

**The Ultimate Alaska Adventure
Summer 2025 - June 30 to July 12, 2025
Update #3 - July 31, 2024**

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We are now less than a year from our Ultimate Alaska Adventure. This email is going to all the people who have cabins booked for this amazing trip. We have over 70 people going on this trip, and it is going to be a blast. We want to help you *Enjoy the Journey!*

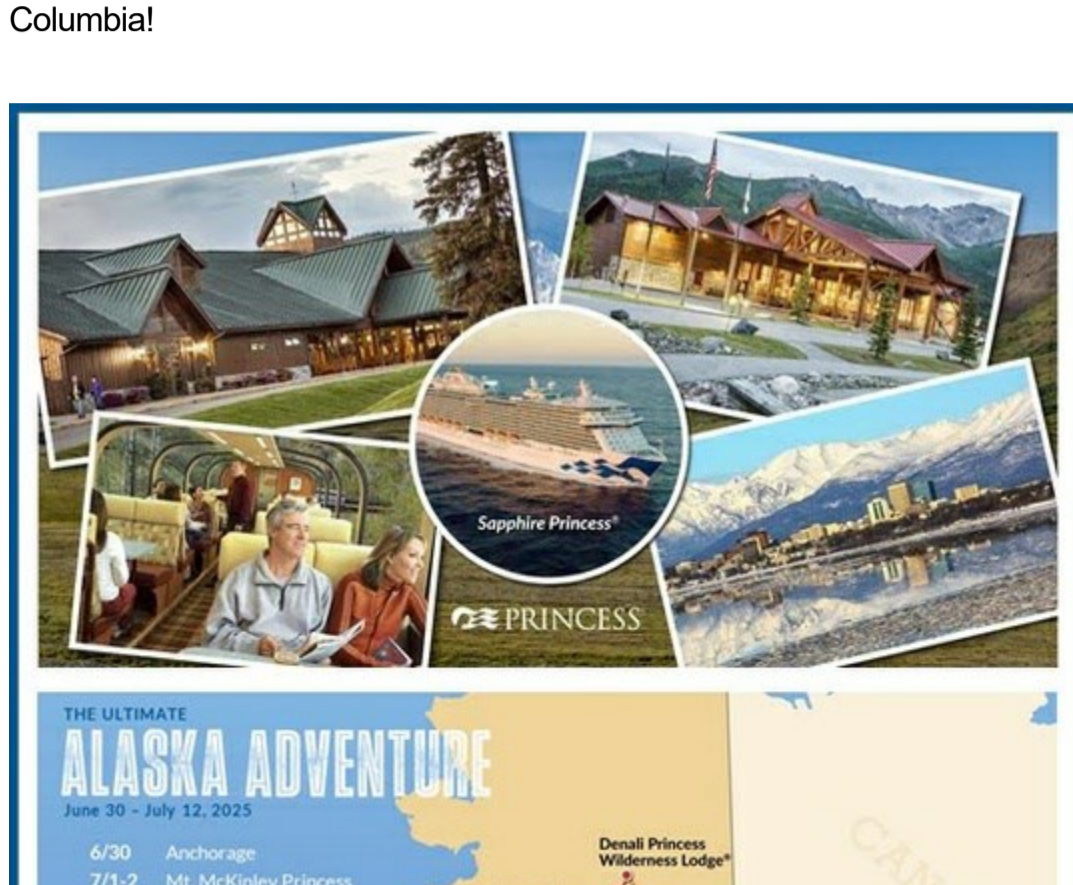
In this update, we will cover the following topics:

- Heading to the Great North Video Replay
- Cruise Planning Timeline
- Trip Overview
- Ultimate Alaska Adventure Itinerary
- Options Before and After Trip
- Dining Options and Princess Plus Features
- Alaska Adventure T-Shirts
- Shore Excursions
- Next Zoom Meeting
- Activities Completed, Next Steps and Important Dates

Heading to the Great North Video Replay

Did you miss our FJP Adventures Webinar discussing updates for our amazing adventure for summer 2025?

