Alaska's finest wilderness cruise
Long, long ago, unnamed and unknown, a special place lay covered under mammoth rivers of ice. These frozen masses crept over the earth like giant glacial artists, slowly recreating the underlying surface.

Today, islands, bays and coves etched in deep fjords are the finished artwork of this great carving force. Once encased in ice, this enchanted seacoast environment now bursts with natural wonders.

From glistening seas to flowering meadows, from virgin forests to mountain peaks—it is rich and vibrant, it is wild and free. Unrivaled in beauty, stunning in diversity, teeming with life... Alaska’s Prince William Sound, home of Discovery Voyages.
But just as we entered the famous Prince William Sound, that I had so long hoped to see, the sky cleared, disclosing to the westward one of the richest, most glorious mountain landscapes I ever beheld—peak over peak dipping deep in the sky, a thousand of them, icy and shining, rising higher, higher, beyond and yet beyond one another, burning bright in the afternoon light, purple cloud-bars above them, purple shadows in the hollows, and great breadths of sun-spangled, ice-dotted waters in front.... Beauty in a thousand forms awaiting us at every turn.... It is full of glaciers of every description, waterfalls, gardens and grand old forests—nature’s best and choicest alpine treasures, purely wild—a place after my own heart.”

John Muir, 1899, The Harriman Expedition
Built in the late 1950s, the 65-foot, U.S. Coast Guard certified Discovery combines the finest blend of comfort and utility. Named after one of Captain Cook’s ships, the vessel’s atmosphere is one of charm and classic style.

Unlike cruise ship giants, the Discovery’s size enables access to Prince William Sound’s more intimate inside passages. The Discovery’s traditional design maximizes use of a fully heated interior space. Six private cabins provide upper and lower single berths and storage space for personal effects. Two lower-deck bathrooms provide complete facilities, including hot showers. Dining in the lounge includes seasonal, fresh, gourmet meals.

The ship’s rugged construction suits her well for travel in Alaska’s remote wilderness passages.

“Fair weather, calm seas, great food, wildlife galore, truly a trip to a wilderness paradise. May such beauty be around forever for everyone to enjoy. A magical experience for us—we feel so privileged to be here.”

Ginny and John Marshall, Virginia
“A cruise on the Discovery would be the prize of anyone’s trip to Alaska.”
~Time Magazine
Captain and Naturalist Dean Rand and crew are your hosts aboard the *Discovery*. Dean carries more than thirty years of full-time experience on Alaska’s waters. As an established marine surveyor and a licensed captain, Dean skillfully pilots you through the Sound’s narrow passages and winding fjords.

The balance of the *Discovery*’s crew includes accomplished chefs and experienced shipmates. As your hosts and guides, the *Discovery* team works professionally and personally, ensuring all guests a safe and delightful marine journey through the Sound’s scenic waterways.

“After a two-year search, we found the ideal way to see Alaska, at least Prince William Sound—on the *Discovery*. Our expedition met our fondest dreams and wishes. It has been a terrific experience to celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary.”

Cliff and Carol Stiles, Minnesota
Our Voyages offer an adventurous yet comfortable means for people of most any age and physical capability to explore this astounding wilderness seacoast.

Through photography, exploration or relaxed sightseeing, guests interact with their surroundings according to their degree of interest. Some visitors enjoy a hike with a physical challenge; some prefer easy walks along the shores.

Others experience the Sound’s beauty from the walk-around deck or the spacious lounge of the Discovery. The adventurous at heart can explore their environment more closely by using the Discovery’s on-board kayaks or taking guided skiff excursions to access shoreside hikes.

“My wife and I came aboard in our mid-seventies and left ten years younger. Great captain, crew, food, boat and itinerary. Hiked, climbed, etc. An unsurpassable experience.”

Joanne and Edgar Levinson, New York
Enter Prince William Sound’s amphitheater of beauty, where nature remains in its purest form, free to be explored, full of discoveries.

