



# Juneau, Alaska Cruise Port Guide

## Your Complete Guide to Alaska's Capital City & Gateway to Glaciers and Wildlife



Juneau is unlike any other state capital in the United States. Accessible only by air or sea, Alaska's capital city is surrounded by towering mountains, dense rainforest, and the waters of the Gastineau Channel. For many travelers, Juneau is the highlight of an Alaska cruise thanks to its incredible combination of glaciers, whale watching, outdoor adventures, and fascinating history.

Whether you're standing before the magnificent Mendenhall Glacier, spotting humpback whales in Auke Bay, riding the Mount Roberts Tramway, or strolling through the historic downtown district, Juneau offers something for every traveler.

If it's your first Alaska cruise, Juneau is one port where you'll want to plan ahead—there's simply too much to see in one day.



## Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Juneau has several cruise berths located along the downtown waterfront.

Most ships dock within easy walking distance of:

- Historic downtown
- Shops and restaurants
- Excursion meeting points
- Mount Roberts Tramway
- Waterfront attractions

The downtown area is very walkable, making it easy to explore independently.

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## Explore Downtown Juneau



Downtown Juneau blends Gold Rush history with modern Alaska charm.

You'll find:

- Local boutiques
- Alaska Native art galleries
- Jewelry stores
- Historic buildings
- Seafood restaurants
- Breweries
- Museums

South Franklin Street is the heart of the downtown shopping district.

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# ★ Top Things to Do

## 📦 Visit Mendenhall Glacier



No visit to Juneau is complete without seeing Alaska's most famous glacier.

Highlights include:

- Visitor Center
- Nugget Falls
- Scenic walking trails
- Wildlife viewing
- Photography
- Canoe and kayak tours

The glacier is approximately **13 miles from downtown**.

**Be sure to check out our dedicated Mendenhall Glacier Guide for everything you need to know before visiting.**

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## Whale Watching



Juneau is consistently rated as one of the best whale watching destinations in Alaska.

Depending on the season, you may see:

- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Sea lions
- Harbor seals
- Bald eagles

Many tours offer sighting guarantees.

This is one excursion that frequently sells out well before sailing.

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## Mount Roberts Tramway



Located just steps from the cruise docks.

At the summit you'll enjoy:

- Panoramic city views
- Hiking trails
- Nature exhibits
- Restaurant
- Gift shop
- Bald eagle exhibits





## Helicopter Glacier Landing



One of Alaska's most unforgettable bucket-list experiences.

Many tours include:

- Scenic helicopter flight
- Glacier landing
- Guided glacier walk
- Ice formations
- Optional dog sledding on the glacier

These excursions are among the most popular—and expensive—in Alaska, but many travelers say they're worth every penny.

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## Kayaking & Adventure Tours



Adventure options include:

- Sea kayaking
- Canoeing
- Glacier trekking
- Hiking
- Ziplining
- ATV tours

Juneau offers something for every activity level.

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## **Wildlife**



Juneau is an outstanding wildlife destination.

Keep your eyes open for:

- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Bald eagles
- Black bears
- Harbor seals
- Sea lions
- Mountain goats

Wildlife sightings are common both on excursions and around town.

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## **What to Eat**

Don't miss:

- Fresh king crab
- Halibut
- Wild Alaska salmon
- Chowder
- Fish tacos
- Reindeer sausage
- Wild berry desserts

Several excellent seafood restaurants are within walking distance of the cruise docks.

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## Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- Alaska Native artwork
- Ulu knives
- Jade jewelry
- Gold Rush memorabilia
- Smoked salmon
- Wild berry products
- Handmade crafts

Juneau offers one of the best shopping districts in Alaska.

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## Weather

Summer temperatures generally range from:

**50–65°F (10–18°C)**

Expect:

- Cool mornings
- Occasional rain
- Comfortable afternoons

A waterproof jacket is one of the most useful items you'll pack.

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## Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Walking
- Shuttle buses
- Taxi
- Ride-share
- Excursion transportation
- Rental cars (limited)

Most downtown attractions are easily accessible on foot.

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## What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Waterproof rain jacket
  - ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
  - ✓ Binoculars
  - ✓ Camera
  - ✓ Small backpack
  - ✓ Layered clothing
  - ✓ Sunglasses
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## Hidden Gems

Many visitors never venture beyond the most popular attractions.

Consider visiting:

- Alaska State Museum
- Last Chance Mining Museum
- Local breweries
- Harbor walkways
- Smaller hiking trails around downtown

These quieter experiences offer a deeper appreciation of Juneau's history and culture.

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## Premium Travel Group Tip

If this is your first visit to Juneau, prioritize your day around **one major excursion**. Whether it's whale watching, Mendenhall Glacier, or a helicopter glacier landing, these experiences are what make Juneau one of Alaska's most memorable ports.

After your excursion, spend time exploring the historic downtown area on foot. You'll get the perfect combination of adventure and local charm.

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## Continue Exploring Alaska

Continue planning your Alaska adventure with our other guides:

- Alaska Vacation Planning Guide



- [Alaska Packing Guide](#)
  - [Alaska Wildlife Guide](#)
  - [Alaska Inside Passage Guide](#)
  - [Mendenhall Glacier Guide](#)
  - [Glacier Bay National Park Guide](#)
  - [Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier Guide](#)
  - [Tracy Arm Fjord Guide](#)
  - [Ketchikan Cruise Port Guide](#)
  - [Skagway Cruise Port Guide](#)
  - [Sitka Cruise Port Guide](#)
  - [Icy Strait Point Cruise Port Guide](#)
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## Why Visit Juneau?

Juneau perfectly captures everything that makes an Alaska cruise unforgettable. Glaciers, whales, mountains, rich history, and outdoor adventure all come together in one remarkable destination. Whether you're standing before Mendenhall Glacier, watching humpback whales breach in the distance, riding a tram to the top of Mount Roberts, or enjoying fresh seafood along the waterfront, Juneau delivers an Alaska experience you'll remember for a lifetime.

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## Joe's Logbook

If someone asked me to pick one Alaska port that has a little bit of everything, I'd probably say Juneau.

My biggest advice is to plan ahead. There are so many incredible excursions here that waiting until you're onboard may leave you disappointed if your first choice has already sold out. Whale watching, helicopter glacier landings, and Mendenhall Glacier tours are some of the most popular excursions in all of Alaska, and for good reason.

After your adventure, don't rush back to the ship. Spend some time wandering downtown, grab a bowl of seafood chowder or fresh salmon, browse the local shops, and soak in the atmosphere of one of the most unique capital cities in the United States.

Juneau is one of those places where you'll probably leave thinking, "I wish we had more time." That's usually a sign you've found somewhere worth visiting again.