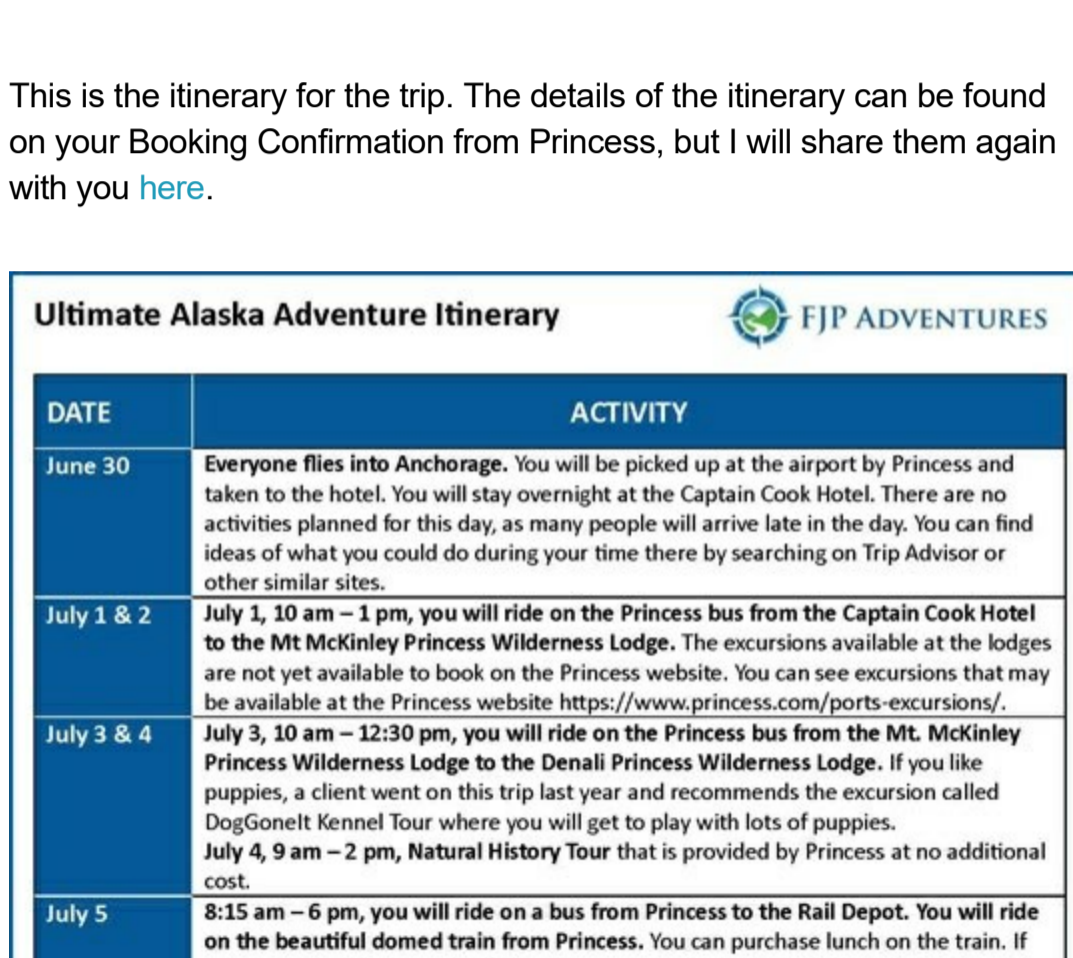
Details can be found on the [Alaska Adventure website](#) including the slides and recorded presentation from the July 18th Alaska Webinar as well as an archived copy of this email update.



[VIEW JULY 18th WEBINAR RECORDING](#)

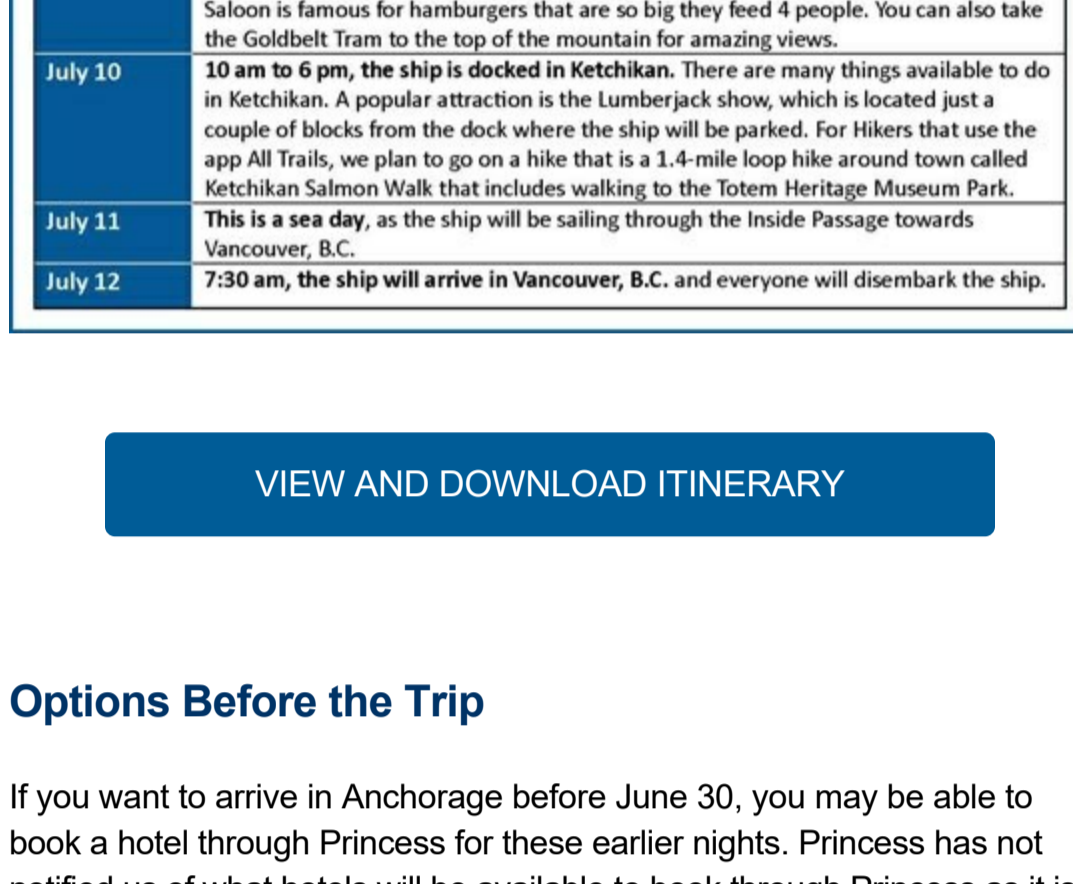
Cruise Planning Timeline

Below is a high-level timeline for the planning of this trip.



Trip Overview

The trip is starting to take more shape as we begin to plan the details beginning in Anchorage, Alaska, and ending in Vancouver, British Columbia!



[VIEW AND DOWNLOAD BROCHURE](#)

This is the itinerary for the trip. The details of the itinerary can be found on your Booking Confirmation from Princess, but I will share them again with you [here](#).

