

# DESTINATION:



## ALASKA - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

### Sitka, Alaska to Vancouver, British Columbia

**Sitka, Alaska:** Enjoy our complimentary stay at the pre-cruise hotel. The evening is open to become acquainted with the city. Representatives from American Queen Voyages and our local port/city partner will be available to provide guests with dining, entertainment and sightseeing options to maximize their time here.

Sitka is a picturesque seaport sitting opposite snow-capped Mount Edgecumbe on the west coast of Alaska's Baranof Island. It is 185 miles northwest of Ketchikan. Sitka's original inhabitants were the Tlingits tribe, who called the village "Shee Atika." Sitka is a contraction of the Tlingit name, which translates to "People on the outside of Baranof Island." Sitka is a place of many traditions. You'll immediately recognize the distinctive Russian domes of the churches, but the downtown area was settled by the Tlingit people more than 10,000 years ago. Today, Sitka is known for its many historic visitor attractions and the wild creatures who make Alaska a place unlike any other. St. Michael's Redoubt trading post and fort were built here by the explorer Alexander Baranof of the Russian-American Company. Tlingits burned down the fort and looted the warehouse in 1802. In 1804, the Russians retaliated by destroying the Tlingit Fort. This was the last major stand by the Tlingits against the Russians, and the Indians evacuated the area until about 1822. By 1808, Sitka was the capital of Russian Alaska. Baranof was Governor from 1790 - 1818. During the mid-1800s, Sitka was the major port on the north Pacific coast, with ships calling from many nations. Furs destined for European and Asian markets were the main export, but salmon, lumber and ice were also exported to Hawaii, Mexico and California. After the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867, the Russian flag was replaced by the Stars and Stripes.

**Kake & Fredrick Sound, Alaska:** The towering totem pole, the largest ever carved from a single tree, stands sentinel over this ancient village located at the tip of Kupreanof Island along Frederick Sound and Keku Strait. Experience the culture of Kake on this traditional tour of the town. In Kake, the community is everything. As you explore, you'll be welcomed with warmth by the Tlingit residents and encouraged to participate in their long-standing traditions. Just a short walk from the dock is the community hall, where a carving or weaving demonstration will take place. Then, step out onto the dancefloor where local dancers will perform traditional songs and dances. The journey continues to one of Kake's most well-known attractions, the world's largest one-tree totem! Gaze upon the intricately carved structure as the history and tales of Tlingit legends are told by your local guide. Explore the authentic community at your leisure, visit the hatchery where you might get the chance to spot bears congregating, or acquire handcrafted native art directly from the craftsman.

**Tracy Arm & Endicott Arm, Alaska:** Tracy Fjord is situated approximately 45 miles south of Juneau and is only accessed via boat or float plane, making "getting there" part of the adventure. But it's well worth the effort as Tracy is oft-considered the most majestic of all of the Alaskan fjords. The term "fjord" means a long, narrow deep-water inlet surrounded by towering cliffs and the Tracy Arm Fjord is a stunning example. You'll also be privy to one-of-kind, 1,000-foot waterfalls, marine and terrestrial wildlife, snow-topped mountains, and floating glaciers. A glacier is a body of dense ice that is constantly moving under its own weight. Currently, this part of Alaska is experiencing a 10-year warming cycle. Since ship emissions contribute pollutants to the warming, take comfort in knowing that Ocean Victory is powered by the most environmentally friendly diesel engines that exist today and an innovative X-bow design, proven to increase fuel economy as the hull slices through the waves to help reduce slamming and vibration.

**Petersburg, Alaska:** The population has remained stable with fishing still the main source of income. About 3,100 people live here year-round, with seasonal variation due to summertime cannery workers, deckhands, and fishermen. The commercial fishing industry is the largest employer, with others in retail business, borough, state and federal agencies, visitor industry and logging. Our included tour offers a taste of the local Norwegian culture and cuisine at Sons of Norway Hall, on National Register of Historic Places. Choose from three optional premium excursions: 1) Aboard a jet boat, glide through LeConte Bay to LeConte Glacier for an up-close look at the southernmost tidewater glacier. 2) Enjoy a day fishing in hopes of reeling in Alaska's famous Salmon, Rock Cod, or Halibut. 3) Head to United States Forest Service land to dig and break apart rocks as you mine for ruby red garnet, a tradition for many local families.

**Waterfall Coast (Gut Bay) Alaska:** Our cruising area - along Baranof Island's eastern coast - is known as the "Waterfall Coast" due to the large number of waterfalls cascading down from the high mountain peaks. Some trickle, some thunder, some simply splash merrily to the sea. Exploration is the order of the day. You can select from both indoor and on-deck observation perspectives aboard Ocean Victory, or if you prefer to be up-close, at the water level, you can jump in a kayak or aboard a Zodiac.

**Wrangell, Alaska:** Spend a full day in picturesque Wrangell as you are welcomed by Alaskans whose ancestors have lived on this island for thousands of years. On your included tour, discover the history and how the Tlingit culture continues to thrive here. Enter the Chief Shakes Tribal House, where you are invited guests. Here, each wooden plank was carved by traditional Tlingit methods. Then, at the Wrangell Museum, learn the events that led to the late 19th century boom at the onset of the Gold Rush. Uncover mysteries at the 8,000-year-old site of Petroglyph Beach, home to more than 40 ancient petroglyphs (rock carvings). Take home your own petroglyph to remember your time combing through the sand.

**Misty Fjords, Alaska:** Bigger isn't always better. The large cruise ships that visit Alaska typically offer this as an extra-cost Tongass National Forest excursion from the port of Ketchikan, two hours each way by small boat. Your experience will be markedly different as Ocean Victory can deftly navigate the Revillagigedo Channel, transporting you directly to Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness in great comfort. Misty Fjords takes its name from the precipitation characteristic of the area. The soaring granite cliffs that greet you are 50 to 70 million years old. Yes, million. Ancient glaciers scrubbed deep troughs through this wilderness, leaving a scenic geological wonder. Today you will also see New Eddystone Rock - a basalt pillar rising from the sea - which is a remnant of long-ago volcanic activity that left the immense spire as a testament to the power of this place. Be on deck to experience the glistening waterfalls while gliding quietly beneath the glacier-sculpted granite fjords of Rudyerd Bay that jut 3,000 feet out of the ocean. Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness still remains the largest wilderness area of the Tongass National Forest.

**Ketchikan & Metlakatla, Alaska:** The totem poles of Ketchikan and Saxman welcome you this morning to Alaska's southernmost city. Standing tall and noble, each hand-carved pole tells a silent story. This afternoon in Metlakatla, the first thing you'll notice are the smiles. They are wide, warm, and genuine - welcoming you to the only settlement of indigenous Tsimshian people in the United States.

**Fjordland, British Columbia.:** The central rainforest coast of British Columbia is a vast and largely uninhabited region, carved by deep, glacially formed "fiords." These narrow, finger-like inlets can extend for miles into the mainland, creating extensive shoreline and bringing seawater deep into the heartland of the steep, coastal mountains. Each fiord features massive granite cliffs, with fertile estuaries. Splendid waterfalls cascade down the steep cliffs into many unspoiled bays below. The best way to visit the deep fiords and steep valleys is by floatplane or boat. Moreover, the area is home to both grizzly and black bears, so travelling on shore is not recommended and quite difficult. Due to its remote location and challenging access, few people are able to visit the remote recreation area, making it a magical place to experience the true wild nature of British Columbia's untamed Central Coast. This little-known jewel in Canada's crown is one that American Queen Voyages guests will not soon forget.

**Vancouver, British Columbia:** As your American Queen Voyages journey concludes, there are other opportunities for you to take in the town -- whether it's an optional premier post-cruise experience or a quick transfer to the airport for your final trip home -- your AQV team can pre-arrange everything for you.