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|--------------------|---|---------------------------|------------|
| Cruise – 10 | Inside Passage | | |
| Itinerary | San Francisco to San Francisco | | |
| Line | Princess | | |
| ship |  <p data-bbox="775 1173 1098 1205">Dawn Princess in Juneau</p> | | |
| No of Days | No of Nights | Cum Nights (This Line) | Cum Nights |
| 11 | 10 | 76 | 82 |
| Embarkation Date | Saturday 26 th July 2008 | | |
| Cabin Number | R351 | | |
| Cabin Standard | Balcony - BC | | |
| Overall Notes | <p>This trip was a combination of an Open Group meeting and a cruise. When we booked the Cruise, Sue was about to have a hip replacement. Our choice of cruise and choice of stateroom made allowance for possible mobility issues. This was not in fact a problem. Sue made an amazing recovery.</p> | | |

Saturday 19th July 2008 – Flight to Chicago



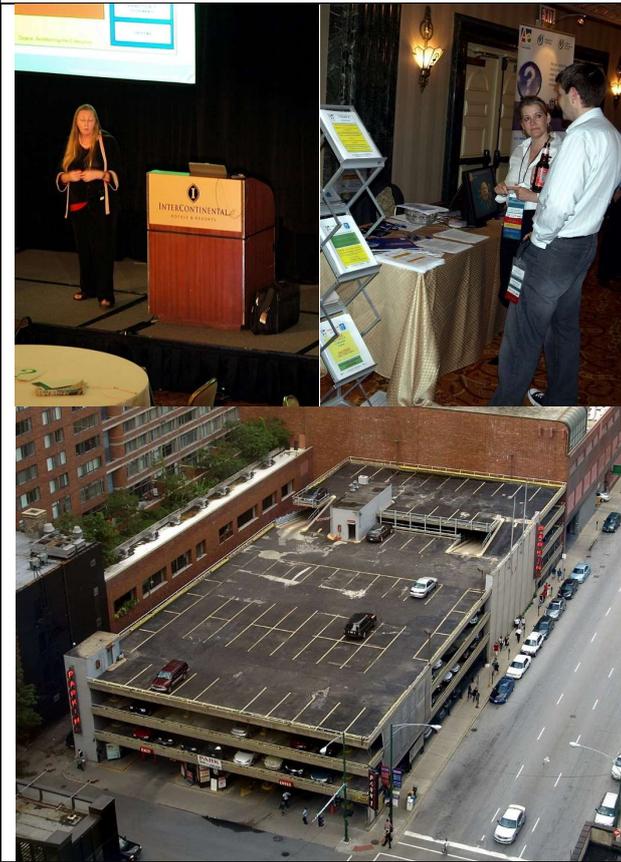
- 05:30 Left home bright and early to get our flight to Chicago via New York.
- 06:30 After leaving our car with Purple Parking we are in a relatively long queue for check-in at the First Class desk. The American Airlines premium check-in had moved and very few people seemed to be able to find it.
- 08:40 Wheels up .. so an on-time departure for a very pleasant flight (in Business Class).
- 11:04 Touch down in New York. The local time is exactly about 4 minutes after 11.
- 14:00 Sitting in the Flagship lounge, watching planes coming in to land, with a hazy view of New York City in the distance.
- 17:05 On board our flight to Chicago.
- 19:05 After a long wait, we are finally airborne.
- 21:15 Arrive at the Intercontinental Hotel, Chicago

Sunday 20th July 2008 – Chicago



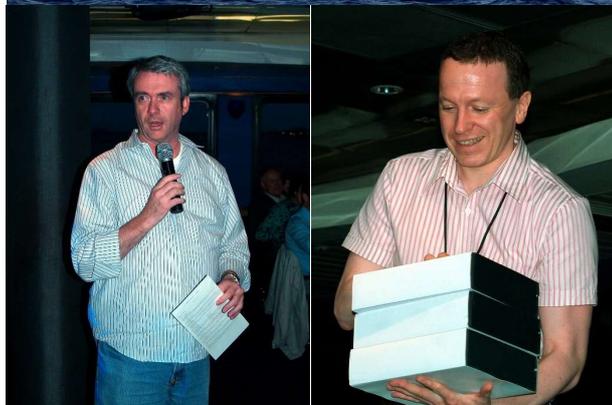
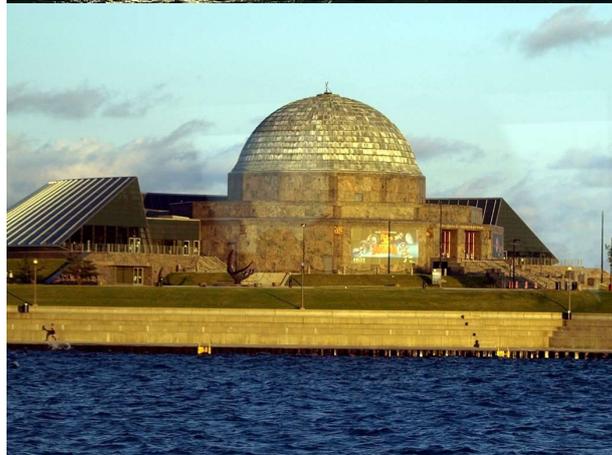
- 08:00 Great view towards Lake Michigan from our hotel room. With only one day for sightseeing together, Sue and I set off for a walk towards the Chicago River.
- 08:19 Walking towards the River we pass the Chicago Tribune building, and a statue of King Lear and a strange metallic moose.
- 08:22 Crossing the Chicago River, we see an array of boats. We are tempted to take a boat trip, but eventually decide to stick to our original plan for a bus tour.
- 08:45 We are reminded that it is Sunday as we walk past a small gospel choir performing outside one of the buildings.
- 08:55 Waiting for someone to take out money so that we can board the double-decker bus.
- 09:10 On the bus waiting to depart. Across the river work continues on the new Trump Tower.
- 09:18 Driving towards the Chicago Board of Trade with its enormous stone carving of Ceres.
- 09:22 Stopped outside the Art Institute of Chicago.
- 09:35 Passing Soldier Field, the local American Football stadium.
- 09:45 Driving along the shoreline alongside Millennium park, with a tremendous view of the Chicago skyline and Buckingham Fountain. The top of the Sears building is shrouded in cloud.
- 10:03 Stopped outside Navy Pier.
- 10:20 Starting to drive along the Magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue).
- 10:30 Passing the old Water Tower and Pumping Station (now a shopping mall)
- 10:38 Stopped outside the John Hancock tower opposite one of Chicago's churches.
- 11:06 Stopped outside the Sears Tower. Looking ahead we see two men, rappelling down the side of a building to clean the windows.
- 11:24 The end of the tour, back at the Chicago River. There are now significant queues for the boats.
- 12:17 Approaching Navy Pier. After a cup of tea at Starbucks we braved the midday sun to walk to Navy Pier.
- 12:23 We spent 10 minutes watching some children playing in a fountain.
- 12:37 Walking along Navy Pier.
- 12:53 Inside the indoor garden at the Navy Pier.
- 13:26 Sitting at a restaurant waiting for Texas style barbecue to be delivered, admiring the flowers in a plant box.

