

*Please understand that the following itinerary is only an example of how your particular trip may be run. A concrete description is impossible to give you due to the nature of our tours and the temporal changes of PWS. The truth is that weather, time of year, your interests, paddling pace, the decisions of your guide and other factors will ultimately dictate where you paddle, establish camp or stop along the way and hence, what you'll see. This then is not to be taken as a complete step by step of each day you will be out.*

Meet at Anadyr Adventures, 225 N. Harbor Dr, for the **7pm pre-trip orientation the evening before your trip leaves.**

### **Day 1**

The morning you've been waiting for.... load the water taxi then sit back and enjoy the 1 hour ride out to Heather Bay and your first views of Prince William Sound. Upon arrival your guide will give a paddle lesson and talk to you about safely moving in the wilderness of PWS. Then pack your kayak and begin the expedition.

The scene in Heather Bay is gorgeous, blue water and lush green mountainsides give way to white snowcapped peaks. Paddle through brash ice, growlers and bergy bits on your way to the old terminal moraine of Columbia Glacier. Search the floating ice for sea otters hauled out for a midday rest and keep an eye to the treetops for perched bald eagles.

The moraine is a perfect spot to stretch your legs and walk among towering icebergs that have become grounded by an ebbing tide. Get a view of the "iceberg impoundment area" and the face of Columbia Glacier in the distance. The scene is unforgettable and the scale almost unfathomable. The largest tidewater glacier in Prince William Sound, Columbia Glacier covers over 400 sq. miles and is among the most active glaciers in the world.

Back on the water, the moment that may have lured you to Alaska in the first place... paddling among icebergs in a bay so tranquil you can see your own reflection on the water. Weave among the massive bergs and experience something you'll never forget. A truly amazing day.

After a day of exploring you'll set up camp and relax or take time to explore on your own as your guide prepares a hot meal.

### **Day 2**

Hot coffee, tea and breakfast then break camp, pack your kayak and start another day of exploring by sea kayak. Rounding Point Freemantle the horizon south opens and is broken only by distant islands. Keep an eye out for stellar sea lions, orcas and humpback whales, as this area is one of their favorites to cruise. Trace the beautiful shoreline and scan the colorful intertidal zone for sea stars, which begin to show as the tide ebbs. Take a beach stop and stretch, refuel with a wholesome lunch and then continue towards 17-mile beach.

Seventeen Mile Beach offers a great panorama of the Valdez Arm and Chugach Mountain Range. You'll set up camp and have time to stroll the beach, admire the waterfall that rushes through the forest, over a rock face and to the sea. Or bring fishing gear and try your luck with the dolly varden or salmon that may be swimming by somewhere off the beach.

Then enjoy another delicious meal prepared by your guide and sit back to take in the scene.

### **Day 3**

Ready for another of paddling you'll continue your voyage north in the Valdez Arm on your way to Sawmill Bay. The glassy waters of Sawmill Bay offer perfect conditions for refining your paddling stroke. Trace the shoreline nook after nook while scanning the water for seals and sea otters. A highlight of Sawmill Bay is paddling up the flooded Stellar Creek on a high tide. During salmon runs thousands of fish flood this stream and paddling among them is an experience that you'll never forget. Watch close for black bears and bald eagles that frequent the area in search of a meal.

A small waterfall draining the perched Devish Lake is a perfect spot to stretch your legs. Hiking along the stream, you'll pass through a lush temperate rainforest that thins to muskeg meadows and a short while later to the lake itself. Stop and drop to a knee to see the insectivorous sundews or search for bog blueberries and cranberries that love the thick sphagnum moss that makes up the muskeg.

Back at camp you can relax with a book or fish from the beach. Then enjoy a hot meal prepared by your guide and settle in for a quiet night in Sawmill Bay.

### **Day 4**

Your destination today is Shoup Bay. Along the way you'll pass some of the most impressive waterfalls in the Valdez area. You'll marvel at Andersen falls as it plummets hundreds of feet from its source Andersen Glacier to tideline. Paddle through the Valdez Narrows and then take in the view across the expansive Port Valdez.

Port Valdez is a testament to the Pleistocene days when massive tidewater glaciers carved coastal Alaska and covered Prince William Sound to the Gulf of Alaska. High in the mountain valleys around Port Valdez you'll still spot apron and cirque glaciers, the smaller predecessors of the massive Pleistocene glaciers.

As you enter Shoup Bay you'll get your first views of Shoup glacier, which occupies the head of Shoup's inner bay, your home for the night. The inner bay is also home to over 20,000 nesting blacklegged kittiwakes. Paddle by the rookery and watch as they build their nests along the cliff face, feed their chicks, and fend off the regular bombardment of predatory bald eagles and an occasional black bear or wolverine.

While inside the inner-bay you'll be immersed in the sounds of rushing water

from a multitude of hundred-foot waterfalls racing down to tidewater. The lush walls of the mountainsides are the early stages of the blooming temperate rainforest you witnessed in Sawmill Bay.

With each paddle stroke the glacier seems to grow in size. Floating a safe distance away, you'll have time to take photos of the heavily crevassed face of this stunning glacier. Staring into the blue ice becomes mesmerizing as you paddle across the face of the glacier. Hop out of your kayak at either side of the glacier and attempt a closer approach by foot. If you make a stream crossing or two, you may be rewarded by laying a hand on the glacier itself! An amazing experience.

Unpack your kayak and make camp for the night. Grab a hot drink, snack, and sit back to take in the sights of the glacier as your guide prepares another delicious dinner. Throughout the night listen for the sounds of the glacier creaking and groaning as it slowly moves down the valley.

### **Day 5**

After breakfast you'll break camp and load your kayaks for the last time then start the trip back to Valdez. Along the way you'll pass the historic Cliff Mine, one of the richest gold strikes in Prince William Sound. Listen as your guide relates its history and the story of the gold rush of 1898, which led to the founding of old town Valdez.

Stop for a stretch or lunch break at Gold Creek and take a short hike that leads to the falls. Watch as arctic terns hover then dive for fish just offshore. Gold Creek is a great place to again try your luck with the dolly varden or salmon.

Back on the water approaching Valdez you'll enjoy your last moments on the water. Keep an eye out around Mineral Creek, as this is a favorite spot for seals and sea otters. Then finish your trip by paddling into the Valdez small boat harbor by mid afternoon.

\$845/person, \$1095/person with meals

Departures: May 15th to Sept 15th

Group size: 4-8

Minimum Age: 12

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous