

### Monday 8 June:

Today we depart Auckland for Vancouver on Air NZ arrive Vancouver 2.45pm On arrival we will be met and transferred to our Hotel

## Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 June

2 nights accommodation at a central City Hotel.

### Tuesday 9 June - Half day city sightseeing Tour

Once a trading post and a rough-and-tumble sawmilling settlement, today modern Vancouver, Canada is many things. It's a bustling seaport, a hub for outdoor enthusiasts looking for active things to do in Vancouver, an ethnically diverse metropolis and Hollywood of the North. Hemmed in by mountains and sea, Vancouver seduces visitors with its combination of urban sophistication and laid-back attitude against a backdrop of glass towers and modern sights and plentiful green spaces.

Vancouver's culinary and cocktail scene is on the rise—and its excellent restaurants and hopping bars have a distinctively local stamp on them. If you are looking for where to go in Vancouver for music, theatre and the arts, they are thriving in the city's many museums, galleries and performance venues. Beyond the downtown attractions in Vancouver, days of exploration and sightseeing await among the colourful suburbs, unspoiled islands and the vast, rugged wilderness.

### Thursday 11 June

AIR: Vancouver to Whitehorse

Fly to Whitehorse on Yukon's own Air North and meet your Journey Host to learn about your upcoming adventure. Accommodation at the Westmark, Whitehorse

Northern Canada's largest city sprang from frontier roots. During the Klondike Gold Rush, prospectors washed up here, past two major river obstacles: Miles Canyon and the Whitehorse Rapids (named for whitecapped waves that resembled stallions' manes). To prevent mass starvation, the government required every Stampeder to haul along a year's supply of goods. The recommended list included 10 pounds of coffee, 150 pounds of bacon and 400 pounds of flour-part of a total 1,095 pounds of grub. Sundries like picks, ropes and a dozen heavy wool socks quickly brought the load up to a ton. Whitehorse, the northern terminus of the railway from Skagway, Alaska, boomed because it was as far north as would-be miners and their freight could travel by train; from here, sternwheelers did the rest, 740 kilometres (460 miles) down the upper Yukon River to the mining town of Dawson City.Now the territory's capital, Whitehorse stands at Historic Mile 918 of the Alaska Highway and has the world's lowest level of metropolitan air pollution, according to Guinness World Records 2013. It remains a popular tourist stop for attractions like the Yukon Wildlife Preserve and the natural and cultural insights at the MacBride Museum.

# Friday 12 June

AIR: Whitehorse to Dawson Fly to Dawson – accommodation at the Westmark Inn, Dawson

Follow the route of Klondike gold stampeders in style to Dawson City, with an included lunch stop in historic Minto.

Old-time wooden boardwalks connect frontier-era buildings in the Yukon Territory's original capital. The heart of the Klondike Gold Rush, Dawson City housed around 30,000 people in the summer of 1898.

But the town was sliding towards "ghost" status just a year later: A fire had destroyed 117 structures, right as the gold ran out and rumours arrived of nuggets in Nome, Alaska. Dawson City moseyed along quietly until the early 1960s, when Parks Canada began refurbishing landmarks like the Palace Grand Theatre (1899) and the Commissioner's Residence (1901). It also resurrected the sternwheeler ss Keno and North America's largest wooden-hull, bucket-line dredge. Along with the community of Bonanza Creek-where Stampeders pried \$500 million in gold from the frozen ground-these icons form the Klondike National Historic Sites, now part of a larger proposed UNESCO World Heritage area. Today tourists wander this subarctic hotspot, which has retained its 19thcentury charm. Highlights include the Jack London Museum, Diamond Tooth Gerties Gambling Hall and the Sourdough Saloon, which infamously serves a cocktail containing a preserved human toe (donated!)



**Saturday 13 June** Dawson – Day at Leisure. Accommodation at the Westmark Inn, Dawson

At Leisure

#### Sunday 14 June

AIR: Dawson to Fairbanks Accommodation at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel

Your journey continues as you board a short flight bound for Fairbanks, Alaska's Golden Heart City.

