



## ***Alaska Northbound Dance Cruise*** **JUNE 6, 2012 – JUNE 13, 2012**

### **PORTS OF CALL**

#### **Vancouver, British Columbia**



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 Yukon. The saloon he built became the focus of the shanty town 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.

#### Overview

It's not hard to understand why Vancouver is so appealing. This vibrant metropolis caters to all age groups and interests, and even the most navigationally challenged visitors can find their way around with ease. But before Vancouver was Vancouver, Vancouver was Gastown, a town built out of a need for a bar to serve thirsty lumber mill workers. In the mid-1800's an enterprising man named Gassy Jack supplied a barrel of booze and poured drinks for the men that built him a saloon in a day. Up until that point, the landscape was little more than towering evergreens on a rocky foreshore and the residents were primarily aboriginal. Although Europeans first saw the region's potential, by the 20th century, immigrants were arriving from around the world in record numbers. Today Vancouver is an ethnic melting pot of Canadian, Chinese, South Asian, and others, with 35 percent of the two million residents being foreign born. This multicultural city has also been consistently rated as one of the most livable cities in the world according to the Economist Intelligence Unit. But the spotlight is shining on Vancouver for another reason, too, since the city has been chosen to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Arriving in Vancouver by air or sea gives visitors a sampling of what to expect from this Canadian

seaport. Ships seem to barely clear the underside of the Lions Gate Bridge as they make their way past the massive green space of Stanley Park towards Vancouver Harbor. The park dominates the west side of the downtown area, and visitors and residents alike can be found walking or cycling on its seawall perimeter or paddling a kayak in the waters surrounding it. Just 12 blocks east of the park, the Canada Place cruise ship terminal has its own distinct character. It was built to resemble a ship with its five large sail motif on top of the pier, and a Pan Pacific hotel is conveniently located at the stern of the mock superstructure. With the coastal mountains as its backdrop, and just 24 miles north of the Washington State border, Vancouver serves as the leading gateway to Alaska, a reputation that has lasted for the past 30 years. In fact, Vancouver's seasonal cruise terminals welcomed 275 ship visits between April and September 2007, compared to Seattle's 190 cruise ships for that same period. It's easy to explore Vancouver from Canada Place since the city's most popular attractions are located within a two square mile area referred to as the downtown peninsula. Even though Vancouver is the only major city in North America without a single freeway within its boundaries, a unique selection of harbor ferries, hop-on-hop-off buses, and light rail transit (The Sky Train) makes it easy to get around. On the north side of the peninsula, Gastown lies 10 minutes east of the terminal building, encouraging historians to discover Vancouver's roots. An additional few blocks east will put you in Chinatown, North America's second largest after San Francisco. The southwest portion of the peninsula borders False Creek, where the hip and fashionable can check out the ultra-trendy ambiance of Yaletown. And across the creek, everyone from foodies to art lovers to maritime buffs can browse Granville Island's public market, artisan studios, and nautical shops. From Granville Island you can take a harbor ferry west to Vanier Park located in Kitsilano or to the east end of False Creek, where Science World sits. Cruise passengers can take advantage of a city that is more than ready to meet their Olympic challenge with world-class accommodations, international dining, varied attractions, easy accessibility, and the notoriously friendly Canadian attitude that is contagious.

### Best Souvenir

Pick up a souvenir of the 2010 Winter Olympics such as a t-shirt or other logo merchandise. Take advantage of your duty-free exemption with a slender bottle of B.C. ice wine (be sure it's labeled VQA -- Vintner's Quality Alliance). For big spenders, Coastal Peoples Fine Art Gallery sells museum-quality First Nation and Inuit artwork such as hand-carved masks. Or, sports fans can buy a souvenir Canucks hockey puck.

### Language

English is spoken as either a first or second language, but you won't go too far before hearing Mandarin or Cantonese. After English and Chinese, the most common mother tongue languages spoken in the city are Punjabi, German, Italian, and French (French is Canada's second official language). In fact, more than half of Vancouver's school-aged children have been raised speaking a language other than English. Also note: Although some see it as a foreign language, Canada measures in metric. For distance they use kilometers (km) rather than miles, and for temperature they use Celsius rather than Fahrenheit.

### Where You're Docked

There are two separate cruise terminals in Vancouver. The prime location for ships is Canada Place Terminal, which is smack downtown and within a few steps of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and attractions. The Ballantyne Pier is less convenient, a 10-minute drive east of the city center (in a seedy, industrial area of town where you will want to take the ship's shuttle or taxi into the downtown area). If your cruise originates in Vancouver, getting to the cruise terminal upon arrival is a cinch. The Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is located south of the city, in the neighborhood of Richmond, 14 km (nine miles) from the downtown peninsula. The airport bus leaves the airport every 30 minutes and stops at most major hotels in the downtown area as well as the cruise terminal. It takes approximately 45 minutes and costs \$13.50 per adult (family rate is \$27, which includes two adults and two kids), or you can take the 30-minute taxi for about \$28.

### Currency & Best Way to Get Money

Canadian money comes in the same denominations as U.S. money, with the same names: quarter, dime and so forth. However there is no paper Canadian one-dollar bill. Instead, there is a one-dollar coin, nicknamed the Loonie, and the two-dollar coin called the Toonie. The most convenient way to exchange money is to use your ATM card at a bank or kiosk. Other options include Money Mart (715 W. Pender Street), open seven days a

week, or Vancouver Bullion and Currency Exchange (800 W. Pender), also nearby but closed on weekends. The U.S. dollar has been fluctuating at par with the Canadian dollar, but check at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for the latest rate.

