

## IMPORTANT ADVISORY FOR ALL BOOKED WITH ST PAUL TOUR 2020 SEASON

*Covid-19 Restrictions, Air Travel, and Community concerns to shorten 2020 St Paul Island Tour*

*Tour to close and resume operations on June 22, 2020 to October season close*

Over the past two months, the lives of everyone have been upended here in Alaska, the United States and the World. Mandatory stay in place orders have imposed unprecedented restrictions on citizen movement, starting with flight bans here in Alaska skies to all but a limited number of mainline jet flights linking Alaska to the lower 48 and world. These disruptions which were necessary, and unavoidable, continue so as to limit the spread of Covid-19 to protect all of us.

More bad news hit hard last week that our Statewide air carrier Ravn Air Alaska, that serves St Paul Island, has shutdown, grounded their fleet, and declared Chapter 11 in order to complete and present a plan for their corporate reorganization. We await word on Federal economic aid and stimulus they have requested to reorganize and resume operations. All is pending and uncertain as to when they will resume service.

Responding to mandatory order from the Alaska Governor, the island of St Paul, has placed restriction for all coming to the island by air or sea, with a 14-day mandatory quarantine. The safety and well-being of our community is of paramount concern, and we support all of these efforts that mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus. We do not know at the time of this writing when these quarantine restrictions shall be removed, but we are encouraged that Alaska appears to be flattening the curve, and we remain at the 48 or 49<sup>th</sup> place of all 50 States with virus per capita – this is good news and does offer hope we as a Nation, State, and Community will pull through this!

Finally, the confidence in the return of air travel in the USA, be it leisure or business is at an all-time low. Polling suggests that confidence will come in mid to late summer, and bookings for airlines, cruises, and wholesale bookings appear to support that. Right now, we have four flights between Anchorage and Seattle, on a route that normally has 50-60 flights per day. Recent polling indicates that Americans will return to travel once they know we have control and protection from the Covid-19 virus and that they can travel safely and freely without concern for their health.

With all these critical factors understood, I would notice and advise all booked this season 2020, that the St Paul Island tour will be closed for from season start May 15 through to June 22, 2020. Any guest or group whose tour is affected, and has been cancelled will be offered the following options regarding your cancelled tour:

- 1) Hold your existing deposits to confirm blocks and space for later this year
- 2) Hold your existing deposits to confirm blocks and space for the 2021 season (now open for booking).
- 3) Refund your deposit and funds paid for your 2020 tour – no questions asked.

For those of you booked for the remaining half of the tour season, we will monitor our success with all this for what we believe could be a resumption of the tour for the remainder of the season July 1 to October 10. I will officially advise you of any further delay or cancellation for the tour starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and onward no later than June 1, 2020.

At this time, no one knows how long this Covid shutdown will last. The experience around the World suggests a 3-month period for the spread of the virus to be contained and reduced. Our future operations of the St Paul Island Tour will clearly depend upon Government advice, and we will in all cases comply with these instructions.

While the immediate future is uncertain, it is important to remember that, like all pandemics, this crisis will pass. Our Governments and health agencies are taking unprecedented action, but they require our support, so by working together we can all help to eliminate Covid-19 and allow our lives to return to normality. At the TDX Hospitality Group of companies, our Community, our Employees, and the safety of our guests are our priorities right now.

When we see a defeat of this Covid-19 pandemic, we will be ready to return to offer you the best in Hospitality here in Anchorage at the Coast Inn at Lake Hood and welcome you to our natural paradise in the Bering Sea, St Paul Island which has always been "Remote – Wild – and Unbelievable!"

We will take a part to rebuild the USA and Alaska's tourism industry, upon which so many thousands of jobs and families depend. Rest assured that St Paul Island Tour operating now for 55 years will be here to welcome you soon. Thanks to all our of group tour, wholesaler, retail and independent travelers for placing us in the top ten of eco-destinations in Alaska year after year.

Finally, we are planning something fun and exciting during the tour closure period, which be to post our Senior Guide Sulli Gibson on island to be our virtual tour and birding guide. With all the technology we can muster he will be posting observations, Ebird alerts, and news of general interest that will keep you close to us. More on that coming soon, but for now, let's all take care of ourselves, our families and our communities! Best wishes and again our thanks for your support of the St Paul Island Tour.



Gregory J Galik  
President, TDX Hospitality Group

To manage your cancellation, rebooking, or other needs, please email direct to Sam Bourdukofsky at [tourdesk@stpaultour.com](mailto:tourdesk@stpaultour.com). Calling may be difficult, but please leave a message on: 877 424

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