

BEAUTIFUL ALASKA - THE LAST FRONTIER

A LAND AND CRUISE ADVENTURE!



DATE: JULY 22 – AUGUST 1, 2004

Thursday, July 22nd

Depart Home / Arrive Anchorage / Denali National Park

Welcome to Alaska for the experience of a lifetime! To discover the magic of this Last Frontier, we begin in Anchorage where you are surrounded by spectacular scenery – majestic mountains, glistening glaciers, crystal clear streams and lakes. Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, offers the biggest selection of things to see and do – in and around town. Anchorage sits at the base of the Chugach Mountains along the coast of Cook Inlet and is home to over forty percent of Alaska's population.



Upon arrival, we are met at the airport and drive toward Denali via motor coach. **Denali National Park & Preserve** features North America's highest mountain, 20,320-foot tall Mount McKinley. The Alaska Range also includes countless other spectacular mountains and many large glaciers. Denali's more than 6 million acres also encompass a complete sub-arctic eco-system with large mammals. We will stop for dinner at a local restaurant en route.

Overnight at the McKinley Chalets

(D)

Friday, July 23rd

Denali National Park

This morning, travel deep into Denali National Park. The **Tundra Wildlife Tour** is a fascinating and informative 6-8 hour adventure. Your interpretive guide/driver is an experienced naturalist who will share delightful insights about the land and its amazing wildlife, such as bears, moose, caribou, grizzlies, and Dall sheep. In addition, over 300 species of birds have been spotted at Denali. It is considered the most scenic place in North America to view wildlife in its natural habitat. You will be amazed at the natural beauty of the park! Weather permitting; you'll see **Mt. McKinley** in all of its towering glory as well as the beautiful rolling tundra and taiga forests. A "boxed lunch" on your tour will tide you over until dinner this evening. The remainder of the day is free to relax or participate in Denali activities as active or passive as you wish.

Overnight at the McKinley Chalets

(B, L)

Saturday, July 24th

Denali National Park / Anchorage

After breakfast, you will have some free time to choose from a variety of optional activities. Some exciting activities you may want to consider: a Wilderness Run easy float trip down river, dog mushing demonstration, horseback riding, helicopter rides or a visit to the informative Visitor's Center.

At 12:15 p.m. you will board the **McKinley Explorer**, the luxury dome train to travel to Anchorage. Sit back and relax, dinner will be served on board. You will have a splendid view of the forested mountains and vibrant meadows, via special glass-domed viewing cars. (Approx. 8 hour train; departs at 12:15 pm and arrives at 8:15 pm). The evening is at leisure in Anchorage.

Overnight Anchorage

(B, D)

Sunday, July 25th

Anchorage / Sail from Seward

After breakfast and hotel check-out, enjoy a guided **Anchorage Highlights Tour**. See the downtown business district, the Captain Cook Monument and visit the **Alaska Native Heritage Center**. The 26 acre center has live demonstrations and performances in native village settings representing native cultures from five regions of Alaska. After lunch on your own, we transfer via motor coach from Anchorage to Seward and board **Holland America's Statendam**. Located at the head of Resurrection Bay on the Kenai Peninsula is Seward, one of Alaska's oldest communities. Named for the man who bought Alaska from the Russians, this is one of the most beautiful cities in the Northwest. Saltwater bays, blue glaciers, majestic mountains and alpine valleys make this historical city one of the most memorable to visit.

(B, D)

Monday, July 26th

Scenic Cruising College Fjord

Sixteen majestic ice mountains line this 20-mile-long fjord in the **Prince William Sound**, each named for a renowned East Coast college as a reward for funding the 1899 Harriman Expedition, whose scientists put this impressive waterway on the map. Icebergs aren't the only thing bobbing in these frigid waters--whales, porpoises, seals, sea lions, and the occasional orca also make their presence known to sightseers and spruce forests at edge of the ice lend a helpful sense of scale.

(B, L, D)



Tuesday, July 27th

Scenic Cruising Glacier Bay National Park

No one shows you **Glacier Bay** like Holland America, with more visits than any other cruise line. Witness a world still emerging from the Ice Age--16 tidewater glaciers in action. Breathtaking scenery is the order of the day along Alaska's Inside Passage: snow-capped mountains melt into a turquoise-tinted sea, humpback whales frolic and feed, and the unmistakable creak and rumble of calving glaciers haunt the air. The protected waters of Glacier Bay National Park delight anglers with rich stores of halibut and salmon. Moose and bear, and wolves roam freely along the banks and hidden coves and rugged shores keep ambitious paddlers honest.

(B, L, D)

Wednesday, July 28th

Sitka

Step back to the days of Russian Alaska as you watch lively performances of the New Archangel Dancers and view holy paintings of the Czarists' days. **Sitka** sits calmly at the Inside Passage's outer edge in the Tongass National Forest, world's largest temperate rainforest. Tlingit Indians were the sole inhabitants until Russians captured and subsequently sold the city (and the rest of Alaska) to the U.S. White-capped peaks dominate scenery characterized by motion, be it soaring raptors, paddling kayakers, or autumn's promenade of humpback whales. The performances of Russian and Ukrainian Archangel Dancers increase this tempo, but history remains static at the Tlingit Fort at the National Historic Park, the Russian canon at Totem Square, and the Isabel Miller Museum display of regional artifacts. **Optional fishing excursions will be arranged from Sitka.**

(B, L, D)

Thursday, July 29th

Juneau

Juneau, Alaska is considered by many to be the most beautiful capital city in the nation. Checking in at just a little over 3,100 square miles **Juneau** qualifies as the biggest American city - geographically, that is. The terrain is hilly and winding, and narrow streets present a small-town quaintness existing side-by-side with cosmopolitan sophistication. You'll find great shopping, fine restaurants and superb Museums, taste salmon baked over an alderwood fire, pan for gold, flight-see the Juneau Ice Field, and walk right up to the Mendenhall Glacier.

(B, L, D)

Friday, July 30th

Ketchikan

A popular destination along Alaska's famed Inside Passage, **Ketchikan** is teeming with Native American culture. Home of the largest concentration of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people in the state this extraordinarily beautiful city on Revillagigedo Island boasts the world's largest collection of totem poles, and an equally impressive selection of museums and cultural centers featuring Native dance, carving and artifacts. Ketchikan's calm waters and surprisingly gentle climate make it a favorite of sports fishermen.

(B, L, D)

Saturday, July 31st

Cruise Inside Passage

All it takes to get the inside story of Alaska's beauty is a trip through the **Inside Passage**, Alaska's "water highway", where majestic fjords compete for your attention with mountain masterpieces carved by the glaciers. Breathtaking panoramas are dotted by small fishing villages along the coast, and the protected waters are perfect for spotting wildlife.

(B, L, D)

Sunday, August 1st

Vancouver / Arrive Home

Vancouver is a dream-like mountain ringed city blessed with a huge natural harbor that remains ice-free year round. Wide open spaces, beautiful beaches, tall skyscrapers and an enchanting rainforest all mingle together to create a most relaxed and stress-free setting. From Vancouver's cosmopolitan downtown to the historically renovated Gastown district and exotic Chinatown, Vancouver displays varied urban scenes. Nestled near the city center is Stanley Park, resplendent with its deep forest, totem poles, and scenic promenades.

After disembarkation, we enjoy a **Vancouver city tour** en route to the airport.

(B)

SHIP DESCRIPTION

On **Holland America's Statendam**, a triple-deck, fountain-filled atrium greets passengers as they move between the public rooms on the ship's Lower Promenade Deck and Upper Promenade. The two-level, 700-seat formal dining room serves elegant meals in fine style with an ocean view. Cruisers may feast on casual breakfast and lunch buffets in the Lido restaurant, right next to one of the two onboard swimming pools.

The 600-seat Van Gogh Theater features Broadway-style entertainment in a setting evoking the Dutch artist's beloved *Starry Night* and *Irises* paintings. Additional lounges include the Ocean Bar, Piano Bar, Explorers Lounge, and the Crow's Nest, a cross between an observation deck and a nightclub. Meetings, lectures, religious services, and movie screenings all take place in the 249-seat Wajang Theater. The Half Moon and Hudson Room also host meetings, private parties, and activities.

After a run on Statendam's jogging track or a workout in the fitness center, passengers can pamper themselves with a visit to the Ocean Spa and its massage tables, sauna, steam room, juice bar, beauty salon, and barber shop. Lady Luck has been known to spread some of her magic around in the casino. The Erasmus Library, the card room, and puzzle room offer respite for those seeking quieter pursuits. In keeping with Holland America's tradition of artistic display, the ship showcases a \$2 million art and artifact collection built around the apropos theme of Dutch exploration.