Bearing the nickname the Golden Heart, Alaska's second-largest city was born of gold rush fever, thanks to Italian immigrant Felix Pedro who found the precious metal in 1902 near where Captain E.T. Barnette decided to build a trading post on the banks of the Chena River. Though much of Fairbanks today is an amalgam of modern shops and malls, its history is celebrated at the 18-hectare (44-acre) Pioneer Park, which includes a Gold Rush Town with 35 restored buildings. Fairbanks also preserved its City Hall, which now houses the Fairbanks Community Museum. The city's location in Alaska's interior makes it a gateway to the arctic, and in summer tourist boats run cruises along the Chena and Tanana rivers.

Fairbanks is a city of festivals, from July's Golden Days commemorating its past, to Ice Alaska in February and March, when residents make the best of its brutal winters by playing host to a slew of international ice sculptors who descend on the city for the World Ice Art Championships. The city is one of the best places in the world to see the aurora borealis, which appears on average 243 nights of the year. For more insight into Fairbanks, the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Centre is a good place to start.

#### Monday 15 June

Fairbanks – day at leisure. Accommodation at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel

Gold Dredge / Riverboat

Board the only remaining authentic Alaskan sternwheeler for a cruise along the Chena and Tanana rivers in Chena River State Recreation Area. With the feel of an old-time steamboat that frequented the river during the gold rush days, the modern-day Riverboat Discovery features an open sun deck, heated glass enclosed decks and is equipped with video equipment so you won't miss any of the beautiful scenery. During this narrated cruise, complementary coffee and donuts are served while you witness the ''wedding of the rivers.'' The marriage of these two mighty rivers creates quite a unique line when the clear waters of the Chena meet the Tanana—the world's greatest glacier river carrying tons of glacial silt from the Alaska Range!

Next, you'll make a stop at the home of Dave Monson and Susan Butcher, the late four-time Iditarod champion, where you will meet her winning sled dogs and witness a dog sled demonstration. From there, continue on to the Old Chena Indian Village, and disembark for a glimpse into Alaskan Native life and history. Alaskan Native guides will take you on a tour of an Athabascan Indian village, a spruce bark hut, a trapper's cabin made of spruce logs, and show you how a fish wheel operates. Before boarding for your trip back, you'll have 15 minutes at the end of the tour to wander around the village or to take pictures.

Next you are off to Gold Dredge 8-a National Historic Monument! Enjoy a close up view of the Trans Alaska pipeline and a presentation about the history and operation of the pipeline before boarding the train that will take you to Gold Dredge 8 where you will see first-hand how the dredge worked the gold fields. Once the train arrives at the camp, local miners will give a brief but informative course in mining, and then you will try panning for yourself! You will find gold-we guarantee it! Nothing beats the thrill of grabbing a sack filled with pay dirt and getting your chance to strike it rich. Finally, explore the dredge camp and visit the gift shop where you can have your gold weighed and find out the dollar value based on the current market price. Have your gold turned into a memorable keepsake while you enjoy complimentary coffee and fresh homemade cookies before boarding the train for the return back to the station.



**Tuesday 16 June** Coach: Fairbanks to Denali Accommodation at Denali

Today it's off to Denali for a leisurely three night stay at this magnificent national treasure.

Denali is the iconic centerpiece of Alaska's Interior and the number one reason to combine a Holland America cruise to Alaska with an overland adventure. Only Holland America Line offers up to three nights in Denali to really settle in and explore, and is the only cruise line to include the deeper Tundra Wilderness Tour into Denali National Park on all of our two- and three-night Denali Land+Sea Journey itineraries. Immersing visitors in all that Denali has to offer is so important that we've created each of our Land+Sea Journeys to include up to three nights at Denali, at our beautiful 60-acre riverside McKinley Chalet Resort.

Our new Denali Square at the McKinley Chalet Resort is the ultimate base camp for adventures to

#### Tuesday 16 June cont..

Denali, followed by relaxing evenings. Enjoy soaring views across the Nenana River into Denali National Park from virtually anywhere on this amazing property, as well as great dining, quality entertainment, and unique local shopping opportunities.

Our exclusive longer stays, which include the Tundra Wilderness Tour, give our guests an up-close view of the mountain and the best wildlife viewing. It is rare not to see some combination of Alaska's Big Five: grizzly bears, caribou, moose, Dall Sheep and wolves, along with other animals on this expertly guided six- to eight-hour tour. In addition, there are myriad once-in-a-lifetime adventures to choose from -such as river rafting, flightseeing (including the chance to land with a ski plane on Denali itself), or visiting the home of an Iditarod dog musher. With more than six million acres of pristine Alaska wilderness, Denali National Park with its abundant and easily viewable wildlife and North America's tallest and most impressive peak will be sure to make your Land+Sea Journey experience one you've dreamed of.

