CRUISE SIDEKICK

Alaska Cruise Planner

Compare the season, route, travel days and cabin for your trip

Use this guide to compare actual options and record what you still need to confirm.

A useful planning aid - not a live fare quote or a guarantee of route, weather, wildlife, availability or outcome.



Dawes Glacier, Alaska, as identified by photographer Meg von Haartman. Unsplash source: https://unsplash.com/photos/mountains-and-glacier-loom-over-the-calm-water-UkWumVvUGpg. Licensed under the Unsplash License; checked 2026-10-19. Contextual image, not a claim of Cruise Sidekick travel or a guaranteed itinerary.

01 / PICK THE TRIP SHAPE

Start with dates, ports and priorities

Alaska routes and schedules differ by sailing. Choose a priority, then compare the exact itinerary and the travel needed to reach both ends.

Travel Alaska describes May through September as the main cruise season, with some April and October departures. Use that as a planning frame, not a forecast or promise about what will operate on your date. [3]

Month-by-month notes for Southeast Alaska [3, 5]

Month	Planning context	Check for your sailing
May	Main-season window begins	Exact ports, excursion dates and current itinerary
June	Very long daylight around the solstice in Juneau	Daylight by port and date; scheduled scenic time
July-August	Warmest period in Southeast Alaska	Current quote, route, port times and rain-ready plan
September	Within the main season; days shorten	Exact operating dates, services and excursion availability
April / October	Some sailings may be offered	Confirm the line's current sailing and local availability

My dates and priorities

Question	Notes
Dates I can travel / flexibility	
Ports, scenic areas or land days I care about	
Excursion or experience I want to verify	
What I would still enjoy if weather or wildlife differs from my hope	

Source notes: [3], [4], [5], [6], [1]. Full titles and links on the final page.

02 / COMPARE ACTUAL ITINERARIES

Put the route and whole trip side by side

A one-way route ends somewhere different from where it starts. That can change flights, transfers and land plans; it does not by itself make a trip better or more expensive.

Use USD for everyone in the booking. Start with the full cruise total and add only costs outside it. Mark estimates separately, count included land days or transfers once, and do not mix per-person with whole-party amounts.

Route and cost comparison	Option A	Option B
Line / ship / exact dates		
Embarkation and disembarkation ports		
Round-trip or one-way / cruise nights		
Port calls / order / scenic cruising listed		
Land-tour nights / included transfers		
Cruise booking total for this party (USD)		
Flights to and from both endpoints		
Hotels / meals / airport and port transfers		
Excursions / land days / other planned extras		
Estimated whole-trip total (USD)		

Before shortlisting

- ☐ Use dated quotes and the same guests and cabin basis; mark estimates separately from written quotes.
- ☐ Confirm the exact itinerary, port order, scenic days and whether the land segment is included.
- ☐ Check whether an excursion you care about is offered on that date and at that port.

Source notes: [1], [2], [4], [6]. Full titles and links on the final page.

03 / CHOOSE A CABIN YOU UNDERSTAND

Check the exact ship and room

Cabin layouts, views, locations and accessibility features vary. Match the exact ship and cabin number to the line's current deck plan and description.

- ☐ Write down ship, cabin number/category, deck, location and view description from the actual offer.
- ☐ If comparing a balcony, compare its price difference with the public decks or indoor viewing spaces you expect to use. A balcony is not the only way to view scenery.
- ☐ Check the exact cabin description and deck plan. Ask the line about a specific feature if it affects your choice.
- ☐ For packing, make a personal list around forecast uncertainty and planned activities; confirm current excursion requirements with the operator.

Cabin / trip check	Option A	Option B
Exact cabin, category and deck plan		
View / balcony / indoor and public viewing options		
Price difference and what I would use		
Packing / activity details to confirm		
One question for the cruise line		

Sources and image credit

[1] **Seven Day Inside Passage & Cross Gulf Alaska Cruise - Travel Alaska** (2026-10-19). https://www.travelalaska.com/explore-alaska/itineraries/inside-passage-cross-gulf-cruise
[2] **Cruise Ships in Glacier Bay - National Park Service** (2026-10-19). https://www.nps.gov/glba/planyourvisit/cruise.htm
[3] **How to Plan the Best Alaska Cruise** (2026-10-19). https://www.travelalaska.com/explore-alaska/articles/best-cruises-alaska
[4] **Getting to & Around Alaska by Cruise** (2026-10-19). https://www.travelalaska.com/getting-to-around/by-cruise
[5] **Southeast Alaska Climate and Local Area** (2026-10-19). https://www.weather.gov/ajk/OurOffice-LocalArea
[6] **2027 Alaska by Princess** (2026-10-19). https://www.princess.com/content/dam/princess/princess-cruises-brochures/2027-Alaska-Brochure-US.pdf
[7] **Balcony Staterooms - Princess Cruises** (2026-10-19). https://www.princess.com/en-int/staterooms/balcony
[8] **Comprehensive Alaska Cruise Packing List** (2026-10-19). https://www.princess.com/en-int/blog/what-to-pack-for-an-alaska-cruise
[9] **What To Wear On Your Alaska Vacation** (2026-10-19). https://www.alaska.org/advice/what-to-wear-in-alaska

Trip details and terms can change. Confirm the exact sailing and current written terms with the operator before booking. No wildlife sighting, weather, route, glacier viewing, excursion availability or outcome is guaranteed.