DATE	ACTIVITY
June 30	Everyone flies into Anchorage. You will be picked up at the airport by Princess and taken to the hotel. You will stay overnight at the Captain Cook Hotel. There are no activities planned for this day, as many people will arrive late in the day. You can find ideas of what you could do during your time there by searching on Trip Advisor or other similar sites.
July 1 & 2	July 1, 10 am – 1 pm, you will ride on the Princess bus from the Captain Cook Hotel to the Mt McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge. The excursions available at the lodges are not yet available to book on the Princess website. You can see excursions that may be available at the Princess website https://www.princess.com/ports-excursions/ .
July 3 & 4	July 3, 10 am – 12:30 pm, you will ride on the Princess bus from the Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge to the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. If you like puppies, a client went on this trip last year and recommends the excursion called Dog/Sonnet Kennel Tour where you will get to play with lots of puppies. July 4, 9 am – 2 pm, Natural History Tour that is provided by Princess at no additional cost.
July 5	8:15 am – 6 pm, you will ride on a bus from Princess to the Rail Depot. You will ride on the beautiful domed train from Princess. You can purchase lunch on the train. If you have purchased a Meal Plan for the land portion of the Cruise Tour, lunch on the train is included and will be provided at no additional charge. You will get off the train at the coast at Whittier and board the Sapphire Princess. The ship departs Whittier at 8:30 pm.
July 6	3 – 8 pm, the cruise ship will sail to the Hubbard Glacier, and will stay fairly close to the Hubbard Glacier for viewing from 3 to 8 pm. There is an excursion available from Princess to get on a smaller boat and go even closer to the glacier. Most people will find the view from our cruise ship is great and not need the extra excursion.
July 7	9:15 am – 7:30 pm, the ship will sail up the beautiful Glacier Bay with lots of opportunities to see the beautiful Glacier Bay from the ship. It can be quite cold if you are on open decks, so bring warm winter clothing, including a stocking cap and gloves.
July 8	7 am – 8:30 pm, the ship will be docked in Skagway. There are lots of shore excursions available. A very popular thing to do is to ride the White Pass Railway to the top of the mountain. You can book this through the Princess website or on your own. For Hikers that use the app All Trails, we plan to go on a hike that is 1.4 miles out and back around the peninsula called Yukoniana Point and Smugglers Cove.
July 9	6:30 am – 4 pm, the ship is docked in Juneau, the Capital of Alaska. Popular things to do in Juneau are to go whale watching and to hike near the Mendenhall Glacier. There are free guided tours of the Capital Building offered in the afternoon. The Red Dog Saloon is famous for hamburgers that are so big they feed 4 people. You can also take the Goldbelt Train to the top of the mountain for amazing views.
July 10	10 am to 6 pm, the ship is docked in Ketchikan. There are many things available to do in Ketchikan. A popular attraction is the Lumberjack show, which is located just a couple of blocks from the dock where the ship will be parked. For Hikers that use the app All Trails, we plan to go on a hike that is a 1.4-mile loop hike around town called Ketchikan Salmon Walk that includes walking to the Totem Heritage Museum Park.
July 11	This is a sea day, as the ship will be sailing through the Inside Passage towards Vancouver, B.C.
July 12	7:30 am, the ship will arrive in Vancouver, B.C. and everyone will disembark the ship.

[VIEW AND DOWNLOAD ITINERARY](#)

Options Before the Trip

If you want to arrive in Anchorage before June 30, you may be able to book a hotel through Princess for these earlier nights. Princess has not notified us of what hotels will be available to book through Princess as it is too far out. Jeff is monitoring this closely. Hotels offered through Princess are normally less expensive than booking them on your own, and Princess will include transportation from the airport to the hotel. If you want to arrive earlier than June 30, and you want to book your hotel through Princess, send an email to Jeff Rupert, our Travel Advisor. His contact information is below.

Options After the Trip

If you want to stay in Vancouver for one or more nights after the cruise, you can also book this hotel through Princess. Princess has notified Jeff Rupert that you can stay at The Westin Bayshore for a very low rate. This also includes transportation from the cruise terminal to the hotel and when you want to go home, from the hotel to the airport. **Contact Jeff Rupert immediately if you are interested in this as we expect the hotel to sell out quickly.**

LINK TO THE WESTIN BAYSHORE <http://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/vmwi-the-westin-bayshore-vancouver/overview/>

To find things to do in Vancouver, you can check Tripadvisor and other similar sites.

