

# Southeast Alaska Cruise | Trip Report

## June 12 – 19, 2021 | Written by Peg Abbott



With Guide Peg Abbott, assisted by Jon Atwood, and participants Polly, Elisabeth, Robert, Dori, William, Priscilla, Catherine, Karl, Peggy, Linda, Leslie







## Early Arrivals to Sitka

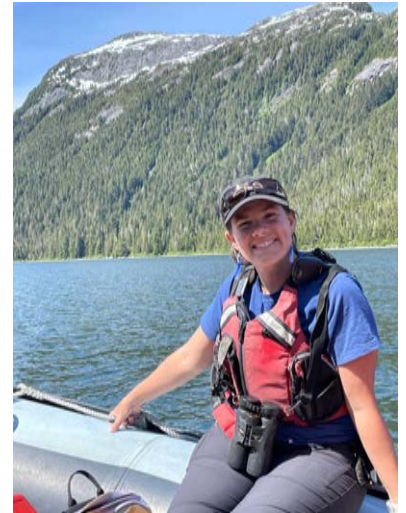
Several of our group got into the swing of things by arriving two nights early with a bonus of time to explore historic Sitka. Some wandered at leisure while others participated in two outings organized for us by our travel agent, Pam Davis. Both were morning events, leaving us free to explore in the afternoons. We were picked up at our hotel and spent the first morning taking in highlights at the Sitka National Historic Park where a wonderful interpreter, Ann Sweeny, walked with us on a loop trail full of plants in bloom, stately trees and strategically placed totem poles—all magnificent! We saw four types of poles, both modern and historic, sharing clan history, legend and memorials. So were the blue skies we had to walk under, almost unheard of to have such a glorious day in part of the world's largest temperate rainforest. And little did we know we'd have many more sunny days ahead for what felt like a charmed week.

There were no big cruise ships in the state during our June visit due to concerns of the Covid pandemic, so we had no crowds to contend with. We walked back into town from the historic park, enjoying blooming Mountain Ash and Lilacs and a singing Orange-crowned Warbler. Ravens chortled and Bald Eagles chirped overhead almost constantly. From the tops of Sitka Spruce, we heard and watched Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglets, in the understory, Pacific Wren. We marveled at the collection of regional Native American artifacts displayed at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Indeed, several of us went back in the afternoon or next day to take more time to view, as the collection was so impressive.

At Sitka's central downtown area is a still-active Russian Orthodox Church and a fine view of the harbor and some history can be had atop Castle Hill. And a real treat was a local concert part of the 50-year running Sitka music festival hosted by cellist Zuill Bailey. There were soloists and a string quartet and the setting, looking out to snow-capped peaks and the harbor in the soft evening light that lingers long in Alaska was superb.

## Sat., June 12 Exploring Sitka | All Aboard the SS Legacy!

This morning those on the extension enjoyed exploring a bit afield, on one of Sitka's two short roads we headed out to two attractions. We had a guided tour at the Sitka Raptor Center, a raptor rehab center where we met a very inquisitive Snowy Owl and saw several Bald Eagles, in exercise cages, that had good chances to be released. The setting also, amid massive Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock along a river corridor, was impressive. We watched both Black and Grizzly Bears feeding at the Fortress of the Bear, an educational facility designed to provide care to rescued animals, and had fun watching Tree Swallow and Song Sparrow on the grounds and a Pacific-slope Flycatcher en route back at the Thimbleberry trailhead.



We returned in time for lunch, many sitting outside with a view of Mt. Verstovia dining on fresh salmon chowder from Ludwig's Bistro. In our couple of days here we'd enjoyed Sitka's restaurants including fish tacos at Beak, halibut at several locations, and for a few—white King Salmon, a rare treat. Some tried a local favorite for pizza, the Mean Queen. We also contributed to the local economy, finding a warm welcome at artisan shops and galleries.

