



Thursday, January 8, 2026

Commercial Recreational Land Use Permit Application

As required by Sitka General Code 14.10 No person may conduct commercial recreational activities on city and borough of Sitka lands subject to this title except as authorized by a permit issued by the municipal staff as designated by the administrator.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Business Name	LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS, LLC
Primary Contact	Sarah Weisbuch
Address	[REDACTED] New York, NY, 10036
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

DETAILS OF TOUR OR GUIDED ACTIVITY

Season Start Date	Thursday, May 21, 2026
Season End Date	Saturday, October 3, 2026

Commercial Allocations: For each area, the commercial carrying capacity is indicated in the far left column next to the area name, denoted as (maximum client group size/maximum groups per week). For each area at which you would like to request commercial recreational use, check the "Area of use" box. Additionally, provide your maximum proposed group size (clients only, not including guides) for each area; may not exceed commercial carrying capacity maximum group size. For groups per week, provide your estimated number of groups per week based on a season average that will use each area. Enter an estimated total client number using each area in the far right column.

	Area of use	Group Size	Groups per week	Total Clients
Cross Trail North (12/26)				
Cross Trail South (8/23)				
Gavan Hill Access (7/19)				
Indian River (7/23)				
Thimbleberry/Heart Lake (14/24)				

	Area of use	Group Size	Groups per week	Total Clients
Herring Cove/Beaver Lake (7/18)				
Herring Cove Beach (6/24)				
Blue Lake Road (12/26)				
Blue Lake (6/20)				
Green Lake Road (8/26)				
Green Lake (6/20)				
Swan Lake (6/16)				
Eagle Beach ("Back Beach") (6/18)				
Sitka Sound Islands (6/18)				
Baranof Warm Springs (6/18)				
Goddard Hot Springs (6/14)				
Other (please list area below)	✓			

OTHER - Areas of proposed use not listed above. Please list each area, group size, maximum groups per week and total client estimates.

CBS lands around Takatz Bay.

Maximum group size 20, including guides. Typical group size 10-12 including guides.

Max: 66-108 clients per vessel on a given day.

Max per week: varies because visitation may be uneven; several weeks may pass between visits, or two of our vessels may happen to visit during the same week. Estimate 8-12 visits throughout season.

Total client estimate per season: 800

Details of tour or guided activity: Fully describe tour or activity in each area, including guided activity, outfitting resources provided, typical areas of use, etc.

Lindblad Expeditions is an expedition cruise company operating in Southeast Alaska from April to October. We offer multi-day itineraries on small ships (66-108 pax), with guided excursions in remote areas. We adhere to the Outfitter Guide BMP Agreement between small cruise operators and big game hunting guides; per this agreement, we refrain from visiting Takatz during hunting season. We will visit May 21st onward.

At Takatz Bay, activities will include hiking, kayaking, paddleboarding, and Zodiac cruising. We rotate activities into multiple rounds to reduce total numbers hiking ashore at a time. For example, we may offer one round of Zodiac cruises and kayaking to half our guests while other guests on hikes, then switch for round 2.

For hiking, we tender guests ashore in Zodiacs, separating them into small guided groups that disperse away from each other. Hikes are offered at various levels of difficulty - for example, one group completes a faster-paced challenging hike, another a moderate hike, another a leisurely photo walk. Activities ashore typically do not exceed 3.5 hours.

Please include the following information and attachments with your application.

Certificate of Insurance (City & Borough of Sitka named as additionally insured)

Safety & Operating plan

File Upload



25-26 Lindblad Expeditions COI City a... .pdf



2026 Operating Plan - CBS Takatz - Lin....pdf



Safety Plan - CBS Takatz - Lindblad Ex... .pdf

APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commercial Use Regulations:

- Applications and permits issued under [SGC 14.10](#) COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL USE OF MUNICIPAL LANDS AND FACILITIES
- Guidance provided by the [2026 Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan](#)
- Permits shall expire on December 31st of each calendar year.
- Permits are valid only for the dates, times, activities, and areas specified.
- Permits are not automatically renewable. Issuance of a permit shall not entitle any priority or preferential consideration for subsequent, new, or additional permits for the same area or for related uses.
- Permit Fees will be invoiced after January 4, 2026 application closure.

Upon acceptance of a permit, all permittees shall execute an instrument under the terms of which the permittee shall agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City and Borough of Sitka from any and all claims for injury or damage to persons or property suffered in connection with the permittee's activities unless such injury or damage is caused by the gross negligence of the City and Borough of Sitka.

I certify that the business/operator(s) are registered with the CBS Sales Tax Office, unless specifically exempt from collecting and remitting sales taxes for sales outside of City and Borough of Sitka jurisdiction, and have no outstanding judgements to the City and Borough of Sitka.

Terms and Conditions

Accepted

Date

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Signature

Operating Plan – City & Borough of Sitka – Takatz Bay

I. BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Official Title of Operation:

Legal Entity Name*: Lindblad Expeditions, LLC

Name on the State of Alaska business license: Lindblad Expeditions, LLC1

Other trade names, marketing names, etc., if any: National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] New York, NY 10036

Website URL: <https://expeditions.com>

Owner: Lindblad Expeditions, LLC

Point of Contact / Holder Representative:

Name: Sarah Weisbuch

Title: Manager, Expedition Permits

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

II. GENERAL OPERATIONS

a) Services Provided to the Public

Operating season in Southeast Alaska: April 25th– October 3rd, 2026
Operating season on CBS lands at Takatz Bay: May 21–October 3rd, 2026

Ships: National Geographic Quest, National Geographic Venture, National Geographic Sea Bird, National Geographic Sea Lion

Anticipated number of trips: In 2026, Lindblad Expeditions will operate approximately 90 voyages in Southeast Alaska. These voyages vary from 6 days to 15 days.

Anticipated usage on Takatz Bay lands:

- Max clients at Takatz Bay lands on any given date: 108 (NG Venture) / 106 (NG Quest) / 66 (NG Sea Bird/NG Sea Lion)
- Estimated 8-12 visits throughout season
- Estimated client totals for Takatz Bay lands in 2026: 800

Days and hours of use: Various (daylight hours)

Activities:

- Main activities: Hiking
- Incidental activities: kayaking, standup paddleboarding, zodiac tours
- We will adhere to all CBS commercial recreational permit conditions and requirements when operating on CBS lands in Takatz Bay.

Method of Access: Expedition vessels will use Zodiac Milpro DIBs to access CBS lands.

b) Cooperation with Other Users

Our standard practice is to maintain ongoing communication with other operators / cruise ships in the area to avoid conflicts and crowding. We participate in the Intentions List and the OG BMP Agreement.

c) Safety

See attached safety plan.

d) Environmental Protection

In the field, guides will incorporate "Leave No Trace" methods for all activities, including trash disposal and personal waste disposal on the national forest. Principles and techniques of "Leave No Trace" outdoor behaviors appropriate to Southeast Alaska will be discussed, including low-impact methods of human waste disposal and the "pack it in - pack it out" policy. We divide our clients into small groups and comply with any group size requirements to minimize impacts.