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## The Travel Tip

If you can manage all of your gear into a single carry-on luggage, please do it. You will just roll it with you and never have to worry about lost luggage making it from the airplane to the ship or have to wait for it. It's a true art to squeeze it all in even formal gowns, but if you're really an expert packer you can do it, and it will reward you with less stress and fuss over luggage. Just make sure your second carry-on bag can accommodate extra, and if you purchase gifts, wait and gather them up, and ship them back.

## Be Our Travel Buddy!

Welcome to the July edition of Passages. We are now in prime vacation season. I know some of you have not yet locked down your vacation plans. Don't feel bad. There are always those who wait until the very last minute to plan (or shall I say not plan) their vacations. I am always on the ready to jump in and help. So, if you've waited for whatever reason, email me at [elisa@worldlesstraveled.com](mailto:elisa@worldlesstraveled.com), and I will make sure you get the vacation and rest you deserve.

In other news, we have some fabulous plans under way for travelers — and most especially solo travelers in need of a buddy. We are forming a group called **Travel Buddies**. When you take trips in large groups, you can enjoy substantial discounts. We will start meeting once a quarter for each trip planned for that quarter. Travel Buddies will give travelers a chance to meet and plan trips for with fellow buddies in a group to leverage discounts. Our first trip will be a **Christmas Caribbean Cruise**. We will set the first meeting on our restarted Meet-Up Group and let you know the details in the next issue of **Passages**. So, if you would like to take a group trip to the Caribbean, be sure to join.

One more thing, we are planning a summer 2012 trip to Provence, France. It is being called the **Provence Posse**. The group was formed to motivate members to save money together to go on a trip in summer 2012. We have nine travelers to date. If you would like to get in on the Posse, send an email to Michelle Gamble-Risley at [michelle@3LPublishing.com](mailto:michelle@3LPublishing.com). She will add your name to the email list where information will be routinely sent to nudge travelers to put aside a certain amount of money each week to achieve the goal — an amazing trip to Provence.

P.S. If you haven't seen our new website, please check it out at [www.worldlesstraveled.com](http://www.worldlesstraveled.com).

Sincerely,  
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## Pure Radiance — Alaskan Cruise



*Alaskan wild flowers*

We just got back from an incredible cruise on the **Radiance of the Seas** through the Inside Passage along the Alaska coastline. This cruise on Royal Caribbean was just outstanding — perhaps one of the most beautiful if you really enjoy natural forests, wilderness and ocean as your landscape of choice. The seven-day cruise set sail from Canada Place in Vancouver and stopped at Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Skagway and Seward — all beautiful and all very captivating.

First, some tips to make your trip the very best it can be. Bring a parka, even during the middle of summer. Juneau, in particular, was non-stop rain and locals said it rains almost every day until August when the showers dissipate, but hang in there. While some days were almost warm, the average temperature ranged between 40 and 60 degrees. Most people will still find 60 degrees worthy of a light sweater so don't plan on tank tops and sleeveless shirts as proper apparel. Bring a nice variety of long-sleeved shirts and a few short-sleeved T-shirts with plenty of options to build layers. Since most of the trip will involve walking or hiking, wear reliable and comfortable walking shoes. Please choose comfort over style, because nothing makes a walking trip more unbearable than blisters. This trip also required two formal evenings, and for you men, consider renting a tux instead of hauling a bulky suit. It was convenient to have the tux delivered right to your room.



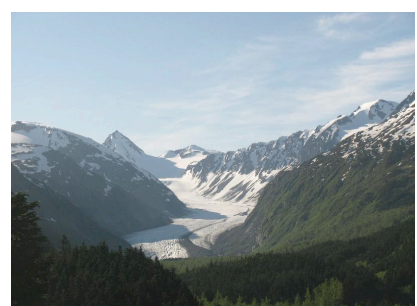
*Fog-shrouded mountain top in Juneau.*



*Icebergs only show 10 percent of their actual size on the surface.*

Second, you cannot beat a balcony room for viewing the glacier action. The upper decks attract crowds on glacier-viewing day, and you will fight for a picture and view. If you have the benefit of the balcony, forget the crowds. A great recommendation: Go up to the Wind Jammer Café, get a hot cup of coffee, and sit on your very own deck with the most breathtaking view of the glacier right in front of you. The captain navigated our ship through the icebergs to within yards of the blue-white Hubbard Glacier where we could hear and see the awesome crack, thunder and roar of ice sheers crashing into the ocean.

A favorite port of call is definitely Juneau for shopping and the incline tram up to the top of the fog-shrouded mountain. Mount Robert's Tram is one of the steepest in the world that takes you up thousands of feet above sea level to watch a movie about the natives, or hike to the peak. Once you've got your hiking out of your system, take the tram back to the bottom and check out the Juneau shops. All kinds of wonderful and fresh seafood await your pallet. Give the Twisted Fish right on the port a try. They had mounds of grilled crab that other patrons raved about, and try the halibut or cod fish and chips and just let the fresh taste consume you. Lots of jewelry stores were selling gems and original artwork. Be careful which one you choose and make sure you get certificates of authenticity.



*View of glacier on train ride from Seward to Anchorage.*



*A river runs through it — Ketchikan.*

Ketchikan offered numerous tours in and around the town. They also had many small boutiques and shops to browse. Ketchikan is where the world-famous totem pole tours are available. You can choose to see the totem poles by land or sea. A nice choice was the Eagle's Nest and Totem Pole tour. Take a bus about five miles outside of the town, catch a tour boat, and sit and drink coffee and keep your "eagle" eye out for the various nests — eight in total. You will not get a close-up view of the poles, so if you want to see those closer, choose a land tour. This trip was very casual and easygoing. Spotting eagles nesting offered a nice commune with nature. If you are visiting in early June make a date with a whale-watching cruise. They will not disappoint!

Less notable stops Skagway and Icy Strait Point. While nice and beautiful to see the rainforest at Icy, there really wasn't much to do. These days might be half days to disembark, maybe eat lunch, and take a short hike or just shop. Then you can spend the afternoon on the ship and just keep an eye out for whales or porpoise or even an otter or two. It was definitely enjoyable to sit up in the Wind Jammer Café and keep a close eye out for sea life. In Skagway the main attraction is the White Pass Railroad, which offers a slow, but beautiful journey to the Canadian border.



*Rainforest on Ice Straits*

The absolute best part of the trip came right at the end when you disembarked in Seward. One of the most famous train rides in the world connects you right from the port to the airport in Anchorage. The train takes you through some of the most beautiful and pristine wilderness in the world and is only comparable to a train ride through the Swiss Alps. Sit right in your booth with the full picture window that arches over your head and just watch — you'll spot bears, maybe a moose, a beaver lodge and a couple of glaciers. This four-hour best train ride you could possibly take on your way to an airport. And then unload and head straight into the terminal — it's all seamless and easy.

If you would like to book your own Alaskan escape, please send an email to Elisa Taylor at [etaylor@worldlesstraveled.com](mailto:etaylor@worldlesstraveled.com).