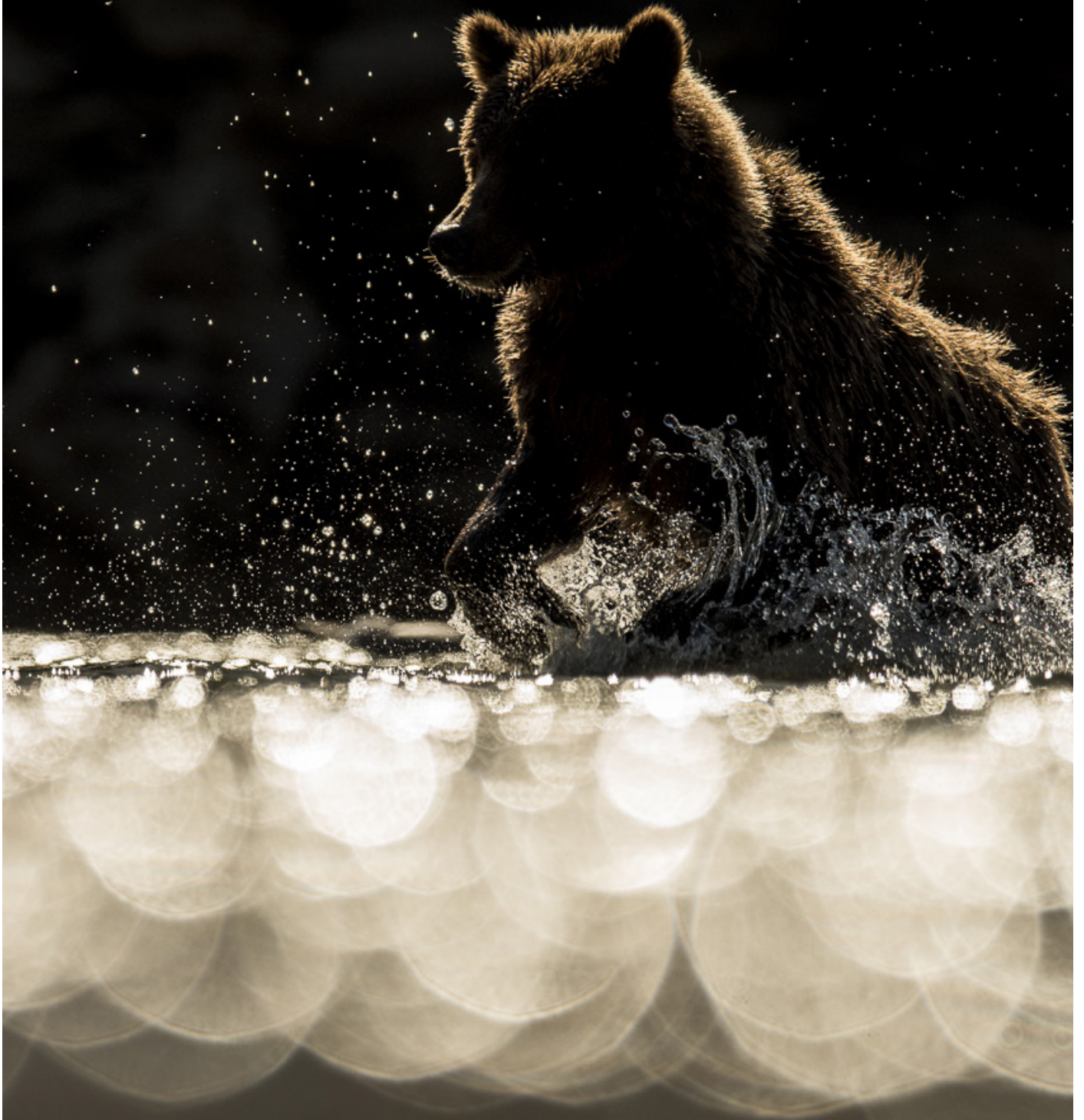


PHOTO EXPEDITION ALASKA

ON BOARD DREAM CATCHER 01.09-09.09 2018



WILDPHOTO
TRAVEL

BEFORE THE EXPEDITION

Personal details

To make sure you have the best trip possible to Alaska 01.09–09.09 2018, we ask you to read the information below. It is also important to make us aware of any dietary allergies, health issues or requirements you have.

Health

If you have had any major surgeries in the last two years or chronic illnesses that will affect your comfort on the ship, we should be made aware of it.

