

Alaska Cruise May 17-24, 2017

We are back from our Alaska cruise. Overall it was pretty good. We had rain for most of the time. A big disappointment was Victoria; we could not dock there due to high winds. I thought the food was outstanding. Comparing this cruise to our river cruise last year, we both prefer smaller boats. There were 700 guests on this Regent Seven Seas ship compared to 120 on Uniworld river cruise. The scenery was fabulous for me seeing many snow covered mountains and lots of green. The ship traveled almost 3,000 NM.

San Francisco, California

We spent Friday evening May 12 at the Mark Hopkins International. Regent booked 250 guests there prior to departing on Saturday at 6PM. I spent the afternoon at the Cable Car Museum. On Saturday morning I took a cable car to the Embarcadero. Cost was \$7 each way, but fun rides. Apparently I left my camera at the hotel; they are sending it back to me. So the remaining photos and all the videos were taken with my iPhone 7. Taxi to the ship was a Toyota Camry Hybrid with over 300,000 miles on it — great room and acceleration.

Day 1 photos <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157680662714943> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157680662714943>>

Day 2 photos <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157680997230982> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157680997230982>>

Astoria, Oregon

We spent all of Sunday, May 14 enroute to Astoria arriving 7AM Monday. Seas were a bit rough so I felt a bit queasy. Ship had some local entertainment. I noticed some Sprite cans were differently sized with Hebrew writing. After docking we took a bus tour of panoramic Astoria; it was raining. Several local places were identified including Fort Astoria. John Jacob Astor sent expeditions to seize the mouth of the Columbia River desiring to dominate the explored areas by Lewis and Clark. After the town we went to Astoria Column perched 600 feet above sea level on Coxcomb Hill. Many sea lions in town will not leave. A couple of hundred sea lions migrated up from California and took residence on one of Astoria's small boat docks. The city tried driving them out with firecrackers, beach balls, and several other methods. The sea lions now ruled. A man saw a newscast about them and offered his help. He had a large motorized replica of a killer whale (sea lions only known and feared enemy). He would tow the fake killer whale into the area to scare the sea lions out. This too failed as the towed fake whale was caught in the wake of a large yacht, turning the whale upside down and destroying the motor. The sea lions are still at home and part of the Astoria tour. The city was unable to reclaim the boat dock.

Enroute <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681056900062> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681056900062>>
Astoria <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681949646910> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681949646910>>

Sitka, Alaska

We left Astoria at 3PM Monday and arrived Sitka at noon on Wednesday, so another full day of sailing. Weather was finally clear; this was only day like this except in Vancouver. Ship was anchored so we had to take the tenders ashore. You may have heard about one of the 10 Best April Fools hoaxes revealing the eruption of nearby Mount Edgecumbe in 1974 (<http://www.sitka.com/Porky/porky.htm> <<http://www.sitka.com/Porky/porky.htm>>). The bus tour included Russian dances performed by some residents. We visited Sitka National Historical Park that had many totem poles. Last stop was at the Alaska Raptor Center, which was to heal injured raptors (like eagles and owls) for release into the wild. Some birds stay.

Sitka <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681254631733> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681254631733>>

Hubbard Glacier - 417 feet high

We arrived about noon on Thursday, May 18 at Hubbard Glacier. This glacier can be seen from 75 miles away. We couldn't sail too close due to much glacier ice in the

water. Other passengers have said they have gotten real close in years past. Afternoon movie was “Hidden Figures”.

Glacier <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681402708452> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681402708452>>

Juneau, Alaska

We arrived about 7AM on Friday in Juneau and left at 6PM. The state capital has a population of about 32,000 making it the third most populous city in Alaska after Anchorage and Fairbanks. I took many, many photos of humpback whales surfacing and saw 2 whale tales. Bus took us to beautiful Mendenhall Glacier. The Red Dog Saloon is famous because of Wyatt Earp’s gun. It is on display behind the bar having been checked in at the US Marshall’s office but never claimed.

Juneau <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681258130953> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681258130953>>

Wrangell, Alaska

We arrived about noon on Saturday, May 20 and left early due to rain. I walked this city then took the tour bus. This borough has a great museum and petroglyph park. The residents were to give us all a wingding in the evening but the rain cancelled that. Evening movie was “La La Land”.

Wrangell <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684274278195> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684274278195>>

Ketchikan, Alaska

We arrived here at 8AM on Sunday and left at 7PM. Rain was quite heavy all day. I did see a lumberjack show. Interesting how they persevered despite the weather. Went to see Saxman which is a village housing Tlingit clan locals. they performed several dances for us. Totems include one of William Seward in which he is shamed for not reciprocating with a potlatch even after 4 were done for him. A potlatch is a gift-giving feast.

Photos <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681171737964> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681171737964>>

Seymour Narrows, Canada

Monday evening we transited the Seymour Narrows. This area east of Victoria Island is known for strong tidal currents. In 1958 a submerged twin-peak mountain (only 9 feet beneath the surface) was exploded to clear the Narrows. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seymour_Narrows <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seymour_Narrows>. We transited this 1/2 mile wide section after 10PM to avoid bigger turbulence.

Victoria Island <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684276426285> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684276426285>>

British Columbia

We were due to dock in Victoria at 1PM on Tuesday, but heavy winds up to 50 knots were expected. So we steamed back north towards Vancouver. This was a benefit to a sailor who lost his boat about 2 1/2 hours earlier. Our ship detected a distress signal and sent its rescue boat to retrieve a gentleman who was near the shoreline. Shortly after we got him aboard to be checked by onboard Medical team, a Royal Canadian Marine Search And Rescue boat arrived on scene followed by a smaller Coast Guard boat. Each boat visited the apparent spot where sailor's boat is underwater. In the afternoon the ship had a wine tasting activity.

Victoria <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681178617624> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681178617624>>

Rescue <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684182590246> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157684182590246>>

Vancouver

We docked about 9AM on Wednesday, May 24. The Island Princess and M/S Volendam (Holland America) were in port. Taxi to airport for 2:30PM flight home. This taxi was a Toyota Prius Hybrid and had excellent room in back seat. It also had several hundred thousand miles on it plus very decent acceleration.

Vancouver <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681178862894> <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157681178862894>>