



Why book this trip?

Along the famed Inside Passage, visit small communities such as the Metlakatla Indian Community on Annette Island. In wilderness areas including Misty Fjords and Tracy Arm-Fords Terror, Zodiac-cruise and kayak amongst glittering icebergs keeping your camera at the ready for encounters with whale, harbour seal, mountain goat, bear and bald eagle. Marvel at the towering trees of old-growth forests and hike in the world's largest temperate rainforest listening for songbirds.

- **Visit the Metlakatla Indian Community** - learn about their ancient culture
- **Explore the islands around Icy Strait** - keep watch for orca whale, coastal brown bear and Steller sea lion
- **Look out for iconic Alaskan wildlife** - including bear, eagle and salmon in Tongass National Forest

- **Discover famous wilderness areas** - visit Misty Fjords National Monument and Tracy Arms-Ford Terror Wilderness

				
INCLUDED MEALS Breakfast: 13 Lunch: 11 Dinner: 12	TRIP STAFF Expedition Crew Naturalist(s)	TRANSPORT M/V Sylvia Earle Zodiac	ACCOMMODATION 12 nights premium boat 1 nights comfortable hotel	TRIP PACE: Relaxed

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.



DAY 1 - Join trip in Vancouver

Upon arrival into Vancouver Airport (YVR) please collect your luggage and look for a representative in the Arrivals Hall, holding a sign with your name on it. If you have booked your flights independently, please make sure that you have advised us of your arrival flight details so that a transfer is booked for you. Be sure to keep all of your important documents - i.e. passport and travel insurance, and also your medication in your hand luggage, as your main luggage will be transferred separately to the hotel.

Upon check-in, the reception staff will provide you with your cabin tags. Please fill out the luggage tags clearly, showing your name and cabin number to allow us to

deliver your luggage to the correct cabin. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing this evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Vancouver to be confirmed (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Embark the M/V Sylvia Earle

Enjoy a sightseeing tour and catch a glimpse of Vancouver's main highlights, including Stanley Park, Granville Island, Prospect Point and Gastown, before transferring to the pier for embarkation. After boarding, there will be time to settle into your cabin before our important safety briefings. This evening, you will be able to meet your expedition team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 3 - British Columbia's Inside Passage

Sail the southern stretches of British Columbia's Inside Passage, navigating through narrow straits and channels that are inhabited by vast pods of orca. Your expedition crew will share their knowledge of the area and teach you about the wildlife that you spot from the ship's deck, as you explore the tiny inlets of this famous stretch of water.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 4 - British Columbia's Inside Passage

Admire views of cascading waterfalls, snow-capped mountains and temperate forests and enjoy an abundance of marine life .



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 5 - Metlakatla, Misty Fjords National Monument

On Annette Island, experience the extraordinary history, art, and cultural traditions of the Tsimshian tribe of the Metlakatla Indian Community, the only Indian Reserve in Alaska. While on shore, choose one of the following excursions:-

\i Option one \i0 - Enjoy an 8km hike to Yellow Hill, a challenging walk with rewarding panoramic views of Metlakatla and Annette Bay, walking mostly on timber board walks, stairs, and moderately steep terrain. Visit the community Long House to learn about the building's history and traditions and enjoy a dance performance from a local Tsimshian dance group. Visit the Artist Village next door to see handicrafts made by local artists, with an opportunity to buy a souvenir to take back home.

\i Option two \i0 - Walking Town Tour & Totem Pole Journey. The Totem Exploration Journey is a path that guides you to the Totems & points of interest of Metlakatla. On a guided walk, you get a close-up view of the fascinating, hand-crafted cedar carvings scattered throughout Metlakatla. During the excursion, you'll discover the 14 totem poles standing in Metlakatla, all carved by local artists, you'll visit several historical and cultural points of interest, including the William Duncan Memorial Church, the Metlakatla

Indian Community Longhouse, and the Artist Village.

\i Option three \i0 - Skater's Lake Trail Walk & Totem Journey. On this scenic timber boardwalk, you'll experience the lush scenery at Skater's Lake. Afterwards, visit the community Long House to learn about the building's history and traditions, and where you will enjoy a dance performance. Afterwards, visit the Artist

Village next door to see handicrafts made by local artists, available for purchase.

