

SITKA

SHORE EXCURSIONS

A traditional Tlingit Native center, the capital of Russian America, and the first capital of the United States' Territory of Alaska, Sitka retains the flavor of each of these historic periods. It is located in an exceptionally picturesque setting on the outer coast of Baranof Island. The Sitka shore excursions listed below are examples of the extraordinary private experiences in Sitka taking you deep into the pristine backcountry for fishing, marine wildlife viewing and beachcombing.



PRIVATE FLAVOR OF SITKA SOUND

2 HOURS

This private cruise offers a light mix of natural history, local culture, and a glimpse into the past of this very special corner of Alaska. Your experienced and enthusiastic captain will share stories of life—wild and human—as you weave through the channels, around verdant islands, and into quiet inlets surrounding the beautiful town of Sitka. Spot sea lions, eagles, and perhaps even sea otters and whales. Learn about the commercial fishing industry, native culture, and Sitka’s WWII period..

HIGHLIGHTS

Touring the Tongass National Forest with a local expert, who boasts nearly 30 years of experience navigating the waters

PRIVATE OCEAN & FOREST TOUR

6 HOURS

This adventure provides an intimate encounter with the coastal world of Tongass National Forest: time on the sea, and time on land, spotting both marine and land mammals, sea birds, fish, tide pools, giant trees, and good old terra firma. Beginning and ending in Sitka, your excursion starts when you board our safe and comfortable, custom-built boat. As you travel along remote shores and into quiet inlets, you’ll encounter wild animals, ancient forests, and endless miles of rugged coastline.

HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring the Tongass National Forest by both land & sea

Landing on a remote beach, exploring the flora, fauna, and ecology with your biologist/guide



PRIVATE KNOW ALASKA EXPERIENCE

1.5 HOURS

This experience will put you together with one of the great local characters of Sitka. Among your options are: a cultural anthropologist who earned his PhD while living in Inupiaq & Athabaskan villages in the 1960's; a renowned biologist who collects DNA from humpback whales; a private investigator turned best-selling mystery writer; a fisheries biologist who was in charge of the sustainability of the commercial black cod fishery; and a Dept. of Fish and Game bear biologist who has had thousands of bear encounters. So sit back and listen, or ask questions and engage in a lively discussion.

HIGHLIGHTS

Connecting with one of the great local characters of Sitka – someone who actually lives, plays, writes or researches right here in the community

*Note – This tour may only be booked in combination with the Flavor or Sitka Sound or the Coastal Wildlife Adventure

ISLAND PADDLE & LOST FORT TREK

3.5 HOURS

This adventure combines two hours of kayaking with an hour-long nature walk. Following a short drive to Japonski Island, you will meet your guides and receive a short kayak & safety orientation. Continuing out past the breakwater to the edge of Sitka Sound, you will encounter kelp forests that fringe the coast and the colorful marine life that inhabits the intertidal zone. With bald eagles watching overhead, it is almost certain that you will see some of the other wild residents: curious harbor seals, massive steller sea lions, and playful sea otters.

HIGHLIGHTS

Paddling through Sitka Sound

Observing countless wildlife, including seals, sea lions, and bald eagles. You may even spot a humpback whale or two!



PRIVATE SITKA SOUND PADDLE & CRUISE

4.5 HOURS

This paddle and cruise adventure offers a perfect introduction to the wild side of Sitka Sound. While paddling through mazes of reef and kelp forest—areas accessible only by kayak—your interpreter/guide will help identify the colorful marine life visible below, including crab, sea stars, anemones, sea urchins, jellyfish, and more. At the surface, we frequently sight ever-amusing sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, porpoises, bald eagles, and a variety of marine birds.

HIGHLIGHTS

Stepping ashore on a seldom-visited island to stretch your legs, beachcomb, and learn about the Tlingit people native to the area

BEST OF SITKA HIGHLIGHTS

3.5 HOURS

On this interpretive tour, a knowledgeable native will be your personal guide as you explore Baranof Island in a luxurious passenger coach or van. You will pass by many of Sitka's historic sites, including Castle Hill Mt., the Pioneer Home, and St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral. At the Sitka National Historical Park, follow your guide along a pathway where Totem poles impart the rich culture of the Tlingít. Step into the lush rainforest and see historic Indian River, one of Sitka's many salmon spawning streams.

HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoying a Naa Kahídi Native Dance performance, held inside a traditional-style Tlingit Clan House

Visiting the Alaska Raptor Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical treatment for birds of prey



PRIVATE MARINE WILDLIFE TOUR

4 Hours

On the western edge of the Tongass National Forest is Sitka Sound, an amazing place that is absolutely teeming with life. Residents include Whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, porpoises, and salmon, as well as puffins, auklets, eagles, and brown bears. Enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch on board as you view the unspoiled, natural world that surrounds Sitka.

HIGHLIGHTS

Touring the Tongass National Forest with a local expert, a former fisheries biologist and US Forest Service botanist

Observing the rich wildlife, including seals, whales, sea lions, salmon, and multiple seabirds

PRIVATE WILD COAST PADDLE AND CRUISE

6.5 HOURS

This adventure combines two hours of kayaking with an hour-long nature walk. You will set out on a leisurely paddle through Sitka's harbor, home to one of the most productive commercial fishing fleets in North America. Continuing out past the breakwater to the edge of Sitka Sound, you will encounter kelp forests that fringe the coast and the colorful marine life that inhabits the intertidal zone. After refreshments on the beach on the Causeway Islands, we'll paddle back to Sitka.

HIGHLIGHTS

With bald eagles watching overhead, it is almost certain that you will see some of the other wild residents: curious harbor seals, massive steller sea lions, and playful sea otters. Occasionally, we also spot humpback, minke or orca whales.

We Look Forward to Welcoming You **On Shore**



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