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NOME TO VANCOUVER - ALASKA LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE

Experience the extraordinary aboard this expedition cruise down the Alaskan coast. This far northern Pacific Ocean region is seldom visited, but worth the effort. It is home to amazing wildlife and steeped in polar history. Join us as we travel from the ice-capped peaks in the north to the lush cedar, spruce and hemlock forests of the southern fjords, discovering phenomenal landscape as we go.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Pre Cruise

Day 2 Nome, Alaska

Nome is located on the edge of the Bering Sea, on the southwest side of the Seward Peninsula. Unlike other towns which are named for explorers, heroes or politicians, Nome was named as a result of a 50 year-old spelling error. In the 1850's

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an officer on a British ship off the coast of Alaska noted on a manuscript map that a nearby prominent point was not identified. He wrote "? Name" next to the point. When the map was recopied, another draftsman thought that the "?" was a C and that the "a" in "Name" was an o, and thus a map-maker in the British Admiralty christened "Cape Nome." The area has an amazing history dating back 10,000 years of Inupiaq Eskimo use for subsistence living. Modern history started in 1898 when "Three Lucky Swedes", Jafet Lindberg, Erik Lindblom and John Brynteson, discovered gold in Anvil Creek...the rush was on! In 1899 the population of Nome swelled from a handful to 28,000. Today the population is just over 3,500. Much of Nome's gold rush architecture remains.

Day 3 St. Matthew Island (Alaska)

Remote St. Matthew Island is part of the Bering Sea Reservation (including Hall Island and several rocks around St. Matthew) since 1909 -it was one of America's first wildlife refuges- and is now managed as part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. From the Glory of Russia Cape in the north to Cape Upright in the southeast, the island has a length of 51 kilometers and an area of 35,700 hectares. Beaches with black sand and gravel lead to a somewhat depleted tundra as introduced and uncontrolled reindeer roamed the island for close to 40 years. After their disappearance some of the plants are again covering the island and Field Chickweed, Pacific Silverweed, Purple Saxifrage, Polar Willow, Arctic Wormwood, Langsdorf's Lousewort, Chukhchi Primrose and Marsh Marigold can be found. The rye-grass areas along the coast are inhabited by the endemic St. Matthew vole -and care has to be taken to not trip because of their entrance holes or to destroy their tunnels. In some parts massive cliffs reach a height of over 300 meters. These are favored by Glaucous Gulls, Brünnich's Guillemots, Parakeet Auklets, and Horned and Tufted Puffins; Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches and McKay's Buntings are better seen in the tundra. Several lakes are found close to the coastline.

Day 4 St. Paul Island (Alaska)

The city of Saint Paul is located on a narrow peninsula on the southern tip of St. Paul Island, the largest of five islands in the Pribilof Islands. These islands are located in the middle of the Bering Sea between the United States and Russia. St. Paul lies 240 miles north of the Aleutian Islands, 300 miles west of mainland Alaska, and 750 air miles west of Anchorage. The city of St. Paul is the only residential area on the island. The first non-natives to 'discover' St. Paul were Russian fur-traders in the late 1780s, led by the navigator, Gavriil Pribylov. Today, this small city has one school (K-12), one post office, one bar, one small general store, and one church, a Russian Orthodox Church that is registered as a National Historic building. In summer, this island is teeming with wildlife, including about 500,000 northern fur seals and millions of seabirds, including milloins of seabirds.

Day 5 Day at sea

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, whale watching, catching up on your reading or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 6 Kiska Harbor (Aleutian Islands)

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Russian traders following Vitus Bering in the mid-1700s would have been some of the first non-native explorers to visit Kiska Harbor on Kiska Island in the Aleutian chain. The Japanese occupied the island during WWII and relics of war have been left behind in the harbor including a Japanese two-man submarine. The occupying force of 6 000 soldiers also left a Shinto shrine behind whose remains can still be seen today. Ashore there are ptarmigans Lapland Longspurs and Bald Eagles. At a distance the cliffs of Sirius Point can only be described as "magical" and are home to Least and Crested Auklets Peregrine Falcons and Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses.

Day 7 Tanaga, Alaska

Tanaga Island is situated in the southwest part of the Aleutian Islands off Alaska. With a size of 204 square miles, this is one of the largest oceanic islands in the US. From the Bering Sea, the view on the island is pretty impressive with Tanaga's highest point, Mount Tanaga volcano. This 5,924-foot stratovolcano last erupted in 1914 and is the highlight of the island. Among the green and rocky scenery, many large waterfalls can be found. These bring the island's beauty to another level. Other than its impressive landscapes, Tanaga has some history too. During WWII, a Navy emergency landing field was established in 1943, with office and storage buildings, a runway, small-craft pier, radio building, and mooring area among others. The site was abandoned at the end of the war in 1945.

Day 8 Atka Island, Alaska

Part of the Aleutian Islands, Atka Island is one of the largest ones, with a size of 404 square miles. The culminant point is Korovin volcano, more than 5,000 feet high. It is known to be one of the remotest spots you can find in the US. The population is composed of 87 Russian-Aleuts. The village has no post office

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and the only available communication mode with the outside world is a 50-watt radio transmitter for the communication with the outside world. And it can't be used for personal calls. Most of the inhabitants have no electricity, so there is no refrigeration. That means that constant hunting is required to keep the village stocked with fresh meat. Despite these facts, Atka has some beautiful aspects. Hot springs, an impressive glacier, dozens of waterfalls and lakes where more than 4,000 reindeer live peacefully with blue foxes, eagles, sea lions and sea otters. The village is backed by dramatic mountains. The houses are made of weathered board and a beautiful Russian Orthodox Church with emerald onion domes can be found among them.

Days 9 - 10 Dutch Harbor

With Bald Eagles soaring overhead, emerald-green volcanic peaks chafing the clouds, and raw ocean scenery as far as the eye can see, this far-flung destination is the definition of remote and wild. Part of the outlying Aleutian Islands archipelago, which spirals out across the Bering Sea into the wilds of the Pacific, Dutch Harbor offers a dramatic backdrop and rich military history - as one of the few pieces of US soil to be directly attacked by the Japanese during World War II. The town settles into the embrace of a vast deepwater harbour, which helps to protect from the unpredictable churn of the Bering Sea. Enjoy hikes along coastal trails to birdwatch among more than 100 different species - and look on as huge clouds of cawing seabirds float on gusts of wind, filling the air with their raucous calls. Dutch Harbor is famous for its crab fishing industry - a dangerous, challenging pursuit - and the town is well known to many Americans as the setting of the television show Deadliest Catch. The Aleutian WWII Visitor Center and the Museum of the Aleutians provide extensive information on WWII in the

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Aleutians, prehistory, the Russian period, Unangan (Aleut) culture and recent history. A visible reminder of the Russian past is the Holy Ascension Cathedral, the oldest cruciform-style Russian Orthodox church in North America and a National Historic Landmark.

Day 11 Unga Spit & Unga Village, Alaska

Unga Spit - pointing upwards to the Alaskan Peninsula from Unga Island's northern tip - has a fascinating secret to reveal. There's something slightly eerie about the incredible petrified forest that appears, frozen in time, as the waters recede at low tide. The ghostly-white fossilised trunks and scattered logs close to Unga Spit's beaches contain millions of years of crystallised history - preserved in the elaborately ringed stumps and fallen logs of the ancient forest. Believed to be the remnants of either a sequoia or metasequoia forest, gigantic trees once towered on this island strung between continents. The forest eventually succumbed and was submerged and petrified by the thermal powers of volcanic activity from many millions of years ago, as the lands and seas churned and shifted during the Tertiary Period. The frozen remains of the fossilised forest attract researchers to this distant formation now, because they hold clues to ancient animal movements between the lands of Asia and America. You may be in a remote position, but you're unlikely to feel alone as you explore Unga Spit. Bald eagles oversee this natural realm from above, while sea lions, orcas and gray whales patrol the frigid waters of the four-mile wide channel that separates you from the Alaskan Peninsula. Those lucky enough to step onto Unga Spit are immediately swallowed up by a world of astonishing scenery and off-the-beaten-path natural glory - admire moody sea views and humbling visions of monochrome mountain peaks. Unga is a ghost town on the southern end of Unga Island in the Aleutian Islands. It was once a bustling town of over 100 people originally settled by Aleuts in 1833 and named Delarov, for Evstrat Delarov, the first Greek explorer and merchant to visit Alaska. In 1836 it had a name change to Ougnagok, and the post office was established in 1888. The name was changed again to Unga in 1894. Life was challenging in Unga, and the population decline gradually over time. The post office closed in 1958, and the last family left in 1969. Today, many ruins remain giving some idea of what life was like to live in such a remote, isolated place.

