

ROUTE MAP & FIELD GUIDE

Jet-Cat
Wildlife Quest &
Beach Explorer

ALASKA UP-CLOSE
Exclusive Cruise Adventure

EXPERIENCE THE BEST!



Allen Marine

Welcome Aboard! ^①

On behalf of Allen Marine Tours and the entire Allen family, I'd like to welcome you aboard. We're a family owned company, based right here in Sitka, operating tours aboard our own, custom-built boats throughout Southeast Alaska.

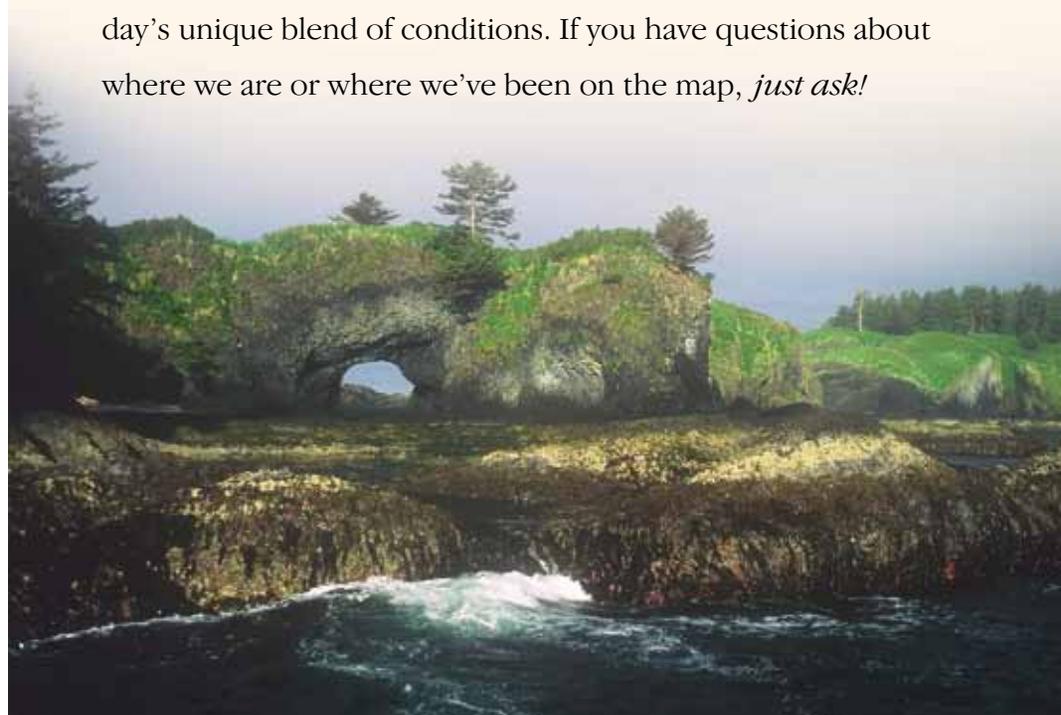
We love sharing the beauty of this region with our guests — and we're especially proud to offer the Jet-Cat Wildlife Quest & Beach Explorer, and Alaska Up-Close tours, where you'll explore the wonders of both land and sea, and come away with a deeper understanding of the natural world around us.

We invite you to ask lots of questions, follow our route on the enclosed map, or simply sit back and take it all in.

*— Captain Bob Allen
Founder, Allen Marine Tours, Inc.*

^① PLEASE NOTE: Numbers appearing after the text in this guide refers to translations available from your crew.

TODAY'S ROUTE: Your captain will assess the tides, weather and our most recent wildlife sightings along with many other factors to design a tour for you that complements the day's unique blend of conditions. If you have questions about where we are or where we've been on the map, *just ask!*



ABOUT OUR BOATS: We custom build expedition-style catamarans specific to Alaskan waters to give you the ultimate wildlife viewing experience, in complete comfort. Along with open-air decks and heated cabin, your vessel is equipped with a special bow-landing door for easy beach access and twin engine powered for both speed and maneuverability, allowing us to get to the best sights quickly, and to get in and out of places that some other boats simply cannot.

As with any boat, we ask that you walk carefully and watch your step over the raised thresholds of the doorways.

Wet & Wild: Life in the Zone®

Here in Southeast Alaska, ocean currents, rocky shores, forested mountain slopes and other terrain all combine with an amazing array of wildlife to create a fascinating, complicated and interdependent ecosystem.

OCEAN

The ocean supports all life on earth, from the creatures that swim within its depths to all the plants and animals on land, like us, who enjoy the climate it creates. One of the interesting things about the ocean happening right here in Sitka Sound is the process of coastal upwelling. As strong offshore winds push warmer surface water out to sea, colder water rises to replace it. The process stirs up the ocean's "soup," serving nutrients that have settled in lower layers up to fish and other ocean animals.

Humpback Whale

Ave. female 49 ft. (14.9 m), 35 tons (31.7 m tons)
Ave. male 46 ft. (14 m), 25 tons (22.7 m tons)

Humpbacks are baleen whales. They feed by straining water through comb-like plates of baleen, which trap krill and small schooling fish. Here in the nutrient-rich waters of Alaska, a humpback may eat over a ton of food every day during the summer feeding season.

To spot a whale, we typically first look for their blow, which rises up to 10 feet (3 m) high. They blow 4 to 10 times at 20-30 second intervals, gently rising with their humped backs visible for just a few moments each time. When they start a deep dive, you may see their tail (flukes) in the air. These dives can last anywhere from a few minutes to nearly a half hour.

Sea Otter

Ave. male 5 ft. (1.5 m), 70 lbs. (31.8 kg)
Ave. female 4 ft. (1.2 m), 60 lbs. (27.2 kg)

Unlike other marine mammals, the otter has no fat layer for warmth; they depend entirely on their rich fur for protection against the cold water. Otters have the densest fur in the world, about 300,000 to a million hairs *per square inch*. We humans only have about 100,000 hairs on our entire head! Because of their remarkable fur, otters were heavily hunted during the late 1700s and early 1800s. By 1911, only about 2,000 otters remained at widely scattered sites in the North Pacific. Fortunately, hunting restrictions and reintroduction programs have restored the population to about 150,000 – over 12,000 of which inhabit Southeast Alaska.

Sea otters are very social, grouping up in "rafts" of generally all males or all females (and pups). Sea otters can spend their entire lives in the water, although some may occasionally haul out on rocks. Otters eat invertebrates such as sea urchins, abalone, clams, crab and octopus, sometimes using rocks as tools to break open shells. Their metabolism is so high, they must consume about one quarter their body weight in food each day.

Sea otters are a keystone species – their presence or absence dramatically influences the environment. Otters prey heavily on sea urchins, which graze on kelp. So when otters are present, urchin numbers decrease, helping kelp beds to flourish, which in turn provides good habitat for fish and other animals.

Ochre Sea Stars

These colorful creatures paint the rocky coastline of Southeast Alaska in purple, orange and brown. Each of their five arms is equipped with many suctioning feet, giving them a powerful grip on the rocks for stability and locomotion – and on their prey for feeding.

Ochre stars live in the lower and middle intertidal zone. They often position themselves just below the mussels, their favorite food group. When the tide comes in and covers the mussels, so do the stars. With a powerful grip, ochre stars can pry open mussels just wide enough to insert their stomachs...and let their digestive juices do the rest.

Other types of stars that are sometimes found in the Sitka area include sunflower, leather and mottled stars.

Sea Birds & Shore Birds

The Sitka area supports a wide variety of sea birds, each with unique features and specialties. *Pelagic cormorants* are expert fishers. They squeeze air from their plumage, enabling them to dive deeper for fish. *Tufted puffins* use their wings to propel themselves underwater and their webbed feet to maneuver. *Black oystercatchers* have a distinctive orange bill used for prying limpets and barnacles off rocks, and for snipping the muscle that holds clam and mussel shells closed.

