



Holland America Line®  
SAVOR THE JOURNEY



Join Brian Sams and  
Wattletree Garden Tours  
on **The Great Alaska  
Explorer Cruise**

# ALASKA

## SAIL THROUGH A SEA OF BEAUTY BY EXPERTS

Holland America Line's long history in Alaska has led them to conclude that one of the best ways to experience the diversity of the Great Land is by sea. No other cruise line offers more exceptional cruise itineraries or more departures to Glacier Bay National Park, home to some of Alaska's most impressive tidewater glaciers, charming seaside towns and signature marine life.

# MAASDAM

The fifth Holland America Line ship in their 140+ year history to be named for the Netherlands's Maas River, *Maasdams* pays homage to the past, while embracing modern amenities. Guests can hone their skills with onboard cooking shows. Explore our world with BBC Earth Experiences. Relax with a refreshing spa treatment at Greenhouse Spa & Salon. And dine at your choice of speciality restaurants. Enjoy an unforgettable cruise holiday aboard *Maasdams* as she travels Alaska.



## EXC IN-DEPTH VOYAGES YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR PASSION

Calling all seasoned travellers who are curious and eager to find new ways to experience the world. With EXC In-Depth Voyages you will be able to connect with people and places in fascinating corners of the globe through the prism of your own personal interests and passions - be it photography, history, cuisine, arts or culture. Drink *kava* with a Fijian chief, learn how to photograph a hummingbird in action, explore the area closer in one of *Maasdams*' agile Zodiacs. Your way.



# 14 Day The Great Alaskan Explorer

Departing 24 August 2020 from Vancouver return onboard *Maasdam*



Board this convenient Vancouver roundtrip cruise and discover the Great Land by sea - from the Inside Passage to deep-blue Hubbard Glacier to the rustic ports of Homer and Kodiak.

## Day 1 Depart Vancouver (Depart 5pm)

Once a trading post and a rough-and-tumble sawmilling settlement, today modern Vancouver, Canada is many things. It's a bustling seaport, a hub for outdoor enthusiasts looking for active things to do. This afternoon set sail from the land of coffee and software (Seattle) and head north for a scenic cruising along Vancouver Island.

## Day 2 Scenic Cruising The Inside Passage (Cruising day)

Alaska's Inside Passage is a protected network of waterways that wind through glacier-cut fjords and lush temperate rain forests along the rugged coast of Southeast Alaska. Arguably one of the greatest cruising routes in the world, the Inside Passage stretches through stunning landscapes, from Misty Fjords National Monument to famed Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve.

Sailing the Inside Passage offers opportunities to spot some of Alaska's most iconic wildlife, with humpback whales and orca plying the bountiful waters alongside the ships, bald eagles soaring overhead and brown bears lumbering on the shoreline.

## Day 3 Ketchikan (Arrive 8am | Depart 5pm)

Alaska's "First City" of Ketchikan is so named because it's the first major landfall for most cruisers as they enter the picturesque fjords of the Inside Passage, where the town clings to the banks of the Tongass Narrows, flanked by green forests nurtured by abundant rain.

Ketchikan has long been an important hub of the salmon-fishing and -packing industries—visitors can try their luck on a sportfishing excursion or simply savour the fresh seafood at one of the local restaurants. It is also one of the best spots along the Inside Passage to explore the rich cultural sights of Native Alaskan nations like the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian.

## Day 4 Scenic Cruising Tracy Arm (Cruising day; Arrive 10am | Depart 6pm)

Steep cliffs and glacier-covered mountains flank this fjord, fringed by the largest intact coastal temperate rain forest in the United States. Old-growth trees colonised Tracy Arm's mouth long ago as the Ice Age retreated. But further up the sinuous 48-kilometre (30-mile) waterway, its icy grip lingers a little. There, the twin Sawyer Glaciers flow from the peaks down to the sea, sloughing off stories-high chunks of water frozen decades or even centuries before.

## Day 5 Haines (Arrive 8am | Depart 11pm)

There's a reason Haines is known as the adventure capital of Alaska. Although many cities in Alaska feel different than those in "the lower 48," Haines is more unusual than most with its unique rustic feel. It's almost as if time has stopped and chain stores, and even stoplights, haven't infiltrated this town of 1,300 that once topped Outside magazine's list of "20 Best Places to Live and Play."

Haines is a hotspot for rafting and hiking, salmon-, halibut- and trout-fishing in the Chilkat River or kayaking on Chilkoot Lake—as well as heli-skiing in the winter. During the late fall and early winter, thousands of bald eagles migrate through this area to feed on the salmon.

## Day 6 Icy Strait Point (Arrive 7am | Depart 12:30pm) & Inian Islands (Arrive 4pm | Depart 8pm)

Back in the old days when a freezer was a piece of ice, fishermen in Alaska had two problems. The first one was finding the fish, although that wasn't too complicated, the ocean was chock-full of fins; but the second problem was a little harder. The government regulated how long you could keep your catch on the boat, and it wasn't very long.

Canneries were the answer.

Canneries were usually somewhere beautiful, someplace you could see from far off and aim your boat towards. But canneries didn't survive the advent of refrigeration. Most were taken back by the forest or simply left to rot. With one exception: Icy Strait Point, beautifully restored. Just opposite Glacier Bay, Icy Strait Point stretches for a few hundred meters along the beach; the old wooden buildings, bright red in the endless green of the Tongass, now offer a museum and a cannery demo. But more interesting is simply the madness of scale. Icy Strait Point gives a chance to look into history to see where Alaska's money came from, all in a ghost town of millions of fish.

Located at the northernmost point where the Gulf of Alaska enters the Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska, the Inian Islands are prime feeding waters for a wide array of creatures, including sea lions, humpback whales and sea otters. This is Alaska at its most pristine and wild.

<b>Day 7 At Sea</b>	Settle in and order at drink at the Sea View Bar as you watch the scenery shift before your eyes, or enjoy the world-class entertainment and enriching activities onboard.
<b>Day 8 Anchorage</b> (Arrive 10am   Depart 10pm)	<p>After long and dark winters, Alaskans love their summers and the residents of Anchorage, Alaska are no exception. The city plants thousands of flowers to celebrate the arrival of warmer months and days that last as long as 19 hours from dawn to dusk.</p> <p>Much like Seattle, Anchorage is a place where you can find a coffee shop (or espresso shack) anywhere. Locals enjoy skjoring, a winter sport where a person is pulled on skis by one or more dogs or sometimes a horse. While some cities have deer, Anchorage has lots of moose, known for being a bit rambunctious (and should be steered clear of if seen wandering down a street).</p> <p>Anchorage is a city where you can see the northern lights—the aurora borealis—on a clear dark night, typically during colder months. There are also plenty of active things to do and attractions to hike, bike and see wildlife such as the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail or Flattop Mountain Trail inside Chugach State Park.</p>
<b>Day 9 Homer</b> (Arrive 8am   Depart 4pm)	<p>This plucky little town sells End of the Road certificates to visitors who've motored here to the furthest reach of the Kenai Peninsula. It's something worth celebrating: a drive down the world's longest street that protrudes into the ocean! But walkers, bikers and in-line skaters can also experience the thrill, thanks to a 6.5-kilometre-long (four-mile-long) paved multiuse trail.</p> <p>Today the area's known as the Halibut Fishing Capital of the World, and it captivates audiences around the globe as the home of the Discovery Channel's Kilcher family, made famous by Alaska: The Last Frontier. Homer's port also anchors the F/V Time Bandit, which swashbuckled into TV viewers' hearts via Deadliest Catch. Top Homer attractions include the Pratt Museum, the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Centre and hikes at Grewingk Glacier Lake.</p>
<b>Day 10 Valdez</b> (Arrive 10am   Depart 6pm)	A paradise for fishing enthusiasts, Valdez offers every kind of salmon, huge halibut and ample opportunity to reel them in. Rivers and streams spill into the Sound here and are ideal for kayaking.
<b>Day 11 Scenic Cruising Hubbard Glacier</b> (Arrive 1pm   Depart 5pm)	<p>Hubbard Glacier is up to 65 meters (213 feet) wide at its face and 50 meters (164 feet) tall, but that's only the tiniest piece of the ice: The main channel of this frozen river begins 122 kilometres (76 miles) back, pouring down from around the 3,400-meter (11,100-foot) mark off the shoulder of Mt. Walsh.</p> <p>Hubbard is the longest tidewater glacier (meaning it ends at the ocean) in North America. But unlike nearly every other tidewater glacier on the continent, Hubbard is advancing, not retreating; it's forever pushing a little further into the bay. Chunks of ice that break off become floaties for seals, who like the bergs because orca sonar doesn't work well among them.</p>
<b>Day 12 Juneau</b> (Arrive 11am   Depart 5pm)	<p>Juneau, may well be the most remote, most beautiful and strangest state capital in the United States. Surrounded by water, forest and mountain sights, visitors seeking things to do in Juneau indoors and outdoors can hike a glacier, eat fresh-caught fish on a seaside patio and tour a grand capitol building all in one day.</p> <p>But the real highlight of a visit to Juneau is tracking down some wildlife. You can hike up Mount Roberts to chance upon wild deer and bald eagles. Most sightseeing and whale-watching tours head north to Auke Bay—bring a good pair of binoculars to get the best view of these majestic and surprisingly graceful creatures. If you prefer land mammals, catch a floatplane to a nearby wildlife reserve such as Chichagof or Admiralty Island to spy some bears lolling around.</p>
<b>Day 13 Scenic Cruising Misty Fjords</b> (Arrive 1pm   Depart 6pm)	Sculpted by glaciers over millions of years, Misty Fjords' u-shaped "canals" wind through steep canyons of granite, shrouded in western hemlock, Sitka spruce and western red cedar. Misty Fjords is a part of Tongass National Forest and home to grizzlies, salmon, whales, mountain goats and deer.
<b>Day 14 Scenic Cruising Inside Passage</b>	Cruising Day
<b>Day 15 Arrive Vancouver</b> (Arrive 8am)	Enjoy one last breakfast onboard <i>Maasdam</i> before you disembark to fly home or continue on your travels.



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 visit [wattletreehorticulture.com.au](http://wattletreehorticulture.com.au) or call 07 4696 8033