Celebrating over 30 years of Cruising, Conservation, Education & Fishing the Tongass National Forest

A PROJECT OF THE MCINTOSH FOUNDATION
Dear friends

“Life Changing.”

It’s a bold statement, but that’s the feedback we’ve heard repeatedly from guests who participated in one of our 8-day Southeast Alaska trips.

While many went on to tell us that it is impossible to capture the depth of their experience, we hope this brochure will provide you with a brief glimpse and feel of what the area and our trips are like.

The Boat Company is a not-for-profit corporation which operates two vessels - the M/V LlSERON, a 142 ft. converted, wooden hulled ex US Navy minesweeper and the M/V MIST COVE, a 150 ft. look-a-like of the historical LlSERON. With purposely limited capacities of 20 (LlSERON) and 24 (MIST COVE) passengers, both vessels are large enough to offer a shared experience with one’s fellow passengers, yet small enough to ensure a sense of intimacy. The boats operate from mid-May through the second week in September with a guest to crew ratio of two to one.

The program was started over 30 years ago with a mission of introducing people to the wonders of Alaskan wilderness while still providing exceptional accommodations. A typical day will offer you activities such as stream fishing, walking the shore, hiking to a nearby lake, watching for wildlife, crabbing, kayaking, and berry picking. One of our guests’ favorite activities is salmon and/or halibut fishing on one of our small boats where our crew will fillet, vacuum pack, and freeze all you catch, allowing for transport back home with you.

Operating as a not-for-profit, we are able to provide our guest with a tax deduction letter at the end of the sailing season. The final figure for the deduction is based on IRS guidelines and will be determined at the end of each year.

Much of our business comes by way of references or repeat business from past customers. In many instances, couples who have traveled with us once will return with the whole family (ages 8 to 80).

Should you wish to explore the possibility of joining us on a future trip, please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Hunter H. McIntosh
Vice President, The Boat Company

“...if you can only experience Alaska one time in your life, this should be the way to experience it!”

-WILLIAM & JANE CALDER
Sitka is a remote fishing community located southwest of Juneau on Baranof Island, easily reached by scheduled commercial jet service. You arrive on one of several flights per day and check into the Sitka Westmark Hotel. Spend the afternoon exploring the quaint town, and at dinnertime try a local seafood delicacy in the hotel dining room. Your hotel stay is included in your charter.

Follow along with our Sample Itinerary! If you choose to begin your trip in Juneau instead of Sitka, simply reverse the storyline. Each trip is unique – different wildlife sightings, new people and a personalized experience – all set upon the backdrop of Southeast Alaska. What will your experience be like?
Sunday :: Day Two

At 11:00 AM you are met by vessel crew members in the hotel lobby and escorted to the ship for safety orientation and departure. Bald eagles and Steller sea lions are regularly seen in the vicinity of Sitka Harbor as the ship heads north through protected waterways en route to the night’s anchorage in scenic Saook Bay, about five hours away. Here you'll settle down to an exquisite gourmet dinner and, as evening falls, gather with friends in the ship’s comfortable salon or stroll the decks breathing in the beauty and serenity of Southeast Alaska. Take a few minutes tonight to buy a fishing license from the ship’s Captain. You’ll need it tomorrow!
Monday :: Day Three

The stream at the head of Saook Bay flows through a broad grassy estuary called Paradise Flats. This place is heaven for fly fishers. You spend the morning here casting for Dolly Varden char and Cutthroat trout (or, later in the season, pink salmon). You’re back on board for lunch while the ship gets underway for Hanus Bay. There, you take the short hike up the trail to Lake Eva where you’ll find a grove of Sitka Spruce trees that are among the tallest and largest-girthed in the Tongass National Forest. There may even be an opportunity here for you to do a little more fly fishing near the lake’s outlet before everyone re-boards the ship and proceeds on to Kelp Bay for the night. There are choices of activities every day, and the ship’s ratio of crew to guests allows small groups to head off in different directions according to interest, with knowledgeable guides leading each group.
You get up at 7 AM to join a few other early risers in a quiet kayak paddle around the anchorage. Or perhaps you head off in a skiff with a crew member to haul the Dungeness crab pots you set the night before. Halibut are common in these waters, so after breakfast you head out again in a skiff with a fishing guide to try your luck. Crew members can custom-process your catch and advise you on the best way to ship your fish home. Alternatively, the ship's Chef is happy to prepare your catch for dinner and share recipes.

