

# Alaska Odyssey

## Photographic Expedition

### Small Ship Voyage in Katmai National Park

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Kodiak Island, Sea Plane return transfers to boat

**Grizzly Bears, Wolves, Whales, Sea Otters, Salmon Run, Glaciers**

**Alaska Railway Coastal Journey, Seward, Sled Dogs, Puppy Cuddles**

**Duration: 7-days, 6-nights onboard "Island C"**

**Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - Trip Code: AK26**

**Cost: from \$US 14,990 plus airfares Tour Leader: Ron Hunter**



**Alaska  
2026**

**Optional Post-Voyage Tours of Alaska available**



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** Sydney SYD 09:20 > 06:55  
Vancouver YVR 13:15 > 15:39 Anchorage ANC  
Alaska

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** Anchorage ANC 08:10 > 19:10  
Kodiak Island ADQ. Upon arrival at Kodiak, we  
will pick up our hire cars, and drive to nearby  
"Kayak Kodiak" and then set off for a 2-to-2.30-  
hour kayak exploration; expect to encounter  
basking Sea Otters, Sea Lions, and Puffins, &  
maybe a passing whale

We have managed to obtain the services of a  
great guide, Ani, to accompany and show us the  
best of Kodiak Island. We will meet her for lunch

Lunch: Nuniaq; which is Native woman owned,  
with fantastic local food including salmon melt,  
cod poppers, smoked salmon salad, tacos,  
homemade desserts and more.

Afternoon visit Museums, Refuge, bookstore &  
brewery. Then shop for breakfast supplies on the  
way to our Luxury Seaside Lodge, which will be  
exclusively our home for the next 3-nights.

Dinner: Rendezvous

Evening Historic Bar Tour AND / OR

Optional Mixology Kodiak Crafted Cocktail Event  
Add a fun, unique and interactive mixology event  
tonight.

Kodiak Crafted Cocktails introduces you to  
stories and flavours of Kodiak while teaching you  
the craft of cocktail making! Shake, stir and pour  
your way through a curated drink menu

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:** Best of Kodiak Walking Tour 9-12  
Gourmet Seafood Picnic, Rainforest Walk.

Dinner Hana's: This is excellent sushi with a  
fantastic view of the channel where you'll watch  
fishing boats, sealions, otters, eagles and even  
orcas passing by as you enjoy a miso black cod  
appetizer and a local beer.

**Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>:** Full day tour, View from Pillar,  
scenic drive out the road to look for eagles,  
whales and bears. Lunch at Java. Remote  
beaches. Fossil Beach.

Dinner: Olds River Inn for a special remote dinner





**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** Afternoon we transfer to our private accommodation, for three night's stay

Our accommodation for 3-nights on Kodiak Island: Chalet by the Sea. See and hear the ocean day and night with a one of a kind breathtaking views.

Words cannot describe this place, seven bedrooms; so, the TEN of us can spread-out if needed

This house is by far one of a kind! Enjoy our many themed rooms to include the Cinderella room, Harry Potter room and amazing library, among many others!

Ok; Enough of exploring our Chalet: Showers and freshen up for dinner tonight





**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>:** We will transfer to the Seaplane terminal, and after boarding the DeHavilland Beaver Float Plane and set off on a scenic flight to rendezvous with the boat “**Island C**” which will be our floating home for the next 7-days



On this flight we will cross over the northernmost part of Kodiak's archipelago offering views of Kodiak in its full radiance. In addition to stunning landscapes, we will likely see the first whales of our trip on this flight.





As we begin across Shelikof Strait, our pilot will turn toward the distant ice fields of the Alaska Peninsula.

Here we take in our first views of the Katmai coast.

Our plane will touch down in Geographic Harbor, Hallo Bay, or Kukak Bay depending on a number of factors. Travel dates, weather, timing of the salmon runs, and distribution of bears all affect where the “Island C” meets the float plane.



Bears are the main focus (pun intended) of this trip, and we normally move to a new location with new photographic opportunities every 2-3 days.

Sometimes we stay longer in one place because the activity is too spectacular to leave behind, or because weather conditions keep us from relocating. In a week's time you can experience the full breadth of the wild Katmai Coast and watch marine and terrestrial species act out dramatic scenes in an unforgettable landscape.



The best way to understand the Katmai Coast is to try to take in the entire coastal ecosystem, which includes more than the bears, marine mammals and dozens of species of birds.

All of these share a food source with bears, or are themselves, a source of the bear's diverse diet.

The Island C's purpose-built skiff brings us from the vessel to shore, as there are no docks or Piers along this coast.

The first few steps at the beginning and end of each outing are in knee-deep water. We will be fitted out with [Simm's chest waders and wading boots](#) to keep us dry, and a steady hand where needed.

The chest waders and wading boots are ours to wear for the duration of the trip. They allow us to cross river braids as we move up or down river deltas, and move through inter tidal sedge flats.

Each guest is also issued a well-fitted life jacket for the week, and a 20-litre bucket with a screw-top lid. This pail serves two purposes, it can hold a spare jacket, camera gear, or water bottle, and also serves as a convenient stool during close-quarters bear viewing. Our group, seated shoulder to shoulder on these seats, can sit comfortably for hours if needed and remain unobtrusive to the wildlife.

A typical day in Geographic Harbor, Katmai National Park begins with our chef serving breakfast.

Then, you'll step into your gear for a ride on the skiff to the tidal flat near the river mouth.

You will disembark from the drop-bow of the skiff and continue to shore.

Prior to going ashore, we will discuss the social behaviour of bears and fine-tune our own strategy to minimize the group's impact on the bears' natural behaviour





The spot we choose depends on the state of the tide and the number, maturity level, gender of the bears, and the distribution of their food.



Often, it is within mere metres of the bears.

As we take our seats, you slowly realize that we've removed ourselves from the equation and are spectators to one of nature's most iconic predator-prey interactions.



Hours may pass before we realize our hunger and restlessness is getting the better of us.

We will return to **"Island C"** for a much-anticipated lunch.



Over lunch, we will discuss options for the afternoon.

Bear viewing ashore is a daily activity, and sometimes choosing the option of a second trip ashore after lunch makes perfect sense.

Each afternoon we offer a choice of bear viewing or a location-specific marine activity such as kayaking, small boat excursions and exploring the incredible diversity of the inter-tidal coast.



Though the forbidding terrain limits the types of activities we can do ashore, each new location clicks “refresh” on all of our activities, as each bay reveals unique terrain features, species, and experiences.

Each night our chef delivers a top-notch cuisine, and she prides herself in customizing meals to individual desires and dietary needs. We will collect dietary restriction information when we share your detailed trip itinerary.

Several dinners per week feature locally caught seafood.

Beer and wine are allowed onboard (please bring your own) you're welcome to pair these to the evening's meal.

If we're traveling to a new place, it usually takes place in the evening, with the goal of arriving at our new anchorage before bedtime.

On this ship, however, the hum of engines and gentle rocking of the boat can bring on a yawn sooner than expected.



All transits are yet another wonder-filled opportunity for wildlife and coastal views; so, with daylight extending well into the evening, you will probably resist the call of sleep!



Though it's hard to take your eyes off the main event, in any of these bays wolves may make a cameo appearance. They sometimes fish the mouths of the rivers as boldly as any bear. If our bear bucket is full, we'll take time to explore the inner part of the bay in kayaks or dinghies





We see the occasional bruin who opted out of the river, but also white beaches of volcanic ash, towering basalt columns, harbour seals, numerous species of loons, and of course the endlessly entertaining sea otters



Based on the intelligence we've gathered the night before about the recent travel patterns of the bears between bays, we may start the day in Hallo Bay about 30 miles to the northwest, or Kukak Bay, comfortably nested in between.

In Hallow Bay, the bears fish, dig for clams, and even stalk sea otters on Little Ninagiak Island (a poorly understood and only recently discovered behaviour). Devil's Desk and Hallo Glacier loom in the background, with peaks rising abruptly from sea level to more than a mile high.





Each of these bays are reasonably well-protected and provide excellent kayaking. All are also renowned for their salmon runs, and the bears who seek them.



After breakfast on our final morning onboard we usually have time for a final trip to shore.

Following our morning's excursion, safely back in the "Island C"s main salon, we spend our hours listening for our plane while reviewing the best photos, contemplating the bittersweet return to mobile phone service, and eagerly sharing addresses and data with the crew.

Our goal in bringing you here is to show you the best of the Katmai Coast. We hope it captivates you and brings you back time and time again, as it has done for us.

As a capstone to the trip, we will get an aerial view to try and take it all in again as we make our way back to Kodiak.

Once again, everything is taken care of, and transport will be waiting to get us to the Kodiak Airport

20<sup>th</sup> Jul: Katmai: "Island C" Beaver Float Plane flight to Kodiak ADQ 15:25 > 16:22 ANC

20<sup>th</sup> Jul: Overnight Beautiful Home in Anchorage





**Alaska Railways Journeys:** We are booked onto two of the most amazing, scenic train journeys in the World

### **The COASTAL CLASSIC - Gold Star Service**

Discover for yourself why National Geographic Traveller ranked the Coastal Classic Train among their Top Ten Train Rides in North America.

Departing [Anchorage](#), the train winds along Turnagain Arm, where the steep mountains of the Chugach Range plunge directly to the sea.

Following a brief stop in [Girdwood](#), the train continues to the end of Turnagain Arm and veers away from the road system into the backcountry wilderness – and what many consider to be the most scenic stretch of the Railbelt.

Upon a late morning arrival into [Seward](#) the train comes to a halt on the shores of Resurrection Bay, before making the return journey to Anchorage at 6 pm that evening.

A day in Seward offers a range of options: We will be enjoying the [Real Alaska Tour](#) – a full day sampler of activities including a visit to Exit Glacier and a dog sled ride and puppy cuddles, at the famed Seavey kennel.

Seward is also home to a number of charming shops and restaurants

**Onboard:** [GoldStar Service](#) Dining car, gourmet food, breakfast, and dinner on the return with beer and wine





- ï 21<sup>st</sup> Jul: Transfer to Railway Station ANC: Train 06:45 > (Breakfast) 11:20 Seward, Kenai
- ï 21<sup>st</sup> July: Seward Tours include Sled Dogs, Lunch, Exit Glacier, Salmon Stream, City Tour
- ï 21<sup>st</sup> July: Seward Train 18:00 > (Dinner) 22:15 Anchorage > Beautiful Home near airport
- ï 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul: Anchorage ANC 16:30 > 20:47 YVR 22:40 >
- ï 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul: In flight mode
- ï 24<sup>th</sup> Jul: Arrive 07:20 Sydney (SYD)



Costs are as at November, 2024, in \$US

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For airfares to and from Alaska / Canada please contact us for advice. We may be flying a different combination of airlines to ensure that our connections all work on all legs of our journey. Anyone choosing to fly independently and those arriving from other countries, will need to meet at Anchorage Airport (ANC) Time and date to be advised.

**MV “Island C” + Quest Tours** Obviously on all voyages, safety is our main concern. The quality of the experiences are guaranteed. The itinerary may be altered by the Captain taking into account prevailing weather conditions, wind direction & other factors out of anyone’s control

**Travel Insurance** Travel insurance is compulsory, you will not be able to board the vessel without travel insurance. It is compulsory on all of our tours. We strongly recommend taking out travel insurance at the same time as paying your deposit.

The BEST value Travel Insurance for this type of tour may be Annual Cover, which can be got up to 18-months before departure. Other comprehensive insurance, except specific cancellation ins. is available 12-months before

Before booking, please read thoroughly the BOOKING CONDITIONS as published on our websites.



**ONE: Kodiak Island + “island C” Voyage  
+ Coastal Classic Rail Journey and Tours**

**Dates ex Australia: 10<sup>th</sup> July to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Cost per person: \$US 14,990 + Airfares. Maximum on Tour 10 Pax**

**TWO: Add: Denali Star Rail Journey & Adventures**

**Dates ex Australia: 10<sup>th</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Added Cost PP: \$US 6,490 + Airfares. Maximum on Tour 10 Pax**

**THREE Add: Fairbanks + Top-of-the-World Highway + Dawson City**

**Dates ex Australia: 10<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026**

**Added Cost PP: \$US 3,490 + Airfares. Maximum on Tour 8 Pax**