Days 12 - 13 Day at sea

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, whale watching, catching up on your reading or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 14 Cruise Hubbard Glacier, Alaska

Hubbard Glacier, off the coast of Yakutat, Alaska, is the largest glacier in North America, with a calving front that is more than six miles wide. One of the main sources for Hubbard Glacier originates 76 mi inland. It has been a very active glacier, experiencing two major surges in the past 30 years. This glacier was named after Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a U.S. lawyer, financier, and philanthropist. He was the first president of the National Geographic Society.

Day 15 Elfin Cove, Alaska & Cruise Point Adolphus

Elfin Cove sits snugly on the southern shore of Cross Sound, which leads in eastwards to the Inside Passage. Northwards and across the Sound from the small community lies Glacier Bay

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National Park and the Fairweather Mountain range. Elfin Cove is a quaint little harbor clustered with attractive timber houses built into the wooded hillsides on stilts. The population swells to about 200 during the summer months, from a rather meager 6 or so during the snowy and isolated winters. Its commercial hub consists of a Post Office, mini-Museum, a General Store, the Coho Bar and numerous sports fishing businesses. In the summer months Rufous-backed Hummingbirds visit feeders scattered around the community. On the northern tip of Chichagof Island Point Adolphus, is a well-known area for humpback whale watching. Enjoy an aperitif or a hot cup of tea while you are on the outer decks, looking for humpback whales as well as orcas, or simply enjoying the landscape.

Day 16 Sitka (Alaska)

A distant land of bears, wild landscapes and icy adventures, sail between glorious islands and witness the diverse wildlife of the Inside Passage. Eagles watch over the scenery overhead, while whales and sea lions add glorious weight to the animal life that thrives and thrashes in these icy seas. With a quintet of Pacific salmon species filling the rich rivers and waterways with life, settle back to enjoy the show, as Sitka's immense setpieces play out before you. You might notice the onion-shaped dome atop St. Michael's Church - a relic of the area's Russian history. Sitka formed a part of the Russian Empire until a deal was struck in 1867, and the territory was sold to the United States, with the handover ceremony taking place here in Sitka. The native Tlingit culture is an important presence, and elaborate totem poles rocket up in Sitka National Historical Park. They mark the battleground of 1804, when the indigenous people clashed fiercely with the Russians. The snow-capped peak of the dormant volcano, Mount Edgecumbe, draws understandable

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comparisons with Mount Fuji's symmetrical cone. Climb to thrilling heights, as you arrive on Kruzof Island, and enjoy richly spellbinding views of the scattered Pacific islands, while hiking. Whether you want to spend your time flying above snow-dusted mountain ridges, fishing for colossal King salmon, or savouring Northwest frontier cuisine in waterfront restaurants, there's no shortage of ways to experience Sitka's natural wonders.

Day 17 Behm Canal, Alaska & Rudyerd Bay, Misty Fjords

Mountaineer John Muir (aka "Father of the National Parks") said of Alaska "To the lover of wilderness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world". If you don't believe him, then one trip along the Behm Canal will change your mind. Separating Revillagigedo Island from the Alaskan mainland, the roughly 100 miles long Behm Canal is located within the Tongass National Forest. The National Forest supports abundant wildlife, so keep your eyes on the skies for Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawks, and Marbled Murrelets, not forgetting to scan the shores for brown bears, wolves and Sitka black-tailed deer. All five species of Pacific salmon call Behm Canal home. Tongass extends over a massive 16.9 million acres and is the largest wilderness area in Alaska's forests and the second largest forest in the nation. Originally charted in 1793 by George Vancouver, the Behm Canal is the western border of Misty Fjords National Monument. The "Mistys" take their name from the eponymous shroud of near constant mist that crown the towering mountains. Although this does not detract from it dramatic beauty: with 3 million acres of breathtaking fjords, lakes, glaciers, waterfalls and towering ancient forests with snow-capped peaks, it is unsurprising that the Misty Fjords National Monument is considered as the "Yosemite of the North." Painstakingly sculpted by the slow grind of colossal glaciers, the fjords of

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Rudyerd Bay are some of the Inside Passage's most spectacular and humbling. Gouged to the south-east of Alaska, just 40 miles from Ketchikan, hordes of salmon splash in the region's streams, while basalt pillars - left behind by ancient volcanoes puncture the slow flow of the waters. A litany of plunging waterfalls gives sheer, monolithic cliff faces added life and vitality. With crowds of pine trees and snow-tipped mountains surrounding you everywhere you look, Rudyerd Bay is one of the Misty Fjords' most precious and inspiring locations. One of the best ways to survey this magnificent landscape is to take to the skies in a floatplane. Look down as you skim just below the clouds, over an immense scene of snow-coated mountain peaks, and deeply etched fjords. If you'd rather stay grounded, cruise through the majestic setting on a boat journey, to be dwarfed by the gigantic granite walls and cascading waterfalls. The abrupt cliffs of Punchbowl Cove rocket upwards, 900 metres above sea level, with forest clinging on desperately and smudging various shades of green across them. Cloudy-blue glacier lakes add to the spectacular palette of natural colours. Be sure to keep an eye out for the area's majestic wildlife - as orcas surface, and black bears and wolves slip between the dense banks of forest on the shore.

