

Wild Southeast Alaska - A Photo Expedition

Whales, Bears and Glaciers with Barbara Eddy

barbaraeddyphotography.com

© September 2023 Barbara Eddy Photography



July 24 - August 1, 2024 9 days/8 nights - Limited to 6 Participants

PO BOX 575, Ronan, Montana 59864 Phone 208-244-1887 contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com

barbaraeddyphotography.com



Wild Southeast Alaska Photo Expedition from Juneau to Wrangell, Alaska

Did you ever want to visit Southeast Alaska and cruise the Inside Passage on a small vessel instead of a large cruise ship? Then this is the trip for you, one that is designed for photographers and wildlife enthusiasts. The journey from Juneau to Wrangell features the spectacular scenery, Native people, and wildlife of Southeast Alaska. The approximately 150 miles (as the raven flies) of watery wilderness is punctuated by coastal shorelines, home to foraging black and brown (grizzly) bears, mountain goats, and Sitka deer. Here, the glaciers reach the tops of mountains, all skirted by the temperate rainforest of the Tongass National Forest. Humpback whales, orcas, harbor seals, Steller sea lions, countless seabirds, and fish species call this place home. As your photo leader with the experienced guidance of our captain and naturalist, we will endeavor to put you in the places of maximum interest and photographic opportunities.

Special Features of this Cruise A special feature of this wildlife experience is visiting two outstanding bear reserves—both Anan Creek, with its photo-blind platform and either or both black and brown bears, and Pack Creek, the best-known place in Southeast for seeing brown bears.

One focus of this itinerary is visiting the best whale waters in Southeast Alaska. Humpbacks can be incredibly active: breaching, fluking, and bubble-net feeding. Even resting, they are incredibly energizing to be around – especially when they are in large numbers.

In this area during the summer, there are an estimated 300 individual humpbacks in residence, all actively feeding. (Over 800 whales have been identified here over a five-year period.) Many are bubble-net feeding: blowing a helix of bubbles underwater that rises to the surface as a wall, surrounding and entrapping their prey. At the surface, it appears as a continuing ring of bubbles. It is as if the humpbacks were indicating exactly where they are going to appear next—right in the center of the circle—mouths agape as they consume hundreds of pounds of prey fish trapped in the bubble net. This is truly an incredible natural spectacle.

It is exciting just to be around the humpbacks, hour after hour, as they alternately feed and rest. We can listen to and record their summer vocalizations. They are not the only whale species found here.

In the following segment, I will detail all the wildlife likely to be encountered.

I hope you can join me on this expedition.



You can see many of my images on both my website

barbaraeddyphotography.com

and in posts on my informational Facebook page.

To view, please go to

<https://www.facebook.com/>

[BarbaraEddyNaturePhotographyWorkshops/](https://www.facebook.com/BarbaraEddyNaturePhotographyWorkshops/)

Our journey begins in Juneau, the smallest of all the state capitals but the capital of the largest state. It is the only capital that cannot be reached by road. Because of its beautiful location, there are numerous things to do and see here, including photography that compliments our voyage because we otherwise spend little or no time in towns.

Our trip ends in Wrangell, this quaint port city has a lot to offer, including a museum, two totem parks, petroglyphs on a beach at low tide, and a colorful harbor, and you may wish to plan a stay overnight.

Fitness and Health - Physical Level - EASY

Special Considerations - Although the Inside Passage is sheltered water we can sometimes encounter choppy conditions.

Packing List - Recommended camera equipment and clothing list will be sent upon receipt of the deposit.

Where: Juneau to Wrangell, Alaska

Arrival Point: Juneau International Airport

Ending: August 1 (Early afternoon of August 1)

When: July 24-August 1, 2024 - arriving on July 23rd

Maximum Number of Photographers: 6

Days of tour: 9 days/8 nights

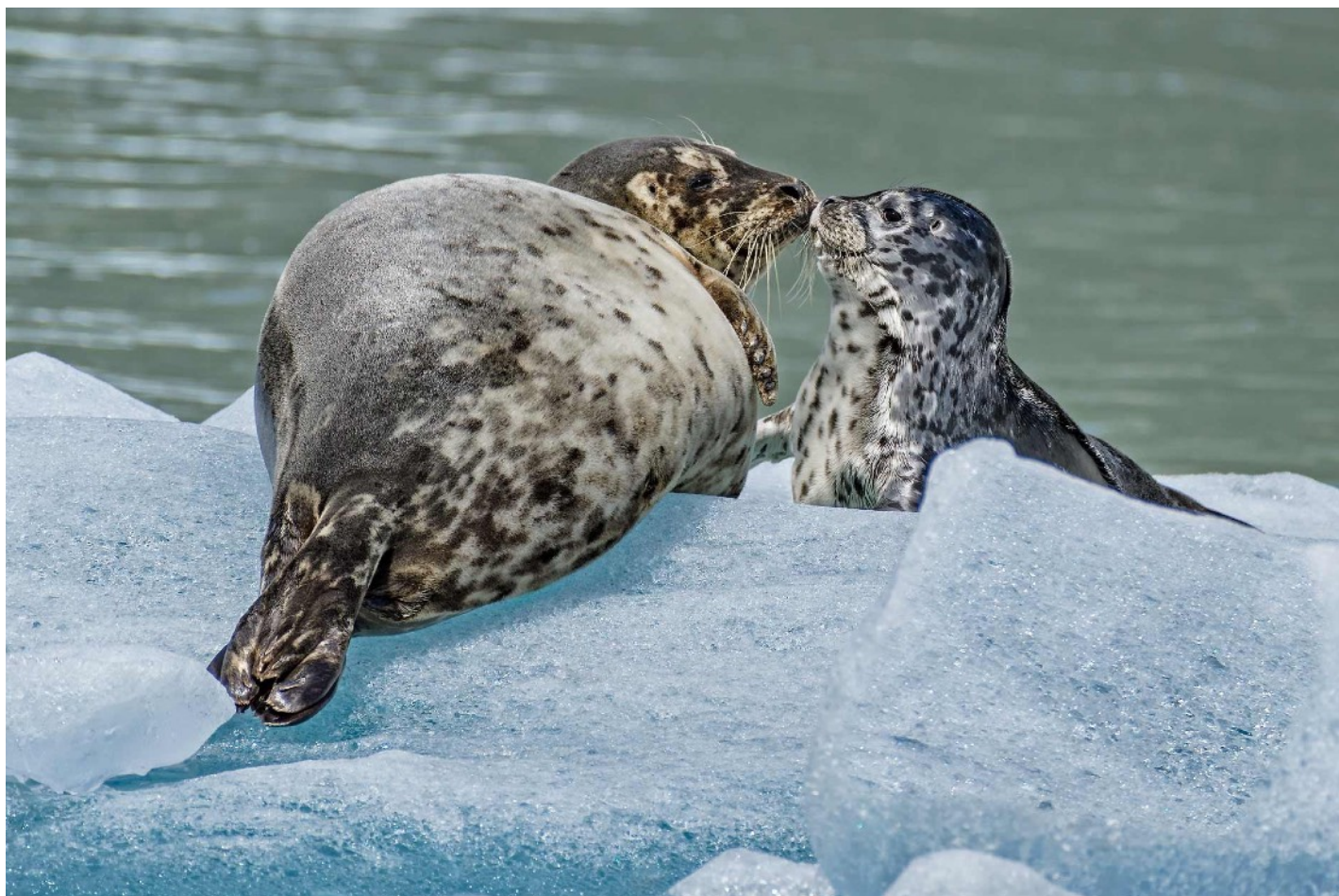
Departure Point: Wrangell, Alaska

Days including travel days: 10 days / 9 nights

Price: \$6645 double occupancy

Starting: July 24 - Boarding ship at 9 a.m.

Optional Pre- and Post-trip Extensions- Details to come





Orcas regularly visit Frederick Sound. It is a 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. Frederick Sound is also used frequently by transient orcas, seen on previous trips going after various mammals—often close to the boat!

Dall’s porpoise and harbor porpoise are also resident. The former like to bow-ride and rooster tail—zip through the water so fast that they create a spray of water like a rooster tail! Sea lions and harbor seals are resident too, and both have rookeries on several islands. Steller sea lions also haul out by the hundreds. These huge marine mammals are larger than grizzlies. They growl, rather than bark. We often anchor one night beside one of their rookeries where you can listen to them throughout the night.

