



Alaskan Explorer



13 Days June 18-30, 2019
From \$4095*

- Fairbanks • Denali National Park • Ultra Dome rail journey
- Whittier • Yakutat Bay's Hubbard Glacier • Glacier Bay National Park
- Skagway • Juneau • Ketchikan

HEAD NORTH to Alaska in the summer of 2019 and escape the Illinois heat. Weather is mild (70-80°) and sun doesn't set—we're there during the longest day of the year! It's wise to travel with experience and this is Princess Cruises' 50th year of cruising the Alaskan waters. The best way to really see Alaska is by motor coach, rail, sternwheeler and ship. Visit the Gold Rush era towns of Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan on the Alaskan Panhandle. Sail through the luscious Inside Passage and have extra time (more than most) in picturesque Vancouver, British Columbia. But don't delay, the best space to Alaska sells out early.

Itinerary

Day 1 Tuesday: Decatur-Chicago-Flight-Fairbanks

Kay Tolly welcomes you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago O'Hare where she hires skycaps to help with our luggage. We board our flight to Fairbanks and the edge of the Alaskan frontier. On arrival, we are taken to our hotel to check in and get ready for the beginning of your adventure to the Last Frontier.

Day 2 Wednesday: Fairbanks

A full day in Fairbanks gives you time to get a feel for the unique culture and history of the region. You'll take a cruise on an authentic Sternwheeler Riverboat along the Chena and Tanana Rivers then enjoy a Gold Dredge 8 tour with the chance to pan for your own gold. A hearty miner's lunch is included. The evening is at leisure. (L)

Day 3 Thursday: Fairbanks-Denali National Park

Enjoy a scenic motor coach journey to Denali National Park with a stay at the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. Once there, check out the deck and vistas of the Nenana River Canyon. Stop by the tour desk to plan extra activities such as rafting or hiking.

Golden Princess takes us to Hubbard Glacier

Day 4 Friday: Denali National Park

You have a full day to get out into one of America's best national parks. This morning, a Natural History Tour serves as a wonderful introduction to the animals, plants and geological features found there. Or you can upgrade for a nominal fee to the Tundra Tour, which is a full-day excursion into Denali Park.

A glacier calving!





Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge

Day 5 Saturday: Denali National Park-Rail Journey-Whittier-Embarkation

Enjoy the scenic rail journey through some of the best wilderness in the Great Land on Princess' exclusive Direct-to-the-Wilderness rail service. Once in Whittier, you'll step from the train onto your ship for the beginning of your unforgettable cruise. Sail 8:30 P.M. (D)

Day 6 Sunday: Hubbard Glacier, Alaska

The largest tidewater glacier in North America, Hubbard Glacier measures 76 miles long and plunges 1,200 feet into the depths of the bay. But it's when your cruise ship draws closer that its towering surface really impresses, dwarfing even the uppermost deck on your ship at a whopping 40 stories high. With the snowcapped mountains serving as a glorious backdrop, you'll have a prime viewing spot from which to witness the glacier calving, as it often expels icebergs the size of 10-story buildings—imagine the splash!

The area around Hubbard Glacier is also renowned for its wildlife, where whales, harbor seals and otters swim, brown bears, moose and black-tailed

'The Great One', Mt. McKinley known locally as Denali



deer roam ashore, and a wide variety of seabirds soar gracefully across the sky. Glacier cruising from 3:00-8:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Monday: Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska

Princess is one of a select few cruise lines permitted to cruise the pristine waters of Glacier Bay, the highlight of our 7-day Voyage of the Glaciers cruise. Just west of Juneau, this breathtaking national park and preserve boasts some of the world's most spectacular tidewater glaciers, such as Margerie Glacier, which often drops colossal chunks of ice into the sea. Not surprisingly, Glacier Bay National Park and its epic ice giants are part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising Alaska's magnificent park system.

During your scenic cruise, friendly Park Rangers board the ship to share their knowledge of this amazing place and host a fun Junior Ranger program for kids. They may even be able to help you identify Glacier Bay's abundant wildlife, including humpback whales, sea otters, porpoises, harbor seals, black bears, mountain goats, bald eagles and large colonies of seabirds.

Take in the awe-inspiring scenery as you enjoy an unforgettable day of sailing through this dazzling park, where you'll glide along emerald waters and past calving icebergs, and can breathe in the crisp, fresh air to your heart's content. Glacier Bay cruising 9:15 A.M.-7:30 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Tuesday: Skagway, Alaska

Skagway was the gateway to the gold fields for the thousands who flocked to Alaska and the Yukon with the hope of striking it rich. Skagway



may have boasted the shortest route to the Klondike, but it wasn't the easiest.

Over 100 years ago, the White Pass route through the Coast Mountains and the shorter but steeper Chilkoot Trail were used by countless stampedes. Many a would-be miner perished on the treacherous Chilkoot Trail.

The gold rush was a boon and by 1898, Skagway was Alaska's largest town with a population of about 20,000. Hotels, saloons, dance halls and gambling houses prospered. But when the gold yield dwindled in 1900, so did the population as miners quickly shifted to new finds in Nome.

Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau





An eagle, one of the many wildlife sightings

Today, Skagway has less than 1,000 residents and still retains the flavor of the gold rush era. Docked 7:00 A.M.-8:30 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Wednesday: Juneau, Alaska

In 1880, it was slow going for Joe Juneau and Richard Harris as they searched for gold with the help of Native guides. After climbing mountains, forging streams and facing countless difficulties, they found nuggets “as large as beans.”

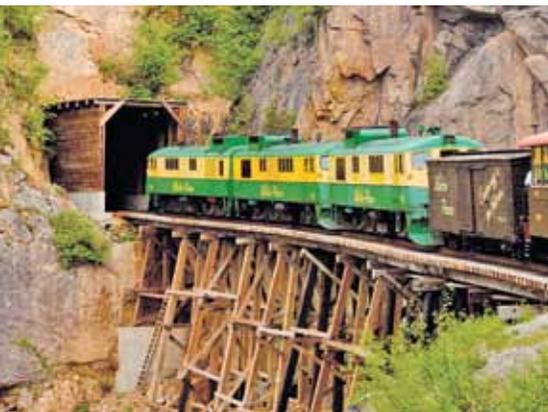
From their discovery came three of the largest gold mines in the world. By the end of World War II, more than \$150 million in gold had been mined. Eventually the mines closed, but the town Joe Juneau founded became the capital of Alaska and the business of gold was replaced by the business of government.

Some 30,000 people live in Juneau. Today Juneau is famous not only for gold and government but also for its breathtakingly beautiful glaciers and stunning views of both water and mountains. Docked 6:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 10 Thursday: Ketchikan, Alaska

Ketchikan is known as Alaska’s “First City” because it’s the first major community travelers come to as they journey north. Located on an island, Ketchikan began life as an Indian fishing camp. The name Ketchikan comes from a Tlingit phrase that means “eagle

The narrow gauge White Pass & Yukon Route Railway at Skagway



with spread-out wings,” a reference to a waterfall near town.

In the early 1900s, when gold was Alaska’s claim to fame, fishing and timber industries were established in Ketchikan. The growth of these industries helped make this Inside Passage port Alaska’s fourth-largest city.

Visitors to Ketchikan will be intrigued by its rich Native heritage, which includes the world’s oldest collection of totem poles at Totem Heritage Center. The Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian are all a part of the city’s colorful history. Ketchikan, with its abundance of salmon, is also a sport fishing paradise. Sightseers will be impressed with both the scenic town and its surroundings, especially Misty Fjords National Monument. Docked 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 11 Friday: Inside Passage, At Sea

You’re in for a stunning treat as we cruise through the Inside Passage with more than 1,000 islands, seemingly endless shoreline and thousands of idyllic coves and bays. Spend a relaxing day enjoying the ship’s amenities such as enriching activities, world-class entertainment and gourmet cuisine. (B, L, D)

Our train takes us right to our ship!



Lovely Vancouver, British Columbia

Day 12 Sat.: Disembarkation-Vancouver, British Columbia

Disembark our ship saying farewell to all who have served us so well. We are taken on a sightseeing tour of Vancouver. It seems unlikely that a character named “Gassy Jack” Deighton would be responsible for one of the most beautiful cities on the continent. But that’s history for you.

During the gold rush, Gassy Jack saw a chance to make money from the hordes of miners on their way to the

In Juneau opt for a whale-watching boat ride, they guarantee you will see whales!





Steps from the ship: Ketchikan's Creek St., where you can see thousands of salmon

Yukon. The saloon he built became the focus of the shantytown known as Gastown. From that ragtag group of shacks, modern Vancouver was born. The provincial government persuaded settlers to change the name of the town to Vancouver, after Captain George Vancouver, who sailed the region's waters in 1792.

Canada's third-largest city, Vancouver is a cosmopolitan place with a European feel and a personality all its own. It's a community with a rich ethnic mix—including the second-largest Chinatown in North America—and stunningly beautiful parks. We arrive at our hotel mid-afternoon with the remainder of the day free. (B)

Enjoy fine dining aboard ship



Day 13 Sunday: Vancouver-Flight-Chicago-Decatur

After breakfast this morning we board our private motor coach to the airport and fly back to Chicago. Here our private motor coach awaits to return us back to Decatur with golden memories of Alaska. (B)

Included meals are noted each day with the initials for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

*Prices are per person, based on occupancy:

Type/Category	Decks	Double	Single
Interior (no window)			
IC	Lido, Aloha, Emer., Plaza	\$4,095	\$5,943
Oceanview, Obstructed			
OW	Emerald	4,225	6,203
Oceanview			
OF	Emerald, Plaza	5,125	8,003
Balcony			
BC	Lido, Aloha	5,475	8,703
BB	Aloha, Baja	5,525	8,803
Mini-Suite			
MD	Dolphin	5,725	9,203



Enjoy the views from your balcony aboard the Golden Princess

What's Included: • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois • Baggage handling • Round trip flights • Round trip motor coach transportation between the airport, hotel & ship • 22 Meals: 8 Breakfasts 7 Lunches 7 Dinners • \$726 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Choice of ship stateroom • Led by Kay Tolly of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Accommodations: (12) total number of nights Fairbanks (2) Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge Denali National Park (2) Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge Cruising (7) Golden Princess Vancouver (1) Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

What's Not Included: • Airline baggage fees if any • Cruise staff and land tour manager tips • Optional tours and meals not noted in itinerary • Tax/fuel surcharges in effect if any • Travel insurance

*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4095; call for third/fourth person price (subject to room configuration and current prices). • Document required for US Citizens is a valid Passport; no visa or shots at this time. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Insurance coverage is Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard (with a minimum of 10) at a cost of 7.2% to cover cancellation charges, for coverage details see www.tourgroupplanners.com/insurance.html. Other terms at www.tourgroupplanners.com/terms.html incorporated by reference. • Price and details are subject to change. Airfare is estimated and not firm until August Acct#190618r 6APR18 15:55

Join us from • Decatur • Chicago O'Hare or call for a quote from other cities. Tour Coordinator is Judy McElfresh, email: Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com; call **217-422-5002** to charge your credit card for the \$1200 per person deposit including insurance. Or mail check (payable to **Rio Grande Travel**) to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523



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