Later, we sail in Misty Fjords National Monument, a wilderness area characterised by towering granite cliffs, shrouded in mist and glacial valleys. The area is a haven for wildlife, we explore the area by Zodiac, searching for grizzly and black bear, whale, mountain goat and deer.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)


Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 6 - Wrangell, Thomas Bay and Baird Glacier

Disembark in historic Wrangell, an important town that was founded by Russians in 1834 and which once thrived on fur and gold trading. Enjoy Wrangell's main highlights, including a visit to Petroglyph Beach to see ancient rock carvings and a visit to the city museum to learn about Wrangell's colourful history. The alternative shore excursion is a visit to Tongass Rainforest. Explore the rainforest on a guided walk on the Wrangell Nature Trail. In the afternoon, we will drop anchor in Thomas Bay, a wilderness location shrouded in the mysterious local legends, where we stop to explore around Baird Glacier.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)


Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 7 - Frederick Sound

Frederick Sound is a summer feeding ground for the northern hemisphere's largest concentration of humpback whale. Keep watch for humpback, orca, and Steller's sea lion. In Tracy Arm, glide along the steep walled fjords of a watery wilderness area that has been likened to Yosemite and enjoy views of snow-covered mountains. Zodiac-cruise in search of wildlife at the back of the Tracy Arm, home to the twin Sawyer Glaciers. Keep a lookout for harbour seal resting on 'bergy bits' which calve regularly from the active tidewater glaciers.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)


Grade: Premium Boat



DAY 8 - Juneau and Mendenhall Glacier

Nestled at the base of towering mountains overlooking the Gastineau Channel, Juneau's rich culture, and history is reflected throughout the town. In Alaska's scenic capital, we visit nearby Mendenhall Glacier. The glacier is 2.4 km wide and is fed by the Juneau Icefield and ranks as the largest, most rugged glacier that is accessible by road in Alaska. Hike the trails nearby and enjoy panoramic views. Back in town, enjoy free time to explore and learn about Juneau's local history with a visit to the newly-built Alaska State Museum.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 9 - Icy Strait, Inian Islands and Elfin Cove

The area around Icy Strait features the Inian Islands, George Island, Point Adolphus and Elfin Cove and offers some of the best opportunities for Zodiac-cruising and kayaking. Here you can find an abundance of iconic Alaskan wildlife, including whale, Steller sea lion, sea otter, harbour seal, bald eagle and brown bear.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 10 - Hubbard Glacier

As we sail west across the Gulf of Alaska, our expert team will entertain you with informative talks on wildlife, glaciers, and the rich history of Alaska - from indigenous settlement through to the Russian fur trade and the European rush for gold. In the afternoon we arrive in Disenchantment Bay, home to Hubbard Glacier, North America's largest tidewater Glacier, where we search for Kittlitz's murrelet,

Aleutian tern and brown bear hunting salmon along the shore.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 11 - Kayak Island

Kayak Island is the remote, uninhabited spot where in 1741, zoologist and botanist Georg Wilhelm Steller became one of the first Europeans to set foot on Alaskan soil. Serving as naturalist on Vitus Bering's voyage to explore a sea route from Russia to North America, Steller recorded the first evidence of Alaskan Inuit and catalogued an array of flora and fauna, many of which now bear his name. If weather permits, we will explore Cape Saint Elias and its lighthouse by Zodiac.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 12 - Prince William Sound

Framed by the impressive Chugach Mountains, we spend two days exploring Prince William Sound, an area of rugged coastline that is home to more tidewater glaciers than anywhere else on Earth. Zodiac-cruise among icebergs, and forest-covered islands that are rich in wildlife including puffin, sea lion and seal. Glacier Island at the opening of Columbia Bay offers great wildlife encounters, vast amounts of sea ice, diverse geological formations and sea caves.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 13 - Prince William Sound

Columbia and Meares Glaciers are both extremely active and produce vast quantities of ice where seal haul out on icebergs in front of them. Granite Bay features steep cliff walls where the northernmost stand of yellow cedars is found, and where mountain goat can be seen clinging to the cliff face. Kayak in College Fjord, with several glaciers named after Ivy League universities such as Harvard and Yale, which funded the 1899 exploration and discovery of the fjord.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Sylvia Earle (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 14 - Trip ends in Anchorage

Disembark in Seward and transfer to Anchorage, where you will continue your journey.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Arctic