This region contains the greatest diversity of habitats found along the entire Pacific Coast and includes the world’s northernmost temperate rainforest. Snow-capped peaks stretch skyward from virgin shores clothed in towering spruce trees. Mammoth glaciers descend the mountain valleys, thundering giant icebergs into the sea.

Three thousand miles of islands, bays and coves interlock with the sea like giant puzzle pieces, providing homes for a myriad of shorebirds, waterfowl and marine mammals—all participants in the festival of life that surges under Alaska’s nightless summer skies.

Come join the Celebration of Life
Celebration of Life
Clean water and wild places are vital to our livelihood. We believe that interacting respectfully with our environment is essential in the responsible stewardship of these gifts.

We therefore employ low emission technology, fund clean energy projects, participate in public resource planning and support those who demonstrate responsible management of our precious public resources. We are also certified for environmental sustainability and social responsibility by Adventure Green Alaska.

We intentionally keep our business and group size small in order to “step lightly” upon this great landscape, providing our guests a genuine and intimate encounter with Alaska, not only for today, but for many generations to come.
Traveling in Prince William Sound presents an ever-changing array of sightseeing opportunities. Each trip is unique due to the diversity of weather and seasonal occurrences intrinsic to the Sound. Flexible itineraries allow the Discovery to pursue the most spectacular sights of the moment with an immediacy that can only be found by following the natural ebb and flow of life in the Sound, conducted by the region’s rapidly changing weather.

Nights are spent at anchor in the Sound’s protected bays, fjords and harbors.
The “Classic Voyage” itinerary is the result of years of navigating and exploring the magical sheltered waterways of Prince William Sound. We share our favorite destinations, highlighted for scenic beauty, wildlife viewing and shoreside explorations on this land and sea journey.

Surrounded by the world’s northernmost temperate rainforest, rugged mountain ridges, and gentle ocean waters, the Sound is considered a world-class destination. This voyage suits people of any age and agility.

Daily excursions provide intimate encounters with Alaska’s marine life and exotic vistas. They include leg-stretching strolls along quiet shores and hikes through lush inland meadows and old-growth forests.

The scenery from the Discovery’s deck is unrivaled, and you may participate in the many activities according to your preference; paddling silently by floating icebergs, smelling wildflower blossoms on a shoreside hike or relaxing on the back deck as the sounds of coastal Alaska wash over you.

The flexible itinerary follows the seasonal movements of the Sound’s maritime nature and climate. When traveling in the home of whales, sea lions, sea otters, harbor seals, bald eagles, and many more residents of this wilderness sanctuary, the pace is gentle; the scenery epic.

Years and years of voyages continue to deliver unique experiences, making the magic of Prince William Sound a never-ending encounter.

“Alaska had such an effect on me. I dreamed of it every night for two weeks. I have been to beautiful beaches in Greece, I have snorkeled the coral reefs in Belize, and I have kayaked the Salmon River through Idaho, all wonderful. But Alaska is breathtakingly beautiful and in a class of its own...Thanks for the best vacation I’ve ever experienced.”

~ Catherine Hartman
Cincinnati, OH

Discovery Classic Voyage
6 days, 5 nights
A land & sea-based natural history adventure
Our classic favorite-destination journey
For those seeking a more interactive experience with Alaska’s natural world, the “Kayak and Hiking Voyage” is similar to the “Classic Voyage” but incorporates longer hikes and more extensive sea kayak excursions, all guided by the qualified Discovery staff.

This trip is for those young at heart who like active participation in the natural world. Trek the mountain meadows of this magnificent landscape; hike through rainforests and explore the wild tundra; paddle in pristine saltwater passages and capture secret moments of solitude with the abundant marine life that calls Prince William Sound home.

This voyage is built around your interests; every level of experience is accommodated. It is not an expedition, but certainly geared for the active traveler. If you’re keen on an even more aggressive trip, see our “Adventurer Voyage.”

