Cruise Details

Name:	Hokkaido, Aleutian Islands And Alaska: Pristine Appeal
Reference:	HAPAGSPI2710
Operator:	Hapag-Lloyd Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Expedition
Ship:	HANSEATIC spirit
Regions:	Alaska
Departs On:	26 Jun 27
Departs From:	Tomakomai
Arrives On:	13 Jul 27
Arrives At:	Seward, Alaska
Cruise Nights:	18
Total Vacation Days:	19

Itinerary

Day 1: Tomakomai (Japan)

Arrives On: 26 Jun 27

Day 2: Okushiri (Japan)

Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, is a real insider tip. A region that, luckily for you, is underestimated by many. This means that you will be one of the few to discover the unspoilt sides of the island nation. Sparsely populated, with dense forests, clear lakes and volcanoes as far as the eye can see. A contemplative contrast to the hectic urban lifestyle in Asia's megacities.Off the coast of Hokkaido lie the rocky Okushiri islands, where you can go on nature hikes with your experts. Gain insights here into the lives of the locals – favourite delicacies include sea urchins and abalone mussels. In the midst of idyllic nature, it will be easy for you to understand the Japanese veneration of nature characteristic of Shintoism. Your experts on board will provide deeper insights into your experiences with interesting lectures about the Ainu, the indigenous people of

Hokkaido.At the south-eastern tip of Japan's second largest and northernmost main island, Hokkaido, lies the city of Hakodate – dominated by its local mountain at 335 m (1,099 ft) above sea level. From its summit or from the Goryokaku Tower, you can enjoy beautiful views of the city with its famous star-shaped fortress. Hakodate was one of the first Japanese ports to open to foreign ships in 1854. This led to the development of the historic Motomachi district, with its 19th century buildings in the European style. Also of architectural interest is the Future University Hakodate designed by Tokyo architect Riken Yamamoto: with features from 1970s structuralism, the building is a successful example of the high-tech style made famous by Norman Foster.In the east of Hokkaido, the coastal city of Kushiro welcomes you with its great maritime tradition. This is reflected in the fish market, where you can find fresh Sashimi to take you on a culinary voyage of discovery. The city is also known for its fascinating history, since in the late 19th century it became an important centre of national and international trade. Many of its buildings, including the Kushiro City Archive, the Kushiro City Museum and the Kushiro Arts Centre, offer insights into the city’s history and culture. The surrounding area with its many lakes, mountains and rivers, as well as Japan’s largest marshland, provides the natural superlatives.

Arrives On: 27 Jun 27

Day 9: Aleutian Islands, Alaska (United States)

Discover one of the remotest regions on our planet, where the Pacific and North American continental plates converge: the Aleutian Islands. On board your expedition ship, you will explore a chain of islands which is otherwise difficult to reach. Beneath the ocean lies the Aleutian Trench, which forms part of the boundary between two tectonic plates, and is 7,800 m (25,590 ft) below the surface at its deepest part. In front of you, behold the diverse creative power of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Experience the islands in the Bering Sea from the many open deck spaces or on exciting shore visits.Scarce traces of civilisation will awaken your interest when you land with your experts on Adak Island. Alaska's southernmost community was once a US military base with thousands of people. Today there are just 400 or so inhabitants. What is it like living in this remote place, where the locals rely on cargo services to deliver most of their food? Find out for yourself on the island.Cruising off Chagulak Island, the focus will once again be on the forces along the Pacific Ring of Fire. The island arc of the Aleutian Islands includes 44 volcanoes. One of the stratovolcanoes is Chagulak Island – steep with sharp edges and over 1,000 m (3,280 ft) high. Cruising off the island might get particularly lively when thousands of petrels accompany the ship. With a little luck you might also see orcas and humpback whales on your flexible route through the tangled maze of the islands.Unalaska Island is your gateway to Russian American history. This really comes to life in Dutch Harbor, which has the oldest Russian Orthodox church in North America with its white towers topped with onion domes. The Museum of the Aleutians explains the history of the islands, from the Russian American period to the Second World War and up to the present day. On your independent shore visit, you will also come across abandoned barracks, concrete bunkers and gun emplacements from conflicts in years gone by.The community of Sand

Point on Popof Island owes its name to a special feature of Alaska: several vast sandy beaches are a great place for a walk. Explore the surrounding area on hikes with your experts, with a chance to spot cormorants, kittiwakes and puffins. The island is also home to bison, which were brought here in 1955. The picturesque Russian Orthodox church is testament to the fact that many inhabitants still follow this religion.

Arrives On: 04 Jul 27

Day 13: Chignik, Alaska (United States)

Some impressive chapters of your expedition lie ahead on the coast of Alaska. Land and sea, humankind and nature join together in an abundance of unspoilt scenery. Where the coasts are undisturbed, the animal kingdom untamed and the culture mysterious, your small expedition ship will take you to some truly exciting experiences.Once you arrive on the Alaska peninsula, you will be able to gain some insights into the lives of the local inhabitants in the small fishing town of Chignik. The name of the town means “strong wind” in the Alutiiq language – and yet there’s a certain serenity in the air here. You will feel the close bond between the Alutiiqs and the land and sea when you encounter this little community. The volcanic island chain of the Aleutian Islands stretches into the Pacific like a great arc. At the southern edge of the Bering Sea, it is lonely, vast and unspoilt. A side of nature that is rarely seen.The cliffs teeming with sea birds when cruising off Kak Island will stir up your anticipation of what lies ahead. Your gaze will be drawn back to the sky time and again as millions of sea birds, including auks, guillemots, kittiwakes and horned puffins, nest and breed on the coastline of Alaska. You will be able to identify the different species together with your experts.

Arrives On: 08 Jul 27

Day 14: Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska (United States)

Alaska will satisfy your longing for great adventures in the vast wilderness. Dreams of discovery come true in an impressive way when cruising in the bays of the sprawling Katmai National Park. The region is characterised by dramatic volcanoes, dense forests, wild rivers and active glaciers. This is one of the wildest and most unspoilt places on earth – perfect for your small expedition ship, as there are no roads into this remote natural wilderness. There are said to be more than 2,000 brown bears in this region, which can often be found in the vegetation near the coast here. Together with your experts, you can keep a lookout from the many open deck spaces.

Arrives On: 09 Jul 27

Day 15: Kodiak, Alaska (United States)

Your dreams of exploration will really take shape on Kodiak Island. The largest island in Alaska is known for its unspoilt wilderness. A vast nature reserves stretches over the emerald-green island,

with fjord-like bays and mountains up to 1,200 m (3,939 ft) high, lakes and swamps, tundra and spruce forests. It is home to the impressive Kodiak bears, one of the largest species of bear in the world, which can weigh up to 700 kg (1,543 lb) and stand up to 3 m (9.8 ft) tall. With luck, you'll even spot whales off the coast. The main town, also called Kodiak, was the second largest settlement in Russian America until 1867. Today, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Baranow Museum are reminders of this time. Discover this charming town on your own or with your experts. Your insights into the history and natural wonders of Kodiak will be further enhanced by the expert lectures on board.

Arrives On: 10 Jul 27

Day 16: Homer, Alaska (United States)

Homer, in its picturesque location in the south of the Kenai Peninsula, is your gateway to Alaska's wilderness and wildlife. The town is the halibut capital of the world and is also known as an artists' colony, attracting painters, sculptors and jewellery designers. The greatest works of art, however, are those created by nature, with Kachemak Bay as the centrepiece. It offers a unique coastal landscape with deep fjords, tidal zones and unspoilt coves. The waters here are known for their populations of grey whales, humpback whales, orcas and various seal species. The area is also a breeding ground for many sea birds, including puffins, cormorants and bald eagles. One of the great adventures is watching brown bears in the wild, often fishing for salmon. You will be enthralled by this fascinating mix of natural beauty and vibrant life.

Arrives On: 11 Jul 27

Day 17: Port information not found

Cruising at Aialik Glacier is just as breathtaking, with the deck tour at the bow serving as your observation platform for spectacular shows of nature. The glacier flows from the Harding Icefield in the small Kenai Fjord National Park, a protected area for the landscape of ice and deep fjords, as well as the rich wildlife. Your captain and crew will choose a course through this Alaskan gem with respect for the sensitive natural environment. Perhaps the scene will be rounded off with some impressive glacier calving, when mighty chunks of ice break off into the sea. With luck, you might also spot whales and seals in the water. If the legendary and powerful bald eagle soars overhead, your American Dream for explorers will be fulfilled in the most impressive way.

Arrives On: 12 Jul 27

Day 18: Seward, Alaska (United States)

Arrives On: 13 Jul 27

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