#### Wednesday 17 June

Denali – Tundra Wilderness Tour, Accommodation at Denali

This comprehensive full-day tour travels deep into Denali National Park for the best possible wildlife and Mt. McKinley viewpoints and a host of magnificent vistas. Your expert driver/guide will narrate throughout the journey and provide in-depth information about the history of the park. When animals are sighted, your tour driver will even capture video footage and project the images onto drop-down video screens so you can get a close-up look at the action. You can even purchase a DVD that includes some of the video footage shot along the way. Watch for bears along braided rivers, caribou above tree line, and Dall sheep high above on mountain passes. Scenic highlights include the multi-colored cliffs of Polychrome Pass and, if Denali is ''out,'' astounding views of Mt. McKinley from Stony Hill Overlook.



### Friday 19 June

McKinley Explorer: Denali to Anchorage via Talkeetna Accommodation – Anchorage Area Hotel

This morning, board the luxurious domed rail cars of the McKinley Explorer bound for Anchorage

After long and dark winters, Alaskans love their summers and the residents of Anchorage, Alaska are no exception. The city plants thousands of flowers to celebrate the arrival of warmer months and days that last as long as 19 hours from dawn to dusk.

Approximately 40 percent of Alaska's population lives in Anchorage. This diverse city of 300,000 includes a large military population, Native Alaskans, individuals who work for the oil industry and adventure-seeking types who want to get away from "the Lower 48." Much like Seattle, Anchorage is a place where you can find a coffee shop (or espresso shack) anywhere.

Locals enjoy skijoring, a winter sport where a person is pulled on skis by one or more dogs or sometimes a horse. While some cities have deer, Anchorage has lots of moose, known for being a bit rambunctious (and should be steered clear of if seen wandering down a street).

Anchorage is a city where you can see the northern lights—the aurora borealis—on a clear dark night, typically during colder months. There are also plenty of active things to do and attractions to hike, bike and see wildlife such as the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail or Flattop Mountain Trail inside Chugach State Park.



**Thursday 18 June** Denali – At leisure. Accommodation at Denali

Saturday 20 June Anchorage – At Leisure Accommodation – Anchorage Area Hotel

At Leisure

At Leisure.

#### Sunday 21 June

Cruisetrain : Anchorage – Seward Board Holland America Line Cruise

Enjoy a scenic rail journey along Turnagain Arm aboard the cruisetrain en route to Seward before embarking your ship

One of Southcentral Alaska's oldest communities, Seward is ground zero for the Klondike Gold Rush's Iditarod National Historic Trail, a dogsled route that connected the Kenai Peninsula's ice-free port with Nome during frontier-era winters. Though the modern race makes a ceremonial start in Anchorage, it's inspired by the famous run of 1925, which dashed along parts of this older path. It allowed 20 mushers to carry urgently needed diphtheria vaccine more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) in just over 127 hours.

Natives and explorers from Russia, Britain and the United States all frequented this area before Seward's official founding in 1903. The early settlement included a colorful neighborhood known as Homebrew Alley which was erased by a 9.2magnitude megathrust earthquake—the second most powerful ever recorded—which dropped the shoreline nearly six feet in 1964.

Today this mellow town welcomes visitors to Resurrection Bay and Kenai Fjords National Park, not to mention the 204-kilometer (127-mile) Seward Highway—honored as an All-American Road stretching north to Anchorage. In town, favorite stops remain the Alaska SeaLife Center, a research aquarium open to the public, and the steep, stony 920-meter (3,018-foot) Mount Marathon, which hosts one of America's oldest footraces each Fourth of July.

### Monday 22 June

Cruising at Sea Enjoy a leisurely day of cruising

Seattle's skyline quickly gives way to mist-shrouded islands, towering Douglas firs and rank upon rank of snow-gilded mountains. Eagles skim low over the water, competing with humpbacks and killer whales for the area's abundant fish.

