



## Icy Strait Point: Excursions and Activities

With 22 excursions and numerous recreational opportunities to choose from, guests can enjoy a variety of popular Alaska attractions and cultural experiences at Icy Strait Point. During excursions, knowledgeable local guides share historical and cultural anecdotes, as well as experiences of daily village life with guests. Most guides live year round in the adjacent Tlingit village of Hoonah, providing visitors an authentic, personal view of the Native culture and community.

Most individual excursions are between two and three hours and start within minutes of guests' arrival, without the extended transfers required at many other ports in Southeast Alaska. Because of Icy Strait Point's wilderness setting, guests have access to a variety of wildlife, fishing and sightseeing tours, and because excursions begin on site, they can easily take part in several

different adventures during their stay. Huna Totem Corporation operates the vast majority of the excursions and activities on site, ensuring all guests a consistently high quality, culturally authentic experience coordinated for maximum enjoyment.

Guided cultural and adventure excursions include:

### **Island Exploration Tour (new for 2012)**

This new six-hour excursion is being introduced to take visitors further into the Tongass National Forest and culture of Southeast Alaska than ever before. Riding in a comfortable motor coach, guests will make stops across the island to learn about the area from a local's perspective. Stops will be customized to the time of year and what's happening in the community and range from berry picking to wildlife viewing.

### **STORY ANGLE: Icy Strait Point offers a seamless visitor experience, combining adventure and culture.**

At Icy Strait Point, guests can venture into Alaska's pristine wilderness in search of brown bears, learn the art of filleting and barbecuing fresh Alaska seafood, or get a bird's-eye-view of the expansive landscape from the world's largest ZipRider zip line— all in one visit. Icy Strait Point is a one-stop destination for visitors looking to experience area attractions, all the while demonstrating the vibrant, living culture of the Huna Tlingit people. The wilderness destination helps keep the local Tlingit culture alive by involving elders and youth in the showcasing of their history, artwork, values and lifestyles to travelers. The 2010 season was the first time visitors were exposed to the traditional Tlingit story, "The Strongman," during the Tribal Dance and Cultural Legends performance. The Native story teaches the values of strength, courage and leadership. By sharing their cultural stories, recipes and traditions with travelers, local Tlingit villagers ensure that their rich cultural heritage is passed along to another generation, and travelers have an experience like no other in Alaska.

### **Kayak Adventure and Advanced Kayaking Adventure (new for 2012)**

While the original 2.5-hour kayak tour takes guests along the coastline and past the village of

Hoonah, the new advanced adventure takes visitors further out along the coast on a four-hour excursion. Guides share local history and culture and serve as naturalists, pointing out marine life like sea otters, puffins, whales and much more along the way. The paddle offers a unique perspective of Icy Strait Point's wilderness setting.

### **Scenic Mountain Ascent and World's Largest ZipRider**

The longest, largest and highest ZipRider zip line in the world opened at Icy Strait Point in 2007, giving guests a panoramic view of Port Frederick, Icy Strait and the surrounding islands and wilderness. Guests learn about Hoonah history and culture from their local guide during the scenic bus tour through old logging roads up to the zip line, starting at 1,300 feet above sea level. Following a short walk, guests are securely buckled in, and the magnificent view unfolds as they soar nearly 5,330 feet, reaching speeds up to 60 miles per hour, to the base near the beach below.

### **In Alaska's Wildest Kitchen**

Wild Alaska seafood is the center of this interactive, 1.5-hour culinary class and food-sampling session, newly revamped in 2011. Participants make a smoked salmon dip and learn about the seafood found in the waters of Southeast Alaska, as well as traditional and modern methods of preparing and preserving the ocean's bounty.

### **Wine and Whales: Evening Cruise to Point Adolphus**

Guests have seen humpback whales on every whale-watching cruise from Icy Strait Point to Point Adolphus since 2004; 2010 was the first year they could do it in the evening sunlight with a glass of wine in hand. This 2.5-hour excursion allows guests to learn about area marine life from a naturalist while watching the humpback and orca whales up close, and enjoying a selection of specialty Alaska foods and a glass of wine. Alaska microbrews are available for purchase. The nutrient-rich waters of Point Adolphus are a world-famous feeding area for the endangered humpback whales; sightings of whales are guaranteed or guests receive a \$100 refund.

### **Icy Strait Point Stream Fishing**

On this small-group 3.5-hour excursion, a maximum of five anglers can cast a line for salmon and Dolly Varden from the banks of Game Creek. Guests are provided with hip boots and spin cast or fly-fishing gear, and follow a guide into the serene wilderness setting for catch-and-release fishing.

### **Tribal Dance and Cultural Legends**

Tlingit culture comes alive during this interactive, hour-long performance, which incorporated the traditional Tlingit story, "The Strongman" in 2010. The Huna Tlingit cast is dressed in their regalia, hand-carved masks and colorful headdresses, as they share their heritage through storytelling, songs and dance. All audience members have the opportunity to participate in a communal Tlingit song and join the dancers on stage, where they don a button blanket and learn the dance steps.

### **Whale and Marine Mammals Cruise**

Humpback whales, orcas, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters and porpoise are just a few of the marine mammals visitors see on this two-hour cruise. And because the waters of Port Frederick and Point Adolphus are a prime feeding area for humpback whales, guests haven't missed a whale sighting in the cruise's history. A naturalist onboard the 86-foot vessel provides commentary about the area, marine mammals and wildlife. Sightings of whales are guaranteed or guests receive a \$100 refund.

