

Seattle Cruise Port Guide

Your Gateway to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest



Welcome to Seattle

Seattle is one of North America's premier cruise homeports and serves as the gateway for millions of travelers embarking on unforgettable Alaska cruises each year. Nestled between the waters of Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, Seattle offers an exciting blend of natural beauty, iconic landmarks, fresh seafood, and vibrant neighborhoods.

Whether you're arriving a day early to explore the city or spending time after your cruise, Seattle is well worth adding to your vacation plans.



Seattle Cruise Terminals



Seattle has two primary cruise terminals.

Bell Street Pier Cruise Terminal (Pier 66)

Located along Seattle's downtown waterfront, this terminal is within walking distance of many hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Common cruise lines include:

- Norwegian Cruise Line
- Oceania Cruises
- Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Smith Cove Cruise Terminal (Pier 91)

Located northwest of downtown, Pier 91 serves several major cruise lines and offers convenient transportation options.

Common cruise lines include:

- Princess Cruises
- Holland America Line
- Carnival Cruise Line
- Royal Caribbean

Always verify your departure terminal before traveling.

✈ Getting There



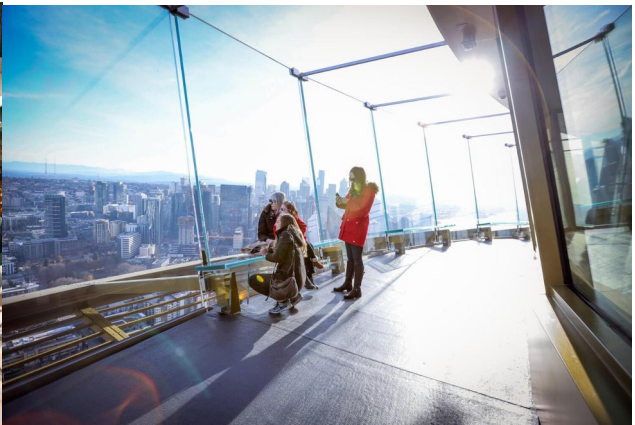
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is approximately 15–20 miles from the cruise terminals.

Transportation options include:

- Ride-share services
- Taxis
- Cruise line transfers
- Hotel shuttles (where available)
- Link Light Rail (to downtown, with additional transportation to the terminal)



Top Things to Do Before Your Cruise



Seattle offers plenty to explore before embarkation.

Top attractions include:

- Pike Place Market
- Space Needle
- Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Seattle Great Wheel
- Olympic Sculpture Park
- Seattle Aquarium
- Waterfront district

Many attractions are within easy reach of downtown hotels.



Explore Beyond Downtown



If you have extra time, consider visiting:

- Mount Rainier National Park
- Snoqualmie Falls
- Kerry Park

- Bainbridge Island (via ferry)
- Discovery Park

These destinations showcase the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

What to Eat in Seattle



Seattle is famous for its food scene.

Don't miss:

- Fresh Pacific salmon
- Dungeness crab
- Clam chowder
- Fish and chips
- Artisan coffee
- Local bakeries

Pike Place Market is an excellent place to sample local flavors.



Embarkation Day Tips



Before heading to the terminal:

- Complete online check-in.
 - Attach luggage tags.
 - Keep travel documents in your carry-on.
 - Arrive during your assigned boarding window.
 - Pack medications and valuables in your carry-on.
 - Verify which cruise terminal your ship uses.
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Seattle Weather



Seattle weather can change quickly.

Average cruise season conditions:

- Spring: 50–65°F (10–18°C)
- Summer: 65–80°F (18–27°C)
- Fall: 50–70°F (10–21°C)

Layered clothing is the best choice, as mornings can be cool even during summer.



Premium Travel Group Tip

If your schedule allows, arrive at least one day before your cruise. Not only does this reduce travel stress and protect against flight delays, but it also gives you time to experience one of the Pacific Northwest's most exciting cities before setting sail for Alaska.



Frequently Asked Questions

Which airport should I fly into?

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is the primary airport serving Seattle cruises.

Should I arrive the same day as my cruise?

It's possible, but arriving one day early is strongly recommended for peace of mind.

Which terminal does my ship use?

Seattle has two cruise terminals, so always confirm your embarkation location with your cruise line before traveling.

Is Seattle walkable?

Yes. Downtown Seattle is very walkable, although some streets are steep. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.



Why Start Your Cruise in Seattle?

Seattle is more than just a departure point—it's a destination in its own right. From its famous waterfront and iconic landmarks to incredible seafood and breathtaking mountain views, the city offers the perfect introduction to your Alaska adventure. Spending a little extra time here can turn your cruise vacation into an even more memorable experience.



Joe's Logbook

Seattle has always felt like the perfect starting point for an Alaska cruise.

There's a sense of excitement in the air as you walk along the waterfront and see cruise ships preparing for another journey north. You know that in just a day or two, you'll be trading city skylines for glaciers, snow-capped mountains, and incredible wildlife.

If it's your first visit, don't rush straight to the ship. Spend some time wandering Pike Place Market, watch the fishmongers at work, grab a great cup of coffee, and enjoy the views from the waterfront. It's a wonderful way to ease into vacation mode.

One piece of advice I always share with clients is to arrive a day early. It takes the stress out of travel, gives you time to experience Seattle, and starts your cruise on the right foot.

Before you know it, you'll be standing on deck, watching the skyline fade into the distance as your Alaska adventure begins.

Happy cruising, and I'll see you onboard!