

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£1000**  
PER PERSON

# GREAT LAND OF ALASKA

AN EXPEDITION EXPLORING THE ALASKAN COAST AND  
INSIDE PASSAGE ABOARD THE SILVER DISCOVERER

29<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Few places left on earth offer the traveller as much untamed scenic grandeur as the great land of Alaska and the coastal waters between Vancouver and Seward are amongst the most beautiful on earth. For more than 1600 miles, nature puts on a show with each day presenting new wonders. Cliffs that soar 3000 feet from the water's edge, spectacular glaciers that press into narrow channels and break into thunderous roars and dense forests which crowd the coastline and cradle entire ecosystems. Witnessing this vast landscape has a humbling effect on those who journey along the dramatic fjord and coastal scenery and viewing the Alaskan wildlife in their natural habitat is a wonderful experience.

There is no shortage of vessels plying the Alaskan waters. However, we believe the small ship experience is far preferable to cruising on one of the vast resort ships with their 2000 passengers and have therefore chartered the Silver Discoverer for our expedition. Discerning travellers will appreciate this rich itinerary that explores the many facets of Alaska; and unlike the big resort ships who have a set course on the wide channels, our expedition vessel will be able to navigate narrow fjords and passages and for a real close up experience we will use the onboard Zodiacs. For those who really wish to experience the magic of the wilderness, to come close to nature and enjoy the serenity of the vast landscape, this is the perfect voyage and ship. Travelling with approximately 100 fellow passengers, you will explore in small parties ashore and visit places which the passengers aboard the big ships will never be taken.

Our itinerary will be kept flexible allowing us the opportunity to fully experience nature's unplanned events. Gaze skyward in awe of sheer cliffs of Tracy Arm, listen for the sound of thundering waterfalls and the crack of glaciers calving into the sea, witness the magnificent and diverse wildlife

including sea lions, whales, eagles and with a bit luck brown bears and visit remote villages learning of the fascinating culture of the Tlingit people. Furthermore your experience will be enhanced by our onboard team of experts who will accompany you on the Zodiacs, hold daily lectures and briefings and lead guided nature walks ashore.

## OUR VIEW

"There are many ships operating cruises in Alaska but we feel the best way to experience this remarkable wilderness is by small ship. Alaska is a destination where nature comes to life and by using a small ship with a fleet of Zodiacs enables us to get a close, but safe distance, from calving glaciers or sea lion colonies. Whilst cruising we will also see whales, bears and eagles in their natural habitat and call into the small communities which call this remote land home, learning about their traditional way of life. Using the Silver Discoverer as our base we have a comfortable and welcoming vessel to return to after a day spent exploring whilst the onboard naturalists ensure we make the most of the experience with their wealth of knowledge of the region."



Bear Watching, Alaska

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule may be changed to maximise your experience based on weather or wildlife sightings, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from our vessel's logs from our last Alaskan season which will provide you with an idea of what to expect should you choose to join our Alaskan adventure:



### Point Adolphus – 8th July:

As we prepared to venture out into the wilds, visibility improved & we could see the small islands harbouring the activity we had hoped to see....Steller sea lions

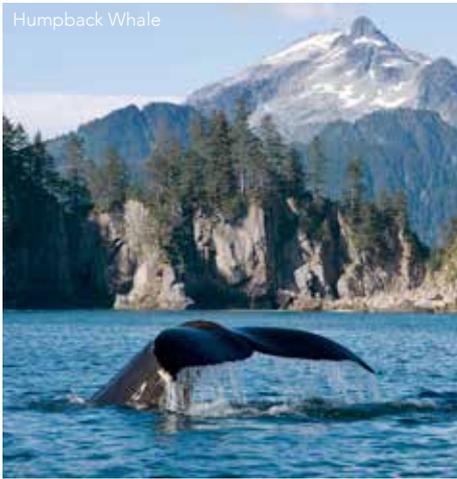
hauled out on exposed rocks in large numbers. Sea lions at breeding colonies are very vocal, mothers & pups communicating with each other & establishing territorial rights, and we were at the tail end of the competitive period & the focus was now on the salmon running the currents between islands. It was endless fascination, watching huge sea lion bulls tearing up food into bite sized pieces, catching one salmon after another & seeing bits of fresh fish flesh fly about to the great delight of the scavenging gulls! On the colonial rocky outcrop perhaps 200 more, bulls with harems of up to 20 females were hauled out & one raft of resting females numbered 70 or 80, floating in front of us. Many testing sub-adult males came close to showing both curiosity & that they were not afraid of us. Colin called on the radio that if anyone was in reception of his message, they "might want to come & take a closer look" at his location. We responded & sped to the other side of the island where he sat gazing & at least 20 Humpback whales, scattered around a small bay, feeding on

