 40 minute flight to Petersburg landing around 5:15 PM. Just let us know when you'll be arriving in Petersburg and we'll be there to meet you and provide transportation to your comfortable lodging for the night.

If you are not traveling on a tight schedule and would like to see more of the Inside Passage than is possible at the 420 miles per hour cruising speed of Alaska Air's 737-400, try this. With a little extra planning, it's possible to end your flight in either Ketchikan or Juneau, or even Sitka, and enjoy the 8 to 12 hour water ride on the Alaska Marine Highway ferry to Petersburg. The state ferries range in size from the 235 foot long 'fast ferries' to the mainline ships that are over 400 feet long. The relaxing cruise (on very comfortable ships) navigates through some awesomely beautiful stretches of sheltered inland passages - no doubt you'll see whales, orca and porpoise.



Dear Friends,



You probably know that Alaska's Inside Passage is one of the most spectacular locations in the world - full of majestic beauty, wilderness, wildlife and wonders!

You may also know that **Alaska is changing**. The best way to SEE ALASKA NOW is with Alaska Sea Adventures - we provide enthralling, unparalleled experiences for families, couples and small groups (up to 8 persons). You can go fishing, beachcombing, exploring - view glaciers, whales, wildlife up close and personal!

I've been navigating these waters for over 30 years and I want to show you an Alaska that you can't see anywhere else. There is no better way to experience the real Alaska than on the *Alaska Adventurer*. IMAGINE...YOUR yacht, YOUR chef, YOUR Alaska! Visit our website and find out how you, your family and friends can EXPERIENCE THE REAL ALASKA. Plan now for 2006 and/or 2007.

It would be our pleasure to hear from you so please feel free to call or email us and we'll provide additional details and answer your questions. **1- 888-772-8588**.

Sincerely,

Captain Dennis Rogers

Alaska Adventurer



The Alaska Ferry System is a great way to explore the towns of Southeast Alaska.

You may also choose to ride the Alaska State ferry all the way from Bellingham, Washington to Petersburg. The Friday afternoon departure cruises the Inside Passage through the scenic waters of British Columbia and lands passengers in Petersburg Sunday evening.

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Getting to Petersburg, Alaska (continued)

Here's a tip: Most of our guests arrive in Petersburg via Juneau on Alaska Airlines flight #64. If you are on this flight, make sure that you get a seat on the left side of the jet for fantastic views of the spectacular mainland mountain range with immense ice fields and glaciers – an amazing site from the air!

One of our travelers writes: *"I had no idea of the beauty I would be seeing from the plane. I'd seen all the brochures and TV specials about Alaska – I just wasn't prepared for the lush greenery, waterfalls, glaciers and mountains. By the time I reached Petersburg, I was in love with Alaska, and this was even BEFORE the cruise!"*

So, whether you have your nose pressed to the window of a jet in awe of the beautiful Alaska below, or standing at the rail of the Alaska ferry consuming the sights and smells of an enchanting Inside Passage strait, your Alaska adventure is already well underway. Call us!

Resources:

Alaska Airlines - www.AlaskaAir.com 800-252-7522
Alaska Marine Highway – www.FerryAlaska.com
800-642-0066

Viking Travel – 800-327-2571

Viking Travel is a local travel agency familiar with all travel related reservations to get to Alaska.

See you soon!

2006 Available Dates

If you haven't made reservations yet with us for this coming summer, there are still a few open dates for an awesome custom charter, and a few cabins open on exciting guided adventures. Below is a current list of trips with space still available, *but they're filling up...*

For the latest schedule, please check the website often.

Note: We welcome groups and alumni travelers!

Guided Trips - By the Cabin

Focus on Whales Photography with Lisa Strong-Aufhauser

July 16th - 22nd/ **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Whales/Photography Adventure

October 28th - November 2nd - **Ask about Sitka Whalefest!**

Whales Photography Adventure with Dr. Fred Sharpe

November 8th - 13th - **Pre-migration whale concentration!**

Custom Charter Dates – Whole Yacht

June 3rd – June 7th / 5 days

Glaciers/Seal pupping/Photography/Adventure

June 18th – 25th / 8 days

Whales/Photography/Fishing/Adventure



**Charter the Alaska Adventurer
for the Ultimate Family Vacation!**



May trips are a fantastic time to visit Southeast Alaska and are offered at a very attractive price. book now for 2007!

September – We have **secret locations** that feature the **best Silver Salmon fishing to be found!**

It's not too early to make your reservations for 2007!

If the best dates for your 2006 trip are already reserved or you've made other plans, it's a good time to consider dates for 2007 before they begin filling in. Right now you have a wide selection of spring summer and fall trips to choose from throughout the 2007 season. Plan now, because by summer, the dates will begin selling out. Now is the time to take advantage of the best selection of dates!

2006 Stikine River Eagles and LeConte Glacier Photography Adventure

Exciting Highlights from Captain Dennis

Our first Spring Stikine River Bald Eagle Photography Adventure was spectacular!

Every year at this time only, the eulachon, a very oil-rich type of smelt locally referred to as 'hooligan', make their spring spawning migration into the Stikine River. Numerous predators are attracted to the small oily fish which become vulnerable in the river. In fact, the largest spring gathering of Bald eagles (thousands) occurs on the Stikine River at this time every year as they feed on the smelt. (April)



Using a comfortable covered jet boat with blinds for daily transport to the river provided everything we needed to capture incredible shots. An added attraction was photographing spectacular LeConte glacier – we cruised through incredible ice flows as we observed and photographed fantastic glacier calving, and hundreds of Harbor seals on icebergs. We also walked

around and photographed grounded icebergs at low tide and got great ice shots.

Our mission on this voyage was to capture photographic images of these noble raptors as they fed on the fish and rested in nearby trees, sand bars and washed up tree stumps and logs. And boy – did we ever see and photograph eagles!

This seasonal wonder of nature can ONLY be observed at this time of year. We will repeat the trip next year! Photographer guide Kevin Loughlin of Wildside Tours will guide the 2007 adventure. This special trip is limited to only 6 photographers, so reserve your space now!



"What a wonderful trip. All the elements came together to make it most memorable!"

- Henry S.



Secret Recipe - Toni's Halibut Enchiladas

Our guests always comment on the superior dining aboard the Alaska Adventurer! One of the highlights of every trip is the thrill of catching a variety of fish for the noon and evening meals. When we catch halibut we serve it in a number of mouth-watering styles. Now, for the first time, we are sharing our secret recipe for south of the border Halibut Enchiladas.

Grab your favorite hot sauce and enjoy!

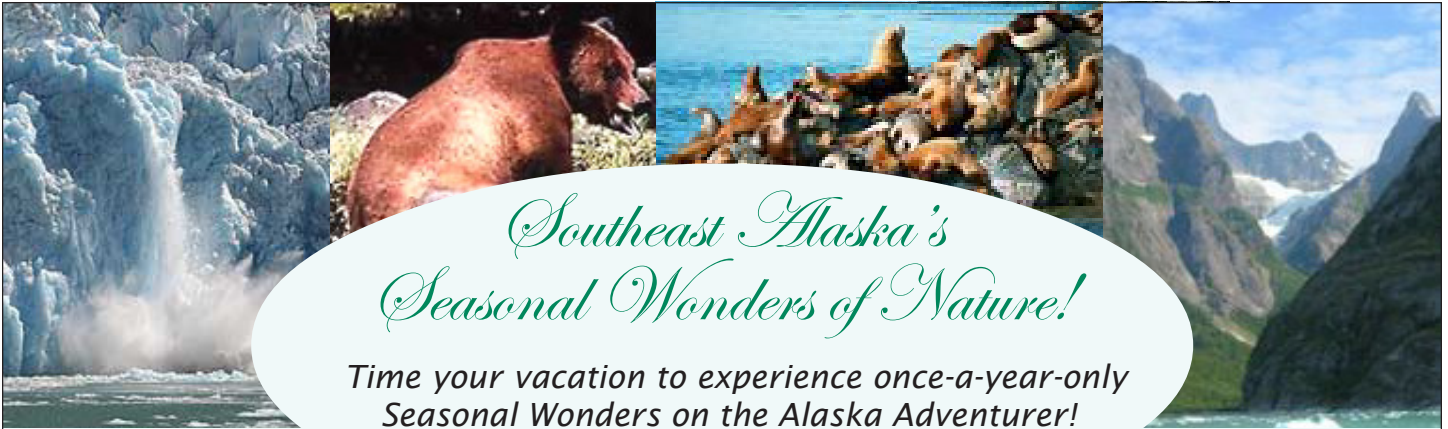


Ingredients: 1-½ pounds wild Alaska Halibut (steamed, baked or poached) ♦ 2 - 4 diced fresh green chilies ♦ 1/2 green pepper (diced) ♦ 1 medium onion (diced) ♦ 1 pint sour cream ♦ 1-3/4 cup grated cheese ♦ 1 can tomato soup ♦ 1 can of mild enchilada sauce

