



JOIN US NEXT YEAR IN ALASKA & THE ROCKIES
Alaska's Deep-Sea Giants

**\$150
early-bird
DISCOUNT**
if you book by
August 31

JUNEAU, ALASKA'S CAPITAL, IS SMALL, ISOLATED, unphotogenic, and nothing much to write home about. But the deep, glacial, island-studded waterways of its famous **Inside Passage** are home to sea-lions, seals, otters ... and hungry **humpback whales**. And, one Friday afternoon, a jet-powered catamaran took us out so we could eyeball these monsters for ourselves. What followed was so **FANTASTIC** that we simply won't sleep unless we tell you about it: our *Mad Midlife Whale of a Tale ...*

It started when, in the far-off distance, we began to see their tell-tale spouting. Then, before you knew it, we were right amongst them – mothers, mainly, and their

I don't know what these monstrous, majestic mammals (*longer than a bus and 5 metres wide across the tail*) thought of us – rushing eagerly from one side of the boat to the other, searching, shouting, pointing, and aiming our binoculars and cameras in all directions at once – but we humans were utterly captivated by these legendary creatures of the deep.

It was magic. Pure magic. Our humpbacks had travelled all the way from their breeding grounds in Hawaii to their feeding grounds here in Alaska. And they kept coming up for air close enough to our boat that we could spot the barnacles on their giant tails and (*I kid you not*) smell the fishy stink on their spouting breath!



oversized youngsters, lolling lazily on the surface, nostrils gaping and signature humps showing proudly, then diving oh-so-gracefully for food, their huge tail-flukes waving wetly in the air.

We were totally and utterly captivated. And a close-up look at a beachful of burping, roaring, rioting sea-lions simply added to the magic on our way home!

Are you green with envy? You ought to be! Come with us next year when we'll do it all again ...