

Kings & Queens of Katmai

Trip dates: 1-9 September 2021*

Location: Katmai coast, Alaska, USA

Group size: 8; Cost GBP 7,895 per person**

ANDY SKILLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



TO TRULY EXPLORE THE KATMAI NATIONAL PARK, YOU NEED TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO MOVE...AND NOT JUST BY AIRCRAFT (WHICH CAN BE GROUNDED IN BAD WEATHER). AS SUCH, WE'VE TAKEN THE DECISION TO **CHARTER OUR OWN SHIP** THAT WILL TAKE US INTO **KUKAK BAY, HALLO BAY, KAFLIA BAY, KINAK AND HIDDEN HARBOUR** (ABOUT AS REMOTE AS YOU CAN GET IN KATMAI), AND **GEOGRAPHIC HARBOUR**. STAYING ON THE BOAT AND CRUISING FROM LOCATION TO LOCATION (DEPENDING ON THE INTELLIGENCE WE GLEAN) WE WILL **MAKE LANDINGS EACH DAY** TO ENABLE **ON FOOT PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES** WITH THE **GRIZZLIES** THAT CALL THIS PART OF ALASKA HOME. **WOLVES** ARE EVEN A POSSIBILITY IN SOME BAYS, WHILST **SEA OTTERS, SEALS** AND THE OCCASIONAL **WHALE** ARE ALSO A POTENTIAL PHOTO SIGHTING FROM THE SHIP. THIS WILL BE A GREAT IMMERSIVE BEAR EXPERIENCE...

***A SECOND OVERFLOW DEPARTURE WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED**

****PLEASE NOTE – THERE IS NO SINGLE ROOM OPTION ON THIS TRIP**

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- EXCLUSIVE GROUP SIZE OF JUST 8 GUESTS
- 108' VESSEL TO GIVE PLENTY OF "ELBOW ROOM" ON BOARD WHEN SLEEPING AND CRUISING
- TWICE DAILY LANDINGS (OR ALL DAY LANDINGS IF APPROPRIATE!) IN THE BAYS WE VISIT
- CHANCE FOR EYE-TO-EYE ENCOUNTERS WITH GRIZZLIES (HIP-WADERS PROVIDED) ON LAND AND IN WATER
- ACCESS TO SOME OF THE REMOTEST PARTS OF KATMAI NOT EASILY REACHED BY NORMAL MEANS
- POSSIBILITIES OF FISHING WOLVES, SEA OTTERS, SEALS AND WHALES
- ESCORTED THROUGHOUT BY ANDY SKILLEN
- AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION AS NEEDED!

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 8 guests only
- **GBP 7,895** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- **Start point:** Kodiak Airport
- **End point:** Kodiak Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- 1 night accommodation in a comfortable mid-range hotel in Kodiak
 - Welcome meal in Kodiak
 - 7 nights accommodation on our chartered ship cruising the Katmai coast
 - Return scenic floatplane transfers from Kodiak to the ship and back to Kodiak
 - All meals and drinks throughout the itinerary (*except alcohol – although you can bring your own)
 - All guiding fees and photographic tuition
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WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
 - Items of a personal nature
 - Alcoholic drinks
 - Visa fees as appropriate
 - Gratuities
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YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1 Arrive Kodiak and overnight (1 night)

On your arrival in Kodiak, you will be shuttled to your downtown hotel and have the chance to settle in before meeting your fellow photographers for a welcome meal that evening. If you wish to arrive earlier and have a day in the town too (for most – it is a long flight!) do let us know, as we can get a good rate at the hotel if you wish an extra night or two.

Day 2-8 Katmai National Park (7 nights)

Your Katmai experience begins with a spectacular flight seeing trip ending in rendezvous with our ship anchored offshore within the National Park. You'll be flying in Alaska most venerable sea plane the DeHavilland Beaver and on this flight you will cross over the northernmost part of Kodiak's archipelago offering views of what is termed "Alaska's Emerald Isle"

In addition to the stunning landscapes, you could also see the first whales of your trip on this flight. As you begin across Shelikof Straight, your pilot will turn toward the distant ice fields of the Alaska Peninsula. Here you take in your first views of the Katmai coast. Your plane will touch down in Kukak Bay where we'll get you oriented to the boat, show you to your stateroom, and have you out in the field and photographing!

The emphasis on this trip is of course, bears and we will normally move to a new location every 2 days on average, though there are exceptions. Sometimes we stay longer in one place either because the activity is too spectacular to leave behind, or occasionally because weather conditions keep us there. In a week's time you will experience the full breadth of this unforgettable coast and watch marine and terrestrial species act out dramatic scenes in this unforgettable landscape.

A typical day will start with breakfast, before heading ashore (sometimes with hip-waders – provided) and onto the beach or tidal flats. Prior to going ashore we will discuss the social behavior of bears and fine-tune our own strategy to minimize the group's impact as we choose a spot to observe. The spot we choose depends on the state of the tide and the number, maturity level and gender of the bears, and of course the distribution of food, but it may be within a few metres of them. Depending on the day, we may choose to

head back to have lunch onboard the ship, or bring it with us. However, we are very conscious of the attractive element of food to bears, and we will make this decision on a case-by-case basis.

After lunch, we discuss options for the afternoon and head back out to go photographing again. Dinner will be served on board the ship each night, and beer and wine are allowed onboard (please bring your own).

If we're traveling to a new place, it usually takes place in the evening, with the goal of arriving at our new anchorage before bedtime.

During the course of our trip, and based on the intelligence we receive, we will aim to explore: Kukak Bay, Kaflia Bay (one of the remotest), Kuliak (good for mums and cubs), Kinak, Hidden Harbor (super-remote), Hallo Bay and Geographic Harbor.

We will adjust accordingly as we go. For example, at Hallo, as well as the normal clamping and fishing, bears have even started stalking sea otters on Little Ninagiak Island (a poorly understood and only recently discovered behavior). This is just super special event we may be lucky enough to capture if it's happening whilst we are in the area. Though it's hard to take your eyes off the main event, in any of these bays wolves may make a cameo appearance, and may fish the mouths of the rivers as boldly as any boar.

Day 9 Depart Katmai and onwards

After breakfast on your final morning onboard we may get out for a second breakfast but this time the otters and bears will be doing the eating. Following our morning's excursion, back in the ship's salon we spend our hour listening for your plane while culling out our best final photos.

As a capstone to the trip you get an aerial view to try and take it all in again as you make your way back to Kodiak. Once again everything is taken care of and transport will be waiting to get you out to the Airport or Hotel.

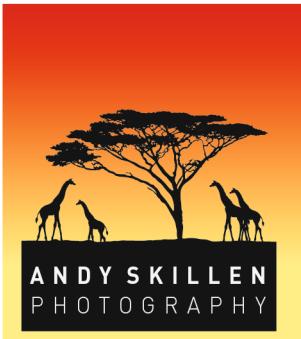
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

- a. send an email to Andy@faunavista.com or Carrie@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form
 - b. download the **generic booking form** using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.
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Charity...a permanent winner

Andy's photography is all about giving something back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the **David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF)**, **Animals Asia** and the **Bushlife Foundation** – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors.



CHANGING THE IMAGE OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...