We were able to leave our luggage in the centrally located Centennial Hall and at 4:30 PM our cruise director, Dawn, met us for introductions and a few guidelines. She was born for her job, energetic, quick-thinking and delightful—she set a great tone for the week ahead and directed a marvelous staff of guides, alongside the SS Legacy's crew. We took a bus over to the harbor and boarded the ship, a replica of a 1900's coastal steamer, finding charming historic touches in the furnishings, carpet and décor—a sense of legacy for sure. We were warmly welcomed, Steve the bartender immediately had a fan club (drinks are included on the voyage), and after the required safety drill we were ready to go. It was a beautiful evening, and it was hard to tear ourselves from the deck for sleep as daylight continued until midnight.

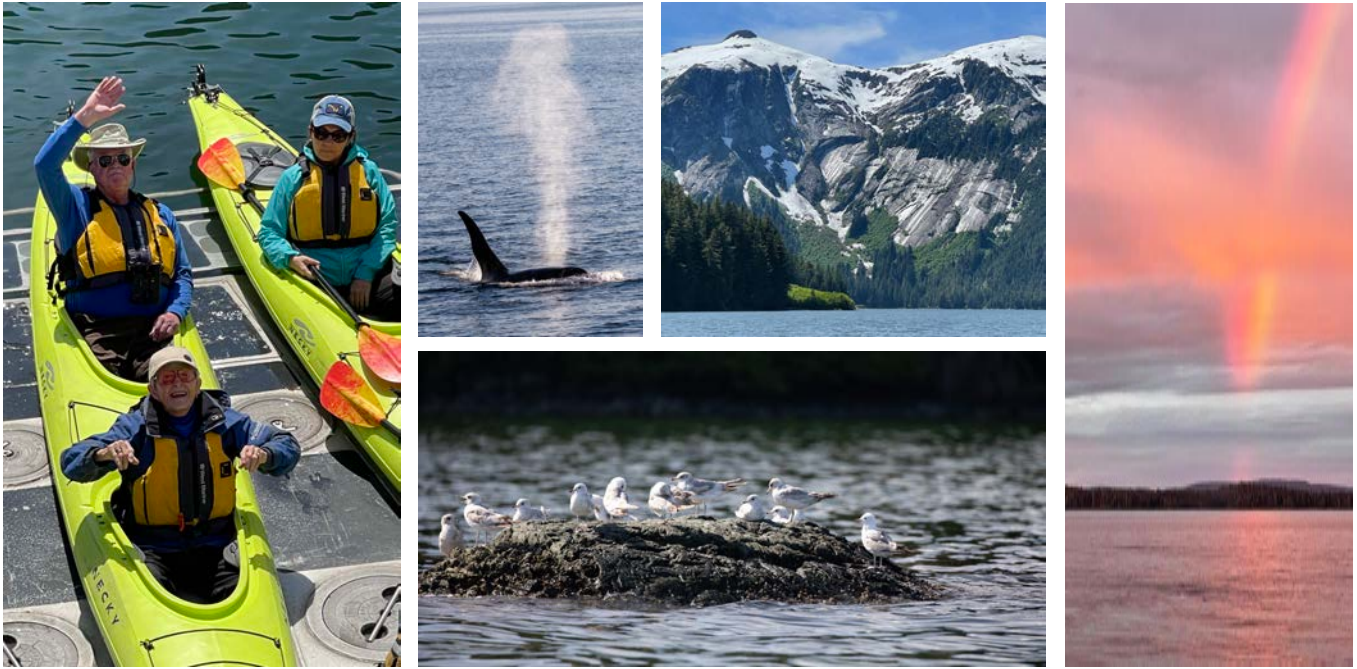
## **Sun., June 13 Navigating Chatham Strait | Gut Bay | Magical Evening with Rainbows and Whales**

There was a commotion on deck by 6 AM, as the captain had spotted Orca from the bridge and, as they seemed to be staying in the area, Dawn got on the intercom to let us all know. People came out of cabins to marvel at the group, at least five, with perhaps another subgroup a bit farther out. In the close group we saw a male with a huge, tall fin, at least two adult females with different black and white patterns and two smaller individuals of varied age, one quite young. They were feeding, a bit oblivious to us, so we got fine views—what a start to our grand adventure!

