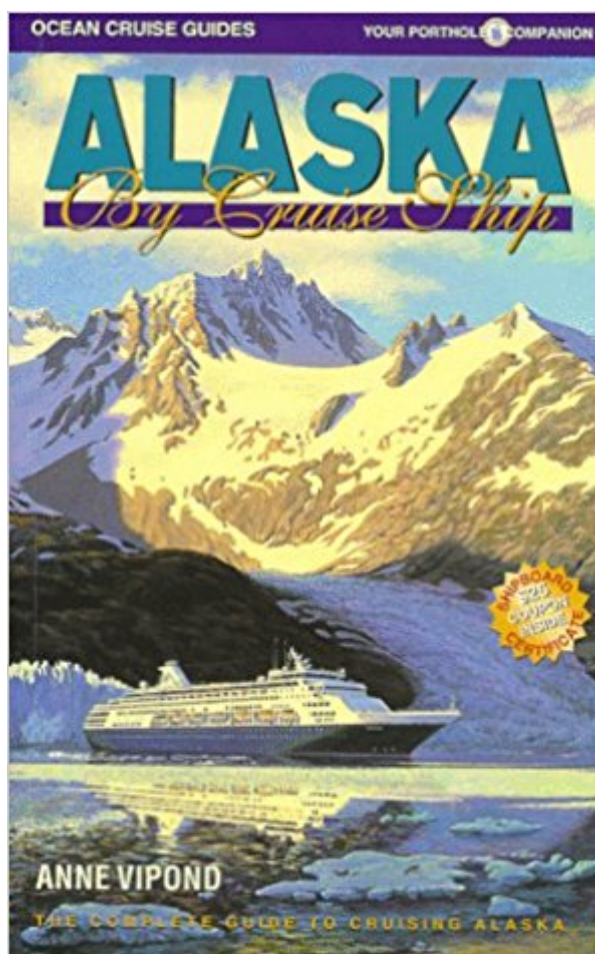


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# Alaska By Cruise Ship: The Complete Guide To Cruising Alaska



## Synopsis

This beautiful guide book to the cruising experience in Alaska includes over 350 maps, illustrations and photos - most in color. This new edition of Alaska by Cruise Ship also has a giant pull-out color map and was updated in 2001. Veteran cruise writer Anne Vipond, with years of experience cruising the Inside Passage and the Gulf of Alaska, provides an insider's look at this beautiful coastline. Drawing on authorities at the Universities of Alaska and British Columbia, this is a reliable reference for passengers. From Seattle and Vancouver to the south to Seward, Anchorage and Fairbanks to the north. Read about Alaska's Russian past, the rough and tumble years of the Gold Rush and the renaissance of Northwest native culture. A detailed chapter of the book deals with the diverse wildlife and also includes special maps to help you locate and identify the different species of whales. Also in this updated edition are all port attractions with maps showing exactly where cruise ships dock as well as comprehensive shore excursion information and suggestions for those who want to explore each port on foot. Home port information also includes hotel recommendations and land tour information.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

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[United States > Alaska > General](#) #463 in [Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

"...there are few books better on cruising than those by Anne Vipond." -- Globe and Mail national newspaper, Toronto  
"Covers the destinations with solid detail and from the cruiser's perspective." -- Travel Trade Magazine, New York

This is the number one source across North America for travel agents and travelers going to Alaska

by cruise ship. This is such a good cruise to take, it makes good sense to take along the best cruise guidebook on Alaska.

How seriously can you consider a travel guide that includes uncritical language throughout: e.g. "Cruise ships are well known for providing passengers with impeccable service and excellent cuisine." The advice on shore excursions appears copied from the brochures from the rack at the Holiday Inn. The history of the area is easily found elsewhere, and not in third grade concepts. Not a single useful item in the entire book. Avoid it.

This book does not provide any more information than could be found in brochures at the ship's guest relations desk. It doesn't offer any interesting alternatives to shore excursions and fails to mention the drawbacks of places listed. Here are two examples. First, Vipond says it is a must to take the White Pass & Yukon Route train in Skagway. Tickets cost over \$100.00 per person. Vipond doesn't mention, however, that you can rent a car in Skagway for about \$125.00 and drive almost the same route and have the chance to get out and take pictures. There is an Internet guide describing this route and you can download it for a price. Next, Vipond mentions Totem Bight State Park in Ketchikan and says there is a bus that takes you there for \$2.00. That's true, but Vipond doesn't mention that between waiting for the bus to and from the park and time spent at the park itself, you will have spent 2 and 1/2 hours to see about 12 totem poles in 15 minutes. My kids would've rather have taken the duck tour in Ketchikan, which of course Vipond failed to mention. If it wasn't for the map and the historical and wildlife sections, I'd have given this book 1 star.

My husband and I went to Alaska on our honeymoon last summer. I referenced this book prior to our trip, as well as during the trip. It was very helpful to see the pictures and know what to expect. Of course, you can get all this information in free brochures if you'd like, but I found it very helpful to have it all condensed into one reference. I actually used both this book and brochures, and I was completely prepared. Our cruise was a 7-day Inside Passage from Vancouver, and this book covered all of our stops. I even enjoy looking through it now and seeing the pictures of where we went.

If you are planning an Alaskan Cruise this is the book to get. I wish I'd had it before signing up for the cruise - I would have picked one that stopped at some of the cities that our cruise won't be stopping at. The book does a great job of talking about cruises in general without giving too much

attention to any one cruise line. The book was real handy in choosing which shore excursions to take. If you're taking a cruise to Alaska, this book is much more handy than the Eyewitness Guide Book for Alaska which only covers on-land sightseeing.

### Outstanding book

This is one of the few guides I could find that talks about the areas related to cruising in a succinct way. It appears that any trip that you could take on an Alaskan cruise will be mentioned in here. There is a nice section on British Columbia as well that was very helpful

Love this book, it will make our Alaskan cruise much more enjoyable. Before we got this book we were overwhelmed with the 89 excursions available through our cruise with only 3 port days.

You can find this book at just about any bookstore. What I really liked is the foldout map of the region that's included inside the back cover. We could track where we were from our cabin.

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