



## **Misty Fjords National Monument**

### **5 Day/4 Night Adventures and Weekenders**

#### **Guided sea kayaking, hiking and wilderness camping**

Thank you for your interest in Southeast Sea Kayaks' guided sea kayak trips in Misty Fjords National Monument. Every one of our trips is an unforgettable adventure in the spectacular wilderness of Southeast Alaska: the information provided here will help you to prepare for your trip. Please do not hesitate to call or email us with any questions or for more information, the better prepared you are for your trip, the more fun you will have.

#### **What is Included**

- Boat transportation to and from Misty Fjords
- Double fiberglass sea kayaks, paddles, PFDs
- Experienced guide
- Delicious camp cuisine beginning with lunch on Day One
- Dry bags for your gear
- Alaskan Xtra Tuff rubber boots & Paddling Jackets
- Tents & thermarest sleeping pads
- Camping equipment including one water bottle per person
- Safety equipment including bear spray, bear bells & a satellite phone for emergencies
- Storage space for extra luggage available at our downtown store

**What Guests Bring (A detailed gear list available in PDF form on our website at [http://www.kayakketchikan.com/mistyfjord\\_trips.html](http://www.kayakketchikan.com/mistyfjord_trips.html))**

- Sleeping bag
- Appropriate clothing & footwear – see gear list
- Toiletries & personal medications
- Alcoholic beverages if desired (check with us on space limitations)
- Camera & binoculars
- A book to read

#### **Trip Briefing & Departure**



We will provide you with dry bags in which to pack your gear. Our guides are available to go over the gear list with you in the days prior to your trip. Please contact us to set up a time to meet.

### **Weather Considerations**

We highly recommend that all guests take out travel insurance. Guests should be aware that very occasionally weather can cause trip delays or changes to itineraries. We do not recommend that you plan to fly in or out of Ketchikan on your trips departure or return date as weather delays can cause you to miss your flight or lost luggage can cause you to miss the trip's departure. We are not able to re-schedule or hold trips for lost luggage or flight or ferry delays.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What do you mean by “participants must be physically fit”?**

By “physically fit” we mean that participants should be used to regular exercise and be ready to spend a good part of each day being physically active. Guests also need to be able to assist with carrying the kayaks over short distances. Our emphasis is on the wilderness experience and scenery rather than paddling or hiking at an Olympic pace. We do, however, have certain distances to cover in order to see the best of the Misty Fjords. It is important to remember that our guides can always make the days more challenging but they cannot always make them easier. The more physically fit you are, the better you will enjoy the trip.

#### **How tough is the hiking?**

The hiking in Misty Fjords is moderately challenging due to the steepness of the terrain, however, all of the hikes we plan to undertake are 2 miles or less and we take plenty of stops to rest and enjoy the scenery. For groups of people who are avid hikers we can also undertake some longer hikes on our third and fourth days.

#### **Do I need sea kayaking experience?**

Misty Fjords offers protected paddling for novices and experts alike. You do not need a great deal of kayaking experience to participate on our trips. It is important that you have paddled enough to feel comfortable in a kayak and feel



able to paddle for up to six hours in one day. If you are experienced sea kayakers you may prefer to plan your own trip in Misty Fjords and take advantage of our water taxi and rental services.

### **Do I have to share a tent?**

Our tents are 2 person tents. If you would like your own tent, please let us know and we can check to see if space allows.

### **Where do we camp?**

We usually camp at Punchbowl Cove and either Checats Cove or Winstanley Island on the 5 Day trip. The weekend trip camps at Punchbowl Cove or in the North Arm of Rudyerd Bay. We may vary the campsites and the trip plan if camp sites are already occupied or for weather and tide conditions.

### **How long do you paddle each day?**

Most days our actual paddling time is four hours with stops in between. Our longest day's paddling is 18 miles which can usually be done in six hours with breaks and stops along the way. Guides can make the trip more challenging for groups of keen paddlers but they cannot make the distances shorter!

### **How remote are the Misty Fjords?**

The Misty Fjords National Monument is accessible only by boat and float plane. Guests should be aware that they are venturing into a remote wilderness with no emergency services and where immediate evacuation is not always possible. All of our guides are experienced sea kayakers and First Aid certified. We carry a comprehensive First Aid Kit, VHF Radios and a satellite phone. At the beginning of each trip, guests are briefed on bear safety and the use of emergency equipment.

### **What do we do if it rains?**

During the summer the temperature ranges from 40 – 80 degrees and rain is likely so we try to be prepared for it. As the name suggests, the Misty Fjords receives a high annual rainfall but in Southeast Alaska we like to say that “there is no bad weather only bad equipment.” We use tarps to cover our campsites and all our tents have footprints and rain flies. All of our gear will be packed into water proof dry bags. For your own safety and comfort you need to be prepared



for the rain and cool weather so please read the gear list carefully and call us if you have any questions.

**Do you carry a rifle for bear protection?**

No. We carry bear spray, air horns and flares and practice defensive camping. Our food and all scented personal items are kept well away from camp and we are sure to make plenty of noise when we are hiking. We often see bears but have never had any problems with them.

**Will we be eating Macaroni & Cheese for five days?**

No! One of the luxuries of kayak camping as opposed to back country hiking is the ability to carry plenty of excellent food. We have spent years developing our Misty Fjords Menu and our guests consistently rave about our cooking. We begin each day with a cup of tea or Raven's Brew coffee and a hot breakfast. Lunches are packed in the morning and eaten on the trail. Dinners include smoked salmon alfredo pasta and fajitas and we always have plenty of hot chocolate on hand!

**Can you accommodate special diets?**

Yes, absolutely, with the proper notice we can accommodate most dietary requests please call us to discuss your needs.

**Can we fish?**

Check with your guide, prior to the trip as to whether or not there will be opportunities or time for fishing. When time allows, guests who want to fish may bring their own gear and purchase a fishing license in Ketchikan.

**Do we have to carry any gear?**

Yes. The camping gear is spread between the guide and group members' kayaks. Our 5 Day trip is designed so that we only move camp once thus we only paddle with loaded kayaks on the third day of the trip which is our shortest paddle day.

**Do we help with the camp work?**

Your guides will be happy to set up camp and take care of all the cooking and packing. Guests will need to help guides move kayaks and gear. Many of our guests also enjoy helping with the camp tasks. Guests are welcome to help with



camp set-up, take-down and kayak packing – just ask your guide what you can do!

### **What wildlife will we see?**

We never know what we will see on any given trip into Misty Fjords National Monument. Brown bears, black bears, wolves, Sitka black tail deer, mink and porcupines inhabit the land in Misty Fjords. We often see seals, sea lions and river otters in the water. We see both Orca and Humpback whales in the Behm Canal (on the 5 Day trip) and on the journey to the Fjords but only rarely do we see whales inside the Fjords themselves. Birdwatchers will never be disappointed the Fjords are host to a wide variety of bird species including (depending on the season) bald eagles, harlequin ducks, marbled murrelets, common and red throated loons, great blue herons and many more.

### **Where is the bathroom?**

We practice “leave no trace” camping so the bathroom facilities are open air with biodegradable toilet paper. The intertidal zone is the recommended “bathroom area” for the environment we paddle in. At the beginning of the trip, each person is issued with their own personal toilet kit containing toilet paper, a lighter for burning excess paper and Ziploc bags for packing out extra paper. We also carry a shovel for the group.

### **May we tip our guide?**

Tips are customary and greatly appreciated though of course, not compulsory.