

Alaska Sea Adventures

Yacht Charters & Cruises



Alaska Sea Adventures Fall Newsletter 2007

Information to help you make the most of your Alaska adventure - Share with your friends!

Fall 2007

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Dear Friends,



Toni and I enjoyed our eighth wonderful season this year. Alaska Sea Adventures now has over three decades of operation in beautiful southeast Alaska! For those milestones we are very grateful, but for us as we enter this season of reflection, we are most thankful for the relationships we have built with clients over that time.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, we cruised the amazing waters of Alaska's Inside Passage and were gifted with not only the incredible sights and experiences in many familiar locations, but many new ones, too. It is exciting to realize there are still seemingly infinite, exciting new locations within the islands yet to be "discovered." It is always our pleasure to share this magic with our wonderful clientele, and we sincerely hope, (if you haven't already), you'll become one of the privileged few to truly experience the magic and wonders of southeast Alaska onboard the *Alaska Adventurer!*

Many of our guests wonder what it is like to live here year round. Fall is certainly a transitional time of year in Petersburg. We've had no snow yet as of the 10th of November, but just to the north of us, Juneau already has a couple of inches. Temperatures here are still ranging between the mid 30's to lower 40's (degrees Fahrenheit.)

During this typically wet season, one of the most exciting occurrences (at least for me) is the return of the whales to

the eastern part of Frederick Sound. They forage on the immense build-up of krill which happens this time of the year, and the whales hang out here through December. Toni and I have been enjoying watching their deep diving and infrequent breaches right out in front of our home. It's fantastic to listen to their heavy breaths, and their occasional calls and "trumpet blasts" day and night. In fact, it's not at all uncommon to wake up and hear (or be awakened by) their vocalizing at any time during the night.

This year we have also been treated to the sight of a terrific number of beautiful ice bergs drifting by the near shoreline, as well watching as they flow into the Wrangell Narrows and on past the boat harbor. The bergs are fun to watch as they float by and occasionally become stranded on the beach out front. But these bergs can move quite quickly with the swift tides and can become a navigational hazard for skiffs and small boats transiting the area. The residents who live on Kupreanof Island across the "Narrows" from Petersburg commute by skiff to and from Petersburg. Now that the days are shorter, they pay extra special heed for these potentially dangerous bergs, especially in the dark.

As I compose this letter listening to the whales, I'm reminded of all that makes life so enjoyable to live here and all else that we need to be thankful for. There is no doubt each one of you has your own pleasant rewards and gratifications that will be remembered at Thanksgiving. Toni and I wish you all the most pleasant times as you share your abundance of reminiscences and gratitude with family and friends at this special time of year.

Sincerely,

Captain Dennis Rogers

PS: I can't wait to show you all the beauty, wonders and magic of southeast Alaska! Be sure to check out our exciting schedule line up for 2008 and let's get aboard the *Alaska Adventurer!* Together, we'll cruise, explore and discover even more of the Inside Passage!



A Photographer's Dream!

Access to Southeast Alaska's Most Scenic Locations and Amazing Wildlife is Only Available by Overnight Yacht Voyages on the *Alaska Adventurer*!

Alaska Sea Adventures continues to develop a growing reputation among professional and amateur photographers from around the globe as the premier choice for accessing very remote, scenic areas of Alaska's Inside Passage. These locations provide fantastic opportunities to capture incredible images of wildlife and their behavior, glacial fjords with towering, calving glaciers and ice bergs, dense temperate old growth rainforest, and pristine shoreline landscapes. Our special photography trips are packed with incredibly beautiful scenic locations and amazing wildlife, all accessible only by overnight yacht voyage.

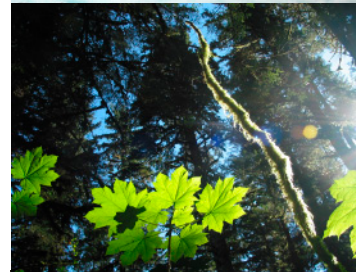
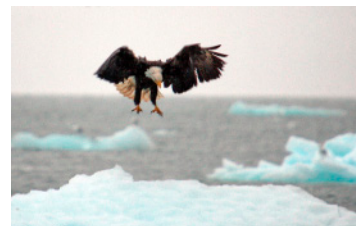
This is the specialty of Alaska Sea Adventures!

