

2009 Alaska CruiseTour 23 11-Day Glacier Bay & Denali Express



CRUISETOUR 23: MCKINLEY EXPLORER ADVENTURE

A 7-day Holland America Glacier Bay Discovery cruise, flight to Fairbanks, McKinley Explorer to Denali and Anchorage — a great Alaska sampler.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 Sail from Vancouver

You have been dreaming of this vacation with anticipation. Your five-star vessel boasts fewer passengers, larger staterooms and more space than any other in Alaska. Today you will notice this refined elegance as you sail under the Lion's Gate Bridge and enter the scenic wonders of the **Inside Passage**.

Day 2 Inside Passage scenic cruising

Steep coastal mountains and marine wildlife will be the backdrop to a relaxing day at sea. Whether with a massage in the Greenhouse Spa, a cooking lesson in the Culinary Arts Center or a game of chance in the casino, you'll discover exciting daily activities and elegant service.

Day 3 Ketchikan

Besides the main attractions — Creek Street, the Tongass Historical Museum, Totem Bight State Park and Saxman Village — there's one other thing we highly recommend you do. A flightseeing trip to breathtaking **Misty Fjords National Monument** is essential.

Day 4 Juneau

Today, explore the lush Tongass National Forest or visit the rustic shops in town. History buffs can browse the Alaska State Museum. You'll have the day to explore **Mendenhall Glacier** or go whale watching, fishing or even dogsledding on a glacier!

Day 5 Skagway

This is home to the **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** and today we recommend that you board the nostalgic 108-year-old **White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad**. Recount the trials of the gold seekers who packed their outfits over this rugged terrain back in 1898. Your ship will linger until late evening so you'll have ample time to fully explore this living museum of the gold rush.

Day 6 Glacier Bay National Park scenic cruising

This is Alaska's number-one Glacier experience. Cruise from the Reid and Lamplugh glaciers to the mighty Johns Hopkins — surrounded by rugged peaks and sheltering a seal pupping ground. Linger for a full hour at the Grand Pacific and Margerie glaciers while a **National Park Service ranger** shares insights into the park's history and wildlife. And a **Huna Totem native speaker** will join the ship to impart the legend and lore of this sacred place.

Day 7 College Fjord scenic cruising

After a relaxing morning at sea, enter Prince William Sound to the only place in Alaska that surrounds you on three sides with flowing rivers of ice, named after the leading Ivy League colleges.

Day 8 Seward/Fairbanks

Disembark in **Seward** and board your motor coach for the scenic journey through the Chugach National Forest. The nation's second-largest national forest, its mountains and immense rivers of ice cradle the largest contiguous wetland area on the U.S. West Coast. Arriving in **Anchorage**, you'll board your flight to **Fairbanks** and overnight in Alaska's "golden heart" city.

Day 9 Fairbanks/Denali National Park

Board your **McKinley Explorer** luxury domed rail cars and enjoy an optional breakfast and lunch served onboard the train in the elegant dining room. Take in the sights and sounds of the Alaska Railroad, an Alaska Scenic Byway. Sit back and relax in the observation lounge and watch magnificent scenery glide by. You'll arrive and check into your inviting lodge. This afternoon will find you exploring **Denali National Park** on an informative 19-mile **Natural History Tour**. Note the feel of a vast landscape traversed by only a narrow ribbon of road.

Day 10 Denali/Anchorage

Wake up to a morning at leisure relaxing at your lodge or exploring your surroundings on an optional tour. Then reboard the **McKinley Explorer** for the continuation of your rail journey. Optional lunch and dinner are available to enhance your sightseeing experience. Soak in the magnificent views as you cross the Hurricane Gulch Bridge and glide from one mountain, forest or river scene to another. Arrive in **Anchorage** where the city backs up to a stunning skyline of mountains. This may be Alaska's largest and most cosmopolitan city, but moose are known to wander into the suburbs and true wilderness is as close as the back door.

Day 11 Tour ends

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2009 CruiseTour 23 Departure Dates featuring Glacier Bay National Park *ms Statendam and ms Veendam.*

Sunday Departures:

May 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7, 14, 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
September 6

Sample Optional Excursions

For complete listings and purchase details, see our website at www.hollandamerica.com

Ketchikan: Misty Fjords Wilderness Cruise & Flight by Floatplane. Cruise on a high-speed catamaran through the national monument, surrounded by cliffs towering thousands of feet and cascading waterfalls. Then transfer to a floatplane and cross this 2-million acre wilderness with a bush pilot.

Juneau: Glacier View Sea Kayaking. After being outfitted on Douglas Island, you'll see views of the glaciers of the Juneau Ice Field from a two-person sea kayak. Don't forget to look for wildlife while paddling for 1½ to 2 hours.

Skagway: Historic Gold Panning Camp By Trolley. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Gold Rush as your guide takes you to the Liarsville Gold Rush Trail Camp for a snack and gold panning. Take pictures of both the giant Mackenzie River husky and the lively dancehall girls.

Denali National Park: Cabin Nite Dinner Theatre. Savor family-style platters of salmon and marinated ribs as you enjoy a historical musical based on the life of Fannie, an adventurous woman who found fame and fortune in Alaska. The young and young at heart will love this show!

Who will enjoy CruiseTour 23 most?

The Value-Conscious Traveler: Better than just a cruise, this itinerary gives an introduction to Alaska's vast interior — all at a great price.

The Cruise Enthusiast: A Glacier Discovery Cruise with Holland America Line offers the best frontier ports and finest onboard experience in one memorable week. You'll appreciate our spacious, elegant ships where unobtrusive service and sophisticated five-star dining are delivered flawlessly.

The Glacier Chaser: Between Glacier Bay National Park's spectacular scenery, College Fjord's intimate setting and additional options like Mendenhall Glacier from Juneau, you will see more glaciers than on any other cruisetour.

Extend your Vacation from Anchorage

Alyeska Resort Post CruiseTour Option: The only Alaska hotel to be included on Condé Nast's Gold List, Alyeska Resort is nestled in the Chugach National Forest. Including a four-diamond restaurant with a view of seven nearby glaciers, extending your CruiseTour here will be a most relaxing journey.

Anchorage & Portage Glacier: Add an extra night in Anchorage plus a 7-hour tour including a cruise to Portage Glacier aboard Holland America Line's *mv Ptarmigan*. Traveling by deluxe motor coach, you will also see the wilderness of the Chugach and Kenai Mountains, as you look for beluga whales in the scenic Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet.