

Your expedition cruise in ALASKA



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Dear guest

Thank you for choosing to travel with us. We are as excited as you are about your expedition to Alaska. This will be a grand adventure into the wilds featuring gorgeous scenery, wildlife, and local culture.

In this document, you will find important information about things you need to do before you go, what we recommend you pack, the experience when on board, and what to expect with wildlife and landings.

Clicking on the underlined links in the document will take you to our website, where you can find further details. Please make sure that you have an internet connection to do this.

You will receive one more mail from us approximately 2-4 weeks before your departure. This will contain your tickets for your itinerary and flights.

We very much look forward to welcoming you on board. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions:

Reservations: +1 (866) 552-0371

Email: us.expeditions@hurtigruten.com

Web: hurtigruten.com/expeditions/

Kind regards
Your Hurtigruten team

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[Frequently asked questions »](#)

FOLLOW US



BEFORE YOU GO

There are a few mandatory steps to complete before your expedition cruise in Alaska.

1

Fill in and return the Ship Manifest Information Form to Hurtigruten

2

Check your passport

Please ensure your passport has a minimum of 6 months remaining validity at the end of your cruise.*

3

Entry requirements (visa)

Please make sure that you have the correct visa travel document that is required at the time of your expedition.

4

Check your travel insurance

A comprehensive travel/health insurance policy that also covers medical evacuation is recommended.

For your convenience, we have gathered all required forms and important information about entry requirements on one web page.

[Entry requirements »](#)

Weather and packing

Definitely check the weather forecast at your destination before you leave to ensure you pack the appropriate clothes. Make sure to pack clothes suitable for the weather you're returning home to, as well.

We recommend you pack:

- Clothes for both warmer and cooler days
- Insect repellent
- Polarized sunglasses and sunscreen
- A camera (in a waterproof bag)
- A memory card with a large capacity
- Wind- and water-resistant pants
- A warm hat that covers your ears, and a scarf
- Worn-in walking boots to use outdoors
- Lip balm with UV protection
- Swimsuit to use in our on-deck pool and hot tubs
- A pair of casual shoes for onboard use

[What to bring on your trip »](#)

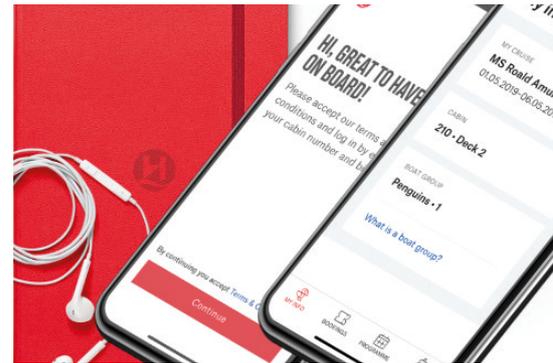
You will receive a complimentary Helly Hansen expedition jacket and a re-usable aluminum water bottle.



You can borrow boots, trekking poles, and all equipment needed for activities free of charge.

*In addition, passport validity must be in accordance with national requirements in the country/countries you are traveling to.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Hurtigruten App

is your digital travel companion on our expedition ships.

Everything you need to know about your cruise, including your bookings, daily programme, restaurants and services on board, essential information about available excursions is at hand at any time.

It will be possible to log in once you are on board with your date of birth and your cabin number.

[Download the app »](#)

Your adventure is safe with us



Wish to be more prepared?

From laundry and onboard Wi-Fi to prohibited items not allowed on board - here's everything you need to know before your expedition with us.

[Practical information »](#)

Hurtigruten ships have been a fixture on the Norwegian coast since 1893. Today, our ships sail to the Arctic and Antarctica, and many destinations in between. On each ship you will find modern facilities carefully blended with true character.

[Discover our fleet »](#)

We care deeply about your safety, health and wellbeing. This is as true now as it has always been ever since we first began sailing in 1893, perhaps even more so. We've introduced several new procedures throughout all our ships, designed to keep you safe.

[Our safety policy »](#)

YOUR HAVEN TO THE HORIZON

Your expedition ship is your home away from home; casual, comfortable, and complete with everything you need for your adventure and more.

If you pictured an expedition as being on a rusty old frigate with faded décor, prepare to have your expectations blown away. From the get-go, you'll see that life on the ship is relaxed and the atmosphere calm and informal. Each public area of the ship has been designed with your viewing pleasure in mind. As you set foot on exotic shores together, you'll naturally grow closer with your fellow explorers. Enjoy swapping stories in the various seating areas dotted around the ship which usually have great views.



© AGURTXANE CONCELLON

LOVING LOCAL FOOD

Prepare your tastebuds for mouth-watering meals on board.

