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Glacier Bay II A Photo Tour w/Mark Kelley

July 13-19, 2016

\$3495

Hoonah to Gustavus

Welcome to a spectacular trip in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve with Alaska photographer Mark Kelley. The spectacular scenery of Southeast Alaska, which has brought an increasing number of visitors here each year since John Muir first visited in 1879, reaches a climax in Glacier Bay. This is partly due to the dramatic Fairweather Range and to Mt. Fairweather itself, reaching 15,300 feet skyward, literally changing the weather around it. On all sides, it is flanked by spires, crags, and glaciated peaks that are nearly as tall. Extensive glaciers flow down the flanks of pointed peaks and reach the sea in spectacular displays of calving, when huge blocks of ice break off and fall into the water.



Photo leader: Mark Kelley

Enhancing this Glacier Bay experience is Mark Kelley, a Juneau based award winning photographer and all around nice guy. You are guaranteed to have fun while Mark teaches photo techniques that will help you now and in the future! In his career Mark has spent over 180 days photographing Glacier Bay. Glacier Bay is a World Heritage Site and UNESCO contracted with Mark to provide photo coverage of their 2014 visit to the area. Mark graduated from the University of Alaska with a double degree in Photojournalism and Northern Studies in 1978 and

worked for the Juneau Empire as a photojournalist for thirteen years before dedicating himself full-time to nature and wildlife photography in 1993. His images illustrate twelve Alaska photo books with over a quarter million copies sold. Three of his photo books have been awarded a Benjamin Franklin Award. Mark Kelley's images have appeared on the covers of more than two hundred publications. Mark Kelley is a double-silver winner in the Graphis Photography Annual 2015 Contest and a winner in the 72nd Annual Picture of the Year International Competition, Natural History Category-Reportage Division. Mark Kelley is a North American Nature Photography Association Showcase winner and a recipient of the Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award for Excellence in Still Photography from the Alaska Conservation Foundation. Mark placed first in the 2013 Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice Photography Awards—Outdoor Adventure Category and his winning image is now part of the Smithsonian's permanent collection. Kelley is honored to have his image listed in the same company with photographers working for National Geographic, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and many more. See more of his images at www.markkelley.com/



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Twelve tidewater glaciers exist in the park, and you will have time to explore several of them. Johns Hopkins Glacier and Inlet is just one, and it is especially active and dramatic. Several peaks around its steep fjord sides stand nearly 7,000 feet tall within less than four miles from its shore. Gravity brings the ice down rapidly, as



much as seven feet per day. Blocks over 200 feet tall come crashing into the water, while other equally impressive giant blocks break off from the bottom of the glacier beneath the water. The Inlet is sometimes so full of ice that the beauty of this place is often best appreciated from a distance, the entire Inlet is one huge Ice Sculpture Garden.

Two of our favorite glaciers are the Reid and the McBride. Both offer great opportunities to walk around huge blocks of ice, the glacier and the surrounding area - some on foot and some by skiff. It is a spectacular, otherworldly experience that also makes for fantastic photographs. Other favorite glaciers are the Margerie - outstanding for its clean white beauty; the Grand Pacific - superlative for its size and hidden dimensions; the Lamplugh - for its breadth; and all of them for their active calving or breaking off of huge, house-size blocks of ice with thunderous roars.

Much of the beauty of Glacier Bay is contained in the details to be discovered only with intimate exploration. You will not just be seeing it, you will be living it. While we explore the park overall, we will also go ashore and experience not only the grandness, but also the intricacies and subtleties that go together to compose this grand design. You will walk up to the glacier and hike beside and above it, witnessing the beginnings of new plant communities at “time zero”: alpine meadows near the glacier at sea level. You will be able to follow this grand design through time up to the present day, through a series of plant communities or plant succession leading to forest communities and more. Flowering is at its peak in early summer, and you will walk through and photograph vast flower gardens of spring meadows.

Glacier Bay is outstanding for its wildlife—it contains the greatest variety of large mammals and best bird viewing of any of our locations. Moose, wolves, mountain goats, and black and brown bears are frequently seen. Sea otters are also most abundant here. Orcas have probably been seen more frequently or more consistently here than any other location. One of the very best and most consistent areas for foraging humpback whales is right across from the entrance of the Park—Icy Strait. Minke whales, harbor seals and Steller sea lions are also resident. Bird life is spectacular. Both tufted and horned puffins nest here along with many others including Kittlitz’s and marbled murrelets, Black-legged Kittiwakes, three species of jaegers, three more of scoters, bald eagles, gyrfalcons, loons, harlequin ducks,



and many other water and land birds. We'll spend time exploring these waters and photographing the wildlife and birdlife.

Meeting Place and Time: Hoonah July 13, 10A

Delphinus will be available for boarding in Hoonah at 10A on July 13.

You may reach the boat by calling this cell phone, 510-541-0725.

There are several flights/day from the Juneau Airport to the small town of Hoonah where you'll board the boat for the trip into Glacier Bay. Wings of Alaska is the most convenient provider for that short 20 minute flight, and they do have a weight limit so pack accordingly! Alaska State Ferries has service between Juneau and Hoonah (check the schedule www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/) but to be on the safe side you should arrive in Hoonah the day before and stay a night in town.

On your arrival in Juneau, call your hotel for a ride (the hotels we recommend provide pickup service). On the morning of *Delphinus'* departure, your hotel will take you to the airport for your flight to Hoonah (Wings of Alaska www.wingsofalaska.com/ has several flights/day). If flying into Hoonah the morning of July 13, leave early enough to get to the boat by 8:30A. There is a taxi to call for the trip to the boat (about a mile from the



airport). One can also stay in Hoonah the night before the trip starts and we highly recommend that, due to our early departure, but it's not mandatory. We have no specific lodging recommendations, but here is a link to lodging in the town of Hoonah

www.visithoonah.com/businessdirectory.html

You will need to arrive in Juneau either July 12, or better, a day or two before. We recommend arriving early as there are so many things to do and enjoy here. See below for suggestions. It would be hard to visit more than a few of the suggested places in a single day. A useful and effective way of increasing your vacation would be to spend additional time in Gustavus at the finish of the trip.

The hotel we most recommend is the Driftwood Lodge at 435 Willoughby (907-586-2280, toll-free 800-544-2239, or www.driftwoodalaska.com/ You may use our travel agent. See "Alaska Travel Details" enclosed with this itinerary.) We like the Driftwood's relatively modest price, convenient location, and the fact that they are one of the few hotels that provide transportation to and from the airport

and to the boat. The Driftwood is a standard three-story motel, with kitchenettes, but without an elevator. A slightly more upscale hotel is the Prospector at 375 Whittier (907-586-3737, toll free 800-331-2711, or www.prospectorhotel.com). It is more hotel-like, has an elevator, and is located just as conveniently—right next to the State Museum and close to downtown. However it has no shuttle service. Other hotels that usually provide airport pick up are Breakwater Inn (toll-free 800-544-2250, www.breakwaterinn.com and Westmark Baranof Hotel www.westmarkhotels.com/juneau.php (907-586-2660 or toll-free 800-544-0970.) The Breakwater Inn is about 4 blocks further away and the Baranof is right in downtown.

End of Cruise

Gustavus, July 19 (in time to catch the afternoon flight)

You will be disembarking *Delphinus* after a leisurely lunch. Alaska Airlines can take you back to Juneau and onward toward your destination. Wings



of Alaska can also take you back to Juneau. The lodge ferry may also go back to Juneau in the evening. We'll arrange for you to be taken to the Wings of Alaska lounge where you can wait for your flight or for the Alaskan Airlines terminal (across the street).

Gustavus is a one-of-a-kind outpost community of independent-minded folk and serves as the unofficial entrance to the Park. You may wish to take time to take a scenic flight over the Park or an additional whale-watching cruise to Point Adolphus, the most consistent place to spot humpbacks. The flight is outstanding, but arrangements for it should be made beforehand.

Many of our guests have found a longer stay in Gustavus to be very enjoyable—some for as long as a week. Bed and breakfast accommodation is a main business in Gustavus. Most B&B's provide you with a daily drop-off and pick-up at a nearby trailhead. Gustavus is spread out, so you may need to rent a car or use the very friendly TLC Cab Company. Gustavus is very popular, so you should make arrangements well in advance. You may wish to stay at the Gustavus Inn www.gustavusinn.com 907-697-2254 or other accommodations in the area. TLC Cab Co. can help you with local arrangements 907-697-2239 or tlctaxi@glacierbaytravel.com or www.glacierbaytravel.com. For still more information visit www.nps.gov, or you may call our travel agent, Bev Turpin at Dalianes Travel 1-800-462-2937 or bev@dalianes.com.



Activities

Arrive early to allow time for visiting Juneau. To explore this capital city more than a full day is needed. Following are some suggestions for places to visit. (A longer list of things to do will be included in your package.) Items 1 through 7 below are part of a walking tour of downtown Juneau. You can get a walking tour guide at the Log Cabin Visitors Information Center.

1. Take the Mt. Roberts tram and an extended walk through the alpine meadow above Juneau. (Plan extra time and walk back down to town.) We highly recommend this excursion, as the alpine environment is different from the environments we will see while on the boat.
2. Visit the State Museum at 395 Whittier, next to the Driftwood Lodge.
3. See the Alaska State Capital Building.
4. Go to the Forest Service Visitor Center in Centennial Hall at Egan & Willoughby Streets.
5. Take a tour of the State Office Building, its Lobby and Library at 4th & Willoughby Streets.
6. Visit the Juneau/Douglas Museum at 4th & Main.
7. Visit the Sea Alaska Corporate Building at Marine & Main.
8. Dine at the Gold Creek Salmon Bake.
9. Go to the Lemon Creek area.
10. Visit the Fish Hatchery.
11. Take a scenic flight over Mendenhall Glacier and Glacier Bay.
12. Drive out to the Eagle Crest Ski Area and see the Alpine Meadows on Douglas Island.

Restaurants in Juneau: For breakfast, lunch, or dinner, the Sandpiper Restaurant in front of the Driftwood Lodge comes highly recommended. They have their own bakery, which is especially nice for breakfast. The Gold Creek Salmon Bake is highly recommended for an all-you-can-eat salmon grill and salad bar. The cost is

around \$44, including bus pickup at your hotel, coffee/tea/lemonade, dessert, and live folk music. It also has a very photogenic salmon stream, forest trail, and raptor rehab center. Bring your camera.

Trip Overview

Departing from Hoonah, you head for Icy Strait and Glacier Bay National Park. Along the way wildlife may be seen in addition to the dramatic scenery, sometimes just outside the harbor! Near Point Adolphus in Icy Strait, a premier whale watching spot, humpbacks commonly take center stage.

Some of the best wildlife and scenic areas are contained in Icy Strait and vicinity, as well as in the Park proper. We may spend much of the day around Bartlett Cove—here are the only trails in the otherwise wilderness park and the only forests in Glacier Bay proper. The tall trees, numerous sink ponds, deep carpets of velvet moss, salmon streams, and forest life will captivate you. Animals from grouse to grizzly bears are encountered here. The shoreline and tide pools add still another dimension and, at this time of year, flowers are near a climax.

Upon leaving Bartlett Cove, you continue exploring the area John Muir described as the "grandest place on Earth." Muir ventured north to recharge his soul in Southeast Alaska. He returned home fulfilled. So, too, will you. Here you'll discover a land of rock and ice and forests that didn't exist 200 years ago—the glaciers have retreated about 65 miles in 200 years! When John Muir built his cabin here in 1892, the inlet that bears his name didn't even exist. On *Delphinus*, you will cruise up the narrow inlets to where the glaciers are today. You'll see succession in reverse as you cruise past rock that has only recently appeared from under the melting ice. You'll see moss and lichens, dryas and fireweed, alders and willow, Sitka spruce and hemlock. You will hike to a tidewater glacier, and get a close look at intricate ice sculptures and glacier dynamics. You will stand at ground zero.

One of your first destinations is the Marble Islands, home to a variety of birds including several gull species, cormorants, murrelets, harlequin ducks, eagles, shore birds and two species of puffins! You'll have a front row seat as horned and tufted puffins fly overhead. American black oystercatchers and surf birds make their way along the water's edge searching for food. The Marble Islands are a favorite haul out site for harbor seals and Steller sea lions.



For the next few days, you will continue exploring Glacier Bay, visiting the Reid Inlet and glacier, the Tarr Also at the upper end of the Park is the John Hopkins glacier and the Lamplugh glacier and we may take more walks alongside the Lamplugh. For birders, this is the best place to see

Kittlitz's murrelets. After exploring the upper reaches of Glacier Bay, we will head back out of this part of the Park. Depending on the time and interest, we may stop again at Bartlett Cove for a ranger talk and slide show.

We next plan to visit a more "secret" part of the Park - Dundas Bay, a rich mosaic of the habitat types found in Southeast. These include a young forest, stream mouths, river flats, muskegs, and meadows carpeted with acres of purple, red, yellow, and white flowers. Wildlife abounds, including grizzly and black bears, moose, wolves, sea otters, river otters, squirrels and rodents. This combination of the best wildlife viewing and flower displays makes a trip to Dundas Bay a near must.

Just outside the entrance to Glacier Bay, you'll find the area's most famous residents—humpback whales! These graceful creatures take advantage of the plentiful food supply found in Icy Strait. You'll be able to

photograph and observe the humpbacks as they gorge themselves on krill and herring. You'll be astounded as you watch these giants lunge out of the water and frolic with each other.

Outside the park, too, are more marine birds including puffins. Sea otters, Steller sea lions, eagles are also abundant. Some of the dramatic views of the Fairweather Range are best from this distance. One of the most charming of outpost communities of southeast - Elfin Cove - is found here.

It is both easy and exciting just to be around the humpbacks, as they alternately feed and rest. We'll record their vocalizations, their trumpeting and bugling used to co-ordinate group feeding and, possibly, to concentrate their prey.

Orcas regularly visit Glacier Bay and Icy Strait—part of the territory of the resident "J-pod of the North". They are as playful, shore-loving, friendly, curious and as easy to be with as the J-pod of Puget Sound. Transient orcas also frequently use this area. Dall's porpoise and harbor porpoise are residents—the former like to bow ride and *rooster tail*—zip through the water so fast that they send up a spray of water like a rooster tail! Sea lions and harbor seals are resident too, and both have rookeries on several islands. Minke whales frequent the mouth of Glacier Bay, as do jaegers (a marine bird) – sometimes three species of them.

Optional Scenic Flights

One of the special things to do in Southeast Alaska, and especially in Glacier Bay, is to view it from the air. I feel I have a great imagination, but the sight of the ice from the air overwhelms me. You can see the area from the boat and imagine what it might be like, but from the air, you are simply transported into another world.

By the time we arrive at Bartlett Cove the first time, we should have an idea of who would like to take advantage of this opportunity. We can arrange for flights the morning of our return. Flights are, of course, weather dependent, and the cost will vary based on the number flying and the length of the flight, usually one hour.

Representative Itinerary

It is impossible to give more than a suggested itinerary for this particular cruise due to its highly opportunistic nature. Your itinerary is purposely kept flexible in order to allow for the unexpected events that are often the highlights of traveling. Your days will be spent whale watching, hiking on islands, cruising and fishing. You may also enjoy daily discussions and video shows designed to enhance your understanding in the area's marine biology and natural history. You can bird watch and beach comb. The itinerary allows ample time as well for you to relax, read, write, sketch, and, of course, photograph!



Day 0. Arrive in Juneau or Hoonah on **July 12** or earlier. Fly to Hoonah not later than 9A **July 13** if not staying there.

Day 1. July 13 Depart Hoonah 10A. We will depart on time with breakfast underway. This day we will explore a bit of Icy Strait, the consistent home of active humpback whales.

Day 1-2. Arrive in Glacier Bay and Bartlett Cove. Exploratory walk and introduction. Cruise up bay to the Marble Islands a Steller sea lion rookery and bird colony. Visit North Sandy Cove with possible anchorage for the night.

Day 3. Explore Muir Inlet and McBride Glacier.

Days 4,5. Continue exploring Glacier Bay and all its wonders. We will travel up the West Arm to visit several glaciers, wildlife and scenery.

Day 6. We will depart the west arm to explore Dundas Bay. This is a wilderness within a wilderness—the most remote and wildlife-rich portion of Glacier Bay: brown and black bears, wolves, and sea otters. Huge meadows of wildflowers are in bloom and at their peak. Muskeg meadows are like Japanese gardens.

Day 7 (July 19). We will leave Dundas Bay to again explore Icy Strait, visit some of its islands and possibly the outpost community of Elfin Cove. Depart *Delphinus* in Gustavus (after lunch) in time for an afternoon flight on Alaska Airlines or Wings of Alaska to Juneau (this flight should be booked by you as part of your return flight). Or stay longer in Gustavus to experience more of this gateway to the Park.

Crew

The best part of our itinerary is you, doing what you want to do. The second best part is your naturalist and crew. The **naturalist** plays a central part in all our cruises by enhancing your understanding, deepening your experiences, and heighten your own sense of discovery.

Your professional **chef** is there to similarly thrill you with sustenance, excite you with flavors, and stimulate you with visions of delight. They can also customize the menu to satisfy your individual needs or requirements.

Your professional **skipper** is there to make it all happen in the safest, most enjoyable, and entertaining way possible. His more than thirty years of experience provides the hidden background of the cruise - allowing you to safely be in the place of maximum opportunity to see, photograph, and do the things you have dreamed of. Now you are doing them - now you are living your dream. And he loves showing this area to others.

Similarly your professional **photo leaders** are here to enhance or broaden your visual appreciation, understanding, and insight on still another level of wonder and magic.

Wishing to express their appreciation, our passengers often inquire about tipping. All tips are given at the total discretion of the guests, but the crew sure likes to get them. As a general guideline current standards suggest 5 -10% of the cost of the trip and add to that if you have felt particularly well served. Tips are given discreetly by the captain to the crew consisting of the cook and naturalist/deckhand, and are divided equally.

