



Seward, Alaska Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Alaska's Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park



Seward is one of Alaska's premier cruise ports and serves as the southern gateway to many one-way Alaska cruise itineraries. Located on the shores of **Resurrection Bay** at the edge of **Kenai Fjords National Park**, Seward is surrounded by rugged mountains, glaciers, abundant wildlife, and some of the most spectacular scenery in the Last Frontier.

While many travelers simply begin or end their cruise here, Seward deserves much more than a quick transfer. From glacier cruises and wildlife encounters to scenic hiking trails and one of Alaska's finest aquariums, Seward offers unforgettable experiences that make it well worth extending your stay.

If your Alaska cruise starts or ends in Seward, consider arriving early or staying an extra day or two—you won't regret it.



Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?





Cruise ships dock at the **Seward Cruise Ship Terminal**, located just outside downtown.

From the terminal:

- Downtown is approximately **2 miles away**
- Shuttle buses are commonly available
- Taxi services operate on cruise days
- Rental cars are available nearby

Many travelers transfer directly between Seward and Anchorage by motorcoach or the Alaska Railroad.



Explore Downtown Seward



Downtown Seward is charming, walkable, and filled with local character.

You'll find:

- Gift shops
- Art galleries
- Seafood restaurants
- Coffee shops
- Museums
- Waterfront parks
- Small Boat Harbor

The harbor is one of the busiest recreational boating centers in Alaska and a great place for a leisurely stroll.

★ Top Things to Do

🚤 Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise



This is Seward's signature excursion and one of the very best experiences in Alaska.

Depending on the tour, you'll see:

- Tidewater glaciers
- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Sea otters
- Puffins
- Harbor seals
- Steller sea lions

Many visitors rank this as the highlight of their Alaska vacation.

Be sure to read our Kenai Fjords National Park Guide for more details.

Exit Glacier



One of the few glaciers in Alaska accessible by road.

Highlights include:

- Easy walking trails
- Ranger-led programs
- Scenic overlooks
- Close-up glacier views

Perfect for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Alaska SeaLife Center



One of Alaska's top family attractions.

See:

- Sea otters
- Harbor seals
- Puffins
- Salmon
- Octopus

- Touch tanks
- Marine research exhibits

The center also plays an important role in marine wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.



Seward Waterfront & Harbor



Spend some time exploring the waterfront.

Enjoy:

- Fishing boats
- Marina views
- Snow-capped mountains
- Public art
- Excellent photo opportunities

On a clear day, the scenery is breathtaking.



Hiking



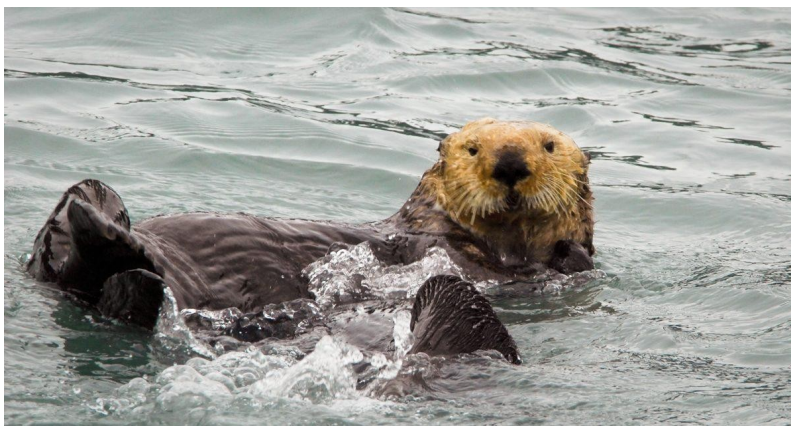
Seward offers excellent hiking options.

Popular trails include:

- Two Lakes Park
- Exit Glacier trails
- Mount Marathon Trail (*for experienced hikers only*)

Mount Marathon hosts one of Alaska's most famous Fourth of July races.

Wildlife



Seward is one of Alaska's premier wildlife destinations.

Common sightings include:

- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Sea otters
- Harbor seals
- Steller sea lions
- Puffins
- Bald eagles
- Mountain goats
- Dall's porpoises

Wildlife cruises offer excellent viewing opportunities.



What to Eat

Don't miss:

- Fresh halibut
- Wild Alaska salmon
- Fish & chips
- Seafood chowder
- King crab (seasonal)
- Wild berry desserts

Several excellent seafood restaurants overlook Resurrection Bay.



Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- Alaska Native artwork
- Handmade jewelry
- Ulu knives
- Smoked salmon
- Local coffee
- Outdoor gear
- Alaska apparel

Downtown Seward offers a nice variety of locally owned shops.



Weather

Summer temperatures typically range from:

50–65°F (10–18°C)

Expect:

- Cool mornings
- Occasional rain
- Comfortable afternoons

Layered clothing and waterproof outerwear are recommended.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Walking
- Shuttle buses
- Taxi
- Alaska Railroad
- Cruise transfers
- Rental cars

Downtown is easy to explore on foot.



What to Pack

Bring:

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

Take time to explore:

- Lowell Point
- Resurrection Bay shoreline
- Seward murals
- Local coffee shops
- Harbor observation areas

These quieter spots provide excellent opportunities to relax and enjoy Alaska's beauty.



Premium Travel Group Tip

If your cruise begins or ends in Seward, don't make the mistake of arriving the morning of embarkation or leaving immediately after disembarkation. Seward offers some of the best wildlife and glacier experiences in Alaska.

Adding even one extra night gives you enough time to enjoy a Kenai Fjords National Park cruise or visit Exit Glacier, and many travelers tell me those experiences become the highlight of their entire Alaska vacation.



Continue Exploring Alaska

Continue planning your Alaska adventure with our other guides:

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- [Alaska Packing Guide](#)
- [Alaska Wildlife Guide](#)
- [Best Time to Visit Alaska](#)
- [Kenai Fjords National Park Guide](#)
- [Anchorage Guide](#)
- [Whittier Cruise Port Guide](#)
- [Alaska Railroad Guide](#)
- [Denali National Park Guide](#)
- [Glacier Bay National Park Guide](#)
- [Mendenhall Glacier Guide](#)



Why Visit Seward?

Seward is much more than a cruise port—it's one of Alaska's premier adventure destinations. From glacier-filled fjords and abundant marine wildlife to scenic hiking trails and fascinating marine life exhibits, Seward offers a perfect introduction to the natural beauty of the Last Frontier. Whether you're beginning your Alaska cruise or celebrating its conclusion, Seward is well worth taking the time to explore.



Joe's Logbook

If your cruise starts or ends in Seward, here's my advice: **don't treat it as just a transportation stop.**

I've talked with so many travelers who rushed straight to Anchorage without realizing what they were missing. Seward has some of the best wildlife viewing and glacier experiences in the entire state. A Kenai Fjords National Park cruise is something I'll recommend every chance I get because it lets you experience Alaska from a completely different perspective than a large cruise ship.

If you have the flexibility, spend at least one extra night here. Take a glacier cruise, visit Exit Glacier, enjoy some fresh seafood along the harbor, and simply soak in the scenery. Seward has a relaxed coastal charm that's hard not to love, and it's the perfect way to begin—or end—an unforgettable Alaska adventure.