These will often be inspired by the region's unique flavours and cooking styles. Then add in Signature Seafood Evenings and tastings that really showcase specialties of the local cuisine. Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced at local businesses in the ports we visit, reducing food miles and supporting coastal communities.

You'll also be spoilt for choice with sophisticated plant-based menus of gorgeous 'green' food, potentially healthier for you and for the planet too.



© ANDREAS KALVIG ANDERSON

YOUR ACTIVE ADVENTURE



Small boat cruising

Even though your expedition ship is small, there are limits on where it can go, due to its size. This is where our small boats (RIBs) come in. Enjoy gliding through the water as you take in the stunning views.

Landings

Whenever weather and sea conditions allow, we will attempt landings in small Zodiac® boats. Once ashore, the Expedition Team will guide you on where to go and ensure that you are safe at all times.

Hiking*

Our Expedition Team members run guided hikes to sites of interest. They pick some of the most scenic spots around for you to enjoy.

Science Center

The microscopes and other high-tech equipment here allow for hands-on demonstrations

and workshops, deepening your understanding of the places we visit. Participate in Citizen Science projects, which contribute to current scientific research projects.

Lectures and talks

Both on and off the ship, members of our Expedition Team give in-depth lectures on a variety of topics to enhance your expedition experience. The subjects chosen are specific to Alaska.

Kayaking*

Glide quietly through the water and experience Alaska's majestic nature up close. Paddle ocean passages, iceberg lagoons, or the calm waters of Alaska's coastal areas with an experienced guide.

Photo program

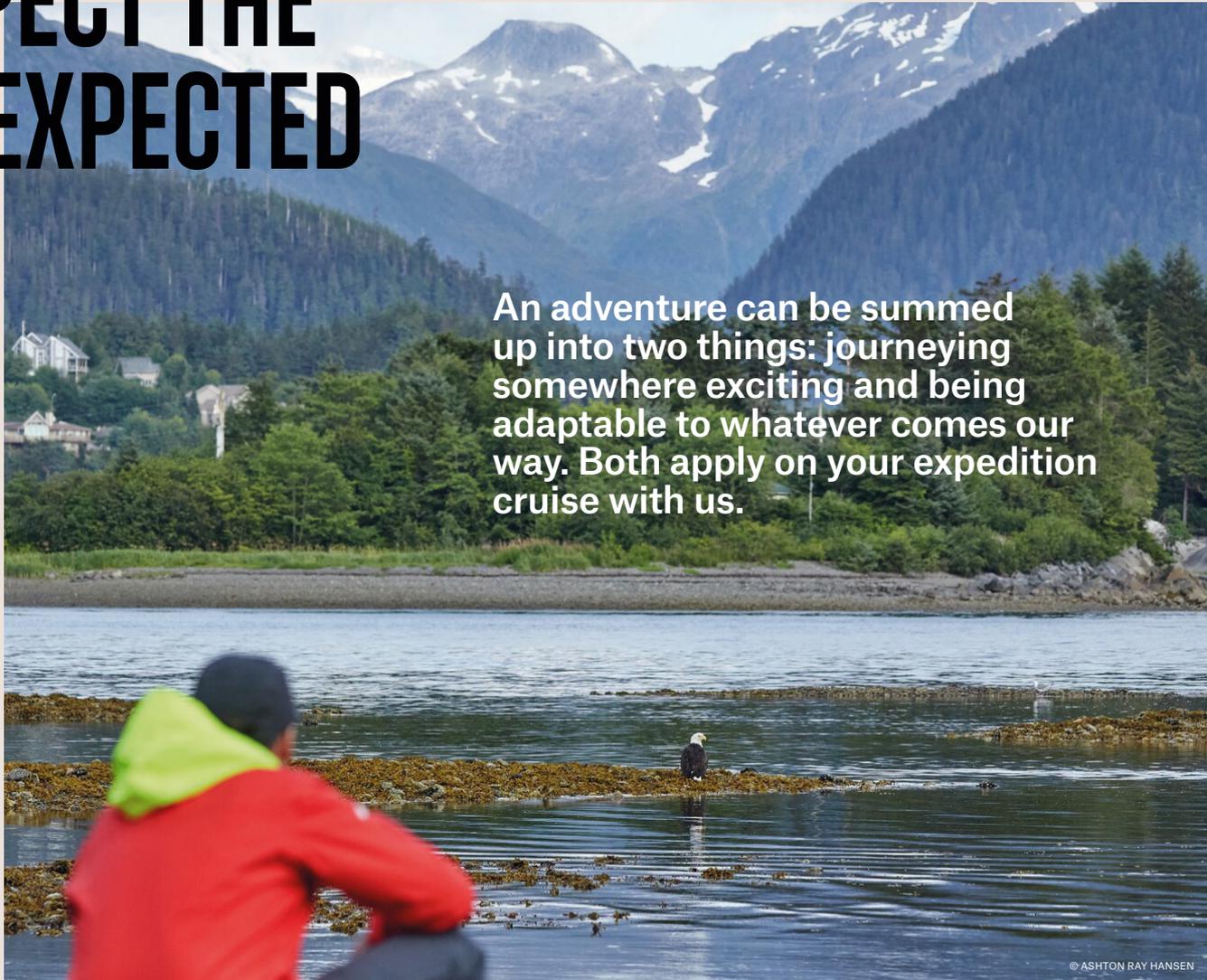
This included program is designed for photographers of all skill levels, giving you tips that help you better

capture Alaska's spectacular landscapes and wildlife. You may also have an opportunity to join an intensive one- to two-hour Photo Adventures* session.

Experts in exploration

Your Expedition Team are your passionate and knowledgeable hosts. They'll ensure you enjoy exciting and informative experiences safely and sustainably. Experts in their fields and adventurers in their own right, they deliver engaging lectures and talks, organise a variety of onboard activities, accompany you on landings, and take the lead on handpicked hikes.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



© ASHTON RAY HANSEN

When you embark on an expedition with us, you'll be travelling to some of the most remote and pristine places on our planet. It's an adventure to beautiful coastal areas where nature is at its most raw, wildlife roam free, and where the elements rule. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

Open exploration

Itineraries on our expedition cruises are therefore not completely set in stone. This gives us the flexibility of responding to challenging elements and to grasp new opportunities for exploration as they arise. Whether wind or waves block our way or we see whales we want to observe for a while, the option to divert from our

course is an essential and exciting aspect of expedition cruises.

Our plans may sometimes need to be altered slightly or even changed completely, bringing us to places and surprises not originally on our route, but which will still be just as impressive. Certain days on several of our itineraries even have multiple possible sites we can visit. You can trust the ship Captain together with the Expedition Team to pick the best option, based on the conditions on the day.

It is this unpredictability and adaptability that are at the core of any expedition, and what makes it an adventure so different from

a standard cruise. Embark on a journey with us; a journey where you'll embrace pure adventure, become real explorers, and expect the unexpected. Together, we'll create unique and unforgettable experiences, working with nature, never against it.

EXPLORE ALASKA

Discover some of the highlights and possible sites you might see on your expedition cruise in Alaska.*

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Misty Fjords

It forms part of the two-million-acre Tongass National Forest, a pristine coastal wilderness of evergreen trees, deep fjords, majestic snow-capped peaks, and a wide variety of wildlife.



Wrangell

Step back in time in one of Alaska's oldest and most historic island towns. Discover ancient petroglyph carvings and moss-covered totem poles and learn about the local Tlingit people.



Kodiak

This bustling fishing port is home to Alutiiq Museum and Baranov Museum, which feature artifacts from both the Russians and the Alutiiq natives who lived here more than 7,000 years ago.



St. Matthews Island

Many pioneers have attempted to settle this island over the centuries but it remains uninhabited, with only seabirds and occasional foxes to wander its black sand beaches.



Icy Bay

Three prominent glaciers feed vast chunks of floating ice into the waters of this bay, where wildlife like humpback whales, orcas, sea lions, seals and otters feed.

The highlights »

Did you know?

The **1,100** mile-long Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is hosted by Alaska every year from Anchorage to Nome. It is often called the 'Last great race on Earth'.

John Carpenter's **1982** horror classic *The Thing* is set in Antarctica, but was actually filmed in Alaska.

In Barrow, Alaska, the sun rises on **May 10** and doesn't set for three months, as the town experiences 24-hour daylight.

Giant vegetables are common in Alaska, due to the extremely long days in summer, which account for a record cabbage weighing in at **138** lbs.

Zero is the number of borders Alaska shares with other US states. It does share a land border with Canada and a maritime border with Russia.

THE NATIVE CULTURES OF ARCTIC ALASKA

DISCOVER
with us

The vast coast of Alaska has been home to diverse indigenous cultural groups for more than 10,000 years.



The early days

It is believed that the ancestors of Alaska's native people arrived by making an arduous journey either via a land bridge that used to connect Asia with the North American continent, or by sea. They managed to settle and survive by hunting on land, and at sea, and by fishing. Hunting and fishing still form a core part of Alaska cultural groups today, even if the sea and the wilds aren't as bountiful as they used to be.

A rich heritage

Now in the 21st century, about 15% of the Alaskan population are Alaska Natives. There are over 220 different tribes of Alaska Natives spread across five geographic areas. Between them, they speak 20 different languages and have 11 distinct cultures. They have done much to preserve traditions like shamanism, as well as handicrafts such as wood carving, needlework and jewellery making. Their proud heritage is in evidence throughout the region, despite the growing influence the modern world has on their lifestyle.

