Expedition Alaska
Northern Passages and Glacier Bay

Join South Platte Park on an unrivaled adventure into the most pristine wilderness of Alaska via an expedition ship from Juneau to Sitka. We will first explore the capitol city of Juneau, then embark on the Wilderness Explorer, a 74-passenger, all-inclusive ship with a 3:1 passenger to crew ratio. While the big ships take a day or two to reach Sitka from Juneau, we will spend an entire week gliding through the wildly beautiful waters of the Northern Passages, taking in sights and sounds unmatched by any other way of travel. In addition to all food, beverages and comforts of home, this ship has zero hidden fees – all excursions and equipment use is included (except SCUBA equipment).

Trip Highlights:

Day 1  Travel from Denver, settle into Juneau, Alaska State Museum
Day 2  Mount Roberts Tramway and Mendenhall Glacier
Day 3  Hiking and on-own time in Juneau
Day 4  Meet our Ship and Crew: Embarkation on Wilderness Explorer
Day 5  Captain’s choice
Day 6  Glacier Bay National Park
Day 7  Icy Straight
Day 8  Chichagof Island and Peril Straight
Day 9  Sergius Narrows and Neva Straight
Day 10  Krestof and Nakwasina Sounds
Day 11  Sitka – Disembark
Day 12  Travel back to Denver
Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1

Denver to Juneau, Alaska

Welcome to Juneau, Alaska’s capital. Upon arrival a group transfer is provided to your hotel. An afternoon orientation tour with your local guide acquaints you with this charming town. A visit to ALASKA STATE MUSEUM will immerse us in the culture and history of Alaska. Hotel: Hotel Baranof or similar.

DAY 2

Juneau, Alaska (Breakfast)

Depart this morning for MOUNT ROBERTS TRAMWAY which provides some of the most spectacular landscapes in Alaska. Sightseeing continues with a visit to MENDENHALL GLACIER, one of 38 glaciers flowing from the massive 1,500-square-mile Juneau Ice field. Visit the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center for an elevated view of the glacier as well as interactive geological exhibits explaining glacier formation. Hotel: Hotel Baranof

DAY 3

Juneau, Alaska (Breakfast)

Start off with breakfast and an easy-moderate hike (approximately 3 hours) at a nearby trailhead to further explore the natural beauty of Juneau and surrounds. Lunch on own, then half day free time taking in more of Alaska on your terms. Dinner on own.

DAY 4

Juneau, Alaska – Embarkation (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

A crew member shows you to your cabin. After a short time getting situated, gain your bearings with a spin around the ship before heading to the lounge for a glass of bubbly and to meet your shipmates. We’re off to where the big ships CAN’T go!
DAY 5

**Captain’s Choice**
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Lynn Canal or Chatham Strait, your Captain makes the call. Either choice, go with the flow. The water is fine. The guides help you gear up, and lead your adventure along the rocky outcroppings by kayak or paddle board, where you will take in the size of this wilderness. Bald eagles dot the tree tops. Harbor seals bob up and under. Pods of orcas—the largest in the dolphin family—skim along the water’s surface.

DAY 6

**Glacier Bay National Park**
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

What a privilege. At 3.3 million acres—this UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve is massive. At Bartlett Cove, a park ranger joins in on your day’s exploration and shares the park’s history. Orange-beaked puffins, guillemots, marbled murrelets are just a few possible sightings. Keep a tally—the list will grow. Arriving at South Marble Island, you can hear and smell ‘em before you see ‘em—it’s a haulout for sea lions. Perched above around the bend, watch for mountain goats, and lower along shore, foraging bears. Margerie and Grand Pacific Glaciers—one holding steady, the other retreating. Lounging harbor seals laze on bits of bergs. And if time allows, tuck up in Tidal Inlet. End this very full day with your feet up for the sail into Icy Strait.
DAY 7

Icy Strait (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Nearly to the Pacific Ocean, Icy Strait is remote and wild. The plan? Whales and marine mammals. Spouts and fin slaps are certain giveaways. More rollicking sea lions and birds. But don’t forget to look straight down. Porpoises and dolphins may hitch a ride on the bow wave. And don’t worry about missing any wildlife; it’s a favorite mission of the crew to point out any creatures they spot. Make a break for it and head for a quiet pocket along the rugged coastline. A different sort of wild than the open strait, muskeg leads to forest exploration. Skiff the shore and down along kelp-threaded channels.