Monday 21st July 2008 – Chicago



- 15:26 Judith Jones presenting to The Open Group Architecture Practitioners Conference
- 18:03 Networking Reception. The Architecting-the-Enterprise exhibit.

Tuesday 22nd July 2008 – Chicago



- 18:22 Walking along Navy Pier to the Odyssey for The Open Group offsite event
- 18:55 Aboard the ship ready to depart
- 19:10 Cruising along the bay, parallel to the shore
- 19:54 Approaching sunset, on deck
- 20:26 The TOGAF 9 awards

Wednesday/Thursday 23rd/24th July 2008 – Chicago



19:40 Walking with a group to a Brazilian restaurant for dinner. (Wednesday)



Friday 25th July 2008 – Flight to San Francisco

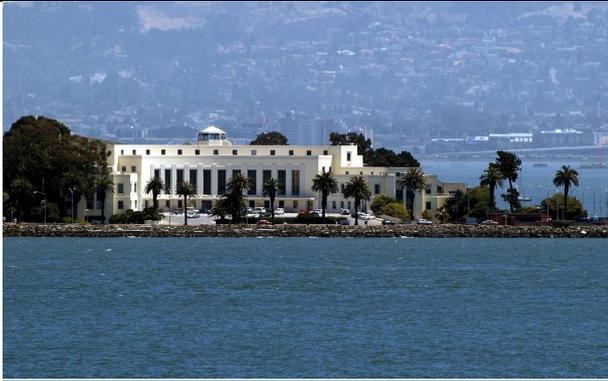


- 12:05 The final meeting of the week was in a penthouse suite with great views over Chicago.
- 14:00 2pm. Taxi to ORD. Stressful check-in. Needed to repack bags because of weight limit.
Uneventful flight
- 22:15 Checked in to the Marriott Fisherman's Wharf

Day 1 – Saturday 26th July 2008 – San Francisco, Embarkation



- 07:56 Up bright and early, thanks to the time difference, we set out on a walk around Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco to pass the time until we can board our cruise ship.
- 08:38 After breakfast at a small diner, we cross back across the road to the water front near Pier 39. Squadrons of Pelicans seem to be flying West with a purpose. Alcatraz is illuminated by the early morning sunlight.
- 08:48 Passing the boats of the Black and Gold Fleet.
- 08:50 Watching the California Sealions on the pontoons alongside Pier 39.
- 08:58 The end of Pier 39 is almost deserted this early in the morning. Views of both bridges and the ferry fleets just starting Saturday operation. A colourful container ship is heading out of port.
- 09:02 As we round the end of Pier 39 the view is dominated by Dawn Princess docked at Pier 35.
- 09:19 Heading back towards our hotel, but still lots to sea. At the end of Pier 39 there are flowers embedded in statues of a crab, octopus etc. and of course there are the vintage trams.
- 10:12 Back at our hotel, after a trip to the local drug store to pick up essentials like sunscreen and mosquito repellent we can see Dawn Princess dominating the view along the street.
- 11:35 We check out of our hotel and try to get a taxi to the cruise ship. Taxi drivers are reluctant to take us, because of the short distance. We have a lot of luggage so don't have a choice. Eventually someone agrees to take us .. he is pleased with his tip!
- 11:50 Arrival at the Pier. Check-in is almost deserted. There are no queues at all!
- 12:10 We are on the balcony of our cabin (stateroom) enjoying the view across Pier 39 towards Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. What stunning weather (not really typical of San Francisco). Lots of activity on the bay; Seagulls on the roof of the Pier.
- 12:23 Time for a stroll around deck and lunch. Sue takes videos of our stateroom, just a few metres from the door onto the deck by the main pool. (This was in case Sue had mobility problems after her hip replacement, a precaution that proved not to be necessary). The Sun Deck was (almost) deserted.
- 12:35 One deck higher, we get a great view of the Bay Bridge and the old Pan Am Ocean Terminal on Treasure Island. Despite the sun, there is a



