



Annette Island to Icy Bay

Series 1: Southeast Alaska's Coastal Wilds

Your Alaskan odyssey kicks off at Annette Island Airport (PANT), where your X Cub is ready to dive into the Tongass National Forest's misty embrace. The first leg follows Annette Island's rugged shores to Ketchikan, threading through the Inside Passage's emerald channels, with Tlingit totem poles and salmon-packed waters as your backdrop.

Next, you chart a course north to Wrangell Airport (PAWG) via Mitkof Island's spruce-clad expanses, Petersburg's Norwegian charm, and the untouched South Etolin Wilderness, touching down on runway 28 amid fjords teeming with bears.

The third stretch launches from PAWG runway 28, slicing through Kruzof Sound's tranquil waters and Chichagof Yakobi Wilderness's pristine peaks to Sitka Airport (PASI) runway 29, steeped in Russian and Tlingit lore.

From there, you soar over Glacier Bay's icy fjords, past Geikie Inlet and the vast Grand Plateau Glacier, landing at Yakutat Airport (PAYA) runway 29 beneath the St. Elias Range's towering icefields.

Finally, the fifth leg traces Yakutat Bay's edge from PAYA runway 29 to Icy Bay Airport (19AK) runway 24, skirting the colossal Malaspina Glacier and Icy Bay Sound's glacial shores, setting down in a remote outpost framed by Alaska's wildest frontier.

No. of Legs: 5

Total distance: 523 nm

Author: Perfect Flight

1 Legs

1.1 Leg 1: PANT - PAWG

Departure: Annette Island (PANT)

Destination: Wrangell (PAWG)

Distance: 94,8 nm



1.1.1 POI1-Annette Island Reserve

Distance: 6,0 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 6,0 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 88,8 nm

True Course: 34°

Magnetic Course: 16°

After takeoff, climb straight ahead on a heading of 020, keeping the runway alignment, then turn left to 015 to exit the pattern, staying below 1,000 feet to clear the island's low coastal hills. Follow Annette Island's western shoreline southward, keeping the water of Nichols Passage on your right and the island's forested edge on your left.

Annette Island, part of the Alexander Archipelago, is a lush, rain-soaked gem in Alaska's Inside Passage, home to the Metlakatla Indian Community, a Tsimshian enclave founded in 1887 by missionaries fleeing British Columbia. Its economy leans on fishing and subsistence, with the island's dense spruce and cedar forests teeming with black bears and Sitka deer. Designated a federal reserve, it's the only Native reservation in Alaska, a quiet outpost framed by misty peaks and tidal flats.

1.1.2 POI2-Ketchikan

Distance: 14,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 20,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 74,3 nm
True Course: 335°
Magnetic Course: 317°

From Annette Island's village, head northeast on a heading of 320, climbing to 1,500 feet to clear the island's terrain. Follow the coastline of Revillagigedo northward, keeping Tongass Narrows' inlet on your right as a winding guide.

Ketchikan, dubbed Alaska's First City for being the southernmost stop on the Inside Passage, thrives on fishing, tourism, and timber, its salmon canneries and totem poles echoing a Tlingit and Haida heritage. Once a rough-and-tumble outpost during the Klondike Gold Rush, it's now a cruise ship magnet, with Creek Street's colorful stilts-over-water buildings a nod to its rowdy past. The surrounding Tongass National Forest blankets the area in misty rainforest, alive with eagles and bears.

1.1.3 POI3-Betton Island

Distance: 11,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 31,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 63,0 nm
True Course: 333°
Magnetic Course: 315°

Leaving Ketchikan, turn northwest with a heading of 320, rising at 2,000 feet to pass the rugged Revillagigedo Hills, keeping the Tongass Narrows on the left until it fades into Clarence Strait. Follow the western edge of the strait and after 10 nautical miles, Betton Island, a small wooded dot in the strait, appears.

Betton Island, a tiny uninhabited dot in Clarence Strait, sits within the Tongass National Forest, its shores fringed by kelp and its interior thick with Sitka spruce. Part of Alaska's vast coastal wilderness, it's a haven for sea otters, harbor seals, and bald eagles, with no human footprint beyond occasional fishing boats. Its isolation reflects the raw, untouched beauty of the Inside Passage, a snapshot of nature's quiet dominion

1.1.4 POI4-South Etolin Wilderness

Distance: 35,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 67,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 27,3 nm
True Course: 333°
Magnetic Course: 315°

From Betton Island, head northeast on a course of 315, rising to 2,500 feet to pass the low islands of the strait. Follow the eastern edge of Clarence Strait to the mouth of Zimovia Strait, which opens to the right after 18 nautical miles, then fly over the South Etolin Wilderness, a pristine expanse of forests and peaks rising to 3,900 feet, circling to locate its rugged coastline and staying clear of the higher terrain inland.