Later, back on board, you relax and enjoy the scenery as we cruise along the “waterfall coast” of Baranof Island, one of the most scenic coastal wilderness Areas in Southeast Alaska. Tonight you’ll be anchored in Gut Bay, beneath the snow-capped heights of 4,500’ Mt. Ada. Here you may see mountain goats grazing along clifffy ledges and in steep alpine meadows.
Wednesday :: Day Five

Early risers may again go kayaking before breakfast, where you’re likely to have close encounters with harbor seals and harlequin ducks. Neither species have much fear of stealthy paddlers in this secluded bay. Most of this day, though, will be dedicated to whale watching in the waters of Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound. This area has become known as one of the best places to observe humpback whales along the Pacific Coast of North America in summertime. Dalls porpoise are also common here, and with a little luck we may even come across a pod of killer whales. As evening approaches, the ship anchors-up for the night in the vicinity of San Juan Islands, located within the Admiralty National Monument and Wilderness. Before dark, a guide shuttles you to shore where you stroll the length of a sandy beach listening to whales blowing in the distance.

The Boat Company is one of only a few charter operators permitted by the Tongass National Forest to visit this place.
Today is our final opportunity for hiking and fishing, and we’ve saved some of the best of both for last. We pack lunches and head out in the skiffs right after breakfast. Brothers Islands, lying just off the mouth of Pybus Bay, are notable for their unique mossy terrain. A gentle walk through the lush rainforest on one of these small islands leads to a wild stretch of rocky beach. Great numbers of Stellar sea lions will sometimes haul out onto some of these beaches, and if we’re careful we can approach these noisy “rookeries” by skiff without disturbing the lounging animals. Halibut fishing in Pybus Bay is often productive, as is fly-fishing or spin casting for pink salmon. Bald eagles perch solemnly in the tree tops waiting for an opportunity to snatch an unwary fish from the water. Bears are common here, and your fishing guides on shore will carry a tackle box under one arm and a shotgun, just in case, under the other. Tonight the ship will anchor in Holkham Bay, on the mainland shore.
“Glacier Day” as crew members call it - when we are bound for either Tracy Arm or Endicott Arm, two spectacular fiords carved deep into the Coast Range by rivers of ice. You are escorted to the face of a glacier by skiff where you can watch (at safe distance) great chunks of ice, some the size of our ship, crash into the ocean in a frenzy of foam and spray. The ship’s Chef outfits each skiff with hot cocoa and homemade cookies. Harbor seals find their own tasty treats in the nutrient-rich waters of these inlets and, for a period of time in early summer, we can observe female seals hauling-out onto ice bergs in order to give birth to their young. Late in the day we leave the fiords behind and anchor in Taku Harbor, not far from Juneau, where guests are treated to a particularly sumptuous wrap-up dinner, followed by an “underground tour” of the ship’s engine room and a celebratory “roast & toast” with crew.
Saturday :: Day Eight

We arise early and take breakfast under way, with ancient and untouched spruce and hemlock forests marching past our ship’s wake as we make way back to civilization. By 9:00 AM we are tied to the dock in downtown Juneau, where you disembark and are given escort to your hotel or the airport in time for flights home.
Gourmet Food

The Boat Company boasts “the best dining room in Alaska” for homemade delicacies, menu selections and preparation. Meals are fresh and wholesome, and always tailored to meet individual dietary needs. As the week goes on, the menu may change to accommodate a guest’s catch of salmon or halibut. Every evening meal is perfectly paired with a chef’s selection of white and red wines, and is accompanied by a full bar of adult beverage choices. For children and younger guests, a wide array of options are available, and all are made to taste.

Incredible Wildlife

On the water, our guests cruise among pods of whales, and a stop at The Brothers Islands gives everyone the chance to view sea lions from the safety of the skiffs; to experience their barking voices and most of all comic behavior. The Tongass is also home to bears, eagles, deer, harbor seals, porpoise, and an incredible array of birds and intertidal creatures such as sunflower sea stars, sea urchins, jelly fish and crabs.

Personable, Knowledgeable Crew

Our Alaskan cruise vessels are staffed by professionals. Many, if not most, of them have natural science degrees enabling them to answer all the inevitable questions. There are choices of activities every day, and the ship’s crew-to-guest ratio is such that guests can go off in small groups with a knowledgeable staff member to explore according to their interests. Additionally, small groups also have less of an impact on the fragile, temperate rainforest environment of the Tongass.
"...words are inadequate to prepare one for the flexibility and hospitality of the crew, the breathtaking beauty of the land, and the exhilarating excitement at watching wildlife at play."

-MARCY BROWN
A mission to protect

Small Boat Cruises Teach an Appreciation for Nature

There is a serious theme underlying the whole operation of The Boat Company – conservation. During the past 60 years a significant portion of the forest, including many of its biggest and oldest trees (500 years plus), have been cut by timber/pulp companies and Native American groups. A majority of the timber has been sold in whole log form (unprocessed) to overseas buyers (primarily Japan). Because much of the land was set aside as Wilderness Areas and National Monuments which are not open to logging, there is some left. However, as heavy cutting has continued, there has been pressure to open up for logging those areas that have previously been set aside. By way of the small boat Alaska Cruise, The Boat Company hopes to expose guests to the special place that is Southeast Alaska – and to educate more and more people about the benefits of conserving and preserving for future generations one of the Earth’s last great wild and beautiful places.

The Boat Company: Sustainable – and Luxurious – Alaskan Eco-cruises for over 30 Years

There’s a new school of thought in the world of Alaskan leisure travel. It goes by several names, including eco-tourism, sustainable tourism or green travel. Sustainable eco tourism means traveling to a location – usually to appreciate its natural beauty – and striving to impact that environment as little as possible. Sustainable tourism also seeks to educate the traveler about the area’s natural resources such as land, waterways and wildlife. Ideally, eco tourism helps to spread the message of responsible environmental stewardship and conservation.

For over 30 years, The Boat Company has been providing responsible, sustainable Alaskan eco-cruises – since before they had a name for it! And we have done so while providing unmatched level of services and amenities to our valued guests. The finest food, wines and chefs; the most comfortable cabins; and a level of personal attention and camaraderie only a small boat cruise can provide.

The Boat Company’s commitment to guest comfort and satisfaction is equaled only by our commitment to conservation. Sustainable tourism means education and advocacy. It also means experiencing the environment up-close, and inspiring a greater appreciation of the Alaskan environment. Every member of The Boat Company crew is knowledgeable about the Alaskan ecosystem – its waters, mountains, forests, marshes, and wildlife. And on each nature hike, fishing excursion or whale-watching experience, our crewmembers are eager to share that knowledge with our guests.
The **M/V LISERON** was built in 1952 in Seattle, sold to France as a minesweeper, and was acquired and lovingly restored in 1989 by the Boat Company. She is 145 feet long and 28 feet wide with a draft of 8.5 feet. The interior is plush and stately, with mahogany accents throughout.

**M/V LISERON**

- Accommodates 20 passengers
- A crew of 11 to serve all of your needs
- Comfortable main salon (common room)
- Entertainment Center and Library
- Eisenglass-enclosed heated fantail
- Forward enclosed observation room on upper deck
- 10 staterooms with private baths
- Salmon and halibut fishing rods and reels
- Four steel-hulled skiffs
- 10 Wilderness Systems sea kayaks
- Drying locker
The **M/V MIST COVE** was built by The Boat Company in 2000. She was patterned on the LISERON and is 157 feet long and 33 feet wide, with a draft of almost 9 feet, and constructed of heavy-duty aluminum. The interior is plush and stately, with mahogany accents throughout.

**M/V MIST COVE**

- Accommodates 24 passengers
- A crew of 12 to serve all of your needs
- Comfortable main salon (common room)
- Entertainment Center and Library
- Eisenglass-enclosed heated fantail
- Forward enclosed observation room on upper deck
- 12 staterooms with private baths
- Salmon and halibut fishing rods and reels
- Five steel-hulled skiffs
- 12 Wilderness Systems sea kayaks
- Drying locker
A bit of history

“In the early 1950s I spent several summers in Southeast Alaska working on a salmon boat owned by The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P), a company started by my forbearers. From that experience, the memories of Southeast’s wild and awesome beauty never faded.

As a result, in 1979, my wife and I put together a group of friends (fellow foundation trustees, heads of conservation groups etc.), chartered an ex-Canadian minesweep out of Vancouver, and headed up the coast on a two-week journey to revisit the area. Any concern about cohabitating on a boat soon disappeared, as we all became totally subsumed by the grandeur of the area.

Shortly after that trip we bought an old wooden-hulled ex-US Navy minesweep, converted it for use as a tour boat and set out to introduce as many people as we could to Southeast Alaska – and so was birthed, The Boat Company.

The Tongass National Forest is this earth’s last substantially intact, temperate rainforest. The area it encompasses contains 34 million acres and covers almost 95% of the area known as “Southeast” Alaska. It is home to an incredible array of wildlife: whales, salmon, eagles, sea lions, bear, sea otters, deer, orcas, puffins, et al. Its topography of high mountain peaks, glaciers, deep fiords, islands and thick forests, allows for few roads and the only practical way to experience what the Tongass has to offer is by boat.

Personally I love the wilderness but, I’ve also reached a stage in life where, at the end of a day filled with canoeing, fishing, kayaking, hiking, berry picking or watching wildlife, I’m ready for a long, hot shower, a gourmet quality dinner, good wine and a warm, comfortable bed.

It seems many others feel the same as over the years we have grown from a 1 boat, 12-passenger operation to 2 boats carrying 20 and 24 people respectively. And, we don’t intend to get any larger. We want to adhere to our original intent of introducing people, in an intimate way, to one of the world’s greatest places, in the hopes that they too would feel that the area was worth conserving for the generations to come. Won’t you join us?”

Michael A. McIntosh Sr.
President, The Boat Company
“Don’t ever lose the wonder & excitement that you all share for your beautiful land of Alaska. Your love of the wild is visible in a big way and is very contagious to all those who visit.”

– LINDA MAYHAL
The Boat Company, incorporated in Alaska in 1979 by the McIntosh Foundation, is a non-profit educational organization. The Boat Company is authorized to operate in the Tongass National Forest under a Forest Services Special Use Permit.