Marbled murrelets are the only sea birds that don't nest near salt water. Far inland, they lay a single egg on a bed of moss atop a huge, old-growth tree. *Mergansers* are attentive parents. When they perceive danger, the chicks climb onto their mother's back for safety. *Harlequin ducks* use their strong nails and the tips of the bills to pry seemingly immovable limpets and chitons off the rocks for a tasty meal.

Bald Eagle

Ave. wingspan 7 ft. (2.1 m)
Ave. female 10-14 lbs. (4.5-6.3)
Ave. male 8-10 lbs. (3.6 – 4.5k kg)

Bald eagles are the most common bird of prey in Southeast Alaska, numbering about 25,000. To spot them in the trees, look for "white golf balls" on the branches. However, only the adults have white heads (and tails). Immature bald eagles (less than five years old) have solid brown or mottled brown and white feathers – and are easily mistaken for golden eagles.

Eagles mate for life and return to the same nesting territory each year. As part of the courtship ritual, eagles add material to their nests every spring. Older nests are huge – the largest nest of any North American bird – often over six feet across.

Eagles lay one to three eggs per year. Hatchlings grow rapidly and the young eagles leave the nest just in time to feed on the abundant salmon during the late summer runs.

INTERTIDAL ZONE

The vertical difference between high and low tides (or, "tidal range") around Sitka can be very dramatic – up to 16 feet. That translates into a lot of real estate for creatures tough enough to handle life in the intertidal zone.

With two tides every day, conditions in the intertidal (or "littoral") zone are constantly changing. Different organisms are better suited for different levels of the zone. For example, barnacles and some snails can withstand long periods of time out of the water, whereas sea stars need regular submersion and protection from pounding waves. Every organism you spot on your beach exploration will have its own mechanisms for staying wet, holding on, adapting to changing salinity levels, finding food, and trying not to become food.

INTERTIDAL ZONES:

Splash: often splashed at high tide

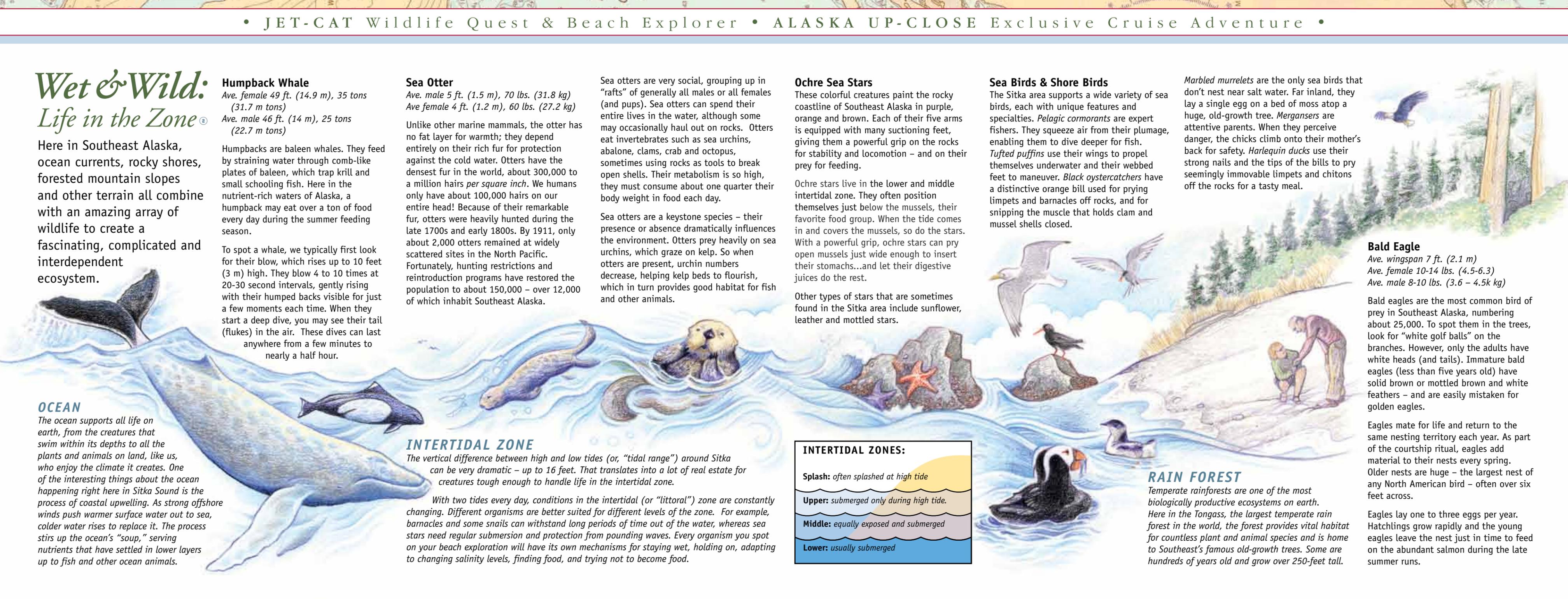
Upper: submerged only during high tide.

Middle: equally exposed and submerged

Lower: usually submerged

RAIN FOREST

Temperate rainforests are one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth. Here in the Tongass, the largest temperate rain forest in the world, the forest provides vital habitat for countless plant and animal species and is home to Southeast's famous old-growth trees. Some are hundreds of years old and grow over 250-feet tall.





Allen Marine ROUTE MAP

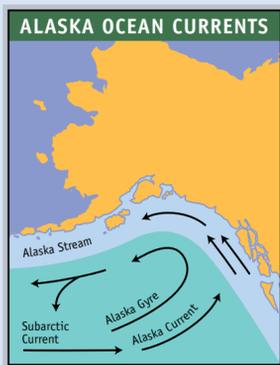


The Tongass National Forest

The breathtaking wilderness you see from the boat is part of the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass covers about 17 million acres and makes up over 75% of Southeast Alaska. It's the largest national forest in the United States and the largest coastal temperate rain forest in the world. Being a temperate rainforest, it's cool and wet year round. The most common tree is the western hemlock, followed by Sitka spruce (Alaska's state tree), Alaska yellow cedar, alder, lodgepole pine, and mountain hemlock. The forest provides important habitat for wildlife as well as recreation and industry for humans.

Currents Bring Joy & Junk

Ocean waters are constantly on the move, influencing climate and living conditions for plants and animals everywhere. Currents flow in complex patterns affected by wind, the water's salinity and heat content, bottom topography, and the earth's rotation. Evidence of these currents is constantly washing up on our shores here in Southeast Alaska — in the form of garbage (or perhaps treasure). Either way, this flotsam may have been lost off container ships, fishing boats or some other source from thousands of miles away before riding the global conveyor belts to a convenient coastline. We invite you to help us pick up this stuff — be it gems or junk — in our ongoing efforts to keep our beaches clean and protect wildlife from ingesting harmful items.



Salisbury Sound

Sinitsin Island
Scraggy Island
Kane Island
Kalinin Bay
Sealion Cove

KRUZOF ISLAND

Hayward Straight Cave: Volcanic Evidence

The enormous arched cave seen as you pass through Hayward straight is further evidence of the volcanic activity shaping Kruzof Island. This area of the island is composed of layers of lava overlying Sitka graywacke, a sedimentary rock. The arch formed as waves and weather eroded the soft volcanic breccia layer, leaving the hard graywacke in place. Watch for other interesting eroded shapes in this area.

Mt. Edgecumbe

The dormant cinder cone of Mt. Edgecumbe is one of the most distinctive landmarks on the Alaskan coast. Captain James Cook named the peak on his second voyage of discovery in 1778. A few years earlier, explorer Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra had claimed this land for Spain by planting a cross at the foot of the mountain and naming it Montana San Jacinto. Mt. Edgecumbe last vented ash between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago, blanketing the area in up to twenty feet of ash. The last explosive eruption of the volcano was between 12,000 and 14,000 years ago.

MOUNT EDGECUMBE
(3201 feet, 976 m)

SAINT LAZARIA ISLAND (NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE)

St. Lazaria Island
This 65-acre island was created when lava pushed up through the sea floor—much the same process that created the Hawaiian Islands. The sheer cliffs are a perfect habitat for seabirds: up to half-a-million storm-petrels, murrelets, auklets, and puffins nest on the island.

Whitestone Narrows

This is one of several extremely narrow stretches of the Inside Passage routinely traveled by the Alaska State Ferries. The channel was dredged to a depth of twenty-four feet in 1988. The largest ship to make the run is the ferry M/V Columbia, which is 418 feet long and draws 16 feet of water. Tidal currents following the 1964 Anchorage "Good Friday" earthquake broke out the navigational buoys, forcing the ferries to turn back. Navigational aids punctuate the waters of our route. Red and green channel markers indicate the main passageways. In Alaska, red markers are generally kept on the right and green markers on the left when travelling northward. Range markers, red placards with vertical white stripes, allow very precise navigation in Whitestone Narrows. The captains position the boats so that the bow or the stern is directly in line with the stripes of the range markers.

WHITESTONE NARROWS

Girl Scout Camp
Nakwasina Passage
Limit Island
Allan Point
Old Logging Camp

HALLECK ISLAND

Krestof Sound
Starfish Island
Nadezhda Islands
Brady Island
Magoun Islands
Near Channel
Hayward Strait
Rob Point
Guide Island
Mountain Point
Inner Point

SITKA SOUND

Vitskari Rocks
Shoals Point
Low Island
North Shoals Beach

ANNAHOOTZ MOUNTAIN
(4,301 feet/1,311 meters)

Glacial Carving of Anahootz Mountain

The Matterhorn-shaped peak of Annahootz Mountain was named in 1929 after Sitka chief Annahootz, of the Kaagwaantaan, a sub-branch of the Tlingit Indians. Annahootz Mountain, like most of the landscape around Sitka, was sculpted by the huge glaciers that covered the land about 20,000 years ago. In many places the glacial ice was about half a mile deep. The footprint of this ice mass can be seen in the shapes of our mountains. The highest peaks protruded from the surface of the glaciers and were whittled and sharpened as the glaciers moved past them. Peaks slightly lower in elevation were covered by the ice and scoured into more rounded shapes.

BARANOF ISLAND

Katlian Bay

Makhnati Island

World War II temporarily transformed Sitka from a quiet fishing village of about 2,500 into an army/navy air installation of 20,000. Two large gun emplacements on Makhnati Island were the point of Sitka's ground defenses; two other batteries were planned at the eastern and western edges of the Sound. Although the Japanese did capture Attu and Kiska Islands on Alaska's Aleutian chain, the battle of Midway in June of 1942 led many to believe that Japan had abandoned a northern strategy. Sitka remained vigilant, though many resources were diverted to the South Pacific. Fortifications are still visible on smaller islands in the vicinity of Makhnati.

Verstovia Peak
(3,300 feet/1,006 meters)

SITKA

MAKHNATI ISLAND
Japonski Island
Galanikin Island
Silver Bay
Eastern Channel
Silver Point
Kutchuma Island
Long Island

Fish and Fishing Boats

Watch for fishing boats and leaping salmon throughout your trip. There are five species of salmon on the Pacific Coast and all can be found near Sitka. Kings (chinook) are the largest, the record is 126 lbs. Pinks (humpbacks) are the smallest and even the smallest local streams usually support a pink salmon run. Chum (dog), red (sockeye), and silver (coho) salmon also live here. Salmon fishing boats include gillnetters, trollers, and purse seiners. Long-liners fish for halibut and black cod. You may also see boats carrying crab pots or shrimp pots. Sitka is among the top thirty ports in the nation in terms of value of seafood landed.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE VIEWING

In our quest to provide a satisfying wildlife viewing experience, one thing we strive to avoid is disrupting the animals' natural activities. Here are a few things you can do to help:

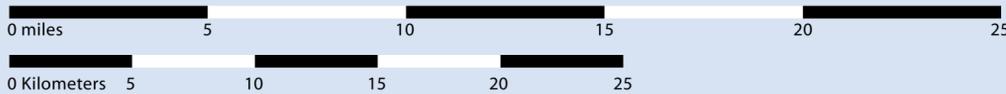
- ▶ When approaching wildlife, the captain will maneuver the vessel for the optimal view. If you are out on deck, move as slowly and as quietly as possible to avoid startling the animals.
- ▶ Please close doors gently and speak in a low tone of voice. When we view wildlife at close range, the naturalist will not use a microphone.
- ▶ If you have a flash attachment on your camera, please turn it off or cover it. A sudden burst of light can alarm animals at rest.
- ▶ You will get your best views of the animals if you move about the boat. If you are next to a window it is courteous to the other passengers to be seated.
- ▶ When on the beach or in the rainforest, avoid stepping on living plants and animals whenever possible.
- ▶ Handle intertidal creatures carefully. Always put them back where you found them and replace any protective seaweed or rocks they were using for cover.

PASSENGER SAFETY INFORMATION

Be Watchful on the Water It's easy to get distracted in a landscape as beautiful as Alaska! Please exercise caution when moving about the vessel, especially when underway. Watch your step — be aware that vessel doorways have a raised threshold. Use the handrails when climbing or descending stairs. If there are children in your party, keep them under direct observation at all times.

Insuring the safety of our passengers is of utmost importance to Allen Marine Tours. Our highly-trained crew members are certified for all marine safety procedures and the vessels are built and maintained to strict standards set by the U.S. Coast Guard.

- ▶ **New Sitka ordinance bans smoking on passenger vessels.** Please help us obey the law.
- ▶ Life vests are stowed under the seats. Your crew will demonstrate the proper technique for donning them.
- ▶ Fire extinguishers are located throughout the vessel. If you see or smell smoke, tell a crew member immediately.
- ▶ If you see someone fall overboard, yell for help and keep your eye on the person in the water. Keep aisles and the back deck clear so crew movement is unimpeded during rescue operations.





Thank you for exploring Alaska's wild side with us!

Please join us on another premier
Allen Marine Tours excursion!
For information call 1-888-747-8101,
or visit allenmarinetours.com



JUNEAU

Whale Watching & Wildlife Quest

Embark on a scenic cruise into the Alaskan wilderness that guarantees you will see wildlife, including humpback whales!

Mendenhall Glacier & Whale Quest

This tour combines two Juneau favorites: the Whale Watching & Wildlife Quest and a visit to the Mendenhall Glacier!

Best of Juneau

Enjoy three Alaska adventures. Guaranteed whale sightings, spectacular glacier viewing at the Mendenhall Glacier and an Alaska-style salmon bake.

KETCHIKAN

Misty Fjords & Wilderness Explorer

Explore Misty Fjords – one of nature's most spectacular creations – while cruising in luxury aboard one of the fastest sightseeing vessels in Alaska.

Adventure Kart & Jetboat Expedition

Combines the excitement of go-kart action and a coastal cruise — a completely unique way of experiencing Alaska!

Best of Ketchikan by Land & Sea

Experience Ketchikan's native culture, rich maritime history, and breathtaking wilderness...by land and sea!

SITKA

Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest

Enjoy guaranteed wildlife viewing on this award-winning cruise through one of the world's most beautiful coastal environments.

Jet-Cat Wildlife Quest & Beach Explorer

Embark on Alaska's most intimate wildlife viewing adventure aboard a deluxe expedition-style catamaran. Step ashore on a remote island to explore the rugged coast.

Silver Bay Cruise & Salmon Hatchery Tour

Outstanding scenery and history combine with an interesting and educational experience at a remote working salmon hatchery.