Experience the very best of the Inside Passage, cruising north from Vancouver along Alaska’s Pacific coastline, calling at cities and towns steeped in the history of Native Americans, Russian fur traders and adventurers in search of gold. In Ketchikan and Sitka, discover the lush vegetation and abundant wildlife of Alaska’s southeast. Haines introduces us to our national symbol at American Bald Eagle Foundation’s Raptor Center. In Skagway, gateway to the Klondike during the Gold Rush, follow in the footsteps of prospectors aboard the narrow-gauge railroad they built through the mountains. During our day at sea in Tracy Arm, take advantage of our fleet of Zodiacs whenever conditions permit to explore.

Tuesday, August 11: Vancouver, Canada
Arrive in Vancouver and transfer to our deluxe hotel. This evening join fellow travelers for a welcome reception and introduction to the program ahead.
FAIRMONT HOTEL (R)

Wednesday, August 12: Vancouver, Canada
After breakfast at the hotel, we begin with a coach tour through historic Stanley Park and on to Granville Island, an urban oasis of restaurants, galleries, and cafes. After an independent lunch, our coach takes us through Chinatown, Coal Harbour, and Gastown, where we wander along cobbled streets lined with First Nations galleries, until we transfer to the pier to embark Le Soléal.
LE SOLEAL (B,D)

Thursday, August 13: Johnstone Strait, Seymour Narrows, Canada
Johnstone Strait is renowned as the best place in the world to view Orcas in the wild. The temperate rainforest of the area provides a habitat for Bald Eagle, deer, black bear, salmon, Pacific white-sided Dolphins, Dahl’s porpoises, seals, sea lions and the occasional humpback, minke or grey whale.
LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)

Friday, August 14: Ketchikan, Alaska
Today we visit Annette Island, home to a community of Tsimshian people, where we walk through a working village as we step back in time to the 1880s, when the
community of Metlatakla was founded. At the Healing Arts Center, explore a fascinating collection of handcrafted robes, wood masks, and other artifacts of colonial times. Become captivated with the local Native Dance group as they perform traditional and contemporary ceremonies.

**LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)**

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**Saturday, August 15: Sitka, Alaska**

Sitka was founded in the 19th century by the Russian-American Trading Company. By 1808 it was the capital of Russian America, and soon the main port on the north Pacific Coast. Our visit begins with a cruise among small islands to observe the abundant wildlife — sea otters, whales, sea lions, porpoise, brown bears, blacktail deer, bald eagles and a variety of marine birds. We will also enjoy a walking tour through Sitka National Historic Park to see Tlingit Indian totems.

**LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)**

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**Sunday, August 16: Tracy Arm Fjord, Alaska**

Fifty miles southeast of Juneau, we sail into the middle of Tracy Arm, surrounded by waterfalls cascading down granite cliffs into the sea. Look for seals guarding their spur of ice and enjoy an up-close view of Sawyer glacier; majestic and otherworldly, it spans the whole length of the mountain in shades of crystalline blue. Without a doubt, this is one of the most breathtaking wonders of Alaska.

**LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)**

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**Monday, August 17: Haines, Alaska**

Founded by the Tlingit Indians, peopled by pioneers of the Gold Rush, the small port of Haines is now a rallying point for modern day adventurers. Today we visit the American Bald Eagle Foundation’s Raptor Center, an interpretive wildlife education center, devoted to the study and care of local wildlife. Returning to Haines, we will have time to visit the oldest working cannery in Alaska, owned and operated by the Haines Packing Company. The smokehouse was built in 1917 but it is now a state-of-the-art facility, complete with pinbone extractors, blast freezers and vacuum packing machines.

**LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)**

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**Tuesday, August 18: Skagway, Alaska**

Once news of the great gold strike in the Yukon spread throughout the country in 1887, a stampede to the new tent town of Skagway began. Our exploration of the epicenter of the Gold Rush begins on the scenic Klondike Highway, paralleling the historic Gold Rush Trail of 1898. We arrive in Fraser, British Columbia (Canada), and board a narrow gauge railcar on the famous White Pass Railroad. The train takes us through the White Pass and into the canyon, offering panoramas of mountains, glaciers and waterfalls back down the grade to Skagway.

**LE SOLEAL (B,L,D)**

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**Wednesday, August 19: Juneau, Alaska**

Transfer to the airport for included flight to Seattle (B)

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**LE SOLEAL**

The deluxe, five-star Le Soléal is one of the most beautifully conceived small ships afloat. Designed in France and built in Italy, Le Soléal combines an elegant, understated aesthetic with fine European craftsmanship. Guests enjoy attentive service, gourmet French-inspired cuisine and a relaxed, congenial ambiance. The PONANT ships have received accolades from Travel + Leisure, National Geographic Traveler, AFAR and others. They are certified as “Clean Ships” and meet the highest environmental standards for energy conservation and resourcing.