The truly deep tangle of trees begins in British Columbia: The world's largest coastal temperate rain forest stretches from Vancouver Island and the Canadian mainland here up through Alaska's panhandle. Glaciers sculpted this stunning wilderness; in fact, their high-water marks remain visible. The massive sheets of ice smoothed and rounded any terrain under a mile high. The peaks, sharp and craggy, slice the air at over 1,370 meters (4,495 feet) in height, give or take.

Glaciers remain a huge draw, of course, frosting mountain ranges and shearing icebergs into the ocean—watch for baby seals resting on them from May to early July! And don't forget to survey beaches for coastal brown bears, which can grow up to three times bigger than inland grizzlies, thanks to all the available salmon.

Make sure to pack warm and waterproof gear, along with binoculars, so you can belly up to a railing and enjoy this magnificent beauty.

#### **Tuesday 23 June**

Glacier Bay - scenic cruising

Cruise the ice-studded fjords of this national treasure for a full eight hours as a Park Service Ranger narrates

Frosted crags descend into mossy forests and a 457-meter-deep (1,500-foot-deep) fjord at this World Heritage Site, which is also one of the planet's largest biosphere reserves. Stone, ice and water continue to collide, sculpting a dramatic landscape that is the crown jewel of southeastern Alaska's natural wonders.

The area's first European explorer missed it all—but with good reason. When Captain George Vancouver sailed here in 1794, a vast shield of ice, more than 1,200 meters (3,937 feet) thick, dominated the area. In one of the fastest retreats on record, the glaciers shrank back 105 kilometers (65 miles) by 1916. The formerly glacier-squashed land is rebounding now, rising 30 millimeters (1.18 inches) each year. Visitors can observe this rebirth: A spruce-hemlock rain forest has sprouted near the mouth of Glacier Bay. Farther north, the more recently exposed land shows sharper edges and thinner vegetation. Still, it's enough to encourage the return of wildlife, from bald eagles to bears, moose and humpback whales.

While the national park is open year round, most travellers prefer the warmth of late May to early September. Even in summer, be prepared for any weather—especially rain! Pack a hat, gloves, wool or fleece layers, a warm coat and waterproof gear if you want to admire the landscape from the open deck of your ship.



#### Wednesday 24 June

Haines, Alaska

The best of two ports — stay in Haines for an uncrowded experience,

There's a reason Haines is known as the adventure capital of Alaska. Although many cities in Alaska feel different than those in "the lower 48," Haines is more unusual than most with its unique rustic feel. It's almost as if time has stopped and chain stores, and even stoplights, haven't infiltrated this town of 1,300 that once topped Outside magazine's list of "20 Best Places to Live and Play."

In the late 1890s, when Jack Dalton turned an Indian trail into a tollway (\$10 for four horses with an unloaded sled or wagon), the town emerged as a stop for prospectors headed to the Yukon for the Klondike Gold Rush. Decades later it became a logging town, before turning to tourism beginning in the 1970s. These days, Haines is known as a haven for artists and nature lovers and is visited by far fewer cruise ships than other Alaskan coastal cities.

Haines is a hotspot for rafting and hiking, salmon-, halibut- and trout-fishing in the Chilkat River or kayaking on Chilkoot Lake—as well as heli-skiing in the winter. During the late fall and early winter, thousands of bald eagles migrate through this area to feed on the salmon, an event celebrated by the



Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in November. The memory of prospector days lingers on with opportunities to pan for gold, while the Indian Arts gallery, with its totem pole carving studio, offers a glimpse of an even older Haines or go to Skagway for excursions and shopping

At the height of the Klondike Gold Rush, the port town of Skagway served as the primary gateway to the legendary gold fields, and quickly grew into Alaska's largest settlement.

It was then a raucous frontier hub packed with trading posts, saloons and guesthouses. As the gold rush faded into the 1900s, so did Skagway—but today it has been reinvigorated as a gateway for a new kind of visitor: those looking to explore Alaska's colourful history, pristine wildlife and unrivalled natural beauty.

At every turn, you'll find yourself immersed in gold rush lore, from the infamous Red Onion Saloon that still keeps a pistol that Wyatt Earp left behind en route to the Klondike, to the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, a classic narrow-gauge railway that traverses rugged mountains and passes cascading waterfalls and towering glaciers as it connects Skagway to Whitehorse deep in the Yukon. Much of the town has been preserved as part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, where rangers offer free walking tours around the historic district. Here you'll also find a vibrant local community, home to a rich collection of local galleries, curio shops and restaurants serving seafood plucked fresh from nearby waters.

