

Alaska, the Yukon & the Inside Passage

14 Days: August 12-25, 2012



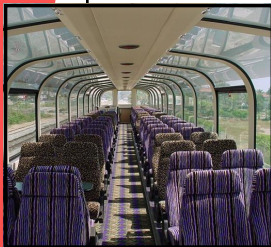
This travel package planned by Rhonda Strutzenberg & escorted by Clara Hill.

Those who only cruise Alaska miss out on its interior scenery and the intrigue of the Yukon. Those who only tour Alaska by land don't get to experience the incredible beauty of the Inside Passage. At NorthLand Travel, we've combined the best of both for the trip of a lifetime. Let our 29 years of experience in "the Great Land" be your guide for an unforgettable adventure.



August 12 let the adventure begin! Depart mid-afternoon from our scheduled departure cities for an overnight stay in Des Moines. Attend a brief orientation then take time to meet your fellow explorers.

August 13 you and your tour manager check in for your flight to **Anchorage**. (*Flight arrangements are available from many US cities. We'll be happy to have your friends join us from other parts of the country. Call for more details.*) Upon arrival in Anchorage we transfer to our downtown hotel, close to dining and shopping.



August 14 travel aboard a **luxury domed train** on a breathtaking journey to **Denali National Park**. Denali encompasses over 9,000 square miles of pristine wilderness – you're surrounded by natural beauty. With onboard chefs hard at work, you may want 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 amid the scent of fresh pine, wood burning fireplaces and the sounds of nature. Depending on your mood, you might choose from several optional activities: a "flightseeing" excursion around Mt. McKinley, whitewater rafting or the dinner theater. Denali hosts a world of adventures for you to choose from, such as treasure hunting, ATV treks, jet boat safaris or dog cart rides. Dare to dream!

August 15 soak in the wonders of the wilderness at the **Denali National Park Visitor Center**. Today we experience the **Tundra Wilderness Tour**, journeying deep into rugged beauty escorted by a knowledgeable guide. Untouched wilderness abounds – keep your eyes open for Mt. McKinley, moose, bears, wolves, bald eagles and other wildlife. (Over the years, our groups have spied caribou, wolves, fox moose, eagles, dall sheep and grizzly bear.) Later today, consider all your options - you might like to heli-hike, golf or explore via Jeep® or covered wagon. It's up to you and your spirit of adventure. But make sure to get some shut-eye, tomorrow's another day of discovery.



August 16 spend the morning at your leisure. Today you'll travel to **Fairbanks** by way of **McKinley Explorer** luxury rail. Fairbanks is Alaska's second largest city with a population of 35,000 and with nearly 100,000 in the surrounding metropolitan area. It's located in the Tanana Valley, an important agricultural center for Alaska. You'll arrive in Fairbanks this evening, where several optional sightseeing tours are still available under the "Midnight Sun."

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August 17 spend the morning aboard one of the **Discovery Riverboats**. The authentic sternwheeler takes you down the Chena River to the Tanana River. See the “wedding of the rivers” as glacially-fed rivers carry tons of glacial silt into spring-fed rivers. Live, on-board video systems ensure you have a good view no matter



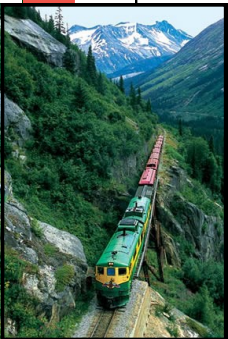
where you're seated. We'll land at an **Athabaskan village** to experience life in the wild – hide tanning, salmon filleting, sled dogs, crafts, fish wheels and more! A veteran of the famous IDITAROD dogsled race usually visits with you and demonstrates his team. We'll also visit **Gold Dredge No. 8**, an enormous dredge which, when operational, moved tons of rocks in quest for GOLD! Enjoy a hearty **miner's lunch** in the mess hall. You'll learn more about the history and the equipment used in the Gold Rush and then have your chance to “strike it rich” as you **pan for gold!** Later this afternoon we'll visit the Alaskan pipeline and learn some amazing facts about this phenomenal structure. Tonight you're in for a local treat – the **Alaska Salmon Bake**. Imagine fresh salmon and halibut cooked over a wood fire in the shadow of Alaskan pines (prime rib is also an option), served with all the trimmings. A sensory delight!

August 18 the spirit of adventure takes us for a ride today as we travel the famous **Alaska Highway**. Along the way, our “driver-guide” will tell all about this unique construction marvel. Our trek across the tundra includes awesome scenery, fascinating stories and interesting stops. Later this afternoon we arrive at **Beaver Creek**, “301 miles from nowhere.” This small village served as a camp while the highway was being built. Tonight the “**Yukon Rendezvous**” **dinner show** will satisfy our hearty appetites for food and fun alike.

August 19 the stunning backdrop for today's drive is the St. Elias Mountains. Bask in the beauty of Kluane Lake before **lunch** and a **natural history presentation** at **Kluane National Park**. We stop at Uncommon Journeys for a **dog sled demonstration**, and then trace the **Klondike Highway to Whitehorse**, capital of the Yukon Territory. En route, our driver-guide will share more tales of the gold rush days. We stay the night in Whitehorse and attend the “**Frantic Follies**,” a long-running variety show filled with music, history and the lighter side of life in the Yukon.



August 20 today is yours to spend as you wish. Nature lovers can get off the beaten path in glorious Kluane, the Yukon's crown jewel, to explore on your own. Hike a trail, float the river, walk with a naturalist, fish for Northern Pike, photograph the rock glacier aspen stands, cruise the lake or attend a vaudeville revue – it's up to you!

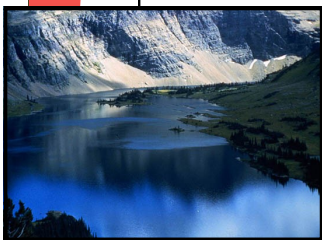
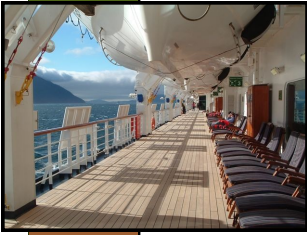


August 21 we'll retrace the very path prospectors used as we make our way to White Pass to board the **White Pass & Yukon Railway** for our descent into **Skagway**. Ride this vintage gold rush railway past waterfalls and jagged peaks to sea level and our awaiting ship, the **MS Zuiderdam**. We'll arrive in time for you to explore this quaint little town before we set sail. Your luggage will be taken to your stateroom for you. The Zuiderdam is one of Holland America's Vista-Class ships. Put in service in 2002, this fabulous ship has nearly 85% ocean view staterooms, many of which have private balconies. The 11 passenger decks accommodate 1848 guests and include an elegant atrium, a 3-story show lounge, shops, lounges, spacious spa & fitness center, Internet café, full casino, pool and whirlpool (under a sliding dome, so the weather's always fine!), elegant 2-level dining room, poolside Terrace Grill and a variety of other public rooms. A spacious wrap-around deck offers excellent sightseeing opportunities whether you're relaxing in a deck chair or enjoying a morning jog. Four glass exterior elevators provide a unique seascape panoramic



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view. The Indonesian and Filipino staff does an excellent job of providing outstanding service: your waiter will begin to anticipate your requests and your stateroom steward will know when to make up your room and change your towels without disrupting in your routine. Whether you're a "meat and potatoes" sort, or a discriminating connoisseur, you'll 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 purchase! 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 whales, sea lions, eagles and other wildlife. Return to your cabin to find your bed turned down and a chocolate on your pillow.



August 22 (National Park Service permitting) we cruise **Glacier Bay National Park** 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. Suddenly the silence is broken by what sounds like a shotgun as a glacier calves - 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 email. Tonight, another great lineup of dining and entertainment awaits you!

August 23 it will appear that we are cruising on a mirror as the glassy smooth river takes us to **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 back-country 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 interested in specializing your mode of transportation, take a tour aboard a Harley-Davidson, in a luxury SUV or in a Hummer. This evening we sail toward Vancouver.



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August 24 we cruise the gorgeous **Inside Passage** all day. Watch for whales! Enjoy another day of activities, entertainment and dining.

August 25 our Alaskan adventure comes to a close. We transfer to Vancouver (or Seattle) International Airport for our return flights. A Hawkeye Stage motorcoach will be waiting in Des Moines to deliver you and your treasures (and your treasured memories) back to your departure city.

Your 14-day Alaskan adventure includes: Transportation between our scheduled departure cities and Des Moines International Airport, round-trip air transportation based on Des Moines (call for information & rates from other US air gateways), transfers between the airport, hotel and ship, all rail and motorcoach transportation in Alaska, lodging for 9 nights plus 4 nights aboard the Zuiderdam (including onboard meals and entertainment) plus 2 dinners 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 as well as applicable fuel surcharges are included at time of printing and are subject to change.

For your total package price, please add the Des Moines group airfare of \$1104.00 per person to the cruise/tour category you select below.

\$3,346 per person, double occupancy, inside (Category MM), plus airfare

\$3,626 per person, double occupancy, ocean view (Category D), plus airfare

\$3,836 per person, double occupancy, verandah with private balcony (Category VD), plus airfare (call for details on single, triple and quad accommodations)

Deposit: \$650 per person, due with reservation. If deposits are not received within 3 business days, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

Final payment due by: May 7

Delayed reservation fee: after June 12, a reservation for this trip requires an additional \$50 per person.

Peace of Mind Protection: not available for this travel package, 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 May 10, a \$50 per person penalty applies.

Cancellation from May 11-June 11, a \$700 per person penalty applies.

Cancellation from June 12-July 11, a 50% penalty applies.

Cancellation from July 12-26, a 75% penalty applies.

Cancellation on or after July 27, a 100% penalty applies.



Scheduled departure cities: Ames, Cedar Rapids, Clear Lake, Coralville, Decorah, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Newton and Waterloo.

A valid passport is required for this cruise.

Air/rail/cruise tickets are subject to supplemental price increases which may be imposed after purchase due to additional costs imposed by a supplier or government (such as increased fees, fuel surcharges, taxes and/or foreign exchange fluctuations). To offset these fees, you may be charged post-purchase price increases by NorthLand Travel.

When circumstances arise beyond our control, NorthLand Travel reserves the right to make itinerary changes.



Moderate itinerary + - some standing or stairs, a few blocks of walking plus options for additional activities

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