

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... after a paddle lesson and a brief safety talk given by your guide, you'll pack your kayak and set out from the Valdez small boat harbor. Immediately you'll realize the unique vantage the kayak seat offers as you quietly glide out to Port Valdez. Heading west you'll trace beautiful shoreline while scanning the water for seals, sea otters, and sea lions. Make sure to keep an eye to the treetops for bald eagles. Stop for a stretch or lunch break at Gold Creek and take a short hike that leads to the falls. Bring fishing gear and try your luck with the dolly varden or salmon that may be swimming by somewhere off the beach. Watch as arctic terns hover then dive for fish just offshore.

Back on the water 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. Just ahead lays Shoup Bay. As you enter the Bay you 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.

Unpack your kayak and make camp for the night. Grab a hot drink, snack, and a seat. It's time to sit back and take in the sights of the glacier as your guide prepares a delicious hot dinner. Or before the meal take a little time to do some adventuring on your own. Explore the inner-bay on a hike over the rocky beaches looking for treasures left by the glacier.

Day 2

You wake up to the sights and sounds of Shoup glacier. Coffee, tea, breakfast and then break camp. Its time for your final approach to the glacier. 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 of the glacier. 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! You'll have plenty of time to explore the dynamic environment of a tidewater glacier. A truly amazing experience.

Your water taxi will pick you up around 4pm, unless otherwise specified, and bring you back to the Valdez small boat harbor.

Note: The ease of entering Shoup's inner bay is tidal dependent; therefore, we sometimes run this trip in reverse (water taxi drop-off in Shoup Bay and paddle back to Valdez). This trip is also offered as a 3 day/ 2 night. The additional night is spent at Gold Creek, halfway between Valdez and Shoup Bay. Inquire for trip rate.

See onsite price list for current pricing.

Departures: May 15th to Sept. 15th

Group size: 4-8

Minimum age: 12

Difficulty: Moderate