### Hanging Around

Pick up free maps and tips of what to do and see at a Tourism Vancouver Infocentre, located inside both cruise terminal buildings. An additional info centre is located directly across from Canada Place terminal at 200 Burrard Street. Shopoholics can walk five blocks south of Canada Place to Robson Street with all its chic boutiques and trendy restaurants, nicknamed the Rodeo Drive of the North. Closer to the terminal is the shopping mall, the Pacific Centre camouflaged within a couple of city blocks. A short walk south east of Canada Place is the Harbour Center Tower on West Hastings. At 581 feet it is the tallest structure in British Columbia. Take the 50-second glass elevator to the top and enjoy a 360-degree, unobstructed view of the city for \$13 per adult. Alternatively, take a short walk to Gastown, where Vancouver began. Today it's a welcoming precinct of cobblestone streets, antique stores and a steam clock. At each quarter hour a whistle chimes and steam shoots through the vents at the top of the clock. Free 90-minute guided tours of Gastown are offered every day at 2 p.m. during the summer.

### Getting Around

**Big Bus:** This narrated tour of downtown Vancouver lasts 90 minutes, but passengers can hop on or off at 20 different stops along the route at any time. Tickets are valid for two days and cost \$35 per adult (877-299-0701). An alternate hop-on-hop-off tour is the Vancouver Trolley (604-801-5515). But its ticket is only valid for one day -- and it also costs \$35 per adult. **Public Transit:** Less daunting than it sounds, Vancouver is very easy to navigate on your own. Their public transit system encompasses local buses, the Skytrain (light rail transit), and the Seabus. You can purchase an all zone day pass for \$9 per adult. **Harbor Ferries:** The Aquabus and the False Creek Ferries stop at numerous locations including Vanier Park and the Maritime Museum in Kitsilano, Granville Island, Yaletown, and the Science Center. **Seabus:** These catamaran ferries depart every 15 to 30 minutes from Waterfront Centre (next to Canada Place) to Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver. **Car Rental:** To go outside of the downtown core, or to Vancouver's North shore and beyond, you may want to rent a car. Hertz (604-606-4711) is located at the Canada Place Terminal offering. Other rental outlets are also represented downtown on West Georgia Street for a similar rate, such as Avis (604-606-2868), Budget (604-668-7144) and Discount Car (604-207-8180).

### Don't Miss

Vancouver's Chinatown is the second biggest in North America and on summer weekends it is also a bustling pedestrian-friendly night market that runs from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. The best streets to stroll are Pender and Keefer featuring the classic Chinese gardens at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the ancient healing wonders of traditional Chinese medicine at Kiu Shun Trading Company, and many other specialty shops. Stanley Park, Vancouver's main tourist attraction, suffered a devastating blow in December 2006 when it was ravaged by a severe storm. But the 1,000-acre evergreen oasis surrounded by a 5.5-mile paved seawall is still as popular as ever. Visitors can walk, bike, or just watch the ships go by (although there are still some sections of broken asphalt and rough surfaces as restoration continues through 2008). Take the free shuttle around the park stopping at numerous locations such as the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre. Other park attractions include the Kids Water Park, a miniature train, a children's farmyard, totem pole carving demonstrations, beaches, playgrounds, and picnic areas. A handsome former courthouse is home to the Vancouver Art Gallery (750 Hornby St.). The permanent collection includes the works of Emily Carr, a celebrated eccentric who best expresses B.C.'s early landscape and aboriginal culture. Although known for its public market packed full of local produce, homemade products, and unusual ingredients, Granville Island (more like a peninsula) is much more than just food. Watch artists hone their skills in glassblowing, pottery and jewelry making. Or shop at a separate Kids Market featuring 25 different shops selling everything from wooden toys to glitzy costumes. There's also an indoor play area called the Adventure Zone. Nautical buffs will enjoy the Maritime Market with shops selling books and merchandise related to boating. **Fabulous Freebies:** Ride the shuttle around Stanley Park; watch the totem pole carving demonstrations in Stanley Park; witness jumping salmon at the Capilano Salmon Hatchery; take the guided Gastown walking tour; enjoy the Adventure Zone indoor play area at the Kids Market on Granville Island. Originally Vancouver's garment district, today the trendy Yaletown neighborhood is home to fashionable

boutiques and local designers, high-end restaurants, microbreweries, galleries, and a BMW Mini Cooper showroom. With Soho-style ambiance, visitors can shop, have lunch, people watch, or admire the yachts at the marina at the end of Davie Street. Vancouver's answer to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, the Kitsilano neighborhood overlooks English Bay with a park, beach and spectacular outdoor swimming pool. The hippies have grown up but have left behind a bohemian atmosphere with restaurants featuring vegetarian selections and organic shopping. Eateries are located on Yew Street, opposite the park. Beyond Downtown Located in North Vancouver, the Capilano Suspension Bridge spans 450 feet across a canyon at a height of 230 feet above the Capilano River. Visitors can test their fear of heights with the Treetops Adventure, the newest of Capilano Suspension Bridge's attractions, where you venture from one tree to another on a series of elevated suspension bridges. Less than one mile north of the Capilano Suspension Bridge is the Capilano Salmon Hatchery. It is a free interpretive center where visitors can see that salmon really do swim upstream. Open 365 days; the Sky Ride at Grouse Mountain is a 100-passenger tram that whisks you to an elevation of 3,700 feet in eight minutes. Although the main attraction is the view, you can also visit the Refuge for Endangered Wildlife, a five-acre mountaintop habitat that is home to two orphaned grizzly bears. It's also a great place to have lunch, with options including fine dining at the Observatory, casual fare and patio dining at Altitudes Bistro, and a self-service venue as well.

