

Last Minute FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What kind of clothes do I bring? Will I need to 'dress' for dinner?

We are very casual aboard – comfort rules throughout Alaska – you can leave your sequins and tight collars at home. Please see our “What to pack” list for suggestions but the emphasis is on layers – because the weather can be variable.



Do I really need rubber boots and rain gear?



South East Alaska – the Inside Passage – is a temperate rain forest where rain is possible year-round. A lightweight waterproof shell and rain-pants, layered over your pants, shirt and jacket or sweater, will ensure your comfort during the many onshore activities we offer. A light daypack will hold excess layers as you shed them during the course of your activities.

In the wilderness areas you'll be visiting, there are no docks or manicured trails. When you go ashore to hike and fish the crew will bring you in by skiff as close to the beach as is safe, but you may have to step over the side and 'slosh' the last few feet up onto the beach. For this reason, we recommend rubber boots that reach at least half way up your calf. Many guests beach walk or hike in their boots as well, but if you prefer, you may bring hiking boots or sturdy shoes, change into them on the beach, and leave your boots with the skiff for the return trip.

What's the best kind of luggage to bring?

Space is somewhat limited onboard – but each stateroom has a roomy double wardrobe and several drawers – so 1 or 2 large soft-sided pieces (like duffel bags) per-person will fit. After unpacking they will lie flat on the bottom of the wardrobe – out of the way.

Amenities – what does the Boat Company provide?

Your cabin is 'move-in' ready with down or hypoallergenic bedding, a private bathroom with toilet, sink (potable water), stall shower, shampoo, conditioner, soaps, lotion and hair dryer. 110-volt outlets in your stateroom accommodate electric razors, camera chargers, your personal electronics, etc. If you are coming from outside the United States and Canada, you may need a plug adapter for any personal electronics you bring. Mounted on the wall is a flashlight and large, high-power binoculars for wildlife viewing.

Do you provide laundry service during the trip?

Laundry service is unavailable once we leave port, but the ship's drying locker is available to dry your wet clothes. With our casual dress standard, you won't need to worry about ironing or donning a completely new outfit every day.

Tippling: what's the “right” amount and how is it usually handled?

Recognition for exceptional service is entirely at your discretion, which is why the Boat Company does not impose an “automatic gratuity program” such as those found aboard most cruise ships. Each guest who wishes to recognize the crew in this manner usually gives the Captain between \$250 and \$300 (in cash, check or travelers checks) at the end of the trip. Gratuities are then shared equally by all crewmembers. Please consider the level of service you have received and adjust this amount accordingly.

Are there any other on board costs?

Fishing licenses for guests 16 and older – which can range from as little as 3 hours up to weeks – may be purchased online or in Juneau or Sitka before you board or from the Captain onboard (cash or checks). Prices range from \$20 to \$100 – depending on how much you fish.



Is there telephone, fax or e-mail access available aboard?

Our boats carry communications gear to conduct official ship's business and to ensure your safety, but unfortunately we do not have phones or Internet access for guests. Your cell phone may get intermittent service – when the boat is out in a main channel and in range of a tower. (This is how the office communicates with the boats – by leaving voice-mail on the ship's cell phone.)

Is there television aboard?

There is an entertainment center with a TV-VCR- DVD unit in the main salon on each boat – for viewing movies from the ships’ collection and naturalist presentations. We have recently added a few portable DVD viewers and a TV-VCR- DVD unit in the upper deck observation lounge on each boat so that kids can gather there while the adults socialize in the main Salon. Keep in mind, in the remote wilderness areas we cruise, broadcast reception is unavailable.



Should I worry about seasickness?

The good news is, you’ll be traveling on the sheltered waters of the inside passage. You’ll almost always be at anchor each night in a protected bay. The captain will usually move the boat in the mornings and then only for a few hours at a time – we want you to have plenty of opportunity to get off the boat – kayak, hike, fish - and see Alaska up close.

That said, if you are prone to motion sickness, it’s best to consult your physician beforehand and choose either a prescription or OTC remedy. Remember: *“it’s better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.”* Your crew will make every effort to warn you if rough water is expected – so you can take your chosen medication **before** you experience any symptoms – when it’s most effective.

What about bugs – do I need to bring bug spray?

Biting insects are not as prevalent in the Inside Passage as in the Alaskan interior, i.e. Denali and they tend to peak in July. We suggest you pack your preferred brand of insect repellent – particularly if you have sensitive skin – and we will also have head nets, and a variety of sprays, lotions and creams aboard. “Deep Woods OFF” works well and, for some, Avon’s “Skin-so-Soft”.

I have special dietary concerns. Can they be accommodated?

Given enough notice – our chefs are eager to accommodate your needs and preferences. We ask that you note this on the Passenger Registration Form (in your guest folder), which will alert the galley to any allergies or special dietary needs you may have.



What kind of medical treatment is available onboard?



We do not have a doctor or nurse onboard – however, at least one crewmember is a certified “Wilderness First Responder” and all the crew are current on first-aid, CPR and use of the onboard defibrillator. Each ship carries communications gear – radio and satellite phones - and can arrange for medical evacuation in an emergency as well as Med-Link remote communication with a physician. Each ship also carries oxygen for emergency use.

We recommend that you to carry your regular medications in your hand luggage - including extra supplies to cover any unexpected circumstances or travel delays. If you have received treatment for any significant medical condition, please carry a recent report along with any pertinent information from your physician.

Is smoking permitted onboard?

Smoking is not permitted indoors anywhere onboard but is allowed on deck. Each stateroom, the observation room, wheelhouse and salon opens out onto a covered companionway.

Can I bring the fish I caught in Alaska home with me?

Yes! The crew will clean, fillet & vacuum seal your fish before stowing it in the walk-in freezer on board. At the end of your trip, they will pack your catch in an insulated easy to carry box for your flight home. If you are staying over at the end of your trip at one of the Westmark Hotels, the hotel will store your fish overnight in their freezer until you are ready to leave for the airport.