The Aleuts: boats and body art

Living on the Aleutian Islands, the Aleuts are expert hunters and navigators, known for constructing their own boats. They are also skilled crafters, making their own parkas from the skins of seal and sea otter.

Like many other peoples of the Arctic, the Aleuts have a tradition of tattoos and piercings. The Aleuts believe that body art will protect them from evil spirits and please the good ones. Often used to signify their religious views, tattoos also display the accomplishments of their family and their forefathers.

The Haida and Tlingit: totemic ancestry

Both nations are excellent seamen, dependent on the seaways for transport and hunting. They trade frequently with their neighbours and build long cedar canoes for transport and travel. The Haida and the Tlingit have a long tradition of carving totems and ceremonial objects, commonly placed outside the household to show who lived there and to offer a brief explanation of their family history. It is an artform they still practise today.

New challenges to their way of life

With record high temperatures over the past few summers leading to flooding due to rapid ice and snow melt, climate change poses a real threat to Alaska Native communities. Along with heavy fishing along the Alaskan coast, the challenge to maintain their traditional way of life gets tougher with each decade their food supply dwindles.

The advances of modern society have also inevitably influenced the lives of these native people, often enticing their youth to big cities and bright lights. Still, those that remain honour their traditions and culture, sharing them with the next generation, and with all visitors who take an interest.

You'll be able to learn more about these historic nations and their culture, and to meet native communities on an expedition cruise with us to Alaska. We work closely with these communities to make sure our visits are dignified and respectful, mindful of local customs and traditions, and to the mutual benefit of all.

DISCOVER WILDLIFE



Alaska has a diverse landscape ranging from towering mountain ranges to deep fjords and vast forests, all of which cater to an impressive variety of creatures.

© SHUTTERSTOCK

Fauna of the 'Last Frontier'

Nicknamed the 'Last Frontier' for its rugged landscape, Alaska is a wild paradise. It offers its visitors breathtaking views and diverse habitats for its wildlife. Bears fish for salmon in the rivers while deer wander the forests and rare bird species soar overhead.

Living waters

The cold waters of Alaska are home to seven whale species, along with the largest dolphin species: the orca. Keep an eye on the sea and you may catch sight of one of these aquatic giants as it surfaces. Closer to the coast, try to spot sea otters floating in the shallows of Alaska's fjords. Join locals down at the river to watch

the salmon run. This annual event is highly anticipated—especially by bears and bald eagles looking for a free meal.

Bustling land

Grizzly bears are common in western Alaska and strike fear into the hearts of spawning salmon. Grizzlies aren't the only kind of bear you'll see. Alaska is home to more than 70% of North America's brown bears. Even more common is the black bear (which, despite its name, is not always black). Even polar bears wander among the glaciers in the northern region. Three species of deer roam the forests of Alaska and feeding on its vegetation. Look closely to see bald eagles nesting

in the trees and hummingbirds hovering around the flowers. In the tundra, spot the camouflaged and wily Arctic fox.

Remember that these are natural habitats, so we can't guarantee that certain animals will appear during your trip. Mother Nature will do as she pleases, and no sightings can be set in stone.

Crashing A Bear's Picnic »

SUSTAINABILITY

Exploring our blue planet for more than a century has taught us the importance of being green.

Over decades, our Captains and crew, Expedition Teams and returning guests have witnessed the impact of climate change on vulnerable polar areas with their own eyes. We want the Arctic, Antarctica, and everywhere in between to remain places of pristine nature, pure water and clean air.

Sustainability is therefore at the heart of who we are and what we do. From the beautiful natural world to remote communities, we want to ensure our expedition cruises protect them both. In line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, we're able to offer you greener and more sustainable expedition cruises on and for the planet.

Want to know more?

Visit [our sustainability web page](#) »



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HURTIGRUTEN FOUNDATION

**Collaborating for change:
Creating a footprint we can be proud of.**

Hurtigruten Foundation is a platform for taking a stance and volunteering in worthwhile causes – together. Working closely with guests, partners and organizations, Hurtigruten believes we make a genuine difference, by minimizing our operational impact and maximizing the positive contribution we make to local communities. Since the Hurtigruten Foundation was established at the end of 2015, a total of 3,200 000 NOK has been donated to date for 34 projects in eight countries.

Hurtigruten Foundation is funded by direct donations and several onboard initiatives, including auctions, fund-raisers, and primarily the "Green stay" programme, where a donation is made for every day you ask us not to clean your cabin, thereby saving energy, detergents and water. We invite you to join us and leave a footprint we can be proud of!

Visit [the Hurtigruten Foundation web page](#) »