In addition to daily shore excursions we target our favorite sightseeing places: waterfalls, calving glaciers, and virgin old-growth forests, just to name a few. Treks into the surrounding hills grant dramatic vistas over the ancient fjords that encompass the Sound’s calm waters. Kayak journeys offer a completely different view of the marine world, with up-close encounters with birds, harbor seals and other inhabitants of the pristine waters revealed to a quiet traveler.

Depending on the seasonal wildlife happenings, and the ever-changing weather, this voyage moves in sync with the rhythms of this marine wonderland.

“We have always wanted to come to Alaska. To experience its raw beauty and adventure. Your package is superb. Comfort, ease, wonderfully friendly crew, great food, awesome exercise, and destinations to draw from for inspiration for years and years to come. We had a most exceptional adventure.”

~ Annie & Jeff Kadish

NY
If you like to climb the mountain ridges, take long treks or hikes, paddle at length in a kayak, and embrace the physical challenge of an outdoor experience, the “Adventurer Voyage” is for you. Like all of our voyages, there is plenty of wildlife viewing and sightseeing packed into each day.

Visits to our favorite locations are laced throughout the itinerary, and opportunities to traverse meadows and ridges with extended forays in kayaks give ample activity for the adventure-seeker.

Hikes may average three to five hours, trekking off trail, over alpine meadows, through temperate rainforest or rocky ridges, to reach high places with incredible views. The kayak ventures may wind through iceberg-laden lakes, bays, or between two points along a scenic fjord.

The outings are not “technical expeditions” but they will get your heart pumping. Good, mobile limbs and a zesty appetite for fun are the only requirements. The summer days in Alaska are lengthy, offering great flexibility to adventure trek throughout the landscape. The Sound is so full of little secret places that there is no end to its exploration. Even after many years, new destinations reveal amazing discoveries. Often on this voyage, enthusiastic guests trigger that desire for discovery and we go exploring some untraveled mountain ridge and experience the raw wilderness beauty together.

“This trip was so incredible I don’t want to go home. Every day was better than the last, I can’t wait to come back!! Now I know what a true Alaskan Adventure is!”

~ Jeri Cunningham
Ft. Myers, FL

“Many thanks for a week of pure heaven with more kayaking and hiking than we could have hoped for! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

~ Tim and Sue Schmuck
St. Paul, MN
Photo enthusiasts, this is the voyage for you. Explore the wild beauty of Prince William Sound, guided by a professional Alaskan photographer with extensive experience photographing in the region. Instruction is provided informally and spontaneously according to your needs throughout the entire journey.

No photography experience is required; all levels of skill are welcomed. Unlike some photography tours, which use valuable time in transportation to and from hotels and viewing sites, the “Discovery Photo Voyage” offers constant shooting opportunities during the endless daylight of Alaska’s incredible summer. Additionally, on the Discovery, you don’t tower above your subjects. The vessel’s small size and low-to-the-water viewpoint offer an ideal platform for capturing intimate images of bird and marine life.

Small inflatable boats are available for shore excursions to explore intertidal life, view the abundant and colorful wildflowers in mountain meadows, and to access vantage points for landscape and macro photography. Destinations are selected according to optimal photographic lighting conditions and current weather patterns as your guide and the captain work jointly to maximize photo opportunities. All the vibrant images in this brochure are a testimony to the diversity and abundance of life and landscape in this colorful fjordland.

“After traveling, trekking, guiding and photographing the Alaska landscape for more than twenty years, the Discovery Voyage in Prince William Sound remains one of the most magnificent and ever-changing environments for photography in my memory. I am constantly drawn to a repeat experience, and always, each voyage delivers new adventures and visual wonders.”

~ Patrick J. Endres
professional photographer
Fairbanks, AK
The “Grand Alaska Journey” combines two of Alaska’s prized destinations for scenic wilderness exploration and wildlife viewing. Guided by a local Alaskan naturalist, the journey samples the world-famous Prince William Sound on a five day “Classic Voyage” aboard the Discovery, and a three day intimate tour into the unparalleled wilderness sanctuary of Denali National Park.

The Discovery-based coastal portion samples from an itinerary of hand-picked locations, the fruit of many years of exploring the Sound’s gentle waterways and surrounding landscapes. Daily activities include wildlife viewing and sightseeing, in conjunction with shoreside and kayak excursions, all providing amazing photographic opportunities. See the “Classic Voyage” summary for further details.

The inland portion of the trip ventures into the heart of the Alaska Range mountains to Denali National Park, home to North America’s tallest mountain, Mt. McKinley. The mountain meadows of Denali flourish under a burning summer sun, and wildflowers and plant life grow aggressively in spite of the delicate ecosystem and harsh arctic climate. Based at a comfortable lodge situated deep within the park, we will hike in the shadow of dramatic mountains and scope the tundra and taiga landscape for grizzly bears, moose and caribou.

The trip begins in Anchorage and concludes with a final night in Fairbanks, the Golden Heart City of Alaska’s interior.

“We came as strangers from far away places and we are leaving as family and friends.
I am in awe of PWS – thanks for the vacation of a lifetime.”

~ Meg, Dale, Emily (10) and Hannah (8) Streams Lederach, PA
Watching whales in their natural environment is an experience not soon forgotten. While whales are often sighted on our other voyages, the “Whale Watching Voyage” is especially tailored to maximize observation and photography of these majestic marine mammals. Humpback whales in particular favor the nutrient-rich waters of the Sound, migrating from southern latitudes to raise their young. Seasonal food resources influence whale presence and activity, and this voyage accesses waters that are common feeding grounds for Humpback whales and Orcas.

Other whales including the Fin, Gray and Minke are occasionally observed. You’re likely to see Dall and harbor porpoises, sea otters, sea lions and many other marine birdlife and wildlife.

The Discovery serves as a great platform for wildlife viewing due to its low angle to the water’s edge. Up-close encounters with whales is common—sometimes they swim directly by the vessel, trumpeting sprays of water into the air.

In addition to whale watching, plenty of time is devoted to shoreside visits, kayaking forays, sightseeing and glacier viewing throughout the emerald green fjords of the world’s northernmost temperate rainforest. Nights are spent at anchor in any of the Sound’s intimate and protected bays or coves.

“Top notch service, intimate knowledge and passion only surpassed by the power and grandeur of the Alaskan wilderness.”

~ Zach and Rebecca Rabinor
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

“I liked the humpback whales and the dall porpoises and the orca the best. I want to come back to Alaska. I really like it.”

~ Mayah, Age 6
Missoula, MT

Whale Watching Voyage
6 days, 5 nights
A land & sea-based natural history adventure
Encountering the whales of Prince William Sound
Experience the Spring shorebird migration along the largest contiguous wetland area of North America’s west coast—the Copper River Delta. As a stop on the natural flyway for more than 20 million migratory birds, the Delta is the most important migratory resting and refueling station in the Western Hemisphere.

The Pacific herring spawn, in adjacent Prince William Sound, serves as a major food source for many of the regional and migratory birds that pass through each year. The trip includes four days in the small fishing village of Cordova and the adjacent Copper River Delta, with daily trips for birding and sightseeing opportunities. Witness clouds of shorebirds that undulate with amazing synchronicity along the tidal shores. Dusky Canada geese and swans nest in the abundant wetland ponds. Take an optional flightseeing excursion over the vast Delta and adjacent Chugach mountain range if weather permits.

Then it is off on the Discovery into the Sound’s nutrient-rich waters for a finely crafted blend of birding, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing unique to this time of year. Shoreside hikes into old-growth forests, skiff tours to densely populated bird rookeries, and kayaking among floating icebergs are just a few of the activities mixed in with birding opportunities. Watch calving glaciers, sounding whales, bears, goats, seals, sea otters, flocks of shorebirds, loons, ducks and other visitors and residents of Prince William Sound. The factors of weather, guests’ interests and wildlife and bird activity influence each day’s destination.

“What a memorable way to experience Alaska! Birds, whales and calving glaciers to fire my memory for years to come.”
~ Thanks, Mike Mammoser
San Jose, CA
The exclusive Discovery Charters are a perfect fit for families or groups who seek a bit more privacy and customization to their travel plans. From weddings, family reunions, photography excursions, film projects, research efforts to educational outings and other emphases, our custom voyages are designed to offer a unique encounter with the astonishing diversity of life in the Sound’s marine and terrestrial habitats.

Captain Dean Rand and his professional staff work with you to create a vacation or excursion that best suits your interests, needs and schedule. Choose your destinations, activities, length of voyage and other details while the Discovery serves as a staging ground for immersion into wilderness beauty beyond your imagination.

Silent, sheltered coves and the roar of plunging waterfalls; green-canopied rainforests and massive tidewater glaciers; whales, sea lions, sea otters and countless species of birds—Prince William Sound lets you in on a few of her secrets. If seeing the real Alaska is a priority, and you desire to avoid the crowded travel destinations of industrial tourism, skip the masses and book a private voyage with the Discovery. The Discovery can be chartered at daily or weekly rates with accommodations for twelve adults, with some flexibility for larger groups.

With gourmet meals, comfortable accommodations, experienced captain, crew and guides, the best of Alaska can be yours.

“We have wanted to do this trip for years. At last we are here. What a majestic wonderland, far beyond our dreams. The “Discovery” sure knows how to do it. Excellent service, superb food, good accommodations and a fantastic crew. Hope one day to repeat the trip.”

~ Lenny, Paul & Zita Bunn
Australia
The following includes a sample itinerary of a *Discovery* Voyage in Prince William Sound. Specifics may vary based on individual voyage focus, weather, and seasonal variations in the environment.

(Day 1)
Arrive in Anchorage and transfer independently to your downtown Bed & Breakfast (included) for a comfortable night stay. Accommodations offer convenient access to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, a network of hiking and bicycling trails throughout the Anchorage area. Make your own dinner plans this evening at one of the many local restaurants.

(Day 2)
Morning van transfer by *Discovery* staff. Scenic ride along Turnagain Arm. Rendezvous with the captain and crew in Whittier for a warm welcome aboard the *Discovery* (optional train service from Anchorage to Whittier for an additional fee). Depart Whittier in the early afternoon. Enjoy lunch while traveling east and south to a hiking destination. Skiff to shore for a short hike through lush rainforest vegetation and countless streams and waterfalls or paddle through an iceberg-laden lagoon in a sea kayak. Return to the *Discovery* for an exquisite dinner often featuring fresh, local seafood.

(Day 3)
Casual open breakfast. Sail through Knight Island Passage and Dangerous Passage towards Icy Bay. Orca and humpback whales are found along this route. Keep your eyes peeled for dorsal fins and blow spouts. On to Nassau Fjord and the massive, calving face of Chenega Glacier. Enjoy a relaxing dinner while sailing along Knight Island for the evening’s anchorage.

(Day 4)
Visit a noisy and raucous Steller sea lion haulout, then head westward towards an impressive waterfall, with lunch served along the way. Take a guided hike through the world’s northernmost temperate rain forest, rich with ferns, mosses, and towering spruce, hemlock and cedar trees. Stop at Oyster Dave’s farm and sample one of the Sound’s most delicious sea products—fresh “Alaska-grown” oysters. Northward to the fringes of College Fjord for the evening’s anchorage and midnight sunset views.

(Day 5)
Casual breakfast in some of the world’s most spectacular scenery—corridors of breathtaking beauty, sprawling glaciers and a panoramic skyline of mountain grandeur. Listen to the cracks, pops and thunderous roars of the Cascade, Barry and Coxe Glaciers. After lunch, explore the wonders of Harriman Fjord and Surprise Glacier. Watch the playful sea otters and curious harbor seals. Anchor in Harriman Fjord.

(Day 6)
Hike among beached icebergs stranded on the shores by the ebbing tide, or along the hillsides with spectacular views of the Chugach Mountains and glacier valleys. Enjoy lunch while sailing deeper into the ice-filled fjord for a chance to kayak near the face of Harriman Glacier. Dinner is served while continuing to the evening’s anchorage.

(Day 7)
Awake immersed in a wilderness sanctuary of unparalleled natural beauty. Relax in the salty ocean breeze and take in the splendor of this special place. View the Chugach Mountain skyline on a short morning hike which overlooks the colorful fjords. Appetizers are served while taking in the final sights of Passage Canal prior to docking in the Whittier Harbor for your afternoon van transfer to Anchorage. Overnight in Anchorage.

(Day 8)
Enjoy breakfast at your Bed & Breakfast. Transfer on your own to the airport for departures home, or extend your stay in Alaska.
General Information

Dates, Prices, Packing List and Additional Information
See www.discoveryvoyages.com or call 1-800-324-7602

Discovery Dining
The Discovery’s upper deck salon is surrounded by large windows creating a magnificent natural dinner theater. Carefully prepared, home-cooked meals await you, featuring local seafood such as seasonally fresh Copper River king salmon, sockeye salmon and or halibut, oysters, shrimp, and rockfish. The tastefully prepared main courses are served with fresh quality vegetables, home-made breads, rolls, soups, and fruit (organically grown ingredients are used whenever possible). Beverages include fine wines, quality beer, fruit juices and milk.

Payment Schedule and Fees
Within two weeks of booking, a $500 per-person, non-refundable deposit reserves a space aboard the Discovery. By January 1, 50% of the total ticket price is required. Reservations made after January 1 require 50% of the total ticket price within two weeks of the booking date. The balance of the ticket price is due 90 days prior to the departure date.

Included in the Price
• Van transportation between Anchorage and Whittier
• All meals with complimentary beer and wine
• Overnight accommodations on the Discovery
• Lodging in Anchorage the day before and after voyage
• Accommodations and meals in Cordova
• All crew and guide services

Not Included in the Price
• Airfare to and from Alaska
• Gratitudes for the crew
• Meals in Anchorage

Safety and Insurance
Discovery Voyages spares no effort to assure safe travel. The Discovery meets annual inspections by the U.S. Coast Guard for compliance with strict safety requirements. However, activities of this nature are not entirely “risk free.” Discovery Voyages cannot assume responsibility for injuries, damage to personal belongings, or for expenses incurred if such were to happen. We strongly recommend trip insurance.

For Alaska’s Future
We support the voices that protect Alaska’s public wild places and encourage visitors to participate in “4 Dollars a Day for Alaska Conservation,” a volunteer donation program where guests contribute $4 for each day spent in Alaska. Funds go to three environmental organizations:

• Prince William SoundKeeper (www.pwsoundkeeper.org), a community-based, non-profit organization that works to protect and enhance water quality in Prince William Sound through community-based stewardship, problem-solving education, and advocacy.

• The Alaska Center for the Environment (www.akcenter.org), a non-profit environmental advocacy and educational organization dedicated to the conservation of Alaska’s natural resources.

• The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (www.awrta.org), a non-profit organization supporting the management of Alaska’s wild places and the development of diverse travel businesses, communities, and conservation interests.

Gratitudes for the Crew
Your Discovery crew firmly believes that a gratuity is not required nor expected, but rather earned. Gratitude amounts are certainly a matter of personal preference, but approximately 5% of your ticket price for the crew corporately seems to be the norm. Gratuities may be given directly to the crew member(s) or to the captain with designated instructions.

Dean Rand, Captain/Owner, Discovery Voyages
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Photography: Patrick J. Endres, Dean Rand, Hugh Rose, F. Vitasario, Jerry Corsi;
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Printed in Alaska with eco-friendly linseed oil based inks. The paper used was milled from trees harvested in accordance with the Internationally recognized Forest Stewardship Councils strict guidelines promoting responsible forest management.
Upland access: Courtesy Chugach National Forest special use permit.
“What joy is this to float upon thy tide,
So blue, so beautiful, to gently glide
‘Mid islets forested, past shores that stand,
Dark portals opening to enchantment’s land...”

Charles Keeler, 1899
Prince William Sound,
The Harriman Expedition