Dining Options

While on the trip, there are many different dining options available from Princess. They include:

- North Fork Restaurant at the Mt McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge (Included if you have a Meal Plan, not included if you don't have a Meal Plan)
- Fannie Q's Saloon at Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge (Included if you have a Meal Plan, not included if you don't have a Meal Plan)
- 5 Main Dining Rooms (included at no cost)
- Horizon Court Buffet (included at no cost)
- Trident Grill (included at no cost)
- International Café (included at no cost)
- Sabatini's Italian Trattoria (extra cost)
- Churrascaria Brazilian Grill (extra cost)
- Chef's Table Experience (extra cost)
- Vines Wine Bar (extra cost)

Elaine and Scott were on the Sapphire Princess earlier in 2024. They found the food excellent at the main dining restaurants but are not included at no cost. The Specialty Dining options are available as additional choices but have an additional charge.

Main Dining Options

Princess has several options available for eating in the main dining room. They include:

- The whole group dines together every night for the early seating (around 5:45 pm)
- Your smaller group can dine together at an assigned time every night
- You can select a different time to dine each night with your small group by reserving a time using the Princess app (you likely would not have the same servers each night)
- You walk up every night to the dining room with no reservation (this can result in waiting in line at the entrance of the dining room at busy times)

We will send out a survey to everyone early next year to get your preference. You will make your selection after the final payment is made, about 90 days prior to the cruise.

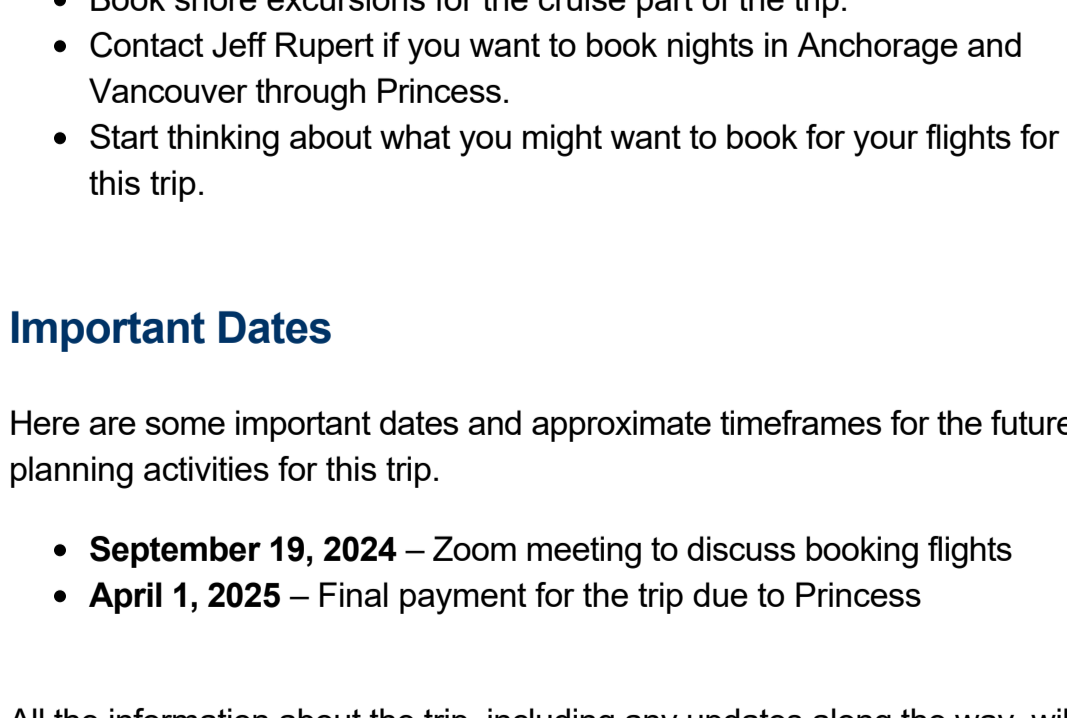
Princess Plus Features

Many of the people going on this trip booked the cruise portion of the trip with Princess Plus. Princess Plus includes the following features:

