

ALASKA: THE LAST FRONTIER

JULY 30-AUGUST 11, 2025

Friends,

For the past 14 years, I've led groups of friends on annual trips to destinations around the world. We've explored Paris, London, Western Europe, Russia, Peru, the Mediterranean, Baltic States, Greek Isles, British Isles, and North Africa. We've never had a malfunction or bad experience — just memorable, life-enhancing experiences.

On our 2025 trip, we'll explore the "Last Frontier" — Alaska. We'll see steep forest mountain slopes, pristine waters, calving glaciers, and Native American settlements. Wildlife sightings will include whales, seals, sea otters, eagles, bears, and mountain goats (bring your binoculars)!

Mary and I have been to Alaska 10 times and have enjoyed it more each time we go. This trip will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There are so many things to like about this trip:

- Most cruises to Alaska are 7-days; ours is 11-days.
- We'll sail aboard the stunning [5-star Queen Victoria](#); one of four ships owned by the iconic Cunard Cruise Line.
- We'll sail the famous Inside Passage, visiting Glacier Bay and Tracy Arm.
- August is the ideal time for travel; coastal temperatures average 50-60° F with 18 hours of daylight.
- Most cruises to Alaska do not include shore excursions; ours does.
- We'll have a full day to explore Seattle.
- The flight from DFW to Seattle is only four hours.
- The itinerary includes a stop in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

It's been said that one of the joys of traveling is not only where you go but who you go with and who you meet along the way. This boutique trip will be limited to 50 ladies and gentlemen who travel well and enjoy exploring great places.

There's a reason why we call our trips *Travel with Friends*. We want to create an experience in which lifelong friendships can be established and nurtured.

Travel takes time and money, but it's worth the investment. You'll be stretched and challenged, and you'll learn more about the world in which we live and the life you live in the world.

I hope you'll join us on this memorable trip.

Don and Mary McMinn • djmcminn@msn.com



***Alaska challenges
the imagination.***

It has more coastline than the rest of the U.S. combined (more than 34,000 miles).

At 663,300 square miles, Alaska is by far the largest US state by area. It's larger than the three next largest U.S. states combined (Texas, California, and Montana).

On October 18, 1867, Russia sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million, which in today's economy would be \$55 million. On January 3, 1959, it became the 49th state.

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS

13-DAY TRIP ITINERARY

Wed, July 30	Fly DFW (or other gateway city) to Seattle; tour Seattle area
Thur, July 31	Morning Seattle tour, then board the 5-star Queen Elizabeth
Fri, August 1	At sea
Sat, August 2	Ketchikan
Sun August 3	Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (cruising)
Mon, August 4	Skagway
Tue, August 5	Tracy Arm; Twin Sawyer Glaciers (cruising)
Wed, August 6	Juneau (the capitol of Alaska)
Thur, August 7	Icy Strait Point
Fri, August 8	Sitka
Sat, August 9	At sea
Sun August 10	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
Mon, August 11	Fly Seattle to DFW (or other gateway city)



Why I Love Cunard Cruise Line

-MARY MCMINN

Every December, our family sails on the Queen Mary 2 from London to New York. Cunard Cruise Line is our favorite; it's a step above other cruise lines. The elegant English look and experience is distinctive and beautiful. The white glove English afternoon tea is both friendly and delicious. On our trip to Alaska we'll sail on the Queen Elizabeth.

Here's a [21-minute video called 2024 Queen Elizabeth](#) that presents a traveler's perspective of the grand ship.



Investment in travel is an investment in yourself.

-MATTHEW KARSTEN

COST & DETAILS

TRIP COST: \$5,450 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Includes

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW (If you provide your own airfare, subtract \$800 from the price listed above.)
- One night at a 4-star hotel in Seattle
- Eleven-night cruise in an unobstructed balcony cabin (taxes and fees included)
- Private shore excursions in five select ports
- Entry fee to major sights
- All gratuities for local tour guides and bus drivers
- Transfers to and from airport to hotel and ship

Does Not Include

- Gratuities and personal charges on the ship
- Lunches on shore excursions
- Trip insurance. Numerous companies offer trip insurance which covers cancelled trips, medical emergencies, and other issues. Options include Generali Global Assistance (generalitravelinsurance.com), Travel Guard (travelguard.com), and Travelex (travelex.com). If you think an insurance policy would be beneficial, pursue this on your own.

The cost of the trip stated in this brochure is good until April 1, 2025. After that, the price may go up if cruise and airfare fares change.

Note for single travelers: Ideally, you can find a friend who will be your roommate, or, on most of my trips I've been able to find a roommate for single travelers. But if not, you'll need to pay a single supplement of \$7,650.

Payment Schedule/Cancellations/Refunds

- Deposit - \$600 per person (non-refundable). The trip is limited to the first 50 people who make a deposit and submit a trip registration form.
- First payment of \$1,700 due January 15, 2025 (\$1,000 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$1,600 nonrefundable.)
- Second payment of \$2,150 due March 1, 2025 (\$1,000 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$2,600 nonrefundable.)
- Final payment of \$1,000 due April 1, 2025 (on this date, the entire cost of the trip is nonrefundable.)

Payments can be made in four installments or less.

*Make checks payable to Travel with Friends and mail to:
2322 Creekside Cir. South, Irving, TX 75063*



TRIP REGISTRATION

JULY 30-AUGUST 11, 2025

TRAVELER INFORMATION *Every person needs to fill out this form.*

1. Your name exactly as it appears on your passport

2. Date of birth _____

3. Place of birth _____

4. Your passport number _____

5. Date passport issued _____

6. Date passport expires _____ *(must be valid through Feb 2025)*

7. Best email address _____

8. Cell number _____

9. Your roommate _____

10. Your preferred name for name badge _____

11. Mailing address

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

You can use auto-fill to insert data and then print form. Please check the accuracy of your information. Inaccuracies will create problems with reservations and tickets.

Airfare *(Please check one.)*

I will make my own airfare reservation (roundtrip from your city of departure to Seattle). If your arrival doesn't correspond to the group's arrival time, you will be responsible for transportation from the airport to our hotel.

I will fly with the group from DFW to Seattle.

Cost of trip includes airfare in Main Economy. You'll be able to choose your seat and/or pay for upgraded seats.

Pre-Trip Opportunities

1. Mary and I will host two group dinners at my house before we leave so we can get to know one another and talk about trip logistics. Out-of-town guests can join via Zoom.
2. I'll compile a pictorial directory so we can learn our fellow guests' names and biographical information before the trip begins. If you've been in a previous directory I can use that information, but if not, please email me a 75-word biographical sketch (family, career, hobbies, etc.) and send me a headshot.
3. Your trip will be enhanced by learning more about our destinations, so I'll recommend books to read and videos to watch.

For more information, email Don at djmcminn@msn.com or call 214.783.4414.

PLACES WE'VE BEEN



PHOTO LOCATIONS

1. Israel
2. Rome
3. Holland
4. Berlin
5. Loch Ness, Scotland
6. Santorini, Greece
7. Oman
8. Paris
9. Peru
10. Stonehenge, England

PLACES WE'VE BEEN

11



12



13



14



15



16



17



19



18



PHOTO LOCATIONS

- 11. St. Peter's Basilica
- 12. Amsterdam
- 13. Machu Picchu, Peru
- 14. Rome
- 15. London Bridge
- 16. Celsus Library
- 17. Parthenon
- 18. Sagrada Família, Barcelona
- 19. Acropolis, Athens