For 2008, we will offer five unique photography adventures on eight exciting trips. We'll start out 2008 with a Trilogy of Spring Trips highlighting the once-a-year only *Spring Extravaganza*.

Our first two trips in early April on the Stikine River will have a focal point of the largest spring gathering of Bald eagles. Kevin Loughlin with Wildside Tours leads this exciting unusual adventure. Kevin will also lead the 3rd and 4th photography trips during the last week of April and first week of May to Hoonah Sound and Seymour Canal, respectively. These adventures will feature photo ops in spectacular settings where marine wildlife will be celebrating a spring extravaganza of herring predation of an unbelievable magnitude.

You'll witness and photograph the drama of humpback whales performing the extraordinary cooperative "bubble-net" feeding behavior unique to the whales of this area, seals and sea lions rushing magnificent schools of herring along the shoreline, sea otters, bald eagles, and a host of seabirds all in the incredible seasonal performance of predator seeking prey.

Southeast Alaska is the only place in the world where humpback whales cooperatively bubble-net feed!



One can travel the world over in search of the most scenic locations and exotic wildlife events. But if you are a photographer, you owe it to yourself to experience southeast Alaska's majestic glaciers, pristine wilderness and shorelines, scenic panoramas, as well as the opportunity to photograph wildlife in one of the world's best locations for whale photography, right here in the U.S.!

Alaska Sea Adventures is your ticket to incredible wildlife and nature photography trips in the magical waterways and islands of Alaska's Inside Passage.

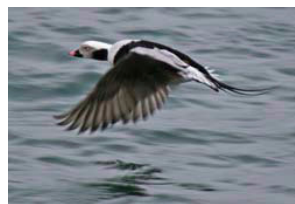
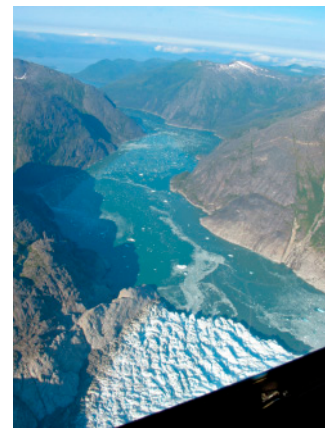
2008 Focus on Whales Trip Highlights

This coming summer, Alaska Sea Adventures will celebrate the seventh year of our July “Focus on Whales” adventures guided by Jim Nahmens, and Dr. Adam Pack with the Dolphin Institute in Hawaii. These exciting voyages have really been a lot of fun for everyone - they are among the most popular cruises each year – photographers and whale aficionados from around the world comprise our guest list.

Observing the whales up close and photographing their amazing cooperative “bubble-net” feeding behavior is one of the main highlights of these trips. These adventures also include an interesting mix of visits to glaciers, beach and forest exploration and a host of other wildlife photography opportunities which provides a well rounded photographic and Alaskan experience.

2008 Late Season Gathering of the Whales Trip Highlights

We'll conclude our year of photography trips and workshops with an unusual, fantastic expedition to a special location on Admiralty Island National Monument. Here is where we find a rare, late season gathering of humpback whales near the end of November. There are typically between one and two hundred whales all grouped together feasting on an abundance of krill. The whales put on their last important pounds of blubber before migrating back to Hawaii for the winter. The fantastic low light angles at that time of the season coupled with a wintry backdrop and a large number of whales create some of the most surreal and exclusive photographic sessions. Watch for more about these fall 2008 trips in the next Alaska Sea Adventures newsletter.



Magic sunrise fog and ice

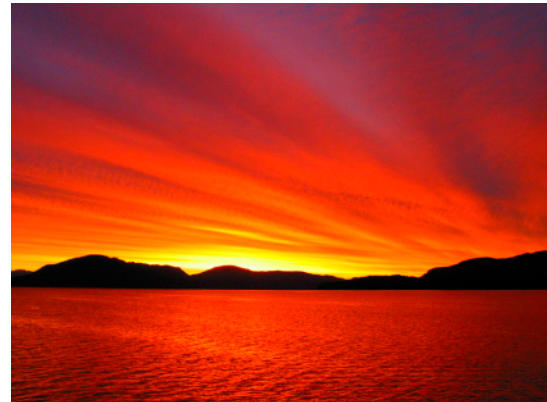


*Jim Nahmens
“Sumdum Guide”*



*Giant Alaska spot prawn -
freshly caught - Yum!*

Late November sunrise, Seymour Canal



Alaska Sea Adventures Presents a Trilogy of Spring Trips - *A Spring Extravaganza!*

Every spring, the Inside Passage rewards visitors with amazing spectacles of wildlife activity! As the weather warms and the ice moves out, the herring and eulachon run, attracting eagles, bears and sea mammals. Ice fields and tidewater glaciers add to the mystic diversity and stunning scenery.

Southeast Alaska, the ‘panhandle’ portion of the state, is made up of the Alexander Archipelago and a strip of mainland bordering British Columbia and Yukon Territories. Nearly all of its 40,000 sq. miles is comprised of the Tongass National Forest—the largest U.S. National Forest and a major part of the world’s largest remaining temperate rain forest.

Accessible only by air or boat, this remote region has a sparse human population of about 70,000 located in a handful of scattered towns and villages. Rich in visible wildlife—bear, moose, sea lions, seabirds, and so much more—it’s a rare place where the population ratio of people to bears is about 2 to 1. This was renowned naturalist, John Muir’s, favorite place!

Alaska Sea Adventures is proud to present a trilogy of exciting, *exclusive* spring trips. Call to book your cabin now because space is limited on each of these trips. We’ll see you on the *Alaska Adventurer* as we all take part in the exciting Spring Extravaganza, my favorite time of year!

Captain Dennis Rogers

Trip I: Stikine River Eagles with Wildside Tours & Kevin Loughlin

Considered one of the last truly wild rivers in North America, the Stikine River drains a rugged pristine area east of the Coast Mountains, cutting a fast-flowing course in deep glacier-lined gorges to empty into an inlet in the Alexander Archipelago.

The name of the river comes from its Tlingit name Shtax’ Héen, meaning “cloudy river.” The Stikine enters Frederick Sound across from Mitkof Island. Its shallow delta offers huge mud flats at low tide, inviting migratory shorebirds to stop and feed. As the river ice breaks up during the warming trend in April, the eulachon spawning run begins. Locally known as “hooligans” these small, fat-rich fish attract Bald Eagles by the thousands for the largest Springtime gathering of eagles anywhere!

We will explore the Stikine’s shallow delta and venture upriver via Jetboat to discover incredible wildlife photography opportunities. Eagles, moose, sea lions and many species of waterfowl will grace our lenses... all with the spectacular backdrop of Southeast Alaska’s pristine Inside Passage scenery!



Nature photographer and naturalist Kevin Loughlin has been organizing and leading birding and photo tours in the Americas since 1993. His images and/or articles have been seen in numerous newspapers, Audubon, Wildbird and Philadelphia Magazines as well as the Take A Walk series of books to help educate children about the natural world.



From our base aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*, we will also visit the quaint island community of Wrangell. Here we will search for ancient rock art along the rugged coastline.

Just north of the mouth of the Stikine lies the entrance to LeConte Bay. At low tide, stranded icebergs become a surreal landscape calling for wide angle lenses and a creative eye. We will venture to the source of these icebergs—LeConte Glacier... the fastest moving river of ice in North America! Join us on this incredible eagle and ice filled photographic journey!

Six people only - be one of the few on this exclusive trip!

April 1 - 8, 2008 - Trip A028

7 days/6 nights on boat + 1 guided shore day

Adventure Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Suite
n/a	\$3,995	\$3,995	\$4,495

April 11 - 18, 2008 - Trip A038

7 days/6 nights on boat + 1 guided shore day

Adventure Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Suite
n/a	\$3,995	\$3,995	\$4,495

Trip II: Hoonah Sound Herring Spawn - Whales and Photography

This trip, which is guided by wildlife photographer Kevin Loughlin of Wildside Tours, is limited to a select group of six persons only and departs from the lovely seaside port of Sitka on April 21st and returns to the quaint fishing town of Petersburg April 28th where the group will have an additional day to explore Petersburg and Mitkof Island.

Hoonah Sound is located about 30 miles north of Sitka within a scenic, sheltered area of southern Chichagof Island. This is the setting for a truly remarkable springtime event. We'll find sea otters, humpback whales, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles a host of gulls and a myriad of sea birds all waiting for that special moment – the annual arrival of the Pacific herring! The herring have gathered here in astonishing numbers to lay their eggs within the rich protected intertidal areas of the Alaska Inside Passage shoreline in the very locations selected long ago and used over eons of time. With the arrival of the herring, there is an amazing festival of wildlife.

The scenes of sea otters lazily floating in a spectacular setting, humpback whales performing the rare cooperative 'bubble-net' feeding lunges as they gorge on herring, bald eagles diving with talons outstretched to capture the shallow swimming herring, seals and sea lions rushing through great schools of herring gathered along the shoreline and a host of other birds all present to take part in a bountiful annual feast, are thrilling indeed.

Hoonah Sound is also the location of a unique commercial fishery. The herring spawn-on-kelp fishery produces a beautiful appearing delicacy extremely prized in Japan known as Kazunoko Konbu. The fishery is a rare sight to behold as tons of herring are held by the fishermen in net compounds until the egg laden herring delicately apply their ripe eggs to the kelp leaves suspended in the enclosure. The long kelp fronds covered in thick golden herring eggs create the specialty seafood Kazunoko Konbu, a very succulent expensive treat.

Spring but comes just once a year. Be one of the very few to witness this event. Book now for this thrilling trip, Spring Extravaganza 2008!

April 21 - 28, 2008 - Trip A048

8 days/7 nights on boat + 1 guided shore day

Adventure Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Suite
n/a	\$3,650	\$3,650	RSVD

Trip III: Seymour Canal - Whales and Photography

Imagine observing a developing scenario of huge schools of Pacific herring by the thousands of tons gathering along a spectacular Alaska shoreline waiting for their eggs to ripen and climatic conditions to become just right for them to spawn their eggs.

Pacific herring are the center of attention as this drama unfolds attracting a host of amazing wildlife that creates an incredible show of nature as predator pursues prey along a beautiful isolated Alaska shoreline. The high caloric, oil-rich herring are a critical part of the diet for humpback whales, orca, harbor seals, bald eagles plus a myriad of gulls and sea birds that require highly nutritious fish to replenish body reserves severely exhausted through winter survival.

While the eagles soar and circle overhead, Steller sea lions and humpback whales cruise near the shoreline before rushing and lunging through the huge schools of herring gathering there...

You can witness all of the action just off the bow and capture images close up of this magnificent annual spring time festival of nature!

People search the world over for unique locations and amazing events. Alaska Sea Adventures is proud to offer these exciting, exclusive spring cruises. Secure your place aboard the *Alaska Adventurer* for this amazing Alaska spring festival of nature - a SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA!

This exclusive trip, which is guided by wildlife photographer Kevin Loughlin of Wildside Tours, is limited to a select group of six persons.

April 30 - May 7, 2008 - Trip A058

8 days/7 nights on boat + 1 guided shore day

Adventure Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Explorer Cabin	Suite
n/a	\$3,650	\$3,650	RSVD

Capture rare amazing images of the drama of remote wild Alaska as predator pursues prey!



ASA Marine Debris Clean-up

As we cruise the scenic Alaska waterways, it's been our heartfelt duty to keep an eye out for dangerous marine debris that is floating or washed ashore. This debris can, and often does become a serious threat to wildlife. Marine debris does not enhance, and certainly takes away from the beauty of this magnificent region.



During our summer cruises this past summer we did extricate a fair amount of floating debris, and just on our 'Focus on Whales' voyage in July, we collected a nice pile as exhibited in this photo. It is also worth mentioning that 2007 was a noteworthy year - there actually was a lack of entangled whales and other marine mammals in southeast Alaska. That's great news!

2008 Available Dates

If you haven't made reservations yet with us for next summer, there are still a few open dates for an awesome custom charter, and a few cabins open on exciting guided adventures. Below is a current list of trips with space still available, *but they're filling up...for current schedule, check website often - www.yachtalaska.com*

Guided Trips - By the Cabin

Stikine River Eagles & Ice with Wildside Tours/Trip #A028

April 1st - 8th, 2008 / **ONLY 3 cabins open**

Stikine River Eagles & Ice with Wildside Tours/Trip #A038

April 11th - 18th, 2008 / **ONLY 3 cabins open**

Hoonah Sound Whales & Herring Spawn/Kazunoko Konbu/Trip #A048

April 21st- 28th, 2008/ **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Seymour Canal Whales & Herring Spawn/Trip #A058

April 30th-May 7th, 2008 / **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Focus on Whales Photography with Dr Adam Pack/Hawaii's Dolphin Institute/ Trip #A128

July 5th 12th, 2008 / **ONLY 1 cabin open**

Focus on Whales Photography with Jim Nahmens aka 'Sumdum Guide'/Trip #A138

July 14th - 21st, 2008 / **ONLY 1 cabin open**

Late Season Whales Photography/Research Adventure/Trip #A238

Pre-migration whale concentration!

November 8th - 13th, 2008 / **ONLY 2 cabins open**

**Charter the Alaska Adventurer
for the Ultimate Family Vacation!**

Custom Charter Dates - Whole Yacht

May 19th 28th, 2008/10 days/Trip #A078

Glaciers/Seal pupping/Photography/Adventure

August 8th -15th, 2008/8 days/Trip #A168

Whales/Photography/Fishing/Glaciers/Icebergs/Adventure

August 26th -September 1st, 2008/7 days/Trip #A188

Whales/Photography/Fishing/Inside Passage Adventure



**It's not too
early to
book your
trips for
2009!**



Recipe - Black Cod Sake Kasu

Fresh Alaska seafood is a regular feature aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*. The abundance of quality Alaska seafood is something that we like to share with our guests and is also the lifeblood of the economy of our unique home port, Petersburg. One of my personal favorite choices of seafood is sablefish, or more commonly known as black cod. It is actually not in the cod family of fish - it lives at tremendous depths of between 600 feet to over 3000 feet and is unfortunately, well out of range of our recreational fishing gear. Chatham Strait black cod's delicate white flesh is renowned for its sumptuous rich flavor and high oil content, and is loaded with mighty omega 3 fatty acids which health experts recommend we consume regularly as part of an ideal healthy diet.



This recipe, Sake Kasu Black Cod, is one of my choice methods to prepare this wonderfully scrumptious fish. Because the majority of the commercial catch of this delectable deep dwelling specie is exported to Japan where it is highly prized, it can be difficult to locate black cod in seafood markets. One of the best sources for high quality black cod as well as other fine seafood that's delivered right to your door, is our friends at Vital Choice Wild Seafood and Organics: www.VitalChoice.com.

The other main ingredient for this amazing recipe is sake kasu, which is a marinade made from the lees or solids remaining from the sake fermenting process that did not or could not be fermented. Kasu paste or prepared sake kasu



marinade can be found at Asian food markets. The importance of care given to absolutely insure that overcooking any seafood can't be stressed enough, and is especially true with black cod which is a very delicate fish. Be sure to find the opportunity to treat yourself and friends to this wonderful preparation. You'll be glad you did! Enjoy...

