

**Sitka, Alaska, US - Wednesday, June 12, 2024:** The onion domes of St. Michael's Cathedral are your first clue that Sitka was once a Russian settlement – the colonial headquarters of Count Baranof, no less. Discover the echoes of its heyday at a performance by the New Archangel Dancers. Be greeted by Tlingit native people, then stand on the spot where the United States took possession of Alaska in 1867 for \$7.2 million, less than two cents per acre. The dramatic setting in the shadow of Mt. Edgecumbe is one of the loveliest in the Great Land. Take a stroll through old growth forest in Sitka National Historical Park, shop the downtown district, and poke around the Sheldon Jackson Museum for a close-up look at some of the city's most prized arts, crafts and Russian relics.

**Advanced Mountain Bike**



Departs: 12:30 PM  
Approximately 4 Hours  
Price \$139.95

This **challenging mountain bike ride** is designed for the physically fit and experienced biker.

Participants will ride through the city of **Sitka** via a combination of mountain-bike trails and coastal roads. Your Trek bike is equipped with electrical assistance -- a wonderful way to see the beautiful environment of Southeast Alaska. Total distance cycled is approximately 16 - 22 miles.

**Notes:**

Minimum height is 4'10". Minimum age is 16 years. Please realistically assess your physical fitness and ability before booking. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer.

**Alaska 4x4 Nature Safari**



Departs: 1:00 PM (Waitlisted), 2:00 PM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Price \$299.95

This fun and adventuresome **nature safari** takes you to remote, volcanic **Kruzof Island**.

Head to a local jetty and board a **boat** for a fast, fun ride through numerous picturesque islands. Keep your eyes peeled for American bald eagles, sea otters and sea lions.

As you approach Kruzof Island, your captain will point out some intricate volcanic rock formations. Step ashore and meet your guide.

Get acquainted with your **Polaris Ranger vehicle** and, after a safety orientation and operating instructions, it's your turn to drive. Follow your guide on a trail through forest surrounded by beautiful scenery. Drive over bridges with gurgling streams with salmon running up them in season, and pass along a wildflower meadow on your way to a scenic estuary. Here, you will stop and search for wildlife such as Alaska coastal brown bear and Sitka black-tail deer.

After enjoying a **snack**, it's time to ride back to the jetty and take the boat back to Sitka.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings and wildflowers blooms vary with the season. This tour operates in the Tongass National Forest under a Special Use Permit issued by the US Forest Service. Minimum age is 9 years; minimum age to drive is 18 years with a valid driver's license. Participants must be in good physical condition. Waiver must be signed and medical conditions disclosed. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed. Ride will be bumpy; guests who are pregnant or have a back or neck condition are not allowed to participate. Waiver must be signed and medical conditions disclosed. You may get wet and muddy. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

**Alaska Raptor Center & Rain Forest City Walk**



Departs: 10:30 AM (Waitlisted)  
3 Hours  
Adult \$84.95; Child \$69.95

**Walk** through history and nature as you discover the heart and soul of Alaska's coastal communities in this 'rain forest city'. From soaring eagles to the tiniest vole, from the first

peoples of Sitka to today's modern residents, from forest to shoreline, all elements combine here to form a unique frontier town. Discover how the first people thrived here, while successive waves of Russians and Americans were drawn to this rich confluence of land and sea to harvest its bounty and make their own mark. You can still see the spires of Russian Orthodoxy in the heart of small-town **Sitka**, while towering totems perch on the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

Beginning at the **Alaska Raptor Center**, learn how handlers nurse injured bald eagles back to health for release back into the wild. Enjoy up-close encounters with these majestic birds of prey.

A river runs through **Sitka National Historical Park's** lush rain forest, representing both the start and end of the life cycle of many species, including salmon. As you **walk** beneath giant spruce along totem-lined trails, learn how salmon are part of the food chain for both humans and animals, and even for the soil itself. Moving to the park's shoreline, search for wild bald eagles, ravens and other mammals. When the tide allows, explore a rich **intertidal zone** that abounds with life, while keeping a sharp eye out for interesting beach finds. Totems escort you to the park exit, and you'll learn how this place has been

home to Tlingit, Russian and American peoples.

Pass the Sitka Sound Science Center -- a working hatchery where the salmon journey begins for millions of fry destined for the wild. In season, you'll see salmon spawning at the end of an incredible ocean journey to their birthplace upstream.

Finally, stroll past **Crescent Harbor**, filled with thousands of commercial, sport and subsistence vessels, earning the town its "Sitka by the Sea" moniker. See the Russian Bishop's House and St Michael's Orthodox Cathedral's spires rising above the heart of the city. St Michael's is open to guests, should you choose to explore further on your own.

**Notes:**

The tour ends at the downtown central stoplight. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair or for those with mobility limitations. Walking is on established gravel pathways or pavement. Participants must be able to walk up to 1.4 miles and stand for up to two hours. Tour is not recommended for infants; however, if parents have a backpack carrier please see the on-board tour desk staff for permission. Minimum age is 5 years. Wear warm, layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes. Outer layer should be waterproof and windproof.

**Alaska Remote Fly Fishing**



Departs: 11:00 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 6 Hours  
Price \$349.95

Experience **fly fishing on a remote Sitka river** accessed by custom-built **aluminum runabout**. This mode of transportation ensures easy access to the riverbank and a fast, comfortable ride.

Depending upon what river your guide decides is best to fish on the day, you will have time to hike, wade, explore and fish on this six-hour excursion.

Fish for species in season -- steelhead, salmon, trout and char could be running. Dolly Varden are available when there are salmon in the rivers.

All wading and fishing gear, snacks, beverages, and a shoreside lunch are provided. You'll return to the ship totally hooked on remote Alaska fly fishing.

**Notes:**

Tour operates in the Tongass National Forest under a Special Use Permit issued by the US Forest Service. Minimum age is 12 years. Participants must be in good physical condition and able to walk over rocky, slippery, uneven terrain and stand while fishing. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair or for those with mobility limitations. Not suitable for guests with knee, back or hip conditions. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer

layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Fishing is on a catch-and-release basis. A catch is likely but is not guaranteed. All participants aged 16 and older must purchase a fishing license in advance by following these steps:

- > Visit <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov/>
- > Choose "Shop as a Guest" and enter the required information
- > Choose "Fishing, Hunting, Trapping Licenses & Stamps"
- > Under Short-Term Products, use the drop-down menu to select the Sport Fishing License for the correct term (if you will fish on multiple days, purchase a term that will cover all applicable dates)
- > Enter the date and time you will start fishing
- > Add to your cart and checkout
- > Bring the email containing your license and a screenshot as back-up

**Best of Sitka: Otters, Raptors & Bears**



Departs: 11:00 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 5 Hours  
Adult \$239.95; Child \$184.95

This unforgettable tour provides the opportunity to experience all three of Sitka's most popular wildlife viewing experiences.

Board a deluxe, Alaskan-built expedition

vessel and set out to explore the marine wilderness to observe sea otters, whales, Steller sea lions, porpoise, harbor seals, brown bear, black-tail deer and a variety of marine birds. An onboard naturalist will explain the workings of this remarkable ecosystem as your skilled skipper maneuvers the vessel to provide the best possible views.

Take a short coach ride to the renowned **Alaska Raptor Center**, where injured birds of prey, including the American bald eagle, receive medical treatment. A wildlife interpreter will guide you through the Bald Eagle Flight Center and introduce you to some of the raptors-in-residence perched in outdoor habitats. Enjoy some **free time** to explore the river trail and use the interactive exhibits.

Your adventure continues with a narrated drive along a winding coastal road to Silver Bay's Fortress of the Bear rescue facility. Here, you can view and photograph brown and black bears up close from a raised platform and learn about an Alaskan family's dream of offering a life-saving alternative for bears caught in conflict with their human neighbors.

You might have **free time** to explore beautiful **Sitka** on your own after the tour.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed; however, the tour operator's sea otter, whale, or bear sighting success rate is 99%. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm

hat.

### Birds, Bears & Barnacles



Departs: 10:30 AM (Waitlisted), 12:30 PM  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$109.95; Child \$99.95

This is your **guaranteed** opportunity to view up close Alaska's majestic **bald eagles**, Alaska **coastal brown bears**, and ocean sea life from aquariums, touch tanks, and a salmon hatchery.

Departing the pier, you will drive to the **Alaska Raptor Center to learn** about the many birds of prey in the Flight Center and outdoor bird habitats. The Raptor Center specializes in the care of the American bald eagle.

Head along a scenic portion of the Sitka road system, stopping at the **Fortress of the Bear**. Learn about the life and habits of the **Alaska coastal brown bear (grizzly)**, and an elevated platform offers views of them. You'll see their handler feed, talk to and encourage them in a natural but enclosed habitat.

The **Sitka Marine Science Center** houses an active salmon hatchery, saltwater aquariums, and live fish touch tanks displaying many of the marine species found in Sitka's ocean waters. This program is an educational experience for all ages -- a chance to appreciate some of the inhabitants of Alaska's remarkable animal kingdom.

#### Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof

outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

### Dry Suit Snorkel



Departs: 11:30 AM  
Approximately 2½ Hours  
Adult \$149.95; Child \$119.95

Explore the **underwater world of Southeast Alaska** and learn about the marine biology of the ocean floor that teems with life in the waters of Sitka Sound. The advantages of using a dry suit are warmth, buoyancy, safety, comfort, and ease of changing -- you simply wear your own street clothes under the dry suit.

You will be picked up dockside for a transfer to the changing area. There is a secure place to leave your belongings. In your dry suit, you will head to **Magic Island**, located within the **Halibut Point Recreation State Park**.

Listen to a safety orientation, and your guide will answer any questions; Your guides provide information regarding the water temperatures, visibility, tidal fluctuations and local marine life. There is a 1:6 guide-to-guest ratio, and a certified dive master accompanies the group. All guides are trained in CPR, dive and snorkel procedures, and the marine environment.

Then comes the once-in-a-lifetime and highly unusual experience of **snorkeling in the waters of Alaska**. You will spend approximately 30 - 60 minutes in the water watching for sea life such as sea stars, sun stars (up to 60 lbs), crabs, a variety of fish, sea anemones (one of the oldest animals on

earth), a variety of filter feeders, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and the colorful bio-mass of the sea floor. You can also explore the giant kelp forest near the snorkel area.

#### Notes:

Minimum age is 12 years. Minimum weight is 85 lbs; maximum weight is 240 lbs. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. Not suitable for guests with a latex allergy.

### Explore Sitka, Raptor Center & Native Tales



Departs: 10:30 AM  
3¼ Hours  
Adult \$99.95; Child \$84.95

Explore an open bird habitat where eagles fly free, as well as stunning examples of Russian Colonial architecture, captivating native tales and the ancient rain forest of Alaska's oldest National Park. On this tour, Sitka's Russian, Tlingit and American culture, past and present, comes alive.

A brief **panoramic drive** through the **historic district** showcases Totem Square and Castle Hill -- site of the 1867 purchase and land transfer ceremony of Alaska from colonial Russia. You'll also pass the Alaska Pioneer Home, the Russian Bishop's house and, from a distance, see St Michael's Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Discover the **Alaska Raptor Center**, staffed mostly by volunteers who rescue the birds, provide rehabilitative care for them, and hopefully release the birds back to the wild. After your introduction to the facility, you

will see the fascinating **bird-on-a-glove presentation**. View the clinic, outside deck habitat area, and the eagle flight center. Photograph the birds throughout the grounds.

