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Juneau (Alaska) | Optional Shore Excursions

A visit to this icy world of savage beauty is repeatedly described as an unmissable, holiday highlight. Tracy Arm is a narrow, deep fjord near Juneau, Alaska, named after former secretary of the navy, General Benjamin F Tracy. Nearly 50 kms long, the twin Sawyer Glaciers are located at the furthest end of the fjord. Sailing through narrow passages carved out by glaciers, vertical cliffs rise up from the water whilst numerous waterfalls send torrents of water plunging downwards. A sense of adventure is definitely in the air. Both tidewater Sawyer Glaciers are actively carving leading to enormous chunks of ice falling into the water. Some pieces are the size of buildings, thankfully some just a few metres long. Often an electric blue hue, it's a stunning sight. The noise of the ice as it tumbles into the water lives up to its name, white thunder. The sound reverberates through the air, bouncing off the narrow walls with larger chunks of ice creating huge wakes. Tracy Arm Fjord is a designated wilderness area within the Tongass National Forest, as such there are plenty of opportunities to observe the local wildlife. Bears, wolves, eagles and mountain goats all pass through. Harbor seals rear their young on the ice floating in the fjords and whales and sealions are regular visitors. There are camera opportunities galore.

Tracy Arm Fjord and Glacier Explorer | TYA-A

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Moderate | Duration: 3.5 hours | This shore excursion is brand new to Silversea

Discover the incredible Tracy Arm Wilderness Area, a high-walled and spectacular 30-mile fjord studded with bright blue icebergs and waterfalls. Prepare to have your breath taken away as you get up close to the twin Sawyer Glaciers, which gleam with a bright cobalt blue only found in this dreamy landscape of Alaska.

Designated in just 1980, the Tracy Arm Wilderness Area covers over 653,000 acres and consists of two major fjords, Tracy Arm and the Endicott arm, both over 30 miles long. In the summer season the fjords are filled with floating ice that ranges from a softball to a three-story house.

Make the transfer to your specially-designed, highly maneuverable boat at the entrance to the Tracy Arm Fjord and embark on your glacier exploration for three hours. Because of the abundant wildlife and awe-inspiring views of thousand-foot waterfalls, bright blue icebergs and stunning cliffs, your captain stops regularly to take time for photographs and simply taking in what you see with amazement.

As you journey, there is the option to stay on deck or retreat to the comfortable, heated cabin with plenty of window views as you receive commentary by captain and crew. Your onboard naturalist and crew are available for explanation and narration as you travel amidst the glacially-carved fjords.

There is a total of three hours to explore the full-length of this ice-carved wonderland; tracing the bases of cliffs that rise 4,000-feet above the jade-colored sea, as the onboard naturalist provides a wealth of information about the area. There is a comfortable heated cabin below deck, but be sure to spend as much time as possible out on deck to see all there is to see. Feel the mist on your face as the captain skillfully guides the vessel up to a plunging waterfall.

Enjoy the boat stopping to view Bald Eagles, Harbor Seals and if you are really lucky even Bears and Mountain Goats. Your smaller vessel allows you to get especially close to the North Sawyer Glacier. Travel past recently-calved icebergs with dozens of seals resting atop them. Stop near the face of the South Sawyer Glacier where you may hear (or even see) the calving of new ice as it breaks in a sound known as the "White thunder."

Disembark your tour vessel and transfer to the ship.

Please note: This tour involves extensive activity and is not wheelchair accessible. While there is little walking required, participants must be able to negotiate transit of a narrow, moderately steep gangway with only minor assistance to embark and disembark the tour vessel. Guests suffering from motion sickness are recommended to take Dramamine well in advance of tour. Guests are recommended to wear warm wool or fleece layers, a waterproof jacket, hat, gloves and comfortable shoes for walking, and to bring camera and cash or credit card for food or souvenir purchases. Wildlife sightings are likely but not guaranteed. This tour operates in a remote wilderness area, where weather and ice conditions can alter both the duration and route of the journey, including shipside embarkation/disembarkation areas.

OPTIONAL Shore Excursions.

Tours and Itineraries are subject to change and availability. Contact Cruise Connections for details and pricing.

Toll Free: 1-866-796-WAVE (9283) | Email: info@cruise-connections.com | www.cruise-connections.com

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