small fish in the relatively shallow water. In every direction blows went up & we all enjoyed very close views of these gentle giants of the marine world. Then after almost half an hour of enjoying this rare display...the crescendo... three whales dived in unison right in front of us, showing their tail flukes as they did, then without warning the first 40 tonne creature shot up through the surface, spiralling sideways & crashed down with a loud crack of a slap, then the second then the third. Before we could even register what we had just seen, the three whales repeated the acrobatics, then again & again, all in tight times so that at least one whale was breaching at any given time for a minute or two. We were speechless....it was certainly one of the most incredible things we had ever witnessed.

**Misty Fjords - 24 June:** Despite some cloud cover, sunshine kept breaking through and patches of blue sky appearing. Immediately after breakfast we took our first Zodiac cruise of the day along Misty Fjord's "canals" (glacial

valleys naturally filled by sea water). Misty Fjord did not really live up to its name – there were some shreds of mist and low cloud, but the full height and glory of this beautiful fjord could still be seen, with forests clinging on to near-vertical rocky slopes. Right at the end of our ride, in Walker Cove, word went around that there was a brown bear down on the mud flats. All Zodiacs headed for the spot as silently as possible and the bear stuck around for the first group to see, though retreated somewhat into long grass. It was quite a distance away, but clearly visible through binoculars – mission accomplished! As we returned to the ship a black bear was spotted nearby, which gave everyone an equal chance of seeing it.





Humpback Whale



Bears, Geographic Harbour



Ketchikan



Exploring by Zodiac

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Vancouver, Canada.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Fairmount Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration.

**Day 2 Vancouver.** This morning enjoy breakfast in the hotel and then either choose to have some time at leisure to explore independently or join a city tour including Chinatown, Gastown and Stanley Park. This afternoon meet at the hotel for a transfer to the Silver Discoverer for embarkation. After settling in to your cabin there will be a safety briefing followed by an introduction to your Expedition Team before enjoying dinner onboard as we set sail.

**Day 3 Johnstone Strait & Canada's Inside Passage, British Columbia, Canada.** Be out on deck very early, looking for birdlife, whales and other marine and terrestrial mammals as we cruise the spectacular 110 kilometre Johnstone Strait before breakfast. The strait is between 2.5 kilometres and 5 kilometres wide and is home to large numbers of orcas during the summer months. The largest member of the dolphin family, orcas (also known as killer whales) can measure nearly ten metres in length and weigh up to six tons. Enjoy a leisurely day onboard attending some of the informative lectures about Alaska's varied history, wildlife and nature. Perhaps you would like to improve your photography skills by attending the workshop by the onboard photographer.

**Day 4 Metlakatla, Alaska, USA.** Our first stop in the USA will be on Annette Island, Alaska. During the morning, while we approach the island, either be on the look-out for wildlife on the outer decks

or attend one of the informative lectures. The indigenous people of this area, the Tsimshian are famous for their Totem Poles and during our visit to the town we will get to see at least 12 of these emblematic pieces of art and we will experience a dance performance at their longhouse. After the ceremony we will be led to the William Duncan Memorial Museum to understand their culture and history, specifically why and when they moved to Annette Island. You can also take one of the many trails around Skaters Lake which will provide an insight into the different plants used by the Tsimshian.

**Day 5 Rudyerd Bay, Misty Fjords & Walker Cove.** Located within the Tongass National Forest is the wilderness area and Misty Fjords National Monument. Extending over 2.3 million acres, it is the largest wilderness area in Alaska's forests and the second largest in the nation. It has been described as an almost untouched coastal ecosystem with outstanding geological features, and Misty Fjords National Monument is sometimes called "The Yosemite of the North". Be prepared for a broad spectrum of wildlife that we hope to see during the early morning in and around Rudyerd Bay. During our excursion we will be looking for Marbled Murrelets in the air, which unlike most members of the auk family nest in trees, and bald eagles, brown and black Bears on the ground, and harbour seals and sea otters in the water. We also visit Walker Cove where we will use the Zodiacs to look for marine mammals and birds.

**Day 6 Ketchikan.** Ketchikan is one of the larger towns of the area and today there will be a variety of excursions to choose from. You may like to participate in a truly unique "Alaskan Wilderness

Survival" programme which involves travelling by local boat with a wilderness skills instructor to a remote island where he will lead a small group through an old-growth temperate rainforest and show you a few tricks of the survivalist's trade. This hands-on experience engages all in tasks like building a shelter, collecting wild edibles and signalling from the beach. Back onboard the Silver Discoverer you will haul sampling pots in search of the elusive (and invasive) green crab and other fascinating creatures that inhabit the ocean floor. Alternatively depart the pier for the scenic coastal drive en-route to the private Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary, an exclusive reserve located in the forested mountains at rustic Herring Cove. Here you will enjoy a guided temperate rainforest walk where your guide will bring to life the local flora and fauna and provide you with an in-depth look at the Tongass National Rainforest.

**Day 7 Wrangell Narrows, Petersburg & Sail Island.** Running for 22 miles between the islands of Mitkof, Kupreanov and Woewodski, the Silver Discoverer will be using the very narrow and scenic Wrangell Narrows as we head north for Petersburg early this morning. At Petersburg we pay a visit to one of Alaska's major fishing communities. Although the Tlingit and other indigenous groups had been in this area for centuries, it was only after Norwegian Peter Buschmann (after whom the town is named) settled here, starting the first cannery and attracting more immigrants from Scandinavia — hence the nickname "Little Norway" — that a permanent town evolved. The fisheries are keen on a sustainable catch and the Petersburg Marine Mammal Centre supports research and education. During the afternoon



there will be a chance to attend lectures about Alaska's wildlife and history, a photography workshop or the opportunity to spend time on deck, looking for wildlife. In the late afternoon there will be a Zodiac cruise around Sail Island where we hope to encounter Steller sea lions and go in search of humpback whales.

**Day 8 Endicott Arm & Frederick Sound.** Another morning Zodiac cruise awaits us during which there are several glaciers to be seen, the North Dawes Glacier is a hanging glacier, while the Dawes Glacier is a tidewater glacier. At Dawes Glacier we hope for calving ice, will be able to see many waterfalls and, as always, might see bald eagles that have made the coastal area their home or harbour seals. During the afternoon we will cruise the scenic Frederick Sound which promises another good opportunity for whale watching.

**Day 9 Point Adolphus, Inian Islands, Elfin Cove & George Island.** During the early morning the Silver Discoverer will be near Point Adolphus, a well-known area for whale watching. Enjoy a morning coffee while you are on the outer decks, looking for humpback and minke whales, as well as orcas or simply enjoying the landscape. Later this morning we will take a spectacular Zodiac



Misty Fjord



Bald Eagle



Steller sea lions

cruise at Inian Island, searching for some of the emblematic animals of Alaska including bald eagles, tufted puffins, Steller sea lion, sea otters and humpback whales. This afternoon we will visit the small community of Elfin Cove and hike on nearby George Island, which was used during World War II to protect Alaska against a potential Japanese invasion.

**Day 10 Yakutat.** During the morning we will visit the community of Yakutat and, for those interested, there will be a flightseeing excursion to see the Hubbard Glacier from above. This glacier commences in Canada and after some 80 miles terminates in Disenchantment Bay making it the longest glacier in North America. Silver Discoverer will be taken along the front of the glacier by the Captain and while cruising we hope to see some glacier calving. We will then start heading northeast and while we cruise the Gulf of Alaska you can make out many of the different mountains and glaciers of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and scan the waters for whales from the outer decks.