At **Sitka National Historical Park**, wander through the lush forest and along a scenic beach path where **totems** depict the rich culture of the southeast Native people. A short optional **walk** includes topics such as edible and medicinal plants, the life cycle and traditional uses of various salmon species, and rain forest ecology. Don't miss the park's **Visitor Center** featuring local Native artists, when available, along with both ancient and modern displays, and view a fascinating audio-visual presentation on Sitka's history.

Experience authentic **Tlingit stories and songs** during a visit to a modern rendition of a traditional-style clan house built on the site of a former government school. The Naa Kahidi Community House features the largest carved house-screen in the Pacific Northwest and comes alive with songs and voices -- including your own. Admire the beautiful regalia clothing and even learn to speak a bit of Tlingit before you leave.

Your tour concludes with the transfer back to the ship, or you may choose to stay and explore downtown Sitka. Wander down the main street of this charming Alaskan town on your own, and perhaps visit **St Michael's Cathedral** -- the first Russian Orthodox cathedral in America -- to view priceless icons and religious artifacts.

#### Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes; dress in layers.

### Fortress of the Bear & Silver Bay Homestead Cruise



Departs: 10:45 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$249.95; Child \$199.95

Enjoy a narrated motorcoach tour to **Fortress of the Bear** -- a working rehabilitation center for orphaned brown and black bears. The facility is presently home to eight bears of various ages. While you are observing them, the on-site interpretive staff will tell you about the animals and the remarkable story of the couple who established the rescue facility.

Then, take to the water aboard an **expedition vessel** to explore a **glacier-carved fjord**. Along the way, you will step ashore at a remote **Alaskan homestead** where your wilderness guides share the knowledge the original inhabitants of Southeast Alaska have used to thrive here for thousands of years. Enjoy spectacular views of the bay from the beach or while sitting around the **campfire**, complete with **s'mores and cocoa**.

Back aboard your expedition craft, you will cruise north in search of Steller sea lions and other **wildlife** species common to the area. At Sawmill Creek, you will transfer to a waiting coach to continue your exploration by road.

#### Notes:

Some walking is required on mostly level surfaces between modes of transportation and

at all venues. Participants must negotiate a few steps with minimal assistance to (dis)embark transportation. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Tour sequence may vary, with the cruise before Fortress of the Bear. Your tour may end downtown at the Sitka Visitor Center or at the Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal. Free shuttle buses, departing every few minutes, provide transportation between downtown and the Cruise Terminal.

### Ghosts of Historic Sitka Walk



Departs: 11:30 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 1 Hour  
Adult \$59.95; Child \$49.95

**Walk** with the lingering spirits from the Russian-American era, and learn about **Sitka's** rich and turbulent history. An enchanting storyteller dressed in opulent 1867 period costume will guide and entertain you as you explore Sitka's wooden sidewalks, eerie passageways and back alleys.

You will see the old military barracks, embark on paranormal investigations at the **Russian Cemetery** and view the iconic Russian church. Hear the chilling stories of the unexplained Kooshdaa Kaa luring sailors to their deaths.

Visit the **gravesite** of the beloved Russian princess who still haunts Sitka today.

As you stroll past buildings constructed by early Russian explorers, your guide will describe their clash with the indigenous

Tlingit people.

Learn about the saga of October 18, 1867 -- the day of the Alaska Purchase, dubbed Seward's Folly at the time. See the outside of the beautiful, yet looming, Rose Hill House and wander through its seemingly quiet neighborhood.

Sitka's eeriest stories are yours to discover on this fascinating tour that brings history back to life.

#### Notes:

Minimum age is 10 years. Tour requires approximately one mile of walking over mostly even surfaces, with a small percentage of cobblestones or uneven surfaces, steps, inclines, and some standing for extended periods. Not advisable for guests with mobility limitations.

### Guide's Choice Hike



Departs: 1:00 PM  
Approximately 4 Hours  
Price \$129.95

This trip is designed for those seeking a **six-to ten-mile hike** that really showcases the beauty of **Sitka**. Set out with a small group tour and a Sitka-based guide who is well-versed in local flora, fauna, culture and history of all the community trails.

Your guide will choose the trail based on the ability of participants and the day's conditions. Among the many choices are Indian River, Beaver Lake, Herring Cove, Blue Lake, Thimbleberry and Medvejie Lakes,

Heart Lake, and Harbor Mountain Ridge.

#### Notes:

Participants must be physically fit. Please realistically assess your physical fitness and ability before booking, as the walk is uphill, over unpaved, rough walking tracks with many steps. Minimum height is 4'0". Minimum age is 12 years. Total hiking time is approximately 3.5 hours. Wear sturdy non-skid walking/hiking shoes. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer. Bring bottled water.

### Guided Fly Fishing



Departs: 11:30 AM  
Approximately 4 Hours  
Price \$289.95

Enjoy a fly fishing trip in a scenic area that feels secluded even though it is close to town - meaning less travel time and more time on the river.

This trip is ideal for everyone, even beginners, who want to get out in the water and do some fly-fishing without a lot of fuss.

Begin by gearing up with waders, boots, rod, reel and tools. Your guide will set up an appropriately sized rod for the fish that are running and will provide you with the best flies for catching them.

Sitka-area rivers are small, gravel-bottom rivers with nice features and pools in which to fish. Species vary by time of year, but the most common are Dolly Varden and pink salmon. The early season may have opportunities for

steelhead and rainbow trout.

All fishing is on a catch-and-release basis on this enjoyable, all-inclusive, no-hassle, easy-wade fly-fishing experience.

**Notes:**

Tour operates in the Tongass National Forest under a Special Use Permit issued by the US Forest Service. Minimum age is 12 years. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Fishing is on a catch-and-release basis. A catch is likely but is not guaranteed. All participants aged 16 and older must purchase a fishing license in advance by following these steps:

- > Visit <https://store.adfg.alaska.gov/>
- > Choose "Shop as a Guest" and enter the required information
- > Choose "Fishing, Hunting, Trapping Licenses & Stamps"
- > Under Short-Term Products, use the drop-down menu to select the Sport Fishing License for the correct term (if you will fish on multiple days, purchase a term that will cover all applicable dates)
- > Enter the date and time you will start fishing
- > Add to your cart and checkout
- > Bring the email containing your license and a screenshot as back-up

**Historic Sitka Highlights**



Departs: 10:30 AM  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$94.95; Child \$79.95

Several distinct periods of Alaskan history are preserved within the island community of Sitka -- from the early Native American civilization through the Russian Colonial period and the Pacific Theatre of World War II. Long before the European colonists arrived in Alaska, Inuit, Aleut, Athabaskan, and Tlingit native groups lived off the land here.

The **Sheldon Jackson Museum** boasts the oldest collection of Native and Inuit artifacts in Alaska, showcasing the ingenuity and skill of the Native settlers living in a very unforgiving land.

Learn about the Russian colonial period that forever changed the lives of the Native groups as you visit **Sitka National Historical Park** -- the site of the 1804 Battle of Alaska, signifying the beginning of the Russian colonial period in Sitka. An extensive collection of Tlingit and Haida **totems** is on display throughout the park grounds. As you leave the National Park, you will learn about the time when Sitka was dubbed 'the Paris of the Pacific.'

Your route will take you past the Russian Bishop's house, Castle Hill, and the Russian Blockhouse.

Stop at **St Michael's Cathedral**, the Mother Cathedral of Orthodoxy for All of America, and step inside this small church to see icons and priceless religious artwork dating back to

the late 15th century. Hear the miraculous story of how this artwork was saved from the Main Street fire in 1966, which destroyed one-third of downtown Sitka.

Your final stop is at **Centennial Hall** to watch **Alaska Storytellers**, a dynamic 30-minute live performance showcasing Sitka's rich history and featuring music, dance, photos, art, and video.

This is an excellent way to discover Sitka and identify other historical attractions to visit on your own.

**Notes:**

Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**Metal Torching Alaska Art Class**



Departs: 1:00 PM  
Approximately 3 Hours  
Price \$299.95

Transfer along the scenic byways of Sitka to a **metal-working workshop**. Grabbing a piece of metal, your instructor programs a fish file into the plasma cutter, sparks fly, and suddenly you're handed the basic shape of your favorite Alaskan fish. Halibut or salmon -- what will it be today?

At your workstation, listen to a safety briefing; then, begin a detailed, step-by-step walkthrough on **crafting your own fish masterpiece**. Using a grinder, design and texture your fish. Use a mallet to give your fish a 3D shape. Lastly, turn up the heat on your torch to draw out shades of bronze, purple, and blue. Your creation will be your

own uniquely perfect piece of artwork to take home and hang on the wall as a reminder of your creative, fun, and unusual Alaska vacation.

**Notes:**

The finished product should easily fit in your luggage. There will be an additional cost to ship the product to your home if you do not want to take it back to the ship with you. Wear closed-toe shoes (mandatory). Goggles, and safety earmuffs are provided and must be worn. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair or for those with mobility limitations. Participants are required to use power tools, torches, and other light industrial equipment. Minimum age is 12 years.

**Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest**



Departs: 12:15 PM, 2:15 PM  
3 Hours  
Adult \$164.95; Child \$129.95

Join a cruise that offers the opportunity to observe sea otters, whales, sea lions, porpoise, harbor seals, brown bears, black-tail deer, bald eagles and a variety of marine birds. An onboard naturalist will explain the workings of this remarkable ecosystem. You'll also learn about the sea otters' recovery following their near-extinction at the hands of Russian fur hunters in the early 1800s.

The **Alaskan-built expedition vessel** has been designed to navigate **Southeast Alaska's narrow island passages**, allowing wildlife viewing at close range. The boat also features a warm cabin with enclosed seating, large

windows and a topside observation deck for unparalleled photo opportunities and to fully experience your quest with all your senses.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed; however, the tour operator's sea otter, whale, or bear sighting success rate is 99%. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Wheelchair access may be difficult; please consult the Shore Excursions team before booking for details. Electric scooters cannot be accommodated

**Sea Otter Quest & Alaska Raptor Center**



Departs: 10:45 AM  
Approximately 4¼ Hours  
Adult \$194.95; Child \$159.95

This excursion combines two of Sitka's most popular wildlife viewing experiences.

Board a deluxe, **water-jet-powered sightseeing vessel** and set out to explore the marine wilderness to observe sea otters, whales, Steller sea lions, porpoise, harbor seals, brown bears, black-tail deer, and a variety of marine birds. An onboard naturalist will explain the workings of this remarkable ecosystem as your skilled captain maneuvers the vessel to provide the best possible views.

Returning to Sitka, you will visit the renowned **Alaska Raptor Center**, where injured birds of prey receive medical treatment. A wildlife interpreter will guide you through the **Bald Eagle Flight Building**,

and you will meet some of the birds perched in outdoor habitats. Browse in the gift area and bird exhibit tables before returning by motorcoach to the pier.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed; however, the tour operator's sea otter, whale, or bear sighting success rate is 99%. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

**Sea Otter Quest & Fortress of the Bear**



Departs: 10:30 AM  
Approximately 4¼ Hours  
Adult \$194.95; Child \$159.95

See the wild side of Alaska like never before on a special combination of wildlife viewing experience and the award-winning Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest.

Your adventure begins with a narrated drive along a winding coastal road to Silver Bay's Fortress of the Bear rescue facility. **Up-close brown (grizzly) bear viewing** in a created habitat is emphasized here as you learn of one Alaskan family's dream of offering an alternative for bears caught in conflict with their human neighbors. Marvel at the ingenuity of reusing an abandoned wood pulp mill site to create a home for these incredible animals.

