

On the Trail of the Gold Prospectors

From **2/8/2021**
to **9/8/2021**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Juneau, Alaska**
to **Vancouver**



Flight Seattle/Juneau + transfer

Follow in the footsteps of the **gold prospectors** on this **8-day cruise** brought to you by **PONANT**. This exceptional itinerary aboard **Le Soléal** will take you from **Alaska** to **British Columbia**, to discover magnificent landscapes marked by the Gold Rush.

After embarking in **Juneau**, the capital of Alaska long inhabited by the Tlingit people, do not miss the chance to visit **Skagway**, where many pioneers came in search of gold at the end of the 19th century, and **Haines**, where majestic bald eagles are often spotted flying over the houses.

Sailing along **Tracy Arm**, one of Alaska's most beautiful fjords, will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your cruise.

You will then continue sailing between rain forest and glacier valleys to reach **Sitka**, a former Russian settlement surrounded by tall mountains known for their **centuries-old totem poles** and the small city of **Ketchikan**, home to charming, colourful stilt houses, and the wonderful landscapes of the Misty Fjords.

Before disembarking in **Vancouver**, you will make your way down the east coast of Alaska, whose Inside Passage, shaped by the sculpture of imposing glaciers, is home to **vertiginous fjords**. Here, the natural environment includes glaciers, coniferous forests, and myriad islands and islets magnified by the wonderful play of light.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 11/8/2020

On the Trail of the Gold Prospectors

YOUR STOPOVERS :

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Embarkation 2/8/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 2/8/2021 at 18h00

In 1880, gold diggers flocked here, and it didn't take long before Juneau was singled out, getting itself a solid reputation and henceforth becoming the **capital of Alaska**. Along the Gastineau Strait, in the heart of the spectacular **Inside Passage**, the 31,000 or so inhabitants of Juneau enjoy some of the world's most incredible fauna and scenery every day of their lives. Perhaps you'll even be able to watch the antics of humpback whales against a backdrop of majestic glaciers. **Culture and shopping** are certainly not lacking; the city is full of places to experience, enjoy and relax in.

HAINES, ALASKA

Arrival 3/8/2021 early morning

Departure 4/8/2021 evening

Hidden in the heart of this spectacular wilderness, between jagged peaks and a sapphire ocean, the legendary small port of **Haines** lays out all the richness of its traditions. Founded by the Tlingit Indians, peopled by the pioneers of the famous gold rush, the village is now a rallying point for modern day adventurers. You can visit its streets trimmed with colourful houses, soak up local history at **Fort Seward** or visit the Indian art museums, before a possible excursion into the nearby wilderness. The very beautiful **Chilkatriver** is especially worth a visit.

TRACY ARM FJORD, ALASKA

Arrival 5/8/2021 early morning

Departure 5/8/2021 early morning

When you reach **Tracy Arm fjord**, 80 kilometres south-east of Juneau, you will sail into the middle of the inlet, surrounded by waterfalls cascading down granite cliffs into the sea. A few seals guarding their spur of ice may add unexpected spice to your expedition. This is your opportunity to see the **Sawyer glacier** close up. Majestic and otherworldly, it spans the whole length of the mountain in shades of crystalline blue: without a doubt, this is one of the most breath-taking wonders of **Alaska**.

SITKA, ALASKA

Arrival 6/8/2021 early morning

Departure 6/8/2021 midday

Formerly a Russian colony located on **Baranof island**, to the west of the **Alexander archipelago**, **Sitka** is brimming with history. The historical national park of Sitka shelters totems carved out of red cedar, a tree that is omnipresent in the region. These totems are testimonials of the former presence of **Tlingit Indians**. This place is full of natural wonders too. You just have to look up to admire the mountain range around the port. In the distance, the snow-peaked **Edgecumbe volcano** stands majestic. Numerous islands scattered around Sitka stretch out before you in a vision of preserved Alaska.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Arrival 7/8/2021 early morning

Departure 7/8/2021 midday

The most southern town in the State is called Ketchikan. This spectacular doorway into the Inside Passage, the glory of Alaska cruises and the old **world capital of salmon** will blow you away. It takes no time at all to realise how deeply peaceful this port and its surrounding wilderness is. Nearby, you can delve more deeply into the rich indigenous culture in the **Totem Heritage Center**, which houses one of the largest totem pole collections in the world. The town also offers a number of charming art galleries. Ketchikan's richness resides in its hospitality and sense of adventure.

SAILING IN THE JOHNSTONE STRAIT

Arrival 8/8/2021

Departure 8/8/2021

Along the north-east coast of Vancouver Island, **Johnstone Strait** is a 100 km-long channel formed by an old glacier bed, dotted with a string of lush islands. Sailing amid this wilderness offers fantastic opportunities to observe the wildlife. Indeed, **blue whales**, **humpback whales** and the world's largest population of orcas can be found in the cool and sheltered waters of the strait, and you can try to spot some from your ship's deck.

VANCOUVER

Arrival 9/8/2021 late morning

Disembarkation 9/8/2021 at 11h00

Verdant and cosmopolitan, Vancouver is one of Canada's most multi-cultural cities. Located in British Columbia on Canada's west coast, it's surrounded by mountains and outdoor activities are popular. In the city, you can immerse yourself in the Asian atmosphere of bustling Chinatown, shop for pashminas and silk saris at the **Punjabi Market** Indian district and explore the historic area of **Gastown**. Vancouver Art Gallery is known for works by regional artists, while the Museum of Anthropology houses important First Nations collections. **Granville Island Jetty** is a fascinating revitalised industrial area that hosts galleries, restaurants and a huge produce market.