

BOOK #006

The Smart Traveler's Alaska Wildlife Guide

Welcome — Welcome to Alaska's Wild Side

Imagine standing on the open deck of your cruise ship as the morning mist begins to lift. A bald eagle glides overhead, sea otters float peacefully in the water below, and someone suddenly points toward the shoreline where a brown bear is searching for salmon. In Alaska, incredible wildlife encounters can happen when you least expect them.

Alaska is home to one of the richest collections of wildlife anywhere in North America. From humpback whales and orcas to brown bears, moose, mountain goats, puffins, and bald eagles, the Last Frontier offers countless opportunities to observe animals living in their natural habitats.

Whether you're cruising the Inside Passage, visiting Glacier Bay National Park, exploring coastal towns, or venturing inland, understanding where wildlife lives and how to observe it responsibly will make every encounter more meaningful. Often, the best sightings are the ones you never expected.

This guide introduces Alaska's most iconic animals, explains where you're most likely to see them, shares practical wildlife-viewing tips, and helps you appreciate the amazing ecosystems that make Alaska one of the world's greatest destinations for nature lovers.

Throughout this guide I'll share practical advice and personal insights from my own Alaska cruises to help you prepare for excursions, recognize wildlife opportunities, and enjoy every encounter safely and respectfully.

Aimee's Insider Tip

Keep your binoculars close, your camera charged, and your eyes on the water and shoreline whenever you're outside. Some of my favorite Alaska wildlife sightings happened between ports while simply enjoying the scenery from the ship—not during a scheduled excursion.