Back aboard your deluxe motorcoach, the journey continues as your driver/guide explains the dynamic living culture of today's

Alaskans and how the original inhabitants of Southeast Alaska, both human and animal, have thrived here for thousands of years.

You'll cap off this exploration with a trip to the wild side when you embark a **boat** to set off on the Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest. Sea otters, whales, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, brown bears, Sitka black-tail deer and a variety of marine birds may be observed in their natural habitat.

Each tour is unique, with an onboard naturalist and skilled captain providing a genuinely Alaskan experience.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed; however, the tour operator's sea otter, whale, or bear sighting success rate is 99%. Electric scooters cannot be accommodated. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

**Sitka Bike & Hike**



Departs: 12:30 PM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 3 Hours  
Adult \$109.95; Child \$89.95

This **guided bike tour** of the south end of the Sitka road system is geared toward those who want to see a part of Sitka that visitors rarely experience, get some exercise, and enjoy the fresh, clean air. The tour focuses on the local history, lore, and fauna. The route closely follows the shore of the Pacific Ocean and overlooks stunning Silver Bay.

You will also **hike** to a beautiful lake, and enjoy beach and mountain views.

Expect a gently rolling **four-mile bike ride** and **one mile of hiking**. Bottled water is provided.

**Notes:**

Riders are required to wear a helmet (provided). Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Storage is provided for items not needed on tour. Rain gear, pants and jackets are provided when needed; tour operates rain or shine. Minimum height is 4 feet 10 inches. Minimum age is 10 years. This is a non-smoking tour.

**Sitka Historical Floathouse & Scenic Cruise (A Small-Group Tour)**



Departs: 10:30 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 2½ Hours  
Price \$179.95

This unforgettable cruise through Alaska's visual paradise starts at Crescent Harbor. A **small group** (maximum six guests) sets out aboard a heated, covered **cabin-cruiser boat**. Your skipper will narrate as he navigates the boat through the islands surrounding Sitka and out into Sitka Sound.

Learn about Sitka's rich local, natural and marine histories and the Native populations before, during and after the Russian era. You will see World War II bunkers. Watch for marine wildlife all along the way, and learn about the region's ecology. Wildlife encounters may include whales, sea lions,

seals, sea otters, eagles and a variety of marine birds.

You're headed to beautiful and scenic **Camp Coogan Bay** and the **Boar's Nest Floathouse**.

This is a privately-owned floating home built in the 1920s during the heyday of the logging industry. Your guide tells you about Camp Coogan Bay's logging history and living off the grid in this remote bay. A slice of the real Alaska!

Enjoy a **light snack and beverage** at the floathouse before you reboard the boat for the short ride back to Crescent Harbor.

**Notes:**

Minimum age is 5 years. Maximum weight is 250 lbs. Ride will be bumpy; guests who are pregnant or have a back or neck condition are not allowed to participate. The ramp to access the boat may be steep, depending on tidal conditions. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed.

Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed.

**Sitka Pedal & Pub Crawl**



Departs: 10:00 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 2 Hours  
Price \$79.95

Enjoy a city tour of **Sitka** in a downhome style. You'll ride through town on a specially designed **15-passenger bike**, pedaling your way through a comical tour of this quaint little fishing town.

During your ride, you will visit some **pubs** to enjoy locally **crafted beers** as your guide shares a lively run-down of **Sitka's** history and fishing industry. From the Mariners Wall to the traditional Native Village, the Russian Memorial Cemetery, and the historic Sheldon Jackson Campus, the serious and silly sides of Sitka emerge.

Your guide is a local and loves to share what the Alaska lifestyle is really like. From dark winter days to long summer nights and living in a close-knit community, life in Alaska is truly different.

Your tour includes two local beers, but you can purchase snacks, souvenirs and up to two additional drinks.

**Notes:**

Minimum age is 21 years. Participants must not consume any alcohol before setting out on this excursion. Although participants will pedal to the pub, the bicycle is driven by your guide, who is your designated driver.

**Sitka Sound by WaveRunner®**



Departs: Noon  
2 Hours  
Price \$449.95

Adventure seekers and ocean lovers will feel right at home riding a two-person **WaveRunner® personal watercraft** through the unmatched beauty of **Sitka Sound** and its thousands of islands.

Head to a local beach and put on a dry suit and a life jacket. Listen to a safety briefing

from your guide and wade out to your WaveRunner to hop on.

Time is spent maneuvering about in the protected bay until all participants are comfortable. Then, set out in a group led by a local **US Coast Guard-certified captain**. Follow your captain in caravan formation towards the protected waters of Silver Bay, skirting in and out of smaller bays, in between islands, and along the beaches of Sitka Sound. You'll stop often to talk about local marine life, flora and fauna, as well as local history and culture.

Total ride time is approximately 1.25 hours. You will return to the bay for transportation back to the pier or to Sitka's downtown area.

Guests wishing to stay in town to shop or explore independently are welcome to do so but must make their own way back to the ship.

**Notes:**

This trip is sold by the machine -- each WaveRunner can accommodate two guests, so book per party, not per individual, unless each person wants to drive their own machine. One person on each machine must be able to operate the machine and follow directions. The guide/captain uses arm signals to instruct participants to follow in line, slow down, shut down the machine, and spread out; participants must be able to see and follow signals. A dry bag is provided for personal items and can be stashed in a dry compartment on the machine. Wear athletic clothing. Each guest is provided a very high-

end, comfortable fusion dry suit with two layers of protective material. Latex seals on dry suits can be uncomfortably tight.

Participants are required to wear a USCG-certified life vest. The mandatory WaveRunner kill switch is attached to the driver. Do not bring anything you are not willing to lose. Cameras and cell phones should be placed in a protective case. Minimum height is 4'10". Minimum weight is 85 lbs and maximum weight is 240 lbs. Minimum age is 16 years. Guests under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by parent. Waverunner is a registered trademark of Yamaha Motor Company.

**Sitka's Barrier Islands & Fin Island Lodge**



Departs: 10:00 AM  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$229.95; Child \$199.95

Adjacent to Sitka is a **network of islands** that provide a barrier from the swell of the Pacific Ocean. Skim across the water in an **inflatable expedition boat** through the wildlife-filled archipelago.

Gear up with a waterproof outfit. After a **safety briefing**, your captain skillfully navigates among the offshore islands. You'll see reefs and rock pinnacles that jut out of the water to act as perches for bald eagles and beautiful seabirds. What lies beneath? Look down at the rapidly-growing kelp forests that appear from the depths of the sound. In shallow water, you may even notice sea stars and anemones.

Keep an eye out for the local wildlife,

including sea otters, whales and sea lions. Your captain is trained to approach animals in a way that will not disturb their natural behavior but can provide viewing and photo opportunities.

A **gourmet meal** awaits you upon arrival at **Fin Island Lodge**. Sit down to delicious Alaska crab and wild salmon cooked over an alder wood-fired grill. Also on the menu are prime rib, homemade side dishes and dessert. Coffee, tea, cocoa, lemonade and water are included. Alaska-brewed beers, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase.

You can relax next to the welcoming **beach fire**, explore the island or go beachcombing.

Return to Sitka by boat.

**Notes:**

A breakfast twist on the signature Fin Island feast is offered for tours arriving before 10 am; vegan and gluten-free options are available. Dietary requests require at least 24 hours' notice. Minimum age is 8 years. Some walking is required on flat, paved or carpeted surfaces and boardwalks. Participants also have the option to explore the natural terrain surrounding Fin Island Lodge (grass and beach sand/gravel). Depending on the tide, there are sloping docks and ramps to access Fin Island Lodge. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat (do not wear cotton). Wear sturdy non-skid walking shoes. In case of inclement weather, Fin Island Lodge offers a place to stay warm and protected from the elements during the island

portion of the tour.

**Sitka's Great Adventure (A Small-Group Tour)**



Departs: 10:30 AM  
Approximately 6 Hours  
Price \$249.95

Set out on this multifaceted tour with a small group (maximum 6 privileged guests) for a more personalized experience. It incorporates an ocean-going boat ride, a visit to a residential floating house, a hike through old-growth National Forest and muskeg, and fishing or canoeing on a scenic lake.

Your adventure begins in Sitka. At Crescent Harbor, board a **boat** and depart for **Camp Coogan Bay**. Wildlife viewing during the 20-minute ride may include eagles, sea lions, sea otters, whales and a variety of sea birds. You'll be introduced to Sitka's natural, geological, and cultural history en route to your guide's **residential floating house**. This is where you will gear up for the hike.

Then, it's a short ride across the bay to begin your **walk in the Tongass National Forest**. The first section is uphill through old-growth trees on trails that are not groomed but have been brushed out and widened. There are some slippery and steep areas with roots and downed trees to step over and an open muskeg (boggy) area. You will reach the lake stocked with small and abundant trout (not trophy size).

**Fly fishing or spin casting** gear is provided for those who want to try their luck, along with bait and tackle. Inflatable **canoes** and a small

dock for launching invite you to paddle along the shoreline. Alternatively, hike around the lake or hang out by the **campfire**. **Snacks and water** are provided here. You will spend 60 - 90 minutes at the lake; then, hike back to the floating house to gather your personal belongings, drop off the gear, and **boat** back to Sitka.

**Notes:**

Participants wishing to fish must purchase a license directly from the skipper (cash only). Terrain includes inclines and slippery surfaces. Participants must be in good physical shape and be prepared to hike for about 45 minutes each way to and from the lake. Minimum age is 7 years. Rubber boots, backpacks and fishing gear are provided. Wear waterproof hiking shoes if you have them. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Fishing is catch-and-release. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Tour duration may vary (usually between 5-6 hours).

**Sitka: A Food Lover's Tour**



Departs: 12:30 PM  
Approximately 3 Hours  
Price \$119.95

Sitka is becoming a foodie paradise thanks to its rich natural resources, vibrant fishing community and hungry residents. Join knowledgeable guides for a memorable journey, where you'll **sample** the flavors of Alaska and **meet local culinary artists** who will quickly feel like old friends.

The **food truck** scene has made its way to Sitka, and you'll check out **Ashmo's** -- one of the best. Chef Ashley Moore specializes in wild Alaskan fish. The menu changes throughout the week, but one of the standouts is black cod tips served with rice.

Another culinary highlight is the local **clam chowder** sourced from area shellfish. You'll stop at an atmospheric Sitka restaurant and enjoy rich chowder -- the essence of Alaska in a bowl -- along with other local treats.

One of the finest places to experience Alaska's fascinating Russian heritage is here in Sitka -- the former capital of Russian America. You'll stop by a new local restaurant to sample **pelmeni** -- a dish at the heart of Russian cuisine. This light and delicious dumpling is wrapped in a thin dough and is just spicy enough that you know you're trying something different. Choose either the meat or potato variety -- you can't go wrong.

Another only-in-Sitka experience is a visit to the **Alaska Pure Sea Salt Company**. Here, you'll learn how founders Jim and Darcy Michener discovered that the surrounding crystal-clear waters produce perfectly flaked sea salt. They combined their passion for great food and wild places to create a product now used by some of the nation's top chefs. During your visit, you'll get to taste some locally-infused flavors, including Alder Smoked, Wild Blueberry and Sitka Spruce Tip.

No Alaska food experience is complete without sampling reindeer meat. In Sitka, you can try famous reindeer sausage hot dogs.