A continuous highlight of the cruise is the grandeur of the scenery. The Ice Kingdom and calving glaciers of Endicott and Tracy Arm provide some of the most dramatic scenery in Southeast Alaska. Ford’s Terror, another possibility for our cruise, is beyond description—it lies outside the realm of the imagination! Everywhere there are snow-clad mountains cloaked in the intense green of old-growth forests. You will not only view these ancient forests, but you’ll also go ashore to explore the intimate life of their giant trees, mossy glades, berry patches, and waterfalls.

You will explore salmon streams, forest edges, meadows, flower gardens, river flats, and muskegs—a mosaic of the habitats of Southeast—in addition to the old-growth forests. Sometimes you will follow animal trails, in some cases walking in “grandfather’s” footsteps—the deep impressions made by brown bears pacing in their same footsteps for decades on end.

Admiralty Island has the greatest concentrations of nesting bald eagles and breeding brown bears of any similar-sized area in Alaska—or the world! There are more nesting bald eagles on this one island than in all the rest of the 49 states. It is reported that there is one grizzly per square mile. This would indeed be the greatest concentration of brown bears anywhere in the world. Bears are often seen foraging along the shoreline.

To the west are the high snow-capped mountains of Baranof Island. To the east are the ice-covered peaks and moving glaciers of the Coastal Range. As we cruise and follow the whales, this pageantry of splendor continues to unfold. There is always a new light—foggy, sunny, misty, sunny again; broken clouds, scattered clouds, overcast, clear; sunrises and sunsets that go on for hours—providing outstanding photo opportunities. The scenery is always changing and is great for dramatic photography!

One great reason to come to Alaska is just to fill your lungs with fresh clean air—some of the cleanest on earth. Another is the water—glacial meltwater without the herbicides and pesticides that taint some of our national drinking water.

Each evening brings another new wilderness anchorage and another possible shore excursion. Each day, you can go ashore and explore a new place, take photographs, or just sit awhile and contemplate. The days are very full, and life in Southeast Alaska is very rich. You will be in the very heart and spirit of this region. Traveling by boat, you are always where you want to be—somewhere in the vast wilderness area surrounded by gorgeous scenery. A further advantage is that everything, including your luggage, travels with you.

Itinerary

It is impossible to give more than a suggested itinerary for this particular cruise due to its highly opportunistic nature. We deliberately keep the itinerary flexible in order to allow for the unexpected events that often are the highlights of visiting Southeast Alaska.

We aim to do the things that most interest you, our special guests. Your days will be spent photographing, whale watching, cruising, and excursions ashore for more photography opportunities. You may also enjoy daily discussions with slide shows and videos designed to enhance your understanding of this magnificent wilderness. In short, we operate without a firm itinerary. So, the following is only a suggestion.

Day A & B - Optional extension in Juneau - Join Barbara for extra time in Juneau. Here I'm offering an extension and will have more information about this shortly. We may have the opportunity to photograph black bears, bald eagles, and whales as well as the beautiful Mendenhall Glacier. Please let me know if you are interested in joining me on the extension.

July 23 or earlier Pre-trip arrival in Juneau. Make time to explore this capital city, and purchase any essential items, such as a fishing license or rubber boots and rain gear. (Hotel and meals in town are not included in the price of the trip.)

Day 1 - July 24 - 9 AM Orientation aboard *Delphinus*. Depart for Stephens Passage and Holkham Bay, Endicott Arm, and the Ice Kingdom. There may be orcas and whales along the way. You will spend two days in this wildlife-rich designated wilderness area. There are a number of potential stops, including the unique Ford's Terror vestibule and arm. The general area is a glacially carved granite fiord with dozens of waterfalls and cascades. It is like a flooded Yosemite, has 30 miles of floating ice sculptures, and a thunderously calving glacier at the end. It is a very active place and home to much wildlife—humpbacks, black and brown bears, river otters, harbor seals pupping on the ice pans, and large flocks of scoters and other birds.

Day 2 - July 25 - Spend more time in Endicott Arm, and view Dawes' Glacier. Most likely the night will be spent in Ford's Terror or close by.

Day 3 - July 26 - Travel to Seymour Canal (whales along the way) arriving in Windfall Harbor (part of the Pack Creek Bear Reserve on Admiralty Island) for the afternoon and evening.

