



## GLACIER BAY EXPLORATION

5-Day Sea Kayaking Exploration

**Glacier Bay National Park is a part of the largest protected wilderness area in the world and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

**This Glacier Bay sea kayaking trip explores the remote East Arm of Glacier Bay National Park. Motorized boat access is limited in this rarely visited corner of the park making for an incredibly secluded Alaskan getaway.** See how the physical world shapes the biological with the succession of marine and terrestrial life flourishing in the wake of receding glaciers. Fjords teeming with wildlife, towering jagged mountain peaks, and stunning glaciers combine to create the paddling experience of a lifetime.

On this trip you'll enjoy an adventurous exploration of Glacier Bay National Park's scenic East Arm, including the pristine wilderness of the Muir Inlet. You'll start with a charter boat trip across the lower bay, then after a drop-off on a remote glacial beach. The next few days are spent paddling into the East Arm, kayaking and camping amidst awesome mountain scenery and majestic glaciers. Paddling the inlets and hiking along the immaculate beaches allow visitors to view the Earth's most fundamental geologic processes first-hand. At the end of the trip, we'll get on the ferry to make our way back to Gustavus after taking a cruise of the Glacier Bay's West Arm.

### ITINERARY

#### Juneau – Gustavus

You will need to travel to Juneau, Alaska, and then take a small plane to Gustavus, the gateway to Glacier Bay National Park. We will gather in the evening for a pre-trip orientation to introduce your guides, meet the other participants, go over equipment and answer any last-minute questions.

**Day 1:** Board the Glacier Bay Day Boat for a spectacular ride to the mouth of the East Arm of Glacier Bay National Park. The scenery changes dramatically as we leave the lush forests of Bartlett Cove behind and enter a land still under the influence of the Little Ice Age. We'll unload gear, have a kayak lesson, and begin paddling into the remote reaches of the East Arm.

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**Days 2 – 4:** We'll explore the pristine upper fjords of Glacier Bay by kayak and on foot. Keep your camera ready for dramatic scenery of awe-inspiring 9,000-foot mountain peaks, ice-hewn fjords, extraordinary glaciers, and abounding wildlife. Experience the thunder, crackle, and pop of the McBride Glacier calving into the bay. Keep watch for the scores of marine and terrestrial species that call the Park home. A flexible itinerary allows for fabulous hikes and serene paddles. You may explore McBride, Riggs, and perhaps the Muir Glaciers; each with their own striking beauty and personality.

**Day 5:** Following a morning hike or paddle, we will re-board the day boat to take us back to Gustavus. Fly to Juneau and depart.

**What's Included:**

- ◆ Expert leadership from your guides
- ◆ Accommodations and all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, guides, group gear and equipment (2-person tents)
- ◆ Meals as noted above
- ◆ Sightseeing and activities as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ Kayaking gear
- ◆ Permit fees
- ◆ Boat transportation

**What's Not Included:**

- ◆ Airfare to and from Gustavus, Alaska
- ◆ Meals not noted in itinerary
- ◆ Daypack for yourself to carry daily items
- ◆ Travel Insurance
- ◆ Optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff
- ◆ Excess baggage charges
- ◆ Airport taxes
- ◆ Items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

**Expert Leadership**

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you'd never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable

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about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way.

### **Activity Level**

Alaska Mountain Guides trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active. This trip operates at a relaxing pace, with paddling of 4-8 miles per day. No prior paddling experience is required, but you may need to paddle against strong currents and/or wind at times. In the field, there are no facilities of any kind (no permanent lodging, bathrooms, showers, cell reception). Good physical condition, an adventurous spirit, a positive attitude and a willingness to deal with possible wet, cold, and windy conditions are a must! You will set up your own tent (after a demonstration by the guide) and everyone is welcome to assist with other tasks of wilderness camping.

Physical conditioning before your trip will increase your enjoyment. You must be prepared to help carry personal and group gear as well as your kayak (about 65-80 pounds among four people) up and down the beach. The terrain is uneven and may be slippery. If you don't normally follow a fitness or exercise regime, we recommend beginning one now! Incorporate any activities that build up arm strength and flexibility. In paddling, it is more important to be able to maintain a steady pace than it is to have a powerful stroke.

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