


**FLY FREE**  
Between Seattle & Alaska, RT


**AAAS** *Travels*  
**SIGMA XI** *Expeditions*  
THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

 **BETCHART EXPEDITIONS** inc.

# Exploring **Alaska's Coastal Wilderness**



**June 5-12, 2011 | Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird***

A vertical photograph capturing a powerful glacier calving event. The upper portion of the image shows a towering, textured wall of blue-tinged ice. A large section of this ice has broken away, falling into the water below. This has created a massive, billowing splash of white water and ice fragments that fills the middle of the frame. The foreground shows the dark, choppy surface of the ocean with several smaller pieces of ice floating. The overall scene is one of immense natural power and scale.

“You come to Alaska to see the large and magnificent: the glaciers, the whales, the bears. But then you start to focus in on the small and unheralded little things. And there are those moments when the sights are so overwhelming that you develop new eyes. And new ears. The sounds come into play — the sounds of birds, of water, of whales, and sometimes a profound silence. It’s so profound it’s more of a presence than an absence. I love that.”

— *Kim Heacox, National Geographic Writer/Photographer*



## Dear AAAS and Sigma Xi Members and Friends,

Journey with us **June 5-12, 2011** to Southeast Alaska – a land of humpback whales, brown bears, soaring bald eagles, thundering glaciers, pristine islands and dramatic fjords. Explore Alaska's majestic Inside Passage by walking in spruce forests, cruising the picturesque coves of Baranof Island and viewing up close the spectacular waterfalls and sheer granite walls of Tracy Arm fjord. See communities indelibly linked to the history of the region. Experience firsthand the Alaska most people bypass aboard large cruise ships.

Aboard the 62-guest *National Geographic Sea Bird*, experience the freedom that only a small ship can provide – the flexibility to linger with a pod of humpback whales or to watch a bear foraging on the shoreline. From the unique vantage of sea kayaks and motorized Zodiac landing craft, observe glaciers up close and land on remote islands.

The ship is equipped to reveal the underwater wonders to you. A hydrophone is lowered to allow us to hear the live vocalizations of whales. The video microscope transmits images to monitors in the ship's lounge, allowing us to view a largely unnoticed world.

Travel with a group of like-minded travelers interested in adventure and discovery. An expedition leader and a team of naturalists teach you about the wildlife, plants, native cultures and history of Alaska. They'll answer your questions and help you make the most of your journey. And you travel informally with a good pair of boots, binoculars, a camera and a sense of spontaneity and fun.

Search for whales, bears, sea lions, otters and puffins in a place where eagles outnumber people and where no two days are alike. Come away refreshed and renewed, and with a much deeper understanding of this great land.

**Book by December 15, 2010 to receive complimentary round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska.** To make your reservation, please call toll free at 800-252-4910 or return the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Betchart  
President, Betchart Expeditions, Inc.  
For AAAS Travels and Sigma Xi Expeditions

P.S. Please consider joining our optional extension to Denali National Park.  
See page 8 for details.

Cover Photo: Breaching humpback whale. ©Michael S. Nolan  
Opposite: Sawyer Glacier calving an enormous column of ice into the water.



# EXPLORE PURE AMERICAN WILDNESS

The Alaska of legend, the Alaska the first explorers saw when they came upon this astounding wilderness of ice, the Alaska you've come for is not displayed like goods in a shop window.

To see Alaska you have to go deep – into the channels to observe glaciers up close. Into the remote bays to see where whales feed. Into cathedral forests among the Sitka spruce and hemlock. On the coast, to watch brown bears foraging and bald eagles soaring. Or into roadless towns to meet the locals. A perfectly sized, nimble expedition ship is the best way to discover the real Alaska.

The Alaska we want to show you might begin with the great exhalation of humpback whales breathing next to the ship in early morning, followed by a brown bear mother and cub searching for food on the shore. After breakfast, it's time to race



*Clockwise: Zodiac explorers exhilarated by a surprise encounter with a humpback whale; fording an Alaskan stream; brown bear; kayaking is a fun way to make discoveries.*

on deck to watch humpback or orca whales as hydrophones are lowered beneath the water to hear the humpbacks' eerie vocalizations.

In mid-afternoon, we may kayak and take Zodiac cruises. And before dinner, we keep a lookout for breaching whales. Because the itinerary is designed with wildlife sightings in mind, we adjust our plans based on what you want to see and do.



*The welcoming expedition staff is always available to answer your questions. They accompany every outing and lead informal talks each evening. And they will be glad to continue the conversation over meals in the dining room.*



Hike forest trails in the company of expert naturalists.

# THE UP-CLOSE EXPERIENCE YOU WANT WITH THE EXPERTS WHO KNOW IT BEST

From far away, glaciers appear white. And those who visit Alaska aboard larger ships may leave still believing they are. But when you travel expedition style, using a small nimble ship and Zodiacs to get up close, you see the spectrum: intense blues with pearl, crystal, aqua; numberless shades of white swirled with dark sediment churned over centuries of glacial slide. You'll even see behind the surface colors, to the geology that explains them.



We want to show you an Alaska that is more than “one color.” You are immersed in an authentic experience. The expedition team, comprised of five naturalists including an expedition leader, is unsurpassed at giving you access to information, stories and experiences that bring the region to life.

- ✓ **Extensive Experience:** The expertise of the captain, expedition leader and naturalists means that you'll learn more, see more and we hope, come to care more about this precious environment.
- ✓ **Unparalleled Record of Safety:** Decades of experience, research and a commitment to quality have enabled the expedition team to create procedures that ensure you discover Alaska safely.
- ✓ **National Geographic on Board:** Spend time with top researchers, naturalists and photographers.
- ✓ **Flexible Itinerary:** With a flexible approach, you'll be able to maximize your interaction with nature's unplanned gifts, landing sites, or simply stay put to observe exciting wildlife.
- ✓ **Insider Access:** Special permits allow you to explore protected areas like Tongass National Forest.
- ✓ **Outstanding Ship Service:** With a crew-to-guest ratio of 1:2 and four naturalists plus an expedition leader for a maximum of 62 guests, our staff is always available.
- ✓ **Expedition Ship:** We use a small, specially outfitted, comfortable expedition ship.
- ✓ **Unmatched Tools for Exploration:** A fleet of kayaks and Zodiac landing craft are the perfect vehicles to experience Alaska up close. We also use video microscopes, hydrophones, and Splash Cams to reveal what other travelers seldom see or hear.
- ✓ **Wellness Program:** Join the wellness specialist for morning stretch classes or serene forest walks. There are also massage options and pampering body treatments to complement your time outdoors.

# EXPLORING ALASKA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

**8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD**

With a small ship, you can get as close to the action as possible.



## **DAY 1: JUNEAU, ALASKA/EMBARK**

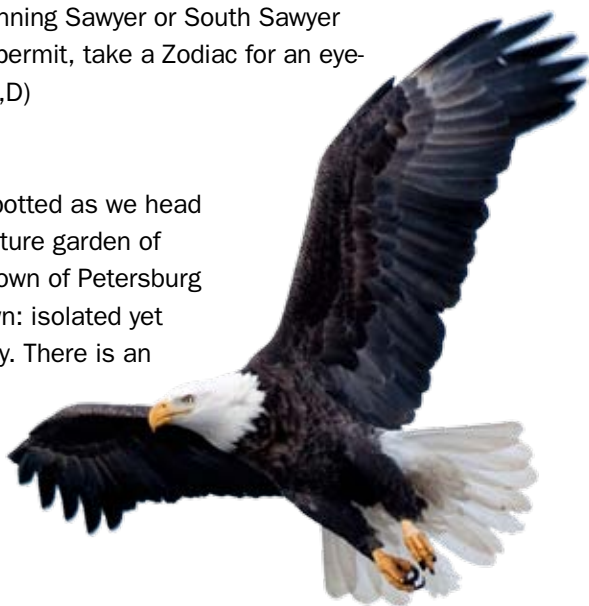
Fly from Seattle to Juneau. Visit Mendenhall Glacier and the Alaska State Museum, an excellent introduction to Alaska's natural history and culture. Embark ship. After dinner, explore Juneau on your own. (D)

## **DAY 2: TRACY ARM**

Enter Tracy Arm, a spectacular, 22-mile-long fjord with many waterfalls cascading from its high, glacially carved walls. Meander among the icebergs, looking for black bears feeding along the shoreline and mountain goats scaling the steep granite cliffs. See the stunning Sawyer or South Sawyer glaciers up close, and if conditions permit, take a Zodiac for an eye-level view of sculpted icebergs. (B,L,D)

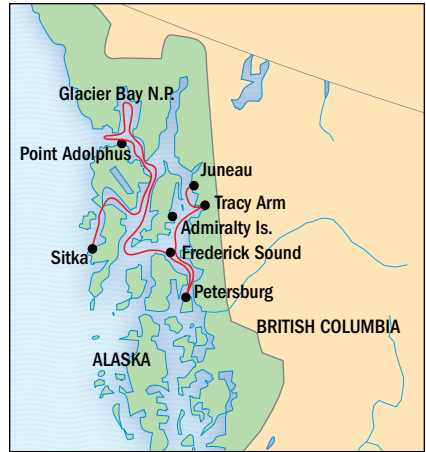
## **DAY 3: PETERSBURG**

Humpback whale blows are often spotted as we head toward Le Conte Bay, a virtual sculpture garden of grounded icebergs. Visit the small town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island, a true Alaskan town: isolated yet connected by the spirit of community. There is an opportunity for optional flightseeing, for a new perspective on the landscape we've approached by water. (B,L,D)



#### DAY 4: FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT

These waters are prime for sighting whales — pods of humpbacks or orca whales searching for their next meal. With luck, we'll get to observe some fascinating behavior, such as breaching, tail-slapping and variations on feeding. Look for Steller's sea lions hauled out and dozing on the rocky islands. Later, there will be time to hike or kayak for up-close exploration. (B,L,D)



#### DAY 5: GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

In Glacier Bay, enormous glaciers flow from ice fields far above. Some end abruptly at the water's edge, and create an opportunity to see and hear them calving as tons of ice crash into the sea. Look for gravity-defying humpback and orca whales. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6: POINT ADOLPHUS/INIAN PASS

Hike, kayak and search for whales near Point Adolphus, consistently one of the favored summer feeding areas for humpback whales. Then cruise to Inian Pass, where playful sea otters reside. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7: EXPLORING ALASKA'S ISLANDS, BAYS AND FJORDS

Explore with the luxury of a flexible plan. We may stop at an isolated beach to hike a forest trail, beachcomb, observe tidepools, or explore island coastlines by kayak or Zodiac — all in an area with the world's highest density of nesting bald eagles. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 8: SITKA/DISEMBARK/SEATTLE

In Sitka, visit onion-domed St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral, discover the grand totems that line the trail through Sitka National Historical Park and explore the Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Fly to Seattle. (B)

*Note: Lindblad Expeditions is authorized to operate in the Tongass National Forest under a Forest Service special-use permit, enabling us to take you hiking and kayaking in wild and remote areas of Southeast Alaska.*



Orca whale.

# OPTIONAL EXTENSION: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

## 7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS: JUNE 12-18, 2011

Join other members of AAAS and Sigma Xi on this post-voyage extension to Anchorage, Denali and Fairbanks.



