

BOOK #005

The Smart Traveler's Whale Watching Guide

Welcome — Your Whale Watching Adventure Begins

Imagine standing on the open deck of your cruise ship as the captain announces, "Whales off the port side!" Everyone rushes to the rail just as a humpback surfaces, sending a misty plume of water into the cool Alaska air. Moments later, its massive tail slowly disappears beneath the waves. It's a memory you'll never forget.

Alaska is one of the best places in the world to experience whales in their natural habitat. Every summer, humpback whales, orcas, gray whales, minke whales, and several other species travel through Alaska's nutrient-rich waters, creating incredible opportunities for unforgettable wildlife encounters.

Whether you're watching from the deck of your cruise ship, a small excursion boat, or along Alaska's rugged shoreline, a little preparation can make your whale watching experience even more rewarding. Knowing when to look, where to go, what to bring, and what behavior to expect will help you appreciate these magnificent animals even more.

This guide is designed to help you understand Alaska's whales, choose the best viewing opportunities, prepare for your excursion, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Along the way, I'll share practical advice and personal insights from my own Alaska cruises to help you make the most of every whale watching opportunity.

Aimee's Insider Tip

One of the biggest mistakes travelers make is watching the entire experience through a camera lens. Take your photos, but don't forget to lower the camera and simply enjoy the moment. Some of the best memories are the ones you experience with your own eyes.