



GLACIER BAY ESCAPE

5-Day Sea Kayaking Exploration

Glacier Bay's fascinating geology, plentiful wildlife (including the endangered humpback whale), and breathtaking scenery of soaring mountains and gorgeous tidewater glaciers are the setting for an unforgettable wilderness experience.

On this trip you'll enjoy a relaxed exploration of Glacier Bay National Park's scenic West Arm, including the pristine wilderness of Johns Hopkins Inlet. You'll start with a charter boat trip across the lower bay, then after a drop-off on a remote glacial beach, spend the next few days kayaking and camping amidst awesome mountain scenery and stunning tidewater glaciers, and taking short hikes to observe some of the interesting geological and biological processes so evident in Glacier Bay.

You'll watch for wildlife on both land and sea, learn about the fascinating natural and cultural history of the bay, and see land recently unveiled by retreating ice thousands of years old. This is one of our most popular and active trips, where expectations are always exceeded.

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: To Glacier Bay

After an early breakfast we will board a boat for a spectacular ride into the West Arm of Glacier Bay National Park. The scenery changes dramatically as we leave the lush forests of Bartlett Cove behind and enter a land

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still under the influence of the Little Ice Age.

We'll be dropped off in the remote upper West Arm, where we'll unload gear and have a kayak lesson. By afternoon, everyone will feel comfortable enough with sea kayaking to fully observe the splendid beauty of this area. Lunch and dinner are included this day.



DAYS 2-4: West Arm, Glacier Bay

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 and calving glaciers (you'll listen to them thunder, crackle, and pop as huge icebergs topple into the sea!), and wildlife that may include brown bears, mountain goats, humpback whales, orcas, sea otters, and a variety of sea birds. A flexible itinerary allows for fabulous hikes and serene paddles. You may explore Reid, Lamplugh, and Johns Hopkins Glaciers, each with its own stunning beauty and personality.

Depending on the group, we will either stay at one base camp all three nights or move camp just once to allow more time for kayaking and hiking. Explorations on foot give us an increased understanding of this unique ecosystem and provide us with stunning views.

Nights will be spent camping on the scenic wilderness shores. Our two-person kayaks are stable and easy to use. A foot-controlled rudder system allows the stern paddler to steer the boat in any direction. Each boat will carry personal gear, as well as a share of the group food and camp gear. All meals are included for these days.

DAY 5: Return to Gustavus

After an early breakfast, we'll pack up camp, then paddle and prepare for our boat pick-up and a leisurely ride back to park headquarters at Gustavus. Put your feet up and watch the terrific scenery and wildlife as you relax and rest your tired muscles. Once back, we will transfer you to the Gustavus airport or to your lodging.

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Family Departures Available

Want to travel with your kids? Minimum age is 12. Call us for the details.



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.).

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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 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, phone booths!). 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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