



ALASKA KAYAKING BY JASON AND KRIS CARTER

# ALASKA

## Cordova: Exploring Alaska's Hidden Gem

9 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: JUN - SEP

*Discover the natural wonders and scenic beauty of the “Last Frontier” – Alaska! Perhaps no place fills the senses more than Cordova, Alaska’s hidden treasure. Cordova is a small, coastal town surrounded by glacier-carved mountains and nestled at the head of Orca Inlet in Eastern Prince William Sound. The area will dazzle you with wildlife, rich wetlands, lush forests, and countless waterways. Explore the natural grandeur with exciting activities such as hiking, kayaking, wildlife photography, boating, flightseeing, and more. Each day you’ll enjoy hearty meals – home-cooked with local ingredients and plenty of fresh seafood – and stay in a cozy ecolodge.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike through three complete ecosystems on the Heney Ridge Trail, where birds and wildlife can be spotted.
- Visit the massive Childs Glacier, the Copper River Delta, and the famous Million Dollar Bridge.
- Fly to explore Egg Island, a barrier island hosting a variety of bird species.
- Take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet to see the world’s largest population of sea otters.
- Kayak the tranquil waters of Orca Inlet, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and home to sea otters and seals.
- Participate in a discussion on global warming before heading to the Sheridan Glacier for an ice trekking excursion.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



HIKING BY DEBBIE JORDAN





## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - ANCHORAGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage travel on your own by shuttle to the hotel. Meals are not included on your arrival day. Bed sharing is required at this hotel. *Overnight at Comfort Inn Ship Creek.*

### DAY 2 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, have some time to explore Anchorage. Alaska's most populated city began as a tent settlement; then, in 1915, a government land auction jumpstarted development into a town. The historic downtown, site of the 1915 auction, is approximately 15 minutes' walking distance from the hotel. In the afternoon, take the shuttle to the airport for the quick afternoon flight to Cordova. Cordova is inaccessible by road from any other Alaskan towns, so flight or ferry is the only way to travel there. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to the lodge, enjoying some initial sights along the way, including swan nests on the delta and Cordova's town center. Please note: All activities are subject to accessibility, road conditions, and weather. A suitable alternative will be arranged if any activities are cancelled for reasons outside our control. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BD)*

### DAY 3 - CORDOVA

Today enjoy a scenic hike through the Heney Ridge Trail for excellent birdwatching, wildlife spotting, and

rainforest exploration. Hike through three complete ecosystems in the trail's seven-mile route, including spruce-hemlock forest and muskeg areas. The hike culminates on the Heney Ridge itself, with gorgeous views of the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound, and Kayak Delta below. As this activity is the most strenuous of the program, there will be additional guides to accommodate different levels of hikers in the group. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, take a boat trip to the panoramic Orca Inlet, where you will have the opportunity to see the world's largest population of sea otters and observe their interactions within the pod. Your guide for the day has been involved in sea otter studies for 15 years. Afterward, stop at a remote beach for a short hike to explore tide





pools. Then head to Hinchinbrook Island for lunch at another beautiful secluded beach. After lunch, visit a kittiwake colony to observe these nesting sea birds. In the late afternoon, return to town and visit the Cordova Historical Museum and Eyak Museum and Cultural Center. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, depart for a full day tour of the Copper River Delta, including the highlight of the day, the massive Childs Glacier. (\*Please note: This activity is dependent on road accessibility.) Keep an eye out for moose, eagles, and bear as you travel by bus through the scenic Chugach National Forest to the 27-mile point of the Copper River Delta Highway, and across the river. Transfer to a van and continue your journey into the park across from the towering Childs Glacier, then to the famous Million Dollar Bridge. Originally built in 1909 to convey copper to the Port of Cordova, this now-inaccessible bridge is an iconic feature against the backdrop of Wrangell-St. Elias Park and the Miles Glacier. Near the bridge, visit the sonar station manned by three researchers who spend their entire field season living completely cut off from the outside world. The researchers will explain sonar and demonstrate its use in fishery management. Then, head to the viewing area of Childs Glacier. Enjoy lunch by the glacier while listening to the powerful sounds of huge ice chunks crashing into the river less than a quarter of a mile away. Tonight enjoy a salmon barbecue for dinner. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - CORDOVA

This morning take a 10-minute flight, traveling Alaskan-style, to explore Egg Island. This barrier island hosts a wide variety of bird species, including the largest population of Glaucous-winged Gulls found anywhere. During your exploration and short hike of the island, participate in an ongoing study or gather data for a local biologist. After lunch, take a short hike along the beach. Return to the lodge in the early afternoon for a kayaking adventure in Prince William Sound. As you paddle through Orca Inlet, take in majestic views of snow-capped peaks and be on the lookout for eagles, sea otters,

and seals. In the late afternoon, attend a discussion on the life cycle of salmon and their importance to the Cordova economy. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - CORDOVA

After breakfast, your guide will give a talk on plate tectonics and the geological characteristics of the region. The Prince William Sound area has undergone dramatic changes in recent decades, largely due to the Great Alaskan Earthquake that struck in 1964. Lasting four minutes and 38 seconds, the 9.2-magnitude earthquake ruptured 600 miles of fault line in an instant, and ultimately gave conclusive evidence to seismologists about the existence and behavior of plate tectonics. Look

at specific, unique geological formations and rock samples, then engage in a discussion on global warming before heading to Sheridan Glacier for an ice trekking excursion. Sheridan Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska, and after a short hike through the moraine, you'll find yourself standing on ancient ice. View crystal blue caves and jagged crevasses and an ever-changing terrain, then assist the Prince William Sound Science Center by placing monitoring stations on the ice to help collect data on glacial melt rates and movement. *Overnight at Orca Adventure Lodge. (BLD)*



BALD EAGLE BY JERRY GOFFE | NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

## DAY 8 - ANCHORAGE

Enjoy the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight back to Anchorage. Upon arrival in Anchorage, you will be met by a driver who will take you to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) in Portage. Dedicated to conservation, research, and education, the AWCC is a wildlife sanctuary that takes in and rehabilitates injured animals on 200 acres of natural habitat. Most cannot be fully released into the wild, and thus serve as ambassadors for the preservation of their species. Return to Anchorage to explore the historical downtown, including the Museum of History and Art. You will have time for dinner on own before transferring to the airport for your flight home. *(BL)*

## DAY 9 - ARRIVAL

Arrive home following your overnight flight.

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$2,595** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$2,795** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

Airfare to and from Alaska, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.*

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Alaska will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at [www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel](http://www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel). We hope to hear from you.



*This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND BY JIUGUANG WANG



GRIZZLY BEAR PLAYTIME



CHUGACH NATIONAL PARK BY DEBBIE JORDAN