After winding through the Peril Strait at night, and at dawn passing into Chatham Strait, we would move south today, following this major travel way defining a good section of Alaska's Inside Passage. We were passing between Admiralty Island and Baronof Island. This is an area of upwelling, and we found our first seabirds, including three species of loons and both Double-crested and Pelagic cormorants. It was highly scenic, with snow-capped peaks and intriguing bays. We passed Red Bluff Bay, a unique hill of chromite.

Following breakfast, we had a morning presentation called Intro to Adventure as we made our way down Chatham Strait. Being the first morning, there was some training to do to ready all of us to kayak, if we chose to, and discussions of how the activities would work and how we would check ourselves safely on and off the ship. By Noon we were anchored in the stunningly calm Gut Bay where we commenced with our adventures.





Gut Bay is deeply indented into the southeast side of Baranof Island. Here we hoped to find Grizzly Bears, this being one of the areas of their highest density in the world, and indeed one of the skiff rides found a lone adult, foraging despite the warm and sunny conditions that normally would make it uncomfortable for bears to be active. As we were in the boat it continued its foraging without fear, and we had several minutes of viewing. We also had a fly-by Hairy Woodpecker, fine views of a female Common Goldeneye and both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. Walkers in another group stood in awe of the old growth forest, from trees so tall that you couldn't see their tops to banana slugs; already it was clear that the naturalist guides on our trip were fabulous ecologists, and our excitement to learn from them began to grow.

We left Gut Bay and continued on, heading through a rich area of the ocean. A big group of Thayer's Gulls should have been a hint to us that we just might get into a group of whales, as during dinner we encountered a big flock sitting on the water. At the ship's passage they rose up, and Cathie and Peg ran out from dinner onto deck to take in their close swirling—all were second year birds with a distinctive champagne color.

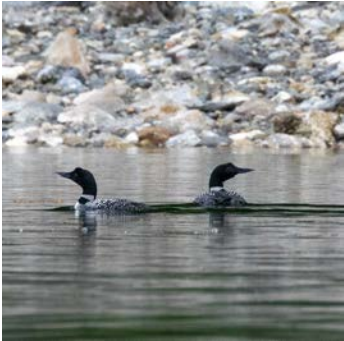
This fine evening was one we will all have indelibly inked into our brains, full of beauty and wonder. The crew had a tip that there was good whale activity still to the south, off Kuiu Island, so we went to check it out. We entered what was described as "whale soup", an area of so much concentrated food that multiple humpback whales converged there. It would not be an exaggeration to say we saw over thirty to forty individuals surrounding the boat, with some at very close range, and others in the distance. Fish were boiling to the surface, and we could see streams of them moving and glittering in the light, at times looking like a river. We could see whale blows erupt like small geysers, often six or seven in a small area, some distant and some close, often in an alignment so you'd take in ten or twelve at one time.

Most spectacular was seeing bubble net feeding, a learned cooperative feeding method in which a group of whales encircles a group of fish with a net of bubbles underwater, then swim to the surface with their mouths open, capturing up to 15,000 gallons of seawater—and fish—as they burst simultaneously from the water. As observers, we saw a whole group of whale heads, a dozen or more, rising vertically up from the water, mouths agape as they filtered in massive loads of small fish. We saw this amazing behavior several times—just remarkable. We saw lunge feeding, pectoral slaps, a bit of breaching, and right in front of the ship a whale that just slowly rose from the water as if to stand on its flukes, so powerful and massive we were speechless with









awe. Jon and Polly had a quick flyby of 2 Long-tailed Jaegers—exciting, but hard to show to others as we were all overwhelmed by the whales. This show went on for well over an hour; the only reason we quit watching was that by 11 PM it was too dark to see well. It was a super emotional experience and I think all felt that if we had to go home the next day it was worth the whole effort to get here.

Most extraordinary during the whale soup phenomena was the painted sky, first an early evening rainbow, then a long, drawn-out far northern sunset that lasted well over an hour, growing in intensity. The sky was literally red, yellow and various shades of purple, and at one point the reflection of the glow stained the sea water red. Within this tapestry swam the whales, showing us blows, fins, flukes, tail patterns and most extraordinarily—sound. One group off to the side of the action moved to another area where fish were streaming. As they picked up speed, one trumpeted, equaling the power of a loud elephant trumpet, and others made varied sounds. As it got later and the watchers thinned out, we could hear them breathe, and squeal and moan, incredible. This location was remote, not near any village or town (we were in the Tebenkof Bay Wilderness) and there were few fishing boats in sight—just wild whales and the productive sea. A few Steller’s Sea Lions fed among them, and as some of the whales approached shore, three Bald Eagles vied with them at the bait balls of fish, stretching their talons into the fish soup hoping for a catch.

It was midnight when we retired, and all walked around feeling aglow.

## **Mon., June 14 Kelp Bay**

Still amazed by our first full day that had started with Orca and ended with one of the most spectacular whale shows any of the crew, let alone our guests, had ever seen, we pinched ourselves as we once again woke to sun. Was it really possible we’d have another day of this rare commodity in Southeast Alaska?

Breakfast on the ship was delightful, with tables by big windows one could continue watching scenery and birds, while dining on specialties like salmon and caper omelets, or homemade pancakes. This morning we had a breakfast view of a whale surfacing very close to the boat, wow!



We explored Kelp Bay where we had anchored, choosing from hikes, skiff rides or, in this calm setting, open kayak paddling where one could go within a designated area in view of the ship on their own to explore. We saw wildflowers including many blooming Indian Paintbrush, had intimate time with harbor seals and marveled at views of snow-capped peaks and dense green forests.

Highlights of the afternoon skiff tour included time to watch the adults at a Bald Eagle nest, sighting of a big flock of Harlequin Ducks, mostly colorful males, and the chance to sort out gulls loafing on a rock, shared with harbor seals. Some hiked all day today and were lucky to find River Otter and a Mink.

Dinner tonight included a steak choice or a delicious local rockfish, and of course scrumptious dessert. Spencer, one of the naturalist guides, then gave a presentation on how the baidarka, the Aleutian kayak, shaped the human development of Alaska. People enjoyed the evening to relax, have some drinks, or watch the world go by bundled up on deck as we moved to our next location.

## **Tues., June 15 Pavlof Bay**

Liquid sunshine, for a change. The weather turned during the night and this morning we woke to classic Southeast Alaska weather, a light drizzle, gray skies and rising bands of fog over the dense forest. We were in a quiet cove off the main Chatham Strait that separates Admiralty Island from Chichagof Island. There were two pleasure boats in harbor that had been here a few days and they told the staff of a mother Brown Bear and cub they had seen come down to the shore a few times. We scanned the beaches that rimmed us, watched the tide recede, revealing bands of kelp, blue mussels and other plants in a rainbow of color. We enjoyed breakfast (a wild mushroom quiche, omelets or oatmeal) and got ready to go out into the “liquid sunshine” we’d been promised for several days.