You'll meet Chef Jo, who takes this experience to a whole new level with her creative twists on this local treat, such as a Mighty Mac n Cheese Dawg with white cheddar and smoky bacon bits. Or perhaps you would prefer the Hot Diggity Dawg with prosciutto, brie and caramelized onions. Whichever way you go, it's a flavor you won't forget and, with some creativity, you can replicate at home.

**Notes:**

Guest on this tour will receive a sample at each location; additional items are available for purchase. Tour sequence may vary. Some stops may be substituted, and additional stops may be added.

**Tongass Rain Forest Nature Hike**



Departs: 10:30 AM  
Approximately 3 Hours  
Adult \$114.95; Child \$99.95

Bus transportation takes you to the trailhead of the **Starrigavin Muskeg Trail**. Set out from there **on foot** with a guide well-versed in Sitka's flora, fauna, and history and the surrounding area.

Enjoy great mountain views (weather permitting) as your **hike** begins with a gradual half-mile descent to Starrigavin Creek. From here, it is a half-mile level boardwalk through the Starrigavin Estuary bird viewing area. Cross the road and begin the 1.5-mile Mosquito Cove Loop Trail, gaining approximately 300 feet in elevation.

Walk along the beach back to Old Sitka and return to the pier.

**Notes:**

Restrooms are available at the Starrigavin Estuary bird viewing area. The entire hike is potentially four miles long and is for those in moderate shape; however, each group sets its own hiking pace, so the length of the hike may vary between two and four miles. Operates rain or shine. Water bottles are provided. Minimum age is 8 years. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. This is a non-smoking tour. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

**Up-Close Private Cruise Adventure**



Departs: 10:30 AM (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 3 1/2 Hours  
Price \$2,599.95



A **modern boat and knowledgeable skipper** are at your command for a wide choice of activities featuring a stunning variety of wildlife and soul-stirring coastal scenery. You **choose the activity** and the pace of your unique marine adventure as you indulge your senses and imagination on Sitka Sound's pristine, island-studded waters. Your vessel is a 33-foot, expedition-style catamaran with a spacious, heated cabin equipped with deluxe seating, a restroom and a galley. Viewing opportunities are facilitated by large wrap-around windows and an expansive open-air deck, along with a special bow-landing door to allow easy beach access.

**Wildlife** plentiful here, and your skipper has a

profound knowledge of the preferred habitats and movement of whales, sea otters, sea lions, porpoises, seals, brown bears and bald eagles. He also knows the best places to explore and **photograph** awe-inspiring volcanic formations, glacier-carved peaks, secluded passages and other natural wonders. Weather permitting, you may circumnavigate the rugged coast of St Lazaria National Wildlife Refuge -- breeding grounds for thousands of seabirds, including puffins, auklets and murres.

Weather permitting, you can **go ashore on remote islands** to beachcomb, explore tide pools, or just savor the peace of an untouched place.

**Notes:**

Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Wear sturdy non-skid walking shoes. Rain poncho, binoculars, snacks and beverages are provided. Maximum capacity is 6 guests. Only one person in the party needs to order this excursion. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. Access to the vessel requires walking approximately 100 yards and the ability to negotiate 2-3 boarding steps with limited assistance. Vessel doorways and restroom are not wheelchair accessible. This private experience is arranged on request; once you have waitlisted, arrangements are finalized with the local tour operator, and you will be

notified to complete the booking process.

**Vino's Palette: Alaska Art Creation**



Departs: Noon (Waitlisted)  
Approximately 3 Hours  
Price \$79.95

Paint, drink, enjoy! This is the simple formula for exploring the artist in you while learning more about Sitka's unique artistic community.

At Sitka's **Wild Arts Studios**, everyone is an artist. The fine arts have been woven into Sitka's culture since the early 1800s. This three-hour class is a private painting party, and participants are welcome to purchase their own **bottle of wine** or **locally-crafted beers** at the neighboring liquor store to enjoy with a **snack** of cheese and crackers.

Your instructor walks you step by step through **creating your very own version of a beautiful Alaska-themed painting**. There's no need for any previous artistic experience to participate in this lesson. As you channel your inner creativity to paint your own beautiful masterpiece, enjoy the company of your friends, family and fellow cruisers in a super-relaxed, no-pressure environment. Take your painting home with you, or let the staff at the Wild Arts Studio deliver it to the ship.

The Wild Arts Studio includes a working **glass studio**, which you are invited to view.

**Notes:**

Minimum age is 21 years.

### Volcano Coast Exploration by Ocean Raft



Departs: 1:00 PM (Waitlisted), 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM

Approximately 2½ Hours  
Price \$199.95

An **ocean rafting adventure** may be the perfect way to make your visit to Sitka exciting and unforgettable. Welcome to this world filled with the sights, sounds and scents of the ocean. This intimate glimpse of Alaska's wild splendor will excite your senses and leave you with lasting memories.

Before you begin, gear up with state-of-the-art equipment for this extreme adventure. Don an exposure suit, a balaclava, safety glasses and gloves. The ocean raft gets you out into nature quickly with a blast of fresh air. Specially designed straddle seats provide comfortable and secure seating for this exciting trip out into nature.

This thrill ride takes you offshore into ocean waters to explore the ravaged **volcanic coastline of Kruzof Island**. This area makes for excellent photographic opportunities and is home to a variety of wildlife. It is common to spot whales, sea otters, Steller sea lions and sea birds, brown (grizzly) bears and Sitka black-tail deer from the raft. You will get close to the towering cliffs of St Lazaria Island -- a National Wildlife Refuge -- where sea birds nest.

In a volcanic **sea cave** (weather permitting), the skipper will stop the boat and shut down the engine so you can listen to the surf crashing on the volcanic cliffs. You may be

lucky enough to hear the song of nesting seabirds or whales breathing.

