

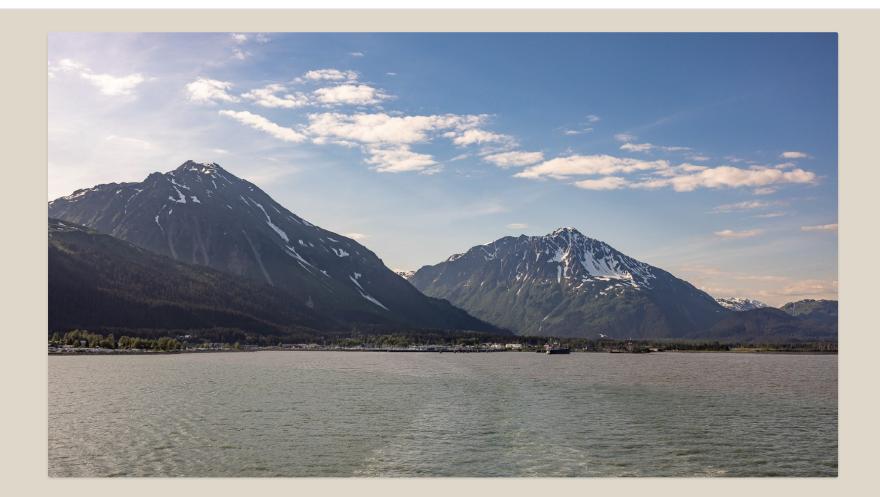
# MS Roald Amundsen

2024.06.22 - 2024.07.04



## Embarkation!

Guests arrived throughout the afternoon and quickly settled in to their cabins. With less than 24 hrs until expedition operations begin in College Fjord, the ship was buzzing with preparation activity. On the way out of Seward, the beautiful cliff faces and wildlife welcomed anyone who was looking seaward this day.



## An early morning

On an expedition ship, starting early is very normal. The weather in College Fjord was prefect for our first expedition day. The very active Harvard glacier provided lots of action for anyone watching it's face, calving frequently during zodiac and kayak operations. Seals and marine birds were spotted in the ice as well.



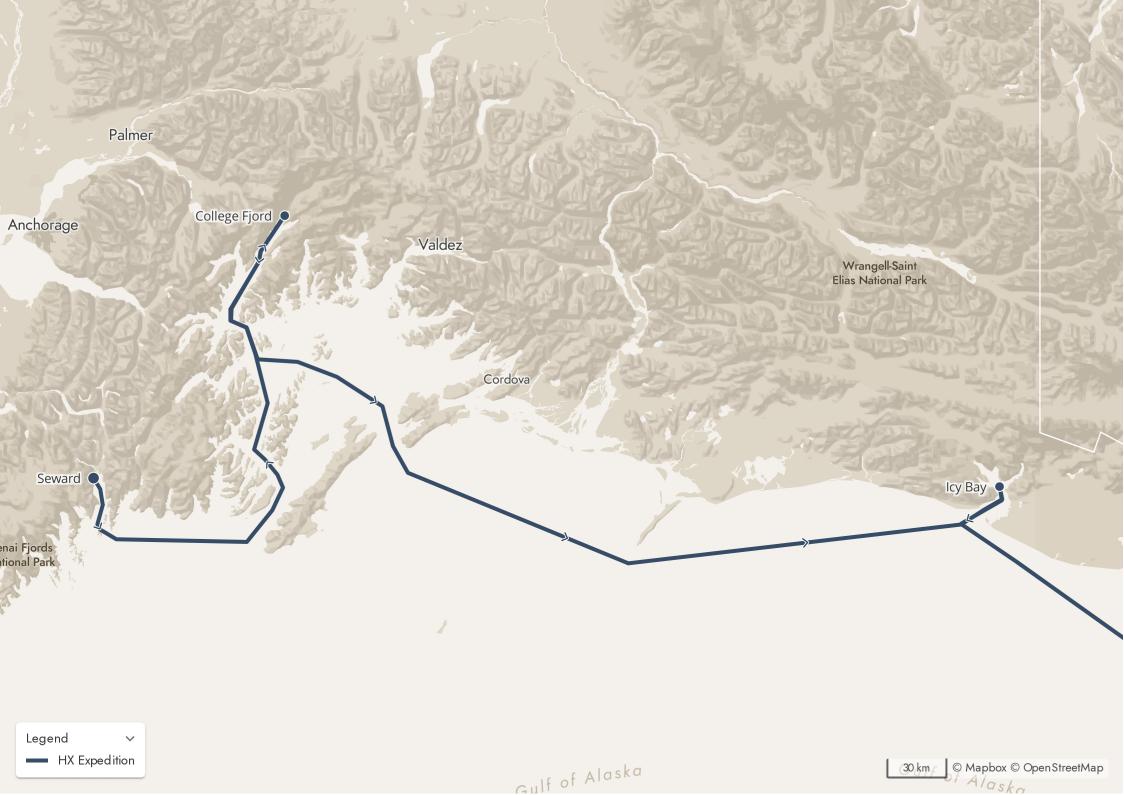


#### National parks, glaciers, and mountains

Mount Saint Elias dominates the landscape of Icy bay, even with massive glaciers in multiple directions. Home to the largest national park in the United States, Icy Bay is a place to behold. Amundsen held true to it's polar class 6 rating as it pushed past brash ice and small bergs to get us into an ideal position in the bay.







#### Setting Foot on Wild Land

Zodiacs set out for the beach at William Henry Bay with guests eager to set foot on wild Alaskan terrain. As the tide fell, we walked the beach looking for intertidal creatures yet to be revealed. The forest margin welcomed us with a creek crossing and a second growth forest that even had a small strip of old growth. Bear marks were found, but no bears were seen by these explorers.





#### Another Sunny Day in Haines

MS Roald Amundsen looked small in comparison to MS Queen Elizabeth ship at port in Haines, but we had big adventures on the Chilkat peninsula. Guests biked, kayaked, hiked, floated, and explored the art filled town of Haines. Many enjoyed a nice day on the beach before tendering back to the ship and their next adventure.





## **Beautiful Blues**

Tracy Arm is a gorgeous mix of everything. We welcomed on wilderness kayak rangers from the USFS and they shared a bit about their role in preserving the spectacular gem for us to enjoy. The glacier was a beautiful blue with seal pups nestled up to their mothers in the safety of crackling ice. What a beautiful journey!







Glacier Bay National Park

Legend  $\sim$ HX Expedition

Chichagof Island

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Tongass National Forest



## Finally, a cloudy day!

With overcast skies, we couldn't help but be appreciative of our luck with weather so far. Early visitors to Sitka explored the area in powerboats, kayaks, and snorkelling in wetsuits. The Raptor Center and National Historic Park provided pleantiful information and opportunities to get out and about in beautiful Sitka. Guests took in al this gem of Alaska has to see and taste!





## **Expedition Day!**

The unique design of MS Roald Amundsen allows us to access areas that other's are not able to . Going on to dynamic positioning at Red Bluff Bay allowed us to access an area of unique beauty and tranquil views. The zodiacs took cruising guests and kayakers deep into the fjord to explore the waterfalls and beautiful river.





## Culture and beauty in Wrangell

Wrangell sits at the mouth of the Stikine River and offers beautiful cultural stories to go with the wild adventures nearby. Chief Shakes house sits among dozens of boats in the harbor and the cultural museum tells the story of Russian traders and Tlingit people in one of the oldest settlements in Alaska.



## A truely magical venture!

Misty Fjords is a place like few others with pleantiful stands of Yellow Cedar adorning the steep shoreline. The up-slope fog makes for a special mystic feel to the steep fjord walls. Common Mergansers led their ducklings around the base of Owl Rock as we explored on this early morning.





#### Hecate Straight!

A day at sea allowed tired travelers to explore the science center, library, and amenities aboard the ship while looking out towards the Native Island Nation of Haida Gwaii. This island separates the mainland from open ocean, but being so far offshore it is a wonder paddlers in large canoes could ever cross such a body of water safely. The Canada Day fireworks of Prince Rupert lulled us to sleep under cool skies.



#### Genuine souls at every turn

The community of Alert Bay welcomed us with warm smiles and beautiful stories of perseverance in trying times. In the impressive big house, we learned about tradition and the meaning behind many components to native culture in the Pacific Northwest. Carvers showed us their honed craft while carving a commemorative totem pole. The cultural center held beautiful artifacts and wares from the area. This was a special place to many. Guests and staff said their goodbyes before the early departure. Tears were shed after such a great trip!







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## The close of a beautiful trip

With many new friendships established. We all went our separate ways after a beautiful trip. We are lucky to have many ways to hold on to such great memories. "Twice in life" they say. We hope to see you all again, somewhere is this wild and beautiful world!



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