### DAY 1: SITKA/ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Fly to Anchorage and meet your leader at the airport. Transfer to the Sheraton or Hilton Hotel. (B)

### DAY 2: ANCHORAGE/DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Visit the Anchorage Museum, with its superb exhibits on Alaska's cultural heritage and natural world. Drive to Denali National Park and check into the Denali Cabins for the night. Dinner at Alaska Salmon Bake. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Visit the Denali Park Visitor Center for an introduction to the Park's history and wildlife. After lunch, drive 90 miles into the heart of Denali National Park, stopping for wildlife observation and photography. Look for moose, grizzly bears, Dall's sheep, caribou and birds. Stay three nights at the Kantishna Roadhouse, nearly in the center of the Park. (B,L,D)

### DAYS 4-5: DENALI NATIONAL PARK

We have two full days to explore the Park and its wildlife. Join local naturalists for hikes, canoeing, gold panning and other activities. Weather permitting, 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley can be seen in all its glory. Enjoy a variety of evening programs at the Roadhouse. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: DENALI NATIONAL PARK/FAIRBANKS

Take a wildlife drive through Denali National Park and continue north to Fairbanks. Overnight at Sophie Station Hotel. Festive dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: FAIRBANKS/HOME

This morning see the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Then visit the Large Animal Research Station or the Geophysical Institute. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Seattle. (B)



### COST PER PERSON:

Double Occupancy: \$3,690

Single Supplement: \$1,000

**Deposit:** \$1,000 per person.

**Cost Includes:** Accommodations, meals indicated, guided activities, airport transfers.

**Not Included:** Air transportation to Anchorage and from Fairbanks, personal items, gratuities to guides.

*For reservations and a detailed itinerary, please contact Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910.*

# WALLET OPTIONAL

Just about everything you have the opportunity to do as part of your expedition is included, both aboard ship and ashore.

The only things not included in the price of this voyage are those of a personal nature, or that interest a limited number of people — optional flightseeing in Petersburg, alcohol, an occasional meal ashore where you would prefer choices, internet usage, tips to the crew, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements.

The value of these inclusions, combined with the quality of service and the excellence of the expedition staff, add up to considerable value.

You could literally go on this voyage without a dollar in your pocket and have a perfectly excellent experience taking advantage of all that is offered.



## ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All excursions
- ✓ Zodiac explorations
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the Lounge including special presentations by the Alaska Whale Foundation

## ASHORE

- ✓ Sightseeing & entrance fees
- ✓ Special-access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to and from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of the expedition staff

## ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Complimentary water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Fitness equipment
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance and company of the expedition staff



## National Geographic Sea Bird and Sea Lion

**CAPACITY:** 62 guests in 31 outside cabins. **REGISTRY:** United States.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 152 feet.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Ship features a Library; Global Market; Dining Room; Lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows and presentations; Observation Deck; partially covered Sun Deck with chairs and tables. Our “Open Bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide-selection buffet and lunch is often served family style.

Menu emphasizes local flavors.

**CABINS:** All face outside with windows, private facilities and climate controls.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, bow camera, hydrophone, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera and video microscope.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest Internet access. A video chronicler and ship’s doctor on board all voyages.

**WELLNESS:** The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment, LEXspa and outdoor stretching area.

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
Exploring Alaska’s Coastal Wilderness	\$5,990	\$6,790	\$7,890	\$8,990	\$10,190	\$1,000	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Seattle/Juneau/Sitka/Seattle: Economy from \$600; Business from \$1,175. Subject to change.



A wellness specialist leads daily stretch classes; comfortable Category 3 cabin; unassigned seating in the Dining Room adds to the informal setting.

**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #300-305 — Conveniently positioned between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two single lower beds, a writing desk and a large view window.

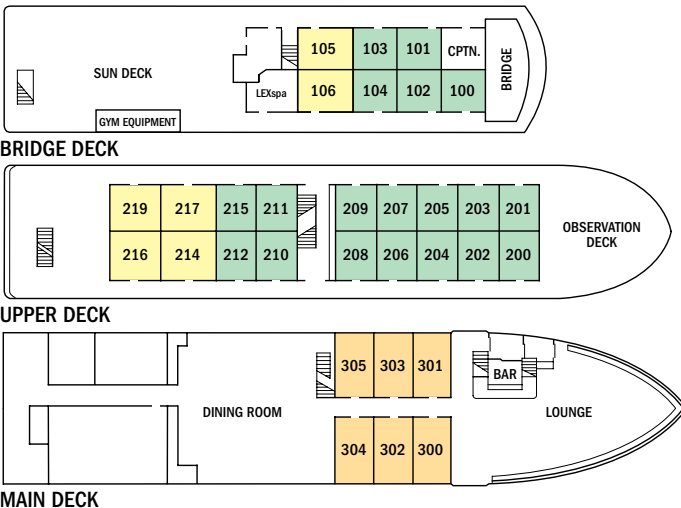
**CATEGORY 2:** Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 — These well-located cabins include two lower single beds and a window.

**CATEGORY 3:** Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 — These cabins feature a seating unit with table and two large view windows. Upper Deck cabins include

two lower single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two lower single beds only.

**NOTE:** Sole-occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third-person rates are available in certain categories at one half the double-occupancy rate.

**SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS:** Shares can be arranged at the double-occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2 only.





With a fleet of Zodiacs, you experience Alaskan glaciers in all their magnificence at water level.

**SPECIAL OFFERS**

**FREE AIR:** Book by December 15, 2010 to receive complimentary economy-class round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska. (Excludes extension airfare and hometown airfare to/from Seattle. Not combinable with any other offer.)

**BRING THE KIDS:** We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take \$500 off the double-occupancy price for each person under 18.

**Costs Include:** Accommodations aboard ship; meals indicated; non-alcoholic beverages aboard ship; transfers to/from airport if traveling on group flights; all shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees; taxes, service charges and tips (except to ship's crew). There's never a charge for kayaks, Zodiacs or the services of Lindblad's expedition staff.

**Not Included:** Round-trip airfare between hometown/Alaska; meals not indicated; optional extensions; flight-seeing; independent transfers; passport fees; baggage/accident/travel protection plan; voyage DVD; personal items including email, telephone and fax calls, and discretionary gratuities to ship's crew.

**Sample Airfares:** Round-trip Seattle/Juneau/Sitka/Seattle: Economy from \$600; Business from \$1,175. Lindblad will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee. Subject to change.

**Note:** A complete packet of pre-departure information, included recommended reading list and suggestions on what to bring, will be sent to you approximately four months before departure.

**Terms & Conditions**

**Reservations:** To confirm your place, an advance payment of US\$1,000 per person is payable by check.

**Final Payment:** Due 60 days prior to departure.

**Travel Protection Plan:** A travel protection plan is available at extra cost. Upon receiving your reservation, we will send you information on this policy. This comprehensive guest protection plan covers trip cancellation for medical reasons; trip delay; medical expenses; accidental death; lost baggage; and medical evacuation.

**Smoking Policy:** Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

**Responsibility:** Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of the Company's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests prior to final payment, and to prospective guests upon request.

*Prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. The Company reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the Company's actual cost of fuel.*

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
90 or more days	\$250
89–60 days	Advance payment cost
59–30 days	50% of trip cost
29–0 days	No refund

*This policy applies to expeditions and may differ for extensions. Please call for details. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.*



**Please return to:**

Betchart Expeditions, Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
Phone: (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910  
E-mail: info@betchartexpeditions.com

**Reservation Form:  
Exploring Alaska's Coastal Wilderness  
Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird* — June 5-12, 2011**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on  Alaska  Alaska + Denali.

Name 1 (*As it appears on passport*): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 1 (*Preferred name for name badge*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 (*As it appears on passport*): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 (*Preferred name for name badge*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day/Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations:  Double  Single  Twin share w/friend

Twin share (Roommate assigned by tour operator)

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(US\$1,000 per person for Alaska and US\$2,000 per person for Alaska + Denali))

Check made payable to **Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.**

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them:

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  AAAS  Sigma Xi  ACS

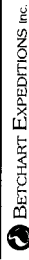
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## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Experience an insider's view of Alaska's Inside Passage aboard an intimate 62-guest ship.
- ▶ Search for whales, bears, sea lions, puffins and majestic bald eagles.
- ▶ Zodiac to spectacular waterfalls, kayak among icebergs, walk amid towering spruce and listen to the "songs" of humpback whales.
- ▶ Travel with an expert and dedicated team of naturalists who share their passion for this great land.



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**SIGMA XI Expeditions**  
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