#### Notes:

Minimum age is 10 years. Minimum height is 5'3"; Maximum weight is 350 lbs. Participants must be able to climb into and out of the raft. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed. Ride will be bumpy. Guests who are pregnant or have a hip, back or neck condition are not allowed to participate. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

### Wild Arts Artist Walk: Hot Italian Glass



Departs: 10:30 AM  
Approximately 2½ Hours  
Price \$79.95

Once known as the Paris of the Pacific, **Sitka** has a long history of cultivating the fine arts, and it all started with **Venetian glassblowing**. Explore a side of Sitka's culture not many expect to find in Southeast Alaska.

**Stroll** through the city with your guide, pausing to check out a few of the **galleries** while learning about local crafts such as silver and wood carving, ceramics and jewelry making.

Finally, you'll arrive at the **Wild Arts Gallery & Studio**, where you can watch as the artists demonstrate the making of beautiful glass canes. You'll also have the opportunity to gently stretch, twist and pull **a colorful cane of your own**.

Afterward, take advantage of some **free time** to browse in the gallery, perhaps picking up one of the many unique pieces that Sitka's natural beauty has inspired.

#### Notes:

Minimum age is 14 years.

### Wild Sitka: Alaska Raptor Center & Fortress of the Bear



Departs: 11:00 AM  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$134.95; Child \$99.95

Explore Sitka's unique highlights on a visit to the Alaska Raptor Center, Fortress of the Bear, and with a salmon and microbrew tasting at the Channel Club restaurant.

Your visit to the **Alaska Raptor Center** showcases the only full-service avian hospital in Alaska devoted solely to birds of prey (raptors). Head inside the state-of-the-art **Bald Eagle Flight Training Center** to observe eagles and other raptors in the final stages of rehabilitation before they are released back into the wild. Then, enjoy an **interactive presentation** where you meet a glove-trained raptor. You'll fully appreciate up close the splendor and dramatic beauty of the resident raptors in their outside habitats.

Reboard your motorcoach and transfer to a beautiful **Alaskan restaurant**. As you take in the waterfront views, enjoy samples of local **microbrews**, and Alaska appetizers..

Not far away, the **Fortress of the Bear**

provides the opportunity to get within 25 feet of Alaska's distinctive brown bear in a setting that closely replicates the animal's natural habitat. This three-quarter-acre habitat, located about seven miles from the town center, lies adjacent to the Tongass National Forest. Stand on the large, covered viewing platform to observe the bears and appreciate their individual personalities. Experienced naturalists share their love and knowledge of this often-feared yet shy and defensive creature of the forest.

#### Notes:

Tour sequence may vary. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat.

### Wilderness Sea Kayaking Adventure



Departs: 1:00 PM  
3 Hours  
Adult \$194.95; Child \$169.95

Embark on an exhilarating three-hour adventure along the ruggedly beautiful Alaska coastline. Take a scenic cruise via motorized **Seahawk craft** to a floating kayak base camp tucked away in a picturesque cove.

Listen to some safety instructions; then, hop into your two-person **kayak** and cast off in a small group.

Follow your knowledgeable guide through tranquil waterways and learn about the spectacular marine environment surrounding you. **Paddle** through mazes of reef and kelp forest filled with colorful marine life. Glide

past lush, coastal rain forest to view the area's abundant wildlife. You may spot playful sea lions, soaring eagles, brown bears or Sitka black-tail deer. Keep a keen eye out during your journey, as you may be lucky enough also to see a spouting whale during migration season.

Heading back to the floating base camp, enjoy a hot beverage and **snack** before returning to the pier.

**Notes:**

Tour operates in all weather conditions. Dress warmly in layers with a wind- and waterproof outer layer; bring gloves, a scarf and a warm hat. Use of rain gear and life jacket included. Minimum weight is 40 lbs; maximum weight is 250 lbs. No prior paddling experience necessary. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed.

**Wildlife Quest & Fin Island Lodge**



Departs: 2:00 PM  
Approximately 3½ Hours  
Adult \$264.95; Child \$234.95

The ultimate Sitka experience begins when you board an Alaskan-built expedition vessel. While you settle into the comfortable cabin, the knowledgeable skipper and crew will provide a safety briefing and orientation.

Once underway, feel free to move about the vessel, including the spacious outside viewing deck. An **onboard naturalist** will provide narration explaining the remarkable ecosystem of the area. (S)he will point out places of interest and wildlife throughout the

voyage. Sea otters, whales, harbor seals, brown bears, Sitka black-tail deer, bald eagles and a variety of marine birds are all commonly seen in the area. Your captain's local knowledge ensures the best viewing experience on any day.

At **Fin Island Lodge**, indulge in a delicious **Alaskan feast** of crab, wild salmon cooked over an alderwood grill, prime rib, homemade side dishes and dessert. Coffee, tea, cocoa, lemonade and water are also included. Alaskan-brewed beers, wine, and soft drinks are available for purchase. A breakfast twist on the signature Fin Island feast is offered for tours arriving before 10am. Vegan and gluten-free options are available at any time.

You may choose to beachcomb, explore the beautiful island, or relax next to the cozy beach fire. When the adventure ends, it's a short cruise back to Sitka.

**Notes:**

Tour operates rain or shine but may be canceled by the operator in the event of extremely bad weather or unsuitable conditions. Dress warmly in layers. Bring a hat, gloves and a scarf. Wear sturdy walking shoes. In case of inclement weather, Fin Island Lodge offers a place to stay warm and protected from the elements. Depending on the tide, there are sloping docks and ramps to access Fin Island Lodge. A breakfast twist on the signature Fin Island feast is offered on tours arriving before 10am. Vegan and gluten-free options are available at any time. Please notify the Shore Excursions team onboard for any dietary restrictions. You will

have free time to explore beautiful Sitka on your own before or after the tour. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed.