Yale Educational Travel

Exploring Alaska’s Coastal Wilderness
A Family Adventure aboard the National Geographic Sea Lion

July 1-8, 2018

Vladimir Alexandrov
B.E. Bensinger Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature
Dear Yale Traveler

To experience the awe-inspiring reaches of Southeast Alaska you have to go deep. You must sail into narrow, shallow channels where wildlife comes to feed and venture up winding fjords that terminate at towering glaciers. The 62-guest National Geographic Sea Lion is perfectly suited to this kind of exploration. Nimble and with a shallow draft, it can venture into remote regions that larger ships simply cannot reach.

But there’s so much more to Alaska than natural wonder! My special interest is the fascinating history of the place, especially the long period when it was a Russian possession from 1733 to 1867. I look forward to talking about that history and more (I also have a background in geology, which is on dramatic display everywhere in Alaska). My wife, Sybil, who teaches Spanish at Yale, will be joining me; between the two of us, we have been at Yale for over fifty years and know it very well.

Join us July 1-8, 2018 and experience the delights of summer in Alaska. During this short, sweet season, Southeast Alaska is filled with possibility and promise – the chance to see a brown bear sow with her cubs foraging along the shoreline, or the first whales of the season coming to feed after their long migration, or glaciers crashing into the sea.

You’ll hear insights and commentary from your expedition team, the largest and finest in Alaska. Whether you choose to travel solo or as part of a multigenerational family, you’ll discover that life aboard an intimate ship is warm and welcoming, with everyone participating equally in the adventure. I hope you will join us in Alaska this summer. To register, please visit www.yaleedtravel.org/alaskafamily18. Or contact Yale Educational Travel with any questions at (203) 432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Alexandrov
B.E. Bensinger Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature

www.yaleedtravel.org/alaskafamily18
Vladimir Alexandrov

Vladimir Alexandrov, B. E. Bensinger Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at Yale, is a specialist in Russian literature and culture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Professor Alexandrov is well known on campus for his popular lecture courses and seminars on Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Nabokov, and other writers, and received the Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities in Yale College in 2006. During the past thirty plus years, he has served as Chair of the Slavic Department, as well as director of undergraduate and graduate studies.

Professor Alexandrov has published four books and several dozen articles on various aspects of Russian literature and literary theory; a number of these have been translated into Russian. His latest book, entitled *The Black Russian*, is the biography of the son of former slaves from Mississippi who led a remarkable life as a rich and famous theatrical entrepreneur in tsarist Moscow and as the “Sultan of Jazz” in Constantinople in the 1920s. It won many prizes, made several “Best of 2013” lists, is under development as a musical, and has been optioned for a movie. His next project will be a book entitled *Lincoln and the Russians*.

Professor Alexandrov has a special interest in the Russian period of Alaskan history (1733-1867), and will give talks on this topic. He will be accompanied by his wife, Sybil Alexandrov, Senior Lector II in Spanish and Portuguese at Yale, who won the The Richard H. Brodhead ’68 Prize for Teaching Excellence in Yale College in 2011 and is a specialist on Spanish Language Heritage teaching.

Yale Study Leader

Book Corner

Alaska’s Southeast, Touring the Inside Passage
by Mike Miller
A best-selling book on Alaska, this practical guide includes where to go and what to do (with terrific town maps) and also a good overview of the area’s natural history, culture and geography.

Coming into the Country
by John McPhee
A superb introduction to the state, McPhee’s lyrical portrait blends history, issues and interesting facts with sketches of frontier life and vivid Alaskan characters.
EXPLORING ALASKA’S COASTAL WILDERNESS
JULY 1-8, 2018

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Thursday, June 21
(tentative)
Join the group at 4pm EST on Thursday, June 21 for a pre-trip welcome call with the professor in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

ARRIVE SITKA, ALASKA/EMBARK SHIP
Sunday, July 1
To begin your Alaska cruise, fly from Seattle to Sitka, southeastern Alaska’s only oceanfront town. Sitka has a strong Russian heritage, which is readily apparent as you visit the onion-domed St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church. Gaze up at the grand totem poles that line the wooded trails through Sitka National Historic Park. At the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, have close views of species normally seen at a distance in the wild—bald eagles, hawks, falcons and owls. Embark the ship and take the time to settle into your cabin before a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

SOUTHEAST ALASKA’S ISLANDS, BAYS AND FJORDS
Monday, July 2
Today, nature is our guide as we set forth with the flexibility to take advantage of wildlife and weather conditions. We may stop at an isolated beach to take a closer look at tide pools, beachcomb, and hike stunning forest trails. Keep an eye out for old bear tracks worn into the soil as you move from forest to meadow. This area is home to the highest density of nesting bald eagles in the world, so sightings are very common. If conditions permit, we’ll do some kayaking, always watching for marine and terrestrial life. (B/L/D)

Immerse your family in Alaska’s rare wilderness!

GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK
Tuesday, July 3
We spend the entire day amidst the coves, fjords, tidewater glaciers and majestic mountains of Glacier Bay National Park. You’ll see glaciers that end abruptly at the water’s edge and observe them “calving”—tons of ice crashing into the sea—accompanied by an exhilaratingly thunderous sound. Mountain goats scaling the peaks as well as harbor seals, Steller sea lions and puffins are some of the creatures we may observe. A visit to Tidal Inlet may bring the sight of brown bears lumbering up the hillside. A native Tlingit interpreter joins us on board to share the legend of the area. (B/L/D)

THE INIAN ISLANDS AND ICY STRAIT
Wednesday July 4
Hike and kayak among the Inian Islands, where an abundance of Steller sea lions and sea otters reside. We’ll search for whales in the rich waters of Icy Strait and, conditions permitting, lower the ship’s hydrophone to listen in on the whales’ communication. (B/L/D)

FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT
Thursday, July 5
These waters are prime areas for both killer whales and humpback whales. It’s not uncommon to observe their fascinating behavior—breaching, tail-slapping and variations on feeding—as we fill the deck and listen to the play-by-play from the expert naturalists. We’ll explore spectacular bays and inlets, following bear trails...
and salmon streams. Once ashore, we’ll have the opportunity to walk along a quiet forest trail. The still waters are excellent for kayaking, offering another option for up-close exploration. (B/L/D)

**PETERSBURG**
*Friday, July 6*
Search for humpback whales as we head towards the small, true Alaskan town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island. Explore a unique Southeast Alaskan ecosystem, the “muskeg,” with stunted trees and carnivorous plants. There is an opportunity for optional flightseeing or bike riding. Enjoy a Dungeness crab feast this evening. (B/L/D)

**TRACY ARM-FORDS TERROR WILDERNESS**
*Saturday, July 7*
Voyage into Tracy or Endicott Arm, both spectacular glacially carved fjords. We’ll also pass the Sawyer Glacier, which has been described as bluer than any blue on Earth, or the towering Dawes Glacier. If conditions permit, we’ll use the expedition landing craft to provide unparalleled up-close views of the glacier. Keep an eye out for harbor seals, porpoises and arctic terns. (B/L/D)

**JUNEAU/DISEMBARK SHIP/SEATTLE**
*Sunday, July 8*
Disembark this morning in downtown Juneau. Take time to visit the local shops before exploring the newly constructed Alaska State Museum, with its sprawling collection of natural history and cultural artifacts. Transfer to the airport for connecting flights home. (B)

*A Forest Service Special Use Permit for Tongass National Forest enables you to hike and kayak in wild and remote areas of Southeast Alaska.*

*Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*

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**What is Included:**
- Program of lectures and discussions with Vladimir Alexandrov
- Accommodations aboard the National Geographic Sea Lion
- All meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship
- Shore excursions
- Sightseeing and entrance fees
- Use of kayaks and paddleboards
- Special access permits
- Transfers to and from group flights
- Tips (except to ship’s crew)
- Taxes and service charges
- Services of expedition leader, naturalist staff and expert guides
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance

**What is Not Included:**
- Air transportation
- Passport, visa, immigration fees (if applicable)
- Meals not indicated
- Travel protection plan
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, optional flightseeing, emails, voyage DVD, etc.
- Gratuities to ship’s crew are at guest’s discretion.
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.

www.yaleedtravel.org/alaskafamily18
SAMPLE AIRFARES:
Seattle/Sitka/Juneau/Seattle:
Economy from $350; Business from $800.

BRINGING THE KIDS: Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take $500 off for each child under the age of 18.

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

SHIPBOARD INFORMATION
Capacity: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins
Registry: United States
Public Areas: Ship features a library; global market; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows, and presentations; observation deck; partially covered sun deck with chairs and tables. The “open bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

Meals: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and lunch is often served family style. Menu emphasizes local flair.

Cabins: All face outside with windows, private facilities, and climate controls.

Expedition Equipment: Expedition landing craft, kayaks, paddleboards; bow camera, hydrophone, splashcam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

Special Features: Guest internet access. A video chronicler and undersea specialist on board all voyages.

Wellness: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment, LEXspa, and morning stretch classes.

Terms and Conditions
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $350 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 119 days to 90 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of the deposit amount ($1,000 per person); 89 days to 60 days, 25% of the total fare; 59 days to 45 days, 50% of the total fare; cancellation from 44 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to our office.

Reserve Your Trip To Alaska Today
Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/alaskafamily18
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due April 2, 2018.

1) name as on passport

date of birth          yale connection

passport origin       relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport

date of birth          yale connection

passport origin       relationship to other guest

Contact Information

address

city/state/zip

primary phone

secondary phone

email

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to "Lindblad Expeditions" to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Lindblad Expeditions is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

HEALTH All participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs and other locations not handicapped accessible, and climbing in and out of various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

SMOKING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

INSURANCE Yale Educational Travel highly recommends that participants purchase travel insurance as the cancellation policy will apply. However, Yale does not recommend a particular insurance company and Yale travelers are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. There is usually a short window of time (7-21 days from the first payment date) when one can purchase travel insurance and still be covered for certain provisions (such as pre-existing conditions). If travel insurance is important to you, please do not wait to purchase insurance.

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Exploring Alaska’s Coastal Wilderness: A Family Adventure

Vladimir Alexandrov
B.E. Bensinger Professor of Slavic Languages

July 1-8, 2018

Shipboard life is perfect for a shared family adventure — and the opportunity to learn and play together.

Whale watching, hiking among towering trees, kayaking and expedition landing craft cruises past crashing glaciers.