



AN EYOS OWNER'S EXPEDITION

COASTAL ALASKA

Sixteen nights aboard M/Y Aqua Lares through the fjords, straits
and island wilderness of Southeast Alaska.

17

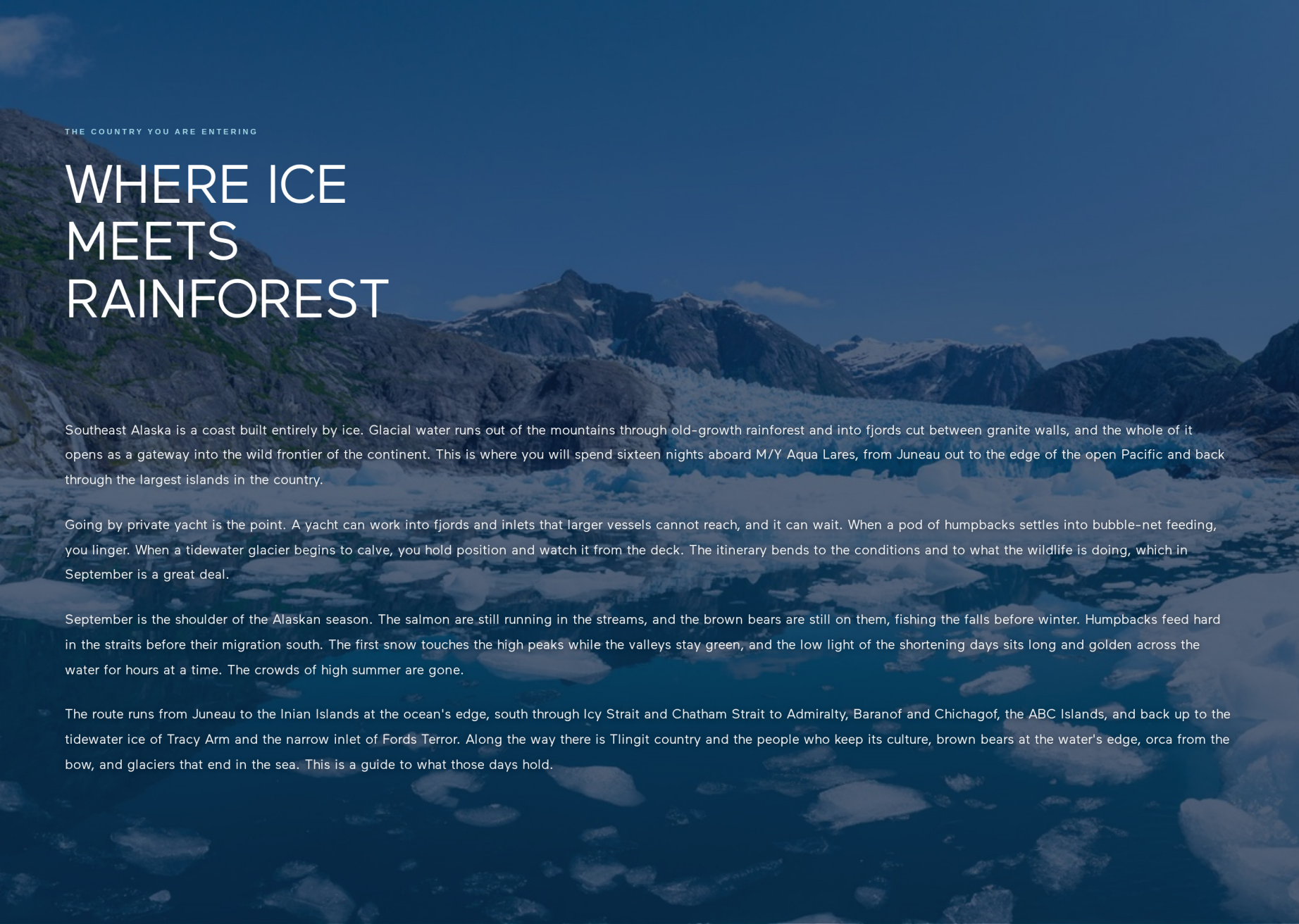
NIGHTS ABOARD

16

NIGHTS ABOARD

Juneau

EMBARK



THE COUNTRY YOU ARE ENTERING

WHERE ICE MEETS RAINFOREST

Southeast Alaska is a coast built entirely by ice. Glacial water runs out of the mountains through old-growth rainforest and into fjords cut between granite walls, and the whole of it opens as a gateway into the wild frontier of the continent. This is where you will spend sixteen nights aboard M/Y Aqua Lares, from Juneau out to the edge of the open Pacific and back through the largest islands in the country.

Going by private yacht is the point. A yacht can work into fjords and inlets that larger vessels cannot reach, and it can wait. When a pod of humpbacks settles into bubble-net feeding, you linger. When a tidewater glacier begins to calve, you hold position and watch it from the deck. The itinerary bends to the conditions and to what the wildlife is doing, which in September is a great deal.

September is the shoulder of the Alaskan season. The salmon are still running in the streams, and the brown bears are still on them, fishing the falls before winter. Humpbacks feed hard in the straits before their migration south. The first snow touches the high peaks while the valleys stay green, and the low light of the shortening days sits long and golden across the water for hours at a time. The crowds of high summer are gone.

The route runs from Juneau to the Inian Islands at the ocean's edge, south through Icy Strait and Chatham Strait to Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof, the ABC Islands, and back up to the tidewater ice of Tracy Arm and the narrow inlet of Fords Terror. Along the way there is Tlingit country and the people who keep its culture, brown bears at the water's edge, orca from the bow, and glaciers that end in the sea. This is a guide to what those days hold.

THE FOUR STRETCHES OF COAST



01

Leg One

14 - 17 SEPTEMBER, DAYS 1 - 4

JUNEAU & THE INIAN ISLANDS

JUNEAU -> INIAN ISLANDS

West from the capital to the northern edge of the Inside Passage, where the open Pacific forces through a narrow strait and feeds one of the densest concentrations of marine life on the coast. Zodiacs and kayaks among sea lions, otters and seabirds, and rainforest hikes ashore.



02

Leg Two

18 - 21 SEPTEMBER, DAYS 5 - 8

ICY STRAIT & CHICHAGOF

HOONAH -> PAVLOF HARBOR

The Tlingit village of Hoonah and the whale-rich waters of Icy Strait, then the quiet anchorage of Pavlof Harbor, where a salmon stream draws brown bears to a waterfall. A short hike puts you within sight of the run, guides reading the bears while the salmon leap.



03

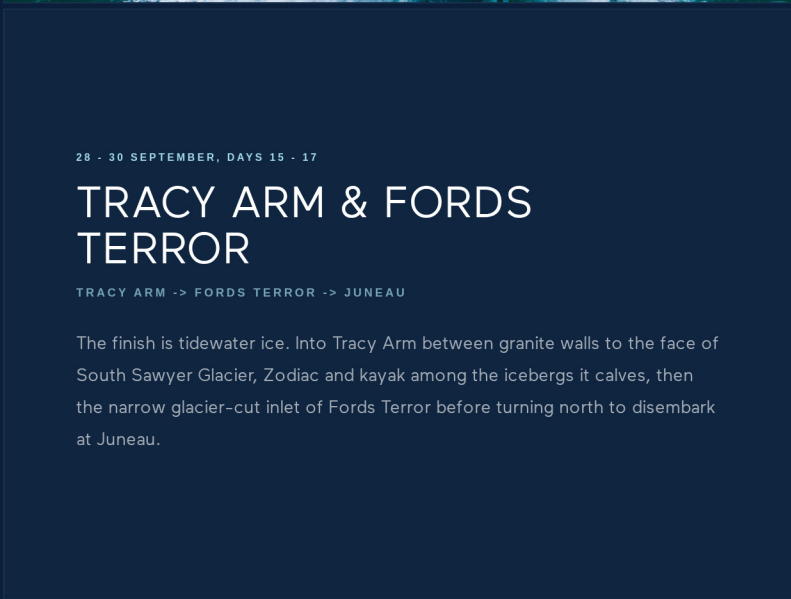
Leg Three

22 - 27 SEPTEMBER, DAYS 9 - 14

THE ABC ISLANDS

CHATHAM STRAIT -> ADMIRALTY -> BARANOF -> CHICHAGOF

Down Chatham Strait to Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof, among the largest islands in the country and almost empty of people. Admiralty holds the highest density of brown bears on Earth. Wilderness landings, remote trails, kayaking the protected bays, natural hot springs, and whales from the bow.

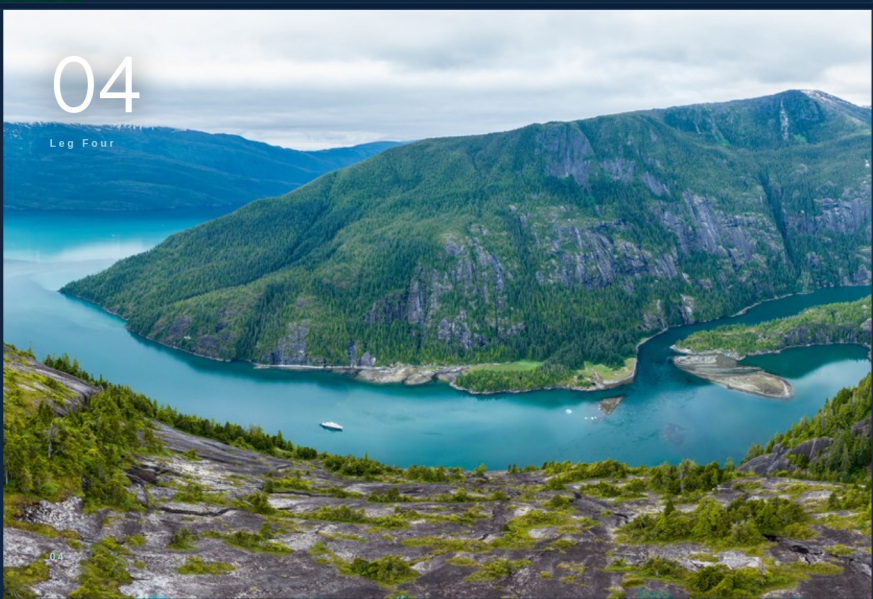


28 - 30 SEPTEMBER, DAYS 15 - 17

TRACY ARM & FORDS TERROR

TRACY ARM -> FORDS TERROR -> JUNEAU

The finish is tidewater ice. Into Tracy Arm between granite walls to the face of South Sawyer Glacier, Zodiac and kayak among the icebergs it calves, then the narrow glacier-cut inlet of Fords Terror before turning north to disembark at Juneau.



04

Leg Four

THE ROUTE

WHERE YOU WILL SAIL

West from Juneau to the Inian Islands at the ocean's edge, south through Icy Strait and Chatham Strait to the ABC Islands, and back to the tidewater ice of Tracy Arm and Fords Terror.



KNOWLEDGE ACROSS THE VOYAGE

FOUR THREADS THROUGH ALASKA

THREAD 01

ICE & FJORD

The coast is a record of ice. Tidewater glaciers, some of the largest in North America, still reach the sea at Tracy Arm and calve into it, and the fjords they cut run between granite walls thousands of feet high. Watching a face break away and hearing it echo down the fjord is the closest you will come to seeing the country being made.

THREAD 02

BEARS & WHALES

September is a feeding month. Brown bears work the salmon streams at Pavlof Harbor and along the shores of Admiralty, which holds the highest density of them anywhere on Earth. In the straits, humpbacks feed cooperatively, sometimes in the bubble-net formations unique to these waters, while orca patrol from the deep channels.

THREAD 03

BY WATER & ON FOOT

This is an active coast. Zodiacs run among the ice and the sea lion haul outs, kayaks slip into narrow inlets and protected bays, and ashore there are rainforest hikes, remote trails and bushwhacking through dense brush. The yacht is the base you return to each evening, not the way you see the place.

THREAD 04

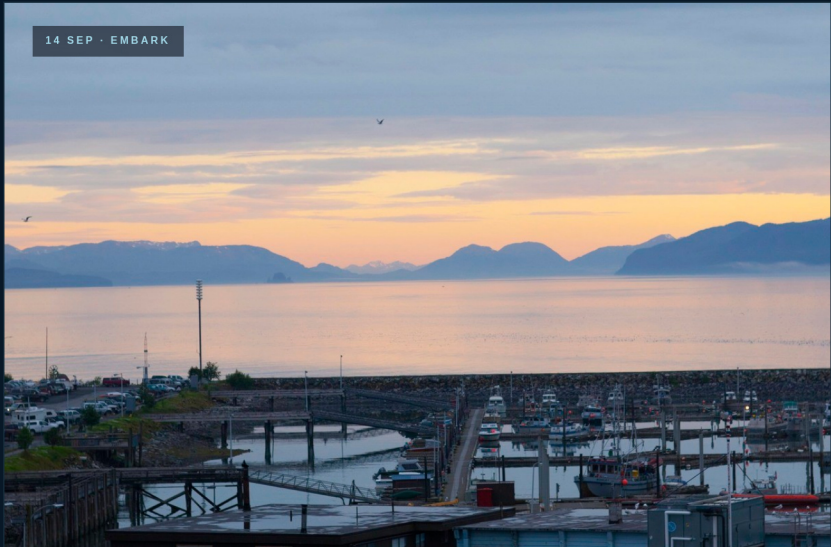
TLINGIT COUNTRY

The people of this coast are the Tlingit, and their culture is living rather than remembered. At Hoonah on Chichagof, and where opportunity allows, there is time to connect with local artisans and hear the heritage of the land from those who hold it. It is context for everything else you will see.

*"To the lover of wilderness, Alaska is one of
the most wonderful places in the world."*

JOHN MUIR

JUNEAU & THE INIAN ISLANDS



14 SEP · EMBARK

JUNEAU

Board M/Y Aqua Lares in the late afternoon at Alaska's capital, a town wedged between the Gastineau Channel and the peaks behind it. There is time before you sail to walk the waterfront, visit the Alaska State Museum, or ride the Goldbelt Tram to the top of Mount Roberts for a first look over the channel and the surrounding ice. Pre-departure briefing over dinner as the ship clears the channel and turns west.



16 - 17 SEP · DAYS 3 - 4

INIAN ISLANDS

At the northern edge of the Inside Passage the open Pacific pours through a narrow strait, and the nutrient-rich water it carries makes this one of the densest feeding grounds on the coast. Zodiac cruise alongside Steller sea lion haul outs, bobbing sea otters and swooping seabirds, kayak the narrow inlets and hike the temperate rainforest. By invitation, visit the Tidelines Institute, an Alaskan homestead turned environmental education centre.

ICY STRAIT & CHICHAGOF



18 - 19 SEP · DAYS 5 - 6

HOONAH

A Tlingit village on the north shore of Chichagof Island and a base for the waters of Icy Strait. Take a fishing charter for salmon and halibut, or spend the day watching for the humpback whales that feed in groups just to the north. Time here to connect with local Tlingit culture and the artisans who keep it.



20 - 21 SEP · DAYS 7 - 8

PAVLOF HARBOR

A quiet anchorage on Chichagof Island with a salmon stream running to a waterfall at its head. A short hike brings you to a viewpoint where brown bears gather to fish the run, snatching leaping salmon from the falls. You watch from a respectful distance while the guides read the bears' behaviour and tell you what they are doing and why.

THE ABC ISLANDS



22 SEP · DAY 9

CHATHAM STRAIT

A long day working south down Chatham Strait, the deep channel that separates the great islands of the northern archipelago. Keep watch from the bow for orca and humpback whales, and for the cooperative feeding and tail-slapping that these waters are known for. The strait is the through-road for the days among the ABC Islands to come.



23 - 24 SEP · DAYS 10 - 11

ADMIRALTY ISLAND

Admiralty holds the highest density of brown bears anywhere in the world, and its shorelines and streams are the reason. Land on remote trails, bushwhack through dense brush, and kayak the protected bays keeping an eye out for bears along the water, possibly with cubs of the season. If time allows, visit the Alaska Whale Foundation nearby.



25 - 26 SEP · DAYS 12 - 13

BARANOF ISLAND

The eastern shore of Baranof, sparsely populated for its size, gives many opportunities for wilderness landings and hikes on remote trails. The reward here is the natural hot springs, a place to relax and reset between the demands of a full expedition day. Back onboard, keep watching the strait for whales.



27 SEP · DAY 14

CHICHAGOF ISLAND

The last of the ABC Islands and among the largest in the country, yet almost empty of people. Kayak the protected bays and land on trails that see few visitors, with brown bears along the shoreline never far off. Onboard, watch the bow for orca and humpback and their fascinating behaviour: breaching, tail-slapping and cooperative feeding.

TRACY ARM & FORDS TERROR



28 - 29 SEP · DAYS 15 - 16

TRACY ARM

Cap the voyage navigating the towering granite walls and vivid blue water of Tracy Arm Fjord, a landscape glaciers cut over millennia. Zodiac cruise or kayak among newly calved icebergs toward the face of South Sawyer Glacier, where large calvings echo through the fjord. Through the surrounding Fords Terror Wilderness, watch for waterfalls, cascading glaciers, bald eagles, brown bears and harbour seals hauled out on the ice.



29 SEP · DAY 16

FORDS TERROR

A narrow, glacier-carved inlet reached on the slack tide, its walls dropping straight into water and threaded with waterfalls. The last full day among cascading glaciers and the wildlife of the wilderness area before turning north for Juneau. A quiet end to the expedition, deep inside the country you came to see.



30 SEP · DISEMBARK

JUNEAU

Return north to Juneau in the morning and disembark M/Y Aqua Lares to begin the journey home, sixteen nights of coast, ice and wildlife behind you.

WHO SAILS WITH YOU

DECADES ON THIS COAST



EXPEDITION LEADER

ROB MCCALLUM

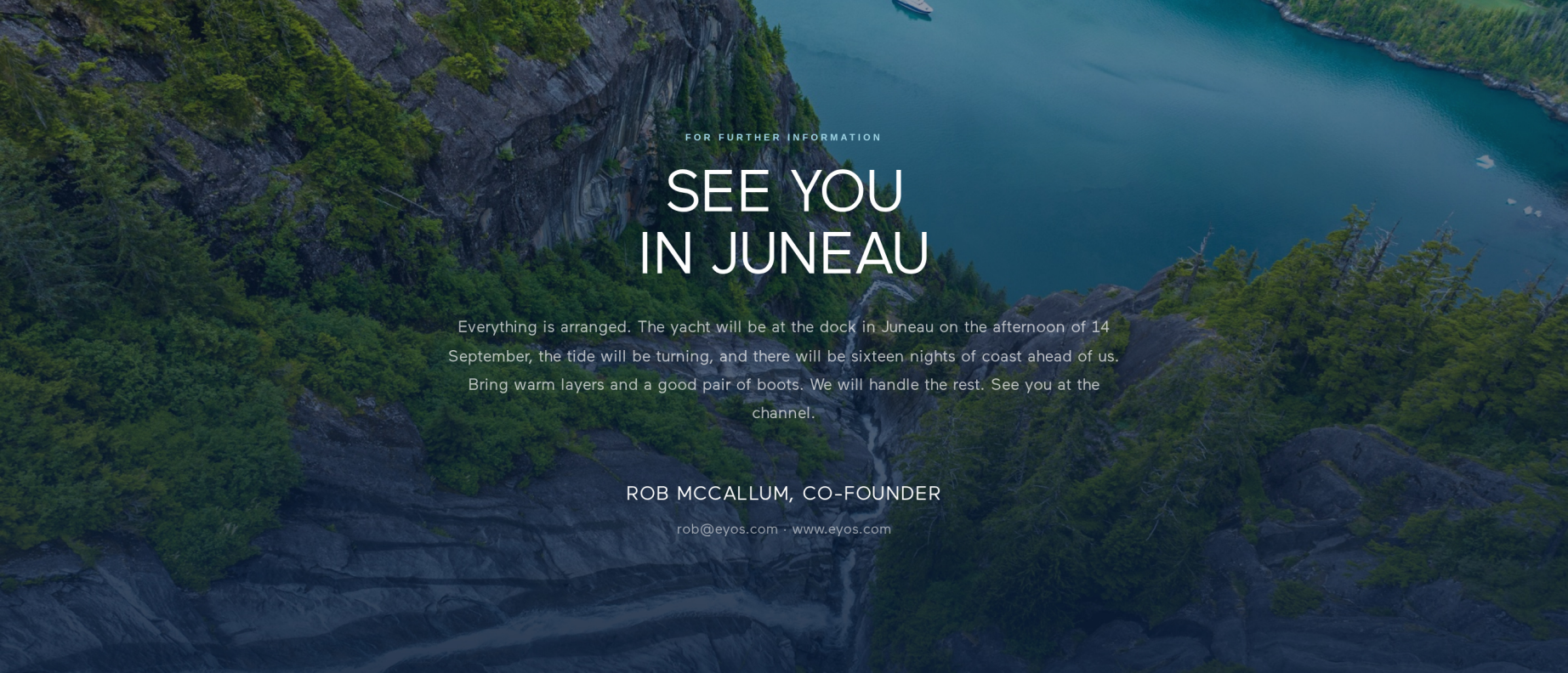
Rob has spent three decades guiding and leading expeditions across the Arctic, Antarctica and the wild coasts between, including several record-breaking voyages. He reads a place quickly and knows when to wait, which is what a flexible Alaskan itinerary asks of a leader.



EXPEDITION LEADER & DIVEMASTER

TIM SOPER

Tim has led over a hundred polar expeditions and spent years in remote waters running Zodiac operations, kayaking and dives. On this coast that means putting boats in among the ice and the wildlife safely and getting guests close to what they came for.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

SEE YOU IN JUNEAU

Everything is arranged. The yacht will be at the dock in Juneau on the afternoon of 14 September, the tide will be turning, and there will be sixteen nights of coast ahead of us. Bring warm layers and a good pair of boots. We will handle the rest. See you at the channel.

ROB MCCALLUM, CO-FOUNDER

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