### Been There, Done That

For a good workout and some great sightseeing, rent a kayak or take a guided tour with Ecomarine Kayak from Granville Island or Kitsilano. Alternatively, rent a bike from Spokes Bicycle Rentals (1789 W. Georgia) or from Reckless (110 Davie Street). Ride the seawall that extends 22 kilometers (13.6 miles) around the downtown peninsula, including Stanley Park. To download a map of the city cycling road network, go to [www.vancouver.ca](http://www.vancouver.ca) and click on maps, then bicycle routes. The Vancouver Maritime Museum located by Vanier Park has numerous exhibits for the young and young at heart. Gain a deeper understanding of Vancouver's maritime history through its nautical artifacts and collections. An exhibit called the Maritime Discover Centre allows children to dress up as fishermen, try their hand at navigation, or crawl through a pirates cave. The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre within Vanier Park is part observatory, part interactive edutainment. Kids and adults can use an interactive simulator that mimics the experience of flying and docking the space shuttle at the International Space Station. Science World features interactive exhibits for adults and kids of all ages. The building itself looks like a giant golf ball, as it was the home of Expo 86. UBC's Museum of Anthropology (6393 N.W. Marine Dr.), with its collection of authentic totem poles from remote coastal settlements, should not be overlooked. The Bloedel Floral Conservatory at Queen Elizabeth Park is a huge bubble dome, which houses the second largest dome greenhouse in the world. It is filled with exotic plants, tropical flowers, colorful Koi fish, and over 100 birds of various species that fly free.

### Lunching

For an inexpensive breakfast in North Vancouver, the Eighties Restaurant (110 West 14th Street) serves up hearty portions of traditional favorites like bennies and pan-fried potatoes for \$6.95 or the No. 1 which includes two eggs, four strips of bacon, potatoes, and toast, all for \$6.75. Stanley Park has numerous concessions selling the old standbys -- hot dogs, hamburgers, and fish and chips. But for a sit down meal, Prospect Point Cafe features favorites like halibut fish and chips (\$17.95), grilled salmon (\$21.95), or burgers (starting at \$12.95). On weekends breakfast is served until 3 p.m. in addition to the lunch menu. Granville Island runs the gamut in terms of where and what to eat. This culinary hotspot is popular with residents and tourists alike. Enjoy lunch on the waterfront at Dockside Restaurant and Brewing Company, featuring a seafood-based menu as well as pizzas, along with their own microbrewery. Try the seafood cannelloni (\$18) or pilsner-battered Queen Charlotte's halibut (\$16) with an Alder Bay Honey Lager, made with real B.C. honey. For a high altitude experience, the Top of Vancouver Revolving Restaurant in the Harbour Centre Tower (555 West Hastings) offers a tasty, yet pricey lunch while making a full revolution every 60 minutes. For a picnic, head to the food emporium Urban Fare (corner of Davie and Pacific) in Yaletown for supplies. Choose from over 100 cheeses, an olive bar, fresh cavier, an extensive deli, and organic produce. Or sit in the licensed cafe and sip wine while you watch patrons squeeze tomatoes. Joe Fortes Seafood and Chophouse (777 Thurlow at Robson) has been around for 20 years and the owners claim to serve 50 kinds of fresh seafood and have their own oyster bar. Local lunch favorites include the rotating blue plate lunch specials for \$10 each, and the caramelized jumbo scallops or tempura tiger

prawns -- both for \$15. Visitors in town for dinner looking for a splurge can try the three-tier seafood tower on ice that includes marinated mussels and scallops, grilled & chilled calamari, tuna tataki, Alaskan king crab, Nova Scotia lobster, and -- of course -- local oysters, all for \$145 (great for sharing). The Water Street Cafe (300 Water Street) in Gastown is located opposite the crowd-drawing, steam-operated clock. This restaurant has excellent value and serves a creative selection of pastas, fresh seafood, and daily baked bread. They also have a sidewalk patio to people watch. For casual Chinese cuisine, including dim sum, Hon's Wun-Tun House (1339 Robson Street) is a large cafeteria-style restaurant with an open concept kitchen. It is popular with families and casual diners because of low prices and generous portions.

### Staying in Touch

Just one block from the famous steam clock, the Wicked Gastown Internet Cafe provides computers with Internet. Blenz Coffee offers free Wi-Fi at 27 locations across Vancouver, including 508 West Hastings (only a couple blocks from Canada Place).

## Ketchikan, Alaska



### Overview

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 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.

Misty Ketchikan, the rainiest town in southeast Alaska, is known as the "Salmon Capital of the World." The town offers the perfect blend of activities: spend the morning kayaking in Misty Fiords or hiking up Deer Mountain, then spend the afternoon poking in and out of fantastic galleries and shops. You're bound to visit Creek Street, a row of wooden buildings perched over the water on pilings. Today's brightly painted boutiques once catered to gentlemen seeking the company of "sporting women." The museum at Dolly's House gives you a glimpse into the bawdy ways of frontier life, though Ketchikan's red-light district wasn't shut down until 1953. Legends of a different sort are recorded on totem poles. Boasting the world's largest collection of Northwest totems, Ketchikan has plenty of places to see these fascinating works of art.

