

From: Cheryll Pickett updates@tess.myagentgenie.com
Subject: [SAMPLE EMAIL] The Cruise News from Open Waters Travel
Date: June 3, 2026 at 12:41 PM
To: cheryllpickett@gmail.com

CP



Cheryll Pickett
openwaterstravel.com
972-998-5231
www.openwaterstravel.com

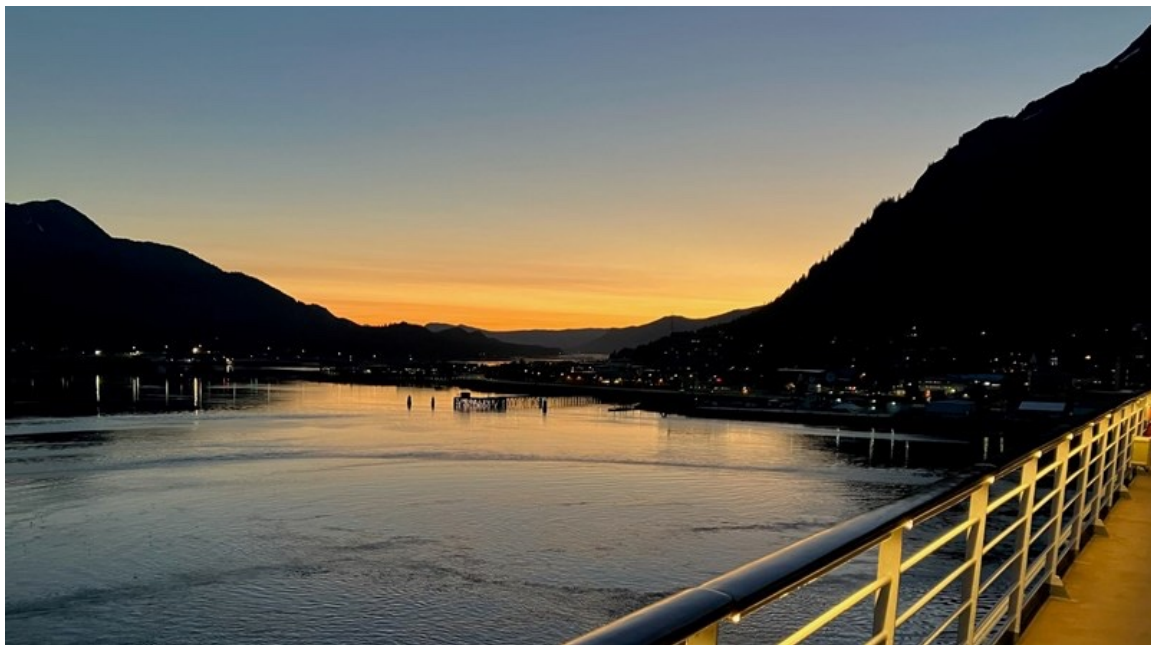
The Cruise News from Open Waters Travel- May Edition

Hi friends,

May is here, and it's the perfect time to start thinking about one of the most breathtaking cruise destinations out there... Alaska. As the season kicks off, it's one of my favorite times to talk about this bucket-list itinerary. Think glaciers, wildlife, and scenery that truly doesn't look real.

Each month I love sharing a few cruise ideas, helpful tips, and a little inspiration to help you plan your next getaway. This month, we're leaning into all things Alaska; from what makes it so special to a few insider tips to help you make the most of it.

From new ships and itineraries to little things I've learned along the way, I'll keep sending a short monthly update with things I think fellow cruise lovers will enjoy.



My Personal Travel Moment

One of my all-time favorite trips we've taken as a family was our **May 2023 Alaska cruise on the Celebrity Millennium**. Honestly, it set the bar *really* high.

We sailed **one-way from Vancouver to Seward**, and it happened to be the **very first sailing of the season**. Even better? The ship was only about **30% full**, which made the whole experience feel relaxed, uncrowded, and super easy.

We went as a family (the boys were 18 and 19 at the time), and while the crowd on Millennium does lean a bit older, they still found plenty to do and had a great time. Between the scenery, food, and just being together, it ended up being one of those trips you don't stop talking about.

And the weather... we absolutely hit the jackpot. ☀️

We had **sunny, warm, clear days the entire cruise**. Perfect glacier viewing, perfect deck weather, perfect everything. The only rain we saw was the day we disembarked in Seward (because of course 😂).

Now, full transparency, you *cannot* count on that kind of weather in Alaska. We got lucky. But what you *can* count on in May is:

- Fewer crowds
- A more peaceful, laid-back experience
- Easier access to viewpoints, excursions, and photos without tons of people

Since most schools are still in session, it really is a sweet spot for Alaska cruising.



💡 **Personal Tip: Alaska *is* pricey... but here's how to save in port.**

👉 **You don't have to book every excursion through the cruise line.**

In ports like Juneau or Ketchikan, you can often find **local tours, shuttles, or even just walkable experiences** for much less.