Black Cod Sake Kasu

Ingredients:

2 to 2-1/2 lbs. Black Cod fillet, skin on, bones removed, cut into 4 serving pieces
1/2 cup kosher or table salt, more if needed
6 oz. (3/4 cup) kasu paste (available at Asian markets)
1/3 cup sugar
3/4 cup water

Fresh ginger, thinly sliced and blanched, or pickled ginger for serving

Directions: Place black cod pieces skin side down in a shallow dish. Sprinkle a generous layer of salt over the fish, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. Rinse the salt from the fish and pat dry, then return the fish to the cleaned dish. Stir together the kasu paste and sugar in a small bowl until smooth. Slowly stir in the water. Pour the kasu mixture evenly over the fish, cover, and refrigerate for another 24 - 48 hours. Turn on grill or light coals.

When grill is very hot, remove black cod from the marinade, allowing excess to drip off. Grill fish until nicely browned and just cooked through, about 5 minutes per side. Carefully transfer to individual plates, top with fresh or pickled ginger, and serve. Makes 4 servings.



Featured Lodging in Petersburg, Alaska

Petersburg Alaska has a very nice selection of lodging accommodations including two hotels and nearly two dozen quality bed and breakfast locations. Beginning with this issue of our newsletter, each edition will feature information about one of the unique lodging accommodations. All of Petersburg's lodging choices can be viewed at any time on the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce web site. www.Petersburg.org. We hope our readers will find this service interesting and a reference for future trips with Alaska Sea Adventures.

One of my personal favorite B&B's is *Sea Level Bed & Breakfast* because of its unique location right on the water along Wrangell Narrows, and its convenient location, only blocks to downtown Petersburg.

As well as having an extraordinarily fantastic location literally right on Wrangell Narrows, another nice feature of Sea Level B&B is that it's one of the rare Petersburg Bed & Breakfast establishments that doesn't have a two night minimum. Even more, guests will find Sea Level B&B owner Jean Ellis an extremely friendly and accommodating host with an abundant wealth of local knowledge from her lifetime in the Petersburg area.

Sea Level Bed & Breakfast, a brand new deluxe Alaskan B&B on Wrangell Narrows in Petersburg, Alaska, was designed to look like a renovated warehouse. However, it is all new construction. The B&B portion is made up of two rooms, each with a private outside entrance. They can be rented separately or together using the connecting door. The large front room includes a sitting area, dining table, kitchen unit, bathroom with tub, and a king bed that can be configured into two twins. The smaller room has a queen size bed and bathroom with shower. Each room has a telephone, cable TV and VCR or DVD. Both rooms feature large picture windows for a close up view of seabirds, eagles, seals, sea lions and active boat traffic. Humpback and Killer Whales sometimes frolic right in front of this one-of-a-kind lodging.

Note: Reservations made before the end of the year will lock in 2007 pricing which Jean anticipates increasing for 2008 reservations. Jean tells us summer dates fill quickly so don't wait!



Alaska Sea Adventures

Yacht Charters & Cruises



Don't Miss Alaska Sea Adventures Trilogy of Spring Trips 2008 - *A Spring Extravaganza!*



"What a great trip! Lots of birds (especially Bald Eagles), seals and sea lions, humpbacks and orcas, wildflowers and icebergs, good weather and good companions-and lots of laughs along with the good food.. Thanks!" -Elizabeth W.



"WOW! What a wonderful experience! The whale watching surpassed my expectations. Dennis, you are a wonderful host, the boat is comfortable, the food was great, and I loved it all. Thank you very much. I hope we can do this again." -Gaylen G.



"Great fishing, food and hospitality! Would do it again in a heartbeat...." -Dr. Stephen Sinatra

www.YachtAlaska.com phone: US/CAN: 1-888-772-8588 International: 1-907-772-4700 email: info@yachtalaska.com

Alaska Sea Adventures
P.O. BOX 542
Petersburg, AK 99833