Priscilla, Dori, Leslie and Linda elected the guided kayak, and they had a real adventure. They paddled out about three miles, rounding a prominent rocky point that put them into more open seas—and held on for some strong winds and swell. It was challenging but spectacular, windy and wet. Cathie, Bob, Liz, Peggy, Karl and Patrick and Bill went ashore for a guided hike with Bobbie and following a game trail in the forest they came upon some very fresh bear scat but no sign of the bruins themselves. They did find three Red-breasted Sapsuckers and got very good looks. They found a banana slug, a mottle starfish, but were not able to get all the way to the lake as



intended. Also, a Belted Kingfisher, the first of the trip, seen at roaring Pavlof Falls that included a fish ladder. Peg and the rest of the group explored by skiff, holding on as they also visited the large bay with ocean swell and waves. Glaucous-winged Gulls and Northwest Crows were feeding in the tide line area, joined by Mallards, Common Merganser and a couple of Canada Geese. All along the way there were Bald Eagles, a few of them paired, sitting regally in pointed conifers. We watched two make forays out over the coastline, dipping into the water with powerful talons as they struck fish they'd spied from their treetop lookouts with remarkable accuracy. Their songbird-like chirping was very common and much a part of our days by now.

Lunch was a delicious salmon served over fresh greens, or two choices of barbecue sandwiches, with the vegetarian choice made with jackfruit—very creative. Brownies and ice cream for dessert was a big hit.

By afternoon the sun returned, in fits and starts, with a few more squalls of rain as we enjoyed exploring by skiff which was on the agenda for many of us in the afternoon. We went the opposite direction from the morning and had a mix of rain and bright conditions on both shifts. We saw more eagles, close to twenty Marbled Murrelets including some foursome that seemed to be adults with sizeable chicks. Pigeon Guillemots and Harbor Seals stole the show today, quite curious about us, but then shy, we watched them fishing and resting ashore. Back to the boat for Russian teacakes as cookie of the day.

Steve mixed up strawberry mojitos for happy hour. We had another delightful dinner, this time a choice of prawns, a Moroccan chicken dish and a vegetarian choice with the same sides and an apple cake with ice cream for dessert. They lifted anchor just as we started to eat so it was lovely to watch the scenery go by as we dined. Our lead nature guide, Bobby, gave a talk on the ecology of “whale falls”—what happens in the deep sea when a several-ton food resource descends and stays on the seafloor upon the death of a whale. It was fascinating and a topic that none of us had ever considered. We entered Neka Bay, a glorious spot near the native community of Hoonah, in lovely soft light about 10PM. More than a few of the crew and guests were happy to hear a PING of a cell signal, the first in some time, giving us a chance to check on family and dog-sitters back home. Cathie and Peg discovered Caol Ila single malt scotch from Islay, Scotland, inspired by the blustery day.

## **Wed., June 16 Neka Bay**

Blue sky, water like glass. We woke next to a quintessential Alaskan scene, quiet waters, snow-capped peaks, a picture-perfect small island surrounded by bright crab pots, the season having just opened yesterday. Several arms of the bay were there for us to explore—afoot, in kayaks, or with guided interpretation in the skiffs.

First, we had to refuel, and today there was a choice of a Denver omelet or cinnamon-sprinkled pancakes. Bill (from Maine) gave a thumbs up to the maple syrup. For those strong ones today held the allure of all day





adventure, a whack and yak (bushwhack and kayak combo) led by another of our onboard naturalist guides, Moxie. Paddlers enjoyed calm waters in the morning, and the first skiff hit a high tide that allowed them to explore a long way upriver. Here in this wild country, we motored up several miles, surrounded by mountains, and scanned the sedge and mud flats for Brown Bears; instead we found American Robins and a group of 40+ Mallards. Nature always has twists that bring a smile—it was fun to run into old backyard friends in this wilderness setting. We got close to Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot and Harbor Porpoise. Cathie and a few others skiffed South Sound with naturalist Bobbie negotiating around crab pots for good views of Chimney Rock with multiple perched eagles.

Peg and Jon did a short seabird summary in anticipation of the next two days, with time in Icy Strait and Glacier Bay National Park, as Jon said, in the heart of the North Pacific stronghold for alcids. Of the world's 23 species we had a good chance at ten of them and we wanted to be ready. We went over some of their attributes and adaptations and then went species-by-species giving tips.

