

AROUND ADMIRALTY

Chatham Strait · Stephen's Passage · Baranof Island · Chichagof Island · Kuiu Island Wilderness · Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness Area | 8 days

The Around Admiralty departure aboard the Wild Dawn sails amidst the verdant temperate rainforest of the Tongass National Forest, stopping at beautiful anchorages along southeast Alaska's famed ABC Islands (Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof). This intimate small ship expedition is a remarkable way to experience the beauty of Alaska as it explores the most remote wilderness areas for up-close wildlife encounters and far-flung exploration. Alaska's glacial wilderness supports a diversity of wildlife as varied as the landscape with a likelihood of sighting humpback whales, orca, porpoise, Stellar sea lions, black bears, brown bears and mountain goats. Enjoy relaxing in the warm waters of Baranof Hot Springs, experience the Alaska that John Muir called "one of the most wonderful countries in the world", learn bear etiquette, fishing and more. All trips will feature several guided walks and chances to kayak in remote and protected bays with our onboard naturalist.



Highlights

- Explore Alaska's tidewater glaciers in Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness Area
- Kayak along the miles of shoreline with our onboard naturalist
- Observe iconic Alaskan wildlife feeding in its natural habitat
- Anchor in quiet and secluded coves
- Relax in a remote hot springs
- Catch your next seafood dinner and set crab and shrimp pots with our captain and crew

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1: Auke Bay, Juneau, Alaska

Arrive in Juneau and transfer to the Wild Dawn at noon in picturesque Auke Bay. After an onboard safety briefing, we throw the lines and enjoy lunch underway. There is ample deck space to wildlife watch as we sail around northern Admiralty Island, a known wildlife corridor for both humpback whales and orca. We will spend the afternoon sailing south to Freshwater Bay on Chichagof Island. Take the time to settle into your comfortable stateroom, read one of the many books from our well stocked Alaskan library and scout for wildlife with our collection of binoculars. Once anchored in Freshwater Bay you will have the opportunity to enjoy one of our "choose your own adventure" activities. Whether you would like to kayak around the calm waters of the bay or enjoy a boat ride on our tender, we will launch them before dinner so you can begin to experience the remote beauty of an iconic bay in Southeast Alaska's famed Inside Passage.



Day 2: Freshwater Bay to Corner Bay, Tenakee Inlet, Tenakee Springs

We will spend the morning enjoying the wildlife of Freshwater Bay. The annual run of Coho and Pink salmon return to their natal spawning grounds via Pavlof Falls making it an easy place for the Alaska coastal brown bear to find its next meal. While we can never guarantee bear sightings, our experienced crew intimately know the area and we visit coves and bays where we have had success before. After our morning exploring either on shore, or via kayak, we will haul anchor and continue south to Corner Bay in Tenakee Inlet. The shallow waters of the area make it an ideal location for our guests to set crab pots. Today we have the option to meet a local Alaskan who has been living and working in the Tongass National Forest for over twenty-five years and he can share his personal experiences of life in the world's largest temperate rainforest. The remainder of our day will be spent visiting Tenakee Springs, a tiny village built on the edge of the rugged Alaskan wilderness, only accessible by boat or seaplane.

Enjoy a stroll along the single dirt lane, greeting the friendly locals as you walk to the therapeutic 106 degree sulfur hot mineral springs that are open for public bathing.

