



PACIFIC CATALYST II, INC.

Expeditions in the Pacific Northwest & Baja

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**Itinerary for
Glacier Bay
MV *Catalyst* or MV *Westward***

Itineraries are dependent on weather and tides and may change at the captain's discretion.

An exploration of Glacier Bay National Park, observing sea otters, mountain goats, humpback whales, sea lions, puffins and grey wolves. We will visit several tidewater glaciers and kayak up streams and along meadows where we may see foraging bears.

Day 1

We depart from Juneau's Auke Bay Marina at 12:30 pm. As we round Point Retreat, we begin to leave the symptoms of civilization in our wake. Soon high rises, power lines and cruise ships are far behind us and glaciers, orcas, humpbacks and rafts of seabirds are in front of us. Our first night's anchorage is in a quiet harbor outside the borders of Glacier Bay National Park. Here we will launch kayaks and take our first paddle in the wilderness.

Day 2 and following

We will travel through the bays and inlets of Glacier Bay National park, stopping at beautiful anchorages for the night after observing wild life and possibly a calving glacier or two. Hiking or kayaking, accompanied by the on-board naturalist, we will learn about the fauna and flora of the area. Each trip varies depending on the weather and duration; some highlights include:

Bartlett Cove/Fingers Bay: We stop near the Park entrance to hike the Bartlett Cove nature trail. After returning to the boat, we cast off and head further into the bay. At Fingers Bay, we may see bears rooting for fresh food upon the beach and a myriad of sea birds that have flocked to the rich waterways of the park.

Reid Glacier: This glacier has recently grounded out and provides an opportunity to walk right up to its face. The discovery of the day might be that ice worms are real! We will also walk at the entrance of the inlet and look for remnants of a small mining claim, worked by the Ibach family, during the early 1900s.

Grand Pacific and Marjorie Glaciers: For some, the highlight may be the visit to Grand Pacific and Marjorie Glaciers, or it could be the otters that we may see as we explore John Hopkins Inlet; or, it may just be the particular shade of blue that the sky takes on after the sun sets late in the evening. In any case, it promises to be a day of superlatives. Kittiwakes nest along the side of the glaciers, while eagles come to rest upon the icebergs. Listen to the glacier cracking and watch it calving into the sea with an enormous splash.

Wildlife: Watch for mountain goats feeding and sunning themselves on rocky ledges as we sail by, looking for Steller sea lions who haul out on small islands. These islands also host a gathering of puffins. Glacier Bay boasts a large array of quiet coves and bays, each of which plays host to a stunning variety of plants and animals. Humpback whales will come into view in some of the richest fishing grounds in SE Alaska.

Day 8/10

We are up early to make sure we get everyone to Juneau in time to make their connections to the outside, or to take advantage of the many attractions in the Juneau area. We will be at our mooring by noon.

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