



Alaska Glacier Helicopter Experience Guide

Land on a Glacier and Experience Alaska Like Never Before



If you're looking for the **ultimate Alaska excursion**, it's hard to beat a **glacier helicopter tour**. Imagine lifting off from a coastal town, soaring above towering mountains, waterfalls, and rivers of ice before touching down on a glacier that has existed for thousands of years.

Unlike simply viewing glaciers from your cruise ship, a helicopter tour lets you **stand on the ice**, explore an incredible frozen landscape, and truly appreciate the immense size and beauty of Alaska's glaciers.

For many travelers, this isn't just the highlight of their Alaska cruise—it's one of the greatest travel experiences of their lifetime.



What is a Glacier Helicopter Tour?



A typical glacier helicopter excursion includes:

- Safety briefing
- Scenic helicopter flight
- Incredible aerial views
- Landing on a glacier

- Time to explore the ice
- Professional narration from your pilot
- Plenty of photo opportunities

Some tours even combine the experience with **dog sledding on a glacier**.



What Does It Feel Like?



The moment you step onto a glacier, you'll notice:

- Crystal-clear blue ice
- Ancient crevasses
- Fresh mountain air
- Complete silence
- Snow that remains year-round

It's an unforgettable reminder of the incredible power of nature.

📍 Where Are Glacier Helicopter Tours Offered?



The most popular departure points include:

Juneau

The most famous location for glacier helicopter tours, offering spectacular flights over the **Juneau Icefield**.

Skagway

Some itineraries offer helicopter excursions featuring nearby glaciers and mountain scenery.

Anchorage

Available as part of many pre- and post-cruise land vacations.

Juneau generally offers the widest variety of helicopter experiences.

🐕 Add Dog Sledding



Many glacier helicopter tours also include:

- Dog sledding
- Meeting professional mushers
- Visiting summer sled dog camps
- Time with adorable sled dog puppies

It's one of Alaska's most popular premium excursions.



Photography Opportunities



You'll have opportunities to photograph:

- Massive glaciers
- Helicopters on the ice
- Deep blue crevasses
- Snow-covered mountains
- Ice formations
- Your group standing on a glacier

Every direction offers an incredible view.



What Should You Wear?

Bring:

- ✓ Warm jacket
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Closed-toe shoes
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Sunscreen

Even during July, glacier temperatures can be surprisingly cool.



Weather Considerations



Weather plays a major role.

Tours may be:

- Delayed
- Modified
- Cancelled

Safety always comes first.

Experienced pilots continuously monitor changing mountain weather conditions.



Which Cruise Ports Offer This Excursion?



Most commonly available from:

- Juneau ★★★★★
- Skagway (select tours)
- Anchorage (land tours)

Juneau remains the premier destination for glacier helicopter adventures.

★ Is It Worth the Cost?

Glacier helicopter tours are among Alaska's most expensive shore excursions, but they're also among the most unforgettable.

You're experiencing:

- Scenic helicopter flight
- Glacier landing
- Incredible aerial photography
- One of the world's most spectacular landscapes

Many travelers say it's worth every penny.

📷 Photography Tips



For the best photos:

- Wear dark clothing to reduce window reflections.
 - Capture both wide landscapes and close-up ice textures.
 - Include people in some photos to show the glacier's immense scale.
 - Don't forget to take a few moments to simply enjoy the experience without looking through your camera.
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★ Premium Travel Group Tip

If a glacier helicopter tour is on your bucket list, book it as soon as your cruise excursions become available. These tours have very limited capacity because helicopters carry only a handful of passengers at a time. They are often among the first Alaska excursions to sell out, especially in June and July.



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Fun Facts

- Some glaciers visited on helicopter tours contain ice that is **thousands of years old**.
- Helicopters allow access to areas that are impossible to reach by road or hiking trail.
- Glacier ice often appears **bright blue** because dense ice absorbs red wavelengths of light while reflecting blue.
- Many helicopter pilots flying Alaska glacier tours have thousands of hours of mountain flying experience.
- Standing on a glacier is something only a small percentage of Alaska visitors ever get to experience.



Why a Glacier Helicopter Tour is So Special

Viewing a glacier from a cruise ship is spectacular, but standing on one is something entirely different. Feeling the crisp mountain air, hearing the silence of an ancient icefield, and seeing the intricate patterns carved into the glacier creates a connection with Alaska's wilderness that's impossible to experience any other way. It's one of the few excursions that truly transforms how you understand the scale and beauty of the Last Frontier.



Joe's Logbook

There are some excursions that are really good, and then there are the ones you'll still be talking about years later. A glacier helicopter tour definitely falls into that second category.

The flight itself is incredible, but the moment the helicopter touches down and you step onto the glacier is something you never forget. Looking across a landscape of ancient ice in every direction makes you realize just how small we are compared to the natural world.

If it's within your budget, this is one excursion I'd seriously consider splurging on. Alaska offers plenty of amazing experiences, but very few people can say they've flown by helicopter and walked on a glacier in the same day.

It's one of those adventures that truly lives up to the phrase "once in a lifetime."