Insurance

Everyone must have insurance covering medical conditions (illness, accidents, death) and evacuation during the period on board the ship. In case of any undesired event we need to have at least the insurance number and emergency telephone number to your insurance company. We do also recommend that you have cancellation insurance, but this is not mandatory.

Health and vaccination

If you have had any major surgeries in the last two years or chronic illnesses that will affect your comfort during the trip, we should be made aware of it.

Passport and Visa

Your passport must be valid at least 6 months following your travel dates (09.03 2019). Make sure you renew your passport if you need to.

Tourist Visa

Most visitors to the US do not need a tourist Visa (see info at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/visa-wizard.html>), but everyone need ESTA approval prior to travel into the US (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html>). Everyone also need an e-passport. Let us know if you have any questions regarding passport / Visa / ESTA.

Climate

We will visit Alaska in September so temperatures will most likely stay above zero, but it might get a few degrees below during the night or in early the mornings. Make sure you bring warm and rainproof clothes.

Flights to/from Anchorage, Alaska

Flights to Anchorage are operated by different airlines every day. If you are flying from Europe we recommend Icelandair, which has direct flights from Reykjavik to Anchorage in September.

Overnight in Anchorage is recommended as a buffer before and after the expedition.

NB: Book your flights as early as possible!!

Let us know if you need more information about recommended flights.

Lost luggage

Lost or delayed luggage is out of our control. We recommend to use an airline company that cooperate with Alaska Airlines, who have great service in Anchorage if your luggage disappears. Please pack a small bag with all your essentials, including medicine, and bring it in your carry-on luggage. The most essential photographic equipment should also be carry-on luggage. See the checklist below for packing details.

Accommodation in Anchorage

We have used the hotel Homewood Suites close to the airport on previous Alaska trips, but other hotels can also be good. Make sure to book a hotel close to Ted Stevens Anchorage airport, if you want fast access to the airport. Accommodation in Anchorage is not included in the trip price.

Transport from Anchorage to Homer

We will have a minibus from Anchorage (pick up at your hotel) to Homer (5–6 hours) which is the safest and most reliable way to get to Homer. It is also possible to fly Anchorage–Homer–Anchorage with Raven Air, but this is not included in the price. We will have an overnight in hotel in Homer and do some Bald eagle and sea bird photography in the afternoon day 1.

Weight on the bush flights

2nd September we will fly from Homer to our ship with small sea planes. We try to limit the total weight of luggage per person to 35kg. You should consider wisely what equipment to bring on this trip.

SHIP INFORMATION DREAM CATCHER



The Dream Catcher was built (in 1990) tough enough for the roughest Alaskan waters. With over 1,500 square feet of living space, the 12-guest Dream Catcher is a remarkable way to experience the beauty Katmai has to offer. Owned and operated by an Alaska-based family, the Dream Catcher provides an intimate Alaskan cruise to take in this enchanting environment.

Gross Tonnage: 171GT

Length: 30 Metres

Width: 7,0 Metres

Draft: 2,6 Metres

Passenger Capacity: 12

Zodiacs: 2

Crew: 3-4, led by an experienced Captain

Guides: 2

FACILITIES ON BOARD

Cabins

There are 6 passenger cabins on board, all with private WC and shower.

Communication

There is no regular Internet access on board.

Please note that you will have no reception on your mobile phone during the expedition.

Electricity

The electrical supply aboard the ship is 120 volts using US plugs. We recommend that you

bring an international adapter if needed.

Bridge Visits

There is an open bridge policy on board and passengers are welcome to visit the bridge at all times. Please respect the Captain's orders, especially during difficult navigation.

Laundry

There are laundry facilities on board, and everyone are welcome to use it.

Meals

The dining room located in the lower deck seats all passengers in one single sitting. Our chef will serve you three meals a day. Breakfast is buffet style and lunch and dinner will be a combination of buffet style and waiter service. If you have special dietary needs, these must be clearly indicated prior to your departure.

Coffee and tea is available around the clock.

Medical

There is no doctor on board. Passengers under regular treatment or requiring special medication should bring sufficient quantities to last the duration of the expedition. The ship is reachable by helicopter or seaplane from Homer or Kodiak, where there are hospitals.

Money Matters

The standard currency on board the ship is the US Dollar.

Tipping is discretionary, although a rough guideline is \$15 US per passenger per day.

Water

The water on board is safe to drink.

DAILY PROGRAM

This is a wilderness expedition and we never know the exact program in advance. Based on the weather conditions, we aim to maximize our photo opportunities during this expedition. Our planned program is:

Day 0 (31.8) International flight to Anchorage, Alaska

Day 1 (1.9) Transport from Anchorage to Homer, in the morning from your hotel. Photography, dinner and overnight in Homer.

Day 2 (2.9) After breakfast prepare for our flights out to Katmai (Kukak-area). If conditions are good we fly out as soon as possible. Flight time is approx. 1,5 hour. We get organized on the ship Dream Catcher and start to photograph.

Day 3-8 (3.9-8.9) We photograph Grizzly bears and other wildlife and landscape mainly in the Halo Bay, Kinak and Geographic Harbor areas. We try to maximize our photography based on weather, wind and light conditions.

Day 9 (9.9) Prepare our flight back to Homer, which is weather dependent. In the afternoon / evening transport back to Anchorage.

Day 10 (10.9) Flights home



EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Below is some recommended clothes and equipment to bring on this trip.

- Rain and windproof outerwear – jacket and pants. It may rain persistently why it is especially important with adequate water proof shell garments.
- The temperature in Katmai can be anything from zero (or below) degrees Celsius at night to 15 degrees during the day so you should bring clothes accordingly. It can be very windy and rainy at the location so even though the temperature is not that low the wind can cause a great chill factor. A good inner layer that keeps you warm and dry is essential. The best is to have several layers, one thinner inner layer and one thicker. Combined with good inner layer it is also recommended to bring a thick fleece and perhaps also a warm insulated jacket to have underneath a shell jacket. You will also need a warm hat and thin gloves that you can wear while handling a camera. The key is to wear clothing that dries fairly quickly and stays warm even if it would become a little damp, merino wool is very good as a inner layer. Remember to bring spare clothes if you get wet!
- You will borrow waders that you will use most of the time while on land. It is however great to have a pair of comfortable boots to wear on the ship.
- Mosquito nets to pull over your head, can be nice if mosquitoes becomes bad. In September this should not be a big problem, but you never know.
- Water bottle to bring during day trips in the field. Wildphoto Travel want to minimize the use of plastic bottles
- The best way to pack your personal equipment is in a backpack or soft bag (duffle bag). Make sure your content is packed reasonably waterproof. You can also pack some directly in waterproof stuff sacks, such as Seal line, instead of a bag.
- For photo and video equipment you can have a hard case for transportation, but in the field it's much better to carry your equipment in a waterproof / rainproof backpack. Make sure you have weather protection for the gear while in the field.

Suggested equipment for ALASKA

Luggage:

A Hand luggage (photo bag)
B PC-bag

C Clothes on the plane

D Checked bag(s)

Clothes

Warm socks D
Cotton socks D
Panties/boxers D
T-shirts D
2 Warm underwear upper D
2 Warm underwear lower D

Rainproof jacket C
Rainproof pants D
2 Wind/water proof gloves D
Warm hats D
Pair of hiking boots C

Pants D
Sweaters D

Photo gear

2 Camera bodies A
Telephoto lens 400mm+ A
70-200/2.8 A
Wide angle zoom(s) A
1,4x + 2x extenders A

Tripod D
Polarizing filter A
Flash A
Batteries flash A

Extra camera batteries A
Battery charger(s) B
CF-cards min. 250GB C
Rain coat for camera D
Photo «First aid kit» A

Laptop

13" or 15" laptop B
Power cable B

2 Hard drives (500+ GB) B
Software B

Card reader B

Miscellaneous

Letherman multitool D
Binoculars D
Tape D
Dry bag !! D
Mosquito net
Mosquito repellent

PASSPORT & ESTA C
Flight tickets C
Flashlight D
Notebook B
Water bottle D

Toothbrush D
Shampoo D
Sunscreen (SPF 30-50) D
Sea sickness pills A
Sunglasses D
Any Medicine A

Equipment to do or buy!

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ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is the main activity on this expedition. The level of interest, skills and equipment will differ from person to person, but the following may help you to prepare for your upcoming adventure.