South Etolin Wilderness, a 83,371 acre protected slice of Etolin Island in the Tongass National Forest, was designated in 1990 to preserve its temperate rainforest and granite peaks. Introduced elk roam its slopes, a rare addition to an ecosystem rich with black bears, deer, and spawning salmon in its 28

streams. Its solitude draws kayakers and hunters, though its lack of trails keeps it a wild, untrammelled retreat along the Alaska Marine Highway.

1.1.5 POI5-Woronkofski Island

Distance: 22,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 89,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 5,3 nm
True Course: 348°
Magnetic Course: 330°

Adjust the course on a heading of 330. Fly along the channel that separates Wrangel Island on the right and Etolin Island on the left

Woronkofski Island is part of the Alexander Archipelago, in south-eastern Alaska. Administratively it belongs to the Borough of Wrangell. The island is located within the Tongass National Forest.

1.1.6 PAWG-Wrangell



Distance: 5,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 94,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm
True Course: 18°
Magnetic Course: 360°

Turn right with a heading of 360, keeping the west coast of Wrangell Island on your right, until the town and harbor of Wrangell appear before you.

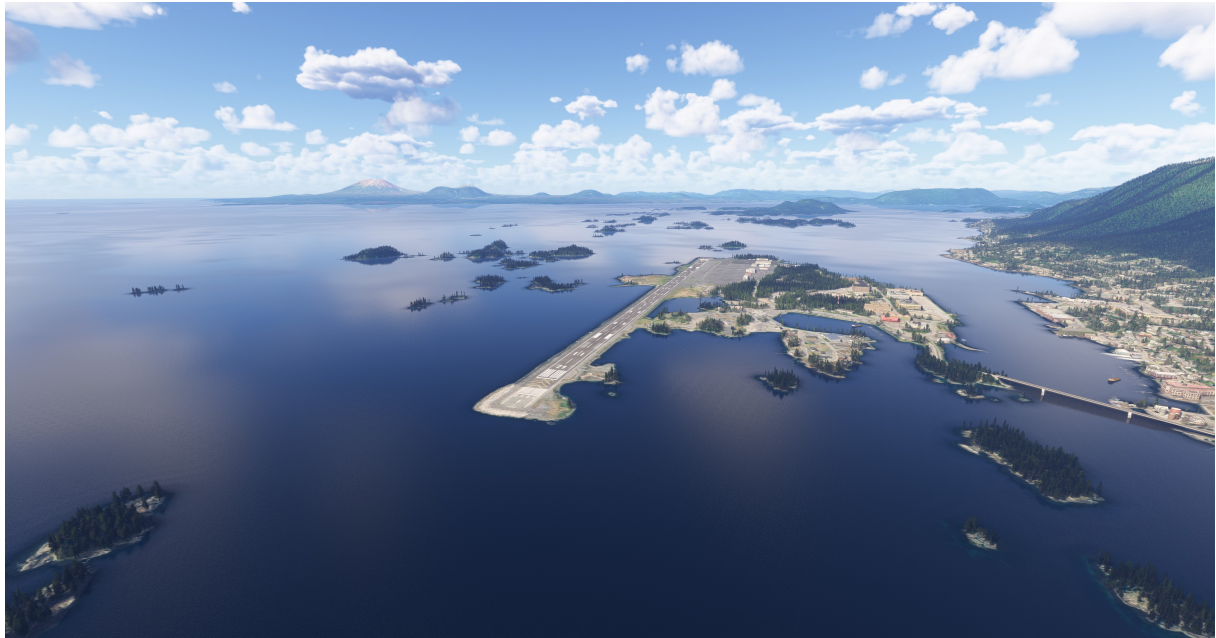
Wrangell Airport serves Wrangell, a rugged outpost on Wrangell Island, steeped in Tlingit culture and Gold Rush lore from the 1890s Stikine River stampede. Fishing and timber once fueled its economy, though tourism now grows with visitors drawn to the nearby Stikine-LeConte Wilderness and petroglyph beaches. Surrounded by the Tongass National Forest, it's a gateway to Alaska's wild heart, where bears outnumber people and the past clings to every shore.

1.2 Leg 2: PAWG - PASI

Departure: Wrangell (PAWG)

Destination: Sitka Rocky Gutierrez (PASI)

Distance: 108,8 nm



1.2.1 POI6-Kadin Island

Distance: 3,8 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 3,8 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 105,1 nm

True Course: 299°

Magnetic Course: 281°

After departure, climb straight up on a course of 280 and cross Kadin Island.

Kadin Island is an island in the Alaskan Panhandle. It is located at the mouth of the Stikine River, 7 km northwest of Wrangell Island in the Alexander Archipelago.

1.2.2 POI7-Mitkof Island

Distance: 11,2 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 15,0 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 93,9 nm

True Course: 312°

Magnetic Course: 293°

Maintain 290, following the western coast of the Strait of Zimovia southward. Pass the low hills and after about 10 nautical miles, the southern tip of Mitkof Island appears ahead of you.

Mitkof Island, part of the Tongass National Forest, cradles a mix of wilderness and small town life, its southern reaches a tangle of rainforest and muskeg swamps. Home to the Tlingit for centuries, it saw Norwegian settlers arrive in the 1890s, drawn by fishing prospects now centered in nearby Petersburg. Its shores teem with salmon and harbor seals, a vital link in Southeast Alaska's ecological chain.

1.2.3 POI8-Petersburg

Distance: 13,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 27,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 80,9 nm
True Course: 321°
Magnetic Course: 303°

From the southern tip of Mitkof Island, turn slightly to the right, climbing to 3,500 feet. Follow the west coast of the island to the northwest, keeping the open waters of Frederick Sound on your left. Follow the northward flowing Wrangell Narrows, using its narrow channel below as a guide, and after 10 nautical miles, the harbor and rooftops of Petersburg emerge on the northeastern edge of Mitkof.

Petersburg, nicknamed Little Norway, was founded in 1897 by Peter Buschmann, a Norwegian immigrant who saw its icy waters as a fishing goldmine, now thriving with halibut and crab hauls. Its Scandinavian heritage shines in clapboard homes and the annual Mayfest, while the nearby LeConte Glacier draws adventurers. A key stop in the Tongass National Forest, it balances maritime trade with wilderness allure.

1.2.4 POI9-Petersburg Lake

Distance: 7,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 35,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 73,4 nm
True Course: 299°
Magnetic Course: 280°

Leaving Petersburg, turn left 280 and follow the north coast of Mitkof Island westward. Cross the island's interior, following the faint trail of Petersburg Creek as it winds through the spruce trees.

Petersburg Lake, a pristine gem in the Tongass National Forest, lies within the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness, protected since 1980 for its untouched beauty. Fed by glacial streams, it's a spawning ground for sockeye salmon and a haunt for black bears and bald eagles. Accessible only by floatplane or foot, it's a quiet retreat for anglers and nature seekers in Alaska's vast wilds.

1.2.5 KAKE-Kake

Distance: 26,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 61,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 47,1 nm
True Course: 285°
Magnetic Course: 266°

From Petersburg Lake, set a course of 265, climbing to 3,500 and heading west across Frederick Sound. Follow the northwest curving coast of Kupreanof, using its ragged edge as a guide.

Kake, a Tlingit village on Kupreanof Island, boasts the world's tallest totem pole, carved in 1967 to mark Alaska's centennial, reflecting a culture rooted in fishing and storytelling. Once a cannery hub, it now sustains a tight knit community of 500, relying on salmon and subsistence amid the Tongass National Forest. Its remote perch along Frederick Sound draws whale watchers, with humpbacks breaching nearby.

1.2.6 POI10-Barlet Point

Distance: 20,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 82,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 26,5 nm
True Course: 277°
Magnetic Course: 259°

At Kake, keep heading west, with Frederick Sound on your left. Use the narrow inlets of Keku Strait as a secondary reference point.

Barlet Point, an unspoiled outcrop on Kupreanof Island, marks a wild corner of the Tongass National Forest, its rocky shores lashed by Frederick Sound's tides. Named for its prominence in early navigation, it's a haven for sea lions and shorebirds, with no human trace beyond passing boats. The surrounding waters pulse with marine life, a snapshot of Alaska's coastal ecosystem.

1.2.7 POI11-Blue Lake

Distance: 19,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 101,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 7,0 nm
True Course: 280°
Magnetic Course: 262°

From Barlet Point, fly west until the Chatham Strait opens up to your left, with the wooded edge of Baranof Island rising up ahead. Cross the strait, keeping the east coast of Baranof on your right.

Blue Lake, a glacial jewel on Baranof Island, feeds Sitka's hydroelectric power, its deep waters framed by spruce and hemlock in the Tongass National Forest. Formed by ancient ice, it's a vital resource for the nearby city, blending natural beauty with practical use. Kayakers and hikers flock to its shores, drawn by its serene isolation beneath rugged slopes.

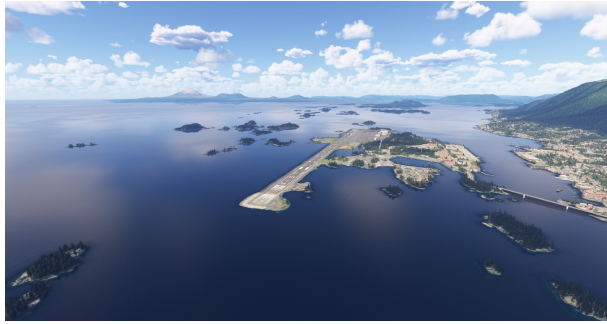
1.2.8 SITKA-Sitka

Distance: 4,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 106,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 2,6 nm
True Course: 246°
Magnetic Course: 228°

Leaving Blue Lake, turn to a heading of 230, descending to 1,500 feet MSL, and follow Baranof Island's eastern coast southwest, keeping Sitka Sound's waters on your left and the island's forested ridges on your right. After 8 nautical miles, Sitka's harbor and distinctive Russian church spires emerge along the shoreline, nestled against the sound.

Sitka, once Novo-Arkhangelsk under Russian rule from 1799 to 1867, was Alaska's first capital, its onion-domed St. Michael's Cathedral a relic of that era. Tlingit roots run deeper, clashing with Russian traders in the 1802 Battle of Sitka, now honored in totems and tales. Today, it's a fishing and tourism hub in the Tongass National Forest, its harbor alive with boats and bald eagles overhead.

1.2.9 PASI-Sitka Rocky Gutierrez



Distance:	2,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	108,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	275°
Magnetic Course:	256°

Turn right to a heading of 260. Follow the edge of the Sitka Channel westward and line up with Sitka Airport runway 29.

Sitka Airport serves Sitka. Its short runway, carved from wartime need, challenges pilots with stunning views.

1.3 Leg 3: PASI - PAGS

Departure: Sitka Rocky Gutierrez (PASI)

Destination: Gustavus (PAGS)

Distance: 102,5 nm



1.3.1 POI12-Krstof Sound

Distance: 10,9 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 10,9 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 91,7 nm

True Course: 317°

Magnetic Course: 298°

After takeoff, climb straight in the air following the northern coast of Sitka Sound, keeping the forested edge of Baranof Island on your right. After 5 nautical miles, Kruzof Sound emerges as a wide channel between the fir-covered coast of Kruzof Island on your left and the rugged cliffs of Baranof on your right.

Kruzof Sound, a serene waterway in the Alexander Archipelago, cuts between Kruzof and Baranof Islands, part of the Tongass National Forest's misty domain. Named for nearby Kruzof Island, it's a haven for sea otters and humpback whales, its shores untouched save for the echoes of Tlingit hunters who once paddled these waters. The sound's isolation offers a pristine glimpse into Alaska's coastal wilds.

1.3.2 POI13-Sukoi Inlet

Distance: 6,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 17,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 85,1 nm
True Course: 335°
Magnetic Course: 317°

From Kruzof Sound, adjust to a heading of 320, climbing to 4,000 feet. Follow Kruzof Island's eastern shoreline northwest. Sukoi Inlet opens as a narrow fjord cutting into Kruzof's northern coast, its steep, spruce-lined walls a clear marker.

Sukoi Inlet, a secluded arm of Kruzof Island, pierces the Tongass National Forest with its glassy waters and towering cliffs, a natural sanctuary shaped by glacial retreat. Its name, possibly of Russian origin from early explorers, hints at the area's fur-trading past. Today, it's a quiet retreat for kayakers and wildlife, with black bears and bald eagles roaming its untouched shores.

1.3.3 POI14-Slocum Arm

Distance: 13,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 30,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 71,9 nm
True Course: 333°
Magnetic Course: 314°

Fly along Sukoi Inlet. Slocum Arm will appear as a deep inlet that creeps into the southern edge of Chichagof Island, with its narrow channel lined by steep wooded slopes.

Slocum Arm, a fjord-like cut in Chichagof Island, lies within the Tongass National Forest, its serene waters reflecting a wilderness carved by ancient ice. Named for a forgotten mariner, it's part of the region's rich maritime history, once plied by Tlingit canoes and Russian traders. Its isolation shelters sea lions and spawning salmon, a pristine slice of Alaska's coastal ecosystem.

1.3.4 POI15-Chichagof Yakobi Wilderness

Distance: 12,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 42,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 59,7 nm
True Course: 336°
Magnetic Course: 318°

From Slocum Arm, head north, climbing to 3,000 feet. Follow Chichagof Island's southern shore westward. After 12 nautical miles, the Chichagof Yakobi Wilderness unfolds ahead, a vast expanse of rugged coastline and peaks rising to 3,800 feet along Yakobi Island's eastern edge.

Chichagof Yakobi Wilderness, spanning parts of Chichagof and Yakobi Islands, was protected in 1980 as a 266,000-acre haven in the Tongass National Forest, its granite peaks and old-growth forests a testament to Alaska's raw beauty. Home to one of the densest brown bear populations in the world, it's a sanctuary for wildlife, with no roads or settlements. Its shores once echoed with Tlingit fish camps, now silent but for the wind.

1.3.5 POI16-Pelican

Distance: 19,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 62,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 40,5 nm
True Course: 340°
Magnetic Course: 321°

Leaving Chichagof Yakobi Wilderness, follow Yakobi Island's southern coast westward, keeping the open waters on your left and the island's spruce-covered shore on your right. After 12 nautical miles, Pelican's tiny village appears along Chichagof Island's northwestern shore, its docks and wooden homes a faint cluster against the wilderness.

Pelican, a remote fishing hamlet on Chichagof Island, was founded in 1938 by a herring magnate, its population now hovering below 100, sustained by salmon and halibut catches. Perched on stilts along Lisianski Inlet, it's a throwback to Alaska's boom-and-bust days, with a single boardwalk street and no roads beyond. In the Tongass National Forest, it's a rugged outpost where locals live off the sea and the wild.

1.3.6 POI17-Lemesurier Island

Distance: 20,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 82,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 20,4 nm
True Course: 12°
Magnetic Course: 354°

At Pelican, adjust to a heading of 355 and follow Chichagof Island's northern shore westward. After 10 nautical miles, cross Icy Strait, and Lemesurier Island emerges as a low, spruce clad mound ahead.

Lemesurier Island, a small, uninhabited speck in Icy Strait, lies within the Tongass National Forest, its shores a resting spot for sea lions and migratory birds. Named for a French explorer from the 1790s La Pérouse expedition, it's steeped in Alaska's early European contact history. Its isolation makes it a quiet refuge for marine life, surrounded by the strait's icy currents.

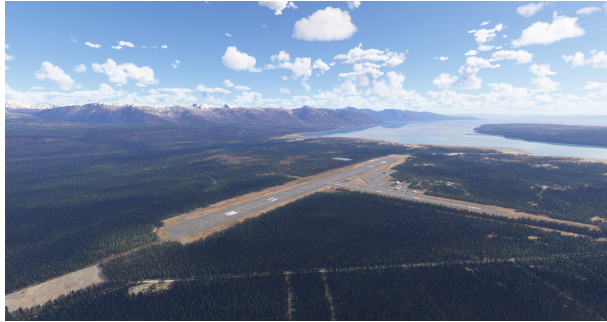
1.3.7 POI18-Pleasant Island

Distance: 15,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 97,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 4,7 nm
True Course: 73°
Magnetic Course: 54°

Leaving Lemesurier Island, turn to a heading of 055 and follow Icy Strait northeast, keeping the strait's waters below and Chichagof Island's northern shore on your right.

Pleasant Island is the largest island in the Icy Strait between northern Chichagof Island and the mainland of the Alaska Panhandle. It lies southeast of Gustavus and southwest of Excursion Inlet.

1.3.8 PAGS-Gustavus



Distance:	4,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	102,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	322°
Magnetic Course:	304°

From Pleasant Islands, turn left and prepare to approach Gustavus Airport runway 29, visible ahead at 35 feet elevation.

The Airport serves Gustavus, a gateway to Glacier Bay National Park, a 3.3 million acre wonder added to the Tongass National Forest region in 1925, its fjords and ice a UNESCO site. Originally a Tlingit summer camp, it grew with homesteaders in the 1900s, now a hamlet of 600 reliant on tourism and fishing.

1.4 Leg 4: PAGS - PAYA

Departure: Gustavus (PAGS)

Destination: Yakutat (PAYA)

Distance: 141,1 nm



1.4.1 POI19-Glacier Bay Park

Distance: 8,3 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 8,3 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 132,8 nm

True Course: 308°

Magnetic Course: 289°

After departure, climb straight out on a heading of 290, following Icy Strait's northern shore westward. Climb to 1,500 and after 5 nautical miles, Glacier Bay Park & Water opens ahead as a vast expanse of fjords and islands at the mouth of Glacier Bay.

Glacier Bay Park & Water, the aquatic heart of Glacier Bay National Park, spans 3.3 million acres of fjords, islands, and tidewater glaciers, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. Tlingit people fished these waters for centuries, leaving seasonal camps now overtaken by spruce and hemlock. Today, it's a sanctuary for humpback whales and sea kayakers, its icy beauty a testament to Alaska's glacial past.

1.4.2 POI20-Geikie Inlet

Distance: 16,7 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 25,0 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 116,1 nm

True Course: 302°

Magnetic Course: 284°

From Glacier Bay Park & Water, keep on course climbing to 4,500 feet and follow the bay's eastern shoreline northward. After 10 nautical miles, Geikie Inlet cuts into the mainland as a narrow, steep walled fjord, its dark waters flanked by spruce-covered cliffs.

Geikie Inlet, a pristine arm of Glacier Bay, is named for Scottish geologist Sir Archibald Geikie, reflecting 19th-century exploration of this icy frontier. Part of the Tongass National Forest buffer, its shores host black bears and mountain goats, while its waters teem with salmon. Its untouched silence draws adventurers seeking the raw edge of Alaska's wilderness.

1.4.3 POI21-Glacier Bay National Park

Distance: 18,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 43,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 97,8 nm
True Course: 302°
Magnetic Course: 284°

Leaving Geikie Inlet, follow the inlet's northern shore westward. The heart of Glacier Bay National Park unfolds, marked by the towering tidewater glaciers like Margerie and Grand Pacific at the bay's head.

Glacier Bay National Park, a 3.3 million acre marvel, was carved by retreating glaciers over millennia, its current form charted by John Muir in 1879, inspiring its 1925 protection. Tlingit oral history calls it S'é Shuyee, or 'edge of the glacial silt,' a sacred fishing ground. Now a global treasure, it shelters seals, eagles, and calving ice, drawing scientists and tourists alike.

1.4.4 POI22-Johns Inlet

Distance: 7,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 50,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 90,7 nm
True Course: 293°
Magnetic Course: 275°

From Glacier Bay National Park's glacial core, follow the bay's western shore. After 18 nautical miles, Johns Inlet appears as a narrow fjord cutting into Chichagof's southern coast.

Johns Inlet, a hidden cut on Chichagof Island, lies within the Tongass National Forest, its serene waters and spruce-lined shores a refuge for sea otters and harbor porpoises. Named for an early surveyor or trapper, it reflects Alaska's rugged exploration history. Its isolation makes it a quiet haven, rarely touched by human hands beyond passing boats.

1.4.5 POI23-Mt Tlingit

Distance: 9,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 59,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 81,2 nm
True Course: 288°
Magnetic Course: 269°

Leaving Johns Inlet, stay on course climbing to 5,000 feet. Follow Chichagof Island's western shore northward. After 7 nautical miles, Mt Tlingit rises as a 3,900 foot peak on Chichagof's northwest corner, 3 nautical miles to your left.

Mt Tlingit, named for the indigenous Tlingit people who've thrived in this region for over 10,000 years, crowns Chichagof Island with its granite bulk, part of the Tongass National Forest's wild expanse. Sacred to local clans, it overlooks a land rich in salmon and deer. Its remote perch offers a glimpse into Alaska's enduring native heritage.

1.4.6 POI24-Mt Watson

Distance: 9,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 69,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 71,7 nm
True Course: 295°
Magnetic Course: 277°

Follow Icy Strait northward. After 10 nautical miles, Mt Watson emerges as a 4,500 foot peak on the mainland, 4 nautical miles to your right.

Mt Watson, a sentinel in the Fairweather Range, looms over Glacier Bay's eastern edge, its name honoring a forgotten explorer or climber in Alaska's rugged annals. Part of the Tongass National Forest, its slopes harbor mountain goats and wolverines, a testament to the region's untamed spirit. Its icy heights feed the glaciers below, shaping the land's wild contours.

1.4.7 POI25-Grand Plateau Glacier

Distance: 8,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 78,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 62,8 nm
True Course: 295°
Magnetic Course: 276°

Leaving Mt Watson, continue straight. Grand Plateau Glacier sprawls ahead as a massive icefield spilling from 8,000 foot heights.

Grand Plateau Glacier, a sprawling ice giant in the Fairweather Range, feeds Glacier Bay with its slow, grinding flow, a relic of the Little Ice Age that peaked in the 1700s. Studied by glaciologists for its retreat, it's a vital piece of the Tongass National Forest ecosystem, supporting rare alpine flora. Its stark beauty captivates pilots and climbers drawn to its frozen vastness.

1.4.8P OI26-Glacier Bay National Reserve

Distance: 15,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 93,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 47,6 nm
True Course: 291°
Magnetic Course: 273°

Follow the glacier's western edge northward. After 15 nautical miles, the Glacier Bay National Reserve boundary emerges, marked by the transition from ice to forested lowlands along the Alsek River's delta.

Glacier Bay National Reserve, an extension of the national park, buffers the Tongass National Forest with its river deltas and spruce forests, a transition zone added in 1925 to protect wildlife like moose and wolves. Tlingit fish camps once dotted its shores, now quiet but for the rustle of wind. Its ecological richness supports a fragile balance of land and sea.

1.4.9 POI27-Tanis Lake

Distance: 10,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 103,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 37,4 nm
True Course: 311°
Magnetic Course: 292°

Leaving Glacier Bay National Reserve, adjust to a heading of 290 and follow the Alsek River's winding path northeast.

Tanis Lake, a tranquil pool near the Alsek River, lies in the Tongass National Forest, its waters a resting spot for migratory birds and a source for local streams. Named possibly for a Tlingit term or early settler, it's a subtle feature in a land dominated by ice and peaks. Its shores offer solitude, a rare pause in Alaska's wild expanse.

1.4.10 POI28-Harlequin Lake

Distance: 15,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 119,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 22,0 nm
True Course: 310°
Magnetic Course: 292°

From Tanis Lake, maintain heading and follow the Alsek River's broad valley northeast. Harlequin Lake emerges ahead, a duck shaped near Yakutat Bay's edge.

Harlequin Lake, named for the colorful harlequin ducks that flock to its waters, sits in the Tongass National Forest near Yakutat, a serene stop amid the region's rugged beauty. Fed by glacial runoff, it's a fishing spot for locals and a haven for waterfowl. Its proximity to Yakutat Bay ties it to the area's Tlingit fishing heritage.

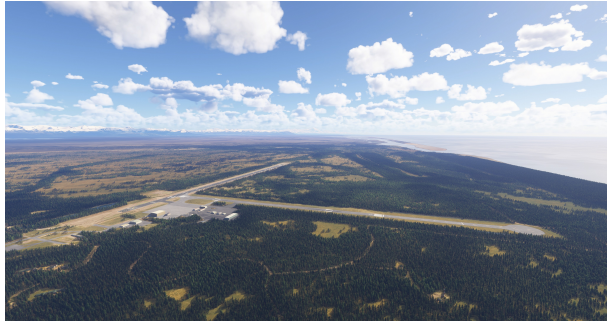
1.4.11 SITUK-Situk

Distance: 14,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 134,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 7,1 nm
True Course: 273°
Magnetic Course: 255°

Leaving Harlequin Lake, descend to 1,500 feet and follow Yakutat Bay's southern shore eastward. After 12 nautical miles, Situk's small village appears along the Situk River's mouth.

Situk, a tiny Tlingit community near Yakutat, thrives on the Situk River's world-class steelhead and salmon runs, its name derived from the Tlingit word 'Seit-akw,' meaning 'outside the bay.' Once a seasonal fish camp, it's now a year-round outpost of 50, blending subsistence with guiding for anglers. Surrounded by the Tongass National Forest, it's a quiet link to Alaska's native roots.

1.4.12 PAYA-Yakutat



Distance:	7,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	141,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	315°
Magnetic Course:	297°

Turn to a heading 209 and prepare to land at Yakutat Airport runway 29

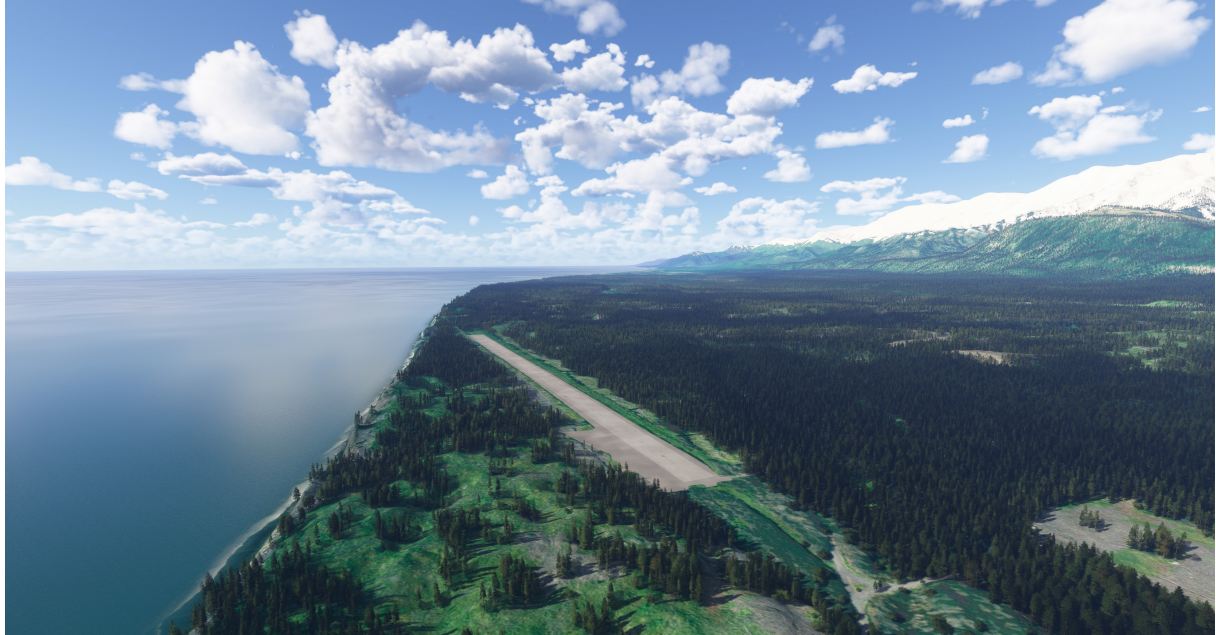
Yakutat Airport serves Yakutat, a Tlingit hub turned fishing town. Its economy tied to salmon, halibut, and tourism near the Tongass National Forest and Hubbard Glacier.

1.5 Leg 5: PAYA - 19AK

Departure: Yakutat (PAYA)

Destination: Icy Bay (19AK)

Distance: 75,5 nm



1.5.1 POI29-Yakutat

Distance: 3,2 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 3,2 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 72,3 nm

True Course: 323°

Magnetic Course: 305°

After takeoff, climb straight out on a heading of 290. After 3 nautical miles, Yakutat's village sprawls below along the bay's edge.

Yakutat, a Tlingit stronghold turned fishing hub of 600, thrives on salmon and halibut hauls near the Tongass National Forest, its name from the Tlingit "Yaakwdáat," meaning "place where canoes rest." Founded as a Russian trading post in 1795, it boomed with WWII airfields, now a surf and wilderness draw. Its coastal perch blends native heritage with rugged Alaskan life.

1.5.2 POI30-Malaspina Lake

Distance: 19,7 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 22,9 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 52,6 nm

True Course: 321°

Magnetic Course: 303°

From Yakutat, stay on course. Cross Yakutat Bay's and Malaspina Lake emerges inland as long, narrow basin framed by spruce and low ridges.

Malaspina Lake, a glacial fed jewel near Yakutat, lies in the Tongass National Forest, its waters draining into the Gulf of Alaska via hidden streams. Named for the nearby Malaspina Glacier, it's a

quiet haunt for moose and waterfowl, reflecting the region's ice-scoured past. Its shores offer solitude, a rare pause amid Alaska's towering wilds.

1.5.3 POI31-Malaspina Glacier

Distance: 14,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 36,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 38,6 nm
True Course: 308°
Magnetic Course: 290°

Leaving Malaspina Lake, stay on a heading of 290. The Malaspina Glacier sprawls ahead, a colossal icefield stretching 40 miles wide.

Malaspina Glacier, one of the world's largest piedmont glaciers, blankets 1,500 square miles in the Tongass National Forest, named for 18th-century explorer Alessandro Malaspina. Formed over millennia, it's a living relic of the Ice Age, its retreat exposing new land studied by scientists. Its icy vastness awes pilots, a frozen giant cradled by Alaska's highest peaks.

1.5.4 POI32-Agassiz Glacier

Distance: 12,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 49,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 26,1 nm
True Course: 309°
Magnetic Course: 291°

Continue straight ahead and follow the glacier's edge. After 12 nautical miles, Icy Bay Sound opens as a deep, glacier carved fjord.

Icy Bay Sound, a stunning inlet near Yakutat, was carved by retreating glaciers in the Tongass National Forest, its name a nod to the ice that once filled it entirely until the 1900s. Tlingit fishers once roamed its shores, now a domain of seals and kayakers drawn by its tidewater glaciers. Its raw beauty reflects Alaska's dynamic, shifting landscape.

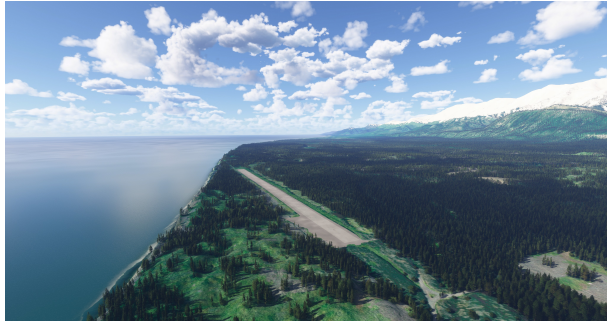
1.5.5 POI33-Icy Bay

Distance: 15,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.: 64,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.: 10,9 nm
True Course: 256°
Magnetic Course: 238°

From Malaspina Glacier, turn left heading 290 and follow the glacier's edge.

Icy Bay Sound, a stunning inlet near Yakutat, was carved by retreating glaciers in the Tongass National Forest, its name a nod to the ice that once filled it entirely until the 1900s. Tlingit fishers once roamed its shores, now a domain of seals and kayakers drawn by its tidewater glaciers. Its raw beauty reflects Alaska's dynamic, shifting landscape.

1.5.6 19AK-Icy Bay



Distance:	10,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	75,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	255°
Magnetic Course:	238°

Leaving Icy Bay Sound, turn left heading 240 and follow the bay's western shore southward.

Icy Bay Airport serves a handful of bush pilots and adventurers near Icy Bay, its origins tied to mid 20th century logging camps now faded into history.

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