### Best Souvenir

A hand-carved totem pole

### Where You're Docked

Ships dock in the center of town. On crowded days, some ships may be required to anchor -- and tender passengers into Ketchikan. Small ships sometimes dock a mile south of town.

### Getting Around

Ketchikan is located on Revillagigedo Island. The airport, on Gravina Island, is a five-minute ferry ride away. Right at the dock there's a low-slung green building where numerous excursion operators have set up booths offering kayaking, floatplane rides, bicycling tours, or simply transportation to just-out-of-town attractions.

### Don't Miss

The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show celebrates Ketchikan's logging heyday. Watching pros compete at log rolling, axe throwing and pole climbing makes even a rainy day entertaining. The bleachers, thankfully, are covered. The sometimes corny show lasts 1-1/4 hours, leaving plenty of time for shopping -- the port's shore activity of choice. Ketchikan museum hopping. The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center (50 Main Street) has an interactive rain-forest gallery and a terrific gift shop for informational buys, from maps to guidebooks. Also check out the Totem Heritage Center (601 Deermount Street) and the Tongass Historical Museum (629 Dock Street). Outside of Ketchikan, two must-sees are Totem Bight State Park (10 miles north), and Saxman Native Village (2 miles south), where you can watch Native carvers at work. Shopping in downtown Ketchikan. The most interesting area -- both for historic value and good shopping -- is Creek Street. Not a street at all, this boardwalk winds along Ketchikan Creek and was once the locale for all the area's brothels. Now it's home to artsy galleries like Soho Coho (5 Creek Street), which sells a variety of higher-end crafts, from gorgeous velvet scarves to watercolors to soaps; adjacent is the Alaska Eagle Art Gallery where Pendleton blankets with Indian themes are a standout, as are silver pendants and bronze sculptures. Upstairs is Parnassus, an interesting book store with a great selection of Alaska-oriented tomes. Try Sam McGee's A Taste of Alaska (18 Creek Street) for regionally made foodstuffs, from honey to barbecue sauce to soaps, lotions and ulu knives. Another interesting "shopping" area is a line of galleries along Stedman Street such as Blue Heron (123 Stedman Street), which has Alaskan crafts, including locally carved totem poles, and Golden Eagle Gifts (123 Stedman Street) for state-made coffees and teas. Right in the heart of downtown, the Eagle Spirit Gallery (310 Mission Street) and Scanlon Gallery (318 Mission Street) have interesting native Indian arts, from ivory carvings to cedar bark baskets and masks.

See black bears catch and eat their fill of salmon at Neets Bay in Tongass National Forest. Sign up on board your ship for this floatplane and bear watching thrill (late July through September). Serious hikers should traverse Deer Mountain, a 3 mile-long trail that begins in Ketchikan (Fair and Deermount Streets). Go sea kayaking, deep-sea fishing, and tour the Misty Fjords by air. Catch a great view of Ketchikan and beyond from the WestCoast Cape Fox Lodge; you can access this hilltop resort from a funicular that operates on Creek Street (\$2 roundtrip).

### Lunching

Casual, in-town joints: New York Cafe (207 Stedman, all day). The pub at Annabelle's Keg and Chowder House (326 Front Street, all day). Gourmet Dining: Annabelle's Keg and Chowder House (in the Gilmore Hotel, 326 Front Street, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), which celebrates the 1920s, has two sections -- a somewhat formal linen tablecloth dining room and, across, a boisterous, atmospheric pub.

### Staying in Touch

Seaport Cyber (on the pier, upstairs at #216 Salmon Landing) offers Internet access. You can buy a card that works in three ports -- Ketchikan, Skagway and Juneau.

## Juneau, Alaska



### Overview

Some 30,000 people live in Juneau. Its total area makes it one of the biggest towns, in size, in the world. Only Kiruna, Sweden, and Sitka, Alaska, exceed Juneau's 3,248 square miles. 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.

Juneau is often described as America's most unusual state capital. It's the only center of U.S. government with no roads leading in or out of town. The city is completely surrounded by nature, namely towering mountains and the waters of Gastineau Channel. For most of us, the only way in or out is by air or sea. Locals like to add a third way. They claim they get here by plane, boat or birth canal. Gold put Juneau on the map in the 1880's, though the mining camp had several other names before prospector Joe Juneau finally wrangled enough votes to get his name to stick. Gold remained the mainstay until the last mine was shut down in 1944. Juneau became the political center when Alaska became the 49th state in 1959. Speaking of politics, during the 2008 U.S. Presidential election, Alaska's then-governor, Sarah Palin, put Juneau (and Alaska) in the spotlight. Juneau offers an amazingly wide range of shoreside activities, ranging from whale-watching and zip-lining to touring Alaska's capitol building or the Alaskan Brewing Co. Then there's the state's most accessible glacier -- Mendenhall, an immense, 12-mile-long river of ice. Roads do go there, and along with glacier viewing, there's always the chance of seeing a bear or two up-close.

### Best Souvenir

For guys: Red Dog Saloon logo wear, especially red suspenders, is a good bet. For gals: A bar of glacier silt soap, made only in Juneau, is a unique gift.