Mix: Halibut (flaked) ♦ 2 – 4 diced fresh green chilies ♦ 1/2 green pepper (diced) ♦ 1 medium onion (diced) ♦ 1 pint sour cream ♦ 1 cup grated cheese **Mix:** 1 can tomato soup ♦ 1 can of mild enchilada sauce

- Spray a large baking pan. · Fill 8-10 flour tortilla shells with halibut mixture and place in baking dish.
- Pour sauce/soup mixture over the top of filled shells. · Garnish with ¾ cup grated cheese.
- Cover and bake in 375 degree oven for 30 minutes. Remove cover and bake an additional 10 minutes.

Visit our website and learn where you can find the best wild Alaska Seafood - delivered right to your door!



Southeast Alaska's Seasonal Wonders of Nature!

*Time your vacation to experience once-a-year-only
Seasonal Wonders on the Alaska Adventurer!*

A trip with *Alaska Sea Adventures* is the best way to be “up close and personal” to these magical events - Seasonal Wonders!

January: Winter is locked in and January witnesses the departure of a large number of humpback whales as they make their way to the calving and breeding waters of Hawaii. The departing whales leave behind their winged partners – huge flocks of long tailed ducks (old squaws) in their winter plumage, with whom the whales have been sharing feeding space – they both dive and feed on the tremendous concentrations of krill.

March/April: As winter begins to give way to spring at the end of March, one of the first of a progression of regional life-sustaining spawning events begins to unfold. The annual spring run of ‘hooligan’ or eulachon, a type of smelt, begin entering a few of the mainland rivers including John Muir’s favorite, the Stikine River between Wrangell and Petersburg, Alaska. Concentrations of bald eagles on the Stikine River reach as many as two thousand in number. This makes for spectacular viewing and photographing of these usually ‘hard to capture on film’ majestic creatures.

March-May: April and May are the time of springtime spawning spectacles – huge concentrations of Pacific herring amass near historically-select locations for an incredible spawning frenzy along beautiful shoreline tide zones. This attracts a large number of predators including harbor seals, Steller sea lions, humpback whales, orca, and a host of avian species including thousands of bald eagles.

April/May: April/May is a time of re-awakening: Bears come out of hibernation. Humpback whales begin their return to the waters of Southeast Alaska. Huge flocks of sand hill cranes migrate back. Beautiful shore birds arrive once again. The king salmon run marks the first of the annual summer salmon runs. Lengthening daylight make days longer and longer.

June: Harbor seals are pupping! Meanwhile, watch the bears forage on grasses & sedges along shorelines. Arctic terns mate and nest. Thrill, watch and listen to the

humpback whales as they team up and “bubble-net feed” on schools of herring. Vibrant colors appear on shores as wild flowers bloom. Summer solstice arrives and it is light until 11PM!

July: The massive pink salmon return begins. Eagle chicks hatch and adult eagles hunt and return to the nests to feed the eaglets. The whales’ “bubble-net feeding” goes on as they continue to gorge on the herring (you can hear their satiated groans as they surface together). Bears eat. Berries ripen. Summer is a time of peace and plenty. Days still long.

August: By August, the Pink Salmon run peaks. Bears can be observed fishing for and feeding on salmon in rainforest watersheds. The tremendous krill concentrations reach the apex of abundance creating rich feeding opportunities for whales and sea birds. Kayak with whales as they dive deep and then appear on the surface. End-of-season berries ripen. Days still long.

September: Silver (Coho) Salmon runs peak. Bears feed on spawned salmon along island streams. Fall is in the air as hints of fall weather begin to appear. Days getting shorter.

October: Bird migrations are in full flight as thousands of birds cry out, circle, vector up and take flight. What a sight!

November: The humpback whales begin concentrating in historic-specific areas for their pre-migration feeding. The winter sea bird’s plumage changes. Bears head into hibernation.

December: The whales reach maximum blubber content and begin departing for Hawaii. Listening through the hydrophone, we have heard the males’ mating songs (which are rarely heard in Alaska) echo under the waters as winter locks in and the holidays arrive in Southeast Alaska. This truly is an unusual and rare event – 100-200 whales in the same location and as they gather, the low sunlight creates a magical scene of this literal forest of spouting whale blows. Southeast Alaska may be the only place on the planet with this unique combination of light, sound and whale activity. What a gift from nature!