Day 4/5 - July 27-28 Pack Creek is the best-known bear reserve in Southeast. It is only a very small part of Admiralty Island and a microcosm of Alaska as a whole. Yet it is here we have one of the best chances for watching brown bears truly be bears (when the salmon are in). The bears here have been protected from hunting since about 1936. Shortly after the reserve was created, Stan Price "retired" here and lived with the bears for more than 30 years. His daily presence both helped to enforce the no hunting rule and acclimate the bears to human presence. He lived with the bears for thirty-four years without any serious problems, but was very tolerant of their "misbehaviors." After that, a management plan was put in place so that the same small number of people come to the same place, at the same time, each day. The bears will probably ignore us, as people are and have been a constant their entire lives. Here, again, there is much more than bears. We may spend the entire day with the bears and other wildlife.

We will depart in the early evening for our nightly anchorage, usually Pleasant Bay on Admiralty.





Day 6,7 - July 29,30 The next few days will be spent with the whales of Frederick Sound, actively feeding humpbacks, occasional orcas, and common bow-riding Dall's porpoise. This is the center of a large number of feeding humpbacks. This is the same population that goes to Hawaii in the winter for breeding and calving.

There are also other marine mammals including Steller sea lion rookeries and harbor seals. Both of these are sometimes the food of the so-called transient orcas. Resident (fish-eating) orcas also regularly use the area, so you need to always be on the lookout for these exciting animals.

You will also go ashore in some jewel-like temperate rainforest settings. Perhaps most importantly, you will have time to get lost in your own thoughts and photography.

A continuation of Frederick Sound with many options. As always our goal is to put you in the place of maximum opportunity and to emphasize the things that most interest you. There is a lifetime of opportunities here. You are moving out of Frederick Sound now, heading further south past Petersburg (a small fishing town with strong Norwegian heritage), the Wrangell Narrows (a major shipping lane and bottleneck due to its narrowness), the town of Wrangell and the narrow passage between Wrangell Island and the mainland. We will probably anchor and spend the night in Berg Bay with the possibility of going ashore.

Day 8 - July 31 Early in the morning we will depart our anchorage and arrive at the Anan Creek Bear Reserve. This is a special place, even without the bears. It

provides a bay, lagoon, reversing waterfalls, a walk through an old-growth temperate rain forest, stream, more waterfalls, and a bear observatory and photo blind. The observatory is located above the falls and provides a bit of shelter in case of rain. You can observe the bears at the falls below you, in the stream, and often beside you as the bears move between the creek, falls, and surrounding forest.

The photo blind is located right at the level of the falls, eye to eye with the bears. It is available for 30-minute periods by signing up when reaching the observatory. The stream itself is full of migrating salmon that are the central link in the story of the energy cycle of Southeast Alaska. In the late afternoon, we will start for Wrangell.

Day 9 - Aug 1 This may be the last day, but it is a very busy and exciting one. At 8:00 AM we will depart for the Stikine River and Shakes Lake by shallow draft jet boat. Shakes Lake is visually one of the most exciting places I have experienced in Southeast or the world. The lake is created by the melting Shakes Glacier and is dammed up by the shallow Stikine River and its sand bars. Large house-sized blocks of ice are usually trapped at the entrance. Once you round them, you enter another world. The lake is surrounded by high peaks with their own glaciers. Numerous glacier-fed streams flow into the lake. Boulder-strewn meadows are colored by numerous flowers. You can walk the meadows following the streams, and travel by boat up to the face of the glacier.

Following your return you'll have time to eat lunch in town, check out some of the sights, then get your luggage and catch a cab for the short ride to the airport.

Photography This cruise is designed for photography. Using *Delphinus* as your “wilderness lodge” and transportation all in one, you never have anywhere to go but where you are and you are always where you want to be—in wildlife-rich wilderness splendor. This means you can take pictures all day and, whenever you get a break, sit down with your laptop and edit your images.

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 heightening 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. The menu can be customized to satisfy your individual needs or requirements.

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

Wishing to express their appreciation, our passengers often inquire about tipping. All tips are given at the total discretion of the guests. As a general guideline, current standards suggest 10 to 15% 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.

Captain Ronn and our **naturalist**, and photographer **Barbara Eddy** are always available to answer your questions and impart information about your surroundings that will enhance your experience.

About Barbara Eddy Barbara Eddy was born in Lorain, Ohio and raised in the rural countryside where she fell in love with nature. At a very early age she developed a deep affection for wildlife, surrounding herself with diverse pets ranging from raccoons to skunks and other small creatures. She developed an enthusiasm for horses and riding which continues today. When

traveling to horse shows as a teenager she acquired her first camera and quickly developed a passion for photography. She soon joined a camera club and began working at a photo processing facility. In 1987, she hired on as a darkroom technician at NASA in Cleveland, Ohio. A highlight of her NASA career was printing images of the space shuttle as well as the Apollo Lunar Missions. In 1990 she began her career as a nature photography workshop and seminar instructor. Since then her photography travels have taken her all over the world leading photographers to Africa, the Antarctic, the Galapagos, Ecuador, the Falklands, Scotland, Canada, Japan, and, of course, locations all over North America. To this day she leads groups to diverse locations worldwide for nature photography. She has co-authored six nature photography “how-to” books. Barbara, an award-winning photographer, has been published around the world in such prestigious publications as National Geographic, and also in calendars, books and greeting cards.

What Barbara finds special about Southeast Alaska

The highlight of this trip is exploring the length of Alaska’s Inside Passage from Juneau to Wrangell. One trip alone will not exhaust the opportunities for exploration. You will find many reasons to return. The allure is the grandeur of the scenery and seascape that is populated by robust populations of wildlife. The ice kingdom and calving glaciers of Endicott or Tracy Arm are spectacular lures. A few groups have changed the itinerary to spend virtually the entire voyage here. By cruising and living aboard *Delphinus*, you are always where you want to be – in whale-rich waters surrounded by awe-inspiring wilderness rich in wildlife and old-growth forests carpeting mostly pristine islands. The days are full, and life in Southeast Alaska is very rewarding. You will be in the heart and spirit of this region. I hope this brief description has given you an inkling of why Southeast Alaska has enthralled me.



**What is included:**

- Room and Board (double occupancy) on Delphinus
- Three meals per day while on board, wine and beer included
- Intensive Photo Instruction in field from Barbara Eddy
- Transportation to and from the boat from meeting point in town

What is NOT included:

- Transportation to and from Juneau/Wrangell
- Tips for boat staff
- Items of personal nature

To Enroll: Please email contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com to check availability. A deposit of \$2000 is required to secure your enrollment. A balance of \$4645 is due on April 20, 2024

Make Check out to Barbara Eddy and mail to: Barbara Eddy - PO Box 575 - Ronan MT 59864

Cancellation Policy:

For complete peace of mind, we strongly recommend that you purchase [Travel Insurance](#) to protect yourself against cancellation penalties and travel costs. We understand that life happens. If you must cancel a reservation, please notify contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com as soon as possible. All cancellations must be requested via email and we will try our best to accommodate. [Travel Insurance](#) should cover any non-refundable fees and travel expenses. We will make every attempt to fill your spot.

- At the time of booking, you have the option to pay a \$ 2,000 deposit or the full workshop amount. If you pay the deposit, the remaining balance of \$4645 will be due on April 20, 2024.
- For cancellations more than **121 days from departure**, we will refund your deposit minus a \$500 cancellation fee once we fill the vacancy. If we are unable to fill the vacancy, your cancellation fee of \$500 will be forfeited or applied to another workshop conducted within the next calendar year.
- If you must cancel between **91 to 120 days prior to departure**, a \$700 cancellation fee will be assessed plus any funds paid by Barbara Eddy Photography to suppliers that are non-refundable. If we can refill your space on short notice the non-refundable supplier fees will be returned to you. The \$700 cancellation fee can be applied to a future workshop conducted within 365 days of the cancellation date.
- Unfortunately, within **90 days of departure**, no refunds can be given. If we are able to fill the vacancy, your payment minus the \$700 cancellation fee can be applied to a future workshop conducted within 365 days of the cancellation date.
- We strongly recommend that all participants purchase [Travel Insurance](#) to cover any non-refundable deposits and workshop fees.

Additional Items:

- Any non-refundable fees paid to a third party in connection with your tour cannot be refunded.
- Barbara Eddy Photography cannot offer partial refunds for unused services. If you have to cut your trip short, no refunds can be given.
- If you are not present at the time of trip departure, we will try our best to contact you. We cannot offer any refunds for no-shows.

Thank you for your interest in my photography expeditions. Any questions please email me at contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com or call 208-244-1887.

Warm Wishes,

Barbara



Wild Southeast Alaska Awaits You!