DAY 8

Chichagof Island / Peril Strait (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Meander through glacier-carved fjords along the Chichagof coast. Then stop. It’s a prime time to lower the kayaks and skiffs. Camera in hand, set off on land and sea explorations. Upon closer inspection by skiff, moss-dripping trees run right down to the water. Any bears in there? With one of the world’s largest populations of bears, it’s possible. Go searching for giant trees and tidal pools. Hiking in the Tongass, it won’t take long to find them. Your eagle-eyed guides lead the pack—and pull up the rear. Later, wend along a twisting channel known for dramatic currents. Peril Strait runs 50 miles to Salisbury Sound.
DAY 9
Sergius Narrows / Neva Strait

There’s an eerie, enigmatic feeling in these woods. Morning fog catches like cotton balls on trees. The aptly named narrows squeezes to only 300 feet wide in one spot and a shallow 24 feet deep. The shorelines are close and it’s good territory for play. Skiff ashore with your guide and hike into the backcountry. Otters back-float working to crack snacks resting on their bellies. Opening at Hoonah Sound, the squeeze is back on. Wind into Neva Strait. Watch the scenery change in the late fading light—from the hot tub of course!

DAY 10
Krestof & Nakwasina Sounds

There aren’t many straight lines along Baranof Island. Its western side is spattered with remote, uninhabited islands. These features mean endless opportunities for adventure. Secluded coves. Tree-covered islets. Drop anchor, pick your modus operandi, and get going. Kayak, paddle board, or skiff—you’re on the level with curious sea lions and possibly whales. Rocky intertidal zones make good beach combing. Turn a stone or two to see what’s underneath. There are no groomed trails here—get out on a guided hike John Muir would approve of. Toast your voyage with a festive Farewell Dinner and a “photo journal” of your trip. A gift to you, from your expedition team.
DAY 11

Sitka, Alaska – Disembark (Breakfast)

Cruise into Sitka this morning over breakfast. Farewell new friends! Disembark and transfer to the hotel. From the port, we’ll head to the Westmark Hotel. Spend time on your own or with a group exploring Sitka before dinner. Farewell dinner as a group.

DAY 12

Sitka, Alaska – Denver, Colorado (Breakfast)

Today we travel back to Denver via Alaska Airlines. Change of plane in Seattle.
About Our Ship

Wilderness Explorer, 74-passenger, 3:1 passenger to crew ratio.
Carefully and comfortably appointed cabins.

Zero hidden costs. What most defines your trip is included - excursions, handcrafted cuisine, and a wide array of beverage options, including alcohol.
Every meal is handcrafted by executive chefs to ensure innovative, nutritious, and delectable dining experiences that highlight flavors of the region.

What to expect:

- Dining is casual, seating is casual, served over several courses.
- Early-riser breakfasts of fresh fruit and baked-on-board pastries
- Full breakfasts with hot and cold options and specialty items
- Lunches range from salads, sandwiches, and homemade soups to regionally-influenced dishes
- Dinners offer a choice of entrées including fresh, local seafood and meats
- Chef-selected wine pairings that complement your meal
- Made-from-scratch desserts like tiramisu and lavender panna cotta
- Varied hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour
- Vegetarian dishes are available at all meals
- Special dietary needs can be met with advance notice

Hundreds of collective hours spent sautéing, chopping, braising, and caramelizing have taught each team how to craft brilliant meals. And that experience—plus bacon in a salad, atop a dessert, or to garnish a cocktail—is likely to increase chances of success. While Mother Nature is assured her place at center stage, the galley’s fine-tuned creations earn deserved time in the spotlight and on your fork. It’s exciting in the galley!

**Wetting Your Whistle**

Behind the bar, there are no wells or mass-produced options. What you'll find are small batch, craft spirits. Along with barrel-aged cocktails (often mixed with seasonal, local ingredients), house-made mixers and cordials, even some house-infused spirits (like a cucumber vodka or gin).

**Sustainable Dining**

Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced locally for freshness and regional authenticity, as well as to support the communities where we travel and to protect and preserve our oceans.
## Flights – Alaska Air

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Terms and Conditions

Rates per person: $6,899 ($6,799 South Suburban District rate); Please see payment schedule for payment and cancellation policies. Fuel surcharges, changes in tax rates, changes in airline fees, or other included costs that vary by more than 2% of the total fee may be passed along to tour participants. Opportunities for cancellation may be extended in the event of higher fees, depending on when we learn of them. Cost includes airfare from Denver, voyage on UnCruise, all transfers, tours, guides, double-occupancy lodging, and most meals.

NOT INCLUDED: Travel insurance (highly recommended), meals not included on itinerary, alcohol off the ship, gratuities on or off ship, additional baggage or weight fees and personal spending/souvenirs.

Single supplement: $3995 additional. Solo travelers may sign up without single supplement for the trip with the understanding that the South Suburban tour coordinator will try to match same-gender singles for the standard double-occupancy tour rate. When the opportunity arises and is offered, single travelers need to agree to a suggested same-gender roommate, opt for the single supplement or cancel by March 30, 2018. Once set, roommate assignments cannot be changed unless mutually agreeable.

By registering for this program, registrant acknowledges that the program activities carry certain risks for the participants. Further, by registering, registrant releases and indemnifies District, its employees, agents, contractors, or volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, loss or injury to person or property, caused during participation in the activity. This release and indemnity is intended to be as broad as permitted by law.

Participants also agree to adhere to the South Suburban code of Conduct which states: Appropriate social behavior is required for all programs and activities and in all district facilities. All individuals are encouraged to act in a way that will not hurt another person physically, mentally or emotionally. A participant may be asked to withdraw from a class or program if behavior does not comply with facility and program standards. Alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse are not allowed in district vehicles or on led portions of the trip. Participants may not be impaired by legal substances during led portions of the trip, or they may be required to withdraw from activities at their own expense.

In addition, participants should understand that by registering for or participating in South Suburban activities, permission is granted for photographs taken during the program and of participants to be used in the catalog and promotional materials unless permission is explicitly withdrawn.

A required pre-trip meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2018 at 6:30pm to share itinerary details and discuss packing. A detailed packing list will be provided.
Payment schedule

• $1500 required to reserve space.
• 50% of fees must be received by March 30, 2018.
• Full payment is due May 30, 2018.

Cancellation Terms

• Individual cancellations received prior to April 30 will be refunded in full except for $5.00 per person service charge.

• Participants may be responsible for a single supplement portion if cancelling out of a double-occupancy registration.

• Individual cancellations received after May 1 but before May 31, 2018 will be refunded except for $355.00 per person service charge.

• After May 31 and before July 1: 50% penalty of total fare.

• After July 1: 100% forfeiture of total fare.

Ticketing variations – South Suburban is handling the flight arrangement, with participants traveling together on one flight. Any changes (if possible) to the ticketing will require that the participant pay the airline change fees, any difference in fare basis, individual transfers and a $75 administrative fee to South Suburban after initial booking.

We highly recommend you consider trip insurance to protect yourself in the event health or personal restrictions prevent you from taking the trip prior to departure. Most travel insurance must be purchased immediately after initial booking and is generally based on cost of the trip. You should also investigate your personal medical insurance coverage for international travel and consider supplemental coverage. One well-known travel insurance provider is http://www.travelguard.com/

Waiver and travel documents: All travelers must provide their name EXACTLY as shown on official identification used at the airport (driver’s license or passport) by May 24, 2018. Each participant must also provide a signed waiver and information form, sent to you after registration. Passports are NOT required for this trip, but if you choose to use one as identification, it must be current and cannot expire before March 15, 2019. You will also be required to submit emergency contact information.
South Suburban Parks and Recreation will not be held liable for any refund whatsoever due to changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary when substitutions are provided. Refunds are also not available due to delays or cancellations due to weather or any other cause beyond South Suburban’s control. Travel insurance is highly recommended.

If you'd like to register over the phone please call the Registration Office at 303-347-5999.

For details or questions, contact Victoria Sutton at South Platte Park.
303-730-1022x61012 or victorias@ssprd.org

Other

• Weather in Alaska varies greatly and we will be traveling in the shoulder between summer and fall. Expect temperatures to range between 40-65 degrees, with rain possible.

• Baggage should be limited to one suitcase weighing no more than 50 pounds and a backpack for excursions. Full packing list will be provided at the pre-trip meeting.

• Vaccinations are not required for this trip; however we will be on a small ship and anyone prone to motion sickness should consult their primary care physician prior to travel.

• This travel group will not exceed 14 passengers and 1 leader.