👉 Mix big experiences with simple days.

Pick *one* or two “wow” excursions (like a glacier helicopter or whale watching), then balance it with a **free or low-cost day** like exploring the town, hiking, or visiting local shops.

👉 Nature is the main attraction; and it’s free.

Some of the best moments in Alaska happen **right from the ship** or just walking around port. No ticket required.

Bottom line: you don’t have to do *everything* to have an incredible Alaska trip. A little planning goes a long way. And trust me, the scenery does most of the work anyway. 🐋 🏠



🌅 Destination Spotlight: Alaska (Cruise Season Kickoff!)

May marks the **start of Alaska cruise season**, and honestly, it’s one of the *best* times to go. You’ll get snow-capped mountains, incredible wildlife sightings, and that fresh, untouched feeling before peak summer crowds roll in. Think whales breaching right off the ship, massive glaciers cracking and calving, and charming port towns like Juneau, Skagway, and Ketchikan.

If Alaska has been sitting on your “someday” list, this is your sign. It really does live up to the hype.

📅 Why Now Is the Time to Book

It might *feel* early, but Alaska cruises for **2027 are already open, and they go fast.**

The best glacier-view cabins, smaller ships, and prime sailing dates are usually the **first to sell out.**

Booking early =

✓ Better cabin selection

- ✓ Lower pricing & promotions
- ✓ More itinerary options (Inside Passage vs. one-way)



💡 Expert Tip

You'll hear people say "port side vs. starboard side matters for Alaska," and it *can*, depending on your route. But the reality is: ships rotate, and the best views are often from **open decks and scenic cruising days**.

👉 If views matter most, prioritize a **balcony cabin** or plan to spend time up on deck during glacier days. That's where the magic really happens.

💡 Tip of the Month: Skip the Drink Package (Sometimes 🙄)

Drink packages sound like a no-brainer... unlimited cocktails on vacation? Yes please 🍹. But here's the truth: they're not always the best deal.

Most packages only make sense if you're having **5-8+ drinks per day, every day** (and that includes sea days *and* port days). If your itinerary is port-heavy, you may be off the ship exploring most of the day; not exactly prime margarita time.

👉 Also worth noting: specialty coffees, bottled water and pressed juices are *not* always included. So it's not quite as "all-inclusive" as it sounds.

Pro tip: Take a quick look at your itinerary and be honest about your drinking habits. You might be better off paying as you go... and putting that extra money toward an excursion or a really nice dinner instead.

Because let's be honest. one amazing experience > five extra poolside drinks 🙄

because there's nothing else amazing experience + the extra perfect drink! 🍹



What I'd Do Differently If I Cruised Alaska Again



Alaska was one of my all-time favorite trips. No regrets. But if I went again... I'd tweak a few things.

1. I'd book earlier.

Alaska isn't the place to "wait for a deal." The best cabins (especially balconies) go FAST, and prices usually go up, not down. Earlier booking = better options and often better pricing.

2. I'd choose a more modern ship.

Don't get me wrong, the scenery is the star. But newer ships have better viewing spaces, more dining options, and just make the whole experience feel elevated. When you're sailing somewhere this epic, the ship should match the vibe.

3. I'd still do a one-way... but add a cruise tour.

Hands down, I'd do a one-way sailing again. But next time, I'd extend it inland to Denali. A cruise tour is basically a combo trip: part cruise, part land adventure. You'll get hotels, transportation, and guided experiences into places you can't see from the ship. And Denali? That's bucket list level.

4. I'd splurge on the once-in-a-lifetime experience

If I could go back, I'd book the glacier dog sledding. Yes, it's expensive, and yes, I talked myself out of it. But that's the one experience I wish we hadn't skipped. Alaska isn't a "next time" kind of trip. I'd plan for one big splurge and then balance it out with more affordable third-party excursions where you can often get similar (or better) experiences for less.

5. I'd plan for more "wow" moments, not just ports.

Some of my favorite memories weren't even in port. Glacier viewing days, wildlife spotting from the deck, just sitting with a coffee watching the scenery. Next time, I'd be more intentional about slowing down and soaking that in.



Ready to Book?

If Alaska is even *kind of* on your list, I can help you plan it the right way the first time... so you don't need a "what I'd do differently" list 🤔.

Call me, text me, hit me up on Facebook or Instagram or reply to this email if you have questions or want to book.

REMEMBER: I share my commissions and I **NEVER** charge a booking fee.

PS: Your future self would probably like a cruise on the calendar.

Happy travels,
Cheryll
Open Waters Travel





To learn more about our services and promotions please contact us

Cheryl Pickett, 972-998-5231, openwaterstravel.com

Open Waters Travel

Florida Seller of Travel # ST15578 • California Seller of Travel No. 2090937-50

Washington UBID No. 603189022 • Iowa Registered Agency # 1202