### **Spasski River Valley Wildlife and Brown Bear Search**

On this 2.5-hour tour, visitors travel by bus for 20 minutes through the Tlingit village of Hoonah to designated paths and viewing platforms in the Spasski River Valley in search of Alaska coastal brown bears. It is estimated that there are three brown bears for every resident on Chichagof Island, where Icy Strait Point is located, making the odds of spotting them quite high — visitors see brown bears more than 70 percent of the time. Bald eagles, land otters, Sitka black-tailed deer, mink and marten are among the other wildlife that may be seen.

### **Glacier Bay Flightseeing**

Guests depart from Hoonah Airport aboard a fixed-wing airplane for a panoramic view of Icy Strait and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. In a short span of time, guests are able to take in the immensity of the park's 3.3 million acres while also witnessing the changing landscape from azure glaciers to lush forests that continues to make Glacier Bay a memorable destination. The pilot will fly over Point Adolphus to look for humpback whales, talk about what this land was like when it was covered by glaciers hundreds of years ago and point out Lemesurier Island, the farthest point the glaciers reached before their retreat.

### **Hoonah Bike Trek**

This leisurely, eight-mile bike tour gives cyclists an intimate look at Alaska's largest Tlingit village. On the two-hour tour, visitors learn how the community survived the 1944 fire that burned the village to the ground, as well as the dislocation of the Huna Tlingit people from Glacier Bay when the glacier advanced over their village.

### **Hoonah Sightseeing**

Visitors board a comfortable motor coach for a 1.5-hour tour of the village of Hoonah. A knowledgeable, local guide shares personal stories of the small fishing community and Tlingit village, as well as the history of how the town came to be after the Huna Tlingit were forced out of Glacier Bay by advancing glaciers. Guests will not only see local totem poles, but also learn about the two Tlingit moities keeping watch over town (ravens and eagles).

### **Forest and Nature Tram**

A local guide educates guests on Chichagof Island's geology, flora and fauna on this 1.5-hour wheeled tram tour through old-growth forest and along the beach. Visitors may view a bald eagle nest along the route and guests often report seeing other wildlife such as Sitka black-tailed deer, coastal brown bears and humpback whales.

### **Sportfishing and Halibut Fishing**

Anglers on the sportfishing and halibut fishing excursions, each lasting about 3.5 hours, drop their lines within minutes of leaving the Icy Strait Point dock in hopes of hooking the "big one." The cold clear waters of Icy Strait are home to all five species of Pacific salmon, halibut, Alaska black cod (sablefish) and rockfish. Local guides will assist in processing and shipping the day's catch back to the guest's home.

### **ATV Expedition**

Visitors explore the rugged backcountry of Chichagof Island on a 4x4 Kawasaki Mule on this guided, 2.5-hour adventure tour.

## **Combination Tours**

Due to the popularity of several excursions and leisure time available to guests, some excursions have been conveniently combined for double the experience and even greater value.

The most popular combination is the **Whales, Wildlife and Brown Bear Search**, which lasts about 5.5 hours. On this excursion, guests ride a high-speed catamaran through waters that support a wide variety of marine life near Icy Strait Point, including orca whales, Steller sea lions, seals, porpoises and humpback whales. An onboard naturalist describes the biology and behavior of the diverse species that gather every summer to indulge in the nutrient-rich waters, fueled by the long summer days in Alaska. As in the other whale-watching excursions at Icy Strait Point, whale sightings are guaranteed or guests receive a \$100 refund. Guests later cruise back to Icy Strait Point for additional wildlife viewing. The journey out to the Spasski River Valley is a tour in itself, as the motor coach travels through the Tlingit village of Hoonah and out through the interior forests and muskegs of Chichagof Island. Guests may spot bald eagles, woodpeckers, Sitka black-tailed deer and Alaska coastal brown bears.

Additional combinations include the **Forest Tram and Tribal Dance** (2.75 hours); **ATV Expedition and Scenic Mountain Ascent and World's Largest ZipRider** (3 hours); **Hoonah Sightseeing and Tribal Dance** (2.5 hours); and **Hoonah Bike Trek and Scenic Mountain Ascent and World's Largest ZipRider** (3.5 hours).

## **Independent activities at Icy Strait Point**

For guests wishing to experience the wilderness destination at their own pace, Icy Strait Point offers numerous leisure opportunities:

- **Icy Strait Point Museum and Canning Line**  
Guests may tour the original 1912 salmon cannery, home of a free museum that offers a historical look at Alaska, Hoonah, the commercial fishing industry and the cannery, including historical photos and mementos. Much of the cannery's equipment has been restored to its original form, and visitors can learn about the canning process from beginning to end through interpretive displays and may even "can" a souvenir. (Items are vacuum-sealed and then canned to mail home or to friends and relatives.) Many of the original canning labels are also on display.
- **Walking and Beach Trails**  
Approximately two miles of well-maintained walking trails meander through Icy Strait Point and allow guests to escape into the wilderness at their own pace. Guests can stroll along the beach, skip stones or follow the boardwalk to a half-mile trail in the nearby old-growth forest and along several lakes. Numerous benches along the trails provide a peaceful respite to commune with nature and take in the view.
- **Shore Fishing**  
The Hoonah salmon cannery closed in the mid 1950s, but fish still teem in area waters. Visitors looking to fish at their leisure can rent a fishing pole and cast a line from shore. King salmon weighing as much as 86 pounds and halibut weighing more than 300 pounds have been caught in Icy Strait. The cold waters are home to all five species of salmon, halibut, Alaska black cod (sablefish) and rockfish.

Icy Strait Point shore excursions may be purchased when passengers book their cruise, on the ship en route or upon arrival at Icy Strait Point. Independent travelers may purchase excursion tickets when they arrive at Icy Strait Point.

For more information about excursions and activity options, visit [www.icystraitpoint.com](http://www.icystraitpoint.com).