

Please understand that the following itinerary is only an example of how your particular trip may be run. A concrete description is impossible to give you due to the nature of our tours and the temporal changes of PWS. The truth is that weather, time of year, your interests, paddling pace, the decisions of your guide and other factors will ultimately dictate where you paddle, establish camp or stop along the way and hence, what you'll see. This then is not to be taken as a complete step by step of each day you will be out.

Meet at Anadyr Adventures, 225 N. Harbor Dr, for the **7pm pre-trip orientation the evening before your trip leaves.**

Day 1

The morning you've been waiting for.... load the water taxi then sit back and enjoy the 1 hour ride out to Sawmill Bay and your first views of Prince William Sound. Upon arrival your guide will give a paddle lesson and talk to you about safely moving in the wilderness of PWS. Then establish camp, enjoy a lunch prepared by your guide and set off for a day of exploring.

The glassy waters of Sawmill Bay offer perfect conditions for refining your paddling stroke. Trace the shoreline nook after nook while scanning the water for seals and sea otters. A highlight of Sawmill Bay is paddling up the flooded Stellar Creek on a high tide. During salmon runs thousands of fish flood this stream and paddling among them is an experience that you'll never forget. Watch close for black bears and bald eagles that frequent the area in search of a meal.

A small waterfall draining the perched Devish Lake is a perfect spot to stretch your legs. Hiking along the stream, you'll pass through a lush temperate rainforest that thins to muskeg meadows and a short while later to the lake itself. Stop and drop to a knee to see the insectivorous sundews or search for bog blueberries and cranberries that love the thick sphagnum that makes up the muskeg.

Back at camp you can relax with a book or bring fishing gear and try your luck with the salmon or dolly varden that may be swimming by somewhere off the beach. Then enjoy a hot meal prepared by your guide and settle in for a quiet night in Sawmill Bay.

Day 2

Hot coffee, tea and a hearty breakfast then break camp, pack your kayak and take one last look around Sawmill Bay. Your destination today is Shoup Bay. Along the way you'll pass some of the most impressive waterfalls in the Valdez area. You'll marvel at Andersen falls as it plummets hundreds of feet from its source Andersen Glacier to tideline. Paddle along the shoreline and keep an eye out for the colorful sea stars, which begin to show as the tide ebbs. Move north through the Valdez Narrows and then take in the view across the expansive Port

Valdez.

Port Valdez is a testament to the Pleistocene days when massive tidewater glaciers carved coastal Alaska and covered Prince William Sound to the Gulf of Alaska. High in the mountain valleys around Port Valdez you'll still spot apron and cirque glaciers, the smaller predecessors of the massive Pleistocene glaciers.

As you enter Shoup Bay you'll get your first views of Shoup glacier, which occupies the head of Shoup's inner bay, your home for the night. The inner bay is also home to over 20,000 nesting blacklegged kittiwakes. Paddle by the rookery and watch as they build their nests along the cliff face, feed their chicks, and fend off the regular bombardment of predatory bald eagles and an occasional black bear or wolverine.

While inside the inner-bay you'll be immersed in the sounds of rushing water from a multitude of hundred-foot waterfalls racing down to tidewater. The lush walls of the mountainsides are the early stages of the blooming temperate rainforest you witnessed in Sawmill Bay.

With each paddle stroke the glacier seems to grow in size. Floating a safe distance away, you'll have time to take photos of the heavily crevassed face of this stunning glacier. Staring into the blue ice becomes mesmerizing as you paddle across the face. Hop out of your kayak at either side of the glacier and attempt a closer approach by foot. If you make a stream crossing or two, you may be rewarded by laying a hand on the glacier itself! A truly amazing experience.

Unpack your kayak and make camp for the night. Grab a hot drink, snack, and sit back to take in the sights of the glacier as your guide prepares a delicious dinner. Throughout the night listen for the perpetual sounds of the glacier creaking and groaning as it slowly moves down the valley.

Day 3

After breakfast you'll break camp and load your kayaks for the last time then start the trip back to Valdez. Along the way you'll pass the historic Cliff Mine, one of the richest gold strikes in Prince William Sound. Listen as your guide relates its history and the story of the gold rush of 1898, which led to the founding of old town Valdez.

Stop for a stretch or lunch break at Gold Creek and take a short hike that leads to the falls. Watch as the arctic terns hover then dive for fish just offshore. Gold Creek is another great place to cast for dolly varden or salmon.

Back on the water approaching Valdez you'll enjoy your last moments on the water. Keep an eye out around Mineral Creek, as this is a favorite spot for seals and sea otters. Finish your trip by paddling into the Valdez small boat harbor by mid afternoon.

See onsite price list for current pricing.

Departures: May 15th to Sept 15th

Group size: 4-8

Minimum Age: 12

Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous