Discover Southeast Alaska by Small Ship

JUNE 26 - JULY 3, 2020

with optional
DENALI NATIONAL PARK
PRE-TOUR
Howdy, Ags!

Join former students and friends for a summertime expedition through some of nature’s more secluded landscapes as we discover the remote inner reaches of Alaska’s Inside Passage aboard the 66-passenger Admiralty Dream.

Enjoy the agility and flexibility of small-ship travel, up-close encounters with wildlife, stunning scenery, cultural experiences, and the guidance of two expert naturalists including an Orbridge Expedition Leader.

Capture the sight of whales breaching next to your boat, bears fishing along the shoreline, and eagles looking down from their nests—all part of nature’s amazing show.

This program also offers an optional pre-tour to Denali National Park. Explore this vast and stunningly beautiful wilderness—home to Denali, the highest mountain in North America. Ride the Alaska Railroad, stay in a hilltop lodge with panoramic views located inside the park, and learn how this magnificent landscape became one of our nation’s most breathtaking conservation areas.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than $1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Reserve today online at texas-am.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig ’em,

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel
Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles
Director of Travel
Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by February 14, 2020, to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.
Discover the endless beauty, abundant wildlife and native cultures of Southeast Alaska

Aboard the nimble, 66-passenger *Admiralty Dream*, you’ll have access to the breathtaking byways of Alaska’s Inside Passage.

With skilled naturalists by your side, you’ll encounter magnificent peaks and fjords, and ice-blue glaciers of unfathomable proportions—while learning about the traditions of Alaska’s indigenous cultures.
Program Highlights

- See the spray of whales only yards away and venture into secluded coves and inlets as you get up close to nature, whether from the decks of the *Admiralty Dream*, or aboard its skiffs and kayaks.

- Accompanied by two expert naturalists including an Orbridge Expedition Leader, learn surprising details about animal behavior, glacier activity, and the wealth of natural spectacles along these protected waters.

- Learn about Alaska’s culture and living history during a Native dance performance at a Tlingit Clan House and from a Native Huna Tlingit Cultural Heritage Guide at Glacier Bay National Park.

- Visit Sitka National Historical Park, and take a guided tour of the Norwegian town of Petersburg.

- Experience a rare tour of the Hidden Falls Hatchery where you’ll learn about Chinook, coho, and chum salmon.

- Alongside a Park Ranger, cruise the pristine waters of Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve to see the sanctuary's deep fjords, tidewater glaciers, and snow-capped mountain ranges.

- What’s included: 7 nights aboard the *Admiralty Dream*; all excursions and presentations; 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 7 dinners; beverages including complimentary beer and wine with lunch and dinner; gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, drivers and porters; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Your 8-Day Itinerary (subject to change)

Due to the nature of our explorations, itineraries are guidelines and may change in order to maximize wildlife and natural encounters.

**Day 1:** Arrive in Sitka – Embarkation (D)
- Tlingit dance presentation, Alaska Raptor Center, Sitka National Historical Park
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 2:** Icy Strait / Chichagof Island (B,L,D)
- Kayak, skiff excursions, wildlife viewing
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 3:** Glacier Bay National Park (B,L,D)
- Dynamic glaciers, ranger and cultural presentations
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 4:** Eastern Baranof Island / Lake Eva (B,L,D)
- Kayak, skiff excursions, wildlife viewing
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 5:** Hidden Falls (B,L,D)
- Hidden Falls Hatchery
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 6:** Petersburg / Frederick Sound (B,L,D)
- Wildlife viewing, Petersburg tour, hike
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 7:** Tracy Arm Fjord (B,L,D)
- Kayak, skiff excursions, wildlife and glacier viewing, farewell dinner
- Overnight: *Admiralty Dream*

**Day 8:** Auke Bay / Juneau – Disembarkation (B)

Activity Level: This program offers a variety of activities, typically not strenuous for guests with average mobility, including skiff rides, hiking, and kayaking. Walks and hikes are at a leisurely pace in order to see and learn as much as possible about the region. It’s our expectation that guests are able to walk with good balance, and go up and down stairs easily without assistance. NOTE: The *Admiralty Dream* does not have an elevator.

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Alaska is simply gorgeous, but viewing it with an Orbridge Expedition Leader at your side is another thing altogether. While watching humpback whales off the bow, your Expedition Leader will offer expert descriptions of mammals’ “bubble net” form of social feeding. Kayaking together, you will observe animals like Dall’s porpoises and Alaska’s brown bears. Watch and learn the secrets of Alaska’s wild beauty— you will be amazed.

**Admiralty Dream**

Aboard the Admiralty Dream, you can go where large ships cannot—gaining exclusive access to channels and bays full of wildlife.

- **B/C**
  - Two single beds (77”x 46” and 69”x 26”), drawers, private bathroom with combination shower/toilet. Lower deck cabins do not have windows. 74 sq. ft.

- **AA**
  - Two single beds or one double bed, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with combination shower/toilet. 93-96 sq. ft.

- **Deluxe**
  - Two modular single beds or a queen bed, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with combination shower/toilet. 134 sq. ft.

- **A**
  - Two single beds, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with combination shower/toilet. 93 sq. ft.

- **AAA**
  - Two single beds, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with combination shower/toilet. 122 sq. ft.

- **Owner’s Suite**
  - One queen bed, forward views from large windows, wardrobe, sitting area, private bathroom with separate shower and toilet. 135 sq. ft.

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**Your Expedition Leader**

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Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day +1: Arrive in Fairbanks (D)
Welcome dinner

Day +2: Fairbanks / Alaska Railroad / Denali National Park (B,D)
Travel through expanses of boreal forest and tundra of interior Alaska; visit the Denali National Park Visitor Center and the Murie Science and Learning Center; special dinner event

Day +3: Denali National Park
Wilderness Excursion (B,L,R)
Exclusive guided backcountry adventure, wine and hors d’oeuvres with an Alaskan homesteader

Day +4: Denali National Park (B)
Participate in optional excursions or enjoy leisure activities like self-guided hikes or ranger-led talks

Day +5: Denali National Park / Talkeetna / Anchorage (B,L)
Travel to Anchorage by motor coach, Anchorage Museum

Day +6: Depart Anchorage / Arrive Sitka / Day 1 of Main Program (B)

Optional Excursions:

Husky Homestead Dog Sled Presentation: A behind-the-scenes look at championship Alaskan Huskies and their training with Iditarod, four-time winner, Jeff King.

Denali Glacier Landing Flight: A 100-minute plane tour of Denali, viewing the continent’s deepest gorge, glaciers, surrounding peaks and valleys and a landing on one of Denali’s pristine glaciers.

Arctic Circle Flight Tour: This 6-hour tour includes a flight crossing into the Arctic Circle, ground tour of the only year-round village in the area, and visit to Coldfoot Camp.

Highlights & Inclusions

- Experience a historic Alaska Railroad journey into the scenic wilds of Alaska.
- Admire the rugged forests and wildlife with superior viewing from your upgraded GoldStar glass dome seat aboard the Alaska Railroad.
- Be on the lookout for vast wildlife including moose, Dall sheep, eagles, wolves, migrating caribou, and grizzly bears.
- Familiarize yourself with Denali National Park, walking its trails with a trained naturalist.
- Listen to an Alaskan homesteader’s tale of summiting Denali.
- Enjoy a special dinner including a presentation by a Murie Science & Learning Center educator.
- Participate in optional excursions or enjoy leisure activities like self-guided hikes or ranger-led talks
- Visit Talkeetna before arriving in Anchorage for a docent-led tour through Alaska's largest museum.

What’s included: One night accommodation at Pike’s Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks, three nights accommodations at the Grande Denali Lodge, and one night accommodation at Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage each with breakfast each morning (accommodations subject to change); transport aboard the distinguished Alaska Railroad with upgraded GoldStar Service including seating in the upper level dome car, priority seating in the dining room, and breakfast (with two alcoholic beverages/unlimited non-alcoholic beverages); a special dinner featuring a presentation by a Murie Science and Learning Center science educator; guided Denali backcountry tour with lunch; deluxe motor coach transport to Talkeetna and Anchorage with lunch; Anchorage Museum Tour; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader; all gratuities; and transfers between hotels and airport upon arrival and departure during the suggested times.

Not all excursions listed may be available. Availability is also subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability and group interests. For flight excursions, weight and minimum age requirements apply.
A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

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Denali Pre-Tour: $2,995* | Single: $3,895
—plus $325/person internal airfare—

Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 274 and 151 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $500 per person per program and $300 per person per option(s), in addition to any extension(s) or option(s), is payable by check,ACH,money order,or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds. Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as “Payments.” CST#2098750-40 WST8628289P

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*Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

Airfare not included. Single availability limited. Internal airfare from Anchorage to Main Program is an additional $325 per person.

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Special Traveling Aggies Rate: **Save more than $1,000 per couple**

When you reserve by February 14, 2020**

Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the Traveling Aggies Office. For more information, contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or you may call the Traveling Aggies Office at (979) 845-7514. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

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