### Language

English is the language spoken in Juneau. If you want to learn a few Tlingit (Native American) phrases, take the Mount Roberts tram to the top, and sit in on a free lesson in the auditorium.

### Currency & Best Way to Get Money

Currency is the U.S. dollar. ATM's and banks are readily available around town.

### Where You're Docked

You'll dock in any one of three areas, all within walking distance of downtown. Most large ships dock along South Franklin Street. Small ships dock next to floatplanes at Seadrome Dock. AJ Dock is at the south end of town. Ships may anchor and tender passengers when more than four large ships are in port.

### Hanging Around

Everything -- information kiosks, cafes, shops, museums, tour operators, the public library -- is a short walk from the cruise ships.

### Getting Around

On foot: Juneau is an easy walking town. It's a good idea to carry an umbrella if it looks at all cloudy. By Car: Taxis gather at Marine Park. For car rentals, the usual agencies -- Avis, Hertz, Alamo, Budget -- are headquartered at the airport. They may offer pickup service at the dock. By Shuttle Bus: It's fairly easy to get to key attractions beyond downtown, such as Mendenhall Glacier, without renting a car. Numerous shuttle services offer inexpensive roundtrip rides.

### Watch Out For

Rain and overcast skies usually mean rain. Poor weather can spoil your day, especially if you have your heart set on riding in a helicopter and landing on top of a glacier.

### Don't Miss

Mendenhall Glacier: The U.S. Forest Service maintains a visitor center and walking trails at the glacier. Bears patrol the creek for salmon and are often seen quite close. Not to worry -- rangers are on patrol, as well. Ships offer tours there. Do-it-yourselfers can take a shuttle from town. The public bus is the cheapest option, but it stops about a 1.5-mile walk away. The most exciting way to see the glacier is from above, via helicopter. The most popular tours are the basic ones with 30-minute glacier landings and "pilot's choice," which includes two landings. Mount Roberts Tramway: The tram (490 S. Franklin Street) whisks travelers up to a 1,800-foot-high station on Mount Roberts. There are hiking trails, a cafe, a gift shop and a captive, injured bald eagle from the Juneau Raptor Center. Red Dog Saloon: This kitschy wild-western-nostalgia bar (278 S. Franklin) comes complete with sawdust floors, mounted wildlife and swinging doors. There's usually someone at the piano on afternoons when cruise ships are in port. Juneau Steamboat: Hop on an old-time steamboat, and ride around Gastineau Channel. Highlights are the cozy, steam-powered boat.

### Been There, Done That

Glacier Gardens: Have you ever seen an upside-down tree? You will at Glacier Gardens (7600 Glacier Hwy), where the owners turned massive trees on their heads and used the roots as giant flower baskets. The gardens flourish in a rainforest setting. Guided tours are by golf cart. Macaulay Salmon Hatchery: (2697 Channel Drive, 3 miles north of the dock) Learn all about the life of a salmon. In addition to raising and harvesting salmon, the hatchery is an aquarium that displays local marine life. Kids love the touch tank. Alaska State Museum: (395 Whittier Street) This museum features exhibits from Eskimo, Aleut, Athabaskan and Northwest Coast Indian tribes. Don't miss the big tree with a huge (real) bald eagle's nest. Shopping: Among the usual souvenir shops, there are a few standouts. Check out Jade (321 S. Franklin) for all manner of jade animals and jewelry. The jade is mined in Alaska, about 120 miles east of Juneau. Caribou Crossings (497 S. Franklin) sells quality, made-in-Alaska arts and crafts. Alaska Fur Gallery (359 S. Franklin) wins the "tacky" award with its fur-covered jockstraps. If you need a colorful, flower-decked umbrella, pick yours up at Glacier Gardens.

### Lunching

Local fish, especially salmon and halibut, is the dish of choice in Juneau. Despite being the state capital, it's casual everywhere at lunch. Twisted Fish Co.; 550 S. Franklin; from 11 a.m. daily) prepares fresh Alaskan fish and shellfish any and every way you can imagine. Try the fish tacos. It's near the tram and has water views. Hangar on the Wharf; #2 Marine Way; open from 11 a.m. every day) boasts SE Alaska's largest selection of microbrews. Indoor/outdoor seating is available on the wharf. Tracy's King Crab Shack (300 S. Franklin behind the library and next to the ships; opens daily at 10:30 a.m.) serves up king crab legs and crab cakes outdoors at no frills tables. It is, after all, called a shack. Zen Restaurant (51 Eagan in the Goldbelt Hotel; open daily for breakfast until 3 p.m.) serves its fish with an Asian twist ? stir-fried, curried, with ginger, etc.

### Staying in Touch

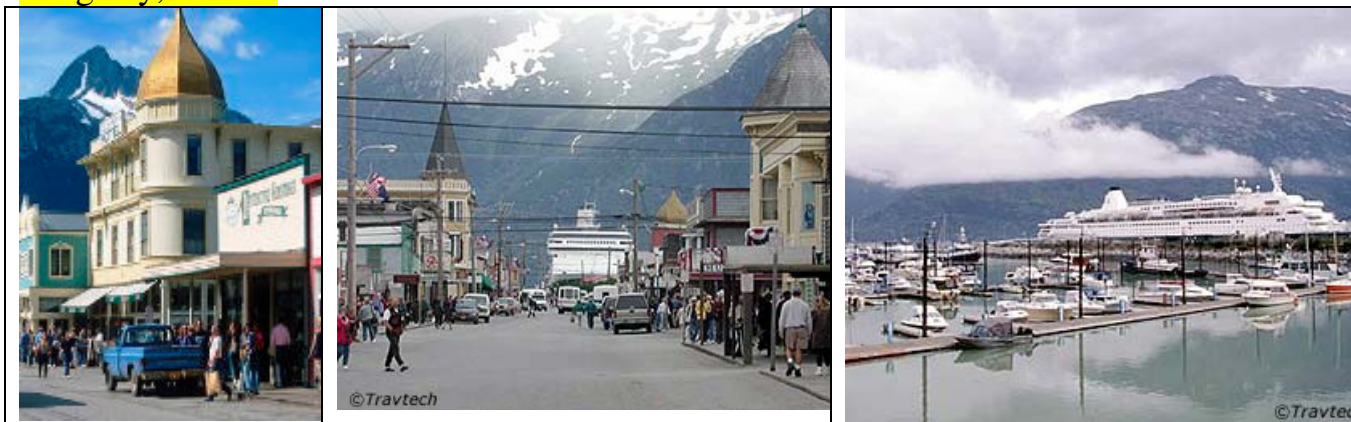
Several cyber cafes have come and gone, but you can still bring your own computer to Silverbow Bakery (120 Second St.) for coffee, pastries and free Wi-Fi.

### Shore Excursions

Fly and Dine: Enjoy some of the best-tasting grilled salmon you'll ever eat at Taku Lodge . The floatplane trip to

the historic lodge is deservedly popular, so booking onboard in advance is highly recommended. Cook Like a Pro: Learn how to cook wild Alaska salmon at Chez Alaska Cooking School (2092 Jordan Ave.). Classes are either the demonstration kind or hands-on. All offer yummy tastings. Whale Watch: Even if you've seen humpbacks from the deck of your ship, getting up-close and personal in a small boat is a major thrill. Some operators guarantee you'll see a least one whale, so you know there are plenty out there. Juneau has two zip-line companies. Go Dog Sledding on a Glacier: Combine two incredible experiences -- "flight-seeing" above the immense Juneau Icefield and dog-sledding over it once you land on top. Both dogs and mushers hang out for the summer at camps set up on the glacier.

## Skagway, Alaska



### Overview

In 1897 gold stampederers from all over the world arrived in Skagway by steamship, bound for the Dawson Gold Fields. It wasn't long before the rough-and-tumble tent town was festooned with boardwalks, dance halls, inns and saloons. More than 100 years later, Skagway still retains the feel of those Gold Rush days, though most travelers now arrive by cruise ship. The immensely walkable and historic downtown has largely been restored to its roots, complete with false-fronted buildings and wooden sidewalks. It's an utterly charming place -- if a tad precious. Skagway ranks as one of Alaska's most popular ports. It's not unusual to find four or five ships docked here on the same day.

### Best Souvenir

Hand-painted gold-mining pans.

### Where You're Docked

Ships line up at one of three deep-water docks, all an easy walk from the heart of town. Small ships may dock at a fourth location -- the Ferry Dock -- also a few minutes from town.

### Getting Around

On foot: Skagway is an easy walking town. Most shops are on one street -- Broadway. Renting a Car: To explore outer reaches of this region of southeast Alaska, you can certainly rent a car (Avis, located at the Westmark Hotel, 3rd & Spring, 800-331-1212, advance reservations highly recommended), but you're better off signing up for a tour of some sort.

### Don't Miss

Shore Excursion: A ride on the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. This was created as a result of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, though it wasn't completed before the rush ended. The narrow-gauge train follows the path that pioneers in search of Klondike Gold climbed in order to get to Dawson's Creek. The tracks wind around granite mountains, trundle across steep gorges and pass through two tunnels. Historic walking tour of Skagway. Pick up a map at the Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau (Broadway between 2nd & 3rd), which in itself is distinctive because its builder collected more than 8,800 sticks of driftwood -- and then nailed them to

the building's front. Learn about the Klondike Gold Rush at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Visitor Center (2nd and Broadway). The Corrington Museum of Alaskan History is tucked away at the back of a souvenir shop (Broadway between 5th & 6th). There are interesting displays of trade beads, baleen baskets, scrimshaw and Gold Rush photos. Shopping in Skagway. Nestled between totally touristy "outlet" stores and shops full of cheap tchotchkes are veritable gems. For books, try the Skagway News Depot (Broadway between 2nd & 3rd). For high-end crafts, ranging from made-in-Alaska jewelry to wildlife prints to needlework, try Skagway Artworks or Changing Tides (Broadway between 5th & 6th). Lynch & Kennedy (Broadway between 3rd & 4th) has exquisite (and not necessarily made locally) fine crafts, including handpainted ceramics and hand-knit woolen sweaters. Miss Kitty's Buttonhole (1 French Alley) has funky hats, canes and 1898-style clothing. The Train Shoppe in the White Pass and Yukon Route Depot (2nd & Spring) has tons of choo-choo souvenirs. Hang out at the touristy Red Onion Saloon (2nd & Broadway), a Gold Rush-era gathering point (and brothel). Gold panning at Liarsville Gold Rush Trail Camp. It's part of the train tour if you go one way by rail and one way by bus.

### Been There, Done That

The Dog Sledding and Glacier Flightseeing combo tour is a budget-buster but it's a unique way to experience the glaciers. You'll get a turn at mushing the dog team. Take the passenger ferry over to Haines. It's an easy way to go whale watching and visit the American Bald Eagle Center (downtown Haines). Play golf on a nine-hole course set at 60 degrees North Latitude. Ride a bicycle (downhill) along the White Pass Klondike gold route (Sockeye Cycle Co).

### Lunching

Casual, in-town joints: Stowaway Cafe (205 Congress Way, daily, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.) has wraps, soups and fresh baked breads. For a locals' haunt, check out Sweet Tooth Cafe (315 Broadway, daily, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.) for "home cooking." Skagway Fish Co. (near the Railroad Dock, daily, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.) has terrific seafood -- and a great marina view. Gourmet Dining: Olivia's at the Skagway Inn (7th and Broadway, daily, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) offers local fare with a nouvelle twist. Trademark dishes include Alaskan king crab and strip loin of elk.

### Staying in Touch

Seaport Cyber (336 - 3rd Ave.) offers Internet access. Buy a \$5 card good for an hour online in three ports -- Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan.

## Glacier Bay (Scenic Cruising)



It grinds, cracks and moans as massive pieces of ice split off and crash down. This is not your automatic icemaker on the blink. This is Glacier Bay doing what it's been doing for two centuries. The bay, once covered by sheets of glacial ice, is now a bay revealed. As the glaciers continue to recede, the bay enlarges. Back in 1879, naturalist John Muir was the first to note the glacial movement. Comparing charts from European explorers made 85 years earlier, he determined that the glacial ice had receded by more than 30 miles. Designated a National Park in 1910, today Glacier Bay is a 3.3 million-acre expanse that was buried under a mile-wide wall of ice only 200 years ago. Its natural environment includes five major land ecosystems including wet tundra, coastal western hemlock and spruce forest, alpine tundra, glaciers and icefields, and post-glacial meadows. Each week, dozens of ships traveling the Inside Passage spend the day cruising the 65-mile long bay. As each ship arrives, a National Park Service ranger boards the cruise vessel to provide a running commentary of the treeless mountains, icy fjords, hidden inlets and glacial landscapes as the ship passes by. Glacier Bay isn't just about ice. The ranger will also point out the killer and gray whales, sea otters, porpoises, moose, coyotes, wolves and bears visible in the sea or on the land. Leave your ice pick at home. But don't forget your binoculars.

## College Fjords (Scenic Cruising)



College Fjord, which branches off of Prince William Sound, plunges into the heart of the Chugach Mountains. As the name suggests, the glaciers along the fjord are generally named after East Coast Ivy League colleges. Baltimore Glacier flows from the northwest into Harvard Glacier, at the end of the fjord. Note how the medial at the center of Baltimore Glacier is picked up by Harvard Glacier and carried to the sea. Dominating the terminus of College Fjord is Harvard Glacier, a tidewater glacier noted for its very active calving. While more than 90 percent of all glaciers in Alaska are retreating, Harvard Glacier is slowly advancing. Notice the harbor seals resting on the ice. Glaciers calve with a sharp boom that sounds similar to a massive detonation of high explosives, followed by a roar as thousands of tons of ice plunge into the sea.

## Whittier



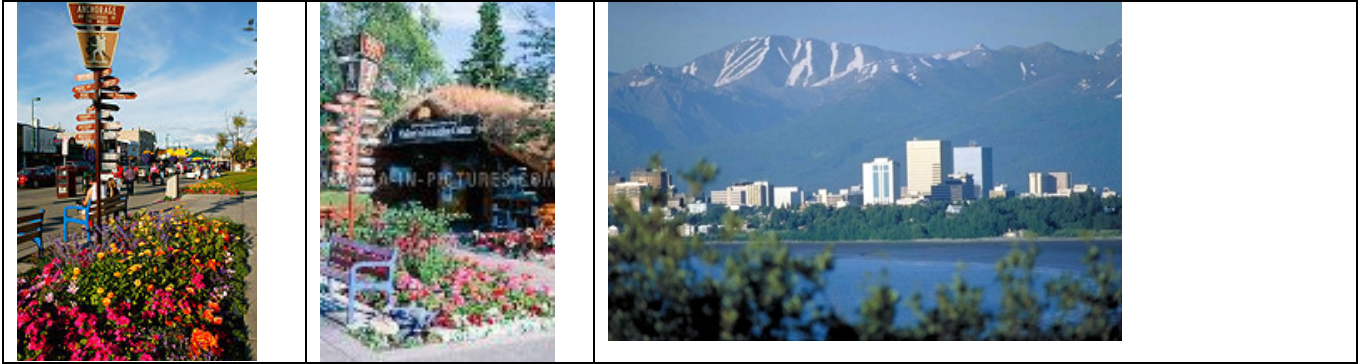
Whittier, approximately 65 miles southeast of Anchorage, lies nestled at the base of the Chugach Mountains bordering Passage Canal. Established as a World War II port for cargo and troops of the Alaska Command, Whittier remained activated until 1960. Today, Whittier's economy and its 290 residents rely largely on the fishing industry, the port and, increasingly, on tourism.

Once accessible only by boat or via a war-era railway tunnel, The Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel was recently enhanced to accommodate highway traffic as well, making it the longest highway tunnel in North America at 2.5 miles.