Day 18 Metlakatla (Alaska)

Since the late 19th century, Metlakatla has been the major settlement of the Metlakatla Indian Community of the federally recognized Annette Islands Reserve, the only remaining reservation in Alaska. It is located on Annette Island, and in 2010 had 1,405 residents. Membership in the community is primarily by lineage and is comprised primarily of Tsimshian people. Metlakatla comes from a Tsimshian word meaning "Salt Water Passage". In 1886, William Duncan, an English tannery

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employee and lay member of the Church Missionary Society, along with a devoted group of Tsimshian followers, decided to leave his home village in British Colombia. Duncan went to Washington, D.C., asked the U.S. government to give his group land in Alaska. The U.S. gave them Annette Island after a Tsimshian search committee in seagoing canoes discovered its calm bay, accessible beaches and abundant fish. The group arrived in 1887 and built a settlement laid out in a grid pattern like a European town. They named the town New Metlakatla, after the town they had left behind, but later dropped the "New."

Day 19 Cruise Inside Passage

Navigate through the intricate outlays of some of Alaska's most staggering winter scenery, threading a needle between craggy, snow-dusted islands, and slipping glacial giants. To cruise this 500-mile stretch of Alaskan beauty is to sail through a living work of natural art - with perfectly sculpted mountains soaring from the shoreline, and clutches of islands scattered across the dark waters with delicate attention to detail. A common sailing route due to its calm sheltered waters, gorgeous natural set pieces constantly play out here - whether it's killer whales accompanying you through the breathtaking icy passages, harbour seals catching a break on floating hunks of ice, or wisps of cloud clinging to distant mountain peaks. Witness Mother Nature at her most dramatic and elaborate along this Alaskan coastline, where glaciers groan and creak melodramatically, before finally releasing colossal shelves of ice, allowing them to free fall into the waters below, and explode with angry booms and thunderous splashes. While fundamental displays of nature's power always awe and amaze, it's the tranquil beauty of this passage - amid still waters, splitting only to reveal the smooth backs of breaching humpback whales - that is

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relentlessly moving. A journey of glaciers, remote hidden villages, and carved fjords - the Inside Passage is a breathtaking voyage through the intricate mesh of Alaska's fractured, raw and spectacular coastal landscapes.

Day 20 Vancouver

Boasting mountains, sea, culture, art and so much more, many cities claim to have it all, but few can back it up like Vancouver. Famously livable, just visiting this highrise city - surrounded by staggering natural beauty - is a thrill. Offering all of the creature comforts of an ultra-modern, worldly metropolis - even downtown has a hint of mountain-freshness to its air - and part of Vancouver's appeal is how easily you can swap the skyscrapers for whale-filled oceans and mountain-punctured skies. Head up to the Vancouver Lookout Tower for the ultimate 360-degree views of the city glistening, amid the beautiful embrace of the beckoning wilderness beyond. But what to see first? Art lovers might choose the Vancouver Art Gallery or the Contemporary Art Gallery. Nature lovers might rush for the ferry to visit Vancouver Island - where they can encounter grizzly bears, whales and orcas. Culture vultures, on the other hand, will probably head for the sights and sounds of Canada's biggest Chinatown. From steaming dim sum for lunch to Chinese apothecaries offering herbs to soothe any illness, it's all here thanks to the migrant workers of the 19th century. The one-of-a-kind treasure of Stanley Park brings wild wonder and natural beauty to this cosmopolitan city's doorstep, and the pine-tree clad park offers isolated trails and amazing views. Wander the Seawall that encircles it - a 20-mile coastal path, full of joggers, whizzing skaters and wandering couples. Grab a bike and cycle between Coal Harbour and Kitsilano Beach. You can top up your tan on the shore, as you soak in the glorious views of the mountains and cityscape from the sands.

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Day 21 Post Cruise

Please Note: Itineraries are subject to change.

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Silver Wind



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