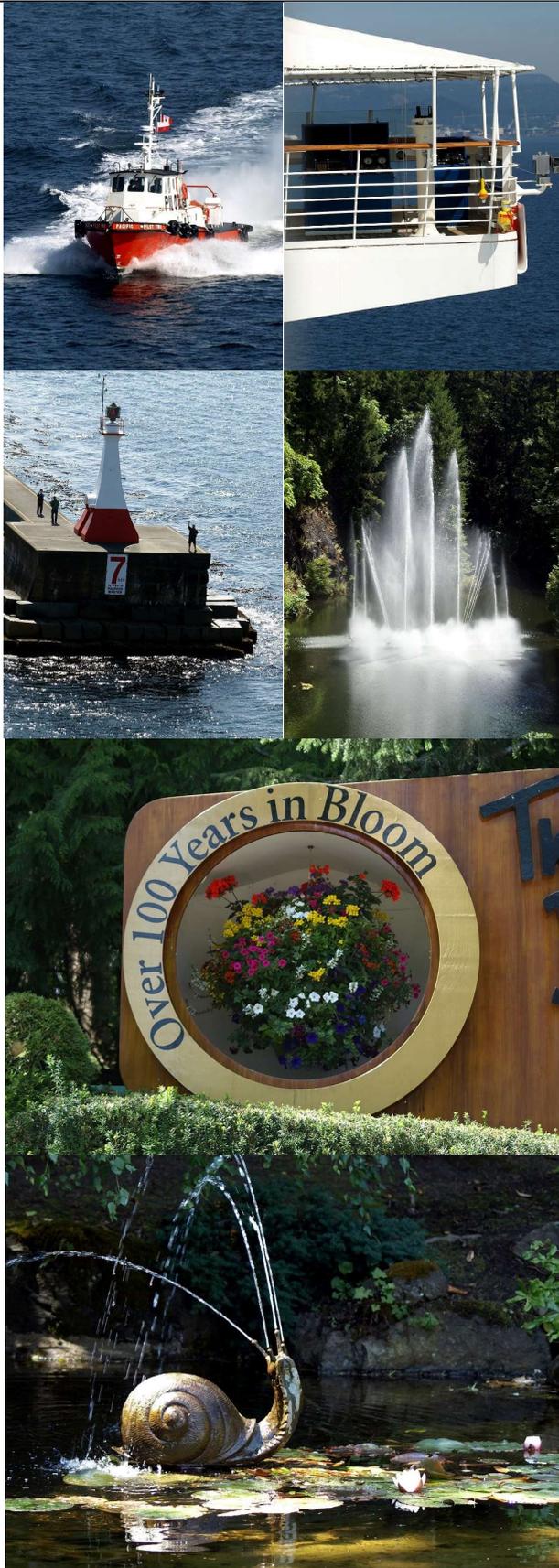
- pretty strong breeze which keeps the temperature down to a pleasant level.
- 13:44 After lunch, we settle down on deck for a while enjoying the sun. Lots of small boats (and some bigger ones) on the water and advertising planes in the sky. Not much happening in the deck pool or the bars.
- 15:50 Back on deck after "Muster Stations". Our master plan left Sue taking lifejackets back to the room while I raced up on to deck to baggies a place for sailaway.
- 15:55 Making smoke and flags flying as departure time comes .. and goes. Hot sun, so time for a cool beer, appropriately an Alaskan Summer Ale. Two container ships seem to be racing each other to get to the Bay Bridge first. The buildings of downtown San Francisco look great in the sunshine, the Transamerica Pyramid, Coit Tower. Lots of traffic on the Embarcadero and still the advertising planes flying overhead.
- 16:29 With very little fuss, Dawn Princess starts to drift away from the pier and back out into the main channel. There are lots of people on deck enjoying the sunshine and kids starting to enjoy the pool. There is lots of wind, as seen by the small boats heeling over. Great views of the Bay Bridge and the City as we slowly turn towards the West.
- 16:40 Moving forward past the end of Pier 35 we can look back to the Bay Bridge and across the top of the pier to Coit Tower. (Our position, near the front of the ship gives us a great view backwards).
- 16:45 Passing the end of Pier 39. For a while a pelican flies alongside.
- 16:49 A close view of Alcatraz. More great views of the hills of San Francisco and a lot of wind across the deck.
- 16:54 A China Shipping Line container ship passes us going into the bay.
- 17:04 With a great deal of noise from the ship's horn, we pass under the Golden Gate Bridge and out into the Pacific Ocean. Even the locals from San Francisco are excited.
- 17:17 Unlike more modern ships, the crew of the Dawn Princess are open to the elements on the bridge extension. In San Francisco this is not a problem, later in the cruise they do need to dress warmly.
- 18:07 Not far out to sea, we sail into fog, which will stay with us much of the way to Victoria in British Columbia.

Day 2 – Sunday 27th July 2008 – At Sea



- 07:30 Up reasonably early. Throughout the night we have been hearing the ship's foghorn and when we look out of the window, it is foggy.
- 08:33 Suddenly the sun is out.
- 09:54 A gentle stroll around the deck. There is a mixture of sun and clouds and pretty strong headwinds. We can just about make out the California coast in the mist.
- 10:59 Highlight of the morning .. a freighter passing us going South. Lots of waves in the pool, but the kids love it.
- 16:10 Whales in the distance.
- 20:10 Formal dinner, all dressed up in our evening wear. The queuing system for dinner does not work out well. We started trying to get at table at 7:15.

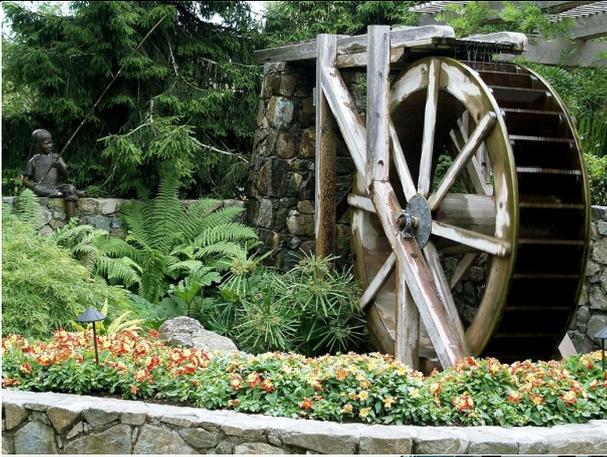
Day 3 – Monday 28th July 2008 – Victoria, BC



- 07:27 As we get up on Monday morning, we are just turning East around the tip of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. Still patches of fog and lots of cloud around. Photo processing makes the coastline look a lot clearer than it actually was. We pass a small island with a lighthouse just off the coast.
- 08:07 We pass a small red fishing boat making its way slowly Eastwards. The weather overnight was quite rough. The swimming pool is half empty and closed.
- 08:14 The top deck was closed .. not because of the wind, but because of men at work.
- 09:32 Dawn Princess is enveloped in fog. At times the top of the mast is shrouded.
- 09:57 The pool is full again and about to re-open.
- 10:05 The snow covered Olympic Range emerges from the fog behind the ship and we turn towards Victoria.
- 10:10 The pilot boat arrives to guide us into port.
- 10:12 Almost exactly the same colour scheme as the fast ferry from Victoria to Seattle passes us.
- 10:35 Approaching Ogden Point dock at Victoria. We are welcomed by people on the end of the harbour wall and in kayaks.
- 11:24 Tied up alongside. As we prepare to go ashore, the mist descends. There are two gull chicks on the roof of the cruise ship terminal.
- 11:44 On the dockside alongside the Dawn Princess.
- 11:47 We find our tour bus. Hopefully we won't have to wait 45 minutes to leave.
- 12:15 We depart for our tour excursion "Afternoon Tea at Butchart Gardens". We start with a slow drive through the city of Victoria and then take the road to the North West towards Butchart Gardens. Arriving at around 1pm we are given our tickets and instructions. The sun is beating down; there is no fog and we are not cold.



- 13:10 Preparing to enter the Gardens. The hanging baskets give an idea of the colour to come.
- 13:14 Just inside the gates and admiring the floral signs welcoming us.
- 13:21 Entering the Sunken Garden, we realise how many people there are, and in particular how many Japanese want to take each other's picture in front of almost every flower. Magnificent colours are the order of the day. Trees, flowers, lakes, the Sunken Gardens has it all.
- 13:34 Enjoying an ice cream, while watching the ever changing Ross Fountain.
- 13:44 Walking past the array of totem poles.
- 13:47 Even the rubbish bins are decorated with flowers.
- 13:49 Bees pollinating the flowers make a fascinating photograph.
- 13:52 Entering the Rose Garden. Not all roses, which is as well because most of the roses are past their best.
- 13:58 Standing in front of a chrome ball in the middle of the Rose Garden.
- 13:58 Entering the Japanese Garden, with its fountain of entwined fish, moss covered lantern and stepping stones.
- 14:09 Peering through a gap in the tress towards Butchart Cove.
- 14:18 Getting very tired as we enter the Italian Garden, going past the Star Pond with its spouting frogs.
- 14:28 Almost time for tea.
- 15:14 After tea, we pass by a closed flower garden.
- 15:30 Leaving the gardens we walk past the ornamental water wheel on the way back to our tour bus.
- 16:05 On the drive back to the ship, we get a view of snow covered Mount Baker around 80 miles away to the East.
- 16:29 Back at Ogden Point we walk along Dawn Princess towards the gangway. High above us crew are at work painting the ship. We can just about make out our balcony.



- 16:48 On our balcony, we can see people walking along the relatively narrow harbour wall. Lots to look at. People coming aboard, the harbour pilot boat, seagull chicks.
- 17:02 On deck. The last few buses are returning to the ship. Mount Baker is clearly visible behind the condos that line the harbourside. A WestCoast Air floatplane takes off. A solitary water bird finds something in the water beneath the ship.
- 17:11 A Kenmore Air floatplane comes in to land. A Wildcat jet boat returns to the harbour.
- 17:44 Back on our balcony. The Seattle ferries cross just outside the harbour.
- 18:18 Getting ready to sail. The hanging baskets used by photographers are put away for the night.
- 18:36 Coho, the car ferry from Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula circles outside Victoria obviously waiting for us to leave before getting clearance to enter the harbour.
- 18:48 The crew are on the bridge ready for departure.
- 18:50 Slowly we drift away from the dock and reverse out of port. A small group of people sheltering from the wind under the lighthouse at the end of the harbour wall watch us depart.
- 18:53 Finally the Port Angeles ferry makes its approach to the port, as Dawn Princess rotates to face out of the harbour. Another Kenmore Air plane takes off very close to the ship.
- 19:01 The green buoy shows that we are in the channel to head back towards the ocean. As we depart, the captain comes on the PA and warns of rough weather, winds gusting at 60 knots, overnight.

Day 4 – Tuesday 29th July 2008 – At Sea



- 07:39 It is a misty overcast morning at sea. Conditions were rough overnight, but calmed a little by morning.
- 08:05 We are on deck in a sheltered area that we discovered on sister ship Sea Princess in Norway. Inside people were complaining about the motion of the ship, there was a lot of sickness and lots of Dramamine being sold in the shop.
- 09:00 Outside things were much more pleasant, although the pool was giving a good impression of a fountain. Decks were very soggy from overnight rain.
- 11:46 We pass a small island. Not a long line of people waiting for the grill on deck.
- 11:53 There was a break in the clouds before midday, but it is still windy and rough. The captain warns that there is more rough weather to come.
- 12:37 The start of the ice carving demonstration. Apparently, this is a specialist Philippines craft. Within 8 minutes an Eagle is created.
- 13:00 The highlight of our day, we report to US customs as we re-enter the USA.
- 14:03 We overtake a freighter heading North.

Day 5 – Wednesday 30th July 2008 – Ketchikan



07:04 Approaching the dock at Ketchikan on a dull and rainy morning. Three ships are already docked, Island Princess and 2 others. There is room for one more ship at the dock. The small container dock adds a splash of colour on a grey morning.

07:10 Approaching the dock. Wind conditions and a strong current make docking a challenge. It takes at least 2 attempts for Dawn Princess to get alongside the dock.

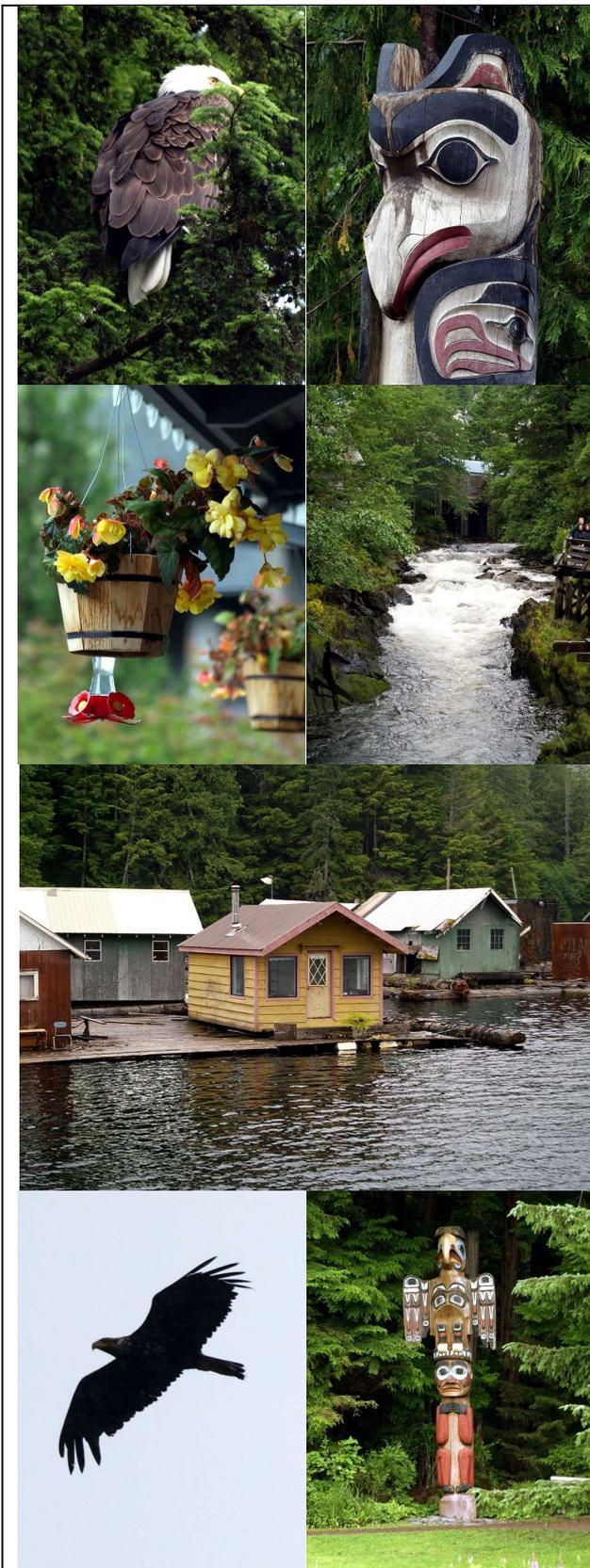
07:17 Tour buses are waiting, people are leaving the other ships at dock. Dawn Princess continues to try to get alongside.

08:20 We are safely docked and we have had breakfast. There are now four cruise ships already in Ketchikan and a fifth approaching from the South. From our balcony we can see that it is raining quite heavily, but the shore activities are in full swing. Horse-drawn tours are pulling away every few minutes.

08:35 Ashore in the rain. Radiance of the Seas is anchoring off-shore. Our first stop is a very crowded shop to buy Sue a hat. We then walk, not quite aimlessly, but without any clear plan for the next couple of hours.

08:54 We cross the Creek Street bridge. What used to be bordellos built on stilts along the creek side are now tourist shops. Wet leaves make an interesting picture. There are seals under the buildings, quite difficult to see, but taking advantage of the salmon coming up the creek to spawn.

09:05 Our first bald eagle, perched in a tree above Creek Street.



09:18 At the Cape Fox Lodge a couple of hundred feet above Creek Street. As we were walking along Creek Street, we came across a cross between a conventional lift and a funicular, which for the sum of \$2 took us up to the lobby of the Cape Fox lodge. Apart from the hotel, the features are a display of totem poles representing the "Council of the Clans", a coffee shop and views across Ketchikan towards the cruise ships.

09:52 Back down at the bottom of the Funicular and crossing the creek. No shortage of water.

10:15 Back at the dock in front of Dawn Princess waiting for our booked shore excursion "Lighthouse, Eagles and Totem Poles".

10:35 Driving to the tour boat, the rain is pouring down. It does not look promising.

10:56 We are at the boat dock and it has almost stopped raining. There is very heavy cloud, which means very little light for photographs, a passing float plane is almost lost in the low clouds.

10:58 We are on a boat and underway. Amazingly, it is dry enough to be out on the open deck.

11:03 Passing a number of waterfront homes, we come across our first Bald Eagle perched on a tree.

11:09 We catch the magnificent view of a Bald Eagle in flight.

11:12 Passing Loggerville, an abandoned floating logging camp, built by the Ketchikan Pulp Company. Apparently the company running this tour wants to buy the camp and turn it into a "tourist attraction".

11:15 The first of many Bald Eagle nests.

11:40 Passing by Totem Bight State Park, with its array of totem poles and clan house. Lots of evidence of logging and replanting of trees on the slopes above the bay.



- 11:54 Another Eagle's nest, this time seen from almost 2 miles away. We travel along the coast past a variety of waterfront homes and a small waterfall (small in height, but lots of flow).
- 12:12 Crossing the more exposed channel to get out to Guard Island lighthouse was pretty rough. We needed to hang on tight as the little boat was pushed around. Once at the Island we saw some immature Eagles playing on a log and of course the lighthouse. Once round the island and we were hanging on as the boat headed back through the waves. Heavy clouds and rain in the air in the direction we were heading.
- 12:26 We pass a small island, actually more like a rock, covered in birds and seals.
- 12:29 Looking back, for a very short period, Guard Island is bathed in sunlight.
- 12:34 "Bears" said one person, "Goats" said another. In fact we passed a pair of Labradors on the coast of Gravina Island. The tide is relatively low, showing lots of logs at the waterline.
- 12:51 We pass a remote waterfront house on Gravina Island. There is no road; power comes from a single wind turbine above the tops of the trees.
- 12:56 Approaching Danger Island, so-called because of the reef that sticks out from the end of the island into the otherwise deep water channel. Danger Island accomodates a large house and a large Eagle's Nest.
- 13:15 Back at the boat dock, it is starting to rain and the bus sent to take us back to Dawn Princess has broken down. We have a 20 minute wait. Investigating the area around the dock, I find fireweed, shell fish and some form of Kingfisher sitting on top of a post and occasionally diving down to try to catch something.



- 14:00 Back on board Dawn Princess and it is still raining. We get a great view of Creek Street and the marina from our balcony. Occasionally the clouds allow us a glimpse of patches of snow on the hill sides.
- 14:43 Like every port in Alaska, Ketchikan has a steady stream of float planes landing and taking off. Across the Tongass Narrows an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 prepares to take off. Ashore, Ketchikan is recovering from the influx of visitors. The lumberjack show is being reset for more performances tomorrow.
- 15:10 Already to depart, but we have to wait. There is an oil spill in the harbour and the authorities need to make sure that it is not Dawn Princess.
- 15:38 We finally move away from the dock. Radiance of the Seas has now found a berth and moored alongside. Traffic lights are very bright in the gloom.
- 15:45 As we slowly move Northwards, we pass float planes, seabirds and the Alaska Marine Highway ferry and the dry docks of the Ketchikan shipyard.
- 16:07 A float plane coming in to land dips its wings as it passes Dawn Princess almost at the same level as our balcony.
- 16:24 We pass the inlet we visited earlier in the day on our shore excursion and a couple of minutes later we pass Danger Island.
- 19:40 The on board naturalist told us that we might see whales in the evening, so we are up on deck. The weather is a great surprise .. there is blue sky and sunlight with even threats of a sunset!
- 19:48 Right on cue, we see whales.
- 19:50 Absolutely beautiful evening sunlight.
- 19:56 The closest whale encounter of the evening, with a great view of the pattern on the tail of this hump-back.
- 20:13 Back on our balcony, a last look at the approaching sunset before dinner.

Day 6 – Thursday 31st July 2008 - Juneau



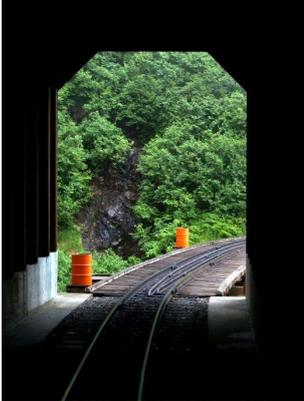
- 07:19 No sign of the sun as we approach Juneau heading North along the Lynn Canal. There are already ships in port.
- 07:31 Passing Serenade of the Seas and Island Princess.
- 07:58 At anchor (no dock for us today). Very heavy overcast and rain over the Gastineau channel. The surrounding hills are shrouded in cloud. A float plane comes in to land between Dawn Princess and the shore.
- 08:53 After meeting in the Princess Theatre and a trip ashore on the tender, we are ready to start our tour for the day, which involves a "hike" a boat trip and a photographer. We meet below the Mount Roberts tramway.
- 09:46 Our minibus took us to the Mendenhall Valley where we start a walk in the rain. First stop is to look down on spawning pink salmon, trying hard to keep cameras dry. At this point our photographer guide is explaining how to use aperture to manage depth of field. Pretty academic when there is virtually no light.
- 10:06 Walking down a narrow path through wet plants, Alpine Lupin, with "Lupin diamonds" where globs of water are trapped, and across the sandy glacial moraine.
- 10:27 Down at the water level looking across Mendenhall Lake towards the face of the glacier and a spectacular waterfall. There are large ice floes floating in the lake, calved off the glacier. The glacier itself disappears into the mist, so we really could not see the extent.
- 10:28 Nor far away, we can see people near the visitor center. The umbrellas give a clue about the weather. A spectacular close-up view of the face of the glacier.
- 10:30 What a summer holiday! Sue is dressed in a woolly hat and protected from the rain.
- 10:33 Our photographer guide explains the importance of having something in the foreground of a picture.
- 10:38 The flowers seem to thrive in the rain.
- 10:43 Mist descends as we prepare to walk back to our bus.
- 10:51 The narrow hiking trail.
- 11:03 A brief comfort stop at the visitor center.
- 11:20 About to get on to our boat for the second half of the tour. Built on a rubber inflatable, the boat provides good visibility, but little protection from the elements. No heating, no "facilities". It is raining quite heavily.
- 12:12 Out looking for whales. Still very heavy cloud, with snow covered mountains around us. This time, our



photographer guide is talking about shutter priority and multiple shooting modes to help capture movement. There are other boats about, including one from National Geographic and another very similar to the one we are on.

- 12:14 Our first whale of the day. All the whales here are Humpbacks. Over the next 30 minutes, we lots of fins, flukes and blows all around us.
- 12:29 Probably the closest tail fin we saw all day.
- 12:55 On our way back, we stop briefly at a buoy on which a number of Stellar Sea Lions are basking. One in the water is trying to climb out, but there really isn't room.
- 16:05 We have been back on board Dawn Princess for lunch and have now returned to shore for our second shore excursion of the day. Getting on and off Dawn Princess proved rather frustrating. The process for getting tickets changed and there seemed to be a tidal flow system through a single security point. The hills behind Dawn Princess are shrouded in cloud.
- 16:10 We are not going anywhere. Our tour involved a flight in a float-plane and that has been cancelled because of the weather. We briefly consider a trip up the Mount Roberts tramway, but one look at the clouds at the top and we decide against it.
- 16:29 Waiting for a tender back to Dawn Princess.
- 17:22 Back on board. It is very gloomy. Zaandam (Holland America), Mercury (Celebrity) and Island Princess are all pumping out diesel fumes that look very dirty compared to the clouds. There are still multi-coloured float planes coming and going from the float-plane dock just in front of Zaandam.
- 17:24 The top of Mount Roberts tramway briefly appears from the clouds. Meanwhile the tenders continue to ferry people backwards and forwards from the shore.
- 17:38 Despite the weather, kids still enjoy the swimming pool.

Day 7 – Friday 1st August 2008 – Skagway



- 06:45 When we got out of bed on Friday morning, Dawn Princess was already docked at Skagway, at the end of the pier behind Island Princess.
- 07:06 The familiar sight of the Alaska Marine Highway ferry approaching Skagway, the rest of the post was unoccupied. The weather was pretty heavily overcast.
- 07:25 The deck lights are still on, showing how dull the weather is.
- 07:48 Up bright and early for the first tour of the day, the White Pass and Yukon Railway. There are two trains, one for the passengers from Island Princess and one for people from Dawn Princess. We walk past some of the illustrations on the rocks and get on the rear carriage of our train, posing for a picture on the platform at the back.
- 08:15 We are under way. A few minutes earlier, the Island Princess train had left.
- 08:37 Outside the Skagway city boundary we are allowed out onto the open air platform at the back of the train, to look back along the narrow gauge track. Alongside us: fireweed. Below us: a raging river.
- 08:44 Our train takes a sharp left curve, providing a good view of the front of the train and our three diesel locomotives.
- 08:46 Looking back we see Skagway and the two cruise ships at dock.
- 08:58 On the other side of the valley, we see the border post between the US and Canada. The actual border is at White Horse Pass; the border post is at a more sheltered location well inside the US.
- 09:10 Trees have been cleared to allow a good view of Bridal Veil Falls on the other side of the valley.
- 09:17 As we approach a sharp curve in the track we can see the Island Princess train high above just at the cloud line.
- 09:26 Just after Glacier station, the track curves to the left and crosses a trestle bridge over one of the many streams flowing into the valley.
- 09:31 The track is on a narrow shelf blasted from the rock. On the other side of the valley, there are patches of snow visible through the cloud.
- 09:33 We cross a rather flimsy looking trestle bridge before plunging into the first tunnel of the climb.
- 09:36 Great view of the three locomotives at the head of our train as we negotiate yet another sharp curve.
- 09:42 We approach one of the engineering wonders of the line, the Steel Bridge, no longer in use. Instead, the line now uses a second tunnel.



- 09:46 Traces of the gold miners' Trail of 98 are still visible, showing just how hard and narrow it was.
- 09:47 As we approach the border into Canada at the summit of White Horse Pass, there are relatively large patches of snow remaining from winter. Six minutes later we are stopped just past the border, marked by flags and a Mounties Station.
- 09:54 As we arrive, the Island Princess train prepares to leave for the descent. Then our locomotives use the loop of track to run round the train, so that they are at the downhill end (a safety precaution required by law).
- 09:57 I was guilty of leaving Sue in the train during the ascent, where she suffered the attentions of an extremely talkative old American man, who seemed to speak for the sake of speaking. No wonder she does not look very happy!
- 10:21 The guide on the train spots some goats on the far side of the valley. A telephoto shot reveals a group of 6.
- 10:23 Below us now, the Island Princess Train heads towards Skagway.
- 10:35 Looking back uphill, we can appreciate the engineering involved in the building of the line, with trestles across valleys and attached to sheer cliffs.
- 10:39 Passing Bridal Veil falls on the descent.
- 10:50 Passing the border post and then Skagway Town incinerator on the descent.
- 11:14 Almost back in Skagway as we pass the railway maintenance yard and a few minutes later a rusting steam locomotive.
- 11:40 After a stop at the town terminus, we reverse slowly along the track on the dockside towards the cruise ships. Our plan to go to the restaurant on the ship for a leisurely lunch were spoiled, when we could not get back on board. Because of falling tides, the gangways were being repositioned and it took us more than 30 minutes to reboard.
- 12:47 Finally back on board. From our balcony, the weather looks a little better than earlier.
- 13:30 After a quick buffet lunch we are back on the quayside for our afternoon excursion "Evening Wildlife Expedition". Our meeting point is the length of 2 cruise ships from the gangway, so we are happy to get a ride on an electric cart. Even so, it is a considerable walk to the ferry across to Haines.
- 14:18 On the ferry, passing one of the waterfalls that empty into the Lynn Canal. We were almost the last to board, but we did get a seat. The high speed catamaran trip to Haines takes about 40 minutes. Looking back we can just see Dawn Princess at dock in Skagway.



- 14:37 We get our first view of Haines, dwarfed by the snow-covered mountains behind. There is blue sky. Two smaller cruise ships are already at the dock at Haines. These can visit places (like Haines) that are not accessible to large ships.
- 15:20 On our tour bus, a rather cramped ex-school bus with very little room and even less visibility outside.
- 15:32 We spot a large group of Surf Scooters, diving birds a little like puffins. They swim in a line and dive together.
- 15:43 Our first stop. We seem to be invading someone's garden as our guide sets up spotter scopes on the bank of the Chilcoot River. High mountains dominate the other side of the valley. There are one or two solitary seals in the water and a bald eagle sitting on the end of a sand bar. In fact there are quite a few eagles showing up as white spots in the trees and a nest in a tree on the other side of the river. A raven and a sandpiper are in the long grass nearby. Someone spots goats on the hillside opposite. I don't see it.
- 16:20 Our second stop at a point where the river narrows. Downstream we see locals wading into the water to fish, probably for the salmon swimming up-stream. Upstream, we can see a weir and salmon counting station. Nothing sophisticated here; the equipment includes a narrow channel and gate and a seat for the counter to sit on. More eagles; another nest.
- 16:45 We stop at the Chilcoot Lake. Those of us who are alert get into the queue for the only loo in time to use it. Others are not so lucky.
- 16:55 We set off on a "hike" through old growth rain forest. The terrain is very rough, showing how well Sue's bionic hip is behaving. The hike itself is not satisfactory. We were promised that we would be divided into smaller groups so those of us at the back could hear the guide. That didn't happen.
- 17:25 When we could hear him, our guide explained how the boggy ground was extremely acidic and only plants that had evolved to cope with the conditions could grow. He showed us a rare insectivorous plant, which gets its nutrients in a way well adapted to the conditions.
- 17:34 We had to use a boardwalk to protect the vegetation. This was not some well-maintained wooden footpath, merely a set of planks floating on the bog.
- 17:54 We make our way slowly back towards the ferry, hoping to see bears. For a while we stopped close to one of the nests we saw earlier. Close observation revealed an eagle in residence. The



people in the front of the bus got a glimpse of a bear.

18:03 Our patience is rewarded as a brown bear appears from the trees, crosses the road and jumps into the river to catch a salmon. We drove slowly past, and got a good, if brief, view from our side of the bus. It turned out that the bear is well know, even has a name - "Boots", and has learned to cope with humans all around.

18:40 Back on board the fast ferry to Skagway. Our sumptuous dinner served on the return journey turned out to be a brown bag containing a sandwich, which we helped ourselves to as we left the bud.

19:12 On our way back up the Lynn Canal to Skagway.

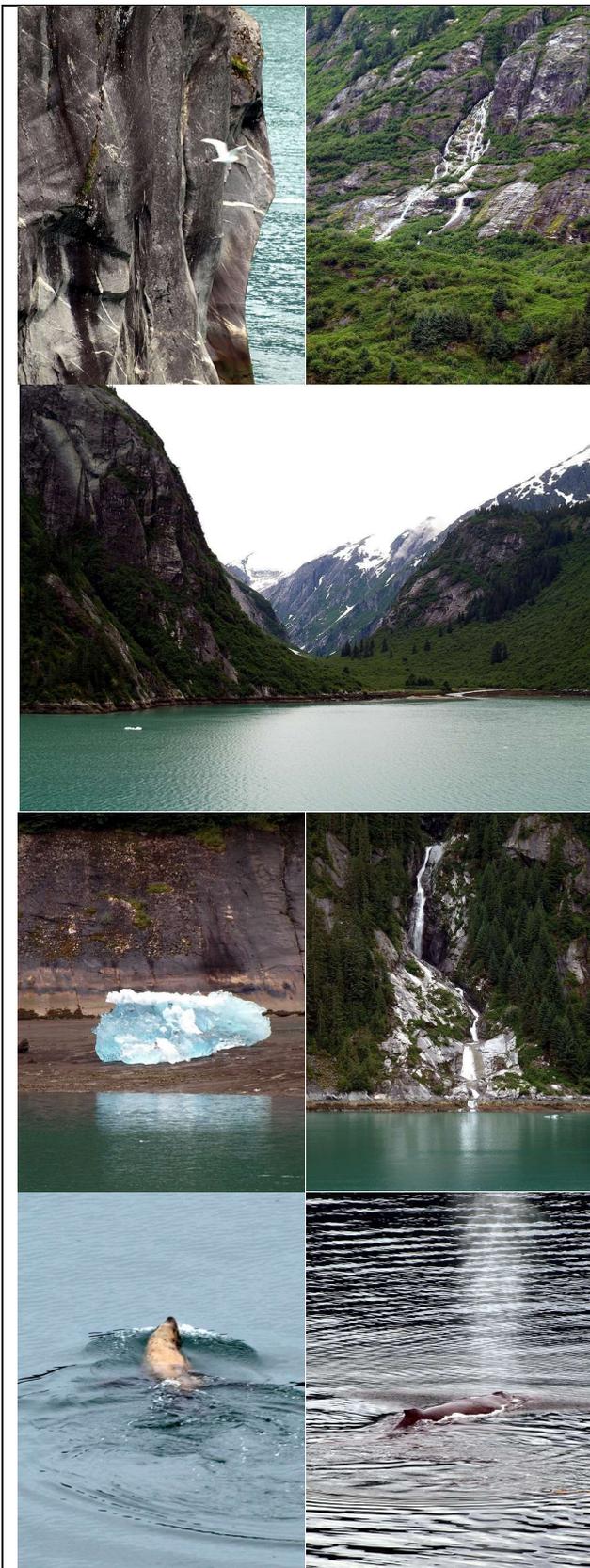
20:21 About to depart from Skagway. Getting back to the Dawn Princess was not easy. We were late and security was looking for the final passengers. There was no shuttle, so we had more than a mile to walk from the ferry dock.

20:25 We pull away from the dock, leaving Island Princess.

Day 8 – Saturday 2nd August 2008 – Tracy Arm Fjord



- 05:17 Yes, the time is right. We set our alarm at 5pm to be on deck as Dawn Princess entered Tracy Arm Fjord. It is a cold, windy and in places foggy morning as we get out on deck. There are a few other hardy people there at that time. We are already inside the entrance of the Fjord with a few icebergs around the ship. We are wrapped up warm, with rapidly cooling coffee. Our initial objective is to survive the elements for around half an hour. Our on-board naturalist has promised us a spectacular view as we turn into the straight part of the fjord.
- 05:23 Even near the open sea, the icebergs are big enough to cause damage to the rudder and propellers of Dawn Princess and have that characteristic blue colour.
- 05:45 The number of people on deck is thinning out and the number of icebergs increasing as we approach the right turn into the straight section of the fjord.
- 05:50 Passing the first of many waterfalls the view we are waiting for opens up. We soon go inside for breakfast and to warm-up.
- 06:52 After our first breakfast of the day, we are in the relative shelter of our balcony as we reach the end of the straight section of the fjord and embark on a number of sweeping curves. The number of icebergs continue to increase. For some we get a glimpse of what is below the surface; for others dramatic reflections. From the marks on the cliffs, we can tell that we are well below high water.
- 07:01 Not all of the icebergs are white. Many of them have grey or brown moraine on the top.
- 07:11 Passing another waterfall descending from a glacier high above the fjord.
- 07:22 This far into the fjord, the walls are almost vertical and what vegetation there is, is stunted and shrub-like. There is the occasional small tree, seemingly growing out of the valley walls.
- 07:27 We are approaching "The Island". Earlier in the cruise Dean, the on-board naturalist warned us that this was as far as we were likely to come. Other people were obviously expecting to go right up to the face of the glacier. As we come level with the island, the South Arm of the Sawyer Glacier comes into view.
- 07:31 The captain comes on to the PA to explain that this is as far as Dawn Princess can go without risking damage to its propellers. For just over half an hour, the ship gradually rotates so that everyone can enjoy the views. Looking towards the South Arm of the Glacier it is obvious why we



are going no further. To the North, we can see the arm of the fjord leading to the North Arm of the Glacier. The icebergs here are particularly blue. All around there are cliffs and waterfalls. Looking back, there is a pall of smoke left by Dawn Princess which is going to take time to disperse.

- 08:08 We are headed back out of Tracy Arm, leaving more smoke behind us.
- 08:36 A small boat from Juneau passes us on its way into the fjord.
- 08:47 Retracing our route, we pass massive glacial valleys, hanging glaciers and dramatic rocky outcrops, and a very small number of birds making their homes in the relatively newly exposed rocks.
- 08:56 We pass a number of beached icebergs at low tide.
- 10:08 We approach the bar, the moraine at the end of the fjord. After the deep water of the fjord, this has a very narrow channel deep enough for ships.
- 10:12 "Crossing the bar", we can see just how fast the tide is running and the pressure on the buoys that mark the safe channel.
- 10:15 Another small boat passes us entering the fjord.
- 10:17 We pass a seal and a breaching hump-back whale.
- 11:28 Some sunlight, but plenty of wind as Sue takes a walk round deck. We pass a number of small wooded islands.
- 11:36 As we prepare to leave Alaskan waters, we encounter another whale.
- 12:58 Our Alaskan pilot speeds away back towards shore.

Day 9 – Sunday 3rd August 2008 – At Sea

A day at sea.

Got up at 9:30am. Spent the morning in our room and some of the afternoon on deck.

Overcast but gradually warming as we got further South

Captain's Circle reception in the evening.

Day 10 – Monday 4th August 2008 – At Sea

On Monday, people were beginning to sit outside again.

Day 11 – Tuesday 5th August 2008 – San Francisco, Disembarkation



- 06:00 It is just getting light as noise from the ships horn tells us that we are passing back under the Golden Gate bridge approaching San Francisco.
- 07:04 Safely at our berth. The weather is very different to when we departed with low clouds over the Golden Gate bridge and the city.
- 09:15 We are sitting on a bus waiting to leave the port area. Our plan is to get to San Francisco Airport, leave our suitcases with American Airlines and hire a car.
- 14:05 Everything worked fine. After driving down from San Francisco airport and stopping at Denny's for lunch, we are stopped on the rocky shoreline of the Monterey peninsula opposite Spanish Bay Golf Club. In front of us, there are rocks, waves and a variety of different seabirds. Behind us on the golf course, there is a small herd of deer.
- 14:17 Now on the 17 Mile Drive around the peninsula, we are still in Spanish Bay. There are lots of pelicans and cormorants on the rocks.
- 14:25 We pass Point Pinos lighthouse, and stop for a walk in the sand, where we encounter the decomposing carcass of a sealion.
- 14:29 We stop at Point Joe. When we first came to California with the kids in 1987, this was teeming with ground squirrels and the kids climbed over the rocks. Now there are no ground squirrels and fences to keep people off the rocks.
- 15:01 Seal Rock and a very welcome comfort stop. The ground squirrels are here! There are two seals on the shore, one on the sand and one sitting on the rocks, but there are hundreds of seals and thousands of birds on the rocky island out to sea.
- 15:25 Overlooking the iconic Lone Cypress.
- 15:36 At Pescadero Point with a great view South towards Big Sur. This was another place where our youngsters clambered over the rocks, where there are now fences and warning signs.
- 18:30 Back near the airport for our late-night flight home. The end of a long trip.

Wednesday 6th August 2008 – Boston

Day spent in Boston as guests of AA. The flight to London was cancelled and had to wait 11 hours for the evening flight.

We were upgraded to First but flight was marred by very noisy cabin crew. Not a lot of sleep.