EQUIPMENT

- **Camera:** Whatever camera you use, be sure to check that it is working properly before you leave home, and perform sensor cleaning (by yourself or an expert). We recommend to bring 2 cameras so you have one back-up if something happens with your primary camera. It's also handy with one camera with a telephoto lens and another with a wide-angle lens.
- **Camera features:** The most important thing with your camera is that it has good low-light capabilities (High-ISO). At least ISO 1600 will in many situations be your desired ISO setting.
- **Lenses:** We recommend a 400+ mm telephoto lens for photographing wildlife. A 70-200mm is very useful for landscape photography. A wide angle (20mm or wider) is nice to use on close animals with great surroundings, and for landscape images.
- **Batteries:** Bring back-up batteries for your cameras, flash etc. You can recharge your batteries on board. In cold climates the batteries last shorter than normal.
- **Memory cards:** The general rule is to bring more memory cards than you expect to need. We recommend at least 250 GB in CF, SD or XQD card.
- **Weather:** Your equipment should be weatherproof, or you should bring rain cover for your equipment. A dry bag is strongly recommended when traveling with camera gear in the zodiacs. Rain is not the worst, but it's sea water spray in the zodiacs. Small sand particles on some beaches might also cause problems.
- **Tripods:** Tripods are useful onshore, and also on the boat, but not in the zodiacs. With telephoto lenses larger than 300mm on a tripod on board the ship you have to use fast shutter speeds (like 1/1600 sec) because of the ship's vibrations.
- **Computer:** It's always good to have a laptop with 1-2 back-up disks (min. 500 GB) to store and edit your images. This is also how you can share your photos with others during the expedition.

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

When travelling with WildPhoto Travel you visit places that have been off-limit up until recently. Now, thanks to modern technology, we can visit these remote places. This also means that we have a great responsibility to ensure that the natural environments we visit are not disturbed by our presence. While you are on board our ship, you will find that the principles of conservation are of great importance.

By sharing our environmental concerns as we explore the wonders of nature, we look forward to guiding our guests towards becoming ambassadors for these remote corners of the world.

The following guidelines must be followed by all participants.

LANDINGS

Passengers must be aware of certain regulations involving the Zodiacs in order to ensure safety in our operations:

- The Zodiac driver is in charge of the boat and its operations. Please follow his or her instructions at all times.
- There may be wet landings (these may require getting your feet wet by wading ashore). We would advise passengers to wear appropriate waterproof clothing as protection from sea spray or rain when in the Zodiacs. Passengers should also use a weatherproof bag (or bring along a small plastic bag) to protect non-waterproof items such as cameras and binoculars.
- Always wear the life jackets provided when travelling in the Zodiacs. This is for your safety, and is required at all times while in the Zodiacs, regardless of weather and sea conditions.
- Always accept the helping hands of crew members and Zodiac drivers when stepping into or out of the Zodiacs at the ship's gangway. Keep both hands free for this operation and use the preferred "sailor's grip" (i.e. grip each other by the wrist, because this gives a much stronger grip than just holding hands).
- Minimise the number of separate articles you take along with you when using the Zodiacs. Backpacks are ideal for consolidating such diverse objects as cameras, binoculars, rain wear, extra shoes, etc. It also enables you to have both hands free.
- Personal hand luggage should be given to the boat handlers before embarking or disembarking the zodiac.

RESPECTING WILDLIFE

The main focus on this WildPhoto Travel expedition is photographing wildlife and landscape, and we want to get great images without stressing or disturbing the wildlife too much.

- Watch your step. Keep to established paths when possible. Exercise extreme care among breeding colonies of seabirds. Be aware of ground nesting birds. Follow the instructions given by your guides.
- Approach wildlife very carefully when taking photographs. It is important to remember that your photography is not over when the shutter clicks. Make your retreat from the subject in the same way you approached. The key point to remember is not to cause the animals any distress. Never harass wildlife for the sake of a photograph.
- Take care not to startle or chase any bird from its nest. Your attention to a nesting or moulting bird should never be prolonged when a predator is in the vicinity. Foxes, gulls and skuas are especially adapted to exploiting disruptions by raiding exposed nests and the young.
- Monitor your surroundings and be sensitive to any disruption you may be causing. If an animal shows signs of distress or avoidance, move away carefully.
- Look but never touch. These are wild animals going about the daily business of their lives. We want to observe and photograph natural behaviour in its natural state.
- Avoid repeated trampling of plants. Disruption of the plant cover in wet environments can cause damages.
- When ashore, stay with the group and/or one of the ship's guides. For your safety, never wander off on your own. Listen to the expedition leader and guides. Do not hesitate to ask your leaders and guides if you are not sure about something.

WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE

- In order not to introduce new species into Alaska please wash your boots at home and make sure that no seeds are included in the packaging or clothing (pockets, photo bag, etc.).
- Do not litter! Respect the wilderness, its wildlife and the enjoyment of future visitors. Return all litter to the ship for proper disposal. This includes litter of all types, such as wrappers, plastic bags, food waste and tissues. Leave no evidence of your visit.
- Do not collect natural souvenirs such as shells, rocks, feathers, bones or fossils.
- Keep noise level to a minimum.

HAVE A NICE JOURNEY!

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