

LCCA CRUISE TO ALASKA JULY 30—August 6, 2017

8 day - 7 Night Alaska Inside Passage with the Tracy Fjord
Dienzel Dennis-Tour Director- Dieden39@aol.com

Wow! Do we have a Surprise for you! The LCCA has made arrangements for your trip to Tacoma to have a Post Convention add on like no other we have ever presented. After the convention ending Banquet on Saturday night, plan on arising Sunday morning to head to the Seattle pier for an outstanding Alaskan cruise on the Princess Line, The Emerald Princess. This promises to be exciting, especially for our members who have never been to Alaska, or maybe even to the USA's Great Northwest. We can kill two birds with one stone; take in a great convention and relax on a great sight seeing cruise. While in Washington State, take the cruise after the convention and that way you will only travel a long distance one time for two great events.



Here is the web site to check out this cruise and to register.
<http://www.eiseverywhere.com/lccaalaskacruise2017>

I have led groups on many, many cruises, including 93 people to Alaska; and Alaska is one of my favorite cruises.

1. To sign up for this cruise, **just go on line and register for this adventure.**
2. **PLEASE, do not contact our LCCA business office** with any questions about this cruise as they will have no information available and you will waste your time, and theirs.
3. **PLEASE contact DIENZEL DENNIS, LCCA convention tour manager** with any questions or concerns at Dieden39@aol.com or 386-258-8574. I prefer emails whenever possible. Contact the cruise agency only if I can not satisfy your request.

I will attempt to answer a lot of questions for you below. Many of you have cruised before and this will not be of much concern for you. Others who seldom cruise, or never cruised; I want to make this trip as pleasurable as possible. So once again, please reach out to me with any question or concern. No questions are bad questions.

1. **Cruise prices are deceiving.** Advertised prices never include—taxes, port charges, government fees, fuel Sur charges, etc. They are always \$200.00 and up over listed cruise price. Don't be fooled!
2. **There is always a deposit at signing.** If early enough, 2-3 payments are available. Within 6 months of cruising, you will need to pay the entire amount. Refunds are available....ask or see web site.
3. Travels to Europe, the Caribbean, South America, etc. are available 12 months during the year at reasonable rates, hurricane season included. Alaskan cruises have to be completed in 4 months. June and September are less expensive due to cold weather and rain. That leaves only 2 months, July and

August for prime cruising. This is when we are going and when fees are the highest. **Under these circumstances, we have an incredible experience lined up for our members and their guests, and at very good prices.**

4. **The weather on our cruise should be warm and sunny during the day and slightly cool in the evening**, especially sitting out on the deck with the breeze blowing. Bring clothes accordingly.—shorts, bathing suits, etc for day time. Evening dinner will be casual; with the exception of two evenings consisting of Formal attire, Suits, ties, etc. These are not absolutely necessary as you can go to the buffet line instead.
5. **We will be using the late Dining hour for our group. (8:15 p.m.)** I prefer this because of getting back on ship after being ashore all day and having to shower, etc before dinner. Also, with the later dining, we get the early shows and entertainment. I always take late dining and recommend it for this cruise. I will attempt to have our entire group seated in one area of the dining room. Also, I will try very hard to sit groups together as to your desire. There are tables for 4, 6, 8, and 10. Tables for 10 sometimes are too big for a nice conversation. A few tables of 2 are available if you prefer to be by yourself. Let me know after you register for the cruise if you have another couple or party you wish to sit together and I will do everything possible to accommodate.
6. **I was asked if we could take the train to Denali...Not on this cruise.** It has to be at least a ten day cruise and most usually a 14 day to go inland to Anchorage, Denali and Fairbanks. You would have to cruise to Seward, go on to Anchorage and then ride the train on inland on the Alaskan Railroad. The only possibility for this is to fly either to Anchorage or Fairbanks and then take the train on one way; and then cruise back to the states, or fly back home from one of the other Alaskan cities. OUR CRUISE is round trip, from Seattle and back to Seattle. We will visit all the normal stops as all other cruises; we will just not reach Seward or Anchorage. Our featured train ride will be the White Pass and Yukon. I have taken both this one, and all but 12 miles of the Alaskan Railroad, and although I love them both, the White Pass and Yukon is by far the best and most scenic.
7. **Is the White Pass & Yukon part of this cruise?** I have tried to reserve tickets for our group for this but at this late date, I am having no success; without going through a third party which would increase the price considerably. **At the time of this writing, everyone would be much better off to sign up on their own at the train's web site.** I will be happy to help anyone who is having difficulties. If I can find a better option in the near future, I will let it be known to you. I would like for all of us to be on the same ride if possible. I recommend the morning train (8:30 or so). I personally like to ride it round trip. However, there is a plan to take the train one direction and a bus the other way. **You can either go on the White Pass & Yukon site and reserve your ticket, or after you register for the cruise you can pull up the excursions available through the cruise line and reserve it there.** There are normally 4 trains running during the peak season. I will let you know if I can find anything else; but right now it looks like individual signup is our best option.

This is the most popular tour in the port. IT SELLS OUT FAST. If you snooze, you lose!

As of today, May 9, anyone signing up for the cruise will automatically be signed up for the WP&Y train ride unless you specifically tell Walt that you do not want to go. You can pay for it at any time or wait until you board the ship and pay for it then. You will have reservations running around \$129.00 per person. Also, we are taking the round trip train ride! (NO bus one way). Our train will load right beside the pier, not more than 50-100 feet from the ship. Beauty photo shoot of the train from the top deck of the ship.

8. **Price of Cruise and what is included.** Everything on the ship is included; room/cabin, 24 hour food, shows, etc. Food includes coffee, tea, juice, etc. Soft drinks and Alcohol are extra, as are the specialty dining rooms; which to me are not much better than the ones included with the price of the cruise. The only other thing on the ship that you could purchase is; playing the casino, and the purchase of many portraits & pictures they take every place you go. I take my own pictures and take my own soda with me. Finally, everyone pays tips to the room attendant, the head server, the assistant servers, and the mater de. This is added to your credit card and runs about \$13.00 a day for all this service. That is around \$90.00 pp for the cruise. We are getting more than that with on board spending. You spend no cash on the ship. Everything is charged to your room key and then deducted from your credit card at the conclusion of the cruise. There is a safe in your room to secure your wallet, jewelry, etc. And of course, all shore excursions you choose are paid for by the participants.

- **You should always take money or credit card with you when you leave the ship in ports of call.**
- **Your Room Key is for on Board purchases only and will not work in the shops on shore.**

9. **I have made arrangements for transportation from our convention hotel, the Murano, to the Seattle pier at a nominal fee, depending on how many people we have.** On the return, we can spend another night at the hotel at the same rates as we pay for the convention. Or, we can drop you off at the SeaTac airport for a flight straight home. Please do not book a flight before noon, so as not to miss it by delays in getting to the airport from the ship. I have also secured a place at the hotel where we can leave our trains & purchases, and also luggage that we may not need on the cruise. There will also be a small fee for this room divided by all of us who take advantage of this. (hopefully \$5-\$10 or less) Finally, I have not made arrangement for those driving their own cars, but I will attempt to get a parking space for this week at the hotel. If you drive your car to the pier, the parking sometimes runs more than \$20.00 a day, or \$140.00 for the cruise.

Wow, was I wrong! I have just done some more checking and the private car parking is \$191.17 for the 7 day cruise, and you must drop your luggage at the pier, then drive to the parking lot, and then take a taxi/shuttle back to the pier, requiring at least 20 minutes. Our bus will drop all of us and our luggage at the pier where we will immediately start the boarding process.

10. Ships fill up fast, especially for the 2 good months in the summer.....**so, get in fast or “be left on the shore”!**
11. **Another item I always get is travel insurance.** At my age and health, I cannot take a chance of having to be air lifted from a foreign port with a stroke, heart attack, or even a fall. The insurance is minimal through the cruise line, or you can purchase it at other places of your choice. (or you may feel you don't need it) It also covers lost luggage, delays in transports, missed ports, medical help on the ship, etc.
12. **Our first deadline for the amenities listed is February 23rd.** Up to that time we will get \$150.00 shipboard credit for inside & ocean view cabins; or \$300.00 for balcony or suite with also a one time specially dinning for two. After this deadline, (Feb. 23) we will not be guaranteed cabins at the same rate or the amenities. However, there may be different amenities available such as lower cabin rates, pre paid gratuities, or on board spending. If you register early and the amenities go down, you are still locked into your good ones. However, if the amenities are better later on, then you will be upgraded to which ever is better. This will be done automatically for you. These deals are from the cruise line. If we exceed our expectation of cruisers, we may get other perks from the Cruise Agency. Stay tuned for up dates as the cruisers sign up!
13. **If we have enough attending, we will be honored with an onboard cocktail party one evening.**

We have now reached our requirement for having an LCCA one hour Cocktail Party with free drinks for our members. I have it scheduled for Tuesday afternoon from 4:45-5:45 after we leave Ketchikan at 3:00 and before we have dinner and our evening show. In addition to that, our numbers now qualify us for another \$25.00 per cabin on board credit.

14. **Who can go on this cruise?** This is for the Lionel Collectors Club of America, but it is open to anyone who wishes to cruise. Bring spouses, bring your family, and bring friends. The more we have, the better our benefits.
15. **Legal Documents Needed.** Right now, if you are a USA citizen; the original or certified copy of your birth certificate will work; (OR) a driver's license and an official photo I. D. If you have a pass port, just bring it.
16. I have just worked it out where those driving their **private automobiles may park at the hotel "free of charge" during the cruise as long as you were guest at the hotel** during the convention.

**Things I have done, liked, and recommend on the Alaskan Cruise:
(but you are free to do your choice)**

- **In Juneau, Alaska**—the Mendenhall Glacier and/or the Mount Roberta Tramway (Eagles are usually seen here).
- **In Skagway, Alaska**—White Pass and Yukon Railroad (a must for train enthusiast) and the Red Onion Saloon.
- **A short walking tour of downtown.**
- **In Ketchikan, Alaska**—Creek Street, a short walk from the ship on a boardwalk up the river-no charge.
- **Totem Bright State Park, the Saxman Native Village, and//or the Alaskan Lumberjack Show.**
- **In Victoria British Columbia**—Butchart Gardens is a must if time allows and they are open that late.
- **The Fairmont Express Hotel** is a delight to walk through.

Of course there are other sights to experience but these are just a few I have visited and enjoyed.

Anyone who has a question not addressed in this attachment, please let me know, and I will answer it, or will find out the answer and let you know. Then I will add it to this list to be distributed, and redistributed.

NOTE: I do not work for the cruise agency; but work closely with them to pursue the best deals possible for my people. Please feel free to forward this on to family and friends and encourage them to participate. And, if any of them are not members of the LCCA, use this cruise as a recruitment tool and have them join our club and come to both the convention and the cruise.

**Again, here is the web site, get signed up now:
<http://www.eiseverywhere.com/lccaalaskacruise2017>**

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