



Alaska's Inside Passage: Where the Mountains Meet the Sea

MS Roald Amundsen, 22 June – 4 July 2026



Day 1 - Whittier, Prince William Sound

Guests arrived in Whittier and boarded MS Roald Amundsen before we headed out into Prince William Sound. The day opened on the water, with an expedition boat cruise through College Fjord — tidewater glaciers reaching down on every side, their fronts releasing growlers and small bergs that drifted silently across calm, ice-dotted water beneath clear blue skies. Harbour seals hauled out on the ice, and sea otters moved through the sheltered reaches of the fjord with

their characteristic unhurried ease.

Those who wanted a closer vantage joined the kayak tour with Expedition Team members, while others took to the science boat to explore the fjord from a different angle. In the late afternoon, the Captain hosted the Captain's Welcome — the first occasion for guests, officers, and the Expedition Team to gather together as the voyage properly began.



Day 2 - College Fjord, Prince William Sound

On our first full day at sea, we led guests into College Fjord by expedition boat — a landscape of ice and silence that sets the tone for the entire voyage. Surrounded by tidewater glaciers on every side, we cruised through calm, ice-dotted waters where growlers and small bergs drifted silently from the glacier fronts. Harbour seals hauled out on the ice watched us pass with quiet curiosity, while sea otters floated in the sheltered waters, unhurried and at ease.

Back on board, guests settled in and discovered the full scope of the Scientific and Educational Programme aboard MS Roald Amundsen. The late afternoon brought the Captain's Welcome, where guests met the officers and the Expedition Team. Martin, our Expedition Photographer, rounded off the evening with a session on photography techniques — practical guidance for anyone who had come prepared with a camera and an eye for the landscape.



Day 3 - Icy Bay

We guided guests into Icy Bay by expedition boat, and the scale of the place made itself known within minutes. Glaciers descended from the mountains on every side, their fronts calving quietly into the bay, and ice-carved valleys stretched toward the sea with a vastness that is difficult to fully absorb. Calm conditions and excellent visibility gave guests every opportunity to read the landscape — a place that sees very few visitors, and that shows it.

Dominating the horizon was the St. Elias massif, rising to more than

5,000 metres above sea level and forming part of one of the highest coastal mountain ranges on Earth. The contrast between snow-covered peaks, blue glacial ice, and sunlit water was extraordinary.

Back on board, Pam led a session on shellfish propagation and larvae rearing for growout, and George welcomed guests to the Science Centre to explore how feathers function — their structure, their physics, and the extraordinary variety of forms they take.



Day 4 - Elfin Cove, Point Adolphus

The day opened with a visit to Elfin Cove — one of Southeast Alaska's most remote settlements, a place only reachable by sea or air. Home to a small year-round population, the village seemed suspended between the forest and the water, its colourful houses and docks connected not by roads but by wooden boardwalks that creak with the tide. Guests stepped ashore and moved at the pace of the place, discovering a community where daily life remains closely tied to the

ocean in ways that feel increasingly rare.

The expedition boat cruise through the surrounding waters and rugged coastline completed the picture. Sea otters drifted in the kelp, harbour seals hauled out on rocks, and bald eagles circled overhead. The village and the waters around it told the same story from two different vantage points.



Day 5 - Haines

We brought guests ashore at Haines, a town that sits at the meeting point of towering mountains and the Lynn Canal — North America's deepest fjord. Rich in both Indigenous and frontier history, Haines carries its past visibly. For thousands of years this area has been home to the Tlingit people, who used the nearby Chilkat River as an important trade route through the Coast Mountains.

Guests explored at their own pace — some wandering into town,

others joining excursions or visiting local galleries, others simply sitting with the mountain scenery and letting it settle.

On board that evening, Jenna led a session on whales, dolphins, and porpoises, and Rudy followed with a talk on the superstitions of seafarers — the stories and rituals that once shaped life aboard a working ship.



Day 6 - William Henry Bay

We led guests ashore into William Henry Bay, where the temperate rainforest descends to the water's edge and the air smells of moss and wet bark. Beneath towering Sitka spruce and western hemlock, the forest floor was dense with mosses, ferns, and fallen logs in every stage of decomposition — the foundations of one of the richest ecosystems on Earth. The rainforest here is a place of constant and quiet change, full of colour if you look closely: fungi in unexpected

shades, wildflowers tucked beneath fallen branches, and the calls of birds that stay invisible until the very last moment.

Back on board, Lancy explained how seabirds feed, Lisa took guests through the life cycle and ecology of salmon, and Dave explored the secret lives of humpback whales — their social behaviour, their feeding strategies, and what science has only recently begun to understand about their intelligence.



Day 7 - Endicott Arm

We took guests deep into Endicott Arm, one of Southeast Alaska's most dramatic fjords — a narrow waterway carved by glaciers over thousands of years, flanked by sheer granite cliffs that drop straight from the sky into the sea. Countless waterfalls tumbled from hanging valleys high above, the sound of them constant and close as we moved through the passage.

The expedition boat cruise brought guests into the heart of it.

Mountain goats were spotted on the cliffs, and the Expedition Team

had their scopes out so nothing was missed. Endicott Arm is a place where the forces of geology, ice, and time are fully, visibly at work — the kind of fjord that makes the scale of geological time feel real.

On board, Elliot gave a talk on how Alaskans govern themselves, and in the afternoon Lancy, Lisa, and Sandra led a joint session on the bears of Alaska — their ecology, behaviour, and the places in Alaska where encounters are most likely.



Day 8 - Kake (am)

We brought MS Roald Amundsen into Kake, a Lingít community set among spruce forest and sheltered waters on Kupreanof Island — one of the quieter stops on this voyage, and one of the more revealing. Daily life here remained closely tied to the sea and to a tradition of Indigenous culture that has shaped this coastline for centuries.

A centrepiece of the visit was the community's totem pole — among the tallest standing examples in the world — its carved forms carrying clan histories and ancestral stories in a language that long predates any written record.



Day 8 - Hamilton Bay (pm)

In the afternoon, we moved from village life into wilderness with an expedition boat cruise through Hamilton Bay. The fjord was enclosed on all sides by steep, forested slopes and waterfalls threading down the mountainsides — a contained, watchful kind of place.

It proved to be a remarkable bear day. Two black bears and seven brown bears were spotted along the shoreline, and The Captain brought MS Roald Amundsen in as close as safely possible. Guests moved to the rails and watched without a word.



Day 9 - Klawock & Craig, Prince of Wales Island

The day took guests to two communities that offered a window into the cultural and contemporary life of Prince of Wales Island. The first stop was Klawock — one of Alaska's oldest Tlingit settlements and home to one of the largest collections of standing totem poles in Alaska. Each pole is a record, its carvings carrying clan histories, ancestral stories, and legendary events across generations in a form that needs no written language.

A short drive away lies Craig, often referred to as the 'Salmon Capital

of the World.' Founded as a fishing and canning community in the early twentieth century, the town remains deeply connected to the waters surrounding Prince of Wales Island. Together, Klawock and Craig tell a story of resilience, tradition, and life shaped by the sea — where Indigenous heritage and maritime livelihoods continue to define the character of the island and the people who call it home. On board, Nick led a session on fishing in Alaska, and Annabelle invited guests to a Plankton Discovery session in the Science Centre.



Day 10 - Misty Fjords National Monument

We took guests into Misty Fjords by expedition boat — towering granite cliffs on either side, waterfalls cascading from heights that disappeared into the low cloud, and a sense of scale that the mist only made more complete. The landscape has been shaped by glaciers over thousands of years, and it shows in every cliff face and every valley. Some guests also ventured out by kayak, moving through

the fjords at a pace that let the silence in.

On board, Brittany, our guest scientist, led a session on weather and roads in Alaska, and Sandra, our Historian, gave a talk on the history of the territory from early Indigenous settlement to statehood. The Science Centre was open throughout the day, and guests spent time on deck for the wildlife watch with Jenna, George, Peter, and David.



Day 11 - Sea Day

The day was spent at sea, and the Expedition Team made the most of the passage. Lisa opened the morning with a lecture on Alaskan geoscience, followed by a workshop from Jenna on echolocation — how marine mammals use sound to navigate and hunt in conditions where sight is of limited use. George explored the natural history of the bald eagle, and James followed with a session on the terrestrial

mammals of Southeast Alaska.

As we sailed towards Alert Bay in the evening, humpback whales broke the surface close to the ship, breaching beneath a rainbow against golden evening light. It was one of those moments that the sea occasionally offers without warning.



Day 12 - Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada

Alert Bay extended a generous welcome to the ship. Many guests visited the U'mista Cultural Centre, where powerful exhibits shared the stories, traditions, and resilience of the Kwakwaka'wakw people — giving those who entered a deeper understanding of the region's living heritage. A cultural performance by local Indigenous dancers and drummers was a highlight of the day: through song, dance, and storytelling, traditions that have been maintained across generations were shared with the ship in the way they are meant to be — in

person, in community, in motion.

Others chose to spend the afternoon on the island's peaceful forest trails, moving beneath towering cedar and spruce and taking in the quiet of the temperate rainforest.

The final wildlife watch brought guests out on deck for one last look at the waters of British Columbia. The evening closed with the Captain's Farewell, followed by Martin's photography slideshow — a journey back through the voyage in images.





Day 13 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

MS Roald Amundsen arrived in Vancouver on the morning of 4 July, closing the voyage through Alaska's Inside Passage. After days among fjords, glaciers, and remote coastal communities, guests made their farewells to the ship, the Expedition Team, and the fellow travellers who had shared in the journey.

Guests disembarked and went their separate ways, carrying with them

the particular quality of memory that expedition travel tends to leave — not the highlight reel, but the accumulated texture of days spent in wild places: the cold of the morning air, the sound of ice shifting, the weight of a landscape that asks nothing of you except your full attention. The voyage was over. The places it had taken guests to were not so easily left behind.



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