



# Alaskan Summer

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



**S**outheast Alaska breathes majesty. It is a wilderness of fjords, islands, rivers and tidewater glaciers. Its rich, cold waters support abundant wildlife, from groups of humpback whales, to sea otters, sea lions, porpoises, and millions of seabirds. The land supports even more life, from towering rainforests to lush river estuaries where brown bears, black bears and scores of bald eagles feed. The towns evoke Alaska's history – both native American and Russian.



## Touch, Taste and Feel the Landscape

On board a Maple Leaf expedition cruise, your exploration of this overpowering wilderness differs significantly from the typical cruise ship experience.

You will be part of a small group of only eight people who wish to experience the grandeur of Alaska by becoming a part of it, not by steaming past it at twenty knots. You'll go ashore on remote islands and experience the silence of the grand Alaskan rain forests. You will see, hear, smell and feel the true wilderness, and learn about it from our experienced naturalist and crew.

## Glaciers, Icebergs, Fjords

Traveling through sheer-sided glacial fjords, you will see the powerful forces of nature at work as we experience intimately the tidewater glaciers of Alaska. Picking our way past icebergs in unimaginable shades of blue and through floating pack ice, we will make our way to the face of the glacier itself.

From zodiacs or kayaks we will hear the great thunderous cracking as building-sized chunks of ice calve into the water. We'll likely see seals and their newborn pups snoozing on the ice bergs around us.

## Islands and Seas with Whales, Seabirds and Other Wildlife

As you cruise on the 92-foot tall ship Maple Leaf,



humpback whales the size of school buses rise from the ocean beside you. You'll be close enough to hear each breath, to feel the spray as it drifts across the deck. With our naturalist at hand, you'll learn about these gentle giants as they feed and dive just feet away.

Our crew knows the best places to find wildlife. Curious groups of sea lions will seem to enjoy your visit to their colony. We often see rafts of sea otters. Mothers preen the coats of their pups, carrying them on their chests.

On the wild west coast, you'll visit a seabird island that is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including thousands of colourful puffins. The birds fly just above your head or bob on the water beside you.

## Bears, Rainforests and Beaches

In quiet anchorages, you'll explore the rich estuaries where land meets sea. Here, brown and black bears feed on sedges. Walk the ancient forests that border them and learn from our naturalist of the intricate relationship between forest and sea. Walk sandy beaches to experience Alaska's wilderness from ground-level. Take a morning kayak in a quiet bay.





# Alaskan Summer

*“What extraordinary feasts for the body and soul – playful porpoises, myriad humpbacks, all those murres and puffins and guillemots and soaring eagles, sea lions, seals – and wild zodiac rides.”*

*- Torie Osborn,  
Los Angeles, California*

## 2010 Alaska Supervoyages

**Jun. 13 - 24**, 11 nights, 12 days  
C \$5975

Depart: Prince Rupert, B.C.,  
Return: Sitka, AK

**Jun. 24 - Jul. 5**, 11 nights, 12 days  
C \$5975

Depart: Sitka, AK  
Return: Prince Rupert, B.C.

## 2011 Alaska Supervoyages

**Jun. 13 - 24**, 11 nights, 12 days  
C \$6090

Depart: Prince Rupert, B.C.,  
Return: Sitka, AK

**Jun. 24 - Jul. 5**, 11 nights, 12 days  
C \$6090

Depart: Sitka, AK  
Return: Prince Rupert, B.C.

*2011 dates are preliminary*

## Maple Leaf Adventures

PO Box 8845, Stn. Central,  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

toll free 1-888-599-5323  
local 1-250-386-7245



Photo credits (Kevin Smith, Greg Shea) (forest)

## Frontier Towns and Natural Hot Springs

Alaska's towns and villages are populated by individuals who live in determined isolation, their spirit a legacy of the pioneers in this last frontier.

Islands like Baronof, Kruzof, and Chichagof, echo the Russian period of Alaska's history (and are home to great natural hot springs).

You'll explore historic Sitka (a Tlingit place that became the former Russian capital), Ketchikan (steeped in the history of Alaska's gold rush) and, on some trips, Petersburg. You'll also learn about the Tlingit and Haida First Nations (Native American) cultures.



## Sample Itinerary - Alaska Supervoyage

As with all expedition cruises, itineraries vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife. This sample is to give you the idea of a typical trip.

- Day 1 Prince Rupert, B.C., to wilderness anchorage, wildlife viewing, shore excursion with introduction to coastal temperate rainforest.
- Day 2 Motor-sailing across Dixon Entrance, wildlife viewing, Ketchikan exploration. Wilderness anchorage.
- Day 3 Cruising and wildlife viewing in Tongass National Forest. Evening kayaking.
- Day 4 Sailing, Wrangell Narrows, Petersburg.
- Day 5 Whale watching, sea lions. Anchor at fjord entrance with view of ice bergs.
- Day 6 Cruising spectacular fjord to tidewater glacier, exploration of ice bergs, wildlife viewing.
- Day 7 Frederick Sound, whale watching, spectacular Baronof Island anchorage, bear viewing, estuary meadow exploration.
- Day 8 Hot springs at Baranof, nature hike, cruising the "waterfall coast" of Baranof.
- Day 9 Bear viewing, forest and beach hike, cruising to west coast.
- Day 10 Exploring Alaska's west coast wilderness. Seabird island, intertidal life, sea otters, remote hot springs.
- Day 11 Sailing to Sitka. Guided tour of Sitka, Tlingit and Russian historical town. Last night dinner and stay at Sitka hotel.
- Day 12 Free time in Sitka, bus to airport.

\* Permits - Our operations on National Forest Service lands are conducted under a Special Use permit issued by the United States Forest Service. Maple Leaf is an equal opportunity provider.





# General and Booking Information



## Family & Friends Trips

Planning a family reunion? Thinking of spending some special time with friends?

Over the years, a number of extended families or groups of friends have booked a whole charter. They say it provides them quality time in an unhurried, magical atmosphere, allowing them to connect on a deeper level than in our normal “hurly-burly” world. Not to mention that the crew, chef and naturalist take care of the logistics!

If you think this is something you’d like to do, call us to discuss. Advance notice to book an entire trip is required, so let us know as soon as possible so that we can accommodate your plans.



## About our company:

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating trips focused on the natural history of B.C.’s northwest coast and Alaska, and the culture of the First Nations peoples of the areas, since 1986. We have a reputation for quality, professionalism and sensitivity to both the natural and cultural landscapes.

Our institutional clients have included the Royal BC Museum, The Canadian Museum of Civilization and the John G Shedd Aquarium. Our company has been recognized by the Canadian government as a leader in eco-tourism and our trips have been featured internationally in such travel guides as *Frommer’s* and on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

## Contact Us

To book a trip or for help with any questions you may have, we welcome your call or email.

## About Our Trips and the Ship

Our trips take place in the best areas and at peak times for natural phenomena; therefore they originate from different places on the coast. Our guests fly, drive, or take a ferry to meet us at trips’ point of origin, which maximizes the amount of time we are able to spend exploring our chosen areas.

A small group of **8 guests** allows us the flexibility to respond to special natural events, weather, and the interests of our group.

Our pace is unhurried, giving us time to linger with whales, paint or sketch in a Haida village, beach comb, or walk ancient forests. We experience the entire environment, not just the view from on board. We go ashore often to experience the magic

of various habitats and the special life that inhabits each area.

Expert naturalists with a variety of backgrounds accompany us on every voyage. Veterans of field research projects in the areas we visit, they share their expertise and abundant knowledge on a very understandable and enjoyable level. They have guided us to some of nature’s most impressive events.

*Maple Leaf* is a beautiful 92-foot schooner. She and her crew are Coast Guard approved. She has a long and enviable reputation on the coast. Her accommodations are very comfortable. The spacious main cabin is airy and divided by curtains and walls into four “cabins,” providing sleeping accommodations for eight guests. Mahogany and fir line the galley and dining salon and wheelhouse. She has an extensive library.





## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Is this trip suitable for me?**

A. Anyone is eligible so long as they are enthusiastic about participating, amenable to the vagaries of weather, agile enough to clamber in and out of shore vessels in an area where there are no docks, and friendly enough to get along in the relatively close quarters of a sailing yacht. We have had people on board as much as 80 years of age. However, our trips are not suitable for people of failing health or physical disabilities.

**Q. What is included in the price?**

A. Our price includes all meals, activities and guides throughout your voyage in the region you are visiting. Specifically included:

- All meals, snacks and beverages prepared from the freshest ingredients by our superb chef.
- Fine wines featured with the evening meal, and a limited amount of beer included and available throughout the trip. (Liquor is not a large part of our trips, so plan on light consumption).
- The services of our naturalist and professional crew.
- Shore excursions (there are several each day).

- Use of all gear available on board, including raingear, sea boots, kayaks and fishing gear.

**Not included in our price:**

- Transportation to the trip's point of origin.
- Goods and Service Tax (Canadian trips only)
- Crew gratuities
- Sustainability Fee. As a professional ecotourism company, it is at the core of our operating principles to work with local communities, respecting regulations and contributing to local opportunities. Responsible operations cost a little more. We extract from the fare a percentage of the increased costs that go towards sustainable communities add it to the list price as a 'sustainability fee' of \$100 per trip. Through it we hope our guests share in the pride that a trip with Maple Leaf is a contribution to the sustainability of the whole coast – as well as being the experience of a lifetime!

**Q. Can you accommodate my special diet?**

A. Yes. If you advise us in the pre-trip questionnaire we can accommodate most special dietary requirements.

**Q. Will I be seasick?**

A. Sea sickness is rarely a problem as Maple Leaf is a sturdy and sea-kindly ship. We travel short distances in protected waters and go ashore often.

**Q. Can I be involved in sailing the ship and performing other duties?**

A. Absolutely yes. We encourage our guests to participate in any aspect of the trip that interests them and to whatever level they are comfortable with. We are patient instructors (no yelling) and delight in helping people learn. On the other hand, you are not required to sail or perform duties while on your vacation. The choice is yours.

**Q: What makes you an eco-tourism company?**

- A:
- Our trips have low impact (virtually no impact) on the planet and on the places we visit.
  - We partner with local people. We have protocol agreements either signed or in process with First Nations in territories we visit.
  - Our naturalists – experts in their fields – and other knowledgeable crew members provide a wealth of knowledge on the areas we visit, as do our First Nations guides.
  - We work within the regulations of parks and conservation areas, pay the applicable fees and obtain permits for all limited-use areas we visit.
  - We dedicate time and resources to preserving the wilderness we travel in.



# Wild BC and Alaska Tours by Sail



*"Thanks for the best vacation ever."*

– Carrie Novick, Oregon.

## Contact Us

To book a trip or for help with any questions you may have, we welcome your call or email.

## Maple Leaf Adventures

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[www.MapleLeafAdventures.com](http://www.MapleLeafAdventures.com)

## Booking and Cancellation Policy

To avoid disappointment, your reservation should be made early. The number of participants in each program is limited, and the demand is high. Our trips sell out early.

### North America Trips

**Deposit:** A deposit of one third of the price of the trip will reserve your space for any trip.

**Balance:** The balance is due 120 days prior to departure.

**Cancellations:** If you are unable to participate and cancellation occurs at least 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, the full amount of your deposit is refundable, minus a \$200 admin fee. If cancellation occurs less than 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, we will do our best to try to fill your space on the trip, however no money will be refunded unless all the spaces on your trip are filled.

### Galapagos Islands Trips

**Deposit:** A nonrefundable deposit of US \$1000 reserves a place on the trip. On payment of the deposit you will receive: receipt/invoice, medical information form, agreement and release from liability form, itinerary and additional information covering packing lists, visa requirements, health issues, etc.

**Balance:** The balance is due 3 months prior to departure date. On payment of the balance you will receive: receipt, final trip bulletin including participant list and rendezvous instructions.

**Single Supplement:** Accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodation, we will try to assign you a roommate. If there

is no one with whom you can share, or if you prefer single accommodation, you will be requested to pay a Single Supplement, as listed for each trip.

**Cancellation Policy:** At the time we receive written notice of your wish to cancel your trip, the following fees will apply: \* 90 days+ from departure date: 100% of deposit; \* 89 to 60 days from departure date: 50% of Land Cost; \* 59 days or less from departure date: 100% of Land Cost

### Group Bookings

For large group bookings, such as a family charter of the entire ship, the booking and cancellation policy may be different - please do contact us for information.

## Cancellation Insurance

We highly recommend cancellation insurance, which protects you if you have to make a late cancellation in certain cases (such as a medical emergency). Travel insurance can be purchased through your travel agency or through our travel agent (contact us for info). This must be done at the time your booking is confirmed.

## Pre-Trip Information Package

A comprehensive pre-trip information package will welcome you "aboard" at the time of booking. It includes information on clothing and other items to bring, how to get to your trip, insurance, visa requirements, etc.

## Getting to & from the Ship

Our office staff can help you with these questions and arrangements - call or email any time.

Design: [www.LotusDesign.ca](http://www.LotusDesign.ca)