The following itinerary is typical, but your particular cruise may be different. The vessel routes change due to the vagaries of weather or the spontaneous interests of guests. **Fly fishers should note that this is not a dedicated fly-fishing trip – unlike programs at Orvis-endorsed fishing lodges elsewhere.** Guests may anticipate several fishing opportunities during the course of a cruise, but there will be some days when other activities such as whale-watching or glacier viewing take center stage. Vessels carry limited fly fishing gear, so serious anglers should bring their own.

**SATURDAY – Arrive Juneau**

Although Juneau is the state capital, it still feels like a small town. Arrive on one of several flights per day and check into the Westmark Baranof Hotel. Enjoy exploring the shops, try ‘flightseeing’ over a glacier, ride with a sled-dog team and then for dinner try a local seafood delicacy in one of the many nearby restaurants. Your hotel is included in your charter.

**SUNDAY – Board ship, cruise to Taku Harbor**

Sleep in, enjoy a late checkout, have lunch and meet the crew in the hotel lobby to be transported to the dock for a safety orientation and departure. The ship heads to the first night’s anchorage in Endicott Arm – gateway to glaciers. Keep your eyes peeled for bears at Twin meadows. After a short cruise and an exquisite first-night’s dinner on board, you visit with old and new friends in the ship’s comfortable salon or stroll the deck soaking in the beauty and serenity of a Southeast Alaska sunset. If you haven’t already done so, don’t forget to get a fishing license from your Crew.

**MONDAY – Glacier Day**

We are bound today for either Tracy Arm or Endicott Arm, two spectacular fiords carved deep into the Coast Range by rivers of ice. Both these inlets feature tidewater glaciers, so navigation can be made challenging at times by the presence of floating bergs. If the entrance to one fiord is blocked, we will enter the other. Our objective is to cruise to the head of a fiord and approach to within about a mile of the face of a glacier where we may watch great chunks of ice, some the size of our ship, crash into the ocean in a frenzy of foam and spray. Harbor seals find abundant food in the nutrient-rich waters of these inlets and, for a period of time in 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 Sanborne canal where there may be evening kayaking after dinner.

**Tuesday – Admiralty & Brothers Islands**

Today is our first opportunity for hiking and fishing, and with breakfast underway, we transit to Port Houghton for some stream fishing and a meadow walk – on the lookout for moose and bear. After lunch, we head over to Brothers Islands, off Pybus Bay, notable for their unique mossy terrain. A gentle walk ashore on one of these small islands is like entering a rainforest fairyland. Great numbers of Steller sea lions will sometimes haul out on the islands’ rocky headlands, and if we’re careful we can approach these noisy “rookeries” to within about a hundred yards by skiff without disturbing the animals. Halibut fishing in Pybus Bay is often productive, as is fly-fishing or spin casting for Pink salmon or Dolly Varden char in Donkey Creek at the head of the bay. 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 guides on shore will carry a tackle box under one arm and pepper spray, just in case, under the other.

**WEDNESDAY – Admiralty Island - Red Bluff & Pybus Bays**

Early risers might go kayaking before breakfast, keeping an eye open for harbor seals and dapper harlequin ducks. Both these species are common and have little fear of kayakers on the water. Photographers, in particular, love these early morning outings. When we get to Red Bluff Bay, we’ll divide the ship’s company into several groups to go ashore. Some may choose to fly fish in the river at the head of the bay. But the highlight of this place is the short,
steep hike up onto the brick red bluffs which give this place its name. Here, wildflowers are dense in summer and natural rock gardens are resplendent with splashy displays of blue and yellow violets, columbine and fragrant meadow orchids. After our hike, we return to the ship again and haul anchor, bound for Pybus Bay on Admiralty Island where we’ll spend the night. The local native Tlingit people call the island Kootznoowoo, which means "fortress of the bears." Afterward, the ship gets under way to cruise along the "waterfall coast" of Baranof Island - one of the most scenic coastal wilderness areas in Southeast Alaska.

Glaciers form in high snowfields on the island, and in summer their melting waters gather to flow in noisy cascades, tumbling off cliffs and creating a spectacle of lofty cataracts everywhere one looks.

THURSDAY – Kelp Bay and Saook Bay
We then haul anchor after breakfast and head along the coast of Baranof Island into the broad waters of Chatham Strait. During this morning’s cruise we sometimes spot Humpback whales, Dalls porpoises, Stellar sea lions and, if we’re lucky, Orcas (killer whales.) Our shipboard Naturalist is happy to give a presentation while under way on the marine mammals we typically encounter on a cruise. Sometimes, if whales are scarce, we’ll stop and jig for halibut off Morris Reef – 40 pounders are ‘keepers' and great eating, but 150 pounders are 'breeders' which we like to photograph and release unharmed if possible. While some guests go fishing, others may want to take a quick hike up to Lake Eva to visit a grove of Sitka Spruce trees that are among the tallest and largest-girthed in the Tongass National Forest. The stream at the head of Saook Bay flows through a broad grassy beach estuary called, appropriately, Paradise Flats. This place is heaven for fly fishers. We spend the morning here casting for Dolly Varden char and Cutthroat trout (or, later in the season, pink salmon). 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.

FRIDAY – Peril Strait & Sergis Narrows
We depart Saook bay and continue through placid Hoonah sound to the swirlies waters of Sergius Narrows and Peril Strait into a popular saltwater sport fishing area, Salisbury Sound. After a final round of activities we anchor at N. Nakwasina for our last night together and a particularly sumptuous cruise wrap-up dinner. This is followed by a slideshow recap of the week, an "underground tour" of the ships below decks and engine room and a celebratory "rost & toast" with crew.

SATURDAY – Arrive Sitka
Sitka is a remote fishing community – the former Russian Capital of Alaska - located southwest of Juneau on Baranof Island. We arrive after breakfast – about 10am - share farewells and final snapshots on the bow and our new friends disembark. Airport transfers are provided – even if you stay over a night or two to enjoy exploring the quaint town with its ‘Carved History Walk’ of totem poles, vibrant local arts community and Raptor Rehabilitation Center.