- Wi-Fi for 1 device per guest
- Alcoholic drinks, bottles water, specialty coffee and juice bar
- Crew gratuities
- Casual meals, 2 per sailing (including Alfredo's)
- Premium desserts 2 per day
- OceanNow delivery fee waived to get drinks and food delivered to you around the ship
- Room service delivery unlimited
- Fitness classes 2 per sailing

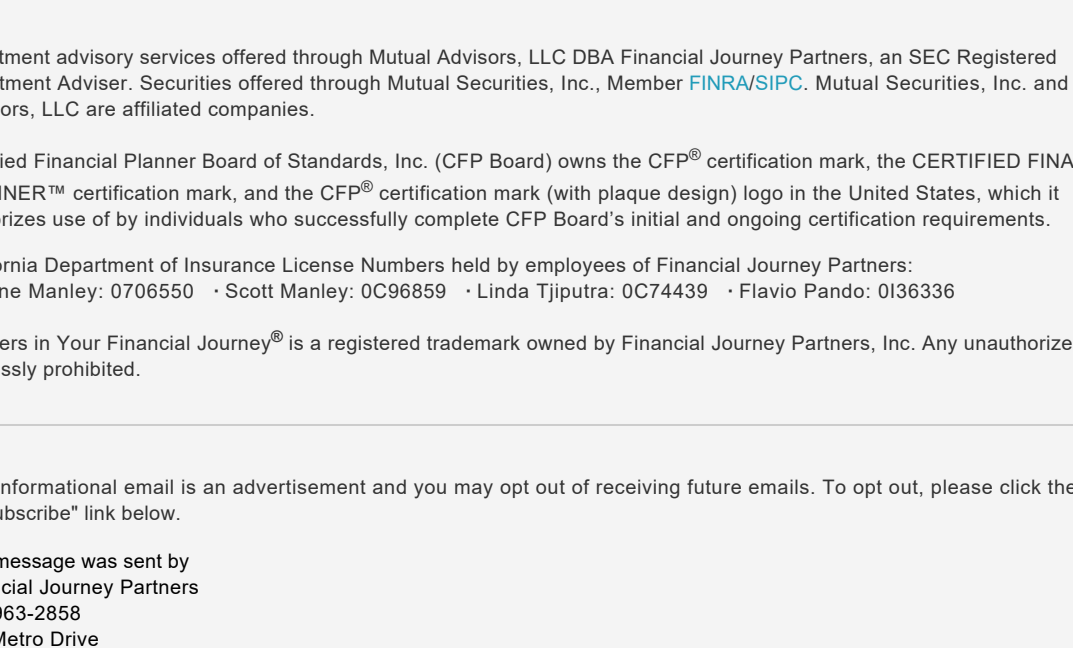
Elaine and Scott found the premium desserts and pizza at Alfredo's were excellent.

Alaska Adventure T-Shirts



We have received sample shirts in all sizes so people can try them on and select their correct size. For the people living in Northern California, when you come into the office, we will ask you to try them on and select your size. We will have you try on for size at our [Client Appreciation Event on September 28 at Top Golf in San Jose](#).

For people going on the trip who are unable to try them on in person, we will contact you to select your size. We will place the order for all the T-shirts after the final trip payments are made next April.



Shore Excursions

We wanted to let you all know that Elaine and Scott have booked all their shore excursions for the cruise part of the trip. While the trip is still a long way away, we were concerned that the most popular excursions could sell out soon, so we wanted to book them now.

You pay for them when you book them, but the amount is fully refundable if you want to change the excursion and cancel later. Princess also raised the price of shore excursions by about 20% over the past year, so if you buy them now, you lock in the current price and avoid future price increases.

For people who are new to cruising, you can book your shore excursion by doing the following:

- Go to Princess.com
- Select Login at the top right of the website (you must have created a login first with your email and a password if you have not done so, do it now)
- Select "My Account"
- Select "Manage This Booking" to select the cruise
- Go to the top menu bar and select "Excursions"
- Scroll down the page to each day and select "View Excursions"

Below are some popular shore excursion ideas to consider:

Hubbard Glacier
The cruise ship will get relatively close to the glacier for everyone on the ship to see. If you want to get up close to the glacier, there is an excursion to leave the cruise ship on a smaller boat and go much closer to the glacier. It is the only excursion offered for this day. Elaine and I have booked this excursion. **Reference: Hubbard Glacier & Wilderness Exploration, YA1660A, 2 hours, \$299.95/person**

Skagway
A popular excursion is to ride the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad to the top of the mountain. We chose the excursion that included learning about the Gold Rush History, panning for gold, and playing with the sled dogs. **Reference: Ultimate Gold Panning, Sled Dogs & Scenic Railway, SGY-350, 6.25 hours, \$269.95/person.**

Juneau
There are 53 excellent excursions to choose from in Juneau. We have a long day in port from 6:30 am to 4 pm. Popular excursions include hiking around the base of the Mendenhall Glacier, Guided Walk on a Glacier, Whale Watching, Ziplining, Salmon fishing, Dog Sledding, and many more. Examine the many options!

Ketchikan
There are many excursions also available in Ketchikan. The lumberjack show is popular. There is a Totem Pole State Park with giant hand-carved Totem Poles and even the chance to fish for crabs like the TV show Deadliest Catch. We chose the Lumberjack Show & Axe Throwing Challenge. **Reference: Local Connections: Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show & Axe Throwing Challenge Created by Campion Ironjacket, KTN-305, 2 hours, \$74.95/person**

The excursions for the land part of the trip at the lodges are not yet available to book. Check back on the Princess.com website to see updates when they are announced.

Next Zoom Meeting

The next Zoom meeting to plan this trip will be on **Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5:30 pm, Pacific**. At that point, flights will be available to book for this trip. We will discuss the options available and share the flights that Elaine and Scott have selected.

ZOOM Meeting

- **Date:** September 19, Thursday
- **Time:** 5:30-6:30 PM Pacific
- **Zoom Link:** <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84990462486>
- **Zoom Call In Numbers:** 669-900-6833
- **Webinar ID:** 849 9046 2486
- **Passcode:** 620477

No advance registration is required, and this information is being shared with Alaska Adventure participants only.

Travel Agent Jeff Rupert
Jeff Rupert is an Accredited Cruise Counselor, and you can book your cruise with him.
You can reach him by phone at 650-245-9614 or by email at jrupert@hmbcruises.com.

When calling, remember he is in the Eastern time zone. You will be booking everything through Jeff and Princess Cruise Lines.
Please understand that FJP is not being compensated in any way for this trip, and we are not involved in this other than to share information with you. Completing all parts of your travel plans for this trip (including flights, hotels, shore excursions, and dinner reservations) is your responsibility.

Activities You Should Have Already Completed

At this point, you should have already completed these activities.

- Book your shore excursions while on the ship.
 - Contact Jeff Rupert if you want to book a hotel before the cruise in Anchorage or after the cruise in Vancouver, B.C.
- If you have not completed these, I recommend you do them immediately.

Next Steps

These are your next steps if you have not already done these things.

- Create a login to Princess.com for each adult person traveling.
- Book shore excursions for the cruise part of the trip.
- Contact Jeff Rupert if you want to book nights in Anchorage and Vancouver through Princess.
- Start thinking about what you might want to book for your flights for this trip.

Important Dates

Here are some important dates and approximate timeframes for the future planning activities for this trip.

- **September 19, 2024** – Zoom meeting to discuss booking flights
- **April 1, 2025** – Final payment for the trip due to Princess

All the information about the trip, including any updates along the way, will be posted on our [Alaska Adventure webpage](#).

This is going to be a bucket list trip to Alaska in the Summer of 2025!

Enjoy the Journey,

Scott

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