Lunch was a marinated tuna poke with edamame and fresh seaweed over rice, and there was a vegetarian option with similar presentation or a chicken sandwich. Time passed quickly and it was time to get in the skiffs again, off for more species and sightseeing. Right off the bat we went close to the island offshore as Peg had heard Black Oystercatchers when stepping out of her cabin. Several had long views from the ship, but in the skiffs, we were able to get quite close to them. On the first skiff there were also five handsome Harlequin Ducks amid the kelp-covered tidal rocks. Neka Bay is stunningly beautiful and while the wildlife overall was quiet, it was just grand to be out. We had a rain squall come through mid-afternoon with some wind and chop to the sea, then it passed on by, bringing out the sun again and perfect calm conditions, the sea as smooth as glass. A Bald Eagle carrying a large stick to add to its nest flew overhead. A flock of Bonaparte's Gulls were present morning and afternoon, only one adult in the 20-odd squadron, but all fun to watch with their agile flight and surface-plucking feeding style on display. Although these were non-breeders, this is the only gull species that nests regularly in trees—a reminder that there's still more to see in this northernmost US state.



Mid-afternoon, after a variety of walks, skiff rides and kayak time, it was time to pull the anchor and head on. We would retrace our route past Hoonah, working our way out of Neka Bay into the more open waters of Icy Strait turning northwest towards Gustavus and Pt. Adolphus. Though it had been reported to us that whale activity had not been particularly good here in the last years, on this night they put on quite a show, with fifteen or more in sight at one time, feeding in groups of three to five on all sides of us. Often, they were almost touching and when they'd dive, we'd see a succession of tail flukes, counting one, two, three... In the middle of the whales were two very cheeky Steller's Sea Lions. Watching as two whales blew and then curved their backs to dive, we would see a mighty leap from a Steller's timing its dive between the two behemoths, obviously bold and feeding within an easy touch of these giants. We stayed in the area about forty minutes watching another great whale show before continuing on.

We anchored in Shaw Bay in a quiet anchorage, then at dawn moved again over to the western edge of Icy Strait, as close to open ocean as we dared to go.

### **Thurs., June 17 Inian Islands | George's Islands | Glacier Bay National Park**

Bobby described today's geography—our location perched on the open ocean at the western end of Icy Straits as the epicenter of the Southeast's great wildness, with Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, and the Pacific Ocean all converging here. This spot marks the northernmost extent of Alaska's Inside Passage, from here on north its open ocean with little protection. Normally there would be five or more-foot-high seas here, rushing in with wild currents, tides, wind and chop. Even the Captain was amazed as today we found it like glass, even the open Pacific Ocean was flat! It seemed crazy to be able to navigate and use our small skiffs with such ease.

We started with a skiff ride in the Inian Islands, leaving our protected anchorage in Inian Cove and venturing out to an island used by Steller's Sea Lions for a haul out spot near tideline, then in its upper reaches Glaucous-winged Gulls were loafing, and on cliffs facing the ocean Black-legged Kittiwakes were nesting. Pelagic Cormorants traveled across this narrow straight to clefts in taller cliffs, bright in breeding plumage, their iridescent sheen was gorgeous. We saw a number of sea otters, and one seemed totally undisturbed by our presence, intent on grooming its luxurious fur. Sea otters are a "keystone species", controlling sea urchin populations which would otherwise inflict extensive damage to kelp forest ecosystems. With no blubber like other marine mammals, they keep warm in cold ocean waters through their dense fur, which has nearly one million hairs per sq in.

From here we went even farther out, anchoring across from the entrance to Elfin Cove at the George's Islands. Some of our travelers climbed up to a historic gun site from past military use of this strategic point. Others









meandered looking at tidepools, plants and birds, and two skiffs went out to circle the island for views of a natural arch and watched a protective

Black Oystercatcher boldly attack a Bald Eagle that entered its nest area. The oystercatcher called loudly, circled high, and actually hit the eagle where it perched in a tall conifer. As the eagle had raided a Glaucous-winged Gull nest just minutes before, it rightfully should be on the alert. Stressful parenting here at the edge of the world! We watched Pigeon Guillemots bathing and flying, and found a Belted Kingfisher which was a surprise on this remote rocky island. One skiff went farther out to a rocky islet and found a raft of about thirty Sea Otter, two of which had young pups on their breast, likely all would pup soon, and this nursery raft would afford them some protection when females needed to feed but had vulnerable young to leave at the surface as they did so.

Back on the ship we motored across Icy Strait. We did not see whales this time but saw numerous Sea Otter and Steller's Sea Lion and Harbor Porpoise. Jon spied a Parasitic Jaeger resting on the water in the path of the ship, it took off with powerful wing strokes and rose to where it was backed by distant snow-capped peaks of the Fairweather Range. During our festive Dungeness Crab dinner Karl spied a Black Bear working its way down the shore and many got good looks. We enjoyed songs by Phillip and Kevin, wonderful performers, during dinner thanks to a request by Peg.

Early evening we stopped in at Bartlett Cove and while the park visitor center was closed, there were no crowds and the Tlingit Tribal House was open as they had just done a presentation, and they park service rangers allowed us to come in and see the intricate carvings of the four clans that use this sacred site in their ancestral homeland. A moving film depicted bringing the massive carved clan poles that hold the high ceiling and rafters, carrying them reverently to the site, and showed how the people are using the building, how they welcome respectful visitation. It felt humbling to be within these walls. As we were on land anyone that wanted to, enjoyed a good walk, either a leisurely mile-long forest trail, or a more moderate four-mile loop back to a wetland. On the four-mile loop, the group got good looks at a Varied Thrush, a female Barrow's Goldeneye, and all heard a wonderful four thrush chorus: Varied, Hermit, and Swainson's Thrushes and American Robin. On the one-mile loop, a boardwalk trail on which we observed fresh Moose tracks, stately trees, a lush variety of mosses and understory plants and felt a great sense of peace. As darkness fell, we motored up into Glacier Bay National Park proper, expecting to wake up beside a tidewater glacier.

## **Fri., June 18    Glacier Bay National Park – Glaciers, Grizzly Bears, Puffins and more....**

We did indeed awake next to ice, motoring up to the Marjorie Glacier, an active tidewater type still calving big chunks of ice—incredible! Polly had missed the Grizzly early on in the trip and was elated when Jon found one at dawn today. After getting the news out, many of us had good views of the massive bear foraging on a hillside of rock, ice, and fresh green plants it was digging.





We went from Marjorie Glacier to another extraordinary site, near John Hopkins and Lamplugh Glaciers. Here we anchored and were able to go out by kayak, or skiff among the ice—wow! We had such fun, it was another glorious blue-sky day, a bit windy and fresh adjacent to all this ice, but we bundled up and were comfortable. An early skiff spied another Grizzly, feeding on mussels at the shore and then climbing up to dig for plants; the kayakers then got to see it too. These are big bears, and their coats shine with almost a bleached blond look to the reddish sheen. A later skiff got around the corner for a view of John Hopkins, a massive tidewater glacier still with a lot of ice to get to. In the ice were Kittlitz Murrelets which nest in boulder fields near glacier cirque basins—tough little birds! Two pairs of Long-tailed Duck were found here as well and many Harbor Seals.

And not to be outdone, it became a four-bear day, with views of two more! At Gloomy Knob we watched two, for some time, as they covered 800 or 1000 feet of elevation coming and going to the tide water line to dig up mussels. There were also Mountain Goats here, several with kids that were exploring the steep walls of their mountain realm. To watch bears from a distance that don't acknowledge our presence was so insightful, watching them move quickly over rough terrain in their purposeful search for food—they must have had a sense of when low tide would be and when mussels would be readily available. We watched one bear go straight down a steep mountainside, as simple as one of us getting out of the chair for a snack. Gloomy Knob brought us our first Tufted Puffins, too. There was a Black-legged Kittiwake nesting colony in view, and the puffins were in a raft not far away, perhaps a few found a crevice here to tuck a nest into as well.

The Grand Finale of this day was time around South Marble Island. We started watching for alcids on the way, catching a quick view of probable Cassin's Auklets, and then, near the island, we started seeing Tufted Puffins. We saw a lot of them and quite a bit of behavior, including a mating pair. Some were flying into grassy ledges



and disappearing to their nest sites. There were scores of huge Steller's Sea Lions hauled out here, the big males causing commotion as they moved around.

As we left here, we had the company of whales again, several large blows from humpbacks. Priscilla and Peg stayed out on deck despite the cold wind and had wonderful views of Pacific Loons trying to get out of the way of the boat. Heavy-bodied, they paddled fast atop the water, one caught flight but the others just left a trail of their wings on the water, making remarkably fast get-aways. By dinner time Captain Alan Leander was set to make time as we were heading back to Juneau. No one wanted the week to end!

Dawn, the guides and crew put on a wonderful final evening presentation, with readings and quotes and a marvelous show of images taken over the week. Now the smiles were friends, and the places were memories. We'd treasure both for some time to come.

## **Sat., June 19 Departure Day from Juneau**

The week went all too fast, and we'd never see another like it. With the absence of large cruise ships, we had Juneau to ourselves with the locals, on another sun-bright day. It had been raining that week in Juneau but not on our day, and the locals were out in force. We lucked on to it being the day of a Maritime festival and the locals were out for ceremonial dancing, drumming, enjoying food from local vendors and various demonstrations during the day. The US Coast Guard is headquartered here for Southeast Alaska, and they put on a rescue mission demonstration. We got to watch rescue swimmers jump from a helicopter and get picked back up...fascinating! Several of our group took the tram up, Bill, Cathie and Peggy all commented how "birdy" it was atop the tram on the trails. Lincoln's Sparrow was new for the trip here, singing away. Liz and Bob, down on the harbor, spied a colorful pair of Harlequin Ducks.

Again, we could store our gear in the Uncruise office, so we had some time for fun and to explore. While about half the travelers left today, including many of our group, quite a few stayed on. Peg, Peggy, Cathie and Bill dined on the porch of the Hanger, a restaurant with harbor view, and watched as the SS Legacy set sail again for another week of adventure.

## **Photo Credits:**

Sea Otter, Peg Abbott (PA); Steller's Sea Lion, PA; Sitka NH Park, PA; Neka Bay, PA; Gut Bay Scenic, PA; Patsy Ann Statue, PA; Pigeon Guillemot, PA; Sitka NH Park trail view, PA; Day 1 Sunset, PA; Dawn, PA; Gut Bay Kayaks, PA; Orca, PA; Day 2 scenic, PA; Thayer's Gull, PA; Day 2 Sundagger w/ Whales, PA; Humpback Whale Bubble feeding, PA; Day 2 sunset, PA; Orca, PA; Polly, Dori, Jon, Priscilla, PA; Bob on Deck, PA; Jon & Polly, PA; Humpback Whale, PA; Peggy Patrick and Peg, PA; Plant ID'ing, PA; Humpback Whale Tail, PA; Kelp Bay, PA; Common Loon, PA; Day 3 Sunset, PA; Bald Eagle, PA; Black Oystercatchers, PA; Marbled Murrelet, PA; Harbor Seal, PA; Neka Bay, PA; Neka Bay Skiff, PA; Crab Harvest, PA; Karl & Patrick on Deck, PA; Steller's Sea Lions, PA; Bonnaparte's Gull, PA; Bald Eagle, PA; Grizzly Bear, PA; Pelagic Cormorants, PA; Lunch!, PA; Glacial Bay Flowers, PA; Day 6 Sunset, PA; Glaucous Gull, PA; Tufted Puffin, PA; Legacy Glacier Bay, PA; Patrick Karl and Cathie, PA; Kittlitz Murrelet, PA.