

## Favorite Alaskan Anchorages of *Albedos* and *Island Greeter*

### Revillagigedo Island

**Marguerite Bay/Traitors's Cove:** Walk down road to the Bear Observatory (more action when salmon are spawning). Marguerite Lake is just a little further down the road. Hike is about a mile one way and well worth it. Don't step into the bear scat!

**Yes Bay** has lots of anchoring room and a really nice lodge that is open to the public.

**Fitzgibbon Cove** across Revillagigedo on the top north side is conveniently located and a good anchorage. We've finally been there when the sun is shining and it's a great stop when circumnavigating Revillagigedo and working **Misty Fiords**

**Misty Fiords** has challenging anchoring and it got its name for a good reason.

### Heading to Wrangell from Ketchikan

**Thorne Bay** off Clarence Strait has a good sized dock with power, a great harbormaster named Shane, a full stocked decent sized grocery store, and a café run by the high school students that serves great food. We rented a car and to see more of the island. Cell phone service (Verizon) is available. We like Thorne Bay.

**Meyers Chuck** is a cute little settlement with a good sized dock where rafting is mandatory. Cassie, who lives across from the dock, will open the tiny gallery for your perusal and will bring you hot delicious cinnamon rolls at 7 am for \$3/roll. Her phone number is posted above the dock and at the gallery. A fun little path by the gallery takes you past some funky art and homes to a great little beach. Moorage for our Nordhavn 52 was \$12.20 for one night and power is not available. Verizon cell phone worked sporadically.

### Clarence Strait/Stikine Strait Western Route Anchorages

#### Ratz Harbor

**Coffman Cove** has a grocery store with fishing supplies.

**Exchange Cove** has lots of commercial crab pots.

**Blashke Island** is a great place to paddle the kayak and explore. The most shallow depth we crossed was 1.2 fathoms when we entered the north bay the most west. The Douglas guide book showed it as 2 fathoms.

#### Eastern Route To **Wrangel** via **Ernest Sound/Blake Channel**/Eastern Passage

We've been to **Vixen Harbor** twice and it's well protected but requires careful navigation and knowledge of tides. **Santa Anna Inlet** is a lot easier to navigate.

**Frosty Bay** is scenic and protected except from northwest winds.

We liked **Fools Inlet** but only went there so we could dinghy over to the **Anan Bear Observatory** the next day. (You need to get your permits ahead of time. We got ours at the Forest Service in Wrangell. Be sure the salmon are spawning for the best viewing.) We kayaked into the stream at the end of the inlet and watched the salmon. Weather and wind conditions need to be right to stay there. Its name says it all!

We've been to **Berg Bay** three times and would go again. It's pretty and an A frame Forrest Service Cabin sits on its end with a board walk trail. Bears are around and there is a sad/comical video of a kayaker staying at that cabin who was pleading to a bear who was destroying her kayak, "Please don't hurt my kayak, Please Bear, oh Please Bear" on YouTube.

#### To Petersburg via Wrangell Narrows

**St. John Harbor** is a good anchorage for your journey to the Wrangell Narrows. We have anchored at **Deception Point Cove** which worked great on one trip but our second time was a different story. Tugboats with logbooms came in the middle of the nights and woke us up. We were in the middle of all the jockeying around with lights and noise and hoping nothing would hit us! After that we anchored (in our N40) in the south west side of the Narrows where it is very shallow marking our path, paying attention to the tide change and going slow. We slept good that night but probably won't do it with our N52.

#### North of Petersburg

**Thomas Bay** is fun to explore. We checked out **Baird Glacier** and "lunch anchored" in **Scenery Cove** which lived up to its name. **Ruth Island Cove** had lots of wild flowers and is a good anchorage. **Cascade Creek Bight** seemed more scenic than Ruth Island Cove.

**Portage Bay** has lots of room, easy anchoring and a Forest Service Road to walk and is well protected. That's why it was chosen for our rendezvous cruise destination when we leave Petersburg

We've anchored in **Farragut Bay** at **Read Island Cove** (second cove on the east side) and **Cleveland Passage** (both sides weather dependent).

### **Admiralty Island, South and East Sides**

**South:** We like **Chapin Bay** a lot for its views and protection and is one of our go-to spots.

**Murder Cove** views some building, has an intriguing name and is to fun paddle at its end. It's the last two features that intrigued us but it doesn't earn any awards for beauty.

**Cannery Cove** in **Pybus Bay** is a popular anchorage with sticky mud and a good place to set your crabpot. And it's a good take off spot along with **Snug Harbor** in **Gambier Bay** for heading north east to **Tracy Arm**.

We've anchored in **Pleasant Bay** which lived up to its name that day with humpback whales singing, salmon spawning, bear sightings and warm blue skies. Timing can be everything!

**Pack Creek** at the northern end of **Seymour Canal** is another bear observatory area with the National Forest Service where you need tickets and reservations. Most of their customers fly in from the cruise ships. We were lucky when we showed up and got permits there since no cruise ship people were coming in that day. Humpback whales were singing and splashing especially on the southern part of Seymour Canal. It was cool.....but never guaranteed!

### **Heading to Juneau on Stephens Passage**

**Tracy Arm** is a fabulous, occasionally worrisome but well worth the trip. This year though we hear that even the cruise ships and tourist boats aren't making the trip now because they can't get through with all the ice. **Tracy Arm Cove** is the anchorage from which you would begin and end your passage up Tracy Arm to the glaciers. Buddy boating is not a bad idea nor are warm clothes. It can be a real maze of small bergs and bergy bits and you'll be pulling the throttle back while you scratch head and find your path. But it's a spectacular trip! Maybe it will be possible when we head back south.

**Taku Harbor** has a big free dock and cannery ruins to check out. It's a good place to meet other boaters and swap stories about avoiding icebergs and bergie bits. From Taku Harbor you can easily make it to **Juneau**.

## Heading West On from Juneau

**Auke Bay** has a large dock system and is closer to the Juneau airport but there are no stores nearby. We usually make it a long day and go to **Couverden Island Cove** in **Swanson Harbor** where there is a long floating dock and places to anchor. Some boaters travel direct to Glacier Bay from Coverden. **Funter Bay** on the northwest corner of Admiralty Island is a protected anchorage and when we were there last (2007), it had floating docks that were pretty waterlogged.

We have anchored in **Mud Bay** on Chichagof off across from Glacier Bay but that bay is very iffy because it is not very protected and can have a lot of fetch. There is good fishing though from the river that flows in from the south.

## Glacier Bay

If your next destination is **Glacier Bay**, you might elect to head straight there assuming you have gotten your permit. Or you might go to **Hoonah** on Chichagof Island, a Tlingit settlement with good docks, a small grocery and hardware store, fishing supplies, a bar and a couple restaurants.

If you get to Glacier Bay, just see all you can. And get a meal at the lodge when you first get there. Nothing like sweet potato fries and an Arizona Kiltlifter beer! There are also some displays with more information about the park. We had great fishing when we were there in 2007. Glacier Bay is pretty cool!!! (and wet). Wear rubber boots.

To the west of Glacier Bay is **Dundas Bay** and you don't need a permit for those of you who couldn't get into Glacier. No glaciers though but there are big mountains

## Chichagof Island

We saw lots of sea lions in the **Inian Islands** south of Dundas Bay and anchored in **Inian Cove** and slept well.

**Elfin Cove**, on the north side of **Chichagof Island**, is very cute and fun to walk on the boardwalk. There's limited dockage inside the cove so no big Nordhavn gatherings there. But there are plenty of areas to explore this part of southeast Alaska with good fishing although we saw a lot of happy well fed sea lions around the Inian Islands.

**Pelican** on **Lisianski Inlet** can be an interesting place to visit. The town has had its better days but it does have some larger docks and the infamous bar named "Rosie's". Rosie is a legendary business woman and that's all we're saying about that! There wasn't a store there when we visited in 2009.

From Pelican, you can backtrack the Lisianski Inlet to the **Lisianski Strait** to the **north Pacific** to explore the west coast wilderness of Chichagof. Weather precluded our visit to **White Sulfur Hot Springs** and **Mirror Harbor** but they are on our list.

Heading south on the west side of Chichagof, we followed inland passages as much as possible.

**Baker Cove** in **Goulding Harbor** is very protected with places to explore in your dinghy/kayak nearby. Goulding Harbor offers a river, grizzlies and lots of places to paddle. South of Baker Cove are **Black Bay Cove** and **Kimshaw Cove**, two more good anchorages. Further south is **Double Cove**, a sweet little cove and a good start/end point for going around the **Khaz Peninsula** which can get rough.

**Kalinan Bay**, the well protected and scenic bay on the north most west bay on **Kruzof Island** (west of Baranof) in **Salisbury Sound** is a great spot to end or start your journey along the west coast of Chichagof Island. Just west of Kalinin on the north shore of Kruzof Island is a favorite fishing spot where boats follow each other in long circles trolling for salmon. For hikers, there is a path about 1.5 miles from the NW corner where Kalinan Bay widens that takes you to the Pacific Ocean.

### **East side of Chichagof Island**

Heading north from on the east side of **Peril Strait**, an amazing surprise waits for you at the end of **Basket Bay** if you are exploring with your kayak at low tide. Check out the whole end!

**Tenakee Inlet** has been known to have lots of crab on its southwestern side. **Tenakee Springs** is a neat little settlement to visit and the town hot springs has separate hours for men and women. Swim suits are not allowed. Most people like Tenakee Springs!

We've anchored at **Pavlof Harbor** in **Freshwater Bay** and I'm remembering (not guaranteed!) a good anchorage with a pretty waterfall.

### **Baranof Island**

This island has a lot going for it!! Heading north on its east side, we love **Red Bluff Bay** for its beauty and bears. Popular **Warm Springs** has a fairly large dock, open air soaking tubs, board walk, hot springs, and a lake. **Takatz's** inner bay is a jewel with a turquoise river to paddle and cell service (Verizon).

**Appleton Cove** on the north end of the island off **Peril Strait** is a large well protected anchorage. You will need to time your passage at slack when you go through **Sergius Narrows**. We often stop at nearby **Baby Bear Bay** and look for kelp to help place rocks when entering this

secure little anchorage while we time our transit for Sergius Narrows the next day. **Kalinin Bay** (mentioned above) would be a good side trip on the way to Sitka on the southwest corner of **Salisbury Sound**.

Plan on spending extra time in **Sitka** because there is a lot to see there! The natives were busy there and so were Russians. There are totem parks, "cathedrals," "Bishop House, a "castle," a college with a native artifact collection where James Michner wrote "Alaska", and even an eagle rescue station.

### **Prince of Wales Island**

This is the island we want to explore more. For a totally different Alaskan experience, we entered Sea Otter Sound on the northwest corner and followed El Capitan Passage to Shakan Bay and continued on to Port Protection. This is definitely a smooth water passage! New Token's small store had been converted to a family compound when we were there last. Exploring the west side of Prince of Wales is on our list for another year. Have to admit we drove to **Craig** from Thorne Bay this trip and are still scratching our heads why we've heard so many good things about Craig. The fishing is supposed to be really good and there is certainly lots of places to explore on the west side!