Canada

Climate

May-Sep is the best time to visit, when the weather is usually warm, dry and pleasant. Temperatures can be a little cooler on the coast and in the mountains; rain can be expected at any time. Early in the season, there can be snow in some areas which may limit walking possibilities.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-7	2 Pin Flat	Roman Catholic, Protestant	English and French

USA

Climate

There are great variations in the altitude and terrain of the areas visited and this is reflected in the temperatures. Desert areas can be extremely hot in the summer months (49°), though temperatures can drop dramatically at night. The mountains are cooler and wetter especially in the north of the Rockies. At the beginning and end of the season there may still be some snow around in the high passes and it can be cold, whereas in mid-summer the day time temperatures can soar.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-9	2 Pin Flat	Christian	English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Whilst landings are included in the cost of your trip as per the outline itinerary, some departures aboard the *MV Sylvia Earle* have additional optional activities which can be pre-booked with the ship operator directly. These will be charged at an additional fee, depending on the activity and we recommend booking these in advance to ensure availability. Please speak to a member of our Polar team who will advise you on the booking process.

Clothing

Parkas

You should look for a lightweight, roomy, wind and water-resistant parka with some insulation. Bright colors are more visible - and thus safer - in polar environments.

Gloves

Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves,

in case one gets wet (or lost).

Hat/Cap

Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava.

Trousers

Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good.

Socks

Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet.

Outer Clothing Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship.

Underclothing

Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

Footwear

Complimentary waterproof boots will be supplied on-board. However, if you have extra small or large feet, you are advised to bring your own. Also ensure you take good walking boots and trainers for relaxing.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Please note that a 15kgs luggage weight limit is sporadically enforced on the internal flight to Ushuaia, occasionally charges may be levied against passengers taking luggage in excess of 15kgs.

Equipment

Sunglasses and sun cream

Insect repellent

Personal toiletries

A refillable water bottle

Books/reading material

Camera and memory cards

Seasickness remedy

Walking poles

Tipping

Local crew

Tipping is included in the cost of your voyage.

Arctic

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Foreign Exchange

Canada

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£13.00	£20.00	£3.00	£1.10

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Canadian Dollars.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over \$50.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

There are ATMs in the towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

USA

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses

eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£15	£21	£Varies for different towns, average £4.00	£1.1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
US Dollars.	Bring your money in US\$ cash.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability	Credit Card Acceptance
Widely available.	Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

M/V Sylvia Earle, Zodiac

Ship description

The Sylvia Earle is a purpose-built expedition vessel and is the sister ship to the M/V Greg Mortimer. Built with the same revolutionary Ulstein X-Bow design, which allows the ship to comfortably navigate the ice, the Sylvia Earle features a distinctive glass atrium lounge at the bow of the vessel which offers stunning panoramic views. Other features include a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, from which you can soak up the passing scenery. With just 134 passengers, guests can enjoy spacious stateroom cabins and suites, a large mud room and easy boarding access at water level. The ship also has a library and multimedia room, gym, sauna and spa.

Cabins

The lead-in prices on our website are based on triple outward facing, Stateroom cabins. All staterooms have private bathrooms, ample storage, with twin beds. Many of the stateroom categories, have floor to ceiling windows that offer prime observation opportunities around the clock. Additionally, there are private balconies in most of the staterooms, allowing you to watch the world float past and take in the salty air of the open ocean. A full layout of the deck plan can be found under the Polar Ships section on our website. Your confirmed cabin type will appear on your Booking Confirmation, which will be sent on receipt of your deposit payment.

Ship dining

Meals are served in the large, spacious dining room with an open seating arrangement, perfect for swapping stories with your extended expedition family. A range of courses is offered at each meal time

and you can enjoy a variety of house wines, beers and soft drinks which are included with your evening meal. Complimentary coffee, tea and snacks are available throughout the day and any additional drinks can be purchased at the fully-stocked bar.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

USA (If flights transit): you will need to apply for an ESTA if you are transiting the USA as you will have to disembark and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight.

Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel.

Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding. When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan in the past five years or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel under the Visa Waiver Programme. Instead you will need to apply for a visa from the

nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

For further information please check out the US embassy website.

Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Arctic

Canada

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

USA

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is

not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Polar information

Ship information

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Reviews
