

Alaska, the Yukon & the Inside Passage

13 Days: June 14-26, 2010



This travel package planned by Loren Jones & Rhonda Strutzenberg, escorted by Jane Sorenson.



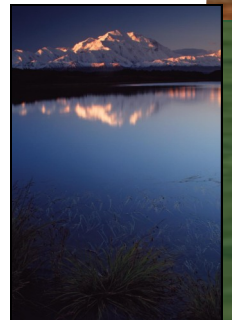
Those who only cruise Alaska miss out on the interior of Alaska and the Yukon. Those who only see Alaska by land don't get to experience the incredible beauty of the Inside Passage. We've selected what we think is the best of Alaska, the Yukon Territory and the Inside Passage. Let our experience in "The Great Land" (we've taken one to four groups to Alaska each year, since 1983!) be your guide for the trip of a lifetime.

June 14 our adventure begins! Depart mid-afternoon from departure cities listed below for a night in Des Moines. We'll have a short orientation then time to get to know your fellow adventurers.

June 15 you and your tour manager check in for your flight to **Anchorage**. (*Flight arrangements are available from most U.S. cities. Call for more details. We'll be happy to have your friends join us from other parts of the country.*) Upon arrival in Anchorage our partners Holland America and Gray Line of Alaska meet us at the airport. We transfer to our downtown hotel, close to dining and shopping. Let the souvenir quest begin!



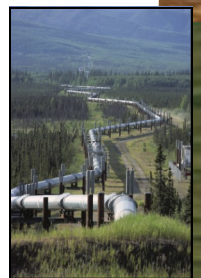
June 16 board a beautiful, spacious **dome rail car** for the scenic journey to **Denali National Park**. Everyone has a great view of the fantastic scenery. Watch for moose, bald eagle and other wildlife! With chefs at work in the dining room below us, you may wish to treat yourself to breakfast and/or lunch as we travel the rails northward. We arrive in Denali National Park this afternoon and check in. Denali encompasses 9,375 square miles of pristine wilderness. This afternoon you might take an optional flightseeing excursion around Mt. McKinley, go whitewater rafting (it's fun for all ages and abilities!), check out the new Park Visitor Center or any of a number of optional activities. We'll stay the night amid the scent of pine, fireplaces and the sounds of nature.



June 17 learn about the marvels of **Denali National Park** as we travel into the park aboard specially-permitted buses on a **half-day tour**, narrated by a knowledgeable guide. Journey through moose and wolf habitat (this is untouched nature, so who knows what we'll see...over the years our groups have spotted caribou, wolf, fox, moose, eagle, dall sheep and grizzly bear). We'll make several stops along the way and if Mother Nature cooperates, providing a clear view of Mt. McKinley, we'll go even deeper into the park for that perfect photo opportunity. Later this afternoon, we board the **McKinley Explorer** for a rail journey to **Fairbanks**. We're nearing the longest daylight day of the year! The sun never sets completely. But you'll want to turn in so you're ready for another day of discovery!



June 18 we visit **Gold Dredge No. 8**, a monstrous dredge which moved millions of rocks in its day, in search of GOLD! Your driver/guide will tell you more of the Gold Rush, which gave the area its start, and show you through this amazing piece of machinery. **Pan for gold** then enjoy a hearty **miner's lunch** in the mess hall before returning to your coach. You will also visit the **Alaska pipeline**. Some of the amazing facts about this phenomenal structure will be explained. This afternoon we travel the famous Alaska Highway to Tok for the night. Your well-trained "driver-guide" will detail the unique aspects of this construction marvel. In Tok you may find some pretty adorable sled dog puppies...sorry, they have to stay here!



June 19 the gold rush days come to life as you travel the Taylor Highway northward to Eagle, AK. The road is an experience in itself! We'll board the sleek **M.V. Yukon**

Reservations & Information: 1-877-694-8687 or www.northlandtravel.com

Queen II to travel the route of the fortune seekers along the "River of Gold," the Yukon River. When gold was discovered in the Yukon, this river became a liquid highway for prospectors, showgirls and adventurers. We'll travel in much more comfort and style aboard this Australian "fast cat" as we explore more than 100 miles of gorgeous scenery. **Dinner** will be included on board. Tales of the gold rush days will be recanted as you pass Indian villages and abandoned mining camps. We dock in Dawson City, where boardwalks and dirt roads are reminiscent of the late 1800s. We stay 2 nights in Dawson.



June 20 relive the gold rush days in Dawson. The day is yours to design. Several options are available. Take a river float trip, a hike, a Jeep tour or play a round of golf. Swing open a saloon door and try your luck at Diamond Tooth Greta's gambling hall. Live entertainment (Can-Can, of course) and full gaming are available here and all proceeds benefit the local area. You might even choose to hiss at the villains and cheer the heroes at the "Gaslight Follies." Enjoy!



June 21 we follow the Klondike Highway to Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory. Your driver-guide will share more tales of the gold rush days and perhaps recite a bit of Robert Service poetry (an immortal part of the Yukon!). **Lunch** is included along the way. We stay the night in Whitehorse and take in the "**Frantic Follies**," a long-running, very well done variety show filled with music, history and the lighter side of life in the Yukon.

June 22 your driver will recant more of the miners' plights, as they scaled the Trail of '98 in search of gold. We'll continue our trek through pristine beauty as we work our way to White Pass to board the narrow gauge **White Pass & Yukon Railway** for our descent into **Skagway**. We'll follow the Trail of '98, retracing the very path many prospectors followed with their mandatory ton of supplies. The railroad was built in latter days to transport the supplies in and the gold out.



The **M.S. Zuiderdam** will be moored in Skagway as we arrive but you'll have plenty of time to explore this quaint little town before we set sail. Lots of neat options are available from here...fishing, climbing, Jeep safari, rafting, dog sledding, glacier flightseeing and more! Don't worry about your luggage. It will be taken to your stateroom for you! The Zuiderdam is one of Holland America's new Vista-Class ships. Put in service in 2002, this fabulous ship has nearly 85% oceanview staterooms of which, many have private balconies. The fully-stabilized 82,000-gross ton ms Zuiderdam stretches 951 feet long and accommodates 1,848 guests. The 11 passenger decks include an elegant atrium, a three-story show lounge, shops, lounges, a large spa & fitness center, an Internet café, a full casino, a pool and whirlpool (with a sliding dome, so the weather's always fine!), an elegant 2-level dining room, an even more upscale alternative dining room, the poolside Terrace Grill, the Windstar Café and a variety of other public rooms. An expansive deck surrounds the ship, offering great sightseeing opportunities as we experience the canal, a wonderful place to take a morning jaunt and of course, an outstanding place to lounge in a deck chair and watch the world go by! 4 glass exterior elevators give you a unique perspective of the sea.



From the time you board the ship, you will sense that something is different! The Indonesian and Filipino staff will do an excellent job of providing you with gracious (nearing unbelievable) service. Your waiter will likely know your little idiosyncrasies by the second day and anticipate your requests. Your stateroom steward will learn your schedule, make up your room and change your towels seemingly out of thin air, never intruding.

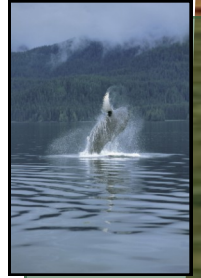
Whether you're a "meat and potatoes" sort of individual, or a discriminating connoisseur, you will find delight in the menus (which have no prices!). **Breakfast and lunch** can be served to you in the dining room or peruse all of the choices in the Lido Restaurant, arranged food court-style! Don't miss the Royal Dutch High Tea, snacks or specialty coffees in the Windstar Café, the ice cream bar or the late-night extravaganzas understatedly called "snacks." **Dinner** is a nightly "event" as you descend the elegant staircase to the sounds of a string trio. A different



array of gourmet dishes and decadent desserts are featured each night. Some of our nights will be formal, some informal, and others will be more casual. For a special experience, dine in the upscale alternative restaurant with an even more incredible menu and a more intimate atmosphere; all for a small additional cover charge. If you just want an informal, quick dinner, check out the food court-style Lido Restaurant where you'll find everything from pizza to stir-fry.



Each evening after dinner different **entertainment** will be presented in the 3-level show lounge, including Broadway, comedy, illusion, dance and a variety of musical artists. There's never a cover charge or a ticket to buy! After the show stroll on deck, try your luck in the casino, relax with piano music in the Crow's Nest lounge or rush back to your stateroom to plan your next day! A program will be slipped under your door each evening, providing a list of the many activities available on board for the next day as well as information on ports which lie ahead. On days at sea, you'll find plenty of activities to keep even the most active person occupied. If you just want to lose yourself in a good book or catch a current movie, the option is yours!



This evening we'll depart Skagway, sailing down the **Lynn Canal** (a channel, rather than what we would think of as a canal), surrounded by awesome glaciers. Watch for Humpback Whale, sea lion, eagle and other wildlife. Return to your cabin to find your bed turned down, a chocolate on your pillow and a copy of tomorrow's program so you can plan your day! Good night.



June 23 (National Park Service permitting) we cruise **Glacier Bay** with narration by a ranger. Words can't describe the crystal clear, blue waters and the dynamic scenery. Rugged landscape covered by lush forest is interrupted by rivers of ice which flow ever so slowly, touching down in the bay. Playful seals sun themselves on icebergs, which may extend several hundred feet below the surface. Imagine silence broken by a sound like a shotgun...a glacier calves. It's an experience you won't ever forget as huge pillars of ice plummet into the bay. A full slate of activities will be available on board. Be as active or as lazy as you wish. It's your vacation! Play the daily trivia game, check out the many titles in the library, pick up a card game, catch a movie, learn a craft, tour the kitchen and even check your e-mail. Tonight, another great lineup of dining and entertainment awaits you!



June 24 it will appear that we are cruising on a glassy smooth river as we arrive mid-morning at **Ketchikan**, a village built on steep hillsides. You might wish to take an optional float plane trip to majestic Misty Fjords or to look for bears, go salmon fishing, do a backcountry Jeep safari, take a Duck tour, go sea kayaking, mountain biking or canoeing, wander up town to Dolly's (the colorful house of ill repute), take the optional city tour by coach or do a well-mapped walking tour. If you're into specialty tours, take a tour on a Harley-Davidson, in a luxury SUV or in a

Hummer. This evening we sail toward Vancouver.



June 25 we cruise the gorgeous **Inside Passage** all day. Watch for whales! Enjoy another day of activities, entertainment and dining.

June 26 our Alaskan adventure comes to a close as we arrive at Canada Place Pier in **Vancouver**. (No, you cannot take your waiter or cabin steward home as a souvenir!) We transfer to Vancouver (or Seattle) International Airport for our return flights. A Hawkeye Stages coach will be waiting in Des Moines to deliver you and your treasures back to your departure city.

Your 13-day Alaskan adventure includes: Transportation between our guaranteed departure cities and Des Moines International Airport, round-trip air transportation (based on Des Moines, call for information & rates from other U.S. air gateways), transfers between the airport, hotel and ship, all rail and motor coach transportation in Alaska, lodging for 8 nights plus 4 nights aboard the Zuiderdam (including onboard meals and entertainment) plus 1 dinner and 2 lunches (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity) and luggage handling. Airline fee for 1 bag per person is included. Additional bags checked with the airline may be an additional cost to you. All government fees and taxes are included. Applicable fuel surcharges are included at time of printing and are subject to change.

From \$4,089 per person, double occupancy, inside (Category MM)

From \$4,433 per person, double occupancy, ocean view (Category D)

From \$4,678 per person, double occupancy, verandah with private balcony (Category VD)

(Call for details on single, triple and quad accommodations)

Deposit: \$350 per person, due with reservation

Final payment due by: March 25

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person if deposit is received by November 16.

Peace of Mind Protection: not available but affordable **Travel Insurance** is available. Detailed information will be sent with your confirmation or call for advance information. Without protection, the following penalties will apply, regardless of the reason for cancellation:

Cancellation prior to March 30, a \$50 per person penalty applies.

Cancellation from March 30-April 16, a \$350 penalty will apply.

Cancellation from April 17-May 14, a 50% penalty will apply.

Cancellation from May 15-22, a 75% penalty will apply.

Cancellation on or after May 23, a 100% penalty will apply.

Guaranteed departure cities: Decorah, New Hampton, Waterloo, Marshalltown, Ames, Fort Dodge, Jefferson, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Newton.

A valid passport is required for this travel package.