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# Alaska Land & Cruise (13 Day) July 5-17, 2015

INSURANCE INCLUDED IF YOU SIGN UP BY 5/5/15



PASSPORT REQUIRED!

### Day 1 Flight to Vancouver/Cruise

Our journey begins with a flight from Minneapolis to Vancouver. We will board **Holland America's ms Oosterdam for a fun-filled 7 Day cruise.** There are many activities to take part in aboard the ship, be sure to check them out! Each day the ship will dock at a different location, you may stay on the ship or go to shore. The choice is yours to make! Your meals are included on the ship, but on your own if you decide to go to shore. (D)

### Day 2 Alaska's Inside Passage

The fabled Inside Passage is one of the most scenic sea-lanes in the world, and one of the few where deep-draft vessels can sail close to steep mountain walls. The scenery is unbelievable, with forests in a hundred shades of green, tumbling turquoise glaciers, and evocative towns loaded with history, culture and adventure. With most of Southeast Alaska accessible only by boat or plane, the Inside Passage is a lifeline to the outside world. (B, L, D)

### Day 3 Ketchikan, AK

This morning we will dock in Ketchikan, the town clutches the shores of the Tongass Narrows, with many shops and houses built right out over the water. The stairways are weathered and the vibe is cheerful in the town that calls itself the Salmon Capital of

the World. Besides the main attractions – Creek Street, the Tongass Historical Museum, Totem Bight State Park and Saxman Village – try a flightseeing trip to Misty Fjords National Monument. (B, L, D)

### Day 4 Juneau, AK

No roads lead to Juneau, which gives the Alaskan capital a misty inscrutability. You need to come by air or water, but when you arrive, the place will delight you with its bounty of water, forests, and mountains. Squeezed between the Gastineau Channel and Coast Mountains, Juneau offers a lot of variety in close proximity. The massive Mendenhall Glacier and the immense Juneau Icefields are at its back door. The vast Tongass National Forest stretches away to the northeast. You can shop downtown or get out and kayak, dogsled, raft, hike, whale watch, flightsee or fish. The adventures are as bountiful as the daylight. (B, L, D)

### Day 5 Skagway, AK

Some of the aspiring Klondike gold rushers who made it to Skagway took a look at the 500-mile journey that still lay ahead of them and decided a change of profession was in order. So many of them set up shop as provisioners that Skagway was the largest city in Alaska by the end of the 19th century. Booms fade and dreams move on, but the glory days still reverberate

through the town. Ride the antique White Pass & Yukon narrow-gauge railway, step into the Red Onion Saloon or peruse the restored buildings and wooden boardwalks of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. (B, L, D)

### Day 6 Glacier Bay, AK

If you didn't know any better, you'd think Glacier Bay is ostentatious for the way it flaunts its ice. The glaciers practically terminate in your lap. Our captain will show us a UNESCO World Heritage Site that protects a unique ecosystem of plants and animals living in concert with an ever-changing glacial landscape. When a monumental chunk of ice splits off a glacier and thunders into the sea the impact shoots water hundreds of feet into the air. You hold your breath as you catch the moment on film. Then you wait for it all to happen again. And it does: Glacier Bay has more actively calving tidewater glaciers than anyplace else in the world. (B, L, D)

### Day 7 Cruising at Sea

Today we will be at sea all day long. Take this day to enjoy the activities on the ship. (B, L, D)

### Day 8 Seward to Anchorage, AK

We will disembark the ship in Seward today. Located along the southern coast of the Kenai Peninsula, the city is vital fishing port, the





gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park and its steep-sided, glacier-carved valleys and flourishing wildlife. Watch for bald eagles, listen to the sounds of thousands of seabirds and share the waters with Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, Dall's porpoises, sea otters and whales. If time allows, you may explore the city. We will then board our Riley motor coach for the land portion of our tour. We'll travel the Seward Highway to Anchorage. Along the way, we'll have views of the Chugach and Kenai mountain ranges. We will turn onto the Alyeska Highway, a three mile highway leading to Girdwood. We will make a stop at the **Kobuk Valley Jade Company**. Alaska has some of the largest deposits of jade in the world. This place showcases the wonderful ways in which they work with jade. We'll then hop on the **Alyeska Aerial Tramway** and ride to the 2,300 foot level of Mount Alyeska. We will get panoramic views from the top of surrounding glaciers, Turnagain Arm and the Chugach Mountains. We will continue on to Anchorage where we will spend the next two nights. (B)

**Day 9 Anchorage, AK**

This morning we will visit the **Alaska Native Heritage Center**, we will experience a sample of Alaska's Native cultures. More than a museum, the Center provides an opportunity to explore the indigenous cultures of Alaska firsthand, cultures that continue to adapt to modern society, yet still maintain a vibrant identity for the Native peoples of Alaska. Then we'll board our motor coach and get a **city tour of Anchorage**. Seeing signs such as Earthquake Park, Lake Hood, the Statehood Monument, Downtown and more. We will have some time in downtown to shop before we return to our hotel for the evening. (B)

**Day 10 Denali National Park, AK**

We head north on the Parks Highway today. We'll spend some time in the historic village of **Talkeetna**, nestled at the base of North America's tallest peak Mt. McKinley (Denali) is an aviation and supply base for climbing expeditions. Then we will board the Denali Star and travel the **Alaska Railroad** from Talkeetna to Denali. On this route, sparkling salmon streams and stands of birch and spruce come into view, while carpets of fireweed add dramatic purple to the landscape. **Lunch is included** on the train. Upon arrival to Denali, our motor coach will be waiting to bring us to our hotel accommodations for the evening. (B, L)

**Day 11 Fairbanks, AK**

Today will be spent aboard a special bus for the **Tundra Wildlife Tour of Denali National Park**. We will see incredible scenery, learn history of the park road and have some of the best opportunities to view the park's wildlife inhabitants on this 6-8 hour tour. We cannot promise or predict when wildlife will show, the tour allows plenty of opportunity to look for Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and grizzly bears. After our tour, we will continue our trek north to Fairbanks on the Parks Highway, where we will spend the next two nights. (B)

**Day 12 Fairbanks, AK**

Our Alaskan adventure continues this morning! Our first stop at the **Trans-Alaska oil pipeline**. Then we will head out to Gold Dredge #8 and strike it rich! Take a seat aboard a replica of the narrow-gauge Tanana Valley Railroad. The train ride takes you to **Gold Dredge #8** where you will see firsthand how the dredge worked the gold fields, then receive a brief but informative course on gold panning. Then, you will try panning for yourself! This afternoon we will have an included lunch before we board the **Riverboat**

**Discovery** to cruise along the Chena and Tanana Rivers. We'll experience a real Alaskan Bush Pilot in action as he takes off from the river; see the home and kennels of the late Iditarod Champion, Susan Butcher and see her champion sled dogs in action; learn about the area's Native cultures and lifestyles and experience frontier living first hand with a guided walking tour of an Athabascan Indian Village. After our cruise. Tonight, dinner is on us at the **All-you-can-eat Alaska Salmon Bake**. Afterwards, we'll walk over to Alaskaland and see the **"Golden Heart Review" Show**, a lighthearted, comic look at the colorful characters from early & present day Fairbanks. (B, L, D)

**Day 13 Home**

Today we say goodbye to our new friends and to this spectacular palace. We're excited to back home but we will never forget the time we enjoyed in "the last frontier." (B)



PRICE PER PERSON	
Reservation Deposit:	\$700.00
Double (Inside Cabin):	\$4200.00
Double (outside Cabin):	\$4600.00
<i>Please call our office if you need triple or quad pricing (more than 2 people per room)</i>	