## Thursday 25 June

Juneau, Alaska

Enjoy a full day of exploring Alaska's capital-choose from exciting shore excursions and still have time to shop

Juneau, Alaska may well be the most remote, most beautiful and strangest state capital in the United States. Surrounded by water, forest and mountain sights, visitors seeking things to do in Juneau indoors and outdoors can hike a glacier, eat freshcaught fish on a seaside patio and tour a grand capitol building all in one day.

The city itself is pleasant, but the real highlight of a visit to Juneau is tracking down some wildlife. You can hike up Mount Roberts to chance upon wild deer and bald eagles. Most sightseeing and whale-watching tours head north to Auke Bay—bring a good pair of binoculars to get the best view of these majestic and surprisingly graceful creatures. If you prefer land mammals, catch a floatplane to a nearby wildlife reserve such as Chichagof or Admiralty Island to spy some bears lolling around.

The sleepy, misty city of around 32,000—mostly fishermen and small-business owners—has a frontier town vibe, but welcomes more than a million visitors each summer to its natural attractions, cementing Juneau as Alaska's number-one tourist destination.



### Friday 26 June

Ketchikan, Alaska

Explore this uniquely Alaskan port, famous for its rich native culture, salmon fishing, and scenic Misty Fjords

Alaska's "First City" of Ketchikan is so named because it's the first major landfall for most cruisers as they enter the picturesque fjords of the Inside Passage, where the town clings to the banks of the Tongass Narrows, flanked by green forests nurtured by abundant rain.

Ketchikan has long been an important hub of the salmon-fishing and -packing industries—visitors can try their luck on a sportfishing excursion or simply savour the fresh seafood at one of the local restaurants. It is also one of the best spots along the Inside Passage to explore the rich cultural sights of Native Alaskan nations like the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian. You can see intricately carved totem poles at the Totem Heritage Center and Totem Bight State Park, while the attractions of Saxman Village just outside of Ketchikan offers the chance to see Tlingit culture in action, with working carvers and a dance show in the clan house.

And leave time to explore the sights in the town itself, including historic Creek Street, a boardwalk built over the Ketchikan Creek, where you can shop for souvenirs, smoked salmon and local art, while exploring gold rush–era tourist attractions like Dolly's House Museum.



### Saturday 27 June

Scenic Cruising The Inside Passage

Relax and enjoy a full day of scenic Inside Passage cruising and immerse yourself in Holland America Line elegance

Alaska's Inside Passage is a protected network of waterways that wind through glacier-cut fjords and lush temperate rain forests along the rugged coast of Southeast Alaska. Arguably one of the greatest cruising routes in the world, the Inside Passage stretches through stunning landscapes, from Misty Fjords National Monument to famed Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve.

Sailing the Inside Passage offers opportunities to spot some of Alaska's most iconic wildlife, with humpback whales and orca plying the bountiful waters alongside the ships, bald eagles soaring overhead and brown bears lumbering on the shoreline.

Numerous ports along the way recount Alaska's colourful history. In Sitka, an onion-domed church marks Russia's onetime foothold in the Americas; Ketchikan provides a glimpse of the Native Alaskan experience, with historic totem poles and native-arts galleries; and the legendary town centre of Skagway bustles as it did at the turn of the 19th century, when it served as the rowdy Wild West gateway to the Klondike Gold Rush.

# Sunday 28 June

Arrive morning Vancouver This morning your Land + Sea Journey concludes.

### Sunday 28 June

Fly Vancouver to Auckland on Air NZ morning Tue 30 June

To secure your space we will require a holding deposit of \$1000 per person. Subject to a minimum of 15 travelling

Join us on this amazing journey to Alaska Email or phone to confirm your booking today Daryl Crimp - P 021 472 517 - E <u>darylcrimp@gmail.com</u> Phil Harris - P 03 528 1550 - E philh@worldtravellers.co.nz







Watching nature unfold from only twenty metres away was a sublime experience and forever stamped Alaska into my genetic make up; I knew in that instance, like spawning salmon, the lure to return would prove irresistible -Daryl Crimp

Join me in Alaska

Dary Crimp's

by land and sea

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