

BOOK #005

The Smart Traveler's Whale Watching Guide

Chapter 9 — Frequently Asked Questions

Imagine returning to your cruise ship after an incredible whale-watching excursion. As you share photos with fellow travelers, the same questions come up again and again. Here are answers to some of the most common questions about whale watching in Alaska.

When is the best time to see whales?

The Alaska cruise season, especially June through August, offers excellent opportunities to see humpback whales. Sightings are common throughout much of the summer, although nature can never guarantee wildlife encounters.

Can I see whales from the cruise ship?

Absolutely! Many travelers spot whales while sailing through the Inside Passage, Glacier Bay, or other scenic waterways. Keep your binoculars handy and spend time on deck or your balcony whenever the ship is underway.

Will I definitely see whales?

No excursion can promise a sighting because whales are wild animals. However, Alaska has some of the highest whale-viewing success rates in the world during the cruise season.

What if it rains?

Whales don't mind the rain, and many tours operate in light rain or overcast conditions. A waterproof jacket is usually all you need to stay comfortable.

Should I book through my cruise line?

Cruise line excursions are convenient, but reputable independent operators can also provide outstanding experiences. Compare group size, tour length, and inclusions before deciding.

Aimee's Insider Tip

My advice is simple: spend as much time outside as you can while cruising Alaska. Some of the most memorable whale sightings happen when you least expect them, not just during organized excursions.