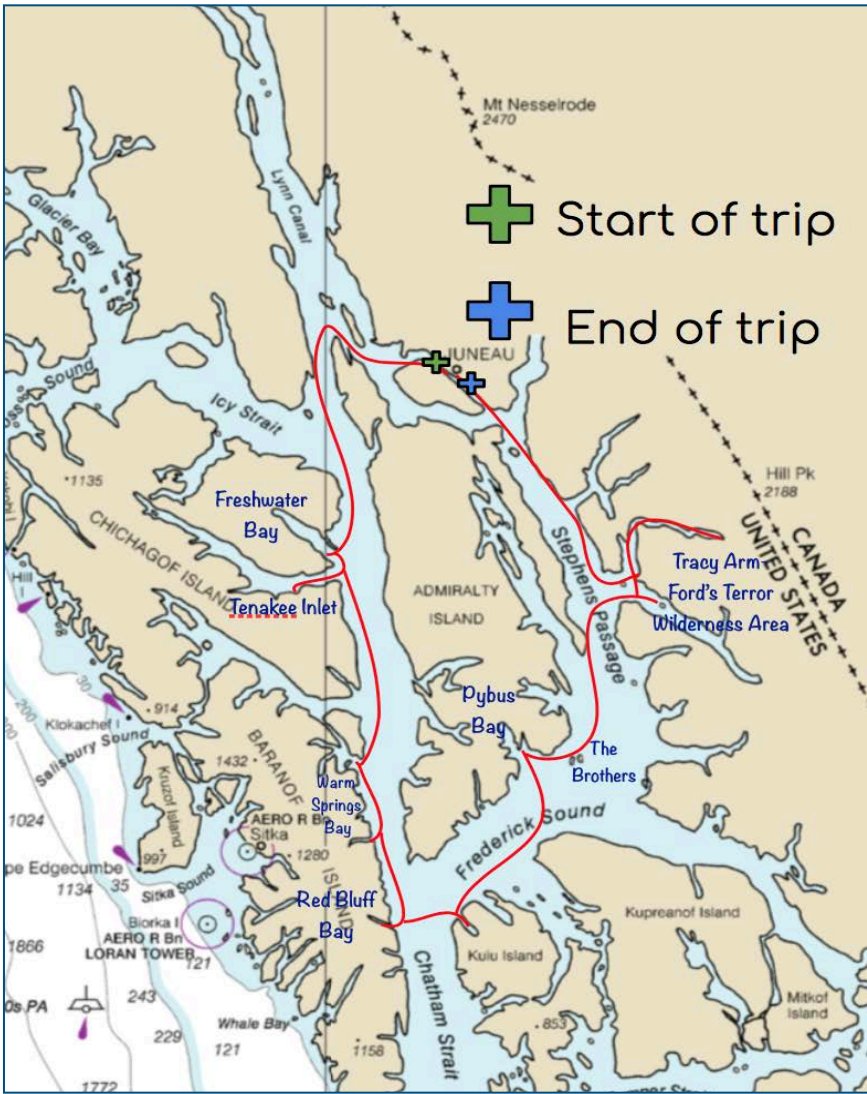


Day 3: Tenakee Inlet to Kelp Bay

We start our morning with an all-hands-on-deck activity and pull the crab pots checking to see if we have caught our dinner. By mid-morning we are sailing towards Kelp Bay looking for wildlife along the scenic shores of Baranof Island's "waterfall coast." Along this remote shoreline a multitude of waterfalls cascade down from high mountain peaks filling the salmon streams and providing us an opportunity to scout for wildlife during our sail. Once we approach Kelp Bay, a shallow body of water known for hosting a plethora of schooling fish, we will keep our eyes open for our favorite "acrobats of the sea" or humpback whales that are often found feeding in the many coves of this large bay. After we set anchor for the evening, we will drop the Zodiac and the kayaks and take to some exploration under our own steam. Keep your camera at the ready and photograph the many iconic bald eagles that perch in the trees using their eagle eye's to search for their own salmon dinner.

Day 4: Kelp Bay to Warm Springs Bay and Red Bluff Bay

The beauty of traveling on a small yacht is its ability to explore small out of the way coves and the ease of modifying our schedule to the timing of Alaska's wildlife. Before we sail to our furthest points south on Baranof Island, we will scan the land and ocean for anything else that may be of interest. At this point during our voyage we will have slowed our pace to the gentle rhythms of life at sea and no better way than to continue to unwind with a visit to Baranof Warm Springs in Warm Springs Bay. This tiny hamlet built on a single boardwalk is a truly remote adventure. The small summer season community lovingly maintains a set of bath houses and a natural outdoor pool for visitors to enjoy. There is nothing better than sitting in a warm pool surrounded by ancient Western Red Cedars as a cascade of water rushes by. This is a good day to stretch our legs and take a short hike up to Baranof Lake and listen for the common loon. Baranof Warm Springs is also the headquarters of the Alaska Whale Foundation. If interested, a researcher can share with us the recent projects the non-profit has been conducting to study the feeding patterns of the summer humpback whale population. Our anchorage for the evening is Red Bluff Bay, a short sail to the south. The narrow entrance to the small cove is masterfully navigated by Captain Cameron and worth standing out on deck as the rocky shoreline is almost at arm's reach. Once at anchor, the protected cove is ideal for a paddle to explore a small salmon stream or for a stroll on the tide flats to look for bear signs. Another option for the evening is to take the Zodiac out for a spin to drop shrimp pots and fish at the narrow entrance.





Day 5: Red Bluff Bay to Kuiu Island and Pybus Bay

The activities of Red Bluff Bay are so many that we will continue to spend the morning exploring all corners of it. As we sail out of the bay, we will stop to retrieve our shrimp pots and hopefully have caught another meal. We now head east across Chatham Strait to Security Bay on Kuiu Island, the shoreline of which is protected wilderness on the Tongass National Forest. Security Bay is a good place to look for feeding black bears and the calm waters allow us to paddle close to sea otters, a once endangered species that are now thriving and entertaining us with their playful water acrobatics. Dinner will be served underway as we sail across Frederick Sound to Pybus Bay on Admiralty Island. Named Kootznoowoo or "Fortress of the Brown Bear" by the Alaskan Tlingit, the majority of the island is a national monument and protects the habitat of the 1500 or so coastal brown bears that live on the 1500 square mile island.