**Day 11 Cruising the Gulf of Alaska.** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and relaxing morning as we continue cruising the Gulf of Alaska. During the day you might want to be out on deck, scanning the water's surface for signs of whales. When you are not looking for wildlife from the outer decks, join the lecturers and specialists while they talk about the wildlife and history of Alaska in the Explorer Lounge.

**Day 12 Kukak Bay & Geographic Harbour.** Kukak Bay and Geographic Harbour are well-known areas for bear spotting. The brown bears feed on sedges and razor clams on the beaches, and will look for salmon in the rivers.

To be able to observe the males, females with cubs, and juveniles we will make use of our Zodiacs and cruise the shorelines in search of good photographic opportunities.

**Day 13 Chiswell Islands & Holgate Glacier.** The Chiswell Islands, part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge provide us with our last chance to board the Zodiacs to get a close-up look at Steller sea lions. Millions of birds call these rugged islands their home and we can expect to see horned puffins, tufted puffins, black-legged kittiwakes, and of the auklet family the Cassin's auklet and the whiskered auklet among others. We end today at Kenai Fjords National Park where the famous Holgate Glacier will be our last chance to see a calving glacier. Enjoy an aperitif on the outer decks as we leave the area shortly before sunset.

**Day 14 Seward to Anchorage.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Anchorage. On the way we will visit the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Centre and enjoy lunch before arriving at the Captain

Cook Hotel for an overnight stay. The rest of the day and evening will be at leisure to explore Anchorage independently.

**Day 15 Anchorage to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 16 London.** Arrive this morning.

### Pre-Cruise Rocky Mountaineer Extension



For those who would like to experience the Canadian Rockies before joining the cruise, we will be offering the opportunity to join the Rocky Mountaineer on an itinerary which includes Kamloops and Banff. The schedule for the train is not yet available but if you would like to receive details of the extension, please register your interest at the time of booking.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Explorer Suite	£8995	£7995
2	View Suite	£9295	£8295
3	Vista Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
4	Veranda Suite	£12295	£11295
5	Medallion Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
1	Explorer Suite for sole use	£11295	£10295
2	View Suite for sole use	£13595	£12595

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Vancouver and Anchorage on a bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the Silver Discoverer on a full board basis, all drinks whilst onboard, shore excursions, Expedition Team, transfers, all gratuities, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visa.

“ For those who really wish to experience the magic of the wilderness, to come close to nature and enjoy the serenity of the vast landscape, this is the perfect expedition. ”





Silver Discoverer



The Restaurant



Dining outside

# SILVER DISCOVERER

Formerly known as the MS Clipper Odyssey, the 120-passenger Silver Discoverer began her new life with Silversea Cruises in March 2014. Having been associated with the vessel for over ten years and with experience of operating voyages aboard her in the Alaska, we know her to be an ideal vessel for expedition cruising in the region and are delighted to have chartered her for this voyage. The vessel's shallow draft will allow us to navigate in areas which larger ships would not be able to access and with the fleet of 12 onboard Zodiacs and expert expedition team we will be able to land on isolated shores. Whilst cruising, the vessel benefits from spacious deck areas from where you can watch for passing wildlife such as a breaching whale. The atmosphere onboard is relaxed and informal with the focus on the wonders of the destination you are visiting, which combined with the luxury surroundings, excellent service, superb cuisine and expert expedition team make for an expedition of a lifetime.

## Your Suite

Accommodation onboard is arranged over four decks. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom and outside views. Suites are spacious ranging in size from the View Suites at 181 square feet to the Medallion Suite which measures 408 square feet. All suites feature butler service and your suite's refrigerator and bar are stocked with your preferred beverages including wines and spirits. Your butler will replenish them upon request. Amenities in the suites include luxury Pratesi bed linen and bath amenities, ipod docking station, flat screen television with on-demand movies, music and satellite news programming, plush robe and slippers, hairdryer and WiFi internet access (charges apply). The beds in each suite offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and can be configured as double or twin.



Veranda Suite



Sun Deck



Explorer Lounge



View Suite

### Your Space

The spacious public areas onboard include the open seating restaurant and the Main Lounge where daily briefings, lectures and recaps from your expedition team will take place. For your convenience it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your cabin. In addition to the Main Lounge there is the Discoverer Lounge with a 24-hour tea and coffee station, comfortable seating and a well stocked travel library with reference books pertaining to the destinations we will be visiting. The Discoverer Lounge is the perfect venue to relax with a good book, recount your experiences with fellow travellers or to simply enjoy a pre-dinner drink watching the ever-changing scenery through the picture windows. Other facilities include a pool on Deck 5 with outside seating area, bar and Grill, a beauty and massage centre, sun deck and fitness centre.

### Your Dining

Silver Discoverer offers four all-inclusive dining options. Select wines, premium spirits and speciality coffees, as well as juices and soft drinks are complimentary in all bars and lounges. No matter what dining option you choose you will savour fine cuisine with menus inspired by Relais & Chateaux, Silversea's preferred culinary partner. The Restaurant serves contemporary, international cuisine with menus featuring local specialities. The Restaurant is elegant yet casual with no formal evenings and no assigned times or tables allowing you the freedom to dine with whom and when you please. In addition there is the convenience of the poolside Grill for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For lunch you may prefer fresh pizza from the oven pizza or lighter fare and in the evening, fresh seafood and prime cuts are grilled tableside at The Grill on a heated volcanic rock plate. Alternatively you can enjoy a light breakfast or lunch in the casual atmosphere of the Discoverer Lounge or choose to have breakfast delivered to your suite or a formal dinner ordered from The Restaurant menu. Lighter fare is always available from the room service menu from 6am to 11pm.

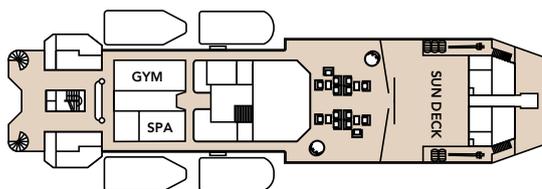
Please note that outside dining will be weather dependent and you will be advised each day of the options available.

## ALL INCLUSIVE POLICY

All this included in the price of your expedition voyage aboard the Silver Discoverer.

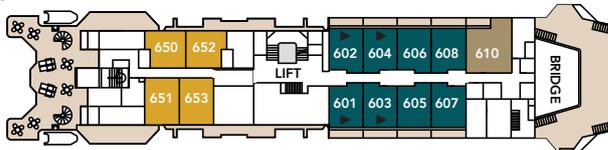
- Economy class return scheduled air travel from London
- Overnight hotel accommodation in Vancouver & Anchorage with breakfast
- 12 nights aboard the Silver Discoverer on full board basis with cuisine inspired by Relais & Chateaux
- Complimentary Champagne, wines and spirits throughout the vessel
- In-room bar setup and refrigerator stocked to your preference
- Room Service 06.00 to 23.00
- Onboard gratuities
- Shore Excursions
- Butler service for all suites and staterooms
- Complimentary parka jacket; backpack & water bottle
- Expert Expedition Team
- Transfers
- Port & Airport taxes

DECK 7

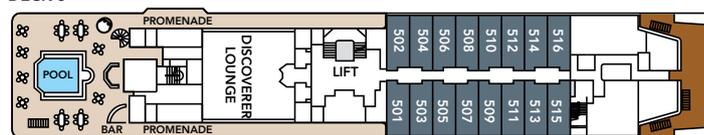


- MEDALLION SUITE
- VERANDA SUITE
- VISTA SUITE
- VIEW SUITE
- EXPLORER SUITE

DECK 6



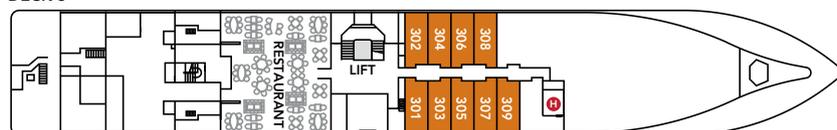
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3





During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

## NOBLE CALEDONIA

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NB. Ports and itinerary subject to change. The itinerary is based on current flight schedules and may change when 2017 flight schedules are confirmed. Cover: Grizzly Bear