

Day Seven - Glacier Bay, Alaska



We pulled into Glacier Bay at 7AM this morning to what is undoubtedly the highlight of the trip (or was it the whales? or the Yukon?)

It was, however, **COLD!**

Here's Wendy using her socks for gloves and a T-shirt for a scarf!

The water temperature here is only 38 degrees, slightly above freezing.

And this is SUMMER!!

Glacier Bay was only formed 300 years ago in the "Little Ice Age". In the 1600s Glacier Bay was just another valley between the mountains.

However, by the mid 1700s a glacier had formed and moved down the valley ripping out the ground beneath. The glacier was 65 miles long and 5000 feet thick! After 1750 it began to retreat and by the mid 1800s it had retreated all the way back to the top of the valley.



Ice floating everywhere

Except during it's 200 year trip, it had gouged out almost 1000 feet of rock which filled with sea water and so Glacier Bay was formed averaging a depth of 850-1000 feet. The glacier was fed by many tributaries, and these are the glaciers that remain.

Below are the absolutely stunning views of these glaciers. These glaciers move at 7 feet per day. The ice dropping off into the ocean today started at the top of the mountain as a snow flake 100 years ago.



Just to give you some perspective as to exactly how tall this glacier is....
That is a 50 foot+ double story motor yacht!



Note Bald Headed Eagle sitting on top of the ice berg

Ahh... sailing between ice bergs and glaciers, just what I've always wanted to do... NOT!!! Crab buoys back home are bad enough!



As we departed Glacier Bay National Park, we were given a beautiful send off by many humpback whales showing off their blows, tail whacking and breaching.

Wendy said she could surely feel the appeal and awe inspiring beauty in these lands. Had it been a cloudless and sunny day, she would have absolutely shed a tear or two. The beauty here is beyond any word could possibly describe nor any photo capture.

Cheers,

B & W

***Disclaimer:** The photos in this travelogue were not downloaded from the internet, nor purchased from the park rangers. Every single photo was taken from our cabin balcony while sipping Irish coffees. We did not leave the cabin the whole day!*