Day 6: Pybus Bay to the Brothers Islands and Holkham Bay

We will take our morning to explore Pybus Bay either by kayak, Zodiac or if you choose, a fishing excursion. The shoreline is surrounded by a thick temperate rainforest of old-growth spruce and hemlock trees. The end of the bay has large tidal flats where besides brown bears we may see migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and Sitka black-tailed deer. Not far from the entrance of Pybus Bay are the Brothers Islands, a known haul out for a raucous group of Steller sea lions. The hundreds of sea lions we watch on the narrow rocky shoreline are busy jockeying for position to be named the next "beach master" and they exert their power with entertaining barks and roars. In the afternoon we turn our bow north and head towards the icy world of Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness Area. Our anchorage off Wood Spit in Holkham Bay is our first chance to see icebergs that have calved off one of the three tidewater glaciers in the 650,000 acre protected wilderness. Our evening can be spent going on a short paddle, Zodiac ride, or simply enjoying a sunset from the decks of the Wild Dawn as we prepare for a full day of exploring Tracy Arm.

Day 7: Holkham Bay to Tracy Arm and Taku Harbor

Begin the day by donning your warmest of layers because you will not want to miss a moment of our thirty mile sail up the deep and rugged fjord of Tracy Arm. The best place to take it all in is out on deck with a warm beverage in hand breathing the freshest of air and listening for whale blows and crackling ice. All day you will be gobsmacked amongst a spellbinding backdrop of icebergs and 2000 foot granite walls scraped clean by a retreating tidewater glacier. As John Muir has said of his own time spent exploring Tracy Arm in a dugout canoe 140 years ago, "Wherever there were glaciers, the world was in a constant state of creation." The wild landscape is a host to a plethora of wildlife that could not survive without the powerful forces of the ice that shaped the fjord walls. We will keep our eyes peeled for bears eating barnacles in the tideline, pigeon guillemots nesting in mere cracks in the wall, and mountain goats leaping from precipitous perches. Wispy waterfalls spill down from on high and glittering sapphire icebergs host harbor seals hauled out to rest and birth their pups. Depending on who you ask, the highlight of the day could be watching the massive South Sawyer Glacier calve car sized chunks of ice into the frigid waters below, or taking a polar plunge into those very same frigid yet refreshing waters. As we sail out of Tracy Arm our hearts and SD cards will be full and we will toast our last night aboard the Wild Dawn with a beverage that has been chilled with hundreds of years old glacial ice. Our anchorage this evening is to the north in quiet Taku Harbor, a former historic site of one of the earliest salmon canneries in Southeast Alaska.



Day 8: Taku Harbor to Juneau

Even though our trip is coming to an end, that does not mean the wildlife will. We keep our hands on our binoculars and on the lookout for humpback whales as we sail north to Juneau in the morning. The waters of Stephens Passage are a part of their migratory feeding route and our last chance to see the megafauna before returning to civilization. We anchor up by noon which allows you plenty of time to explore Juneau's quaint downtown. We highly recommend a visit to the new Alaska State Museum for a good dose of history and art or if you want to shake off your sea legs, we can recommend a variety of hikes or walks in the downtown area. You can be rest assured that your disembarkation to your next destination will be smooth and the crew will assist in any way possible.



M/Y Wild Dawn

Wild Dawn is a 98 foot explorer yacht built in Chula Vista, California by the Poole Boat Company.



With her 25 foot beam, unusually wide for a vessel of her length, she is the perfect small ship for Alaskan adventures. Her wide beam provides for a super stable platform and offers the interior volume of a much larger yacht. Wild Dawn is propelled by modern Caterpillar C18 engines which allows for reduced fuel burn, quieter operation and a much lower impact on the environment. Wild Dawn boasts four spacious guest staterooms, each with its own beautiful en-suite head. With a large salon and a full beam covered aft deck, the Wild Dawn's common spaces are inviting and comfortable. The aft deck has plenty of seating to relax and a large dining table for outdoor meals with amazing views.

Wild Dawn is propelled by modern Caterpillar C18 engines which allows for reduced fuel burn, quieter operation and a much lower impact on the environment. Wild Dawn boasts four spacious guest staterooms, each with its own beautiful en-suite head. With a large salon and a full beam covered aft deck, the Wild Dawn's common spaces are inviting and comfortable. The aft deck has plenty of seating to relax and a large dining table for outdoor meals with amazing views.

The Crew

When you come aboard the Wild Dawn, it will feel like you are being greeted as a family member by our small crew. Our captain has over 20 years experience captaining ships internationally but feels there is no place more wild to explore than Alaska. Our certified kayak guide and Alaska based naturalist will guide you along the shoreline sharing the natural history of the area and wildlife as well as personal stories of her time spent living in Alaska. Enjoy gourmet food exquisitely prepared by our chef with an emphasis on Alaskan flair and ingredients. We work hard to source our ingredients from small farms and local fisherman. Wild Dawn's deckhand works diligently to ensure she is tidy, ship shape and ready for adventure at all times.



Email: wilddawnak@gmail.com

Phone: (907) 796-9109

www.alaskacharteryacht.com