Named for the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, the community is also the gateway to spectacular Prince William Sound, with its magnificent tidewater glaciers and abundant marine life.

The City of Whittier is at the head of Passage Canal, a fjord of Western Prince William Sound. The nearest major communities to Whittier are Anchorage, Cordova (110 miles to the east), Valdez (97 miles to the northeast), and Seward (125 miles to the southwest). Whittier is a year round ice-free port and is a focal point for marine activity and freight transfer from sea train barge serving Southcentral Alaska. The Whittier townsite lies on a fan-shaped delta on the south shore of Passage Canal. The delta, approximately a mile square, is bordered by Whittier Creek on the west and by a mountain ridge on the east. At the west end of Passage Canal is a delta, commonly known as "West Camp" or the "Head of the Bay," about one and one-half square miles in area. This delta is formed by creeks flowing from Portage Pass, Shakespeare Glacier and Learnard Glacier. These two deltas comprise the land area upon which the Whittier community infrastructure is presently located. The city limits totals 17 sections (17 square miles), and includes both deltas, most of Passage Canal, and undeveloped lands eastward to Shotgun Cove. Annexation of the Shotgun Cove area by the City on April 6, 1973 enlarged the City limits by 8 square miles. Most communities have evolved through building and land improvement projects by individuals, private businesses, or public agencies. In Whittier's case, much of the community infrastructure is the result of various government projects, many of which were built by the U.S. Army during and in the years following World War II.

## Anchorage



Anchorage AK Cruise Terminal is located at the head of Cook Inlet along the shores of downtown Anchorage. Cruise ships will be sharing time with tankers and cargo vessels at the newly upgraded port of Anchorage AK.

The port serves all of Alaska except for the Southeast panhandle region including the major military installations like Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB and Eielson located about 25 miles southeast of Fairbanks through the means of rail, road and air cargo connections.

The Port of Anchorage handles 85% of the general cargo for the Alaska Rail belt area. Several barging and trucking companies are located at the port and the Alaska Railroad is nearby connecting the Port of Anchorage to Seward, Whittier and Fairbanks.

Friends at the front door, Wilderness at the back! Anchorage Alaska welcomes you to a city where the wilderness is always at your back door. This is a city where the great outdoors is more than just a way of life, or where the wildlife roams free throughout the immense expanses of greenbelts in our grand city. Explore such icons as Mount McKinley, Lake Hood, the Chugach Mountains, and the Anchorage coastal trail. Be sure to see the many micro breweries, thriving arts scene, the great ski areas, and the world renowned agricultural region in the Matanuska Valley where the vegetables grow as big as our salmon, it's no wonder Anchorage Alaska draws so many visitors back to the state again and again.

What is Anchorage AK like today? Anchorage is the home to more than half of the population of Alaska. Anchorage is known as both the "City of Lights" (winter) and the "City of Flowers" (summer). The current population is 278,700 as of the latest census figures. The city possesses all the cultural amenities and activities one would expect from any urban center, but this one just happens to be surrounded by an awesome wilderness of mountains and valleys, glaciers and fjords, active and inactive volcanoes.

At first mention, Anchorage may stir up visions of igloos and Eskimos, but Alaska's largest city is nothing like that at all. Much warmer than you may think, Anchorage in the summer sees an average temperature around 68 degree which is ideal for partaking in the area's outstanding recreational activities. Here you can enjoy a day of hiking the many mountain trails, riding bikes the many greenbelt parks, salmon fishing in ship creek or panning for gold at Crow Creek Mine south of town. You can explore portage glacier, cruise Prince William Sound, or take a dinner cruise in Kenai Fjords. If glaciers are on the agenda, don't pass up on Whittier and the 26 Glacier Cruise in the Princes William Sound.

Like most all metropolitan cities, there is a wide variety of transportation options within Anchorage that includes taxis and limousines, rental cars, Recreational Vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, motorcoach charters, and Anchorage public bus service.

Many lodging and visitors attractions outside the downtown Anchorage area cater to visitors by offering free shuttles during the summer.

### Things To Do In Anchorage AK.

Anchorage Alaska Fishing 2011 Alaska salmon fishing season is looking to be a pretty good year for local fishing in the rivers, streams and lakes around the municipality.

Looking at some of our favorite things to do as well as places to see in the local area, we have to include a trip to see Lake Hood, the worlds largest seaplane base.

Anchorage salmon fishing in Ship Creek is an excellent family activity, so grab your rods, your kids and your cameras and head on down to the creek for some excellent urban salmon fishing in the heart of our city. There is also a wealth of fishing opportunities available within a days drive of Anchorage for everything from Halibut and Salmon to trophy Rainbow Trout and Grayling. Many of these areas are offering great packages on Alaska fishing. See Anchorage Alaska Halibut Fishing and Where to catch Salmon near Anchorage. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the Anchorage Fishing Tours available in the area.

Anchorage shuttle and tour services includes private charters, day tours to Seward, Denali National Park tours, bus charter, Anchorage to Whittier shuttles, Anchorage to Seward shuttle, cruise ship transportation, limousine services, buses & taxi cabs, and cruise ship transfers in Anchorage, Seward and Whittier.

Prepare to enjoy the rich flavor of fresh Alaskan salmon served in the restaurants around town. Anchorage is full of great restaurants that specialize in Alaska cuisine.

**NOTE: Prices quoted in this document are subject to change, but at least will give you somewhat of an idea.**